

Specializing in new construction design and installation



#### STEPS FOR RECESSING POWER SCREENS

- 1. Review of plans for correct sizing and placement--estimate provided.
- 2. Site visit during framing to determine column sizing and material, electrical, and cost savings by eliminating unnecessary framing and cornice work. Cover color determined.
- 3. U-channel, BuilderBrackets, BrickBracket and custom removable covers are set.
- 4. After masonry work and concrete on patio is poured, final measurements are taken. Meeting with client is set and final colors and mesh are confirmed. Screens ordered.
- 5. Screens and custom removable covers are installed.
- 6. After client moves in, final tutorial on the use of screens and warranty and service information is discussed.

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**



**ANDY GILPIN (405) 612-1273** 

- -New construction set-up
- -First contact for builders



**DUSTYN CARROLL (405) 343-5098** 

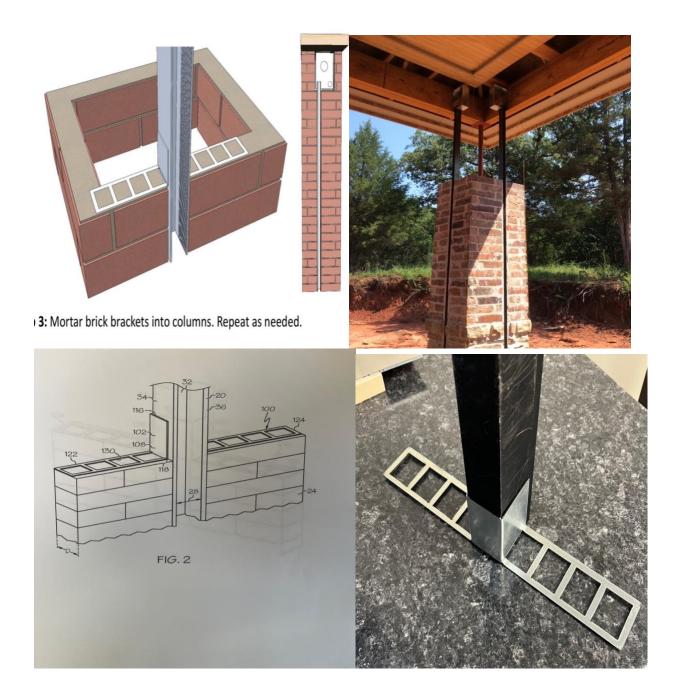
- -Sales and estimating
- -Warranty and final tutorial



**PHILIP ESQUIVEL (405) 568-9764** 

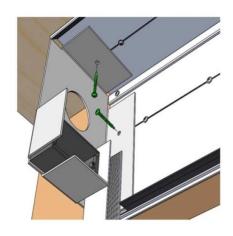
- -Screen installation
- -Service and repairs

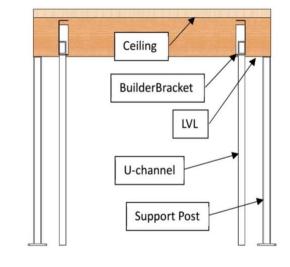
## **BrickBrackets**



Our patent-pending BrickBrackets eliminate the need for costly wood inside columns that could eventually rot and mold. They also hold brick columns together and hold the uchannels secure.

# **BuilderBrackets**









- -Eliminates the need for site-built pockets
- -Creates framework for removable covers
- -Provides electrical solution inside bracket
- -Complete turnkey solution with our removable covers!

# Custom removable covers that come pre-finished or paintable to match ceilengs or soffit







#### What Are Recessed Power Screens?

Power screens are motorized screens or shades that are retracted out of the way by remote control. <u>Recessed</u> power screens are integrated into the patio openings during the framing of a new construction project.

It starts with the design of the project and a discussion of the siding and column material and column design and size. Parts are then installed prior to brick, stucco or rock which gives a seamless install with no rails or screen parts visible outside of the columns or walls. Removable covers are added to enclose the rollers and usually match the cornice work or ceiling material inside the patio. When the screen is lowered it drops out of a faux beam or ceiling opening and when it's raised it's completely out of sight.

The primary goal of recessing screens is to take nothing away from the design and aesthetics of the patio finish. When done correctly most people wouldn't know they were there until they are dropped down in place. It is the preferred method for most new construction projects.

The biggest advantage of recessed screens is being able to help in the design stage and giving professional input on the proper sizes for each custom set of plans. As we will discuss, there are many factors that go into designing a screened in living area that works as intended.

