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Window Fashions

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Window Fashions

EXTENSION SERVICE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
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Window Fashions

By MABEL E. BRYAN*

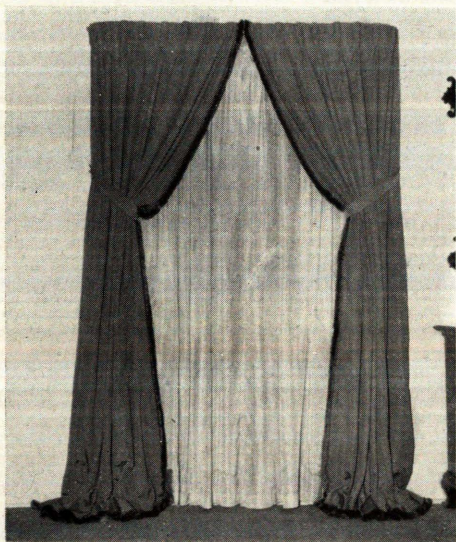
Windows let sunshine and beauty into rooms, just as the eyes let light and joy into the soul. Windows should be allowed to serve their purpose and not be overloaded with curtains and draperies. They should be decorated to create a restful and cheerful atmosphere within the room. The best treatment depends on the size, shape, and arrangement of the windows, as well as the general characteristic of the room and its surroundings.

Selecting Window Fashions

The cost, color, and design of materials are the important factors in selecting window fashions.

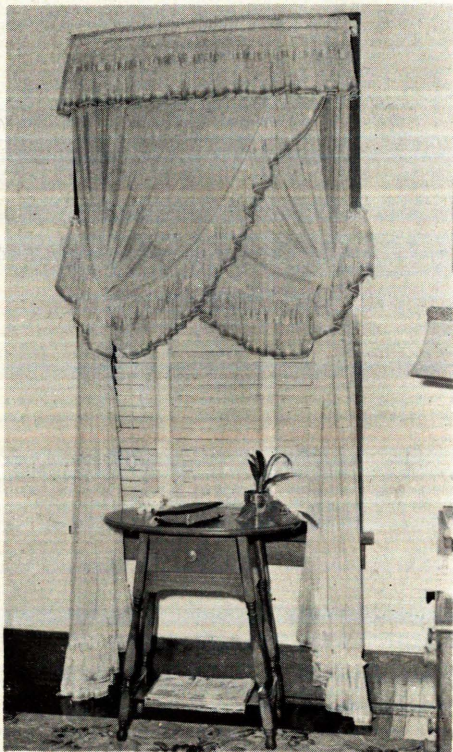
Curtains and draperies are not a cheap part of the room furnishings because of the amount of yardage necessary for each win-

dow. However, you can save money by making them yourself. Many suitable and inexpensive materials maybe found on dress goods counters. The way in which the ma-



A formal arrangement of plain colored draperies hung over semi sheer glass curtains. The draperies are made to lay in folds on the floor. The glass curtains are floor length. The draperies are finished with French pleats at the top and a fringe braid on the edge.

*Home Management Specialist



A soft feminine effect is created by these floor length ruffled curtains tied back in graceful folds.

materials are used creates the desired effect, not the cost.

The choice of color is very important for each room. In general the draperies may be closely related in color:

- To the rug.
- To the wall color.
- To a large picture.

Curtains serve to tie together the rug and wall colors.

They may become a part of the foreground by being keyed to the upholstery.

Today the tendency is to keep draperies light, and heavy dark colors are more or less outmoded.

Whether draperies should be plain or figured depends on the amount of pattern in

the room. If the walls are figured, plain or inconspicuous designs should be used.

Figured draperies can be used in a room with a figured rug and plain walls if the pattern of the drapery is very much like the rug.

Chintz for draperies is suitable with mahogany and maple furniture or in more feminine rooms.

Homespun fabrics and printed linens will harmonize with heavier furniture in the more formal room.

A small room may be made to look larger if the draperies are plain in design and match the walls in color.

If there are many windows the design should be less striking than if there are only two or three windows.

Terms Used in Window Treatment

Sash—the frame for the glass.

Sill—the piece across the bottom of the window that forms part of the frame.

Jamb—the vertical side pieces that overlap the sash.

Frame—the woodwork that holds sash, jamb, and sill in place.

Apron—the piece that supports the sill.

