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Oceanside Home is an eclectic high-end interior showroom offering a range of coastal home accessories and furniture. Shop the showroom or set up a consulting appointment. Custom orders available.
Legend has it that a hurricane a decade ago or so carried these South American natives to the Keys, where they have been happily asserting their authority ever since.

Are they harmless? Well, not really. Iguanas carry salmonella and they eat vegetation and flowering plants. But the most noxious aspect of an iguana is by far their – poop. For some reason, iguana excrement is one of the most difficult things to scrape off your vehicle, and for some reason, iguanas love to target cars. And pools. And their poop does stink.

But they are one of nature’s creatures, and while there are many residents in the Keys who choose to dispose of iguanas invading their yards in a very permanent way, typically with a pellet gun, others choose gentler methods and try to discourage them from entering their yards.
One pest company specializes in iguana eradication - Iguana Control - which has offices throughout south Florida. Tom Portuallo said in a recent interview that “Monroe County has the biggest concentration of iguanas per capita.”

Portuallo’s method includes his patented barriers that he developed, which he wraps around the trunks of trees to prevent iguanas from getting to the top. He also uses other types of barriers to prevent access from pools, etc.

While he avoids killing them, he says they are classified as pests and his company does humanely dispatch of the reptiles as necessary, especially when they become a health hazard.

Another company which has developed a humane method of dealing with iguanas is Iguana Gone, a liquid repellent sold exclusively online and currently available on their website, iguanagone.com or on Amazon.
Frank Abdo, founder of the company, developed the product after iguanas began taking over his backyard. “We had a severe problem at our home since 2000. The iguanas took over our backyard, defecating in our swimming pool and patio daily. Iguanas were digging holes under our planters and eating all our flowering plants, plus the iguana made our dog sick with salmonella poison from stepping in the feces.”

Abdo said it took over two years to develop the product, which went on sale Jan. 1, 2017. It was tested at his home and at friend’s houses for more than a year before they began marketing it for sale.

"Other products simply 'harass' iguanas with a smelly scent to which they will inevitably become immune, since iguanas are herbivores, and herb-based products, by their very nature, will ultimately attract more than they repel," he said.

Iguana Gone “affects the physiology of the iguana, triggering inherent 'acute stress response' or 'flight response.' Though harmless, iguanas sense an immediate threat and are instinctively compelled to stay away,” Abdo said.

So if you want to rid your yard of these colorful but pesky reptiles, you have humane ways of doing so before having to resort to a more permanent solution. 

Developed in 2015 after years of testing, IGUANA GONE® is an organic, chemical-free solution that gets rid of iguanas for good while being safe for humans and pets alike.

After years of research, development and testing, we have created a product that’s proven to repel iguanas.

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Take back your backyard! Send those pesky iguanas packing with this repellent. It’s only available online, via this website. It’s not sold in stores, so accept no imitations!
Top: Iguanas in the Florida Keys can be bothersome to the locals but some tourists find them to be an interesting subject of photography.

Bottom: An iguana uses overhead lines to cross a yard in the Florida Keys.
Painting is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to transform the look of a space. Paint colors can dramatically change the mood and the design of a home. And depending on a homeowner's goals, paint can make a statement or blend into the background.
Many people are now looking to bold colors to make spaces stand out. But choosing a paint color can be challenging. Homeowners looking to update walls and complement decor may want to look at some of the more impactful colors that Pantone indicates will be popular for the 2017 season. Primrose Yellow, Lapis Blue, Flame, Pink Yarrow, and Greenery are some of the more eye-catching selections. Once colors are selected, consider these guidelines for using bolder colors in room designs.

"Limit the intensity of your accent colors and you can put anything you love in that room." — LOCAL DESIGNER
DECEIVE HOW BIG AN IMPACT YOU WANT TO MAKE. Are you looking for color overload or just a small focal point of vivid color? Remember, using bold color doesn’t mean every wall must be lathered in that hue. Instead, select one wall to serve as an accent point and use that spot as your bold color display. Otherwise, rely on bold colors to dress up otherwise mundane areas, such as the back wall of a cupboard or moldings and trim.

