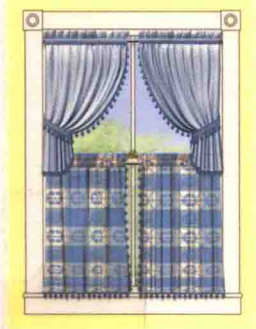
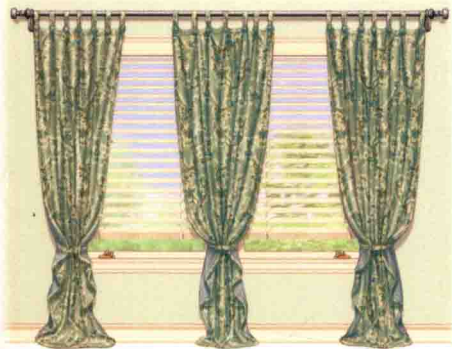




Sunset

BIG BOOK of WINDOW TREATMENTS



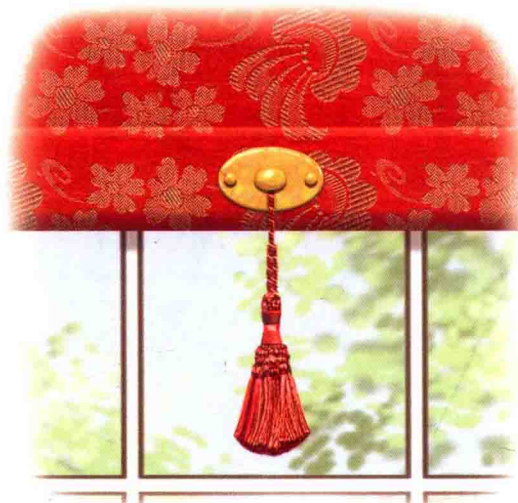
More than **1,000**
ways to dress up
your windows



BIG BOOK *of*
**WINDOW
TREATMENTS**



by Carol Spier and the Editors of Sunset Books
Menlo Park, California



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STAFF FOR THIS BOOK

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Book Design: Areta Buk/Thumb Print

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Illustration: Dartmouth Publishing, Inc.

