

LOCAL SCREENING

Phantom Shading

Greg Caponetto of Retractable Phantom Screens, would like to be known as a Screenologist, which would probably make his art of Screeenology a discipline in the Dept. of Windowism. Fact is, the man knows window screens.

"Typically, up here in the Northeast, especially the city, the primary function of window screens is keeping the bugs out," he told us. "People like to open up their windows to get the fresh air, when they can. In Co-op Village, people mostly look to screen their terrace doors. We do a lot of that in the city, that's our biggest application. We install them in penthouses, too, whether they have sliding doors, or French doors that open inward. Because there's no other attractive solution. You spend a lot of money installing new doors out to the terrace or the porch, and they don't have screens. That's when we come in."

What does "retractable" mean?

"It's the same concept as a window shade – a spring-loaded tube, but instead of shading material you have on it an insect mesh. Window screens are mounted horizontally, door screens, vertically, and they both roll up into a housing. You pull it either right to left or left to right, and it connects to the door surface with magnets, so that when you dislodge it from the magnets it will roll back up into the housing and pretty much disappear out of sight."

How attractive can a bug screen be?

"It lets you have your view when you're not using it. It's a great advantage over the fixed, swinging screen, which is always there, you always have to look at the view through that screen. The Phantom screen is invisible, except for when you're using it."

How expensive is it?

"Typically, it's \$499 for a standard size door screen. We're discounting it down to \$399 for your readers, including installation. The window screens range in price from \$150 to \$300, depending on the size of the window. That, too, includes installation."

How much repair to these screens require?

"They're pretty maintenance-free. They carry a lifetime warranty on the manufactured product. It's built of thick, extruded aluminum, so it's not going to rust. It has a baked enamel, powdered coat finish, so it's pretty resistant to the elements."

Phantom Screens, www.phantomcreens.com, 1-888-PHANTOM



Phantom door screen