

# Beautify

## YOUR WINDOWS AND GLASS WALLS

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TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

J. E. Hutchison, Director

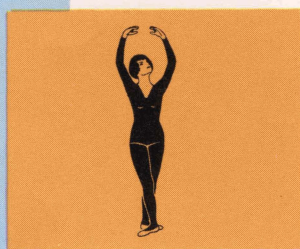


# Beautify

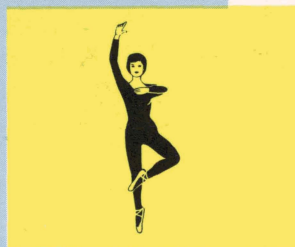
## YOUR WINDOWS AND GLASS WALLS



**Harmony.** The beautiful effect created by the pleasant relationship of all the parts which make up a whole. Develop harmony by applying the basic principles of proportion, balance, rhythm and emphasis.



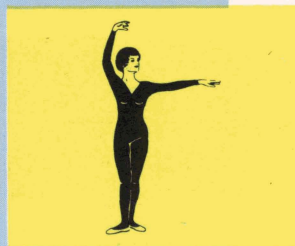
**Proportion.** Relation of parts of a whole or of objects in a group should be satisfying. Furnishings should be scaled and proportioned to function properly and to create a harmonious relation to surrounding furnishings, the room and the house.



**Balance.** Equilibrium, rest or repose. Balance is the result of equalization of attractions on either side of a central point. In achieving balance, you deal with visual weight which includes actual weight, size, power to attract attention and importance of furnishings or elements.



**Rhythm.** Organized movement, transition and continuity. You develop it through repetition and through alternate shapes, colors and textures. It leads the eyes pleasantly around a room, through a house or along the lines of design in textiles. It unites all the articles in a group of furniture and connects each group with adjoining groups.



**Emphasis.** The quality which attracts attention. It is achieved by making an object or a group of objects such as a fireplace, window or picture so important that they (or it) become a center of interest. Emphasis can relieve monotony and prevent the commonplace effect.

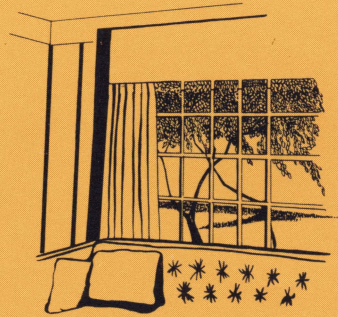


Window treatments should help control light and heat as well as provide needed privacy, but they also should enhance the beauty of the room in which they are used.

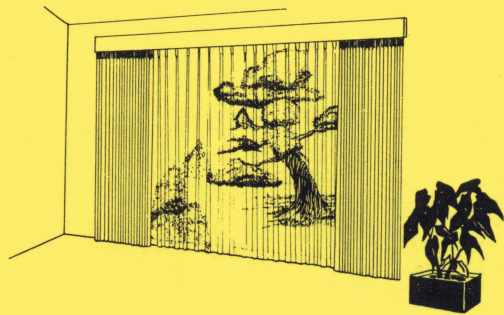
Principles of art are useful in creating beautiful rooms. Knowledge of these principles will often help you in making the best choices and avoiding the wrong ones.



Harmony.



Proportion.



Balance.



Rhythm.



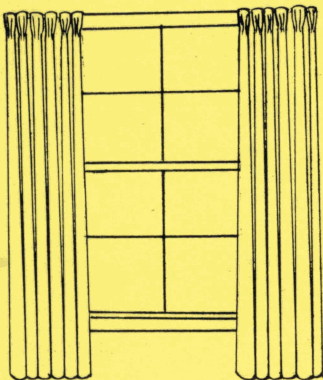
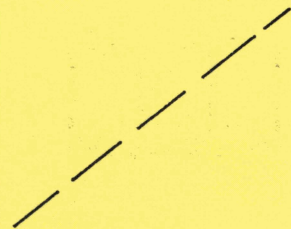
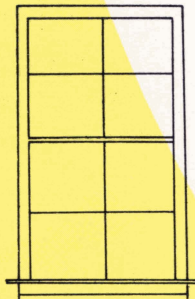
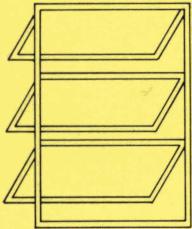
Emphasis.



