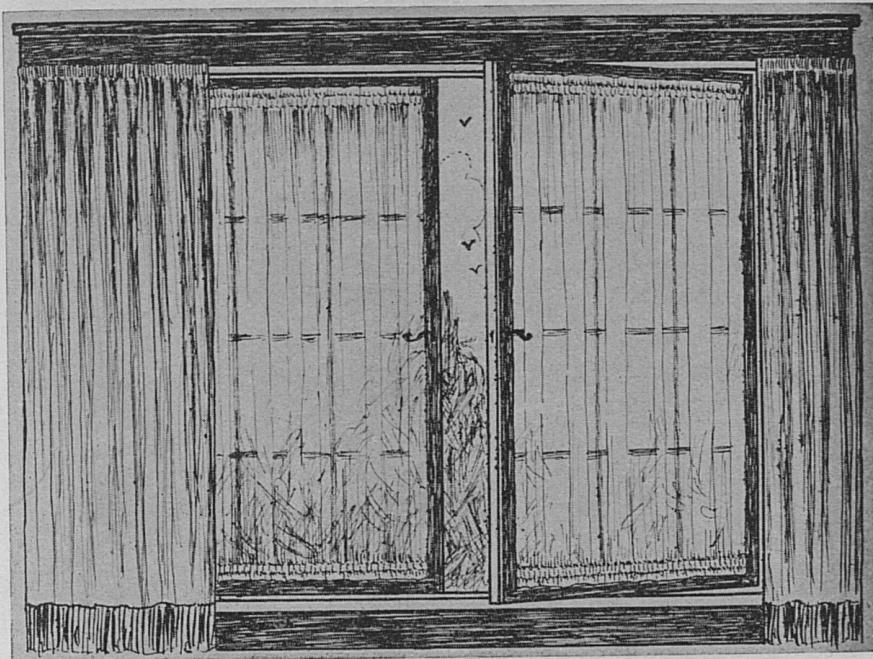


UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
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WINDOWS AND THEIR DECORATION



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CIRCULAR NO. 191

Windows and Their Decoration

By MARY MAY MILLER

Curtains soften the light, add privacy to a room and, whether used with or without side draperies, may add to the decorative beauty of the room. Unless curtains or draperies are hung at the window, a room looks bare and uninviting.

CURTAINS AND DRAPERIES FOR THE LIVING ROOM AND DINING ROOM

Glass-Curtains. Under most conditions, the glass-curtains in the living room and dining room should hang in straight folds to the sill or bottom of sill-apron. If they are hung over

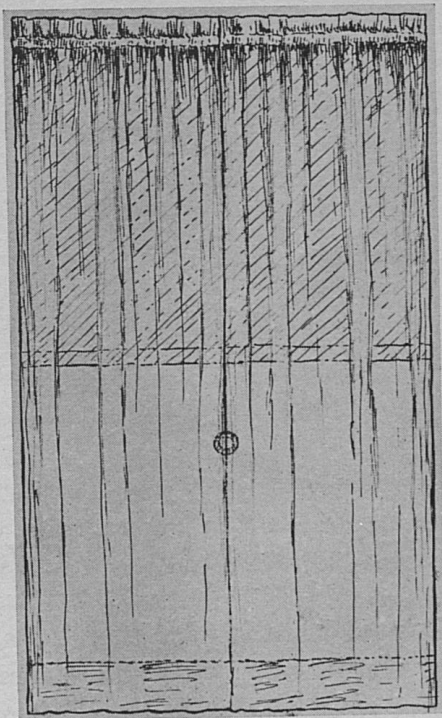


Fig. 1. Glass-curtains made of plain, open mesh material provide privacy without interfering with the restfulness of the room or with the outside view.

the glass, they should be made of plain, open mesh material that will not interfere with the restfulness of the room and outside view. See figure 1. Figured glass-curtains are somewhat disturbing; they keep out light and are too conspicuous.

If the amount of light in a room is limited, the curtains can be pushed aside and a Dutch valance can be hung between the curtains to conceal the exposed rod. The depth of the finished valance should be about one-fifth of the length of the finished curtain. See figure 2.

