

Interior design by  
Markham Roberts

## *The Return of the Florida Room*

Shake out your caftan!  
The Florida room is back  
to reclaim its rightful  
place in the sun

**SOMETIME AROUND THE** mid-20th century, a hot design idea hit nature-loving homeowners: a casual, window-wrapped room with all the provisions of a porch or patio, designed for days when the temps tipped too high or low to sit in the open air. With it came an era of sunlit, breezy lounges that even Mother Nature would find worthy of settling into with an afternoon cocktail. Commonly called “Florida rooms,” some were simply enclosed porches; others, glass-heavy additions built off the sides or backs of homes. Designs varied, but their most fundamental tenet was large panes of operable windows—entire walls of them, in some cases—to send sunlight and fresh air streaming in. Many featured classic porch-like siding materials (beadboard, lattice-work paneling) and patio flooring, and were outfitted with outdoor-friendly furniture and live greenery. Though the rooms began to fall out of favor as climate-controlled spaces gained popularity, a warm, sunny spot for shooting the breeze (literally!) seems to us like an idea that’s ripe for a refresh. Here, our style secrets for bringing the Florida room out of the archives and beautifully up to date.



Interior design by Madcap Cottage



Interior design by Amanda Lindroth

### 6 FRESH FLORIDA ROOM ESSENTIALS

- 1 Windows that open** are a must. Traditional room designs bring sunlight and fresh air in on three sides via crank-open casements, half-wall sliders, or even glass-paned doors.
- 2 Porch-like detailing**, such as exterior siding or flooring, sets a dressed-down tone that distinguishes this respite from the rest of the house.
- 3 Patterned ceiling treatments** arose as a way of spiffing up the rough outdoor materials on rooms that originated as porches—high style, indeed.
- 4 Chic bars, game tables, and other hosting upgrades**

FROM TOP: DUSTIN PECK, JAMES MERREL; OPPOSITE: JESSICA KLEWICKI GLYNN

make Florida rooms natural hubs for entertaining guests—no rain check required.

**5 Live greenery** gives these indoor spaces loads of outdoor cred. Boston ferns, moth orchids, and butterfly palms are Florida room all-stars, as are oversize plants such as fiddle leaf figs and birds of paradise. Or go for a mod twist with a sculptural stand-in like the painted metal palm at left.

**6 Bamboo, rattan, and wicker furniture** add instant porch and patio mojo. (See our guide on page 26). Mix with upholstered indoor seating to create a cool contrast between old-school organic materials and modern textiles—plus the kind of comfort that invites guests to stay a while.

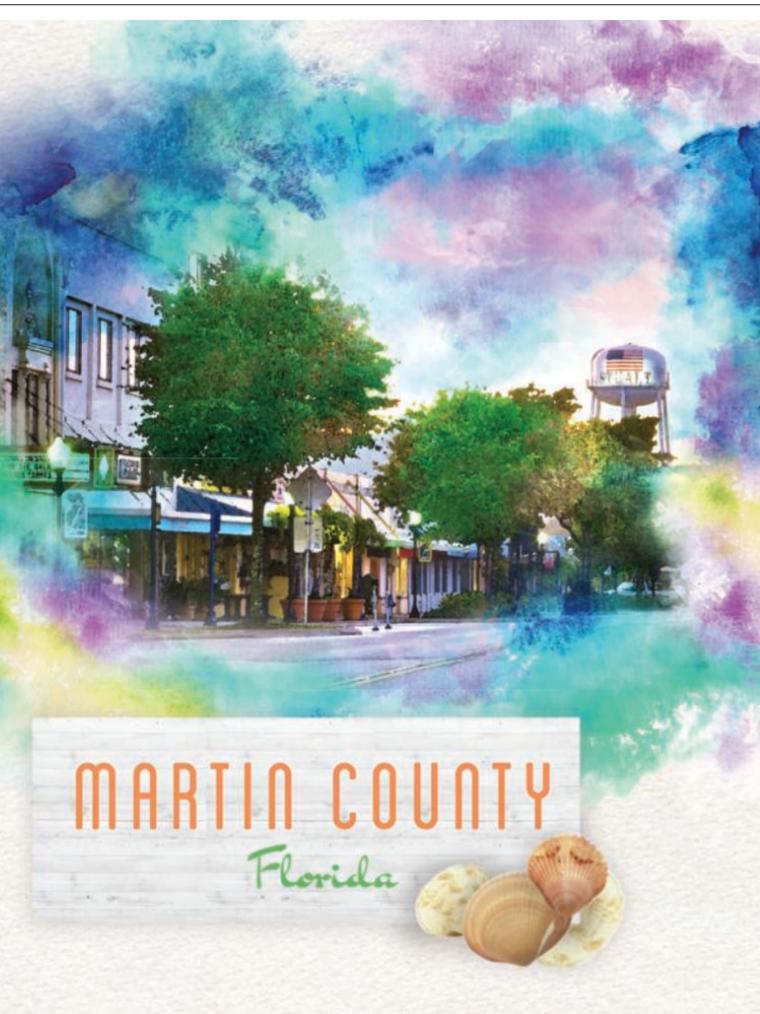


Interior design by Celerie Kemble

## Of-the-moment style, Old Florida feel.

Named Coastal Living's **Happiest Seaside Town for 2016**, Martin County has natural beaches, picturesque parks, scenic drives, and stylish shopping and dining to match. From waterfront views to alfresco dining, art galleries to cozy cafes, delightful shops and charming boutiques, we've got fine dining and shopping to satisfy every whim, served with a side of laid-back southern hospitality. It's a hometown touch that can't be beat, and just part of what makes Martin County, Florida naturally quaint.

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MARTIN COUNTY

Florida



# Natural Wonders

Bamboo and rattan are brilliant at bridging indoors and out, new and old—here, modern takes on the timeless materials

**Kouboo 1 Light Wicker Pendant Lamp**, \$225; [allmodern.com](http://allmodern.com)



**Serena & Lily Rutherford Bamboo Lanterns**, from \$198 each; [serenaandlily.com](http://serenaandlily.com)



**Scenario Home Rattan Trestle Desk**, \$875; [scenariohome.com](http://scenariohome.com)



**Serena & Lily Anguilla Rattan Coffee Table**, \$798; [serenaandlily.com](http://serenaandlily.com)



**Beachcrest Home Paulsboro End Table** in White Washed, \$134; [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)



**Novica Fair Trade Round Bamboo Wall Mirror**, \$310; [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)



**Selamat Designs Regeant Daybed** in Nutmeg, \$4,406; [selamatdesigns.com](http://selamatdesigns.com) for showrooms

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

■ **Bamboo** stalks are rigid and make ideal frames for classic furniture designs with simple, straightforward lines.

■ **Rattan** is bamboo's freewheeling cousin. Its stalks are vine-like and flexible to work with, so it's great for curvy, more intricate pieces. And like any dynamic duo, rattan and bamboo shine brighter when they're together: Many pieces are crafted from a combo of the two, with bamboo as the structural star and rattan forming the more ornate detailing.

■ **Wicker** is not a material at all, but a method of weaving that strings together any number of organic or synthetic threads, including rattan and bamboo.

COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS