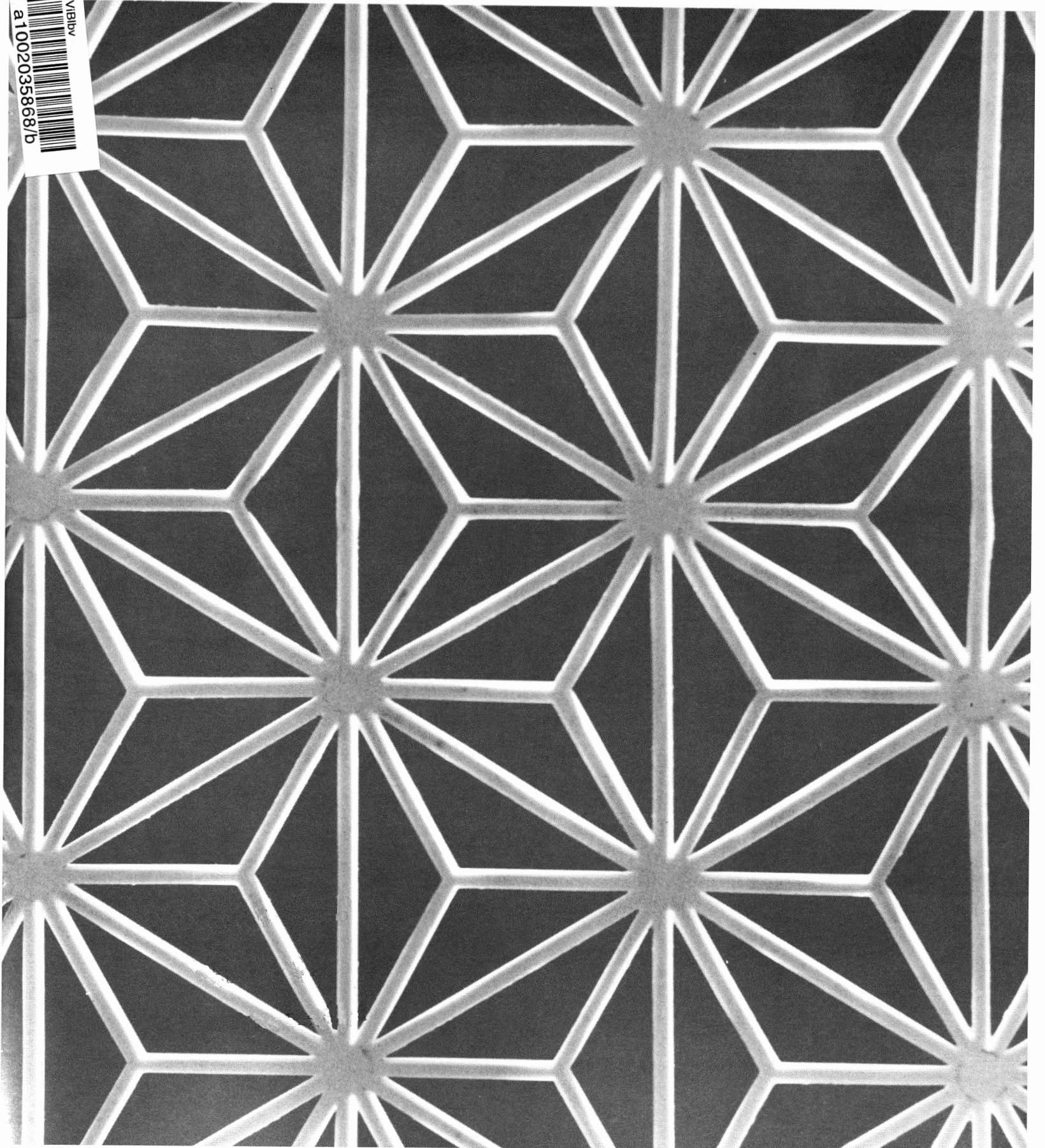


# WINDOW TREATMENT

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# WINDOW TREATMENT

*Prepared by Katherine Habel, Extension Specialist, Home Furnishings*

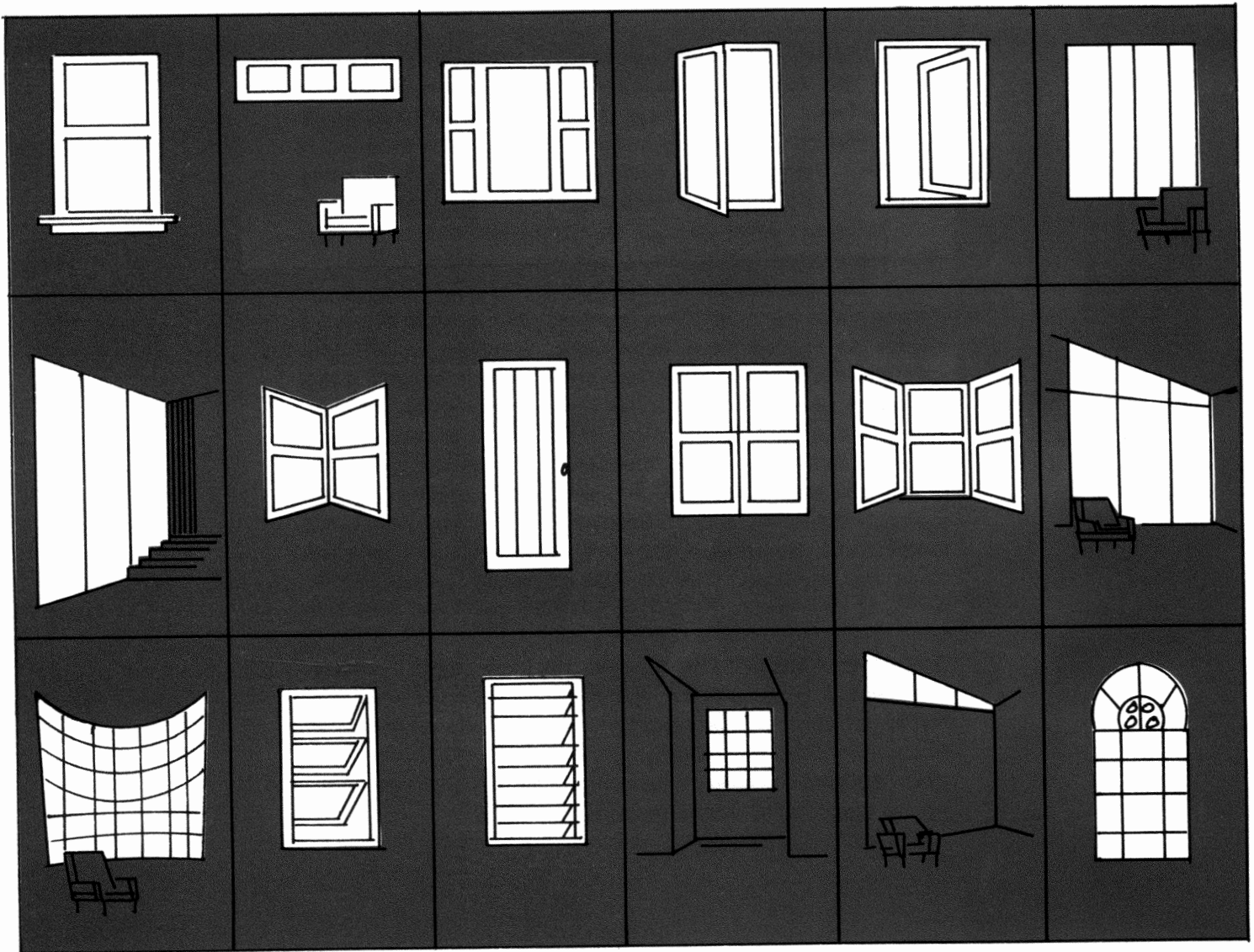
Originally windows were created to admit light and air. Today, this functional use is no longer necessary in modern homes. There are other ways of controlling light and ventilation. But can you really imagine living in a home without windows? Being able to bring the outdoors in is certainly refreshing and adds much to pleasures of living.

Windows offer an opportunity to add beauty through their own shape and by framing a view, bringing it into the room. The manner in which they are dressed adds design interest. Making your own window fashions gives you a chance to express your personality. Windows in different parts of your home can have an individual look but still give a feeling of unity. Window styles range from curtain and drapery treatments, through shades and shutters to valances and cornices. Before you can consider which window treatment to use, you should take time to analyze the types of windows found in the homes today. When you do this, you should not forget doors. In many of the modern homes, doors have become the windows. Window treatments are being used to cover up wall space, for dividers in bathroom and bedroom areas, and as backgrounds for display of art items.

If you are building a home, the time to plan window treatment is when you lay out the floor plan. In most new homes, walls are actually built around windows. In fact, windows may occupy as much as 40% of the home's outer wall area. Nothing is more important than windows in determining your home's appearance inside and out.

## WINDOW DESIGN

Do you realize that there are at least sixteen different types of windows and doors to consider? Some of them are easy to treat; others more difficult. As you look at the window designs shown here try to visualize how they might look with curtains and draperies. Many of them can be treated in a variety of ways. It all depends on the mood of your room.