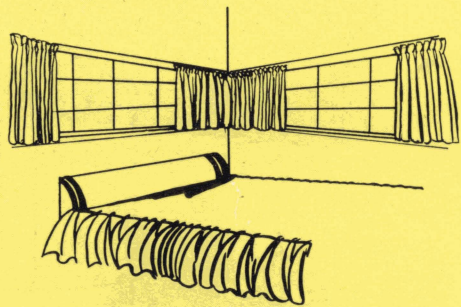
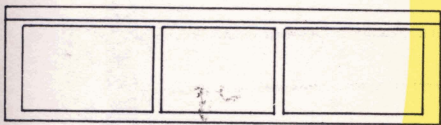
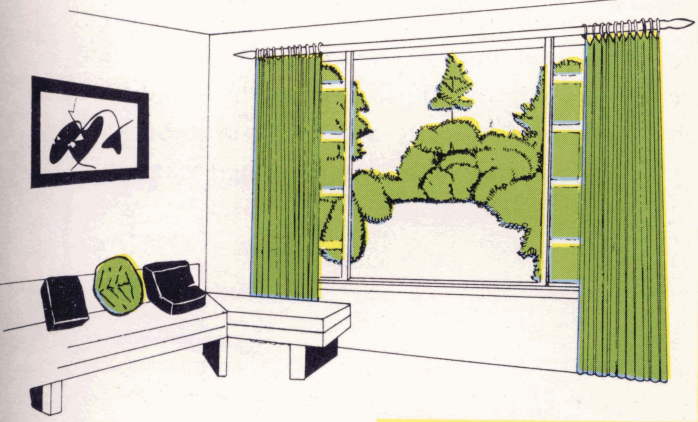
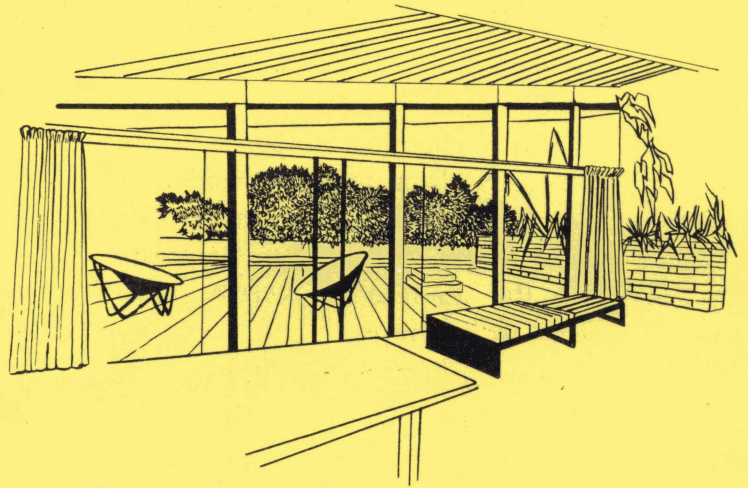


Architectural changes, new types of glass and improved methods of heating and cooling houses have influenced windows. They have been moved up to permit easier arrangement of furniture, and moved down to the floor to become glass doors for added ventilation, passage to the outside and for more light. Whole walls of glass make inside and outside the house seem to be one area. There are few, if any set rules for window treatment. Each window, group of windows or glass wall challenges its owner to make it contribute to the comfort, utility, beauty and joy for the family and friends.

What do you wish your draperies to do for your room? Should they provide privacy, frame a beautiful view, hide an unpleasant view, protect from glare, sun, heat, or cold? Should they correct appearance of windows that are too high, too narrow, too wide, too short? Do you have unlike windows which should be alike? Should the draperies be the center of interest in the room or a part of the background? Should they make the room seem larger or smaller? Should they form a connecting link for colors already in the room? Should they form a connecting link between colors inside the home and colors outside? How do your draperies affect the outside of your house?









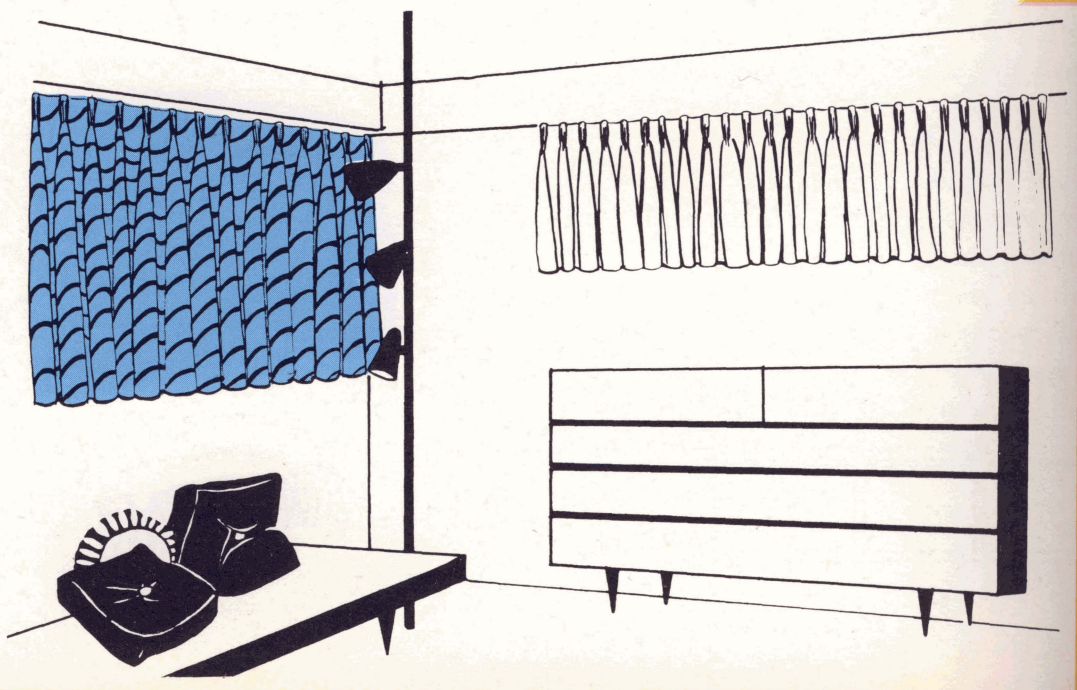
## *Color, Design and Texture*

When choosing draperies to harmonize with a room, consider the room, proportions, exposure, view, walls, floors, furnishings, accessories and the amount of surface which needs to be draped.

