

you are not bound to an all-traditional or all-modern style unless that is your preference.

Tweeds or shags are usually more informal while plush cut pile, sculptured patterns, and formal designs are best for more formal rooms. Colors of medium intensity show soil the least and usually allow more freedom in the overall color scheme. Plush piles show footprints and traffic patterns more than dense piles of low to medium loops or twists.

Density refers to the amount of pile per square inch of carpeting. To check density, roll the edge of the carpet back to back to see how close the rows and stitches of yarn are. If there are large spaces and the backing is quite evident, the quality is low.

Fiber content is very important to carpet performance, maintenance, and appearance. Wool, the traditional carpet fiber, is resilient, luxurious, resistant to abrasion and soil, warm, and easy to maintain. It is generally higher in cost per square yard (\$14 to \$25) than the synthetic fibers (nylon, acrylic, polyester).

Acrylic fibers are most nearly like wool. An acrylic carpet is a good choice if you want the look and feel of wool at a lower cost (\$8 to \$16) and with hypoallergenic properties (having a relatively low capacity to induce hypersensitivity).

Polyesters have the weight and luxury of wool but are shinier and less resilient. They are in the same price range as acrylics.

Nylon is the best wearing fiber of the synthetics. It is tough, resistant to soil, and cleans easily. Static electricity is a problem with some nylons but newer types are available that are static free. Nylon carpets range from \$6 to \$16 in cost.

Padding (underlay) will lengthen the life of a carpet and add luxury and warmth. I strongly recommend using padding.

Pads may be made of hair, sponge or foam rubber, foam rubber on hair, or jute and hair. Hair is always a good

choice except where dampness and mildew is a problem. Foam rubber would be a better choice under these circumstances. Carpet pad prices range from \$1.50 to \$3.50 per square yard.

Room-size rugs are also very practical, since they can be turned to distribute wear and you can send them out for thorough cleaning. If you buy a good rug, it will last for years and you can take it with you when you move. It is also possible to change color schemes more easily by moving rugs from one room to another. Area rugs are now being used over carpeting for a decorator effect or in areas of heavy traffic.

Whatever your floor needs are, plan, shop, and select carefully, and practice proper maintenance for a more satisfying product.

Window Treatments: Curtains and Drapes

WINDOWS PROVIDE VENTILATION, let in light, and display the view. You can add another dimension by making a window a spot of beauty.

Before you decide what will best enhance your windows, consider the visual effect you want to achieve. The style you select will depend on the type of window, amount of light desired, the view, and style of furnishings.

Treatments to consider might include draperies, sheer curtains, ruffled curtains, cafe curtains, and headings to coordinate with the curtains or draperies you select.

Fabrics you choose for your windows will depend upon the effect you wish to achieve. Sheer curtains covering the window will filter the light to some extent and give you a feeling of privacy in the daytime. You will be able to see out—but others will not be able to see in.

Sheer fabrics which will serve for this

purpose include marquisette, ninon, voile, batiste, and lace. Marquisette and ninon will be the most transparent fabrics. Batiste, voile, and lace are more opaque fabrics and shut out more of the view.

Since sheer fabrics must be made from small yarns, choose fabrics containing strong fibers to obtain the best wearing qualities. Polyester is the most satisfactory fiber for marquisette and ninon fabrics. It has high strength and good resistance to the degradative effects of sunlight and of atmospheric pollutants.

Polyester blended with cotton or with rayon is frequently used in batiste and voile. This blend gives a more opaque fabric which has good wearing qualities and easy-care features.

Marquisette, ninon, batiste, voile, and lace are all soft fabrics. They will give the best appearance when used as straight panels shirred on rods or pinch-pleated for use on traverse rods. They may be used alone or under draperies.

Glass fiber is used in heavier fabrics with an open-weave appearance. Glass fibers have good resistance to sunlight and atmospheric pollutants. However, glass fiber fabrics must be handled with care in laundering. Curtains and draperies containing glass fibers will have a statement on the label cautioning you about their care.

Fabrics for draperies vary from such informal types as homespun and denim to formal ones such as damask and antique satin. Heavyweight, thick fabrics will shut out all light and give privacy at night without the use of additional blinds. Lighter weight fabrics may not give the degree of privacy desired.

Many fibers and blends of fibers are being used for drapery fabrics. Fibers which have given the most satisfaction

when used alone include cotton, acrylic, and glass fibers. Blends of the following types have been satisfactory: cotton and rayon, cotton and polyester, rayon and polyester, and rayon and acetate. Cotton, acrylic, polyester, and glass fibers are more resistant to sunlight degradation than are rayon and acetate.

