

Livable & Beautiful

DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT:
3/8 and Co. Creates a Florida
Outdoor Space That Achieves Both

Florida homeowners love the outdoors. Well, mostly. They may love the warm year-round temperatures and mild winters, but they certainly don't relish the insects that can wreak havoc at an outdoor summer gathering or ruin a relaxing evening.

So when homeowners in Florida build an outdoor living space, they want to enjoy nature while staying protected from those pesky flying and crawling critters.

Enter Kim Boynton, CEO of 3/8 and Co. Kim and her team specialize in providing customized screening and shading solutions that make outdoor spaces livable and beautiful in any climate. From motorized screens, solar shades and awnings to louvered roof pergolas, hurricane shutters and patio covers, the company's innovative solutions bring form and function to homes and commercial properties across the country.

One of Boynton's recent projects in Florida underscores the importance of having the right window shading designer as your partner when working on an outdoor living project.

New Look, New Life

A homeowner in Tampa, FL, had hired Ryan Hughes Design/Build to transform their backyard by adding a large functional outdoor living space adjacent to their luxurious in-ground pool. Boynton partnered with the Ryan Hughes to help create a bug-free space that the homeowner could use comfortably at any point during the year. Enjoying the Florida lifestyle without having to contend with the state's notorious bugs, even in the midst of summer heat and humidity, was the ultimate goal.

Boynton and her team designed a screen solution to enclose the newly constructed outdoor living space, which boasts a fully equipped kitchen, a spacious dining area and a comfortable conversation seating area—all of which open up to a resort-style pool and patio surrounded by soaring palm trees and low-maintenance ground cover plants. Of course, an unobstructed view of this beautiful, serene environment was a must.

The 3/8 and Co. design included four large motorized, retractable insect screens, combining Somfy motors and Phifer No-See-Um screening. "When you look out the screen, it's like it's not even there!" Boynton said. All of the hardware and mechanisms are built into the structure, too, so when the



PHOTOS: KIM BOYNTON, 3/8 AND CO.

screens are rolled up, the owners enjoy a clear, complete view of their backyard oasis.

Just as important, it's easy to raise, lower or adjust the motorized screens, separately or as a group, with the touch of a button. A simple-to-operate remote control moves the weighted bar up or down to rest on the floor or the countertops. Motors can be integrated into home automation systems or smartphones for even easier operation.

Bringing a Backyard Vision to Life

By using the latest motorized screen technology for this project, 3/8 and Co. demonstrated that you don't have to choose between comfort and aesthetics when it comes to outdoor living spaces. You can have both! As Boynton said, "We help owners lose the bugs, not the view."

The 3/8 and Co. team began the project in March 2022 and completed it in early 2023, working closely with the builder to ensure a seamless process from concept to execution.

"I credit our in-house professional installers with making the final product function perfectly and look beautiful," Boynton said. Now, the homeowners can enjoy their poolside paradise year-round, no matter the weather, for everything from big parties to intimate social gatherings to a relaxing evening at home.



"The homeowners didn't want to see any bulky aluminum products or unsightly components. And with our solution, it was mission accomplished!"

— KIM BOYNTON

3/8 and Co. is nationally known as a trusted supplier of shading solutions for patios, garages, lanais and entryways for new construction and existing residential and commercial properties. The company handles everything from sales to installation to service, offering a wide range of solutions to suit any need. Whether a homeowner is looking to keep insects out, block the sun or gain protection from wind or rain, 3/8 and Co. can offer a screening or shading solution that's both functional and stylish.

Licensed and insured as a Florida Specialty Structure contractor, Boynton has been bringing innovative and practical motorized solutions to satisfied clients for 20 years.

"We focus on customizing a screening solution to meet the owner's needs, with options that are sleek, elegant and able to complement the look of any home or business," she says. The company offers motorized screen solutions in sizes up to 32 feet in width and 16 feet in height, Panoview shades up to 60 feet in width, along with many other outdoor comfort solutions that can suit any design and accommodate just about any size opening. And with many of these options sporting bug-proof seals around every side of the opening, homeowners and their guests can enjoy the outdoor living experience they're looking for—even in humid environments that naturally attract bugs.

Whether working with custom builders or do-it-yourself homeowners, the 3/8 and Co. team prides itself on delivering durable, functional and stylish shading and screening solutions that make outdoor living more enjoyable anytime, anywhere. ■

» Learn more about 3/8 and Co at Three8thsAndCo.com.



PHOTOS: KIM BOYNTON, 3/8 AND CO.