# The Best of Both Worlds: Open-Air Patio and Protected Living Space

Gone are the days when you had the old fixed-screen patios and could only be out there on the nice days.

Now when designed properly into a new construction project, the screens can be left down most of the time to protect the outdoor space and furniture from wind, weather, dirt and bugs. Choosing a screen or shade material that blocks weather also allows the space to be heated and cooled for four-season use.

When the weather is nice, unlike fixed screens, motorized screens can be rolled up out of the way for an open-air patio. This is especially nice for entertaining when a lot of guests are over and want to move freely out to the yard, swimming pool or outside grilling area.



The direction the patio is facing along with the sizes and positioning of the screens is important. Designing a 20' screen with a 95% closed screen material on the north or south end of a patio is not advisable. Weather and wind loads can prevent the screens from being used as intended.

However, if the plan can be changed during the design to block most of the north or south ends with walls including fireplaces, outdoor kitchens, entry doors, and windows, the desired outcome can be achieved, and you can have a space that can be used in all climates.



Outdoor kitchen designed to block the windy south side of a patio.

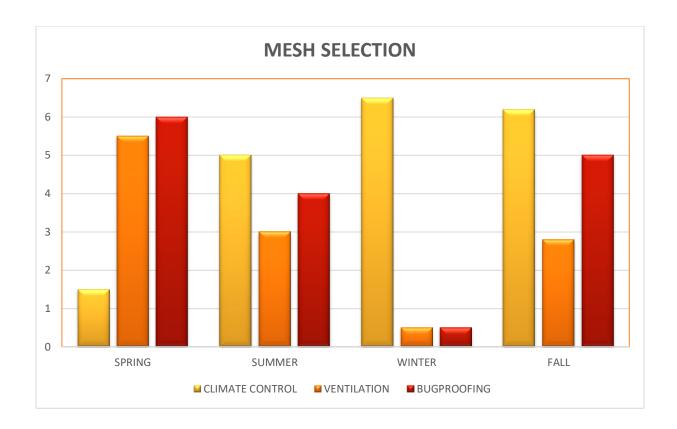


Outdoor living space for all occasions.

### What's the Purpose?

Having a clear purpose in mind when designing a covered outdoor living space is essential. How will it be used? Will it be furnished with a fireplace, tv and kitchen? Or is it just a bug-free space with a lot of airflow? Will it be used primarily as an open-air patio or mostly closed as another living space?

Answering a lot of questions during the design process is key to integrating recessed screens that are the proper size and the correct mesh is chosen.



Finding the purpose is key to choosing proper mesh.

#### **Expectations and the Importance of Mesh Selection**

When working with new clients we always tell them the most important part of the project is choosing the right mesh for how they want to use their patio. We have developed a checklist that ranks the priorities.

#### **PRIMARY USE:**

\_\_CLIMATE CONTROL
\_\_clear vinyl \_\_95% block
\_\_SUN CONTROL
\_\_90% block \_\_95% block
\_\_VENTILATION
\_\_Tuffscreen \_\_Tuffscreen no see um
\_\_WIND CONTROL
\_\_90% block \_\_95% block
\_\_PRIVACY
\_\_95% block \_\_opaque
\_\_VIEW OUT
\_\_clear vinyl \_\_Tuffscreen

 Our goal when installing is to make sure that any of the meshes selected provide insect protection.

From the checklist we can then determine the best mesh that will fit each need. Different climates can require different needs. In our climate sun, wind, bug, and climate control are important. In other climates bug-free ventilation may be the top priority.

Because any of the screens we install are going to provide insect protection, we cross it off the list and then determine what the next thing on the list is most important.

There are basically three categories of mesh, of which several perform two or three functions, and all have pluses and minuses.

#### **Climate Control**

Climate control usually also includes sun and wind control. For clients that want to use the patio year-round and heat and cool the patio there are three choices on our list.

#### **Clear vinyl**

For a clear view out and a complete block from the elements, clear vinyl can be a good choice.



The patio can be heated and cooled using clear vinyl and when used properly it can make this area another year-round living space. However, there are many downsides to using vinyl. If you read any of the warranty information you will see that it will shrink in cold weather. All companies will tell you not to operate them when the weather is below around 40 degrees. When it gets cold it will shrink and, in most cases, it can't be rolled up. If it gets windy and can't be rolled up, there's the chance of having it get damaged which won't be covered by the warranty and can be expensive to replace. Having a door on and off the patio is also important when using vinyl.

Again, that is why getting involved early in the design process allows us to determine if clear vinyl would be a good choice for a project. If it's facing directly into a high wintertime wind direction, we're usually not going to advise it.