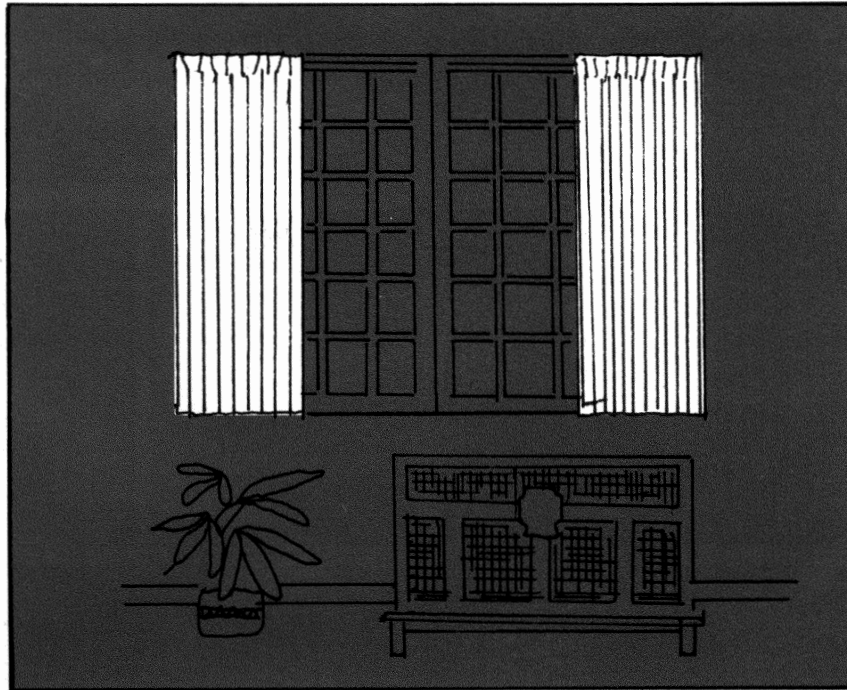




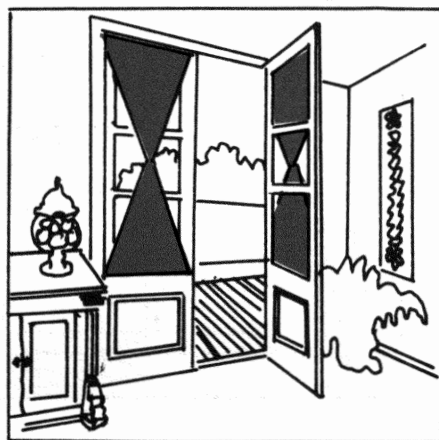
## WINDOW TREATMENTS

Curtains and drapery designs are as varied as the windows at which they hang. Here are some "basic" styles -- these treatments can be dressed "up" or "down" to create the effect you wish to achieve.

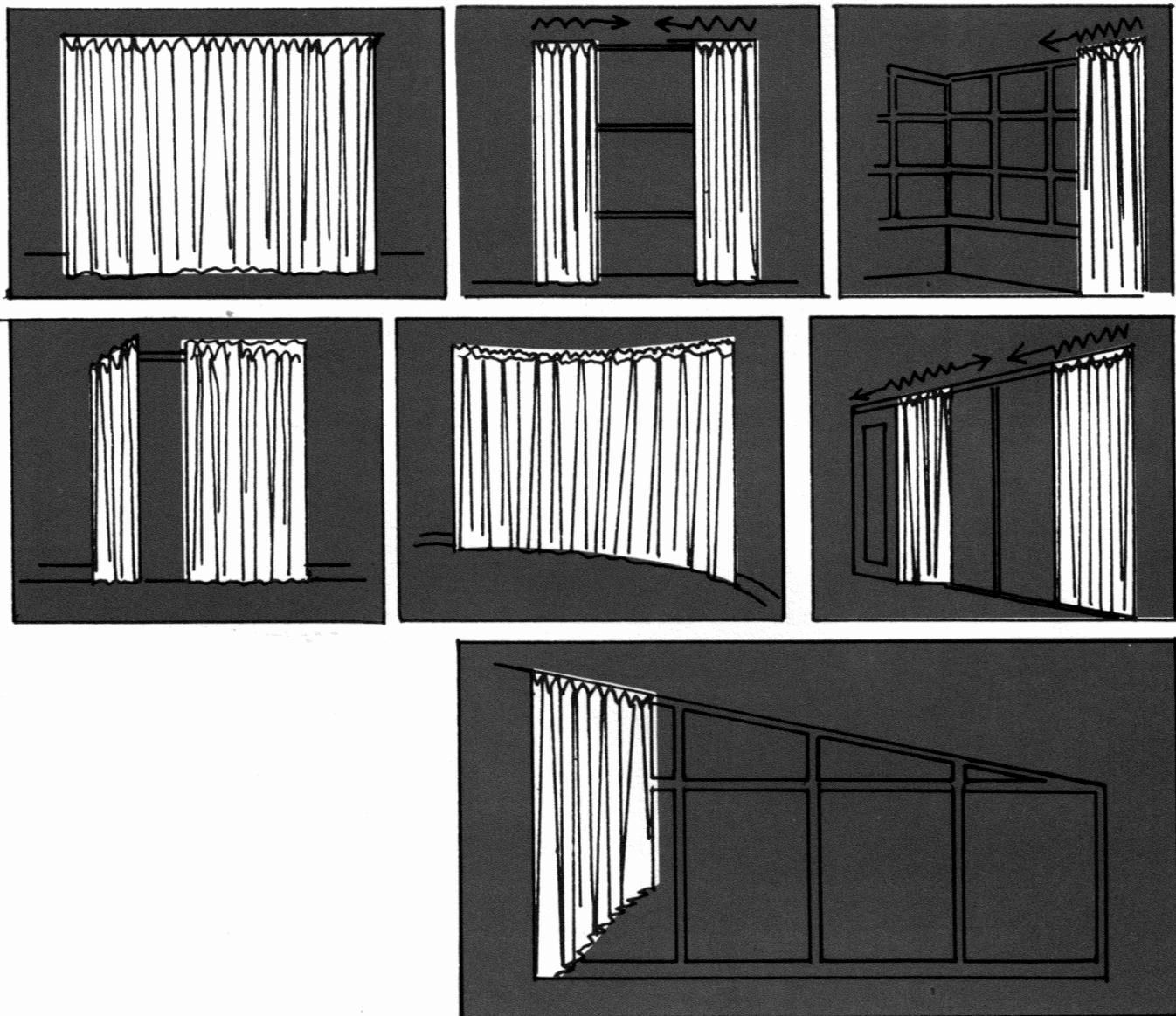
- SHIRRED GLASS CURTAINS - Tailored curtain of sheer transparent fabric gathered on a curtain rod to hang next to the glass. Generally used with draperies or over-curtains.



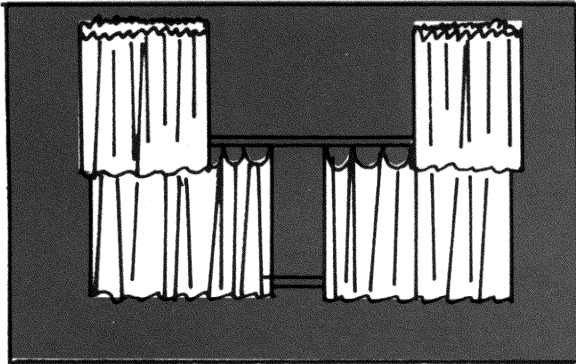
- SASH CURTAINS - Sheer curtains gathered on a rod at the top and bottom to cover the glass.



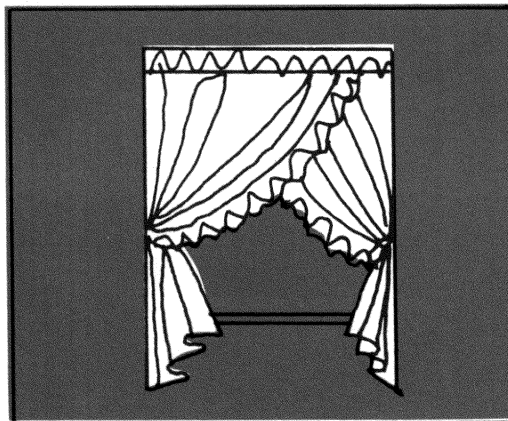
- TRAVERSE CURTAIN OR DRAPERY - Pleated curtains or draperies hung from a traverse rod. This type can be drawn either from the center toward the outer edges of the window (two-way draw) or hung on a one-way rod so that the drapery draws toward one side of the window, either to the right or to the left.



