

# Fresh Air



*I*t's amazing to watch the excitement with which the southwest Florida summer dwellers greet the first sunrise of the late autumn. Not leaves changing, or pumpkin patches overflowing. No, it's simply that at sunrise, around 6 a.m., the temperature is below 70 degrees Fahrenheit. It's important not to underestimate their glee, the spring in their step, the happier disposition. They just passed a summer in which some of the sunrises didn't get below the mid 80's. Many days were in the mid to high 90's. Let's face it, summer here is not for the faint of . . . well . . . fainting. And that is why the heavens opened and out poured air conditioning! Prior to the widespread use of mechanical air conditioning systems, Florida was not so popular. I know that because I lived here during some of those years. We finally had central air conditioning when I was 10 years old which is likely the first year I hadn't thought of running away . . . to Siberia. It was not for the faint of heart or sweat glands.

Now we have perfectly cooled, balanced, and clean air at the touch of our fingertips on our digital thermostats. Yes, life is undeniably cool. But does it have to be ugly?

Laying in bed, looking up at the beautiful ceiling someone used their brains, creativity, and perhaps talent to design, do you witness sheer beauty? Likely, until you scan over to the circa 1970's era air conditioning supply grill (seriously, have not changed in how many years? But we get to that later . . .) and then the huge air conditioning supply return near the door. Argggghh!! So much effort disrupted by a builder with an a/c guy. This is why it is CRITICAL that the coordination between design and construction is cooperative and even inspired if possible. This is where the art of true design, with craftsmen and attention to detail is a must for the client who wants it the best that it can be. And at what price, you say? Hah! That's the best part, the additional costs are very low to make the a/c that we love so much more attractive or even disappear out of our environment. ■