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EC60-1148 Selection of Window Treatment

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Selection of WINDOW TREATMENT

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Windows are important to the beauty and comfort of your home. They help control light, air and view. The most common type of window is the double-hung window, which slides up and down. Some windows slide horizontally. Casement and awning type windows swing out. Sometimes there is a combination of a fixed sash with louvers for ventilation. As you plan window treatments keep both function and appearance in mind.

When selecting a window treatment consider these points:

- Decide what the window must do.
- Consider the decorative effect.
- Consider amount of money to be spent.
- Create harmony with color, line, pattern and texture.
- Establish good proportion.
- Select suitable hardware.

Decide Purpose of Window Treatment

Window treatments include glass curtains, draw or side draperies, blinds, shades and shutters. To determine which one, or what combination to use, decide which can best:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| . Regulate light | . Unify color scheme |
| . Control air | . Create home like atmosphere |
| . Veil or frame a view | . Hide architectural defects |
| . Become a focal point | . Complete scheme of decoration |
| . Provide privacy | . Correct badly proportioned windows |

Consider the Decorative Effect

Windows are a part of the wall and should form a decorative and harmonious background for other room furnishings. As seen from the outside, the window treatment should be simple and related in color and design.

Choice of fabrics and style of window treatment is influenced by the spirit of the room. This sometimes is described as formal, informal, simple, elegant, sturdy or dainty.

When you want the windows to become the focal point draw attention to them with contrast and pattern. The use of pattern is limited when the floor covering, wallpaper or upholstery is figured. It is a good idea to try a length of fabric in the room and judge it draped at the window rather than flat.

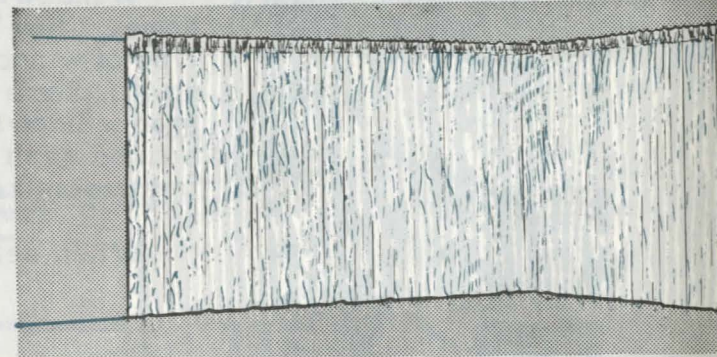
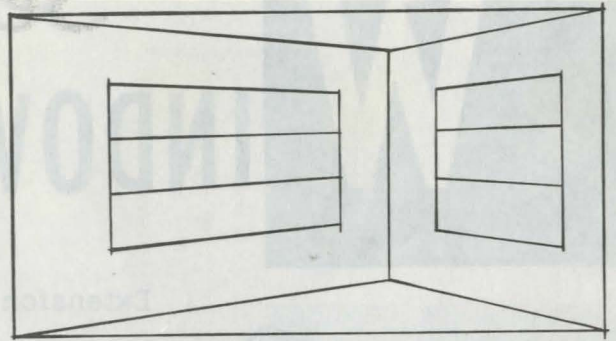
Create Harmony With Lines, Color and Texture

Careful planning is required to establish harmony of window treatment with walls, rugs and furnishings. Color, texture, lines and shape should be in keeping with the character of the room.

Window hangings play an important part in the color scheme of a room because of the large area they cover. You may want to repeat the main color in the room. Keeping the window treatment the same as the walls will help give a more spacious appearance. A fabric with two or three colors may set the color scheme for the room.

The way a fabric looks or feels should combine pleasantly with other furnishings. You will want some contrast in texture, but too strong contrast will be unpleasant. If the room is informal in character, then choose fabrics that are heavier and coarser. Coarse linen, fishnet, nubby cottons, muslins and crash may be appropriate. With formal furnishings choose more elegant fabrics such as damask, satin or lace.

Generally, the most satisfactory lines and shapes are those that emphasize and strengthen the basic lines of the window and room. Be careful of crisscrosses and diagonals.



If a figured fabric is used it should combine pleasantly with type of furnishings, size of room and size of windows. The amount of pattern already used is a deciding factor. Certain types of patterns are suitable for a given period such as provincial prints for Early American.

The size of design should be in scale with the size of the room and its furnishings. A fabric with a small design is more suitable for small rooms with small windows. Large designs require a room large enough to support the heavy, bolder effect.

Establish Good Proportion

Where should the rods be placed? What length of curtain? How wide should the cornice or valance be? Where should the tie-back be placed?