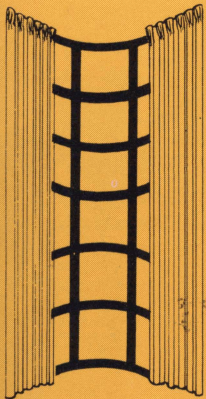
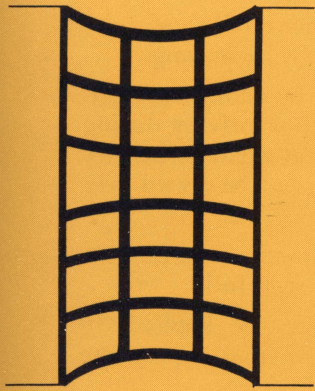
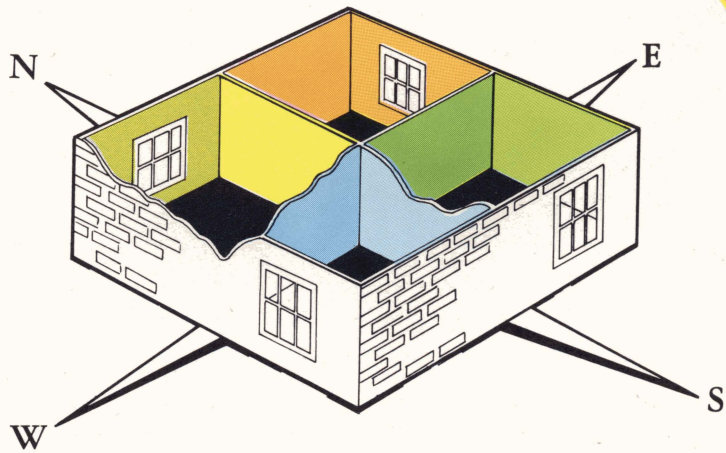
The walls and floors form the background. There may be color in them or in the furnishings that you would like to emphasize in the curtains. There may be design or texture in furnishings or background which make it wise to select solid color draperies. Use only one design or print in a room. It may be used on walls or furniture or a combination of the two. Structural lines of architecture and furnishings create design which may make other design unnecessary.

Printed draperies may be a connecting link for colors in the room. Their background may repeat the color of the walls and the colors of the design repeat outdoor colors as well as all or most of the inside colors.

Solid color draperies the same color as the wall seem to become a part of the walls and enlarge the background. This kind of curtain is particularly successful in small rooms and those with many windows because the greatest possible impression of size is gained. Dark colors seem to decrease the size while light colors increase the impression of spaciousness. Solid colors slightly darker or slightly lighter than the walls are less monotonous than those that are matched exactly.



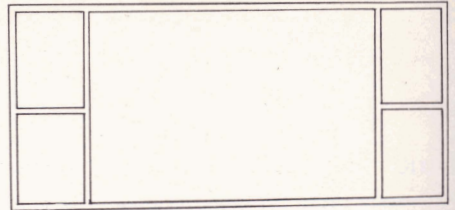




A room's location plays an important part in the selection of color. Rooms which receive their main light from the south or from the west will usually be more pleasant when the cool, quiet tints of blue, blue green, blue violets and neutral colors make up the principal parts of their color schemes.

The warm tints and shades of yellow, orange, red and red violet help to create feelings of warmth and gaiety in rooms with north and east exposures. These colors usually are best with some of the neutrals or cool colors and in plain uncluttered surroundings.



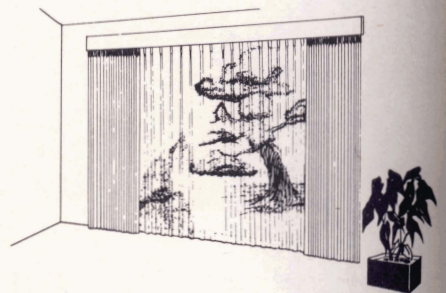
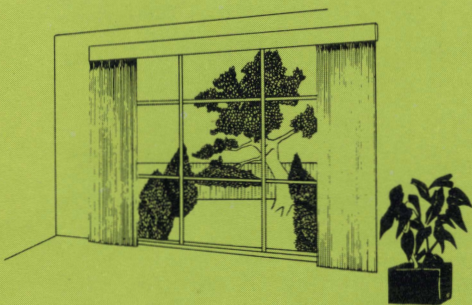


Textured materials suggest large rooms and large furnishings, while smooth, fine textures are more in scale in small or average rooms. Large figures and strong colors in material should be placed in large rooms with large furnishings.

