

tester to make sure there weren't any leaks in the house, and that it met certain criteria. I also like that it is an all gas home." For Janis's part, she is very content with her Great Southern Home and the way it came together. She laughed, "The next home is a pine box."

Since 2013, Great Southern Homes success has been most impressive. The company currently builds everything from single-family homes, town homes, custom homes and recently student housing communities. Corporately, they believe in giving back to the community. Michael and Mike hold positions with the Building Industry Association of Central SC (BIA) and strive to maintain healthy relations with competitors to address industry



The interior of a custom home in the Ocean Lakes community.

concerns. In 2017, they were both recognized with prestigious BIA awards for their contributions.

Great Southern Homes is a proud supporter of The Boys Farm in Newberry, SC. Two years ago, the company built two 5,000 square foot residency cottages on the Farm. This past year, the company broke ground on the "Nieri Cottage" project; a modern, energy-efficient structure with 6,700 square feet, 9 bedrooms and 9 bathrooms. The Boys Farm has significantly modernized and expanded its capacity to house young men who have experienced difficult family situations. These young men benefit from living together on a working farm and developing social and success skills in the farm setting. ■



A custom home in the Sterling Pointe community in Murrells Inlet.

PHOTO © CHUCK GEE

PHOTO © CHUCK GEE

SUNROOMS & SCREEN ROOMS

Sunrooms and Screen Rooms Add Living Space and Versatility to Homes

by Susan Roush

Since the post-WWII 1950s influx of veterans to the suburbs, the backyard has become an extension of the house for relaxing and entertaining. Taking advantage of nature's benefits in a residential setting took root with the invention of sheet glass in the 17th century. Its appeal was immediate for use in greenhouses (conservatories) and solariums. Screened sleeping porches became popular in southern states in the early 1900s as a fresh-air antidote to tuberculosis. Today, innovative products, designs, and technologies have advanced well beyond solariums, patio slabs, and screened sleeping porches. Two well-respected HGHA members speak of products and services they offer in creating an ideal outdoor extension.

Carolina Home Exteriors is introducing a new upscale product to the Grand Strand called LifeRoom. Company owner Ted Cligrow explained, "It is manufactured by

Four Seasons Sunrooms and Windows. They looked at all the trends in outdoor living and developed LifeRoom to satisfy a demand for a multi-use, multi-function room." The structure has aluminum framing, a roof, with optional skylights, and retractable screen walls. Ted added, "The mesh is so taut it

LifeRoom
BY FOUR SEASONS

provides a 98% barrier against pollen. Because it's so taut, it can be used as a movie projector screen to create a complete outdoor theater." Some of the coolest and hottest features, literally and figuratively, include blue LED lights that add a sophisticated vibe, a Cool Mist

(Continued on page 28)



Ted Cligrow with Carolina Home Exteriors.



The exterior & interior view of the new LifeRoom by Four Seasons. Carolina Home Exteriors is the exclusive authorized dealer in the Grand Strand for the LifeRoom.

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The LifeRoom features blue LED lights & a Cool Mist climate system that can reduce the room temperature by up to 40 degrees.



climate system that reduces the room temperature by up to 40 degrees, and radiant heating for colder weather. The retractable screens can be motorized and there's a privacy screen option. Ted is the exclusive authorized dealer in the Grand Strand for the LifeRoom.

Carolina Home Exteriors is fully invested in creating enjoyable outdoor spaces. Ted said, "We can design a project for anybody's budget and allow for options and upgrades into the future. Carolina Home Exteriors considers three Cs of Design: Connection, Comfort, and Cover. A connected design creates a seamless flow in a unified backyard retreat. A resort-style oasis can incorporate features such as a sunroom, an outdoor kitchen, pool enclosure or a pergola for comfortable lounging and entertaining. Radiant heaters and cool misting systems add to comfort. Covered designs protect family and friends from the elements by incorporating retractable glass or screen wall systems, roof panels, awnings, or



The LifeRoom can come equipped with optional sky lights.

solar shades.

Aside from the emotional rewards of creating an outdoor retreat, there is a financial payoff. Adding to the livable footprint of a house translates to a higher resale value. It is a value-added luxury with a relatively low per-square-foot price tag.

Carolina Home Exteriors supplements sales, installation and service with consumer advocacy. Ted said, "While homeowners have choices, it is important they research companies to ensure they have extended financial backing, several years of construction experience, and

strong business knowledge. We have an impeccable reputation, and our company will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary next year."

In addition to sunrooms, screen rooms, pool enclosures, porches, pergolas, and replacement doors and windows, Carolina Home Exteriors has added hurricane protection. They offer eight different styles for commercial and residential protection. Carolina Home Exteriors has an in-house design center and online gallery for additional information and inspiration.

Glenn Weitzel, owner of **Weitzel's Custom Screen Rooms, Inc.**, has noticed changes from the modest screen porch or patio. He said, "I find more and more people are going to an outdoor



Glenn Weitzel with Weitzel's Custom Screen Rooms, Inc.

living space that allows them to enjoy it year around. I am using a different type

of screen instead of a vinyl product." This new material helps maintain an ambient temperature, it is more durable than vinyl, and allows privacy without blocking the view from within. Glenn said he installed this type of screen room for one customer who was somewhat skeptical. On a day that barely reached 40°, the customer sent a photo to Glenn of the



screen room thermometer that read 70° (with the fireplace on), and gladly volunteered to verify the efficacy of this new screen. Glenn sees an upward trend, "Screens seem to be more popular now – everyone wants them." During fine weather, screens retract with a push the remote button or tap on an app.

Glenn said, "I try to stay on the cutting edge of things, and when a new product comes out, I test it before doing anything major with it." Glenn is currently researching and testing a material to replace aluminum framing that will be maintenance free and structurally sound. If preliminary research continues favorably, he anticipates that Weitzel's Custom Screen Rooms will introduce the product later in 2018. Another new product is a retractable screen for large sliding doors. Glenn said, "It can span up to 17' and it's a really nice product made



Weitzel's Screen Rooms has recently introduced the new retractable screens for large sliding doors by Phantom.

by Phantom. It's very strong and durable." Glenn is an authorized Phantom dealer. Glenn also installs and services retractable awnings and is the local dealer for Rainier, which has a manufacturing facility in North Carolina.

Though he likes to hone the cutting edge, Glenn considers himself "old school" when it comes to workmanship.

He does not cut corners and as a result, the finished product has a clean, sleek look. Glenn does his own measuring and



Glenn Weitzel is a true artisan. He takes pride in each & every job & the final appearance certainly reflects his craftsmanship.

installing. "It's more of a personal preference," he said. The preference has paid off, as nearly all of Weitzel's Screen Rooms business comes from word-of-mouth referrals. The company offers an array of complementary services, from re-screens to retractable garage screens, to roofed screen rooms and more. ■

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