



Framing Your Views

By Sara Augenblick

Photographs courtesy of Stephanie Buchman

Sara Augenblick is the principal and designer at Model Space Designs, a leader in full-service custom-made window covering design. With over a decade of experience, the company provides the latest products and stylish design solutions for all your window needs throughout the GTA. www.modelspacedesigns.ca @MSD_Toronto

Window coverings can serve many purposes, from practical to purely aesthetic. Most homeowners tend to focus on privacy and light control when deciding on window treatments, while designers tend to choose window coverings based on the desired effects — softening the room, designing the space, framing the view. Thankfully, you can achieve the best of both worlds with custom window treatments, allowing form and function to coexist beautifully.

So where to begin? Choosing the right window coverings can be a daunting task for a homeowner staring down an overwhelming amount of bare windows. The key is to prioritize: I advise my clients to begin by using shades to cover the windows in the bedrooms and bathrooms being used. Since it is unlikely that colours and furniture have been finalized, avoid purchasing permanent fabric drapery treatments right away. Instead, begin with shades for privacy and sun protection, keeping them neutral and staying consistent throughout your home. This will avoid imposing limitations when it comes to selecting fabric for drapery.

Neutral shades are also the most economical and clean-looking option for getting your priority windows covered. You may want to continue with shades throughout your home, or you may opt for neutral sheers, which are great for larger windows; this will not interfere with your drapery design scheme. For a more formal look, consider Hunter Douglas silhouettes or pirouettes.

Drapery fabrics should only be selected when you are closer to the final stages of decorating. After you have carefully planned and considered the overall design of your home, I urge you to avoid simply layering your windows with skimpy side panels; they are unattractive and appear misplaced, especially on large windows. Panels should be custom made with maximum fullness in a ripple fold or top-pleated style with protective lining.





To maximize the visual impact of your window coverings, have the panels installed on the ceiling or, if you have crown mouldings, place the rod just below the crowns. If there is wall space past the side frames, extend the drapery past the frame and keep the rods small in diameter. Flashy hardware and oversized finials are a thing of the past; keep hardware slim and subtle; the fabric should be the focal point!

Choosing colours is no small task. Grey is a popular fabric colour option today, though metallics, earth and jewel tones are all gaining popularity. Don't be afraid to add texture: linen has great natural texture and organic elements, and velvet is often used for

its lavish appearance and extraordinary hang. Wool has an opulent hang as well, while silk remains a classic alternative. Prints are also a great way to add visual interest; geometric prints, Ikat, ombre and jacquard are hugely popular for panels.

Let's finally say goodbye to the ultra minimalistic less-is-more phase and embrace more warmth in our interiors. Carefully considered custom window coverings are the perfect way to add personality and high style to any space.

