

Sundance Design

Covering/enclosing your deck or patio

Most of the conversations I have with people start with, "I have this beautiful deck and I cannot use it in the summer, when I want to use it the most. The sun is too intense". Well there are certainly a great number of options, each with advantages and disadvantages and different price points. The purpose of this is to discuss them. The first question I ask is, "How important is sunlight into the adjoining rooms?" These are usually key rooms; Family Room, Kitchen, Breakfast, etc.

Conventional framing:



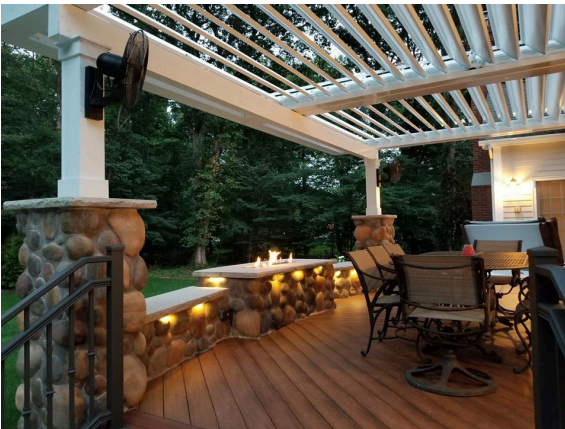
Advantages:

- Most contractors can build them
- Very flexible for details and design
- Lights and Fans easily included
- Room-like ceiling

Disadvantages

- Blocks the sun, makes adjoining rooms dark
- Skylights provide shafts of light
- The pitch necessary causes problem with upper windows
- The valleys can be problematic for drainage and snow.
- Cost about \$80/square foot

Louvered Roof



Advantages

- Allows light onto patio and into adjoining rooms
- Closes to block unwanted sun
- When closed, blocks rain and snow.
- Fans and lights accommodated
- Flat frame works more easily into house design.

Disadvantage

- Cost about \$110/square foot

Acrylic Translucent



Advantages

- Blocks 100% of UV
- Blocks 45-75% of infrared (heat)
- Allows light onto patio and into adjoining rooms.
- Lower pitch 1/2"/ft. Allows to work into upper windows, etc.
- Fans and Lights accommodated

Disadvantages

- Spans out from house max about 14' in this snow load
- Beams can be added for more.

Cost about \$60/square foot

Solid Aluminum Panels



Advantages

- Fast installation, Ceiling and roofing are complete in panel
- No shingles needed
- No ceiling finishing needed
- Fans and lights accommodated
- ½”/ ft pitch, allows to work with upper windows etc.

Disadvantages

- Blocks light
- Spans to 15’ max
- Skylights nor recommended

Cost about \$50/square foot

Cloth Pullover Canopies



Advantages

- Cost
- Blocks sun when unwanted
- Allows sun when wanted
- Shields somewhat from rain
- Flat to allow to work with upper windows etc.

Disadvantages

- Cloth eventually fails and needs replacement
- Even when new some drips in rain
- Cost about \$40/square foot

Sail shade



Advantages

- Blocks sun
- Can be waterproof
- Low cost (6 - \$10K)
- Logistics
- Ease of installation

Disadvantages

- Need to be protected from high winds
- Details of securing posts.
- Details of un-installing and reinstalling

Enclosing

Conventional 4-season sunroom



Advantages

- Many competitive companies
- Year-round use

Disadvantages

- Energy drain in winter and summer
- % of Ventilation when desired
- Cost

Cost about \$500/ lin. foot, (after roof)

3- season sunroom with 4 track windows



Advantages

- Maximum ventilation in Spring and Fall
- Ease to convert from screen to enclosed
- Doors come to match
- Local manufacturer
- No glass to break
- Cost

Disadvantages

- 60' max width
- More heat loss than glass
- Cost about \$250/foot (after roof)

Motorized screens



Advantages

- Automatic with remote
- Aesthetic
- Durable
- Can be dual screens; insect and vinyl for winter

Cost about \$3-5k per opening

Tempered Glass folding walls



Advantages

- Clear view, no mullions
- Folds to one side for open space
- Each section has a swing door
- Great hardware and movement

Disadvantages

Single pane glass

Cost about \$700/foot