

Insight

CHOOSING WINDOW TREATMENTS

Want your windows beautifully dressed like Taylor Borsari's? There are plenty of options available

Whether you want full-length curtains or fuss-free shutters, there's plenty to think about before dressing your windows. Practical elements such as heat retention, the amount of light you want to filter, and decorative details, all must be considered.

Dress to impress

Most window treatments should satisfy three elements: privacy, practicality and personal style. Although trends add a fresh feel, it's best to buy once and buy well, which is why longer-lasting products such as shutters, pleated and Roman blinds are popular choices. Consider practical needs first – in kitchens and bathrooms, roller blinds are a good option. If humidity is an issue, faux-wood and metal Venetians suit moist atmospheres and come in a host of colours.

Bear in mind the style of your windows – sashes require different treatments to picture windows. Do you want to complement the view or obscure it? And

should your chosen window dressing make a statement or be discreet?

Traditional windows suit decorative looks such as patterned Roman blinds and long, pooling curtains, while modern windows benefit from streamlined fittings such as semi-opaque roller blinds.

The right light

Think about how you would like the light to be filtered. If you are a light sleeper, you may benefit from blackout lining on bedroom blinds and curtains. With summer here, choose window dressings that make the most of natural light – café style shutters covering a portion of the window provide privacy.

Blinds or half-up roller blinds in a sheer fabric offer good levels of privacy during the day, voiles provide an airy summery feel, while fitting a 'bottom up' pleated blind allows light in from the top of the window. Pay attention to fixtures and fittings, too – opting for bespoke cords and pulls – and a made-to-measure service will result in a better finish.



Full-length shutters offer maximum privacy



Versatile blinds can add colour to your scheme



Control the amount of light with slatted blinds



EXPERT EYE 'Sheer Roman blinds combined with pleat curtains are a great way to achieve an elegant bedroom or living room style. Shutters are a favourite of mine – 88mm slatted options look great and can be painted any colour to suit your scheme'

ALMAS SHAMSEE, MAISHA DESIGN



PROFESSIONAL ADVICE



'Layering blinds with voiles or curtains will make a greater impact at the window than a single recessed blind.'

Roman blinds with their cascading folds of fabric

can add a lovely splash of colour, texture and softness and are often left part way over the window to dress it during the day. Alternatively, if you want to maximise the view, pleated or roller blinds can be drawn up and completely away from the window.

The most popular window coverings at the moment are shutters, pinch-pleat curtains and wood Venetians. While white shutters will always appeal to the majority, an up-and-coming trend is custom colour. We're seeing a particular uptake in grey, soft pastels and indigo blue shades as homeowners seek to create a personal, individual look or make a real focal point at the window.

Bear in mind that new-builds often have narrower window recesses, or none at all, which forces a blind to be fitted at the front of the frame. Also, window handles in new-builds can get in the way of a blind operating properly. One solution to this is to install a roller blind in a "perfect fit" design, where the blinds sit within their own frame that clicks into a bracket system between the beading and the glass of the window, so that they're not obstructing the handles.'

SARAH QUILLIAN, HILLARYS

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