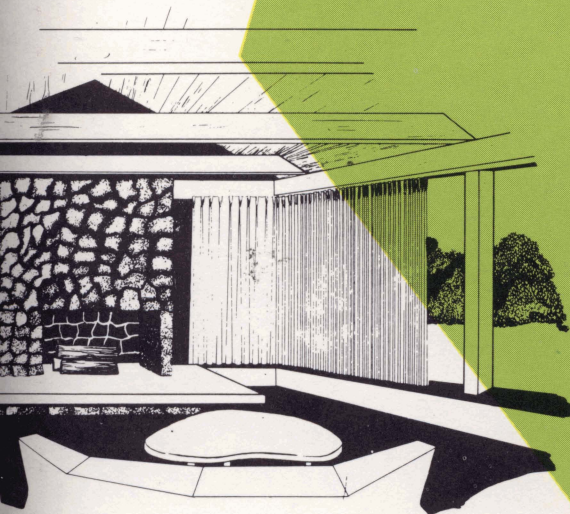
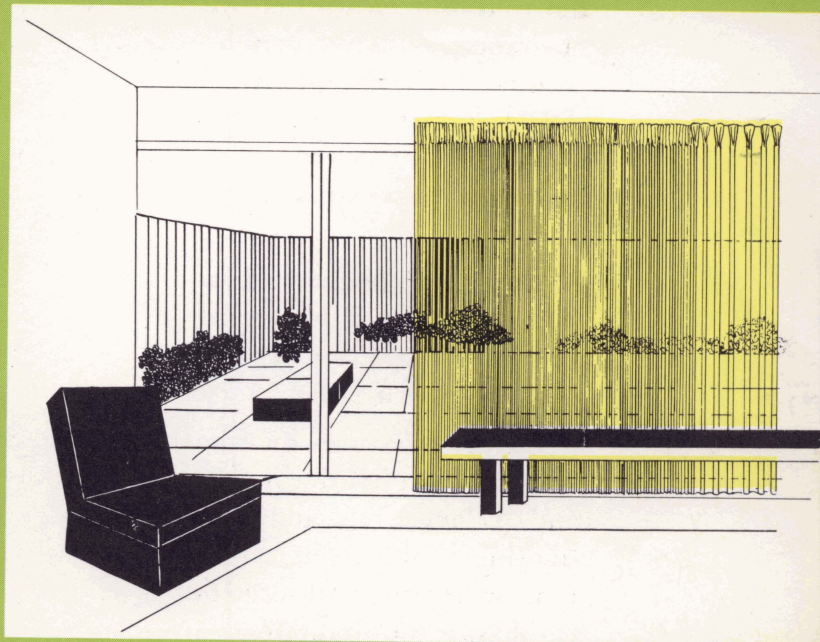
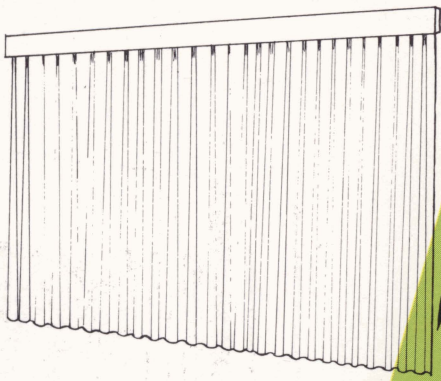
Sheer draperies add comfort by admitting light, filtering bright light and providing privacy during daylight. Blinds may be closed at night or heavier draperies, hung on another rod, may be drawn over sheer draperies for privacy.

Sheer draperies are more attractive and provide greater privacy when they are very full.

The most harmonious line as applied to draperies and curtains are those that repeat the structural lines of the windows.









## *Cornices and Valances*

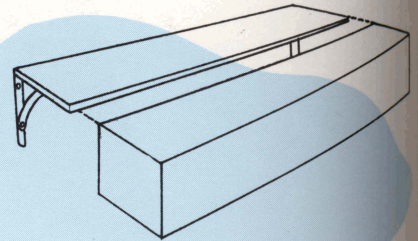
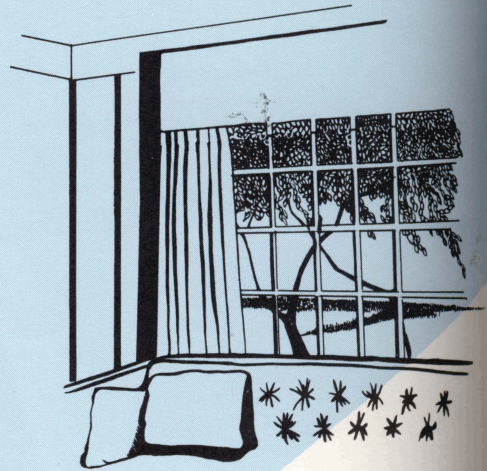
Valances or cornices can make windows that are too tall and too narrow seem shorter. Deep cornices and valances which cover part of the window shorten and widen windows. They may be used to cover and conceal the rods and fixtures at top of draperies. They may be painted to harmonize with the draperies or walls or they may be covered with matching drapery material.

Deep cornices may be set well above the window frame and extend downward just to the glass to make the window appear taller.

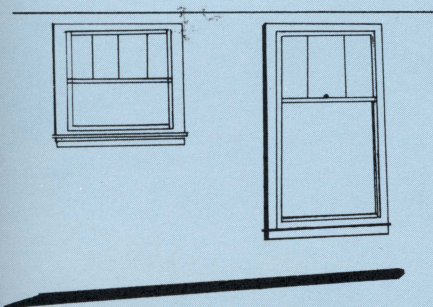
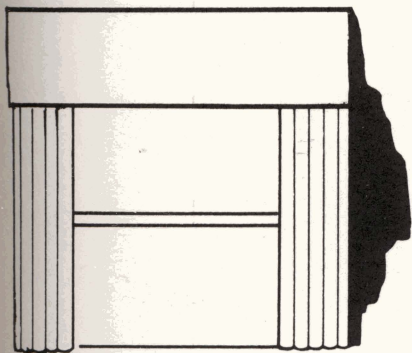
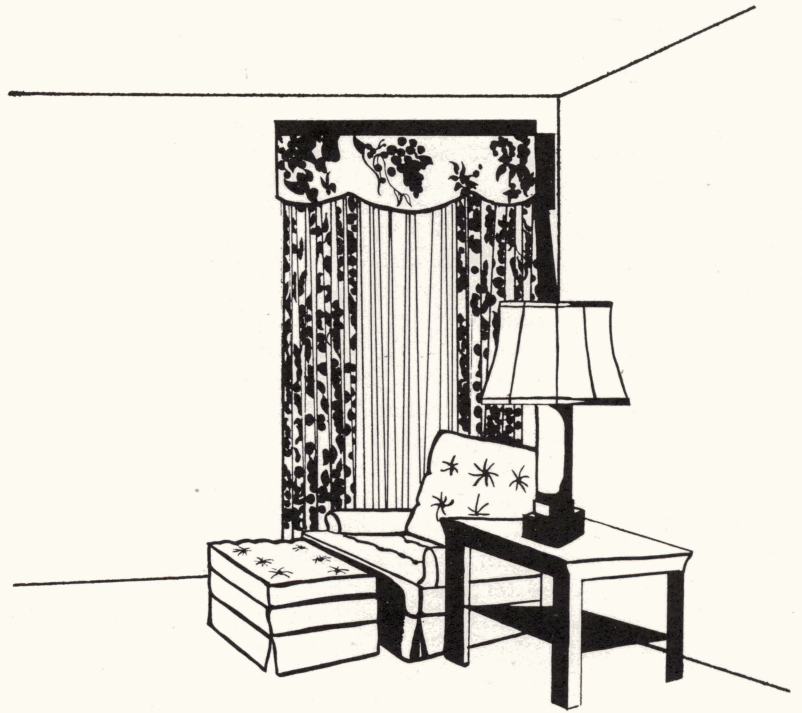
Lighting fixtures may be installed behind cornices and valances to add soft lighting to the room. This type of lighting will serve to emphasize the draperies.