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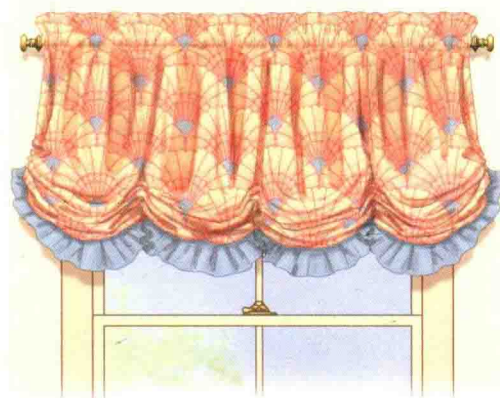
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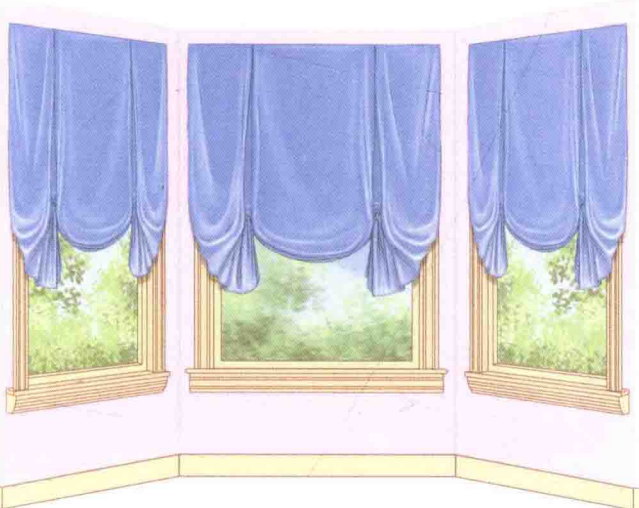
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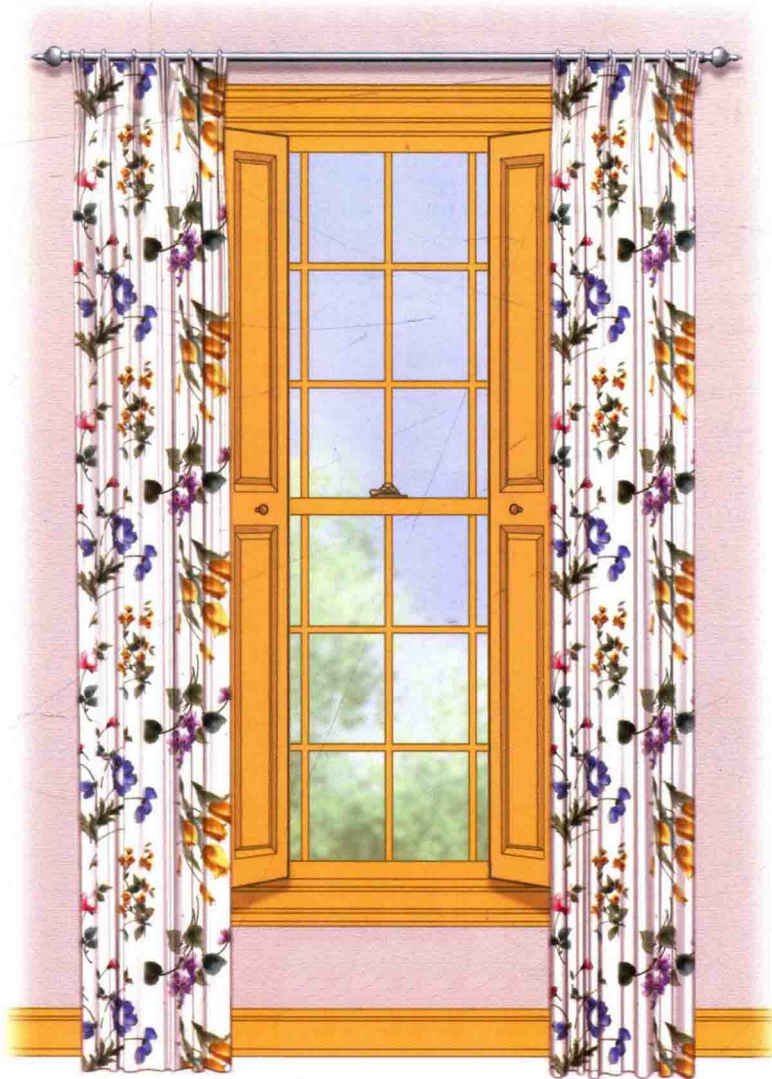
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foreword

Welcome to the world of window treatment design ideas.

Window fashions are such an important part of your home's décor—they frame the view, add drama or provide a backdrop to other furnishings, create privacy when needed, and offer a way to add color and pattern. Thoughtfully chosen window fashions enrich the overall ambience of your surroundings. Made in the appropriate materials, they can also establish or enhance your specific decorating style, be it French country, American federal, Victorian, mid-century retro, contemporary, or another.

