



Photo courtesy of Carole Fabrics

The latest fall fashions — for your windows

By Jackie Bradley

Whether you're adding a finishing touch to a new home or creating a fresh look in an older one, incorporating the latest window fashions can add a generous dose of pizzazz to a room.

Draperies

"When it comes to draperies, you can choose either custom or ready-made," says **Dani Frank**, interior designer and owner of **Distinctively Danette**. "Custom drapes are exactly that — made to measure to fit a specific-size window. The panels will be made in the fullness desired, with or without linings and with desired trims, while

ready-made are purchased in a store and come in standard sizes," she explains.

Because windows generally come in standard sizes, it's easy to purchase ready-mades to fit. Ready-made panels usually come in one width, making suitable end panels. However, they may need to be supplemented with a blind or sheer under the panel to cover the entire window. Frank offers tips for choosing and installing draperies:



Dani Frank
Distinctively
Danette

Hang 'em high. The higher on the window panels are hung, the better. It elongates the window, adding height to the walls and giving a more custom look.

Double stack. For more fullness, add two different panels on the same side of the window. Using two different fabrics or colors adds another layer of texture or color. For example, a chocolate brown microfiber panel with a cream sheer makes a nice mix of texture and color.

Size does matter. The higher the ceiling and size of the room, the larger the drapery rod's diameter should be. Rods come in 1/2-inch to three-inch diameters. Or use a wire cable hung with tension for a sleek contemporary look.

Line when possible. Lining can be added to unlined ready-made panels for sun protection. With most silks and lighter-weight fabrics, interlining is recommended for a luxurious look as well as for energy savings in the winter.

Add drama. A band of contrasting fabric on the top or bottom of the panel ties in colors used in the room. Try matching a band added to the top of the panel with a band of paint on the wall at the same height.

Bring on the bling. Trims add finishing touches for panels. Rods can add decorative detail and help enhance the style of the window. Rings, finials, trims such as fringes, tassels and glass or wood beads add extra bling.

Check the bath department. Still can't find the perfect panel? A good selection of shower curtains in fun fabrics can be

found in the bath aisle. Clip the curtain onto a rod with decorative rings or hang it on a cable using the grommets on the shower curtain.

New options for blinds and shades

"Prior to the 1980s, our choices were roller shades or horizontal blinds, either metal mini-blinds or wood blinds," says **Terri Fiez**, owner of **Designer's Showcase**. "That all changed when Hunter Douglas came out with the Silhouette®, a soft fabric horizontal vein incorporating a sheer translucent fabric that allows filtered light into the room. More innovative products followed including the newest, Pirouette®, which combines a quality classic shade with the ability to control light in a new way, and Skyline Gliding Window Panels™, which offer sleek, contemporary styling in a wide selection of fabrics for expansive windows. New motorized technology now allows window coverings to be raised and lowered by remote from as far as 100 feet away."



Terri Fiez
Designer's
Showcase

Naturally "green"

"I see people trying to simplify their lives," says **Connie Pieper**, owner of **Pieper Maasz Designs**. There is a trend toward natural looks; to green and healthy products. "Woven wood and Roman shades made from bamboo or reeds offer a textured look, addressing both light and privacy control. Natural blinds come in natural wood colors ranging from dark to light wood tones while some are painted black or cream. Complete with a valance, the blinds are available in a range of combinations of reeding, bamboo and grass."



Connie Pieper
Pieper Maasz
Designs

Layers, banding and silks

Doug Zander, owner of **Zander's Interiors**, notes a return to a layering effect of draperies and woven woods, Roman shades or Silhouettes®. "Homeowners are using chunky rods, valances and cornice boards combined with draperies with trims. Other current drapery trends include accent band-

ing added to draperies and natural fibers such as silks. Silks take the dye better, offering better coloration in addition to a beautiful sheen," he says.



In another life, Madison writer Jackie Bradley made all her window coverings and says some were pretty scary. Now, she relies upon the pros.

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