

NAPLES

ILLUSTRATED®

CURRENT SITUATIONS

Area Advocates Chart Local Water Wellness

GOOD NATURED

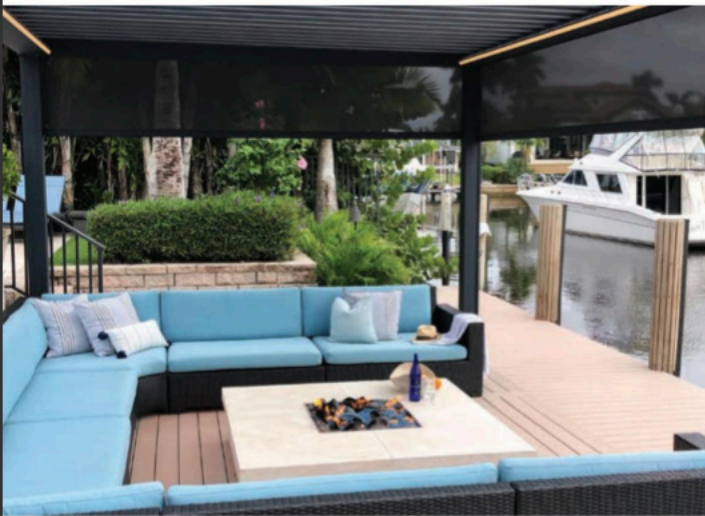
Neapolitans Work Wonders to Restore and Reforest

SMART SEA CRUISING

Ten Catamarans to Covet

THE CONSERVATION ISSUE





TOP LEFT AND INSET:
RENSON CAMARGUE
STRUCTURES' ROOFS HAVE
ARTICULATING LOUVERS
THAT OPEN AND CLOSE AT
THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON.
BELOW: SHADE RETREAT
WITH AUTOMATED
SIDE SCREENS

INTO THE OUTSIDE

Climate Control

BRING IT ON: Wind, rain, and mid-day heat are no match for customized outdoor shade structures

By Nanci Theoret

Being in the shade can make temperatures feel 10 to 15 degrees cooler because you're not exposed to direct sunlight and ultraviolet rays. And that's a good thing for those of us unwilling to give up our outdoor lifestyle during Naples' hot summers.

Local homeowners are controlling their climate at the push of a button, thanks to the latest warm-weather invention to hit Florida's shores since air conditioning and swimming pools: permanent shade systems fashioned from powder-coated aluminum. Introduced to Naples five years ago by GWT Outdoors, a luxury boutique company specializing in outdoor shading, residents are taming sun, rain, wind, and cold with stylish aplomb. The all-season structures—reminiscent of a pergola but with louvered, waterproof roofs—are beginning to replace umbrellas, awnings, and even screened lanais.

"When we started, these structures were new to the market," says Jason Wyatt, GWT Outdoors' director of business development. "Although they'd been popular in Europe for a while, no one was aware shade on a patio

could be controlled to this degree. You can feel the temperature difference."

COLOR, DESIGN, AND TECH INTEGRATION OPTIONS

The popular hurricane-rated Camargue series made by Belgium-based Renson is popping up in elegant backyards everywhere, shading portions of pools and outdoor seating areas and creating brand-new, swoon-worthy alfresco destinations like outdoor dining areas with grills, fireside venues, or a place to simply chill out. Flat, louvered roofs tilt to welcome more sun and breezes or close for shade with the look of a tongue-and-groove ceiling. Renson's new Camargue Skye elevates the collection to the next level with adjustable, rotating roof blades that also slide open. "Everybody loves them," Wyatt says. "The system gives people more outdoor area they can enjoy without being hammered by sun and rain."

Custom-designed by the GWT Outdoors team and made to order in Europe "to the nearest millimeter," the structures feature the mini-



malist styling of contemporary design and can be attached to a home or built freestanding with columns. They're available in more than 2,500 colors and are customized through automated options to integrate lighting, fans, heaters, and wind and rain sensors that automatically respond to changing weather conditions. Sliding walls of glass, wood, and aluminum blades, wind-tight screens, and Renson's noise-reducing Linus linear horizontal panels create outdoor rooms.



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RENSON CAMARGUE SHADE STRUCTURES HAVE AUTOMATED SIDE SCREENS TO ADJUST FOR SUN, RAIN, AND WIND PROTECTION, AS WELL AS CUSTOMIZABLE FANS AND LIGHTING.

“We offer all the things that matter: options, bona fide rain protection, and shade,” says Wyatt. “The louvers are pitched to get water moving to internal gutters to prevent rain from falling on your furniture when they’re opened after it rains. You can leave furniture out when it rains, and you don’t have to wheel in an umbrella every season.”



GWT—an acronym for owner Stuart Sheppard’s original Greenwich Window Treatments in Connecticut—expanded to Naples as the second Renson dealer in the U.S. and opened a showroom in The Collective in May 2021.

Sheppard “found Renson at a trade show and thought it was a great product for Naples,” says Wyatt. “Ten percent of Renson’s staff works in research and development. They’re always on the cutting edge and the quality is top-notch. That’s why we like them.”

GWT has partnered with Hardie Boys, a Florida millwork company, to develop a hybrid solution for incorporating the high-end wood look of Hardie Boys’ durable, architectural PVC products with Renson systems. “Our customers get the benefit of a West Indies-style pergola with rafter tails,” Wyatt says.

He adds: “We’re creating outdoor spaces from the ground up. Everyone is improving where they live and, with COVID, people want to spend more time outside.” ◀