

A window for any season.

By JOAN GARDINA

A house without window treatments is like a perfect outfit without accessories. One reason flooring retailers offer window decor is because they know the ideal time to dress up those windows is when you're doing those floors. To help you get started, here are the "top five" window treatment designs.

Begin by asking yourself if you want the eye to be drawn first to your windows or the floors. Do you want your treatments for privacy, to keep out the cold? Do you want informal or formal?

Don't forget the little extras, light-filtering or room-darkening shades and breakaway cords safe for children and pets.

Verticals. Blinds made of vertical slats rather than horizontal, in metal, vinyl wood or fabric. Available in numerous colors. If your flooring is more muted with less intense tones, avoid white, which can make a flooring look dirty or less crisp. Little window patterns tend not to compete with large patterned rugs or wood flooring, but do try to stay with colors you're using on the floor. For a custom look, retailers can add fabric, say for a summery look to coordinate with a seasonal rug or the furniture fabric.

Cellular (or honeycomb). Fabric or simulated fabric is seamed together in horizontal cellular pleats with spaces in between to trap warm air in the summer and cool air in the winter while still letting in light. These are more informal. They can fade into the background but still dress up the window. Use them to bring color from the floor up the wall giving flow to the room. Choose a rug's background color if you don't want to focus on the windows or the more dramatic colors if you do.

Matchstick. Irregular horizontal strips, often of cane or bamboo which roll up to close. These are more informal and look good with your bamboo or natural fiber floors. They are offered in standard sizes and can be cut in the store. They can look bulky when closed.

Roman. Fabric shades which fold into broad horizontal pleats when pulled up and hang flat when open. Retailers have fabrics you can choose from to coordinate with your decor; you can provide your own fabric for a very custom look. With this look, you may want to blend into the background, and the look is stunning with tile and stone floors and inviting in soft pastels.

Shutters. Available in real or faux woods, vinyl or metal and in colors. They provide lots of privacy and add an interesting touch to your window. They can look good with wood floors if they don't compete.

Check out shutter colors, shapes and styles and see if you prefer coordinated or contrasting shutters. Ask yourself if you want the eye to go to your windows or the floors. Add drapes for a touch of color to blend in with your flooring and draw the eye from the floor up the side of the window. 🏡



Top: Roman-style. Left, Cellular shades. Right, Verticals on the door; sheer horizontals on the windows.

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