If the glove fits

Six pairs of gardening wear put to the test

Gardening gloves come in a vast array of prices, styles and colors. You may choose from leather, rubber, canvas, or nylon. Some are tear-resistant, others waterproof, and some can be washed in the wash machine.

If you are a beginner, you may want to start with a basic pair of gardening gloves. If you are a more experienced gardener, you may want to consider a pair that is more durable and waterproof.

This article reviews six pairs of gardening gloves and rates them based on their performance and comfort.

**The Mailbox**

By Alisa Fein

Detroit Free Press

April's profile of a well-designed living space

Take a slide show tour of the home and hear architect Frank Harmon talk about it at www.newsobserver.com, search ‘home.’

The panels open to allow seamless connection between the interior spaces and outdoors. Porch lights incorporated into the storefront system are directed out to the marsh allowing occupants to see out from inside at night.

The porch

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD LEO JOHNSON

Modern in the marsh

Raleigh architect Frank Harmon uses steel, pine as high-tech design meets low-country culture

Harmon’s home on the marsh is reviewed by Geoffrey Barton, a master’s candidate at N.C. State University’s School of Architecture and graduate research assistant with the College of Design’s Home Environments Design Initiative.

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In-ground and aboveground pools.

The house plan places bedrooms on either side of the central hallway, which is separated from the living area by a privacy without sacrificing comfort being a long space. The does not provide space for a balcony along the common area of rooms, providing the idea of the house to the left.

The balcony is not repurposed for living. The columns is executed by hand from wood beams. This creates a lower ceiling without compromising the openness of the entrance and living space below. Porch windows (a hallmark of Southern architecture) diffuse the light entering the balcony and gives the thinking space morning light from above.

The north end of the house contains a working area to facilitate another of the client’s hobbies—automobile and boat restoration. Consistent with the rest of the house, the workshop is very open to the outdoors, with a concrete floor, high ceilings and a covered overhang.

In contrast to more typical five gable roofed houses, the Lowcountry House uses both polygonal steel columns and laminated Southern yellow pine roof beams (available locally). This efficient structure allows more expansive windows—typically found in commercial buildings, but often impractical and more expensive for residential applications. The large doors—swinging windows in the house give an expansive view of the marsh.

With an interior space just 20 feet deep in its widest point, the house offers virtually every aspect of living space in a view of the salt marsh is the west. This view required an orientation in which the western exposure, with large exterior windows, would make interior spaces adequately lit for the summer. Typically, architects try to avoid having too many windows on the east and west facing houses because they are not exposed but in this case, however, the orientation works toward west-facing windows desirable. The architect was faced with the challenge of creating something to prevent the afternoon sun from overheating the house through the west-facing windows.

The solution gives the house its most striking and distinctive feature—rotating metal screens that serve in shielding direct sunlight. By applying the “kinetic architecture” concept to variable environ- mental conditions. Each of the 18 panels in the semi-circular facade can be opened up to the view of the salt marsh or locked down to exclude a shaded porch. The closed screens can be used to naturally ventilate the house, allowing cool prevailing southwest breezes to enter. Additionally, these screens protect the glass from de-

The main living space as seen from under the balcony, which is not supported by interior columns but is supported by lies from wood roof beams. This creates a lower ceiling with space for a canopy of Spanish moss-draped live oaks.

While the rotating screens make this house unique, they respond to the same local climate conditions that helped form the distinctive architectural charac-

A drive that once led to a farmhouse on the site leads to a structure that once did not exist. The land was purchased for the house for use, he says.