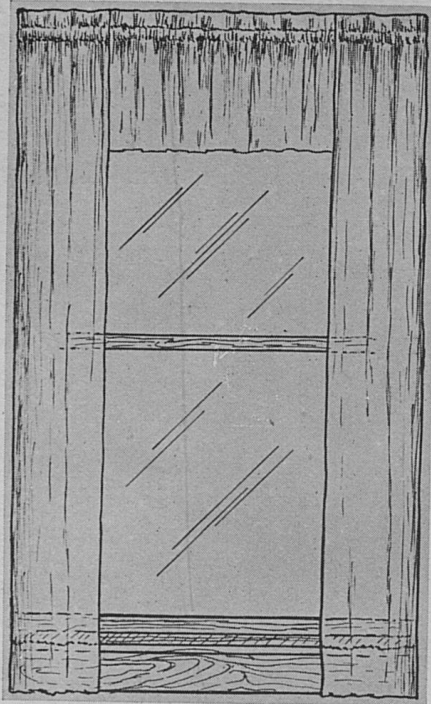


Fig. 2. The glass curtains may be pushed aside and hung with a Dutch valance when the light is limited. Draperies may be substituted for the glass-curtains when color is desired.

Some of the favored materials for glass-curtains are mercerized and silk nets, marquisette, voile and scrim. They should be held before a window in order that the effect of daylight may be seen before a selection is made. Cream or ecru curtains of firm texture harmonize with the formal furnishings of the living

room and dining room. White curtains do not blend with dark furnishings as the contrast is too great. Then, too, the resulting glare is more or less trying to the eyes.

Draperies. Color may be introduced into a room by the use of draperies. These may be used without glass-curtains when the amount of light in the room is limited. They may be caught back with cuffs or hung in straight folds with most of the window exposed. Brightly colored materials with light background will add cheerfulness to a dark room.

When side walls are somewhat neutral in color and design, figured materials will introduce interest. See figure 3. Under most conditions, it is advisable to use draperies containing large figures only in a spacious room and draperies with small figures in a room where there are several windows in proportion to the wall area.

Plain draperies usually are desirable when the walls and rugs are figured or when furniture is of mixed styles and figured upholstery is used. This is especially true when the room is rather small. When the walls are figured and a rich effect is desired, plain sun-fast velour for the lambrequin with striped damask for side draperies produces a very pleasing combination.

Expensive materials should be used only with rich furnishings while materials such as cretonnes, satines and casement cloth are suitable for draperies in rooms containing simple, inexpensive furnishings.

Light-weight materials should be lined since much of their beauty is lost thru the filtration of light. The lining should be of plain color and of about the same weight as the drapery. Unbleached muslin makes a satisfactory lining for cretonne draperies. The lining should be stitched with the top hem of the drapery. The sides of the lining should be overhanded to the sides of the drapery. The bottom hems of the lining should be left loose.

Very heavy materials such as velour, velvets and some damasks may be split into lengths that are 18" wide. Most cretonnes, satines, unbleached muslin and similar materials re-

quire lengths that are 27" wide. Thin materials such as used for glass-curtains should be 36" wide when used at the average sized windows which are about 34" wide. There should be two lengths at a window. Pleasing window treatments can never be secured when the materials are skimped. It is always desirable, when money is limited, to use one of the inexpensive materials and plenty of it, rather than a costly piece which must be split in order to make it go further.