Baseboard—the trimming board standing upright from the floor.

Valance Board—the added piece across the top that holds the valance in place.

Shade—the roller curtain secured to the jamb inside the window frame.

Venetian Blind—a window blind made of wooden or metal slats.

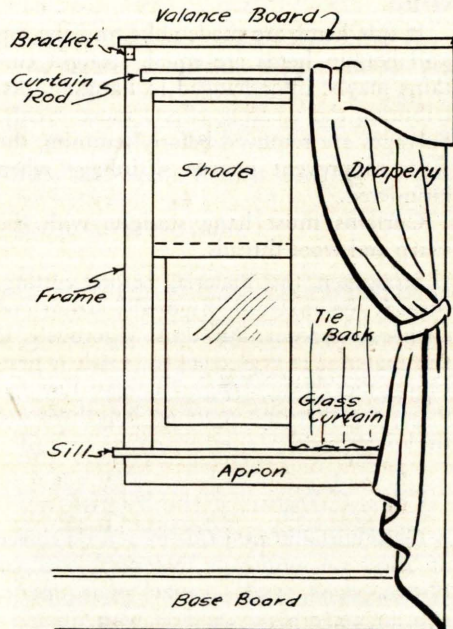
Glass Curtains—curtains placed close to the glass to soften the light and insure privacy.

Draperies—hangings placed over the frames to give a finish to the windows.

Headings—materials extending above the casing on the glass curtain or drapery.

Tie-back—a band that holds the glass curtains or draperies back to the side.

Valance or Cornice Board—the top trimming piece that is often put over curtains or draperies.



Measurements Are Important

All measurements for curtains must be accurate. Use a yardstick to measure the windows because a tapeline often stretches. It is well to measure each window separately, as they may vary in size as much as two to four inches. The width of the window is measured from jamb to jamb. The length is measured from the bottom of the rod to the top of the sill, or to the bottom of the apron, or to the floor, depending on the length desired.

To these measurements add a sufficient allowance for hems, casings, headings, and shrinkage. For sheer materials hems are made double.

The bottom hem should be wide enough to present a pleasing proportion and to give weight. Bottom hems range from $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 5 inches wide depending on the weight of the material. Side hems are from one inch to two inches wide.

If the hem is not heavy enough to hold the curtain down, a heavy tape can be inserted.

If side hems are made alike and the top and bottom hems are equal, straight curtains maybe interchanged in hanging, distributing the wearing effects more evenly. Selvages are removed before hemming the sides to prevent uneven shrinkage when laundered.

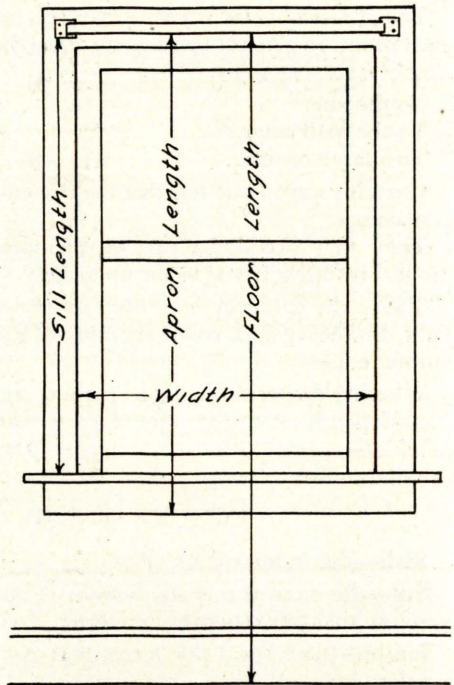
Curtains must hang straight with the warp and woof threads.

Straighten the material before cutting. Stretch the material diagonally, from one corner to another. Pull quite vigorously. If the material is very crooked, wash it first. Hang the fabric straight to dry. Lay selvages together and press on lengthwise of the fold.