TRY BOLD IN A SMALL SPACE. Many people are surprised at how well bold colors work in small spaces. Powder rooms can be an ideal spot to experiment with paint colors. Try deep colors that can make the area seem intimate and even exotic. Dark, bold hues can be toned down by different accents, such as neutral colored fixtures and towels.

GO BOLD IN THE KITCHEN. Incorporate a splash of color in the kitchen without going overboard. Try an appliance or design fixture in a bright shade. Or paint the inside of the cabinets in your favorite color and install glass inserts in the cabinet doors so that everyone gets a peek of the color beyond. A neutral kitchen also can be brightened up with the use of silverware, dishes, pots and pans, and other kitchen items featured in bold hues.

STICK TO BOLDNESS ON INTERCHANGEABLE ITEMS. Those who like to experiment with color may find that they like to switch out the colors now and again. Instead of having to repaint every few months, use decorative items in bright shades to make swapping out color that much easier. For example, replace area rugs, throw pillows and draperies. Paint over terra cotta flower pots when the mood strikes.

ESTABLISH BALANCE. Rely on neutral colored furniture, rugs, moldings and baseboards if you decide to take bold colors up a notch. This will help create a sense of balance in the room.

Painting is a fun way to experiment with color. Many homeowners are not hesitant to use bold shades of color when they learn the right techniques. And because paint is an inexpensive option for making over a room, homeowners who find they do not like a particular color can easily paint over it with a new color.

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Many people dream of owning coastal properties. Some aspire to have a home away from home for vacations or long weekends, while others move to the coast to be nearer to family or when they reach retirement age.
Living close to the water can be relaxing, and it's hard to beat the fresh air and the relaxing sound of the waves. However, coastal homes require some unique upkeep that prospective buyers should familiarize themselves with before buying a property.

**SALT WATER**

Salt buildup is one of the pitfalls of living close to the ocean. Salt is corrosive to metal components, so homeowners are advised to avoid metal parts in various areas of home construction. Windows and doors are particularly at risk because they face the constant onslaught of Mother Nature. Fiberglass, vinyl and aluminum are less corrosive than other metal parts and should be considered in window framing. Homeowners may need to apply lubricant to moving parts, locks and fasteners to keep them moving smoothly.
Above: Privacy for coastal living can be as simple as wooden fencing

Opposite Page: A preventive measure to avoid coastal flooding for this seaside home
Consult with a lawn and garden expert about which coastal plants thrive with high levels of salt in the air. Professionals can make recommendations on low-maintenance landscapes that will not be damaged by the sun and salt.

Humidity and salt concentrations also can cause concern indoors. Mold likes damp, dark conditions, so homeowners should do their best to keep their homes dry and well-ventilated. Rely on dehumidifiers to take moisture out of the air. Install more vents to draw air outside and create fresh air flow.

**COASTAL FLOODING**

Coastal flooding is another concern for homeowners who live close to the water. Prospective buyers should first determine if the house they want to buy is in a flood zone or an evacuation zone. This is information that may come up when applying for homeowner's insurance, as flood insurance is a separate policy.

Individuals may have to take special measures to protect their homes from incoming tides or high waters during storms. The National Flood Insurance Program provides a flood damage simulator to predict the total cost of flood repair based on the height of the water. For one to four inches of water, the estimated repair cost is $7,800. For nine to 12 inches, the estimate is $18,930. At 18 inches, the estimated cost is $26,285. Homeowners may want to invest in lifting their homes or taking other preventative measures if coastal flooding is common.

**PRIVACY AND SAFETY**

Living by the ocean can be great, but coastal towns are often a magnet for tourists. Homeowners with seaside homes or homes in popular tourist areas may want
to take extra steps to create privacy and security. Fencing and natural windblocks can block the view of backyards and other outdoor spaces. An alarm system can offer peace of mind in areas close to resort towns. Adequate lighting can deter trespassers as well.

Living by the ocean is a dream for many people. The increased upkeep required on a coastal home is often a small price to pay for such luxury, but it’s something prospective buyers should consider before taking the plunge.

Above: A herringbone style wood windblock for a coastal property is useful to create privacy
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It’s not easy to define exactly what Keys’ style is, as one definition isn’t enough. It’s tropical, Bohemian, funky, eclectic, traditional, breezy, fun, energetic, sunny, beachy, casual, colorful – and on and on and on.