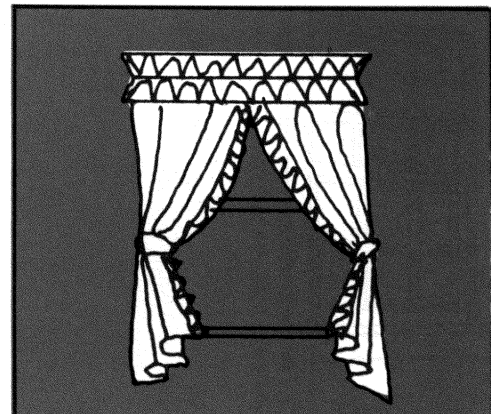
- CAFE CURTAINS - Curtains that hang from a rod or rings, clips or loops. The heading can be pleated, scalloped or plain. Use them singly, in pairs or in multiple tiers.



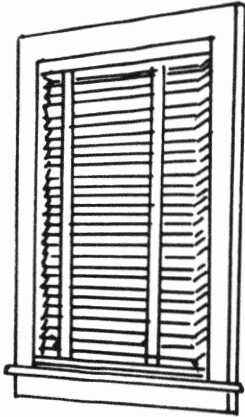
- CRISS-CROSS CURTAINS - A variation of the ruffled curtain made with the sides crossing.



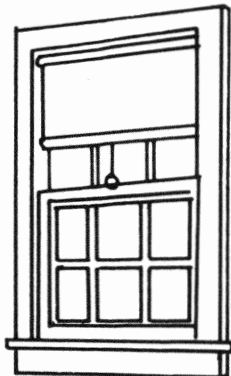
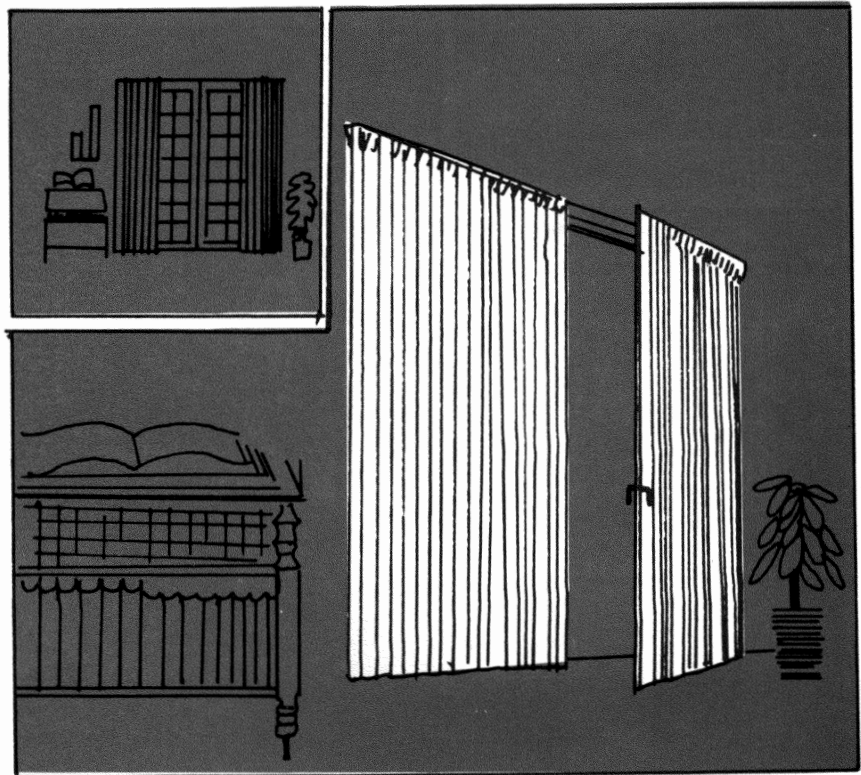
- RUFFLED CURTAINS - Curtains with ruffled trim gathered on a rod and tied back at the sides.



- VENETIAN BLINDS - Vertically or horizontally slanted shades used to direct light.



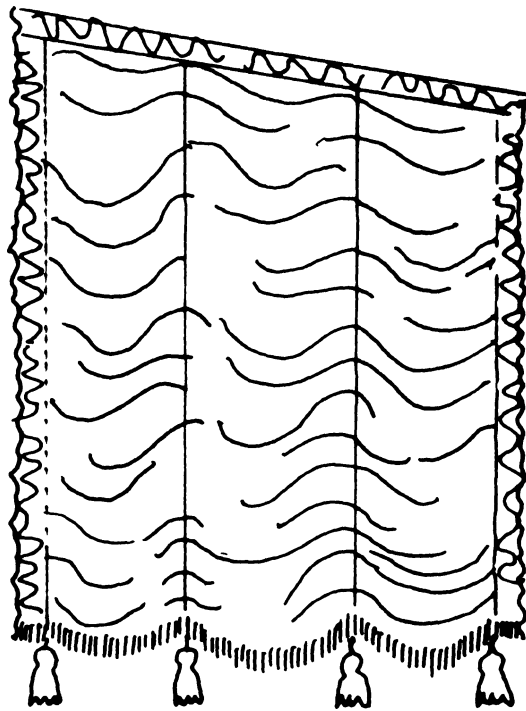
- SWINGING DOOR OR WINDOW DRAW DRAPERIES - Pleated traverse draperies hung from swinging door traverse rods that open with the doors or in-swinging casement windows.



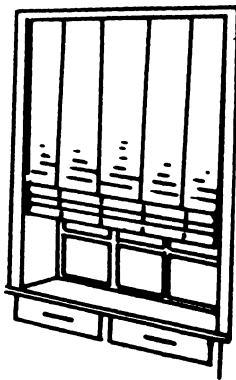
- ROLLER SHADES - Shades that can be rolled up or down at a window to control light.



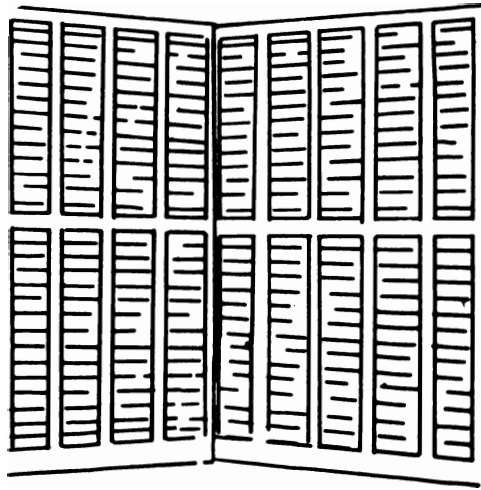
- AUSTRIAN SHADES - Fabric shades shirred so that fabric is drawn up in horizontal, scalloped folds.



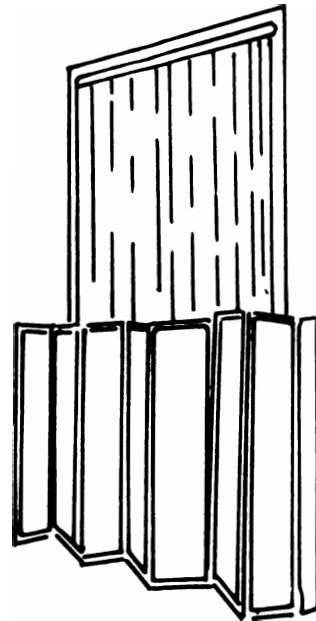
- ROMAN SHADES - Fabric shades that draw up in flat folds.



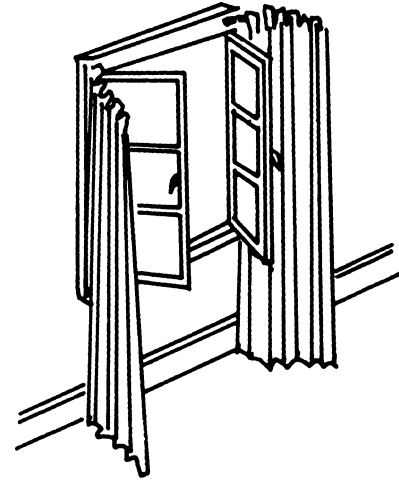
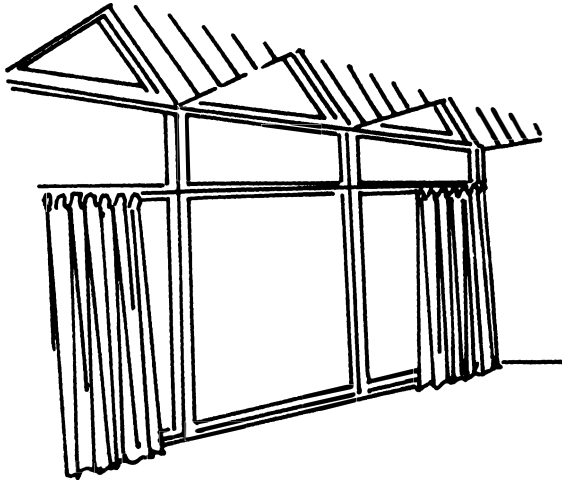
- SHUTTERS - Louvered window screens used either on the interior or exterior of a window to control light.



- FABRIC SHUTTERS - Fabric gathered on frames or fabric stapled to frame.

