

Extreme Window Installation

PROJECT GOAL: Install a motorized shade for heat and UV protection over sliding glass doors on a fifth-floor condo—without obstructing the plantation shutters or the glass windows

LOCATION: Condo in Sarasota, FL

DESIGNER: Kim Boynton, owner of 3/8 and Co., a motorized outdoor comfort solutions company specializing in motorization of screens, solar shading, awnings, hurricane protection and louvered roof pergolas

PRODUCT: SunPro motorized shade with Somfy motor and PhiFer 95% dark bronze shade fabric

CRANE COMPANY: Sims Crane & Equipment of Tampa, FL

INSTALLERS: Dylan, Marcos, Samantha and Kim



PROBLEM:

With no header room between the glass windows and plantation shutters, the only option was to mount the shade on the exterior of the condo. This required end retention tracking on both sides of the shade for an exterior application and we had to hammer drill the tapcons for the housing into the concrete header, which was 10 feet above the balcony floor. Because the balcony was only about 18 inches wide, no ladder was going to work to get our people in position safely.

SOLUTION:

I reached out to Sims Crane for some advice. Since the building had no access to the rear for any type of wheeled equipment, they made the recommendation to use the man basket and a crane that would reach 70 feet in the air to lower the basket to our working height.

PROBLEM:

Getting the materials up and into the condo. Since the lengths of aluminum for the housing, roller and bottom bar were 16 feet long, they would not fit in a service elevator or stairwell.

SOLUTION:

We hired a rigging crew to help assist the crane to lift the materials up to the front of the condo and we hand-loaded them off the rigging into the hallway, then out to the back balcony. Once all the materials were on the fifth floor, the crane dropped the man basket down behind the building for the installers, Dylan (my son) and Marcos. With safety harnesses clipped, they were hoisted up to the fifth floor. The rest of the team held the tools and basket in place to prevent it from banging against the railing. Tools and fasteners were handed up as needed as they carefully installed the aluminum housing and roller onto the exterior of the condo. The installers were then moved to the left and right sides of the 16-foot-wide opening to attach the tracking to the walls.



This installation took a full eight-hour day with some anxious moments, but once it was complete, the client left us a beaming review! V