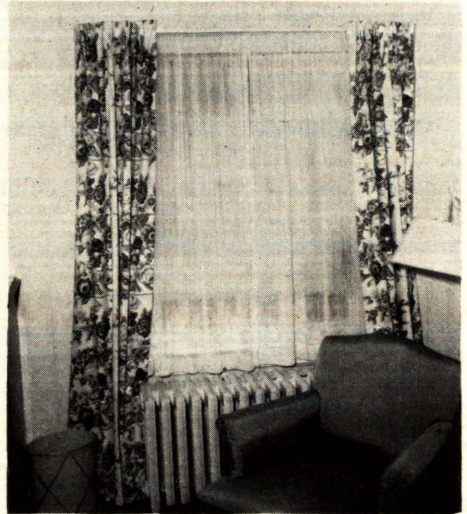
Glass Curtains at the Windows

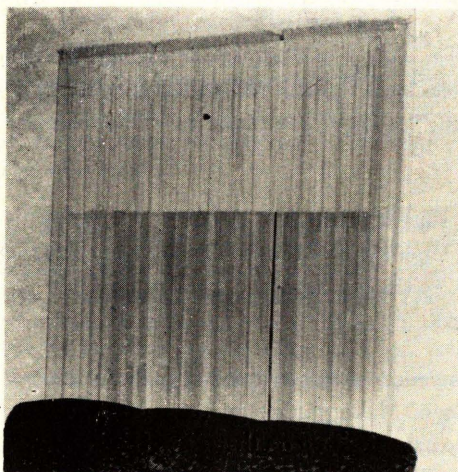
Glass curtains are made of a wide choice of sheer or semisheer materials, such as dotted swiss, voile, gauze, marquisette, muslin, net, organdy, and celanese ninon.

Glass curtains have a purpose. They soften the harshness of the window. They reduce the glare, and change the color of the



Sheer glass curtains are lovely with draperies. This window has the problem of "radiator intrusion." The bottom of the glass curtain comes to the top of the radiator and the draperies reach the floor on each side. The radiator and glass curtain harmonize in color.





Sheer glass curtains are very effective when hung alone. The fullness makes these curtains hang in graceful folds. The top is finished with a casing and heading. The color blending with the background of the room makes room look larger.

light entering the room. They give privacy. Sheer curtains let you see outdoors but prevent others looking in. They shut out undesirable views.

Glass curtains must be beautifully tailored and must be crisp and clean. They are usually hung on rods and let fall in soft folds or tied back as in the case of ruffled tie-back curtains. They may be hung alone or with draperies. It is necessary to allow for sufficient fullness. If the material is semi-sheer, 50 percent fullness should be allowed; and if very sheer allow from one and a half to three times the width of the window for fullness.

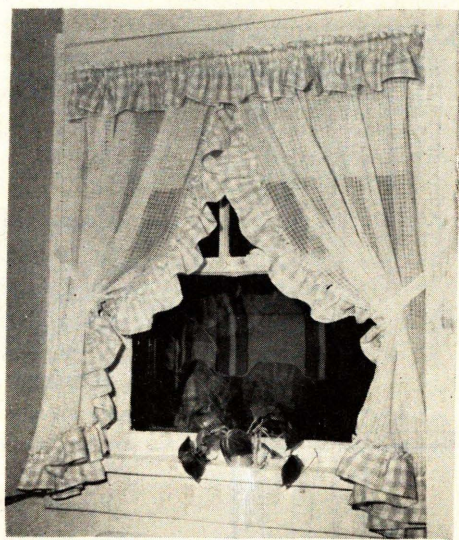
Ruffled Curtains

Ruffled curtains are hung effectively without draperies, but to be lovely they must be full and have generous ruffles. There are the two types, the ones that meet in the center and the crisscross. The rules in hanging these curtains are:

Always loop back both sides at the same height. This applies to hemmed curtains as well.

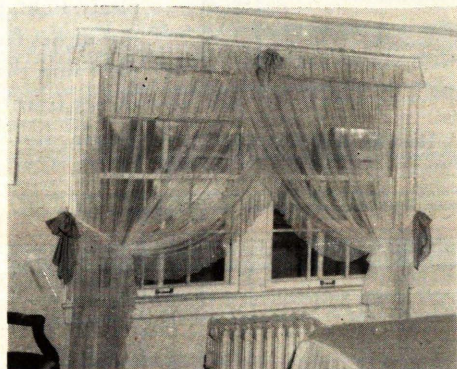
If used with draperies, curtains and draperies are looped back at the same point.

Loop them back above or below the center—never right at the center.



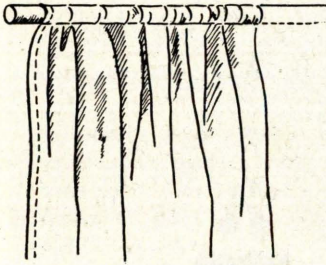
Smart ruffled curtains add grace to kitchen windows. These curtains meet at the center and are tied back below the center of the window.