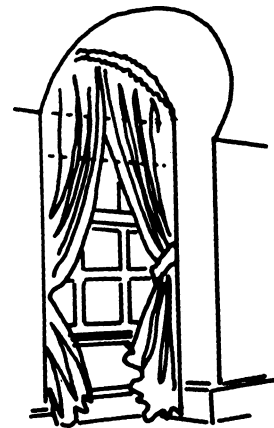
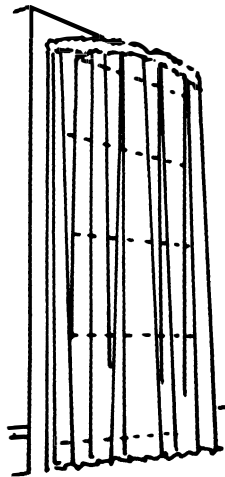


- CAFE TYPE DRAW DRAPERIES - Regular pleated draperies.



- SWINGING ROD TREATMENT - Stationary pleated draperies or curtains hung on hinged extension rods so that they may be swung back when desired. Used on in-swinging casement windows or any window on which you do not want the rod to show between the draperies.

- DIMENSIONAL CURVED TREATMENT - Curtains or draperies shirred on a curved rod so that they project into the room.



- ARCHED TREATMENT - Pleated curtains or draperies hung from an arched rod.

# STYLE , SPIRIT AND SPLASH !

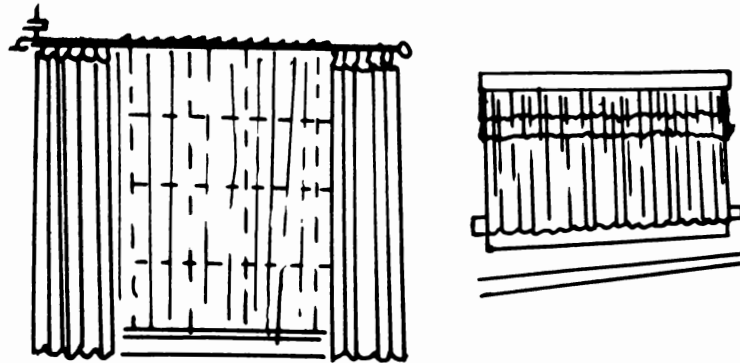
Dear Jane,

Perhaps your windows are not exactly what you would like them to be. Don't despair. You have a problem but there are no problem windows. If you stretch your imagination these windows may even become the high-light of your room. All you need to do is put line, color and texture to work. Let us see how these elements of magic can be put to work.

Add height to a window by mounting the curtain rod above it. For maximum height, hang a traverse rod from the ceiling.

To increase width, extend the curtain rod beyond the window, and to give the effect of both added width and height, mount a board or cornice of the exact width and height that you would like above the window.

Using sill or apron length curtains with a valance across the top, will help to shorten a window. A wall that is cut up by irregularly sized or shaped windows can be made more attractive by draping the entire wall.



Note the pattern design of a curtain or drapery as well as its length, width and placement can help to change the appearance of a window.

Vertical patterns that carry the eye up increase height.

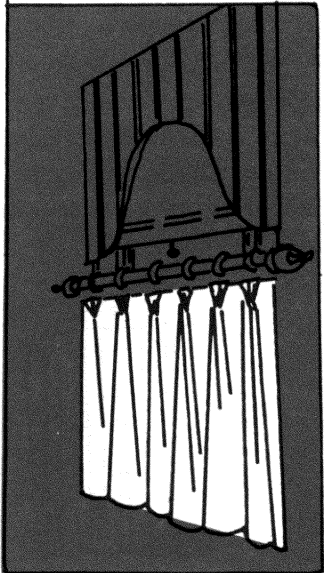
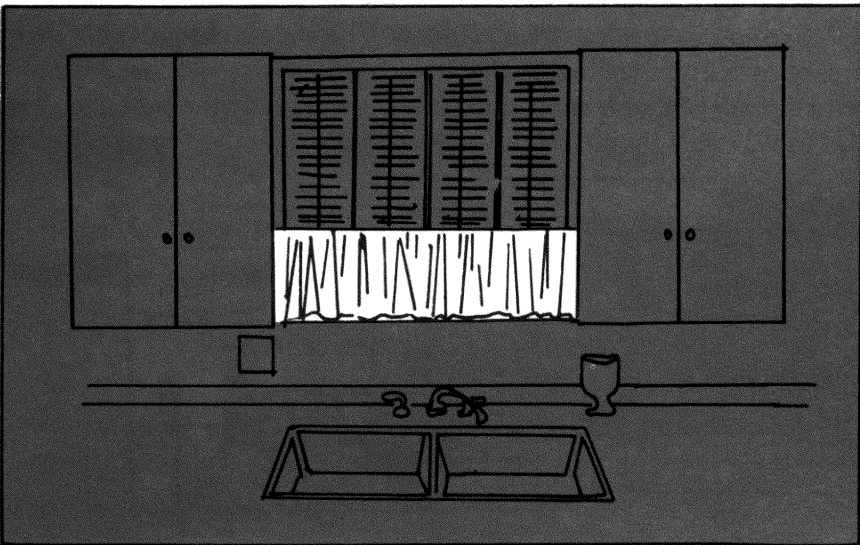
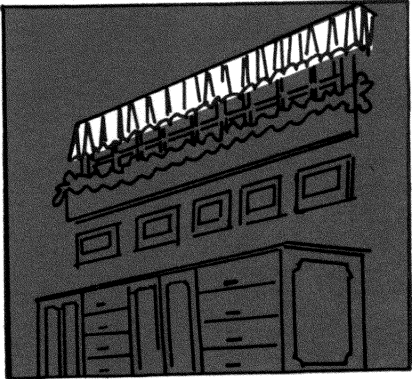
Whereas horizontal patterns carry the eye across, adding width.





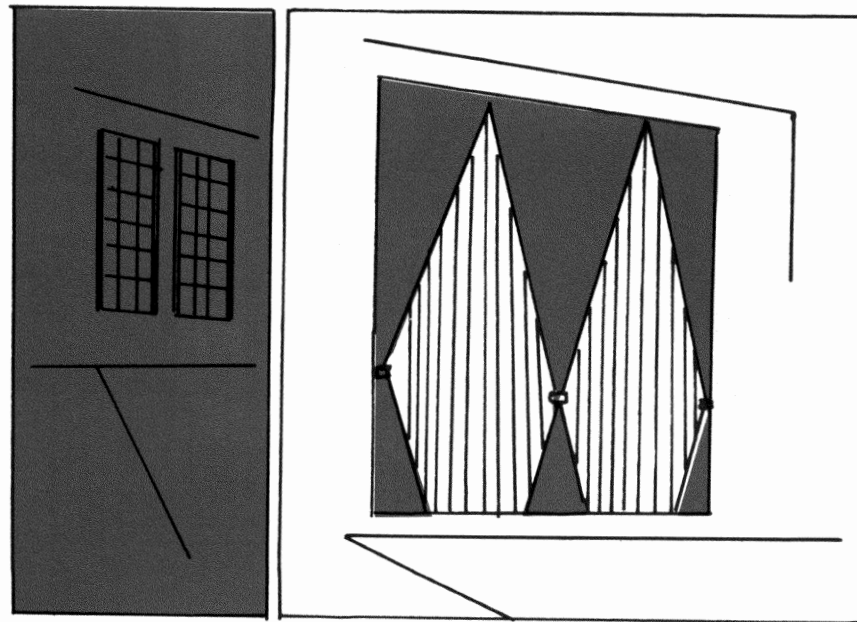
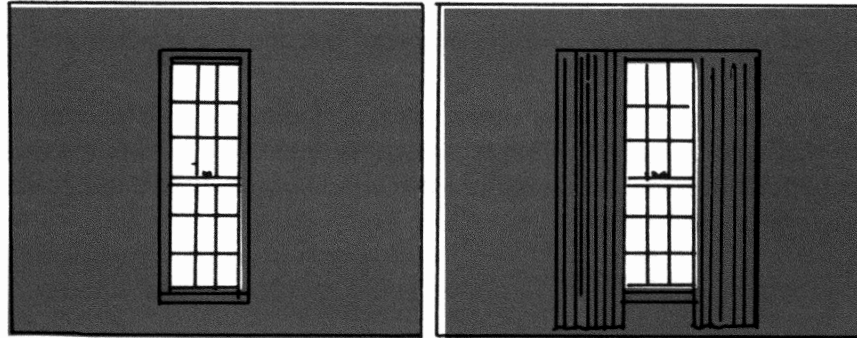
Whenever you plan to change the size or shape of a window through the use of a curtain, the fabric should be opaque. Now for a few ideas for window treatments of this type. A small inconspicuous window can be focal point of the room by extending the draperies beyond the window and using glass curtains or cafe curtains at the window.

For small, high windows you might use Shirred glass curtains or draw draperies, blending the fabric of the drapery with the wall color. An interesting idea for this type of window is the use of louvered shutters painted the same color as the wall or give this little window a special dress to make it tall. In some arrangements you may wish to make it like two.