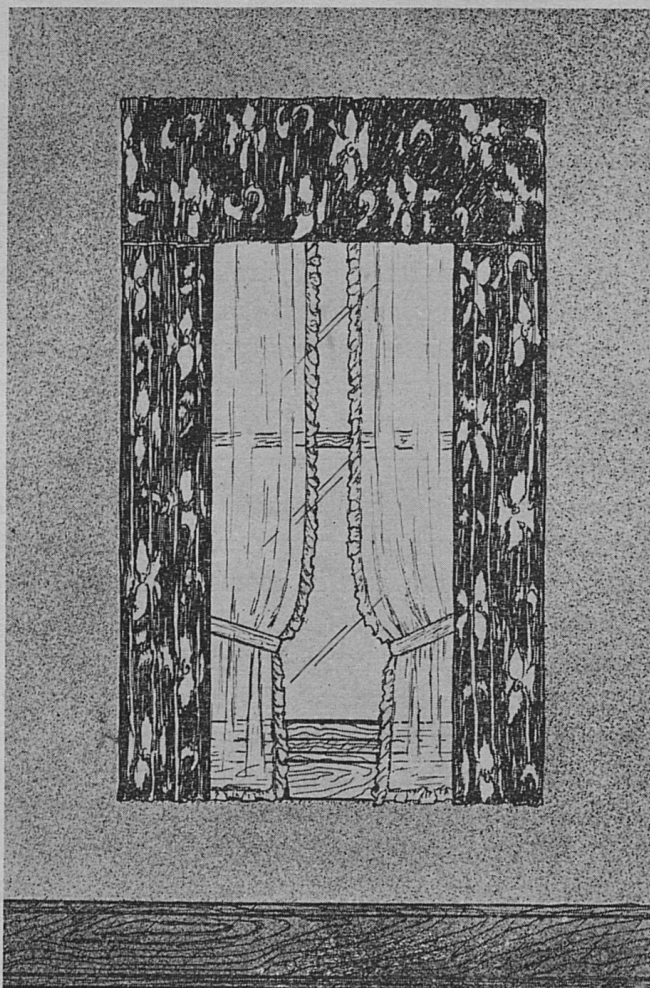


Fig. 3. Figured draperies add color and interest when the walls and furnishings are somewhat neutral in color and design. They may be used without glass-curtains when light is limited. The shade may be concealed behind the valance.

CURTAINS AND DRAPERIES FOR BEDROOM

Glass-Curtains. The glass-curtains in the bedroom may be allowed to hang in straight folds or may be caught back with cuffs or tie-backs. The tie-backs should be quite long (about 16") so that there will be a soft, gradual curve rather than the definite V angles which are not in harmony with the shape of the window. See figure 3. It is sometimes necessary to push the curtains apart and to use some kind of valance in order to avoid the V angle. Tie-backs should be placed about one-third the distance from sill to the middle of the window frame. Tie-backs and valances may be used to cut the apparent height of the windows.

Ruffled curtains should always be used with tie-backs and at reasonably small windows. See figure 3. They are especially attractive for use at the windows of colonial homes. They are not in harmony with the formal, long, narrow windows.

Windows look best from the exterior if all of the glass-curtains are made of similar materials and are hung in the same manner. Shades do not detract from the appearance when they are alike in color and are kept at the same height during the day. See figure 4.



Fig. 4. Windows look best from the exterior if all the glass-curtains are made of similar materials and are hung in the same manner. Shades do not detract from the appearance when they are alike in color and are kept at the same height during the day.

Materials for bedroom curtains may be marquisette, grenadine, dotted swiss, scrim, voile, dimity and many others. If dotted materials are chosen, they should be pushed aside or caught back with tie-backs. Plain materials will not interfere with the restfulness of the room or the outside view. White, cream or colored curtains may be selected for bedroom curtains.

Draperies. The draperies for bedrooms should be in harmony with the walls and furnishings. Unbleached muslin combined with bright gingham can be made into attractive draperies for use in the simple, inexpensively furnished bedroom.

Light-colored cretonnes and chintzes can be purchased in many pleasing color designs. The bedroom curtains and draper-

