

## Dressing your windows for success



Neil Gordon, owner of Decorating With Fabric in Monsey, says his staff offers in-home consultations. "We'll have to see what the room looks like, how the light comes into the room, how they're living in the room, how they plan on living in the room, tying in, perhaps, the area rug on the floor, pulling out certain colors," he said. "That's how we then determine what colors we'll bring in so there's a variety of ways of doing it."

Mark Vergari/The Journal News

Choosing from a wide array of options can be daunting, but decorating experts are ready to help you put it together

Mary Shustack  
The Journal News

A new home offers a blank slate for decorating, though it might first feel a bit stark.

One of the easiest ways to cozy things up — or freshen up when it's time to sell — is to pay attention to the window treatments.

Swags and panels, blinds and shades can help set the tone of a space, make the surroundings feel lush and luxurious or bold and modern.

No matter which theme is chosen, window treatments are instrumental in helping transform a house into a home — and adding value to the space, as well.

Navigating the world of window treatments can be daunting, though.

After all, just take a look at "The Design Directory of Window Treatments" by Jackie Von Tobel (Gibbs Smith, publisher, \$60). The book is nearly 600 pages long, is accompanied by a CD-ROM and explores more than 350 individual components that can be used when decorating a window.

But Karen Kline, a designer who owns Spice Hill Interiors in Ossining, says the category also offers a unique opportunity.

"Window treatments can be strictly utilitarian but more often, they are probably the best way to add texture and softness to a room that otherwise is all hard surfaces," she says.

So start the process, whether it be with silk drapes or wooden shutters, sheer panels or stretches of brocades.

Following are just three of the many places in our area to shop for window treatments:

### It's all about the material: Decorating With Fabric

For those who feel they don't know anything about window treatments, Neil Gordon has a suggestion: Use the words window fashion instead.

"When you think of window fashion, you really think of how you're decorating your window," he says.

Gordon, the owner of Decorating With Fabric in Monsey, is ready with countless options. Hundreds of swatch books fill his showroom, complemented by hardware and embellishments, shades and blinds.

The design staff offers in-home consultations.

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There's also an on-site workshop, and all installations are completed by the company.

"We have control from day one until the day it's installed," he says. "We have a real niche."

Gordon seems almost destined for the home-decorating business. Longtime Rocklanders will remember Gaylin's, a Nanuet housewares and decorating store operated by his parents for some 30 years.

Gordon knows customers have to rely on his expertise: "You can't see what you're going to buy from me until the day we install it."

So he's always sure to ask questions about light, privacy, use, decorative taste and budget.

Although the work is custom, it doesn't have to be expensive.

He says, for example, a 42-by-54-inch faux wood blind for a single window could cost \$150.

And there are even a few techniques that benefit those counting their pennies.

"You can, for example, use a more expensive fabric that you've perhaps fallen in love with but perhaps use it on a cornice, which takes very little fabric as opposed to swags or jabots which would take a lot of fabric."



A finial can add a decorative touch to a window treatment.



### On the Web

For two video segments on window treatments, visit [www.lohud.com/video](http://www.lohud.com/video)



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