

# SPACES

Window treatments inside and out

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Great question from a reader regarding window dressings! “How can I determine the right window shades or coverings both inside and for my outdoor area to ensure both functionality and aesthetic appeal?”

There are so many reasons why to dress your windows and sometimes not to add anything. That might sound odd, yet it all starts with – why? Do you want to block the incoming light? Do you need privacy? Are you looking for a decorative element?

There are so many options when it comes to window dressings. Curtains, draperies, shades, shutters, blinds... and more! Curtains are short versions of full-on draperies. Curtains cover the window to the sill, where draperies are full-length. Draperies can feel more formal where curtains give the feel of a perkier, lighter approach to adding fabric to cover and/or frame the window. Yes, sometimes curtains or draperies are not operable. They are not intended to open and close. Rather, they are used to flank a window or frame a window soften, add color and/or pattern. Less yardage of fabric is required when your draperies or curtains are not operable. That can prove to be a significant cost savings.



Roman shades are tidy at the window opening and collapse up when open.



Translucent with shade behind or fully blackout lined, draperies add drama.

Window shades are another option, Common, opaque, vinyl shades can block light, be used beneath sheer draperies or curtains to add a layer of privacy and light control. It is a cost-effective solution. When used behind a sheer, it can barely be discerned.

Roman shades allow for a variety of fabric choices and fold up - collapsing into a valance -like compressing of the material at the top when fully opened. They can be



Curtains dress a window with a little less drama than draperies.



Detail of hand- forged iron finial with brass dogwood applique.

translucent or opaque (black-out lining can be used as is true with curtains and draperies) to completely block out the light.

Bamboo is the exotic touch that suggests a tropical environment. Asian influences often invite this treatment. Bamboo shades can be fun light filters from the sun on patios and indoors the weightier versions can have handsome, bold tortoise-shell patterns and colors.

Perforated shades are a clean, minimalist treatment that began decades ago in the commercial design industry. Controlling light and privacy, with the various options of the percentage of perforation allowed the architecture to remain uncompromised and clean. We use these in a variety of colors from dark to light for a variety of reasons. But the way the interior scene is lit inside and how it reads from outside at night, as well as its transparency during the day - from inside out, is fascinating. As is true with other treatments, these can be motorized for convenient control with the push of a button.

Shutters are available in any color (customized) and often seen in white or wood finishes. Known as “plantation shutters”, they originated in ancient Greece, but were adopted in the



Plantation shutters can be adjusted for light control and privacy.

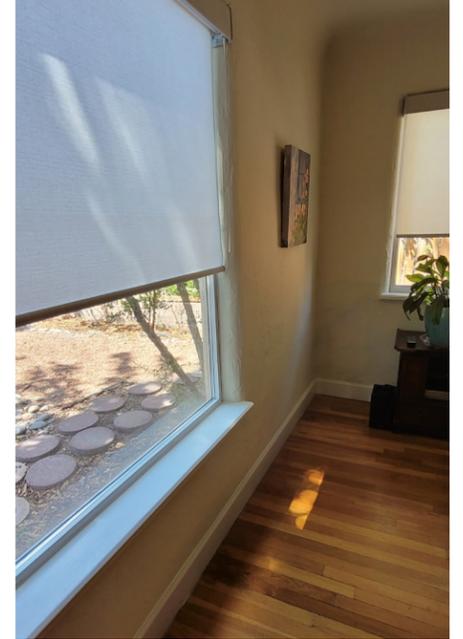
south for wealthy plantations avoiding the need for fabrics in hot, humid climates while providing adjustment of light control/privacy. Although Scarlett *did* tear down her velvet draperies from her plantation home, Tara, to make a ball dress!!

Blinds, originating with the “venetian blinds” of decades past have evolved into various mini, macro and wider blade blinds that mimic the plantation shutters.

Exterior patio rooms in summer invite further use of light control and privacy treatments. Outdoor fabric drapes can protect from the elements, add softness, frame the openings of an outdoor room and offer the same light

control and privacy. Fabrics specifically designed to tolerate ultraviolet exposure, retain color and resist mold and mildew are the preferred choice. 100% acrylic, being the industry preference, is now being challenged by various polyesters and advanced fiber combinations to create an incredible variety of durable choices.

But wait! Some windows do not require any treatment. Those in the window treatment business do not like to hear this, but it is not always necessary to dress your windows. It comes back to those initial questions... Sometimes the aesthetic of the architecture and views are enough!



Perforated shades are clean and translucent.



To ask Patti a question please scan the QR code!

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