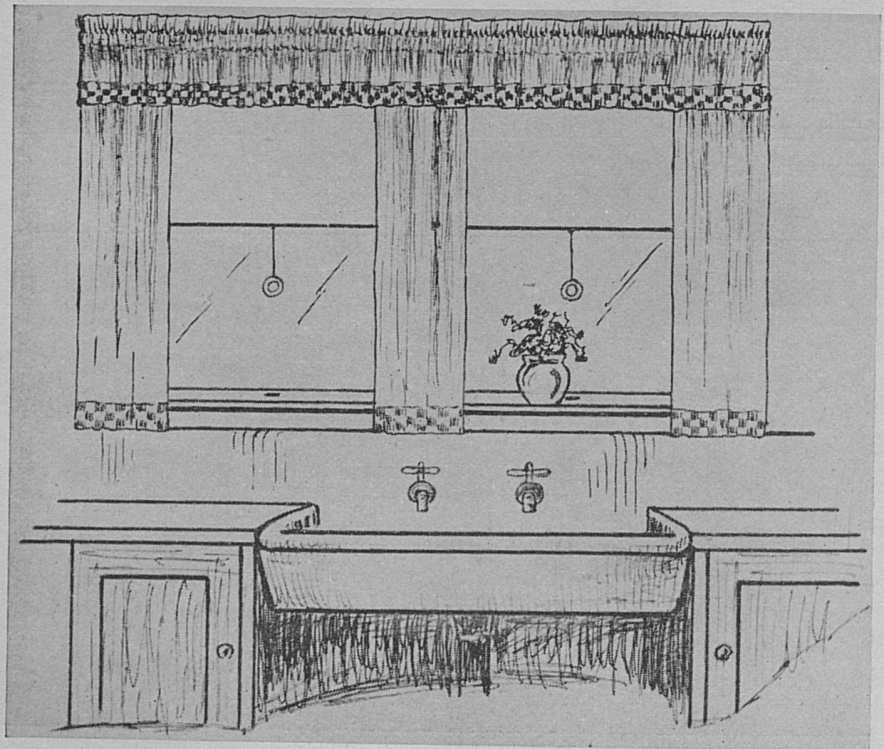


Fig. 5. Attractive kitchen curtains may be made of unbleached muslin trimmed with gingham. They will not obscure the light when pushed aside. Tie-backs may be used when desired.

ies usually are made of sheer, light-colored materials while the curtains and draperies for living-room and dining-room should be deeper in tone and firmer in texture.

CURTAINS AND DRAPERIES FOR THE KITCHEN

Glass-Curtains. It is sometimes desirable to use glass-curtains at the kitchen windows in order to secure privacy or to obscure an unsightly view. These curtains may be sash length or may be hung from the top of the window-frame. They should be made of materials that will withstand the stress of repeated launderings.

Draperies. Side draperies of unbleached muslin combined with a valance of bright-colored gingham may be substituted for the glass-curtains when the latter are not needed. They may be pushed aside so that they will not obscure the sunlight and may

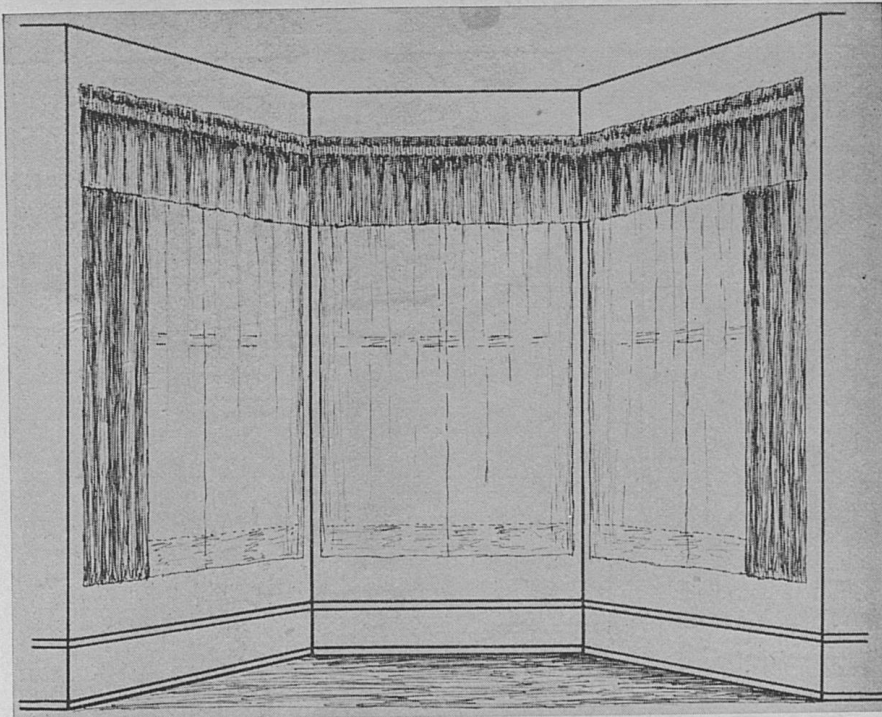


Fig. 6. The treatment with glass-curtains at each window and a continuous valance with side draperies is satisfactory for the average bay window or group of windows.

be caught back with cuffs or tie-backs of the gingham or of the muslin piped with the gingham. See figure 5.

CURTAINS FOR THE BATH-ROOM

The curtains for the bath-room should be of rather sheer, white material that will withstand repeated launderings. They should be in keeping with the smooth, white walls of the bath-room, producing the effect of cleanliness. Dotted swiss, marquise and scrim are suitable materials for bath-room curtains.

