architectural glazing
project profile: *hurricane*

SOLUTIA

Elegant Florida Homes

Designed for Strength & Beauty

PROJECT FACTS

LOCATION
West Palm Beach, Florida

ARCHITECT
Randall Stofft Architects PA, North Naples, Florida

WINDOW MANUFACTURER
Weather Shield Windows & Doors, Medford, Wisconsin

INTERLAYER MANUFACTURER
Solutia Inc., St. Louis, Missouri

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Living Color Property Development, Delray Beach, Florida

ARCHITECT RANDALL STOFFT WAS PRESENTED WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WHEN HE BEGAN DESIGNING TWO HOMES ON THE INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA. SINCE THE HOMES WERE NEXT TO ONE ANOTHER, THE DESIGNS FOR EACH HAD TO BE DISTINCTIVE YET COMPLEMENTARY. "THESE HOMES COULD NOT BE CARBON COPIES OF ONE ANOTHER," SAYS STOFFT. "EACH NEEDED ITS OWN UNIQUE PERSONALITY."

The homes were also located less than a mile from the Atlantic Ocean on the Southeast Coast of Florida; an area prone to tropical storms and hurricanes. To maintain an ideal balance of strength and beauty, the architect selected LifeGuard Windows and Doors® from Weather Shield.

Weather Shield Windows & Doors

"The building codes in this area require the use of impact-resistant windows and doors or shutter systems," says Nanette Lockwood of Solutia Inc., a professional engineer who has studied various types of protection systems since Hurricane Andrew in 1992. "In the midst of high-wind storms, structural openings like failed doors or windows compromise a home's structure. When pressurized, outside air rushes to find low-pressure pockets of air and expand. The force may be enough to blow off a roof and destroy the home. In fact, such winds demolished hundreds of homes in Hurricane Charley's path in 2004 because they were not safeguarded with code-approved windstorm protection systems."

All Weather Shield LifeGuard products combine robust design and durable components. They also utilize a tough polyvinyl (PVB) interlayer called KeepSafe Maximum® laminated glass by Solutia Inc., which is code approved and provides incomparable protection against hurricane force winds. When sandwiched between two panes of glass, the .090" or .100" gauge interlayer provides extraordinary strength. On impact from hurricane force winds, the glass may crack, but the fragments tend to adhere to the protective plastic interlayer. Keeping glass intact within the frame not only prevents the launch of flying glass shards, thus reducing the risk of personal injury, it also helps protect the building envelope.

"It would have been an injustice to have roll-down shutters or any similar system on homes such as these," says Stofft. "From an aesthetic and performance approach, Weather Shield's LifeGuard Windows and Doors are a vastly superior solution, especially since they also minimize exterior noise and shattered glass, thereby deterring burglars and reducing UV fading."

Weather Shield Windows & Doors

To make an elegant transition from the interior spaces to the outside living areas of the homes, Weather Shield Legacy Series® outswing French doors with transoms and sidelites were specified. Weather Shield windows were also installed close to the floor to open up rooms to the outside as well.

"Each LifeGuard Window and Door has passed the testing required to meet local codes that continue to evolve throughout Florida, Georgia, Texas, the Carolinas and other Southeast states," says Jeff Williams, senior brand manager at Weather Shield. "These windows and doors provide the protection required by our codes without sacrificing architectural style."

The array of choices available from the Weather Shield Custom Wood Interiors Collection™ also helped make

Weather Shield Windows & Doors

the rooms warm and inviting. Clear alder with a cherry finish was chosen for many of the windows and doors for Stofft's designs. For an additional touch of elegance, mahogany doors were specified to match the paneled walls and ceiling for the clubroom in one of the homes.

Inside and out, the windows and doors of these Florida homes enhance their appeal in every way. One of the homes has a more tropical look, and the other has more of a traditional Mediterranean design. "We've been specifying LifeGuard Windows and Doors by Weather Shield for several years now," adds Stofft. The flexibility of sizes, exterior color choices and interior wood choices is excellent, and there is never any question about our expectations being met."

"Until now, the benefits of impact-resistant window and door systems could only be illustrated in the lab," says Val Rogers, certification and testing project manager at Weather Shield Windows & Doors, whose LifeGuard line of impact-resistant windows and doors feature Solutia's tough PVB interlayers. "Hurricane Charley provided the ultimate test, and we are very pleased to see the level of protection that this technology is able to provide in both the residential and commercial sectors."

KeepSafe® GLASS MAXIMUM

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