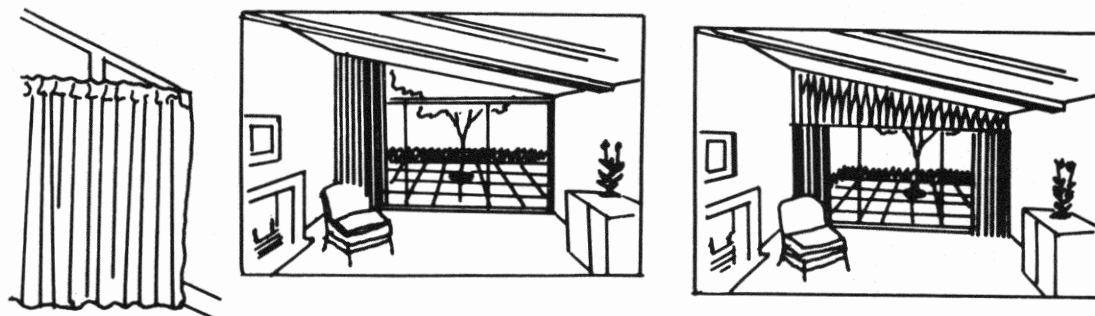


To help make a long narrow window look shorter and wider, extend the draperies beyond the window on both sides. Choose a horizontal pattern and make draperies apron length.

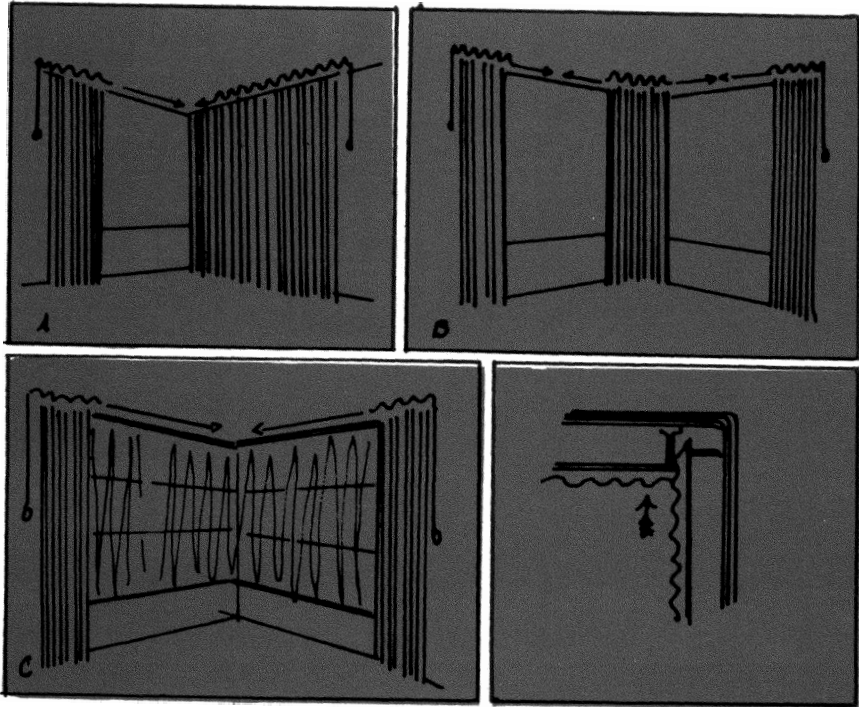
A pair of windows or multiple windows should be treated as a single unit to make an interesting window arrangement. A valance or swag across the top is an excellent technique to combine several windows into one group.



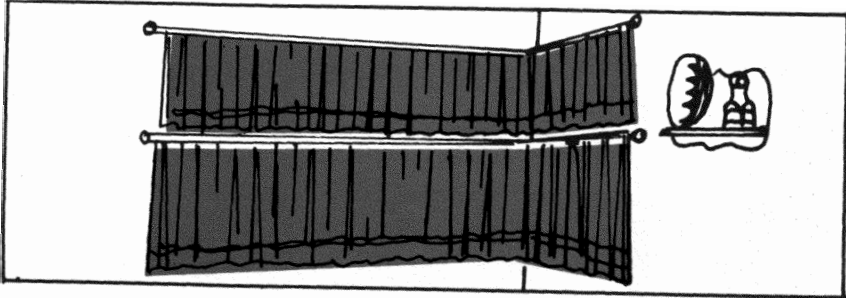
One of the newcomers to contemporary houses is the slanting window. The easiest method of covering this window is with a string draw drapery or curtain following the cross brace of the window. However, more elegant effects can be achieved with a drapery that is shaped to follow the slant of the roof and draws to one side in a cascade. This technique as well as a shaped, stationary valance across the top requires skill and accuracy in measuring.



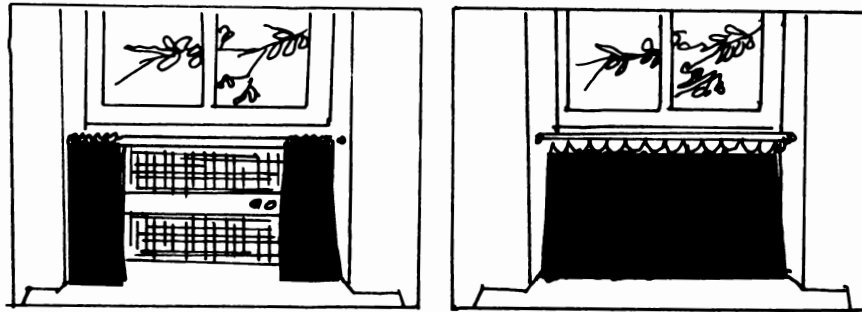
For a window that is placed in the corner of the room, interest can be created by using a draw drapery at the window and covering an even section of the opposite wall with stationary drapery.



If you are draping a corner window with a good view on only one side, and wish to conceal the other vista most of the time, you'll want separate traverse rods for the drapery at the window can be drawn to one side.



Cafe curtains placed low on the window are excellent for concealing air conditioners. Overdraperies may be used.



Dormer windows are usually found in rooms where the windows are few and small. For them you need treatments that let in light and ventilation. Cafe curtains in two tiers are good; they can be easily pushed back for light and air. Some dormer windows will have curved lines; these will need special fitted tops. Wide dormer windows give you more leeway in planning a treatment. Here hang draw draperies and a pleated valance.

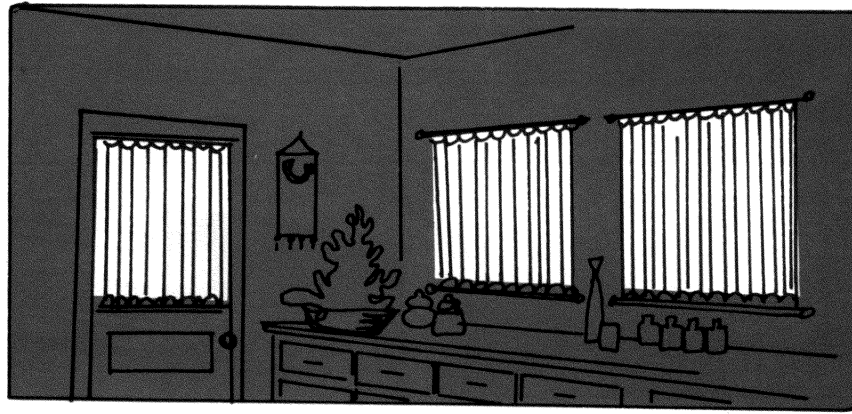
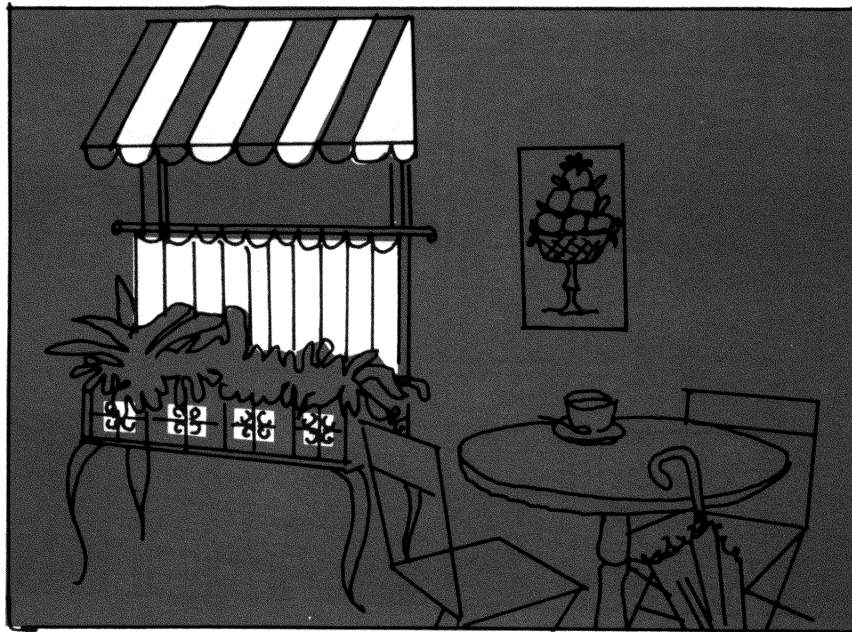


Jane, reread your letter, then go look at windows; visit model homes, ride up and down the streets, study display centers and visit homes people are living in -- see windows of all kinds and sizes; be aware of what you like and dislike about the windows you see. Soon you will begin to have ideas of your own.