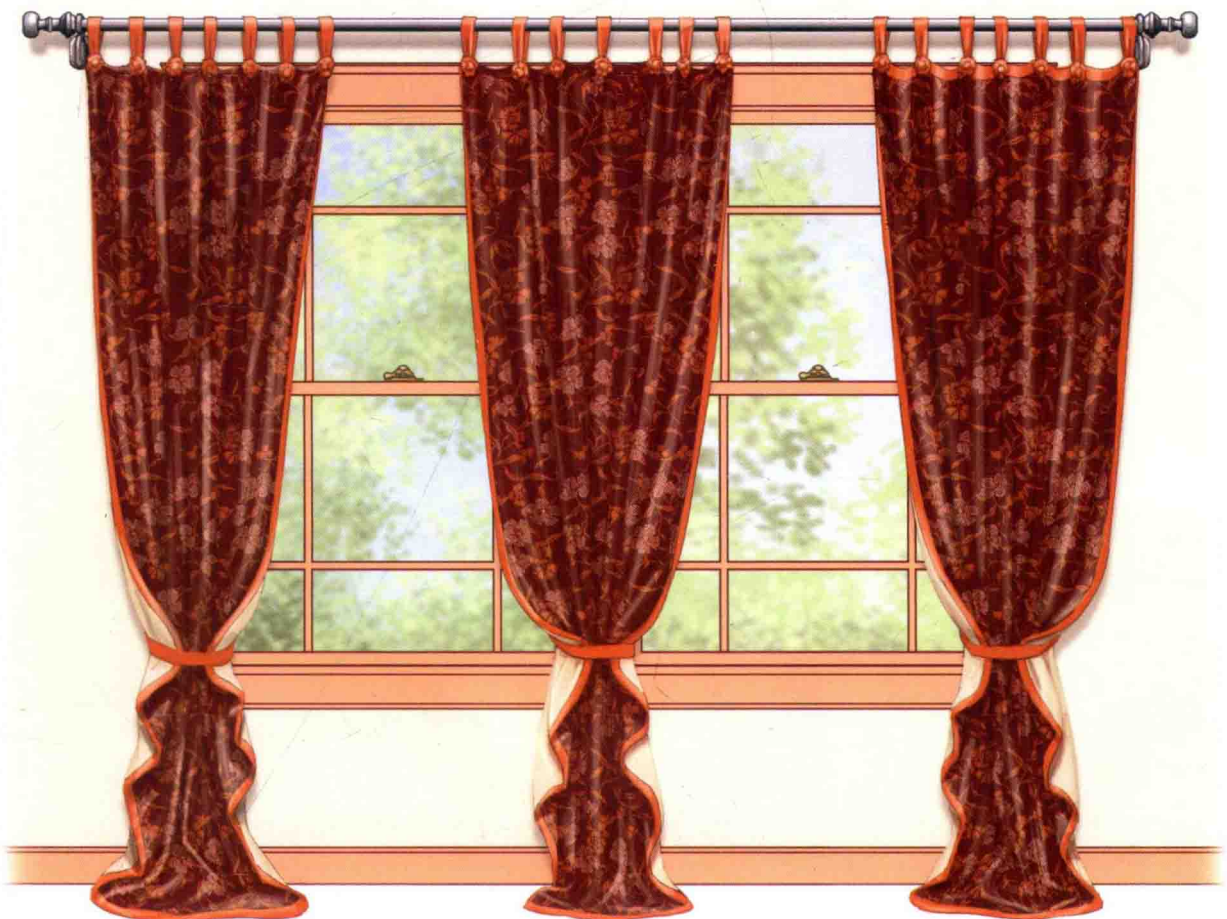
As you turn these pages you'll find hundreds of illustrations to inspire the way you dress the windows in your home. Even a quick look will make clear the rich array of style options from which to choose. Look a bit more closely and you'll see that combining treatment types—for instance, pairing curtains with shades or blinds—increases these options considerably.

This book is organized in ten chapters. The first is an illustrated glossary of the basic types of window treatments featured in the rest of the book; accompanying each drawing is an explanation of the key characteristics of the depicted treatment. The last chapter is a planning primer to get you started with purchasing (or making, if you are in the do-it-yourself mode) a window treatment; in this chapter

you'll find some basic information on measuring a window and selecting fabric. In between are seven chapters devoted to specific window treatment types—draperies and curtains, shades, valances, swags and cascades, cornices, blinds, and shutters and screens—and one chapter featuring ideas for bed curtains and coverings. Within the window treatment chapters, the illustrations are organized first by type of construction and then shown in combination with other treatments, so be sure to look through the book to see the various options for putting different treatments together.

Throughout the book are special features; many of these show ideas for details and finishing touches or demonstrate how different fabrics give various looks to a single treatment. Others shed insight on unusual treatment types or have ideas for creating unique effects. There are also ideas for accessories such as pillows, tablecloths, and ottomans that can be coordinated with your window fashions.

This book is designed to be a source of ideas and inspiration. As you browse or study these pages, perhaps you'll find a treatment that is exactly the style you're looking for. Without doubt, you'll see much to make you think; and we encourage you to mix, match, tweak, revise, and run creatively with the ideas we've presented.