When windows vary in size, shape or height, but should be the same, place fixtures and hang curtains to make them look the same. To do this, place all rods at the same height and width and make all the draperies to hang the same distance from the floor.

Walls are sometimes draped for decorative purposes only.







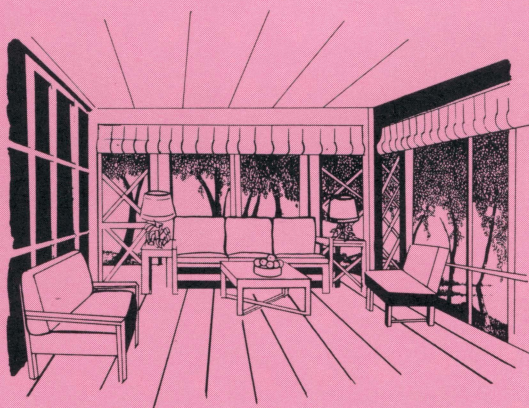
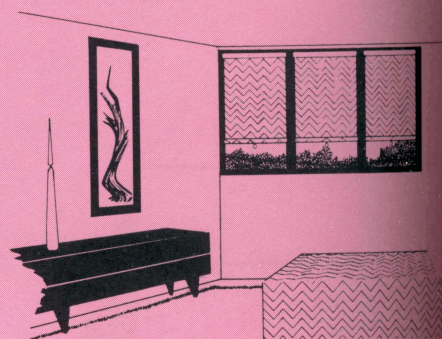


## *Shutters, Shades and Blinds*

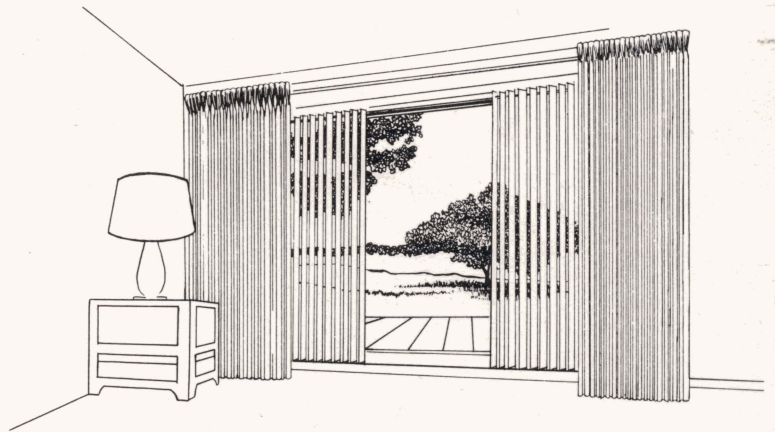
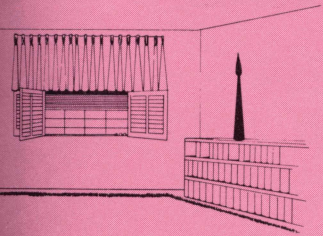
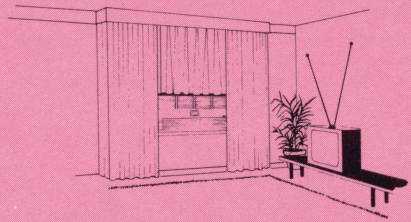
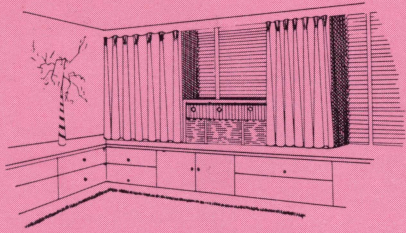
Windows using shutters, shades or blinds alone or combined with draperies are gaining in popularity. Shutters, venetian blinds and match stick blinds offer the advantage of admitting air currents and providing privacy as well as protection from sunlight. They are well adapted for use at windows that have unattractive views and those where room air conditioners are used. Some of the match stick or split wood treatments permit one to look out and still provide the other advantages just mentioned. This type of window treatment offers much variety. Shutters may be finished to match other wood or painted to blend with walls. Match stick blinds may be operated on rollers or traverse rods.