SPECIAL WINDOW AND DOOR PROBLEMS

The Bay-Window. The most pleasing and successful way of draping the average bay-window is to provide a pair of glass-curtains for each window. The group may be treated as a unit when the side draperies are hung. The continuous valance or lambrequin which extends across the top of the window group aids in securing this effect. See figure 6.

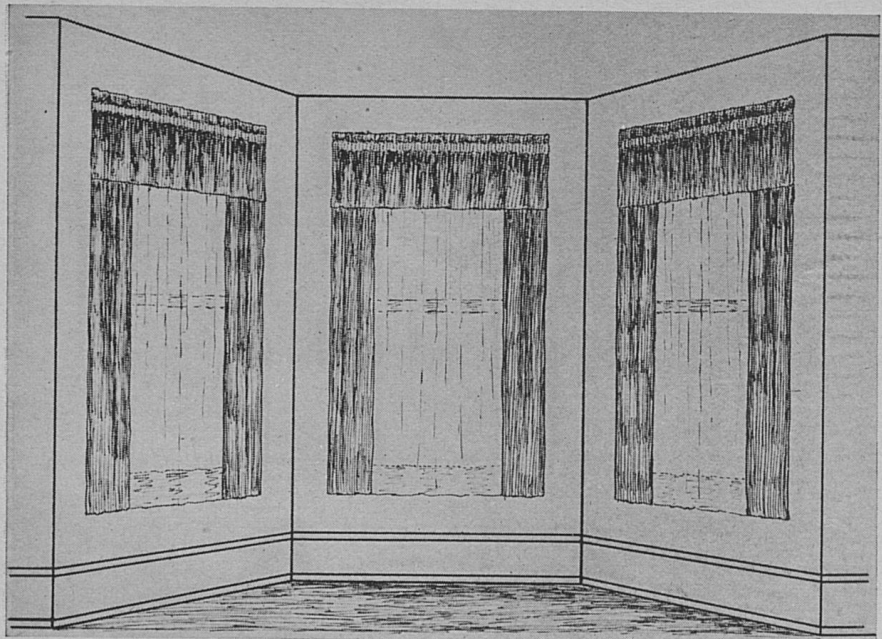


Fig. 7. When the windows in a group are separated by considerable woodwork each window should be draped separately. Glass-curtains should extend all the way behind draperies when both are used at the window.

When there is a great deal of woodwork or wall space between the windows which form the bay, each window should be treated separately. See figure 7. Since rods may now be purchased for almost any kind of window problem, it is possible to treat the bay-window as attractively as any other window in the house.

Casement Windows. If the windows open in, the glass-curtains should be shirred over rods at top and bottom. The rods should be fastened to the windows. Draw-curtains may be substituted for the shades. See figure 8. If the windows open out, a satisfactory treatment may be secured by using only draw-curtains.

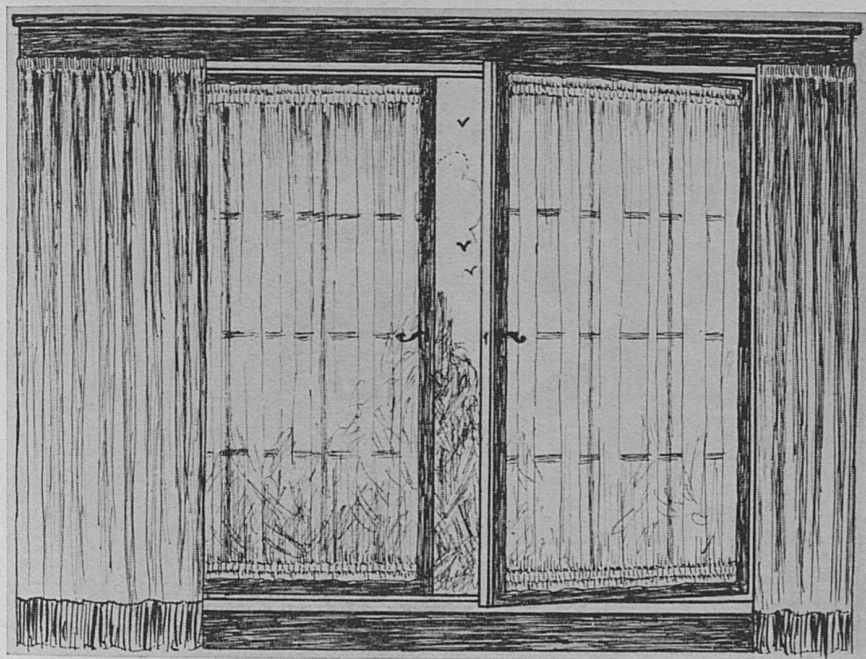


Fig. 8. If the windows open in, the glass-curtains may be shirred over rods fastened to the sash and draw curtains may be substituted for shades. It is desirable to use the draw curtains without glass-curtains when the windows open out.