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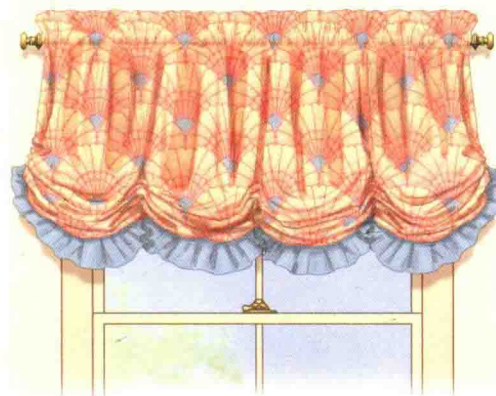
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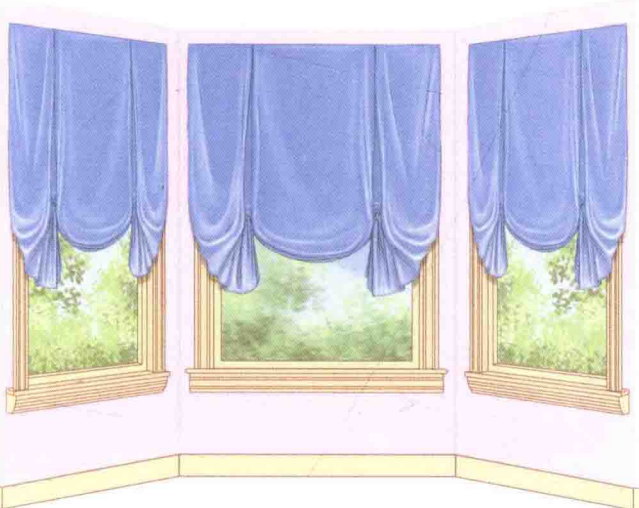
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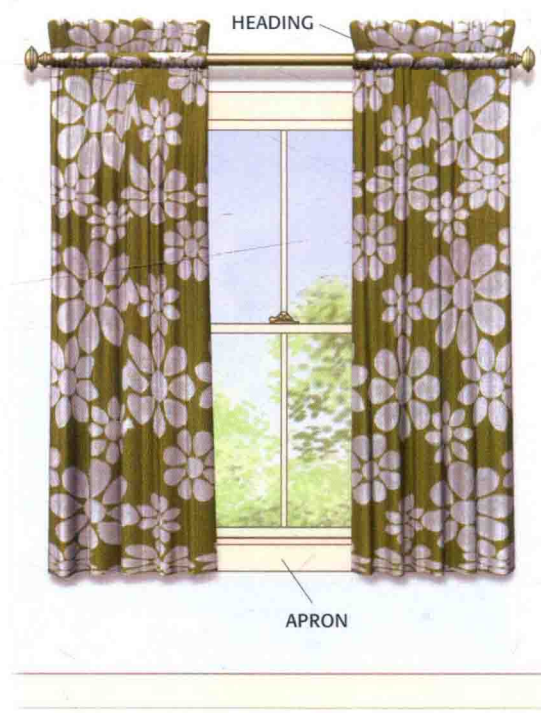
PINCH PLEATS are a classic choice for controlling the fullness of draperies. They can be constructed to fold in various ways and may be attached to rings on a pole with finials or to a concealed traverse rod.



INVERTED PLEATS (sometimes called box pleats) provide a flat, tailored control to drapery fullness. They may be sewn closed at the top edge or left unsewn to spring open and add dimension to the top of the panel.



A **ROD POCKET** is a channel sewn across the top of a flat curtain; the channel is pushed over the pole until it is condensed to the desired width or until it fills the entire pole.



A **HEADING** is a flat extension of fabric above a rod pocket; when curtains are condensed on a pole, the heading forms a ruffle. The short curtains (above) end at the bottom of the window molding, called the apron.



RINGS provide a simple way to hang curtains; they slide easily across the pole when the leading edge of the curtain fabric is pulled gently. Most large, decorative rings must be sewn to the curtain fabric, although some feature sturdy clips.



LARGE EYELETS set into the top edge of a curtain panel slide over the curtain pole; the fabric above the eyelets forms a small heading. Smaller eyelets are good for lightweight, short curtains.



TABS (loops of fabric) sewn at intervals along the top edge of a curtain panel slide fairly easily over a pole. Tabs are sometimes secured with buttons. Short curtains mounted inside a window opening hang best if they end at the windowsill.



TIES sewn at intervals along the top edge of a curtain are essentially the same as tabs, but allow the softer finish of a knot or bow with tails, which may be of any length. Ties may be made of matching or contrasting fabric, or of a trim such as ribbon.

drapery and curtain facts

DRAPERY OR CURTAIN? The terms “draperies” and “curtains” are often used interchangeably for any window treatment that features hanging panels of fabric. There is a difference, though, and it lies along the top edge. Draperies have pleats or gathers that condense their width before they are hung, while the top edge of a curtain is flat until it is hung. To further confuse the issue, there are iterations of both that can—or cannot—be drawn open. Both may be lined, and draperies almost always are. But the name doesn’t matter as long as the treatment you order or sew has the look you desire.