Roller type blinds may be made or purchased in a great variety of color, texture, motif and fabrics.

Horizontal and vertical venetian blinds are made of a variety of materials and are particularly adapted where privacy and ventilation both are needed.





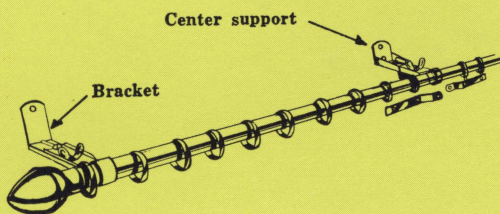
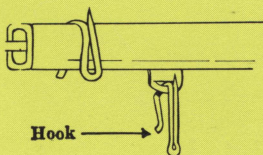
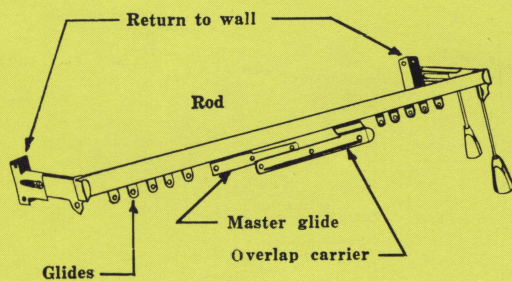
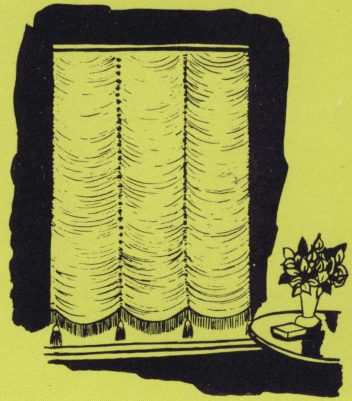




# Austrian Curtains

These may be made of sheer material and used as a glass curtain or made of heavier material and used as decorative blinds. When figured material which may show on the outside of the house is used, a lining should be attached to the material before tapes, rings and traverse cords are attached.

Directions and supplies for making Austrian curtains usually may be obtained where curtain and drapery supplies are sold.



# Drapery Rods

Whether you buy your draperies have them custom made or make your own, choose and install sturdy rods and fixtures to support the weight of the draperies and permit easy operation. Use plenty of supports correctly fastened for the type of walls you have.

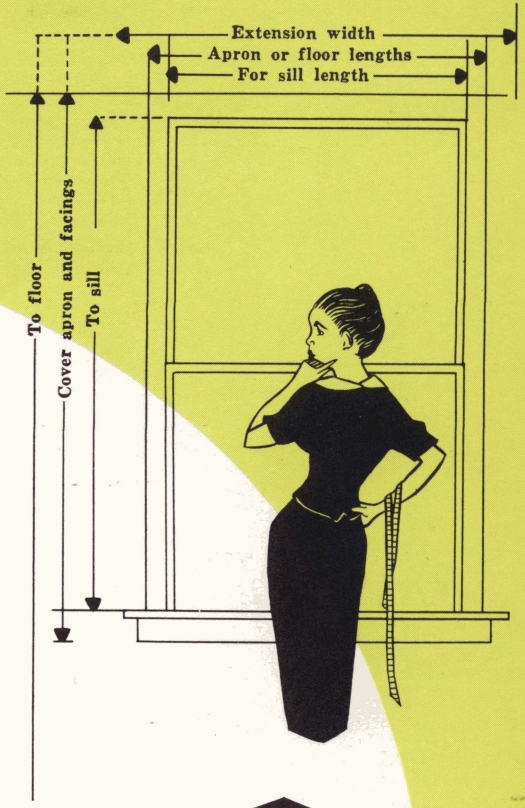
Rods with nonmetal glide rollers will not corrode or rust, and are usually more desirable than the all-metal type. Rods are available for almost any drapery need. Consult your dealer about any special problems or unusual windows. Ask to see his catalogue if he doesn't have what you need in stock.

Measure from one side of the space to be covered straight across to the other to find the length of rod needed. If you wish the draperies to hang beside the glass and not over it when drawn open, place the rods to extend over the side wall. The amount of extension beyond the edge of the glass is approximately one fourth of the total glass width on each side. The frame will be part of this amount. Very full draperies and those made of very heavy material probably will require a greater amount of wall space. The wall space over which opened draperies hang is known as stack space.



# Length of Draperies

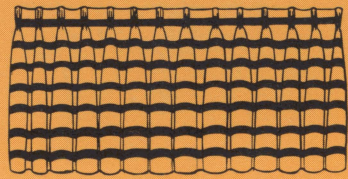
Draperies may be sill length, apron length or floor length (see figure at right). Sill length allows the apron to show and should allow the side and top parts of the window frame to show also. Apron length draperies cover the lower part of the window frame and should cover all of the window frame. Measure each window or group of windows to be draped. Windows that seem to be identical often vary in size and height.



Measure for rods first, and mount them; then measure for draperies.





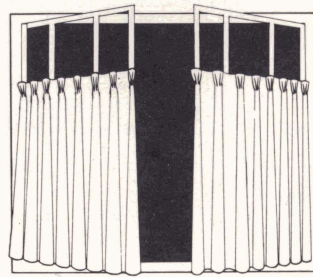
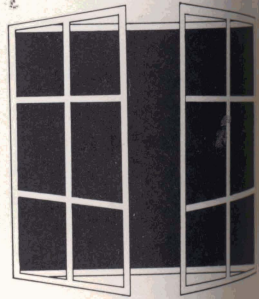


## Ready-made Draperies

Examine each ready-made panel carefully for fabric and color and workmanship flaws. Quality of ready-made draperies has improved greatly in recent years. One advantage is that ready-made panels often may be borrowed and tried in the room, making it easier to know what the final result will be.

