

Making a Statement with WINDOW COVERINGS

BY SARA AUGENBLICK | Window treatments should be more than just a way to cover a pane of glass. Far from purely utilitarian, they can be used in a variety of ways to bring depth, dimension and drama to a space. Let's explore the various ways window treatments can help bring a room to life:

Colours and Textures

Draperies are meant to frame your windows. Much like a fine work of art is made all the more appealing with a beautifully finished frame, you can use colours and textures to enhance the look of your room and liven up your view, as well. Natural textures are a great place to start; linen, velvet and silk all have unique patterns and organic textures that capture attention and add depth and dimension. When it comes to colour, a good rule of thumb is to compliment and contrast existing wall colours. If you have light grey walls, deep grey draperies will work beautifully. There is no need to use obscenely bold colours — stick to a complimentary colour palate for a sophisticated and modern look.

Dimensions and Details

Use drama to bring style to your space — emphasize height by installing drapes on the ceiling or as close to the mouldings as possible. Insist on plenty of fullness with double or triple the amount of fabric; this will make any space feel luxurious. What's more, don't forget the details!



Use complimentary trim or banding on the lead edge of drapes to help bring attention to your windows. You can also create matching pillows to unify the style of the room and tie everything together. Remember, it's about framing your window, not simply covering up glass.



SARA AUGENBLICK is the principal and designer at **Model Space Designs**, a leading design firm specializing in full service custom made window coverings. With over a decade of experience they are known for providing the latest products and stylish design solutions for all your window needs throughout the GTA.

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Love the Light

Use the wall on either side of the window to stack drapes, allowing in as much natural light as possible. Avoid closing the drapes during the day — light is a crucial factor for helping your drapes stand out. Instead, consider other forms of light control, such as blinds or shades. And when the sun goes down, expertly placed accent lighting can work wonders by highlighting your windows.

Rules are Meant to be Broken

There are certain windows where drapes aren't necessarily appropriate — these include powder room windows, kitchen sink windows, small entrance windows and the like. Such windows are better suited

with Roman shades; they allow you to create privacy and light control while still offering the design benefits and softness of fabric window dressings. What's more, they work perfectly in smaller spaces.

Regardless of the size of your window and regardless of the view it affords, there are ways to use window coverings to truly make a statement! By following these simple rules and adding a touch of personalized details, any room can be transformed. Remember to use draperies as a way to frame your window, focusing on creating a beautiful milieu for your view. Don't be afraid to let in plenty of natural light and opt for luxurious, full draperies to highlight your windows with style!