If ruffled curtains are used without draperies, a valance of contrasting material is pleasing. The curtains should be floor length. To make, ruffles should be cut on the drawn thread line of the material. Hem the ruffle first, then gather. At least 100 percent fullness should be allowed in the ruffle. Join the ruffle to the curtain with a flat-felled seam, French seam; or for heavier materials use a matching band stitched flat to cover the seam.



Creamed colored net crisscross curtains hang in soft folds with colorful tie-backs. The top is finished with a narrow ruffled valance of the same material. The two windows are treated as one unit.

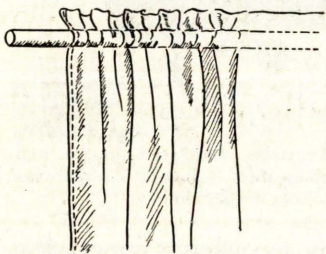
Top Finishes



Plain Casing

Casing—A plain casing is a hem wide enough for the rod to slide into easily. A $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rod will need a casing 1-inch wide. A round rod requires a casing twice the diameter of the rod.

Casing with shirred heading—A shirred heading is made by folding a hem wide enough for the casing and the desired heading. Stitch the hem and then stitch again for the casing width.

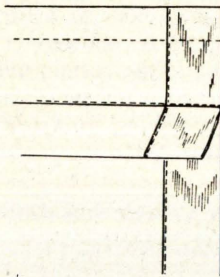


Casing with Shirred Heading

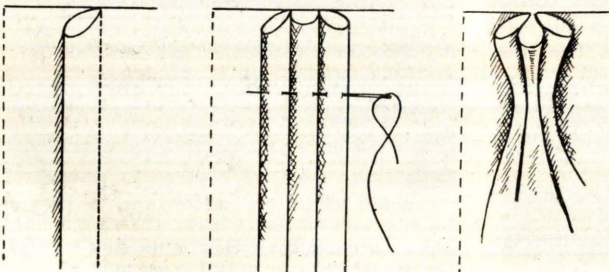
Shrinkage allowance—For each yard of material allow 1 inch for shrinkage. Make shrinkage tuck below casing, stitching over the first stitching on the edge of casing.

French pleat—French pleats often used for glass curtains as well as draperies. To determine the amount of material to be put into pleats, subtract the length of the rod and around the curved end from the width of material. A pleat should be made near each side hem and the others distributed evenly in the remaining space.

Pleats should be made in uneven numbers. For 36-inch material three or five pleats are sufficient, wider materials need five to nine pleats. The amount of material to be taken up in pleats is divided by the number of pleats, to determine the number of inches in each pleat. The first pleats are marked two or three inches from the edges. Measure exact center between the two outside pleats. The two remaining pleats are marked at center between the outside and center pleats. Fold, pin, baste, and stitch each pleat down three to five inches from the top of the curtain. Pinch each stitched pleat into three small pleats and tack the group $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches from the top of the curtain depending on depth, weight, and style of top finish.



Hem for Shrinkage Allowance



The steps in making French pleats: Make a deep pleat, divide into three smaller ones, sew them together 2 or 3 inches from the upper edge.

Draperies Are Decorative

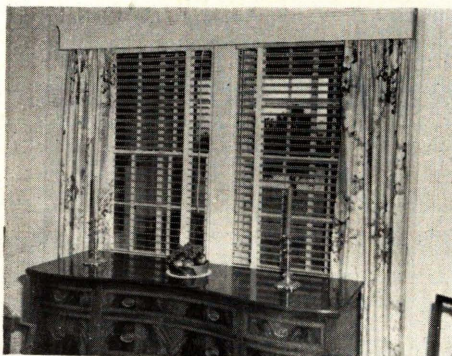
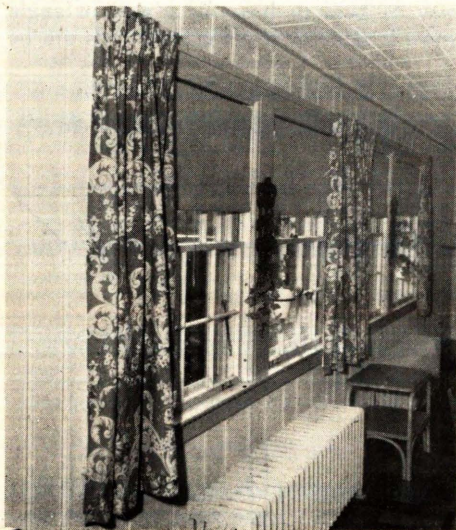
Draperies are curtains of heavier materials which are hung at the sides of windows with or without glass curtains. Draperies are treated as the background or decorative note of the room.

