

2011 FORECAST

STORM & SECURITY

P R O T E C T I O N

Beach House
Protected
with Style

Special
Report:
Dollars & Sense

2011
Season
Outlook:
'Impactful'

Curb Appeal

Four hurricane shutter styles combine with traditional architectural in this Florida Beach House

This is not your typical beach house, nestled among the palms and oaks, this home sits in a secluded wooded area in the Plantation on St. George Island, FL. With large, expansive, two-story-high porches, it almost takes you to a different era. It gives you a feeling of being in the Old South.

The house was on the market, and it showed very nicely with its original dark green wooden colonial shutters on each of the tall porch windows across the front. However, there was a problem. Though the old wooden shutters were functional and they offered some storm protection, they weren't hurricane rated. This came as a surprise to both the

realtor, it was clear that both parties and the realtor were very eager to get the job completed on a very tight time frame. We had worked with this realtor before; in fact, we had installed shutters on his own house on the island.

Working with the new owners, long distance between Florida and Texas, ideas were tossed around between the husband, wife and myself via e-mail and phone. It quickly became clear that Joe and Allison not only were committed to keeping the home's stunning curb appeal, but were willing to take it to the next level. The new shutters would offer hurricane protection, but they had to be in keeping with the home's old look.

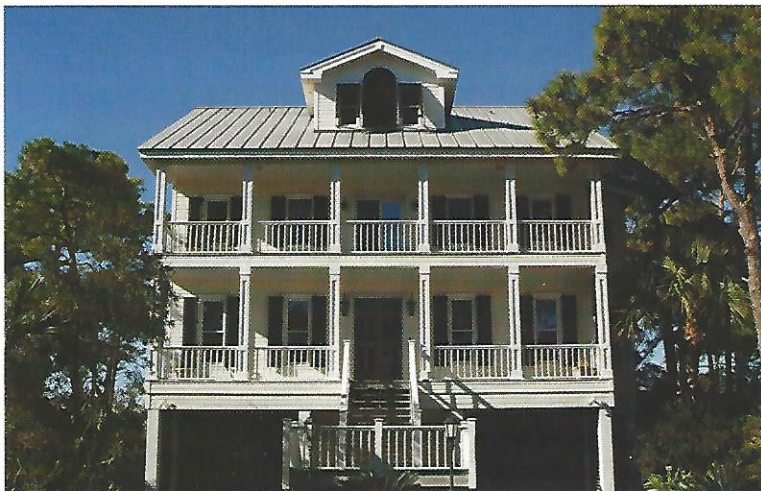
This type of request wasn't new for us, we have done historic homes before, even using old black-and-white photos to keep a particular style from the 1800s only using modern engineered and tested materials. On this project, photographs, sketches and anything visual helped everyone to get on the same page and work through the many options.

For three of the four sides of the house the choice was straightforward. All of those openings would be protected by the High Velocity (HV) Accordion Shutter from Eastern Metal Supply, Lake Worth, FL, and built by Roll Tech Hurricane Shutters, Pensacola. These shutters are dependable, affordable and visually pleasing when the details of each opening were taken into consideration.

On the drive or entrance side, all shutters had to be visually in tune to the overall architectural style. After many e-mails and phone calls, four different styles were very carefully chosen. The majority would be custom HV Colonial Shutters, very much in keeping with the look of original wooden shutters, however these would be hurricane rated and built out of aluminum. High in the gable area there would be two HV Bahama Shutters on either side of a fixed-panel arched Colonial. Here, affecting the view wasn't an issue because this area is primarily a stairwell and not a living space.

The challenge on the gable was to make sure the arched center panel perfectly matched the window arch. After careful measuring and with a paper pattern in hand, Roll Tech built the shutter arch to exactly mirror the window's arch.

This only left two sets of double doors on the front to protect. The HV Accordion Shutters were chosen on the upper and lower double doors to minimize the visual impact and to keep the spacing and symmetry of the colonial



The new homeowners were committed to keeping the home's stunning curb appeal, but this time with hurricane rated shutters.

homeowner and the perspective buyer as the buyer shopped around for homeowner's insurance that included hurricane coverage. Insurance companies require that all openings protected with hurricane protection must have products that are engineered and rated.

With the closing looming in a matter of weeks, a deal was struck between the current owners and the perspective new owners, the house would get all new rated shutters—shutters that were engineered and rated for hurricane protection.

Homeowner's Request

When JP Roberts and Co. Inc., got the call from the

FOUR-IN-ONE

Project:	Single-family, three-story home in the Plantation on St. George Island, FL.
Product:	High Velocity (HV) Accordion Shutter; HV Colonial Shutters; HV Bahama Shutters; fixed-panel arched Colonial Shutter, Eastern Metal Supply; www.easternmetal.com
Manufacturer:	FL; www.rolltechhurricanes shutters.com
Dealer/ Installer:	RCC Associates, Deerfield Beach, FL JP Roberts and Co. Inc., Crawfordville, FL; www.understandinghurricanes shutters.com

shutters along the front porches. In the end, all the careful considerations paid off. The finished product exceeded everyone's expectations and was very much in keeping with the original style of the house.

Helpful Tips

Working directly with the homeowner typically works

well. The use of photographs showing similar types of openings and shutters used on other projects are the best way I find to help a homeowner "see" what their finished product will be. Keeping an extensive catalog of projects that a homeowner can look through is very helpful. A Web site or online photo album also works well.

With new construction it is often helpful to sit down with the architect or engineer and homeowner before construction begins and discuss options and alternatives. A few changes in the beginning stages can greatly increase the homeowners' options for hurricane protection. For example, single- or double-hung windows allow for the greatest variety of shutters for protection. Conversely, fixed glass can quickly reduce one's options for shutters.

Each home is different and requires a careful study of each opening, the accessibility to each opening, as well as careful attention to the home's architectural features. In the end, taking the time to work through ideas with the homeowner as in this case, works out for everyone. Having great clients that you stay in touch with and end up as friends when the job is finished... well, that's always a bonus!

David Damon is owner and sales manager of JP Roberts and Co. Inc., Crawfordville, FL.

www.understandinghurricanes shutters.com

 INTERNATIONAL HURRICANE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

 American Shutter System Association

Hurricane Shutters

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