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# WINDOW TREATMENTS

## IDEA BOOK



DESIGN IDEAS • FABRIC & COLOR • MEASURING



INSTALLING • EMBELLISHING OFF-THE-SHELF



SUE SAMPSON & ELLEN DELUCIA





# WINDOW TREATMENTS IDEA BOOK

SUE SAMPSON AND ELLEN DELUCIA



The Taunton Press

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WINDOW TREATMENTS  
**I D E A   B O O K**







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# Introduction

Congratulations! By picking up this book you've taken a giant step toward creating the windows of your dreams. Maybe you've collected countless fabric swatches in your search for the right window treatments, yet somehow can't make a final decision on what will look best. Or perhaps you have a cherished fabric but are hesitant about the style of window décor that will suit your needs. If you've just purchased a new home, figuring out how to decorate the windows can be a daunting task. Whatever your reasons are for living with undecorated windows, you are not alone. Most people would rather live with bare windows than risk a less-than-perfect selection!

Why take the risk? Because window treatments can make us feel good. The right combination of style and fabric adorning a window has the ability to comfort and soothe us after a long, hectic day. Simply put, window treatments are the design element that can transform a room from cold and uninviting to warm and welcoming—the kind of place you'd like to spend time in, to relax on the couch, sip a cup of tea, and enjoy the latest novel. Your home is where memories are created, where you live some of your best moments with family and friends.

It's understandable if you're not sure where to begin. A simple trip to the fabric store can be like opening Pandora's box, with an overwhelming number of fabric, trim, and window treatment style choices. But rest assured, the process of selecting just the right style and fabric for your win-



dow is within your reach. Whether you're in the do-it-yourself or do-it-for-me mode, all you need is a little know-how and a touch of confidence. Within these pages, you'll find the information and resources you need to create stunning windows, whether you're updating an existing space or starting from scratch in a newly constructed home or addition.

We've helped thousands of people make just the right choice for window décor with our McCall's® Home Dec In A Sec sewing pattern line and our interactive Web site for custom window treatments, [www.HomeDecInASec.com](http://www.HomeDecInASec.com). This book was designed just for you—because we understand the value you place on how your home looks and feels. We understand what it's like to juggle busy work lives with family and community commitments. Despite time constraints, we still find moments to decorate our homes so we have a comfortable place to land at the end of the day. We hope to help you enjoy the window decorating process as much as we do, so let's get started together.





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# Selecting Window Treatments



Windows are one of the most significant design elements in a home—not just in grand rooms with soaring floor-to-ceiling windows, but in every room no matter how big and spacious or small and unassuming the space. Windows are the openings to the world, allowing natural light in while providing access to a beautiful view, a glimpse of moonlight, or a wonderful breeze. But deciding how to decorate a window can be a daunting task, especially since there are so many questions to consider. What window treatment style will suit your needs best? How can you make the most of a custom window? How much will it all cost? Which fabric should you choose—print, solid, texture, sheer? And most important, will you be happy with the window treatments you select?

No worries. That is the simple answer to all of the questions above. The journey begins with knowledge, and this chapter will guide you through the decision-making process by providing key pieces of information to consider. Once the basic questions are answered, the fun of selecting the right window treatment styles to reflect your personality and lifestyle begins.

◀ **IN REMODELED OR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOMES**, many homeowners are opting for arch-top windows that call for creative non-traditional window treatment styling. Cleverly designed panels form a soft backdrop in this room, while the navy rings draw attention to the beautiful lines of the windows.



# What's Your Decorating Style?

**E**VERYONE HAS A DECORATING STYLE, and finding your own is easy. Begin by looking in your closet. There you'll find the colors you gravitate toward and the fashion designs you prefer. Tailored styles of clothing often equate to traditional themes in decorating. Whimsical, free-spirited fashions indicate you might prefer a more relaxed, creative approach to home décor. Reinforce your findings by flipping through decorating books and magazines to create a file of your favorite room settings. You'll see a theme emerging in the furnishings, wall colors, fabrics, and window treatment styles you favor. Remember, home is where you live your life. By creating surroundings based on your personal tastes and preferences, you'll find a sense of serenity every time you walk through the door.

## NEW TRADITIONAL

Traditional with a twist best describes this new style of classic decorating. If you favor traditional styles, you would feel at home with a mix of antique or quality reproduction furnishings, vintage china and crystal, and sterling silver accents. Your rooms could have touches of your personal heritage, such as a framed collection of old photographs or a delicate secretary desk inherited from a loved one. New traditional styling combines the past with the present by infusing spontaneity into formalized settings with textures and colors. Just as a wrought iron coffee table can coexist gracefully with a Queen Anne chair, stunning striped silk drapery panels in vivid hues can be complemented with a soft cornice on top. The key is to create settings with welcoming elegance, where rooms are still family-friendly places to enjoy meals and conversation together.

► **LUXURIOUSLY FULL PANELS** give warmth to these large windows while serving as a backdrop for the traditional-style furnishings. The red border on the draperies along with the unique coffee table, pillows, and accessories add spontaneity to the formal setting.



▲ **AN ORDINARY CORNER** is transformed into a delightful writing nook with a graceful valance mounted just below the ceiling. Side panels in matching fabric flow onto the floor—a look that breaks tradition and adds softness to the setting.







▲ **A MIX OF FUN AND FORMALITY** sets the tone in this dining room. The elegance of the crystal chandelier, rich wood tones, and melon-colored damask couch is mimicked with a playful striped silk adorning the windows. The fabric is showcased across the soft cornice with trim that follows the gently scalloped edges.



## RETRO INSPIRED

If retro is your passion, you take pleasure in furnishings and accents reminiscent of things past. You are likely to enjoy spending time scouring flea markets and tag sales for vintage pieces. A carefully planned collection of furniture in distressed woods or cracked patinas would make you happy, and broken-in leather would be a first choice for a new chair. The lines in retro-inspired rooms are clean and simple with a range of wall colors from simple whites to vivid, offbeat tones such as a golden yellow or apple green. Simplicity is paramount when it comes to selecting window dressings for the retro style, allowing the interesting mix of furnishings to shine.

► **THE LIVELY YELLOW** in the faux-painted walls draws attention to the interesting mix of retro-inspired furnishings. Plaid drapery panels are mounted on a black iron rod, an accent color that is repeated throughout the room. Treating the bay window with shutters keeps the look simple.



► **THE TAILORED WHITE BALLOON** valances purposely fade into this hallway setting. The treatment style adds dimensional interest without overpowering the collection of treasures.





## Where to Start

Whether you're starting a decorating project from scratch or are updating existing rooms, begin with a simple strategy.

1. Start with something you love—a couch, rug, wall color, painting, or fabric. Pick one item and work your color and decorating scheme around it.
2. If you're redecorating, eliminate the items you don't care for. It doesn't make sense to restyle a room around a couch that you've been unhappy with for years.
3. Look for a room that inspires you to imitate. Visualizing how a finished room will look is difficult so it's best to peruse magazines, watch home shows, and visit local show houses and model homes.
4. Team up with a friend who has a sense of style that matches yours. Or, look into hiring a design consultant to select a wall color or help you put a plan together. This may save you money in the end.

▼ **A DISTRESSED MIRROR,** slipcovered chairs, and lamp make a statement in this '50s-style retro-inspired living room. Woven wood roll-up shades, reminiscent of bamboo shades from years ago, provide simple styling and function on the windows.