Measure for draperies just as you did for glass curtains, allowing enough material for the kind of top finish desired and for a suitable width hem at the bottom. Most draperies have a two-inch double hem at the bottom. In using figured materials allow $\frac{1}{2}$ -yard extra length for matching the pattern.

A full width of material is used for each drapery. Never make the mistake of splitting the narrow widths to save materials. Skimpiness of any type of curtain spoils the effect. Neither should they be so full that they appear bulky and over dressed.

In the majority of cases draperies may be finished at the top with pinch pleats and hung from rings or hooks. They may be hung straight or looped back. Valances, cornices, and decorative poles and cords give a finished appearance to the top of the window.

The windows of this sun parlor are broken up into groups by the apron length draperies. Draperies hung with shades are effective for this arrangement.



Full width draperies at each side of this two window unit make a frame for a lovely view. The cornice board at the top gives a pleasing effect with the venetian blinds.

Making the Drapery

Measure exact length of material for the drapery. It is well to use a tape measure for measuring materials as the cloth might be stretched under a yard stick. Add 10 inches to the exact length for finishing and cut on the pulled thread. Cut off all selvages and run a basting guide line down the center. Make a 2-inch hem fold at the bottom then fold again making the hem double. Two inches from the top lay on a piece of crinoline, turn 2-inch hem over it. Make a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem on the outside and a double one-inch center hem. Use a loose tacking stitch to hold hems in place. The corners are mitered to reduce bulk. The drapery is then ready for the lining.

Linings are usually made from sunfast light-colored sateen or muslin. Unlined draperies are satisfactory if the fabric is the same on both sides, if it is pleasing when the sun shines through it, or if the draperies do not extend over the glass panes. Harmonizing bindings, braids, or bands are often used as decoration on the edges of unlined draperies.

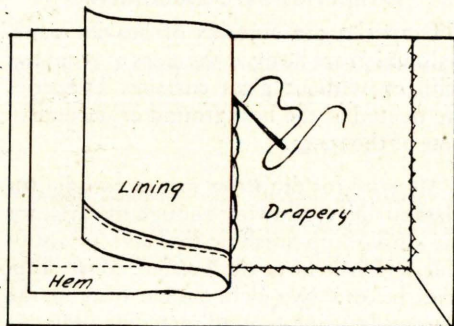


The draperies hang better and wear longer if lined. The lining is hemmed separately from the drapery.

Linings Add Grace to Draperies

Draperies are lined to protect the material from the sun, to allow the drapery to hang in richer folds, to give weight to the window effect and to add to the appearance from the outside.

The lining is cut one-inch wider and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches longer than the finished drapery. A $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hem is put in the bottom. The hemmed lining is then laid face up on the wrong side of the drapery so that one inch of the drapery shows across the bottom. Fold the lining back on itself precisely along the center and catch it to the drapery about every six inches. Be careful to keep the thread loose. Turn the edges of the lining under at the sides so that $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the drapery shows. Turn top edge under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Slip-stitch the lining to the drapery except at the bottom.

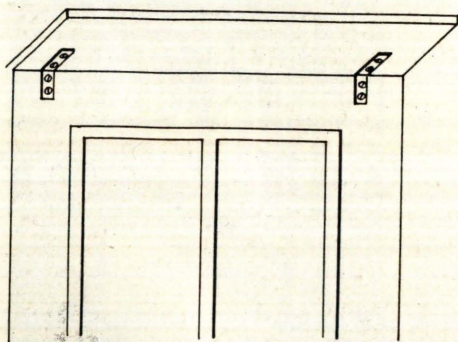


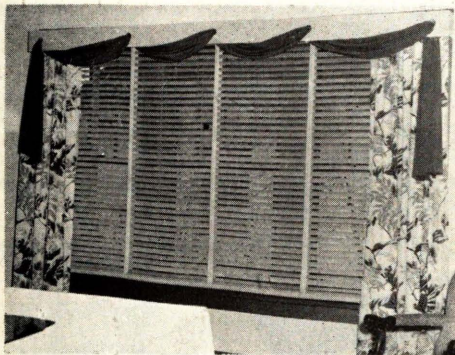
The lining is tacked to the drapery through the center.