Draw-curtains should be hung by means of rings that will slip easily on the rods. The top hem should be pinched into 1 inch plait about 5 inches apart. A ring should be sewed to

the back of the curtain at each plait. More rings are required for light-weight materials than for heavy-weight materials.

Long, Narrow Windows. Width may be added to a window by extending full side draperies beyond the casing so as to expose all the window glass. Special fixtures for this purpose are now on the market. Materials with large designs against a light background help to add breadth to a window. The complete valance and wide tie-backs (6 inches) of contrasting material seem to shorten the long window. See figure 9.

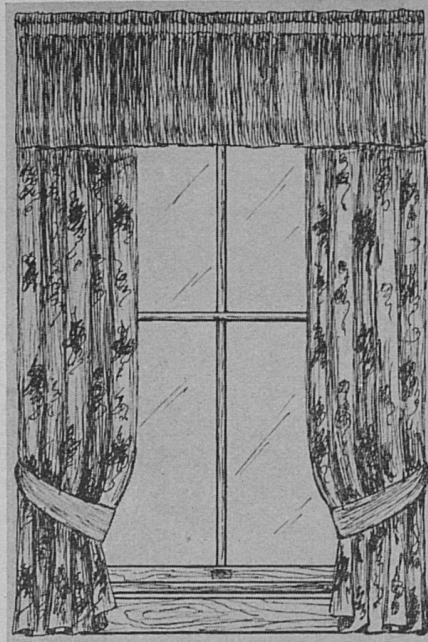


Fig. 9. The complete valance and wide tie-backs of contrasting material seem to shorten the long window. Large designs, also, seem to decrease the height. Long, narrow side draperies of plain or striped material seem to add length to the short window.

Short, Wide Windows. Apparent length can be added to the short window by the use of long, narrow side draperies of plain or striped material. The valance, if used, should be placed above the window with the lower hem extending just to the glass. The tie-backs, if used, should be narrow (2 or 3 inches) and should match side draperies.

French Doors. It is essential that the location and purpose of French doors be considered when determining the type of curtains to be used. French doors connecting living-room, dining-room or hall may be treated with a sheer gauze, net or light-weight casement cloth to harmonize with the window treatment. The material may be shirred on to rods top and bottom or hung on rings. The former treatment is preferable and may be placed on either or both sides of the door. See figure 10.