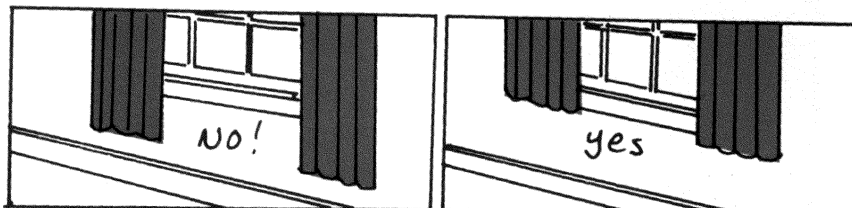
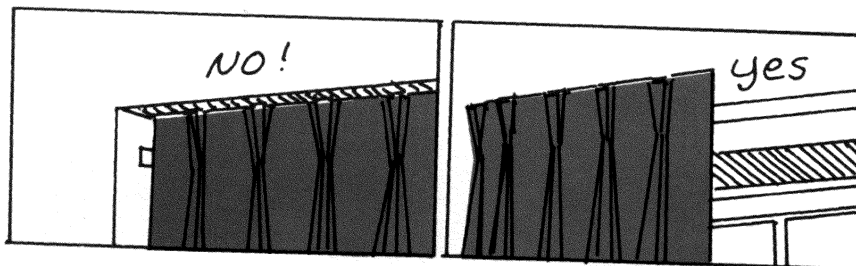
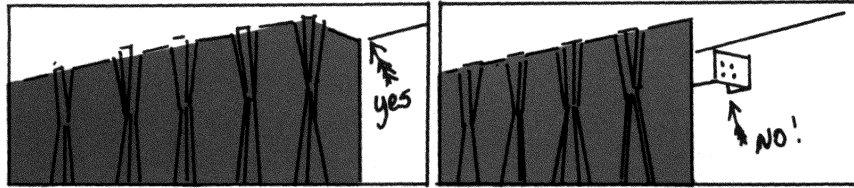
Good luck, and see, there are no problem windows. Windows are just another problem in designing your interior, designing your window treatment can be a delightful and satisfying experience.

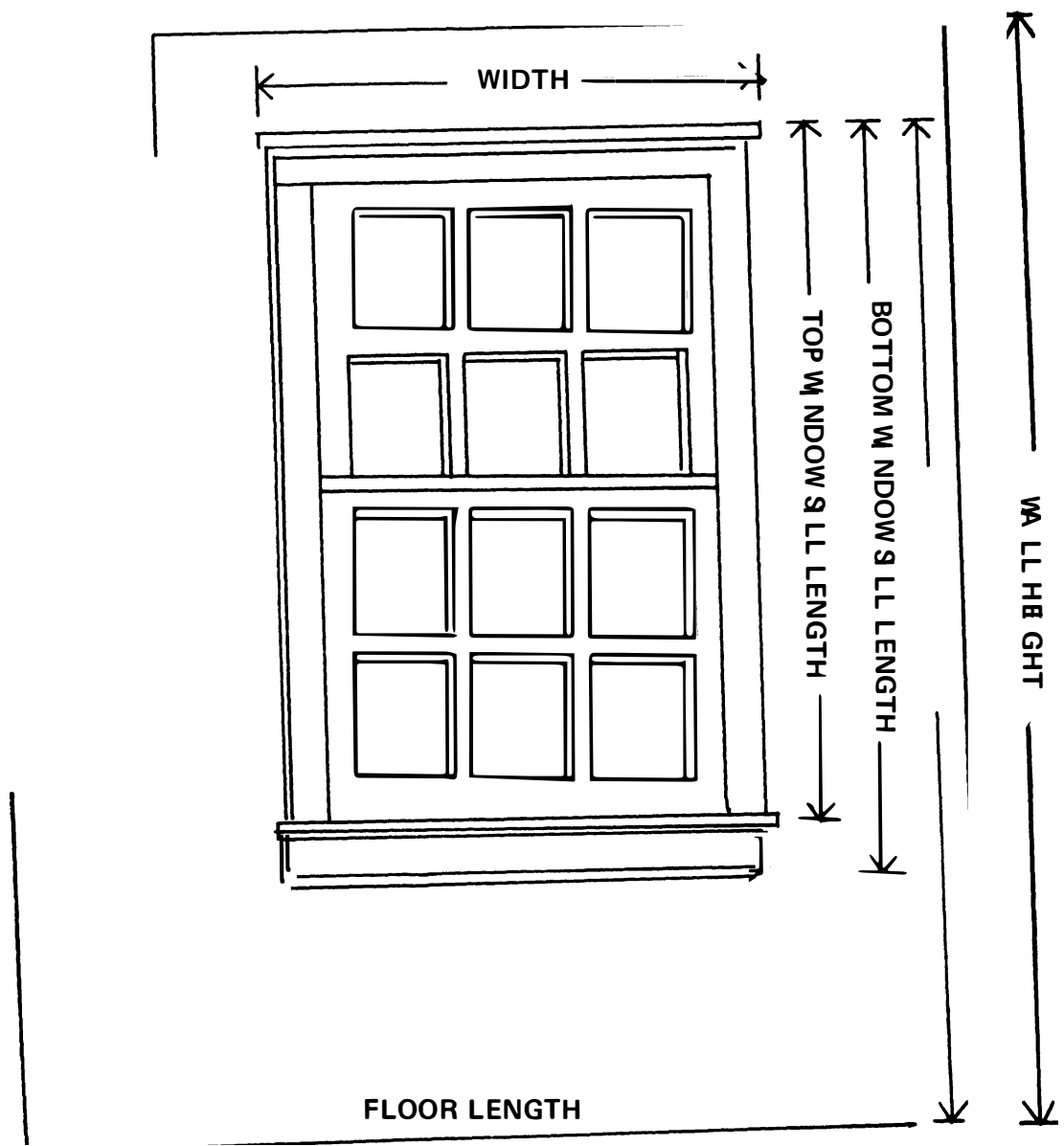


# A LITTLE BIT OF YOU !



HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE DO-IT-YOURSELF



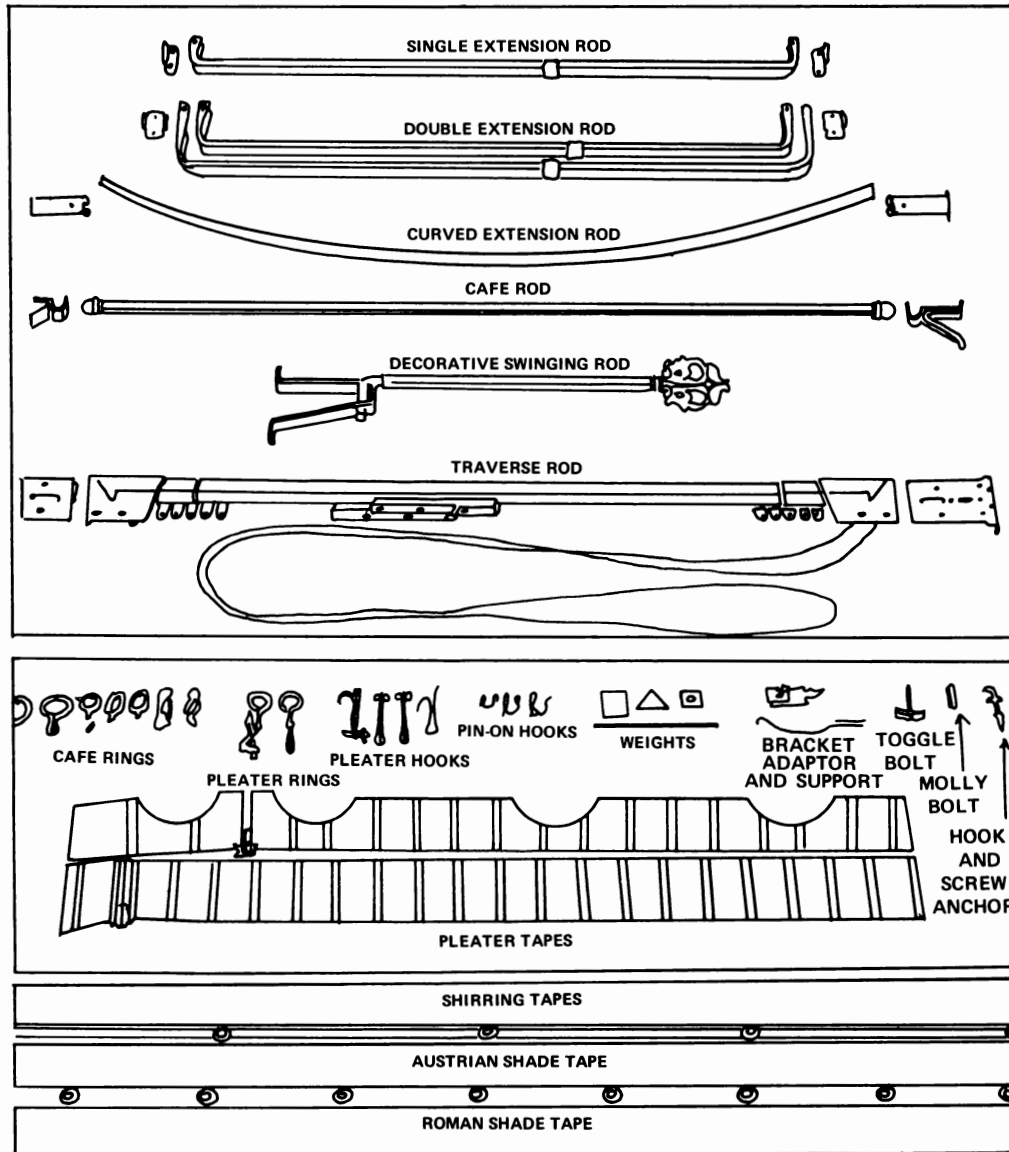


**TERMS TO KNOW:**

Here it is time to check -- Terms to Know. To purchase drapery hardware wisely, you should understand the words used in measuring and selecting them. The terms most commonly referred to are:

- **LENGTH** - Two measurements are always given for adjustable rods, one for maximum lengths to which rods will extend.
- **RETURN** - The distance from the corner of the rod to the wall or casing where the bracket is fastened. This measurement will determine the distance the drapery will extend into the room and also the placement of the first pleat at the outer edge of the drapery.
- **MASTER SLIDES** - The sliding metal pieces that draw the drapery toward the center of a traverse rod. To draw properly, the cord should always be attached to the back of each master slide and the inner corner of the drapery should be attached to the front of the master slide.
- **OVERLAP** - When draperies meet at the center of the center of the traverse rod, one panel should overlap the other about 3 inches. Note the way the master slides on the fixture overlap. When figuring yardage, fabric must be allowed for the overlap.

# WINDOWS WITH A HANGUP !



## WINDOW HARDWARE:

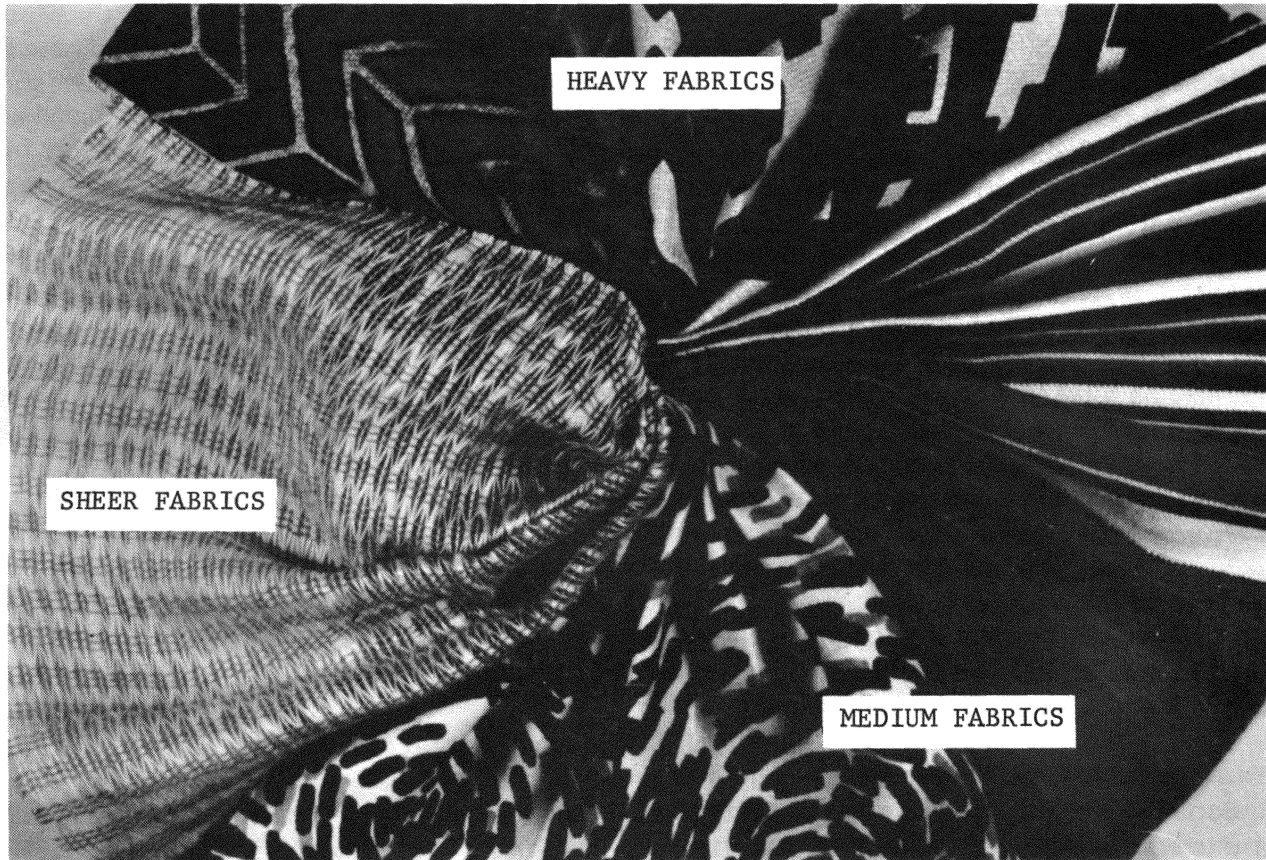
Study Publication 92 "Draperies Hardware", also visit displays of drapery hardware at a department store before you select the type you wish to use. There are a variety of rods available in many different finishes designed to solve all kinds of window problems.

## ACCESSORIES:

Special accessories are needed to attach draperies and curtains to the rod. Drapery hooks come in a variety of types and weights, rings or clips are used for cafe curtains.

The choice of the proper fixture will help to insure best results for the finished effect of your drapery or curtain.





## The Look and Feel of Fabric for Curtains and Draperies -- CAUTION - STOP - GO

### CAUTION

Handle fabrics before making your choice. Crush them to see how texture or prints will appear when they hang in folds as they will at a window.

Check fabrics for drapability. Crisp, lightweight fabrics will stand out and create a feminine or informal look. Heavy silk or damask will hang straight and create a very formal look.

Hold fabric up to the light to see the effect of the light on or through them, particularly if the draperies are to be unlined.

Take home the largest swatch possible and live with them for a while before making the final selection.

### STOP

Never try to make your decision while surrounded by the many fabrics seen in a store. Your sense of color, pattern and texture is apt to be influenced and even distorted by other fabrics.

### GO

Go home and study window treatment fabrics and relate them to your home -- your needs.

Curtains and draperies perform a number of functions, not the least of which is to dress the window and add a spark of color. Keep this in mind when you choose the fabric for your windows and note that curtains may be seen from the outside as well as from within the room.

Select a fabric that will present an attractive view both front and back and one that will blend with the color of your house and with curtains or draperies seen at other windows. Curtains seen together from outside your home should all be the same color. Using lined draperies will make this possible, but not prevent you from using the colors and prints you want for each room.

Linings for draperies can be used to protect the drapery from soot, dust and sunlight, or simply to achieve more drapery body. When a drapery is lined, a layer of air is trapped between lining and drapery fabric; this air serves to some extent as an insulator against drafts and noises.

Lining fabrics must be opaque and tightly woven. Cotton sateen is often used, but a plain-weave cotton may be suitable if tightly woven. Some lining fabrics are treated with a water-repellent finish, others with a special finish that reflects light and heat. Also available are lining fabrics that completely block out light. Linings are made mostly in white or beige, but colored linings, usually pastels, are available.

“Self-lining” may consist of a satin face woven on the back of the fabric. This type of self-lining achieves a smoother and more opaque appearance but does little else. More important in the self-lined category -- the new acrylic-foam-backed drapery. In this case, a very thin, aerated acrylic coating is applied to the back of the drapery. It looks more like fabric than foam. This coating forms a barrier against light and, to some extent, against outside noises and air around window areas. It also adds body and helps many fabrics to drape better. This backing can be applied to just about any fabric. Whether the acrylic-backed drapery is washable or dry-cleanable depends on fabric.

#### **SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Curtain and drapery fabrics available today from sheer silks to luxurious velvets and damasks. There is great interest in texture, pattern, design and color. From this wealth of fabric fashions, you must decide which material will best suit your purpose.

- If the curtain or drapery is to screen out light, a sheer, translucent fabric will be practical.
- If you wish to insure privacy or block an unpleasant view, a more opaque fabric will be required.
- The decorating mood of your room should also be considered. Formal rooms will require the use of rich formal fabrics, whereas informal room settings will lend themselves to a greater variety of fabric designs.
- Drapery fabrics are made from the natural fibers -- and in recent years great strides have been made in the synthetic field.