Most vinyl installs are on a double-roller setup. There are two different rollers and side rails installed and two mesh choices on each opening of the patio. It will then give you several different combinations to choose from. The vinyl is on the inside track and on the outside track you can have a mesh that ventilates, blocks sun and wind, or gives you privacy.



Clear vinyl can be a good option if you know its limitations and it's mostly recommended as part of a double-roller setup.

# Climate and Sun Control 90% and 95%

In our chart, the sunscreen, climate control and privacy materials all have a percentage that refers to the tightness of the weave. For example: the 95% mesh is only a 5% open material and will block more of the sun's glare, damaging UV light and weather than a 90% mesh which is 10% open.

These materials are also a good choice for climate control on a patio. Although not completely, they do block most of the wind and weather from entering the patio which allows clients to effectively heat and cool the space. They are also a lot more durable material than clear vinyl and can be used in higher winds. It should be stressed that these materials will not provide ventilation when down in place.

#### **Sun Control and Privacy**

Any of the sun control options can provide some level of privacy also. From the chart we will choose the material that provides whatever level of sunblock and privacy desired.

There are also many colors of sunscreen available. Lighter colors stay cooler than dark colors but obscure the view out because they reflect light. They won't darken the patio as much but because they reflect light that reflection can make watching TV on the patio difficult. Keeping them clean can also be an issue. Dark colors absorb light and block glare. This is important for a clearer view out and keeping glare off TV screens. Although dark colors will darken the patio, they usually blend better with exterior colors, hide dirt better and offer a better view out. Both offer excellent daytime privacy.



West facing patio with 95% mesh for sun, wind, and privacy.

#### **Ventilation and View**

Sometimes a clear view out and lots of air flow is high on a client's list. When this is the case, we will recommend a product that is approximately 50% open. It will block some air flow but not enough for it to be effective as a wintertime living space. The primary purpose is to provide bug-free ventilation with an excellent outward view. It is frequently used on a double roller setup with another mesh which will provide more benefits.



50% block material for ventilation with a clear view out

# **Important Things to Consider**

#### **Heat and Air**

A patio that is screened with clear vinyl or 95% block mesh <u>and heated and cooled</u> might be included in the square footage of the home by an appraiser. A separate heat and air unit for the patio can provide comfort and a space you can enjoy year-round.

#### **Direction the Patio Faces**

Knowing the weather conditions in your area and how the wind, sun and weather will affect motorized screens is important. East facing patios are ideal in Oklahoma because they don't get the heavy winds and hot sun in the afternoons, but they are also shaded in the afternoon, so they don't get a lot of natural light. Heavy sunscreen mesh can darken the room. Clear vinyl and ventilating mesh are good choices for these patios. West facing patios usually require sun blocking screens. North and south require wind and weather control and they can be the

most challenging. Getting in touch with a professional in recessed motorized screens during the design of the home can be helpful in creating the patio you want for year-round enjoyment.

#### **Patio Access**

Getting out of your patio when the screens are down is also something to think about during the design. Motorized screens take time to retract that are about like operating an overhead garage door. That is not always convenient when you want to get off the patio frequently. We recommend a primary door for this purpose. It can also include a pet door so pets can come and go freely if desired. During the design, think about what will be outside the patio such as a swimming pool, hot tub or fire pit and think about the access.



#### **Screen Sizes**

Another great reason to get a professional in retractable screens involved during design is the size limitations of motorized screens. Clear vinyl, sunscreen and even ventilating screens could have issues depending on the climate and direction your patio faces. A 20' screen facing north in windy conditions cannot be used the way two 10' screens that are designed properly can. The last thing you want to do is recess screens into your home that you can't use like intended.

#### **Gable Ends**

There are usually four options when a home design has an open gable end on the patio. It can be left open, which can be an issue if the primary purpose is bug and climate control. It can be filled in solid with matching finish material. It can be screened with fixed screens that match the motorized screens. Or it can be glassed in or have windows built in. The glass option allows for a lot of natural light to enter the patio if it faces a direction that is mostly shaded.



Gable end with screen material



Gable end with glass (recommended)



# Notes for the perfect patio design

What is the purpose for your outdoor living space?

Kitchen, TV, Fireplace, Heat and Air, Dining?

**Grilling inside of the patio? Is it vented?** 

**Designing in a door for you and your pets?** 

What issues will you have with the direction your patio will face? Sun? Wind?



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BuilderBracket is a patented recessed power screen install system. For patent information and more go to screenbrackets.com

BrickBrackets are patent pending install clips for securing uchannel to masonry columns.