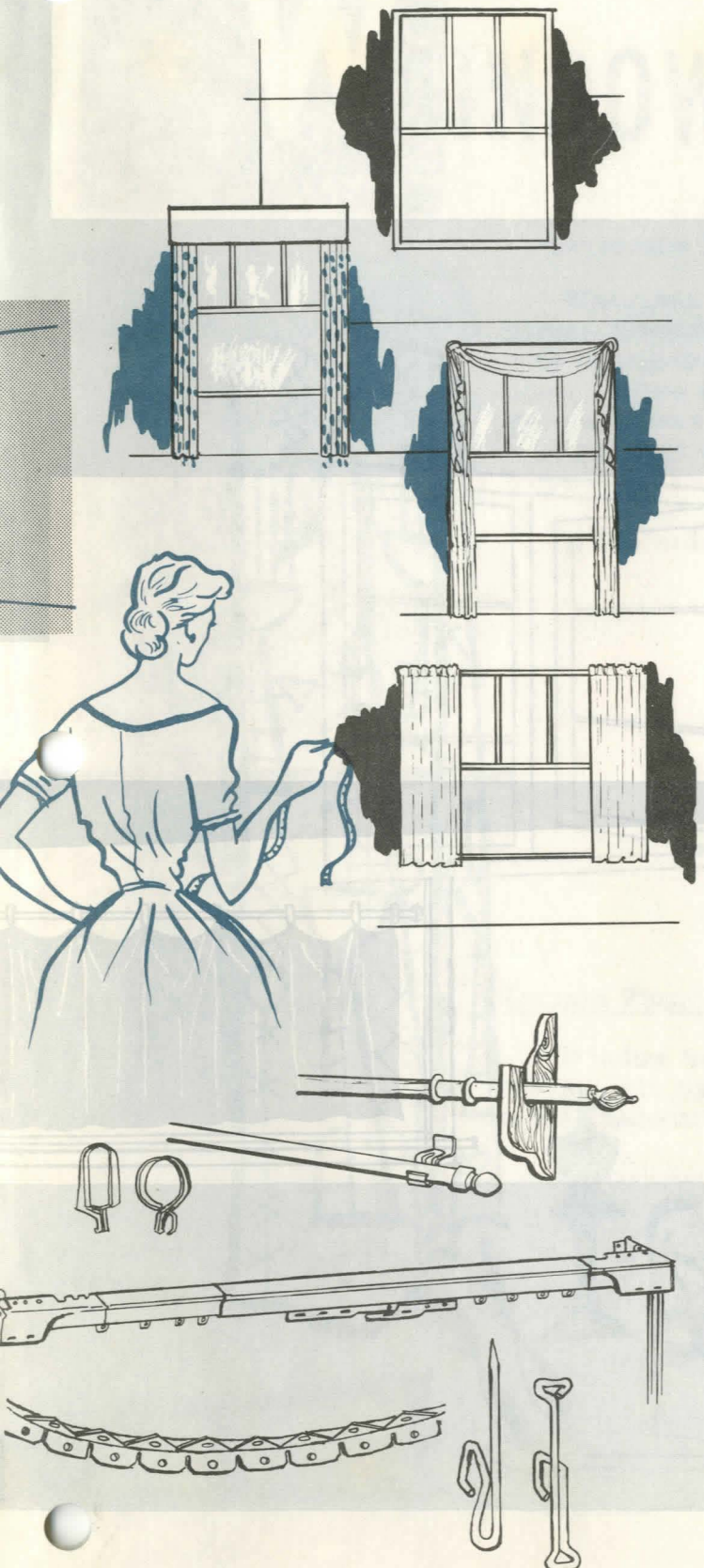
These questions can best be answered if one observes good proportions. Curtains look best if they come to a structural point such as the apron, sill or floor. Cornices and valances are useful in changing the apparent width or height of a window as well as to hide hardware and lighting fixtures. Tie backs look better when tied above or below the center.

Narrow windows look wider when curtains are sill or apron length. Floor length curtains make short windows look longer. If curtains are hung inside the woodwork, sill length look best.

Select Suitable Hardware

Good hardware is a wise investment for it is the backbone of window treatment and allows freedom in window style.

Ornate hardware may detract from a desirable effect. Traverse or regular curtain rods can be bought shaped to fit any angle. Flexible "eyelet" rods help solve the problem of curved windows. Extender plates can be attached to windows either vertically or horizontally and curtain rods can then be mounted on them to lengthen or widen the window.



Select An Appropriate Style

Odd shaped windows and those that are poorly placed may require special consideration. Many of these problem windows look best when the treatment is kept simple and inconspicuous. Some are best hidden under draw curtains that match the wall. Many separate windows in a room call for a conservative treatment. Not all windows in a room need to be treated alike, but should be related. When two or more windows are separated by a narrow strip of wall, treat them as one window. A cornice or valance can unify them.

Strip windows high on the wall and clerestory windows are primarily intended for light and may not need curtains. If you use full length draperies at strip windows fill in the space below with a furniture arrangement or book shelves.

There is no one way to treat windows. Each must be considered for its place in the room and for its function in that room. The choice will usually be satisfactory when:

- It is simple.
- The choice fits the budget.
- Plenty of fullness is used.
- It does not interfere with use of window.
- Length comes to a structural point.
- It is in keeping with the spirit and furnishings of the room.

