

blinds, curtains & cushions

Design and make stylish treatments for your home



MERRICK & DAY

Blinds, Curtains & Cushions

*Design and make
stylish treatments for your home*

CATHERINE MERRICK & REBECCA DAY

Edited by Liselle Barnsley

MERRICK & DAY

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*For Father, who solved our problems
before we even knew we had them.*

Throughout the course of writing this book, we have been helped by many people; in particular, we would like to thank:

Liselle Barnsley, Mike & Jessica Beard, Paul & Zoë Eaton, Jane Read, Judy Stevens,
Mr & Mrs R Borrill, Mr & Mrs M Ferron, Mr & Mrs M Hodgkinson, Mr & Mrs C Jago,
Mrs A Mollo, Mrs G Peckett, Mr & Mrs C Travers, all the staff at Merrick & Day and our families.

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Introduction 7

Blinds 8

Venetian blinds	14
Vertical louvre blinds	18
Sliding panels	20
Pinoleum blinds	22
Pleated blinds	24
Roller blinds	26
Roll-up blinds	30
Roman blinds	32
Blind essentials and make-up	40



Curtains 68

Curtain headings	78
Curtain fittings	88
Curtain essentials and make-up	90



Cushions 114

Cushion essentials and make-up	124
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Sewing skills	134
Glossary	136
Merrick & Day curtain books	140
Mail order curtain-making products	141
Curtain-making courses	141
Index	142
Picture credits	144

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Introduction

This is a book about the blinds, curtains and cushions used in our homes today.

In these pages you will find inspiring pictures, combined with practical advice and clear make-up instructions, designed to help you choose and make your soft furnishing treatments with confidence.

Three sections explain blinds, curtains and cushions with clarity and detail; from wooden Venetian blinds to fabric Roman blinds, sheer curtains to eyelet-headed ones, plain to panelled cushions.

Each section also includes essential information about measuring and estimating as well as step-by-step projects to suit every level of expertise. Practical hints and tips, direct from our workroom, will help you to achieve a professional finish every time.

Whether you want to make stunning Roman blinds, emphasise a view with curtains, or accessorise your room with cushions, you will find a wealth of information and guidance in *Blinds, Curtains and Cushions*.

Catherine and Rebecca, Redbourne, January 2006





Blinds

Venetian blinds

Vertical louvre blinds

Sliding panels

Pinoleum blinds

Pleated blinds

Roller blinds

Roll-up blinds

Roman blinds

Blind essentials and make-up



"Blinds are a streamlined window treatment"

Blinds

For those of us who want to enjoy the light coming into our homes and maximise the space around our windows, blinds are a good choice.

Blinds were the earliest form of window coverings. Hanging cloths and wooden slats were traditionally used to hinder vision, block out light and provide privacy. Today blinds are still appealing to people for the same reasons as they did hundreds of years ago.

Available in a huge variety of attractive styles, blinds can fit seamlessly into modern or traditional interiors. Blind style options have never been more varied and interesting, with different materials and lifting mechanisms available.

To ensure that you are not bewildered by the extensive choices available we are going to clearly describe the different types of blinds and highlight the key differences between them, so that you can be confident about your choice and enjoy living with your blinds.

Left A series of opaque Roman blinds on a wide window; the opaque fabric disguises an unwanted view.





An easy way to categorise blinds is to describe them as hard or soft. Hard blinds are made out of wooden or aluminium slats, such as Venetian blinds, or woodweave fabrics, such as pinoleum.

Soft blinds are made of fabric. For roller blinds the fabric is usually stiffened; for roll-up and Roman styles the fabric is left untreated, with one or more battens producing the distinctive final forms.

Blinds work well in the majority of rooms. Whether your style is urban, country, traditional or modern, there are blinds to suit your own personal style as well as your budget.

Requiring little or no space around the window, blinds can be fitted either inside or outside the recess. Fitting outside the recess can make your windows appear larger and maximise the light.

Blinds are ideal where space is limited at one or both sides of the window, or if there is a radiator or sink directly below. Blinds are also a neat solution for bay windows as they can be fitted into each angle.

When purchasing blinds you can choose bespoke or ready-made, or if you have the inclination as well as the time and patience you can make soft blinds yourself by following our step-by-step instructions.

Left Woodweave Roman blinds.

Right Fabric Roman blinds.



"Blinds are a practical choice for kitchen windows"