

GRACE FOR IMPACT

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB

Hurricane Andrew changed the way we look at windows. Since that devastating storm in 1992, South Florida building codes have been revised to require hurricane shutters or storm-impact products whenever we change windows or exterior doors.

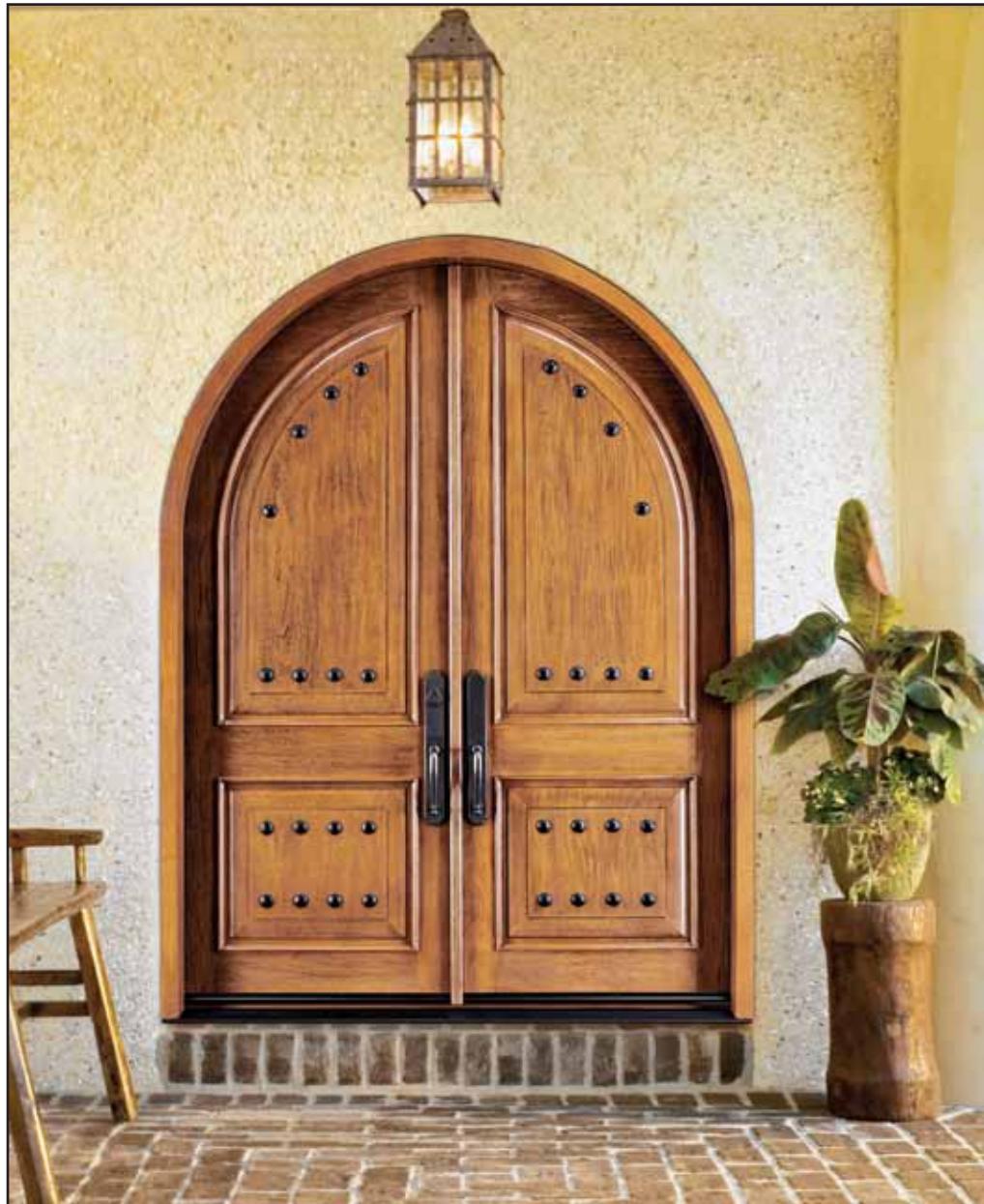
No worry. The designs can be very fashionable - and they are available in any style from contemporary to classic.