The kind of care you wish to be able to use will influence your choice of fabrics for curtains and draperies. Many fabrics on the market today are machine washable. Durable press finishes give easy-care qualities to fabrics. These finishes are most satisfactory when used on blends of polyester with cotton or rayon.

Drycleaning is recommended for fabrics of 100 percent rayon, and blends of rayon with cotton or acetate, to prevent shrinkage. Glass fiber fabrics must always be hand washed, since machine washing or drycleaning will cause damage by abrasion in the machine.

Atmospheric pollutants as well as sunlight cause degradation of the fibers. These pollutants are invisible and will not always be accompanied by tiny particles which cause obvious soiling of fabrics. In areas where high levels of pollutants are present, more frequent washing or drycleaning will be necessary to remove the pollutants and give longer life to fabrics.

Dyes used in fabrics are not all equally fast to sunlight and atmospheric pollutants. It is difficult to predict what effect sunlight and atmospheric conditions will have on colors. Undyed fabrics or very light shades of colors may be a better choice for curtains or draperies in areas of intense sunlight as color change will be less noticeable.

Fabric manufactured for apparel purposes will not normally have the colorfastness qualities required in curtains or draperies. Brightly printed percales may fade easily and thus give limited satisfaction.

Linings in draperies, either attached or separate, give protection against

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sunlight damage. Linings can also provide more insulation and light control.

The style of window hangings you choose will determine the type of hardware to purchase. The selection includes cafe-traverse rods, adjustable traverse rods, combination traverse and valance rods, single or double curtain rods, spring-tension cafe rods, and rods that will fit around corners. Rods come in many decorator styles and colors.

You can choose from a wide selection of models in sizes up to 25 feet wide in traverse styles, 12½ feet in cafe rods, and 10 feet in curtain rods. Extension units can be added. For special window areas, rods can be custom cut by stores that offer such services. Check local stores to determine types of fixtures and special services available.

Decide exactly what type fixtures you are going to use and where they are to be placed—on the window frame, above the window, extending beyond the window on each side, or conforming to some special need of your own. Good fixtures are important for they will out-

last several sets of draperies and will be largely responsible for the way the fabric hangs.

When draperies are heavy or constantly opened and closed, be sure the anchorage for the fixtures is firm. If screws go into the window frame there is usually no problem. If fixtures are attached to the wall, toggle bolts may be used. Draperies will cover such devices.

Draperies and curtains may be purchased ready made, or the material may be bought by the yard. The ready made are the most popular.

Readymade draperies and curtains offer one of the best means for creating very attractive window treatments the quick way.

Use your imagination—add fringes, colored borders, tiebacks, and other decorator touches for your own special creations. If you are so inclined, you can save yourself the price of the workmanship by making them yourself.

After hardware has been selected and installed, measurements can be made. Decide on the length of your draperies. Window hangings may come to the window sill, brushing the sill lightly, or to the bottom of the apron, which is the piece of wood just below the sill. The most practical length for long draperies is one-half to one inch above the floor or carpeting.

For ready made, measure from the top of the rod to the desired total length. Also measure the length of the rod on the wall. Stores and catalogs provide measurement charts to help in selecting the appropriate size curtain or drapery.

To determine the amount of fabric needed for custom-made draperies, measure the face—including the ends of the rod—and multiply by two for double fullness. To this add the sum of inches in allowance for four side hems, usually 2 inches each. Add 6 inches for standard overlap. The total is the width needed for each pair of draperies. Slightly more or less width can be used by adjusting the pleat size and spacing.



Draperies reach bottom of window apron.

To measure for drapery length, determine the distance from the top of the rod to the bottom of the hem. Add 11 inches for hems. This will give enough fabric for a double 3-inch hem and a generous heading to cover the top of the rod. If the fabric has a large repeat pattern which must be matched, allow one full length of the motif for each cut fabric length required for the draperies.

Consider the width of the fabric when deciding on the number of widths for fullness. Some fabrics may be only 36 inches wide—chintz and some polished cottons, for example. Others may run 40, 48, or even 54 or 60 inches in width. The average is about 48 inches.

Some stores will provide assistance in calculating the amount of fabric needed. Be sure you have taken measurements of the rod and curtain length desired.

Draperies and curtains must be cut on the true lengthwise and crosswise grain of the fabric so when they are hung they will fall straight from the rod in even, graceful folds. Before cutting panels, cut off or pink selvages on both edges to avoid puckering in stitching, drycleaning, or washing.