Valance

Valances are used between draperies to form a connecting line across the top of the window, also to conceal the fixtures or woodwork. They may be made in many different styles such as pleated, ruffled, fitted, or draped. They are often used to group two or more windows to make one unit. Valances add color and apparent width to the window and have a tendency to lower the ceiling. All types of valances hang better when supported by a valance board. The simplest form is a wooden shelf, 3 or 4 inches deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick, which rests on the top of the window casing. It may be nailed or screwed into place, or it may be held in place by a pair of angle irons. Double or triple curtain rods can be used for over draperies and valances.

A valance board is fastened to the top of the window frame.





An effective valance made by looping a harmonizing material through holes in the cornice board. The cornice board made to fit across the two windows ties them together as one unit.

Venetian Blinds

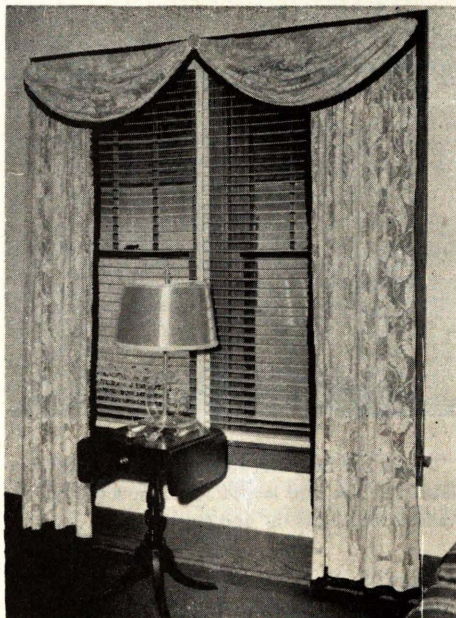
Venetian blinds are a smart addition in any room for those who like them. They are not a modern invention as they were used extensively in Georgian England and in the colonies. Venetian blinds make the regulation of light and air very easy. They maybe used as a substitute for window shades and curtains, or used in combination with glass curtains and draperies.

Venetian blinds are made of wood, metal, and plastic. They may be finished in any color to match any color scheme. Colored tapes often add a smart note when the blind is used with a drapery only and the tape picks up one of the colors of the drapery.

Cornice Boards

Cornice boards solve many curtain problems. All rods and headings are covered and there is no need for a valance. It is made of board 4 to 5 inches wide and has a piece 3 inches long nailed at right angles to each end. The ends are screwed directly to the outside of the window casing.

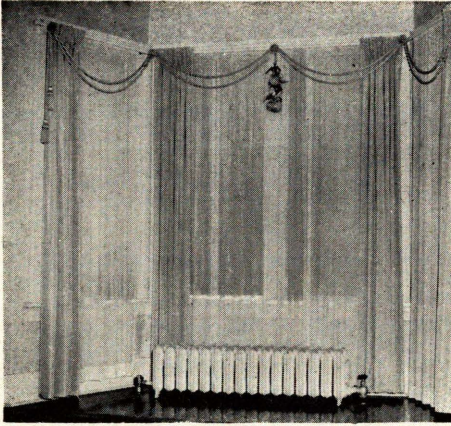
A cornice board painted to match the woodwork gives an attractive top finish, as shown on the cover page.



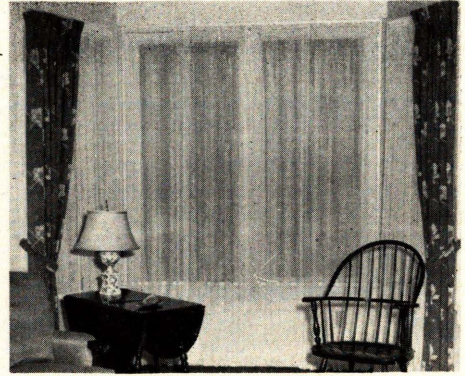
A draped valance of the same material as the side draperies gives a pleasing effect. The edges have a fringed trim. The plastic knob holds the folds in place.