For those wanting to update their current décor or to decorate a new home in true Keys’ style, finding a place that can put it all in perspective may seem daunting, but never fear, the owners of Fast Buck’s At Home are ready to help.

The delightful store on Caroline Street is the brain child of business partners Tony Falcone and David Smith. Each has his own specialty areas and both are more than eager to assist customers with their needs, be they large or small. So how do they define Keys’ style?

“It’s core elements of color and style that you build on and accessorize,” says David. “It’s blues, greens, turquoises and oranges with natural colors woven in.” For Tony, “Our concept of a tropical lifestyle is neutral pieces in basic colors that you accessorize. It’s not always bamboo and rattan – it’s more modern fabrics and natural woods. It’s ‘tropical modern’ but we soften it to fit in the old Conch houses here.”

The concept of neutral and natural colors didn’t stop them from adding a bright turquoise couch to their showroom, which became a hot seller, along with a bright orange cowhide rug, with only one left on a recent day, along with many, many other beautiful pieces. A chandelier made of individually carved coconut pieces. A table top covered with intricately carved coconut shavings. A mirror made with wooden shoe molds. And newly added gift items for those wanting to give a piece of Keys’ style to a friend or relative.
A recent stroll through the store revealed a depth of knowledge about every single piece that is rare for store owners, but these are no ordinary owners. They are as hands-on as it gets, and the pair travels around the world several times a year to find incredible pieces of art—and natural wood and fabrics—that become furniture or rugs or accent pieces in their capable hands.

“The pieces you have in your home must look good on you. Just like the colors you wear, your house colors should match you,” said David. Their store is designed to reflect a complete look—sofas with pillows, tables with lamps, chairs with accent rugs—and handbags, scarves and jewelry to match. “Just in case you see something that you like in a color you like,” he added. And how do they find these unique pieces? “Several times a year, we travel and recently, we went to Java, Indonesia, Borneo and Sumatra, and went to the villages, not the cities, and sat on the ground with true crafts people creating extraordinary things,” says Tony.

The pair have done everything from purchasing an enormous, entire root ball of teak, which they envisioned cutting this way and that, creating dining tables and side tables, to buying a large piece of tamarind wood and working with its natural contours to create a mirror and
matching table. They always try to leave wood in as natural a state as possible and work with it to create beautiful pieces that are both functional and artistic.

The store is constantly changing and their loyal customer base keeps coming back to see what’s new. Tony and David say Fast Buck’s is absolutely not the typical store where you buy an entire room already decorated in a one-size-fits-all manner.

“You won’t find matching sofas and chairs here,” says David. “Each piece has a story behind it that gives it character and soul – a history.”
They work with customers to offer design services as well, to ensure that the pieces fit the place and vice versa. Unfortunately, according to Tony, Fast Buck’s At Home may be out of range for some people, although they offer a wide selection at a variety of prices, so their Fast Buck’s furniture outlet on Flagler helps those who can’t afford the higher priced items but still want that unique and unusual piece for their homes.

Once you visit the store, you’ll have a better understanding of what makes Fast Buck’s such an iconic fixture in Key West. But go with plenty of time on your hands to truly look around the entire store, as treasures can be found in nooks, corners and crannies throughout.

Above: A bedroom set with a teak headboard. Teak wood is particularly valued for its durability and water resistance, and is used for boat building, exterior construction, veneer, furniture, and carvings. It is cultivated in many countries in Africa and the Caribbean.
Faulty wiring is a leading cause of residential fires. Many homeowners, particularly those who live in older homes, might be living in properties that have outdated electrical systems. It also may damage appliances and make it difficult to sell a property in the future. According to Nearshore Electric in Key West, the biggest need for area homes is to update cloth wiring in the electrical systems.

It can be difficult to gauge exactly when to overhaul an electrical system. Unless circuits routinely trip or lights often dim, homeowners may put off the work. But degrading wires or overextended circuitry can pose a fire risk, so it is best to address electrical systems promptly.