If you want your draperies to hang in richer and more formal folds, linings will give the needed weight. Linings also give a uniform appearance to the windows from the outside. Some figured fabrics lose their decorative effect when too much light filters through. Linings are usually made from sateen in white or off-white depending upon the background of the fabric used.

Window treatments other than curtains or draperies may be the answer to your problem. There is hardly a window of any size or shape that cannot be covered with an interesting shade. Shades are relatively inexpensive, can block out the light, heat, and cold, and give privacy when needed.

You'll find a selection of textures, interesting colors, and designs that will harmonize with any decorative scheme. There are shade types and brackets to fit almost every window shape, includ-

ing difficult to treat odd-shaped windows. Shades alone or combined with another window treatment offer numerous ideas.

Venetian blinds are being used in glamorous new treatments. Slats have become slimmer and a wide range of decorator styles is available. Colorful laminated blinds create a new mood in a room where the light must be carefully controlled. Slats can be covered with a pattern to match a wall covering or upholstery design. For large windows, vertical blinds made from lightweight aluminum and steel are appropriate.

Inside shutters can be used next to windows in place of curtains. Some are put under curtains or draperies; others are used cafe-style, either above or beneath cafe curtains.

Shutters may be made from wood or metal. Natural wood tones are often used to enhance the beauty of the shutters. The inside section may be made from any of the following materials: fabric, mesh, cane, grill cloth, or screening. You can purchase shutters at your local hardware store or builder's supply outlet.

When a full window treatment is not desired, you may want to have a valance at the top of your window to harmonize with the decorative scheme of your room. For a kitchen window that faces the children's play area or a wooded area in which the view is important, consider a shirred ruffle hung from a regular curtain rod or a pleated valance suspended from a cafe rod. Use your imagination to create effective treatments when a decorator's touch is needed.

Problem windows are problems only as long as you believe they are. You can discover many ways in which windows can be made to look taller, shorter, wider, or thinner. Their treatment can pose an interesting challenge. You may have several windows in one wall and believe that an impossible task is at hand. Where double or triple windows are close together it may be advisable to treat them as one window and use

a single pair of draperies to cover them.

Consider using several pairs of ruffled curtains placed side by side to create an entire unit covering multiple windows and connecting wall areas. Another solution may be to use one long cafe curtain covering the lower half of the windows and a single valance at the top.

When dealing with separated windows on a wall, alternating sections of draperies and sheer curtains may be used to cover the entire wall. Place the draperies over the wall sections between windows; use the sheer curtains over the windows. This technique will give a unified appearance over the entire area.

If light and privacy are needed in the breakfast or dining room, you may want to use a cafe curtain which covers the bottom of the window and panels at the top separated to admit light. Be innovative in your use of available materials to create the desired illusion.

The window treatment that you choose should depend on your personal taste and style of life. Factors to be kept in mind include the desired visual effect, care requirements, and environmental conditions present in your geographical location.

Indoor Lighting— Lamps, Lumens, And Fixtures

CECILE SCOTT stood amid the store's enormous lamp department utterly confused. Which lamp to buy? She had thought it would be simple to select one but was perplexed by the variety of styles, shapes, and sizes from which to choose. Some didn't resemble a lamp at all. The wide variety of designs made Cecile have second thoughts about what she wanted.

Cecile had made two common mistakes. First, she had not thought of the

lighting for the room as a whole. She needed to consider all the lighting in the room so the results would be attractive, yet effectively provide her with comfortable light for all needs. After all, the primary function of most lamps and fixtures is to provide useful light.

Her second mistake was that she had not decided if she wanted the lamp to be decorative or functional or both. Did she want the lamp to be a decorative element or an accessory? Or did she want it to provide good light for seeing?

Needless to say, lamps can be attractive as well as furnish enough comfortable light for difficult tasks such as sewing or studying. Finding these lamps requires knowledge of the requirements of good lighting as well as some knowledge of interior design.

You, too, may be like Cecile when you shop for lighting equipment if you don't first decide what you want it to do.

You will be wise to think of lighting for the entire room, and select equipment that contributes to an effective overall lighting system. If you are building a new home, the design for the lighting should be part of the plans. Therefore, you may want to seek help from someone who knows how to design a good lighting system. Your electric utility or county Extension Service office may be able to refer you to such a person.

A well designed lighting system need not be expensive since modest priced lamps and fixtures can be attractive and effective. However, the lighting may be designed as elaborately and expensively as you want and can afford.

How do you plan your lighting? By providing enough light of the right kind in the right place.

It is not simple to achieve this, and we will be able to discuss only a few of the considerations. Many points will have to be omitted, and some of those included must be oversimplified.

"Enough" light means an adequate

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