Escalloped edge cornice board extended at the ends to give a finished look to bookshelves at the sides of the window.



Lovely soft draperies are hung between each window. The silk cord looped across the top forms the valance which ties the unit together.



This bay window is very effective with sheer floor length glass curtains and floor length draperies at each side.

Window Problems

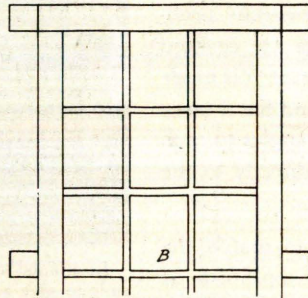
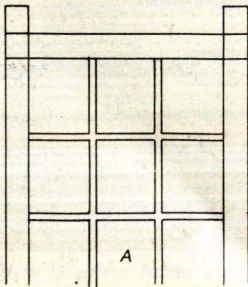
A short wide window will make the ceiling look low. To make a window appear longer and narrower, vertical lines should be emphasized. A board 2, 4, to 8 or 12 inches may be added at the top to give greater height. This board is secured to the wall and finished like the rest of the wood trim. The curtain rods are then fastened to the board.

A tall narrow window makes the ceiling look higher. To make such a window look shorter and wider, horizontal lines should

be emphasized. A block of wood may be placed outside the frame at each side of the top of the window. The blocks can be made 2 to 4 inches wide which would add much to the width of the window when the draperies are extended beyond the window trim.

Hardware

In selecting hardware for hanging curtains the best is none too good, because beautifully made curtains should be properly hung. The rods and fixtures should be fitted correctly to all windows and securely fastened.



A. To extend a window, fasten the curtain rod to blocks of wood placed at the top of the window frame. B. To make a window look wider, blocks of wood may be placed at the sides to extend the frame.

Avoid heavy, ornate fixtures which tend only to detract from the design and fabric of your curtains.

Rods come single, double, and triple. The single rod is for one set of curtains. The double ones are used for hanging curtains and over curtains or crisscross curtains.

Triple rods are for crisscross curtains and valances, or for glass curtains, overcurtains and valances.

Swinging extension rods are used for hanging curtains that are to be opened out or where more light is to be let in by swinging the curtain away from the window. Traverse rods are desirable where curtains are to be drawn at night or drawn back to let in more light.

Curved rods are used for hanging curtains to arched windows, doorways, or transoms. They are sometimes used to create an unusual effect at straight windows, as the ruffled curtains on page 2.

Poles and rings are often used for curtains or draperies that are to be pulled.

Non-sew-on hooks are used for lightweight curtains. They are hooked into the pleat of the curtain and slipped on the rod.

Tie-Backs

Tie-backs play an important part in the styling of the curtains. Plain curtains can be made attractive with smart tie-backs, which should match the curtain.

The length of the tie-back depends on the amount of fullness it will hold back. Tie-backs usually vary from 14 to 20 inches in length. Rings or loops are attached to the ends to be caught on a hook on the window frame. Ruffled tie-backs give a charming effect for ruffled or sheer curtains. The

shaped ones are suitable for draperies or more formal curtain arrangements.

Curtain Care

Clean curtains and draperies keeps the home looking cheerful. When selecting materials, keep the cleaning problems in mind. For washable ones look for materials that are preshrunk, color-fast and well made. A sure way to test for color-fastness is to wash a sample.

Glass curtains should be handled carefully when washed. First shake out the loose dirt. Measure the length and width. The stretchers are adjusted to these measurements. Sheer rayon curtains should not be dried on stretchers because the fibers are weakened when wet.

Rinse the curtains in clear lukewarm water to remove soot and dust. Wash quickly in soft hot (120 degrees—130 degrees) water with rich suds from a mild soap. For heavy soil it is better to use two quick washings then one long one.

White curtains may be soaked an hour before washing. Colored ones should not be soaked, it may cause streaking.

Rinse curtains in three waters the same temperature as the wash water. Squeeze out water and roll in a turkish towel. Unroll and dry either on stretchers or line.

To starch curtains use a vessel large enough to do all the curtains for one room at the same time. They will then have the same degree of stiffness.

Lined draperies are seldom washed. The dye may come through the lining, and the draperies might pucker because the two materials do not shrink alike. They should be dry cleaned, or ripped apart, and the drapes and linings washed separately.

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