Home inspections may uncover electrical problems. Some home-owners may discover potential trouble while making renovations that require opening up walls or tearing them down, exposing the wires. Still other homeowners learn about electrical systems when they're adding new, large appliances or other gadgets that consume more power than existing items. These devices may
continually cause power outages in the house, such as tripping the circuit breaker or popping a fuse.

When it comes time to update the electrical system, it is always best to work with licensed and bonded electricians who have the expertise to work with electrical wiring without getting injured. This is not a do-it-yourself type of job since it requires specialized training.

For knowledge of local houses and new construction, Nearshore Electric specializes in residential, commercial and industrial construction, remodeling, and repair in the Florida Keys.

While many older homes are only capable of handling a minimum number of amps, utilizing just a few circuits. But nowadays, when homeowners have far more electronics
in their homes than they once did, increased demand on electricity can overload a circuit (all of the outlets linked on one wire).

Tripping a circuit breaker is a safety measure to prevent the wire from becoming overheated and causing a fire. However, in some old systems, the circuit breaker will not trip, and this can be problematic.

Rewiring a home is another step. Wire insulation can deteriorate over time, and new wires may be needed. This can be messy and time-consuming, but it's a small price to pay for safety. When rewiring an electrician also may suggest updating outlets in homes. Most home building codes now require outlets with ground fault interrupters, or GFIs, in kitchens, bathrooms and other rooms exposed to moisture. Some older homes may not even have three-pronged outlets, so this will necessitate an update as well.

There new technologies that companies like Nearshore use in the Keys, including upgraded services that maintain more power and install GFI receptacles and install whole home power/surge protectors. They can also convert lighting to LEDs.

According to Nearshore, smart technology and LEDs are the wave of the future, and there are new developments all the time,
including outlets and switches that can be remotely controlled by cell phones apps.

In addition to the in-home work Nearshore Electric does, the company is most proud of their work with water systems in the Keys, providing the electrical systems that energize the water pumps, keeping water clean for future generations.

Electrical systems are the heart of a home, delivering power where it is needed. It is essential to keep such systems up-to-date so they can handle the power demands of everyday life. ♦
Gardening is widely considered as relaxing a hobby as it is rewarding. Although gardening when temperatures are mild, such as in spring and fall, can be relaxing, gardening can be much more physically taxing and even dangerous when temperatures rise during the dog days of summer.

Gardens need tending even when temperatures outside are especially hot, so gardeners must take steps to protect their health when working in their gardens during the summer.

**STAY HYDRATED.** Staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water is something gardeners must do to stay safe when gardening in summer. Water carries heat away from internal organs, helping to prevent heat stroke along the way. Water takes heat through the bloodstream to the skin, resulting in sweat. Gardeners who notice they are not sweating despite the heat should drink more water and even head indoors to cool down. In addition, the American Heart Association notes that keeping the body hydrated helps the heart pump blood more easily, making gardening less taxing on the heart on hot days.

**TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS INDOORS OR IN SHADY AREAS.** Limit marathon gardening sessions to spring and fall when the weather permits. When gardening in harsh summertime heat, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises gardeners to take frequent breaks. Head inside to air conditioned rooms, if necessary, or find shady areas to sit, relax and drink some water. Sitting in the shade will give
the body's thermostat a chance to recover from exposure to extreme heat.

**TAKE NOTE OF YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION.**

Many people garden alone, so it's important that gardeners learn the symptoms of heat-related illnesses. The CDC notes that elevated body temperatures, headache, rapid pulse, dizziness, nausea, and / or confusion are some common symptoms of heat-related illnesses. Gardeners should go indoors the moment any such symptoms appear.

Garden during the cooler parts of the day. Lawncare professionals advise against watering lawns between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the summertime, as water is more likely to evaporate during this time, which tends to be the hottest time of the day. Gardeners should avoid working in their gardens during these hours as well. Garden in the early morning hours when the sun is not burning as hot or in late afternoon or early evening hours when temperatures are less threatening.

Gardening in summer requires gardeners to exercise caution and assess their physical conditions routinely and honestly.
Protect Your Home Against Power Surges

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To protect your home, FKEC offers and installs meter mounted surge protection for Co-op members. This is the first line of defense against power surges that can damage your home's electrical system, appliances, computer equipment, air conditioners and more.

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