

# The Latest Technologies In Sunrooms & Screen Enclosures

by Sara Sobota

The popularity of creating a customized outdoor living space is at an all time high not just across the Grand Strand, but nationwide. Whether you are a builder, property manager or homeowner; sunrooms, screen enclosures, pergolas and patio covers are an attraction for your properties. Carolina Home Exteriors and Weitzel's Custom Screen Rooms Inc. are two professional companies that have been handling the above for decades in Horry & Georgetown Counties.

Established in 1980, **Carolina Home Exteriors** is celebrating four decades of serving as a market leader in outdoor living. Customers have long relied on the company for quality products including screen rooms, sunrooms, and pool and lanai enclosures. Now, with its line of state-of-the-art Renaissance patio products, combined with a customized, convenient platform for creating online design estimates,

Carolina Home Exteriors offers Grand Strand residents the ultimate experience and the ultimate satisfaction in customized patios.

"As industry experts, we've been building trust for 40 years," said Ted Cligrow, president and owner of Carolina Home Exteriors. "We continue to lead

whole rather built from a random array of pieces and parts. This design, with its extruded aluminum beams (patent pending), results in the product's extraordinary strength, with a hurricane resistant wind rating of 175 mph.

Strength and durability are key, but, as customers know, a patio's views are equally important, and Renaissance delivers on this front as well.

"As a result of the fully integrated system," said Cligrow,



Ted Cligrow with Carolina Home Exteriors

the market by introducing revolutionary new living products that reinvent the outdoor living industry."

The Renaissance line, offered exclusively through Carolina Home Exteriors, represents an entirely different and fully superior product. Its pre-engineered system with a totally integrated design means the patio is constructed as a

"the frequency of columns is minimal, and the spans are significantly wider; they're called mega view bays, and they allow for a broad, unobstructed open space for the customer."



The Renaissance line also emphasizes style and aesthetics, offering options including exposed beams, sculpted posts, translucent patio coverings, and pergola-style roofing.

Many clients may be interested in considering a customized patio, but they

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need specific information on cost before committing time and energy to the endeavor. Carolina Home Exteriors has those concerns covered, too. Its website features a "Build-Your-Own (BYO)" sunroom design estimator where customers can select options including flooring, side walls, roof style, and size, receiving a ballpark range of their projected investment.

"This gives the customer control of their own destiny and design prior to a Design Consultant coming out to their home and giving them an at-home consultation," said Cligrow.

Cligrow emphasized that, overall, the Renaissance patio line allows Carolina Home Exteriors to offer its customers peace of mind.

"The last three hurricane seasons have been more aggressive than any in recent history," said Cligrow. "This product line is our way of responding to our customers' request and desire to know they're protected in these storm-vulnerable areas."

And customers have reacted accordingly. Since Carolina Home Exteriors started offering the Renaissance line in September 2019, the



company has seen record-breaking sales.

"The product launch has exceeded our expectations in satisfying the customer's desire to have contemporary,

(Continued on page 12)

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well built, hurricane resistant structures,” said Cligrow.

Cligrow noted that with hurricane season beginning on June 1, it's not too early to start planning for a new, custom Renaissance patio to ensure its completion before the seasonal weather begins.

For a solid, state-of-the-art, beautiful patio that exceeds industry standards and impresses your guests, think Renaissance from Carolina Home Exteriors.

The screened-in porch has been around for decades, but a room designed by **Weitzel's Custom Screen Rooms Inc.** is definitely not your grandma's porch. We all know the benefits – and the challenges – of a screened-in porch: the breeze is wonderful, until the heat becomes oppressive or the wind picks up too much chill. Glenn Weitzel's products and services deliver a living space that offers all the convenience and charm of an outdoor area with none of the hassle.

Weitzel, who has been in business in the Myrtle Beach area for more than two decades, builds rooms for both new and existing homes that feature retractable motorized screens, so homeowners can deploy or retract them at their leisure using a remote control or an app on their mobile device.

“With power screens, homeowners



Glenn Weitzel with Weitzel's Custom Screen Rooms Inc.

have the opportunity to put them down, use them when they want, and put them away when they're done,” said Weitzel. “In the wintertime there's not a lot of bugs, so they can have it wide open, and they don't need a screen, so they raise them up, and now they've got the whole patio or room to enjoy.”

The screens themselves have come a long way as well. Weitzel's products feature screens that offer a clear view from the inside but privacy from the outside, as well as insulation and cooling

capabilities.

“You have a clear, heavy-duty screen where you can see out very well, but nobody can see in. It gives you privacy,” Weitzel said. “And then when the screens are down, in the wintertime, if somebody's got a fireplace in there, it keeps the heat in. In the summertime, it will reflect the sun, and it keeps most of the heat out.”

Doors are another product that have made great strides in convenience. Weitzel offers retractable screen doors for sliding, French, or swing doors that transform with a press of a finger.

“The retractable screen door will fit any door,” said Weitzel. “You can put it on the front door, back door, side door, patio door, and it retracts into its own



Glenn Weitzel demonstrates the ease of operation for the automated screen enclosure for homeowner, Candyce Wylie, in her home in The Dunes Club in Myrtle Beach.

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“My husband Keith & I were extremely happy with the professional installation we received. The installers always kept everything clean on the jobsite. Shannon was very helpful with the selection & overall design process. They made sure we knew how to take care of the granite in the future & even called back after the job was completed to confirm that we were completely satisfied.”  
- Susan Esmeth

NAHB

housing. You just pull it across, it latches, and when you want to come out, you just push the lever, and it retracts back.”

can put two of those together and get more than 20 feet of screen.”

Weitzel is a certified dealer of the



Recently, the available size of the retractable screen door has expanded.

“They've come out with one that will span up to 11 feet,” said Weitzel. “You

high-end Phantom and Rainier products, two of the largest and most respected manufacturers in the United States.

Weitzel works with architects and

builders in creating rooms for new construction, and he also retrofits rooms for pre-existing homes. He said the latter project is more challenging.

“There's a lot more work involved in a retrofit, making it look like it was there when the house was being built. I want it to look brand new, like it's an original feature.”

Weitzel does all his own work, partnering with just one assistant, so customers see him through the entire process, from measuring to design to installation. Because of the quality of both his products and his services, his reputation precedes him, and customers seek him out. ■

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