Examine the construction carefully to see if draperies were cut straight on the grain of the fabric. See that stitching is even, end threads are tied or fastened securely. See how draperies hang. Is there enough fullness? Do side hems hang straight? Are drapery and lining materials to be cleaned by the same method? Can you buy a good fit for your windows or will a great deal of alteration be needed? Will you have to shorten and waste material? Be sure that all panels are from the same dye lot for perfect matching of color in all panels needed. If large windows or glass walls are to be covered, you may wish to join several panels. Can you make the joining satisfactorily? Will all design motifs be on a level? Finally, how much is the cost of ready-made draperies over buying material and making your own? If you lack the necessary skills, patience, time or strength for making, or if you can be just as happy with the ready-made draperies, they may be the best solution.

Hand-made or custom-made draperies may be more individual and you may be able to buy better fabric by saving labor cost and making your own draperies. Study the alternatives carefully.





COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Texas A. and M. College System and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

December 7, 1961

EXTENSION SERVICE  
COUNTY AGENT WORK

H&HF 1-12



TO: All County Home Demonstration Agents

Dear Agents:

A copy of "Beautify Your Windows and Glass Walls," B-971 is attached. Please order it from the mailing room to meet the anticipated needs of your county. This bulletin was prepared to be a companion to B-973, "Making Pleated Draw Draperies" which was sent to you September 19, 1961. B-971 is intended primarily to help women plan draperies to harmonize with their over-all interior decoration and to select ready-made draperies or materials for making draperies to meet their needs. Women who need help with planning draperies would perhaps need only "Beautify Your Windows and Glass Walls." Women who are planning to make draperies would need both.

"Making Pleated Draw Draperies" is being requested by stores who sell drapery materials here in College Station and Bryan. Mrs. Low and I believe that a number of people could be reached with this information by displaying the bulletins on posters in stores and shops where drapery materials and ready-made draperies are sold.

B-971	If you would like a copy of either of these bulletins write...
	<u>(Your Name)</u>
	County Home Demonstration Agent
B-973	or call....
	<u>(Your Phone Number)</u>

Suggestions for preparing poster for stores and shops where drapery materials are sold in your county.

We hope you will try this idea. The drawing suggests one way to prepare a display. You can think of better ways.

Please keep names and addresses of those who request the bulletins in order to know and report how many people have been reached and so that you can make future contacts with people should you desire to do so.

We truly hope that both bulletins will fulfill the purpose for which they are intended.

Sincerely yours,

*Charlotte Tompkins*  
Charlotte Tompkins  
Extension Specialist  
Housing-Home Furnishings

CT:pjg  
cc: District Agents  
Encl.

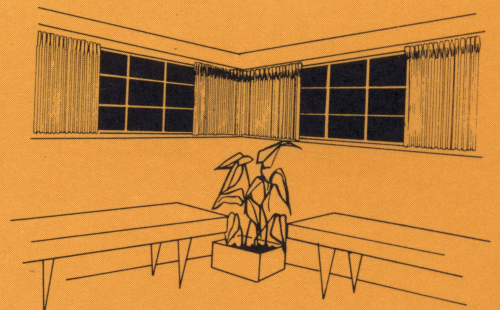
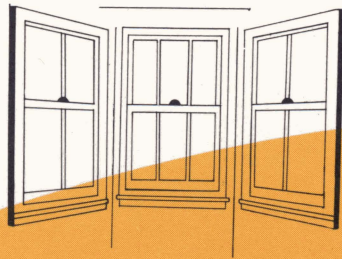
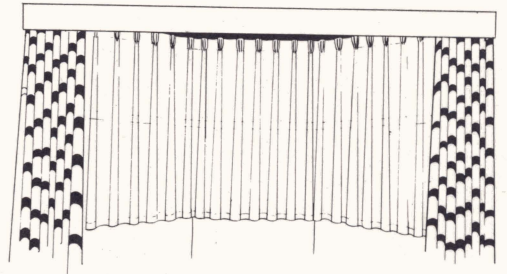
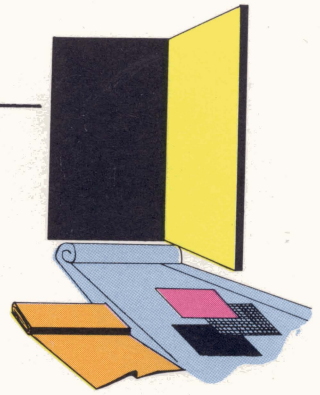


# Fabrics

Whether you buy draperies or make them yourself, you will want to know the fiber content of the fabric, the care it requires and the kind of service you can expect from it. Take time to shop for ready-made draperies or material with the color, texture and design that you want. Shop at reliable stores. Ask questions.

You are ready to shop for fabric or ready-made draperies when you know what you want, the size and number of panels needed, how much fabric is required, (if making draperies) and the amount you can spend.

Take along samples of the fabrics, wall finishes, paints and carpet colors to be used in the room. Keep in mind information on fibers, colors and finishes that affect fabrics.







When you find what you want, do some checking:

1. If it has a design, you will want the design repeats to be placed exactly the same in all panels in one room. This will be hard to accomplish and often impossible if the design is not printed straight with the crosswise threads of the material. Ask the sales person to pull a thread near the cut end of the fabric. If the design is not straight with the pulled thread, the fabric is off grain and you probably should not purchase it. Ready-mades may not hang straight either if they are not on the grain of the material.