Impact-resistant glass is also a crime deterrent. "Burglars cannot break the glass," says Hillary Bale, vice president of the Custom Door Shop in Delray Beach. "Even the fire department had to be trained to saw into the concrete around the door to open it."

Mediterranean magic

Jeld-Wen's Aurora double front door fits right in with the Mediterranean-style architecture so prevalent

in South Florida. The doors may look like wood but they are actually custom Fiberglass. The architecturally inspired designs in this collection are available with decorative metal accents and coordinating sidelights and transoms. Available at Pearce Windows & Doors, 170 Commerce Road, Boynton Beach, 561-732-1127, pearcewindows.com; WindowMan of South Florida, 3076 NE 12th Terr., Oakland Park, 954-946-1553, windowmanfl.com.



Stormwatch style

The best way to protect your home from hurricanes when you're away and can't close the shutters is to replace windows with impact-resistant glass. Anderson's Stormwatch protection windows and doors are available in a variety of styles, shapes and sizes. The Perma-Shield exterior cladding system resists the effects of salt water and sea air without peeling, chipping or corroding. You can also opt for corrosion-resistant hardware, especially important for homes near or on the beach.



Anderson windows are available at Seaview Building Solutions, 3301 NW 22nd Terrace, Suite 700F, Pompano Beach, 954-324-8200, seaviewbuildingsolutions.com; Manning Building Supplies, 1177 W. Blue Heron Blvd., Riviera Beach, 561-841-8400, mbs-corp.com; and Home Depot, for locations see homedepot.com.



Red alert

Not everyone wants exterior doors with a conservative paint color. For the more daring, here is Jeld-Wen's red custom wood swinging patio door with impact-resistant glass. The wood is aluminum clad for low maintenance and resistance to fading. Jeld-Wen's AuraLast wood protection system provides 100 percent surface-to-core protection from wood rot and is guaranteed to last for 20 years. It also protects against termites and water saturation so it can open and close properly regardless of the weather. Available at Pearce Windows & Doors, 170 Commerce Blvd., Boynton Beach, 561-732-1127, pearcewindows.com; WindowMan of South Florida, 3076 NE 12th Terr., Oakland Park, 954-946-1553, windowmanfl.com.



Against the wind, UV rays

PGT's WinGuard Impact-Resistant Windows combine heavy-duty window and door frames with impact-resistant laminated glass to protect against flying debris. A silicone glazing keeps the glass from breaking away from the frame. If you add on the insulating glass, the windows and doors will filter out 99 percent of the UV rays that cause fading and can reduce heating and cooling bills. The aluminum products have a 10-year warranty. All screws are covered so there is less chance of the elements eroding them. Available at CitiQuiet and Doors, 910 Clint Moore Road, Boca Raton, 561-241-9463, citiquiethurricanewindows.com.

Circular theory

If you have a double-door entrance, this mahogany door may be the perfect solution. Depending on your perspective, the circular theme could either represent a basketball or a Chinese symbol usually found on wedding chests. The doors can be customized with a choice of finish, glass and hardware. Available at Custom Door Shop, 4900 Linton Blvd., Suite 28, Delray Beach, 561-741-0603, customdoorshop.com.



Decorative glass

Prefer a front door that gives light as well as an interesting design? You have a few options.

For those who want privacy as well as light, there are molded glass options that cannot be seen through. The others, like this one, have decorative panels available for the door and sidelights. The doors can be customized with a choice of finish, glass and hardware. Available at Custom Door Shop, 4900 Linton Blvd., Suite 28, Delray Beach, 561-741-0603, customdoorshop.com.