Synthetic or man-made fibers such as nylon, dacron, rayon, acetate, glass (fiberglass), plastics and papers, have added new zest to the drapery fabric world. A fabric will sometimes be a blend of natural and synthetic fibers used in combinations to give the finest qualities of each fiber. Today colored glass, plastics and papers are used in new and different ways. New finishes are added to make fabrics wrinkle-resistant, drip-dry, water repellent and stain resistant. Special techniques are used in the dyeing of yarns and fabrics to prevent color fading -- all of these treatments have been planned to make the finished drapery easy to care for and long wearing. Other finishes: flame-resistant, and noise absorbency are important now and will be more important in years ahead.

An important choice you will have to make is whether or not to use a patterned or plain fabric for your draperies or curtains. Patterned fabrics must be chosen carefully in proportion to the size of the room and its furnishings; in harmony with the style of decoration. Note particularly that, if you are inexperienced, it will be safest to avoid mixing prints and strong patterns in a room. Patterned fabrics also present a problem in cutting and sewing. The pattern repeat must be considered and extra fabric will be needed to allow for matching.

Plain fabrics need not be plain. Texture in fabric is obtained by the skillful weaving of the yarns. A textured drapery can add great interest to the decorating scheme of a room. When using a one color drapery fabric, remember that bright colors will make a smaller room appear more spacious. This is particularly true when your neutral or pastel draperies or curtains are matched to both wall and rug.

The width of drapery fabric will vary. The average width is 48 inches, but cottons, such as chintz, sateen and polished cotton, are 36 inches wide. Some fabrics will be as much as 54 or 60 inches wide.

**MEASURING FOR CURTAINS AND DRAPERIES:**

Once you have decided on the technique you are going to use for dressing your windows, purchase rods and mount them. Attach rods so that the curtains or draperies will begin and end with a structural part of the window or wall. They should begin at the ceiling, window top, or beneath a cornice and end at the sill, apron baseboard (if there is baseboard heating) or at the floor.

After mounting the rods, measure each window carefully using a steel tape or yardstick. The finished length is the distance from the top of the rod to the lower edge of the finished curtain or drapery. The total length includes this amount, plus hem and heading allowances.

The finished width includes the length of the rod plus the return and overlap, if any. To determine the total width of your drapery or curtain, you will also have to include hem allowances, seam allowances (if more than one width of the fabric is needed) and the amount required for pleats or fullness. This will be influenced by the kind of curtain or drapery you are making; the type of fabric you use and its width.

**FABRIC NEEDED:**

Now you are ready to plan for the amount of fabric required. To figure the total length of one panel, add the necessary top and bottom hem allowances to the finished length. If a patterned fabric is used, the measurement of one design repeat must be added to each drapery length for matching. If it is impossible to have a complete design at both the top and bottom of a drapery length, it is better to break the design at the top. Hem allowances will vary with the style of curtain or drapery you are making, the fabric you plan to use and the type of heading desired. Check specific instructions for the type of curtain and heading you decide to make. Average hem measurements are listed here.

**TOP HEM ALLOWANCES**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Straight hems (used with clip-on rings or loops) | 1-1/4 to 4 inches                                    |
| Casing with heading                              | 3 inches   |
| 4-Cord shirring                                  | 4-1/4 inches   |
| Ready-made 4-cord shirring                       | 3/4 inch   |
| Pleating   | 4 to 5 inches  |
| Ready-made pleater tape                          | 1/2 inch   |
| Scallop  | 4-1/4 inches (or depth of scallop plus 1-1/4 inches) |

**BOTTOM HEM ALLOWANCES**

|                  | Single Hem  | Double Hem    |
|------------------|---|---------------|
| Glass curtains   | 3-1/4 inches  | 6 inches      |
| Cafe curtains    | 2-1/4 to 3-1/4 inches   | 4 to 6 inches |
| Drapery          | 3 to 5 inches   | 6 to 9 inches |
| Ruffled curtains | 1/4 inch (first, subtract width of ruffle from finished length; then, allow 1/4 inch hem) |               |

Before determining the width required you must decide on the amount of fullness desired, the width of the window and type of heading or pleating to be used. Sheer fabrics should be two to three times the width of the window; medium or heavy weight fabrics two to two and one-half times the width of the window. Consider the width of the fabric. To this amount, add allowances for seams and side hems. Be generous with the width of your curtains or draperies. Avoid splitting a width of fabric, particularly if it is a print. The extra fullness will add an air of elegance.

### **BUYING DRAPERIES**

Today window treatments are available ready-made, semi-custom made, and custom made, in a variety of styles, colors, fabrics, and price.

Check: Window Treatment style Hardware-(Ceiling traverse, a wall traverse, a brass or wood pole or a plain, stationary rod

### **FOR TRAVERSE DRAPERIES**

Add nine inches to the width of your window for proper overlap at the center and side coverage of the rod. For non-traverse types, five extra inches of width will do.

When measuring the length for your curtains and draperies, measure from the ceiling or top of the window to the sill, apron, or floor. If you are planning floor length draperies, allow one inch less in your measuring so that they will not hang on the floor. If you plan a double-tier window treatment, make certain that your measurements allow a few inches overlap for the top tier.

Ready-made draperies are offered in many lengths and widths (some fabrics are shown in as many as 50 sizes).

Check the following points for quality construction:

- The hem on each side should be at least one inch; bottom hems at least four inches. Both hems should be blind stitched and show no signs of puckering.
- Pleats should be at least four inches deep and spaced no more than five inches apart. Each pleat should have three prongs or fingers to give the necessary fullness when they hang at your window.
- Seams in draperies using more than one width should be over-locked and hemmed without puckering so draperies hang smoothly.

Fullness should be enough to give a soft billowy effect to your window treatment rather than a flat skimpy look. The width of the fabric should be nearly twice the width of the window area you are planning to cover for minimum required fullness. For sheer draperies, even more fullness is needed to create a proper look.

Whether to buy lined or unlined draperies is most often a matter of personal preference rather than a functional consideration. In cities where there is a great deal of smoke and smog, linings help protect your draperies from soil and grime. Insulated linings such as Roc-Lon, and milium, help cut down on the amount of heat and cold that comes into a room. For most draperies, a good quality non-insulated type of lining such as sateen or taffeta will serve.

A semi-custom or customized drapery will cost you a few dollars more than the ready-made but will give you slightly better construction and a drapery that is made exactly to the measurements of your window, either in length or both length and width depending on the store where you shop.

Two types of custom draperies -- one is the type made in a store's workroom to qualify specifications and with the store's own fabric. What you get are extra fine details such as hand-sewn hems, hem weights and maximum fullness, depending on the heaviness of the cloth. Most stores also offer custom service for swags, jabots, festoons and tiebacks.

The second custom-drapery type is made by a manufacturer who gives the store a wide range of fabric samples from which you make your selection. This type of custom drapery, depending on the manufacturer will offer one, many, or all of the custom features mentioned. Prices for this type of drapery tend to be slightly less. But you will note that some of the top-quality features are not available.

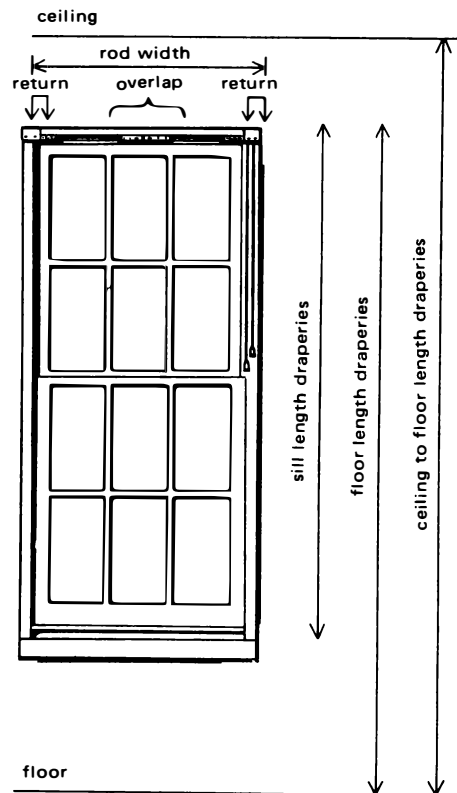
Ruffles on curtains should be very full and a minimum of four to six inches deep. Check ruffle edges to see that there is no fraying. Good quality curtains have ruffles with a picot edge, hankerchief edge or rolled hem.

If you are buying washable curtains, check to see that any trimming such as appliques, embroideries, or fringes are also washable.

In printed patterns fabric the prints should run straight across the panels. In buying several printed draperies, be sure the same motif appears in the same place in pinch-pleated top of each panel.

If draperies are lined the lining should be 2 inches shorter than drapery to allow for possibility of sagging.

Signs of good workmanship are easy to spot on any type of drapery. Headings will be deep (about four inches) and interlined with buckram or nonwoven material; pleats will be sharp, neat and straight; bottom hems will be at least three inches deep; bottom hems and side hems will be turned under neatly and will be blind-stitched.



To take the measure of your windows, use a flexible steel ruler, double check each measurement you make, transpose your measurements into inches, make a note of each and be sure to take them along when shopping.

# NOTES AND MEASUREMENTS