2. Even on plain fabrics if the threads do not run straight across the draperies will not hang in straight, even folds.

3. Look at the fabric with natural light coming through.

4. Look at it in artificial light.

5. Be sure to check it with your color swatches.

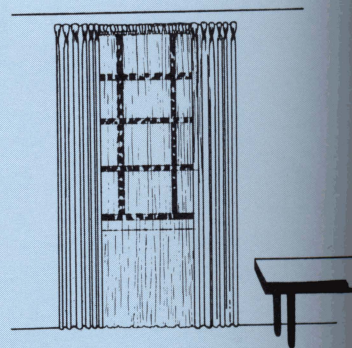
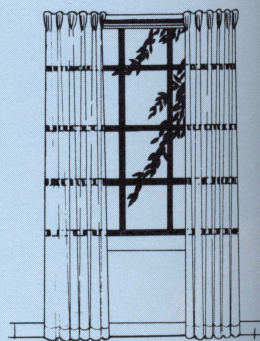
6. Read the label on the bolt, or drapery. It should tell the fiber content. Is it an easy-to-care-for fiber? Will it stretch out of shape? Is it a blend of long lasting fibers, or of widely different fibers with one likely to disintegrate because of light? Has it been treated to make it easier to care for?

7. Place fabric in folds to see how it will look when pleated or gathered.

8. Now, if you are still interested, ask to borrow a large sample, or a panel. In case the store does not have a large sample, you will be wise to purchase enough to look at it in the room where it is to be used.

Look at the fabric as the light changes throughout the day. Also, at night with your different lighting arrangements. Try it at all the windows where it will be used.

When purchasing fabric, look for flaws as the yardage is unrolled from the bolt. If the fabric is cut from two or more bolts, be sure that all are part of the same dye lot.





## *Linings*

When choosing a lining, consider the effect on the outside appearance of the house. Too many different colors in linings or unlined curtains may give the house a patchwork appearance. Pattern in drapery material should not show from outside the house. A light-weight cotton sateen made for lining draperies is used most generally.

Lining materials come in several widths. If lining material can be obtained in the same width as curtain material, allow the same yardage as for curtains, subtracting allowance for matching.

New lining materials now are found in solution dyed acetate. Vat-dyed cotton linings are available with milium and aluminum coatings which aid in regulating temperatures inside the house. Soil and water-resistant linings are desirable, especially when used with drapery materials containing these treatments.

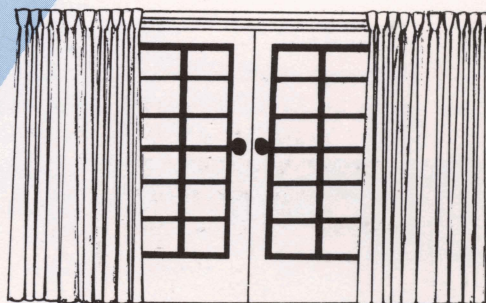
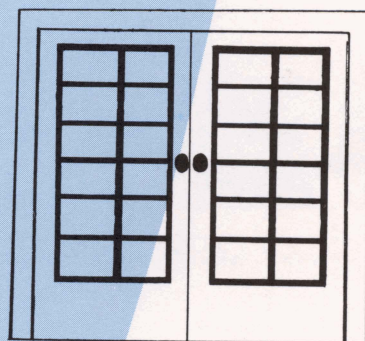
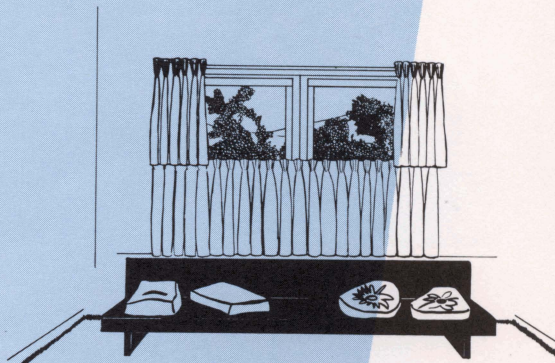
## *Kinds of Draperies*

Custom-made draperies may be machine or hand made. A representative will measure your windows and allow you to select your fabric. Your draperies will be made to fit your window measurements and usually the shop will have the completed draperies hung for you.

## *Tiered and Cafe Curtains*

Modern families may find that tiered or cafe curtains serve their needs better than the more formal, full-length draperies. Shorter curtains closed over the lower parts of windows may provide needed privacy, while upper parts of windows can be left uncovered to admit light, view or to allow for ventilation. Two or three tiers may be used. Rods of top tiers should be set so that their returns are  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch deeper than the next rod below, to allow for the overlapping top tier to hang straight down. Top tiers should overlap the next lower to cover the rod and curtain top below.

Tiered draperies may be made of sheer or heavier materials, and often have pleated headings for use on traverse rods.







### SUGGESTED READING

Faulkner, Ray and Sarah, *INSIDE TODAY'S HOME*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1960, revised edition

Goldstein, Harriet and Vetta, *ART IN EVERYDAY LIFE*, The Macmillan Company, 1955

Trilling, Mable B., and Nicholas, Florence W., *DESIGN YOUR HOME FOR LIVING*, J. B. Lippincott Co., 1953

For details on making draperies and determining the amount of material you will need to buy, see Extension publication B-973, *Making Pleated Draw Draperies*.