

# Cable Railing Enhances the View for a Modern Home by the River

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When a Southern lumberman decided to build a 10,000 square foot home with multiple decks off of the Tennessee River in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, he turned to award-winning builder Rusty Alexander. Alexander and his team at Alexander Modern Homes and RiverWorks Design Studio were charged with designing and bringing to life an ultra-contemporary four bedroom, six-and-a-half bath home.

It was important to the homeowner that the spaces within the home create a harmonious “indoor/outdoor” feel. The interior needed to feel open, natural and warm, while the exterior needed to replicate that warmth. It was also key that every room in the residence featured a view of the river.

To help make this vision a reality, Alexander and his team installed floor-to-ceiling windows throughout the home. Automatic sliding glass doors with retractable screens that disappear into the walls open up the spaces to the outdoors.

A variety of wood species were used throughout the house to create an organic look and feel. The decks, handrails, rainscreen and perimeter fencing were constructed from tatabu, a rich brown wood that features a

coarse, wavy grain and is highly resistant to the elements. Stone from the nearby river bluffs was used for the home’s vertical walls and for the interior and exterior horizontal surfaces. All three levels of decks were surfaced with porcelain tile, which was also used throughout the home’s interior spaces.

To maximize the view from the home’s decks, the design team sought a railing system that would provide an unobstructed sightline to the river and nearby wildlife. They opted for cable railing due to its clean-lined appearance, durability and minimal maintenance requirements. For the exterior railings, the



*Architect:* Phil Kean (Winter Park, Florida)  
*Builder:* Alexander Modern Homes (Muscle Shoals, Alabama)  
*Interior Design:* RiverWorks Design Studio (Muscle Shoals, Alabama)

team selected stainless steel CableRail infill from Feeney. A low-profile top rail made of imported tatabu wood completed the look.

The team knew the sleek, horizontal lines would complement the design of the modern home, enabling the indoors to seamlessly connect with the scenic outdoors. At the same time, guests who arrived at the home by boat would be able to enjoy a clear view of the residence from the waterside. RiverWorks also used Feeney’s DesignRail® aluminum railing system in the interior of the home, including for a dramatic staircase.

Perhaps the most dramatic feature is a stunning sky bridge linking the pier with the second-story, main level of the house. The railings were extended to the pier, which the team rebuilt, adding stone columns, and installing tatabu woodwork. Including the pier and indoor areas, the entire project included 450 linear feet of cable railing.

Railing choices can transform the look of a home by not only adding an aesthetically pleasing architectural element but also by preserving the view. By working closely with an architect, builder and design team who shared a similar vision, the homeowner is able to enjoy panoramic vistas of the Tennessee River from every room in his home for a seamless living experience.



*Feeney products used in the home:*  
DesignRail® aluminum railing system  
and CableRail stainless steel infill

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