Whether drapery or curtain, the top edge of a treatment that hangs from rings, tabs, or ties can be designed so that when drawn open, it folds tightly on itself or drapes and sags—the greater the space between the rings, tabs, or ties, the deeper the sag along the top. If the treatment is significantly wider than the length of its pole, its top edge will sag when closed as well.

Because of the friction of the fabric on the pole, rod pocket curtains are not easy to open or close and are generally designed to be left open or to be held open with tiebacks or holdbacks placed at the side of the window. If you like the look of rod pocket curtains but want your treatment to be easy to adjust, consider gathering the top on shirring tape and hanging it from rings—a ruffle-like heading can be incorporated in this construction.

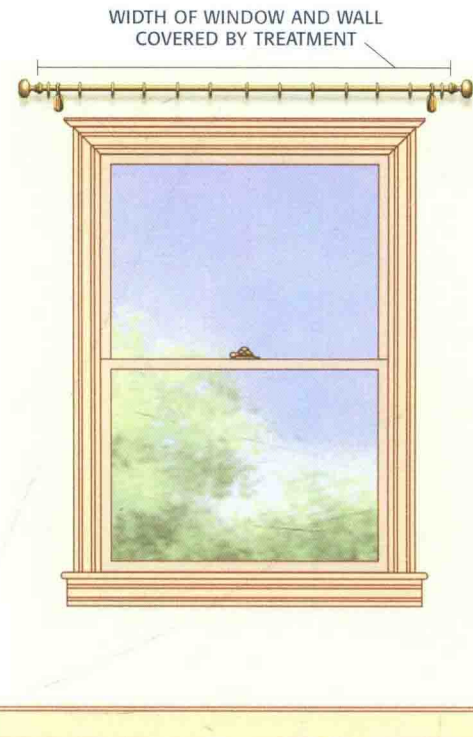
FABRIC IS KEY TO THE FINISHED EFFECT. Your first thought when choosing a drapery or curtain may be the color or pattern of the fabric, and these are certainly critical. But the weight of the fabric is also important, influencing the way the treatment hangs and making it appear substantial or delicate. The heavier a fabric is, the bulkier it will be when gathered or pulled to the side, so weight should always be considered when choosing a fabric.

FULLNESS GUIDELINES. The fullness of a window treatment varies by style and is expressed as the ratio of fabric width to window width—or, more precisely, to the total width of window plus wall to be covered.

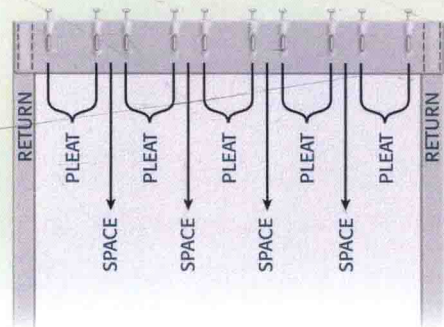
Window treatments with gathered tops—rod pocket or gathered with shirring tape or thread—are usually $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as wide as the length of the rod or pole they hang from. Sheers can be 3 times as wide. Heavy fabrics may be only 2 times as wide.

Treatments that are flat across the top and hung from rings or tabs should be at least as wide as the rod or pole so that they cover the window when pulled shut. They usually look better with some fullness.

The fullness ratio for pleated treatments depends on the style and spacing of pleat used— $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 times the finished width is usual. If the treatment hangs from rings, the top once pleated can be somewhat wider than the length of the pole, but if the top is fixed to a mounting board or on a traverse rod, the measurement must be precise. The thing to remember when planning is that the finished width of the top will be a multiple of the space between the pleats, plus any returns to the wall and overlap at the leading edge.



The width of a treatment that is not pleated is usually $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of the pole between the brackets or finials—this is the combined width of all panels.



The width of a pleated drapery panel depends on the size and spacing of the pleats. It must be planned so that the sum of the spaces between the pleats equals the width of window and wall to be covered by the closed treatment, and it must also include the return (or overlap) spaces at the edges.