

## Exterior Decoration Standards - October 2008

### VG&CC Master Association

**Exterior Decoration Standards:** Including Sculptures, Statuary, Fountains, Bird House/Feeder/Bath, Bench, Wind Chimes or similar items (this includes Flower Pots either on the ground or hanging from a tree or pot hanger, Trellis, Banners and other decorations) shall not be permitted or must be approved by the Architectural Review Committee. The following standards are to be used by the ARC in the approval process.

#### **Fountains Outside the Alcove:**

1. One fountain per property is permitted.
2. The width and height should be relative to the house dimensions.
3. The placement would be more subjective, but should be free standing (not leaning).
4. The fountain should be of concrete, or have a substantial weight to avoid becoming a projectile during a hurricane.
5. The placement would require a level concrete base at least one inch wider than the largest dimension of the base. Large, heavy objects may require anchoring to this base for stability.
6. The electrical equipment should not be visible.
7. The color should enhance the colors of the house/roof/drive, etc.
8. Architectural Review Committee approval is necessary for the fountain and any lighting.

#### **Statuary Outside the Alcove:**

1. One statue per property is permitted.
2. The width and height should be relative to the house dimensions.
3. The placement would be more subjective, but should be free standing (not leaning).
4. The statuary should be of concrete, bronze, or other material which will have a substantial weight to avoid becoming a projectile during a hurricane.
5. The placement would require a level concrete base at least one inch wider than the largest dimension of the base. Large, heavy objects may require anchoring to this base for stability.
6. The color should enhance the colors of the house/roof/drive, etc.
7. Statuary should not be offensive or inappropriate in any way.
8. Architectural Review Committee approval is necessary for the statuary and any lighting.

**Flower Pots and Planters Outside the Alcove:** These objects should enhance the appearance of the house. One or two tastefully positioned objects can break up vertical or horizontal lines. Numerous objects give the appearance of merchandizing and detract from the orderly, established appearance of VGCC.

1. Only ceramic, glazed, pottery or concrete pots or planters will be approved. No plastic pots.
2. All pots must be maintained year around with live, healthy plants.
3. All pots must have a size and substantial weight to avoid becoming projectiles during hurricanes.
4. All pots must be kept within 2' of the structure of the house.

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**Pots and Planters cont.**

5. The placement would require a level concrete base at least one inch wider than the largest dimension of the base. Large, heavy objects may require anchoring to this base for stability.
6. Colors should enhance the colors of the house and surroundings.
7. Architectural Review Committee approval is necessary for any pots and planters.
8. Pots and planters removed from your lanai, house or alcove when leaving for any period must not be visible from the street, neighbors or golf course.
9. Hanging flower pots and orchids from lamp posts and trees are not permitted.
10. Pots placed in front of doors or blocking sidewalks during your absence is not permitted.

**Bird Houses/Feeders/Baths:** Shall not be permitted as part of your landscaping at VGCC. Unfortunately, our feathered friends may not be considered an enhancement by your neighbors, and they may carry disease. Bird feeders encourage rats and other varmints. We encourage attracting birds and butterflies with native landscaping.

**Benches Outside the Alcove:**

1. Benches must be of a minimum weight and material to withstand a hurricane.
2. The finish of a bench must not show rust or chipping paint.
3. Placement needs to be an enhancement to the property.
4. Architectural Review Committee approval is necessary for any bench.

**Trellis Outside the Alcove:**

1. A trellis must be maintained with live plants and kept neatly trimmed year around.
2. Trellis must be anchored safely into the ground in the event of a hurricane or taken inside.
3. Architectural Review Committee approval is necessary for any trellis.

**Banners:** Are permitted only on the day of an event and must be in good taste.

**Artificial Decorations:** Artificial vegetation, decorations and similar items are not permitted except holiday decorations. Prohibited decorations shall include, but not be limited to paper or cardboard cutouts, Styrofoam, inflatable objects and roof decorations.

1. Christmas decorations are permitted between Thanksgiving and January 7.
2. Decorations for all other holidays shall be permitted only during the two (2) week period preceding the holiday and shall be removed promptly after the holiday.

**Please Note:** *Once approval is given by the ARC for any of the above items, it will be placed in your file for future reference. Any change in placement or design must be accompanied by a request for review by the ARC. Requests for approval should be accompanied by a landscape plan the same as any new or modified landscaping plan.*