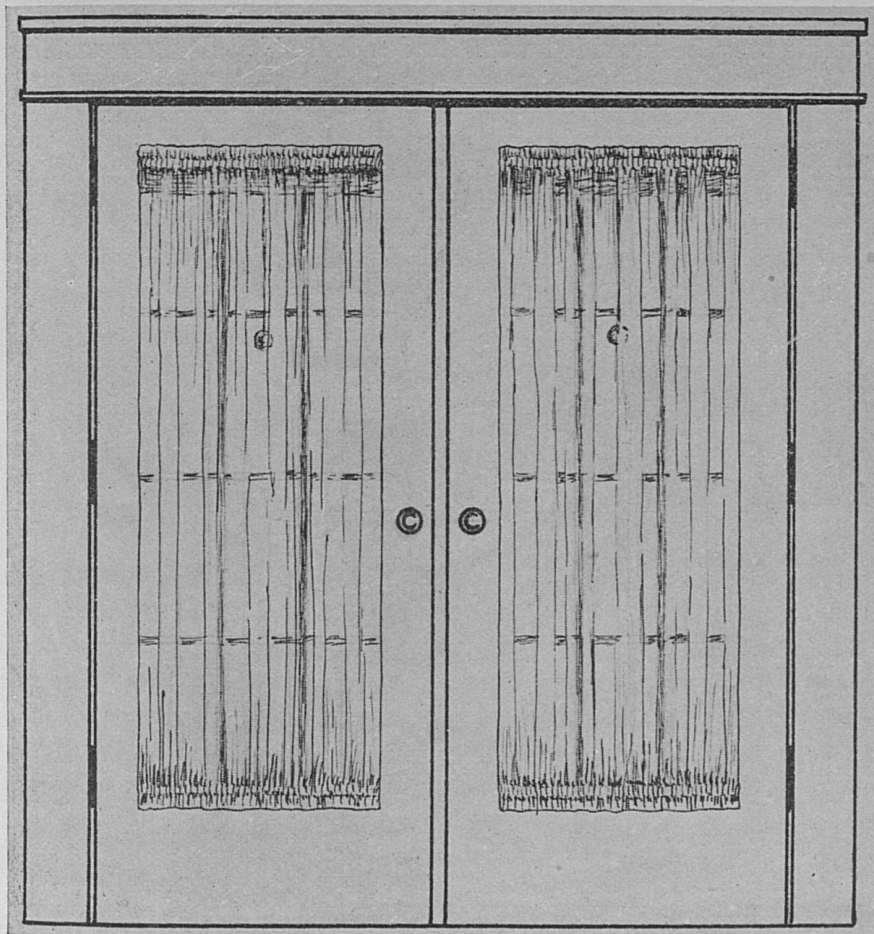


Fig. 10. Thin materials may be shirred on to curved rods placed over the shade which, when drawn, will come between the curtains and surface of the door. This treatment is the simplest and most attractive for French doors.

If one of the rooms is furnished with a couch or davenport and is to be converted into a sleeping-room at night, the thin materials suggested above may be shirred on to curved rods placed over a shade which, when drawn, will come between the curtain and the surface of the door. See figure 10. If shades are not to be used, and the doors are to be closed, they may be equipped with portieres of heavy material lined to harmonize with the window treatment. These portieres should be operated with draw-cords from the sleeping room side.

French doors and doors with glass panels which lead to the outside may be provided with shades and shirred glass-curtains to match the material used at windows in adjoining rooms. See

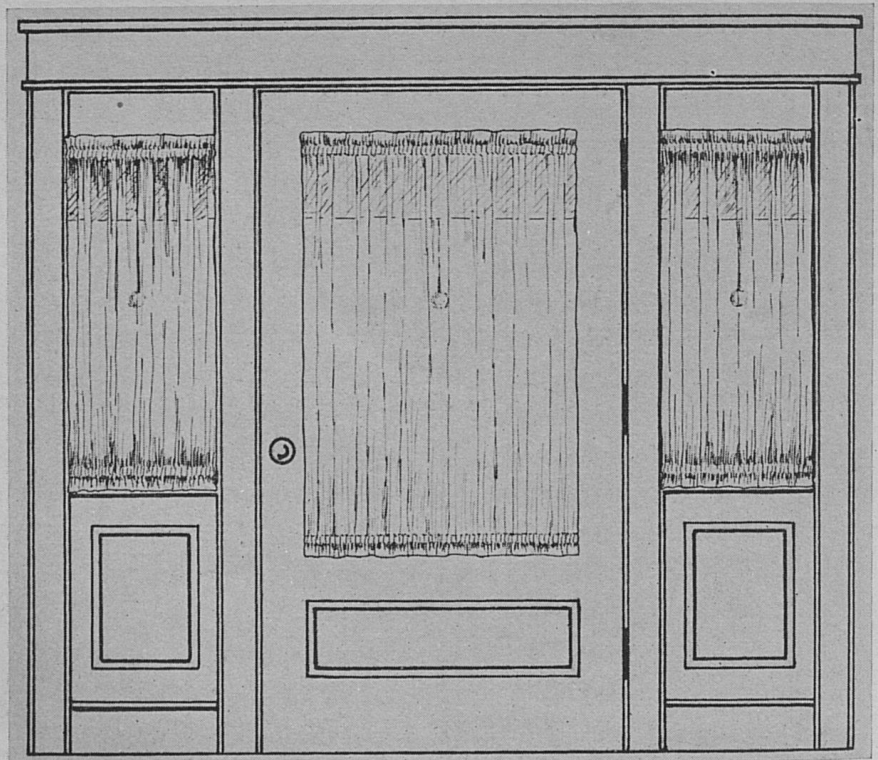


Fig. 11. The material used over the glass of outside doors may be selected to match the material used at the windows of adjoining rooms. It is desirable to use curved rods so that the shades may be placed behind the curtains.

figure 11. Doors should not be draped with elaborate draperies and tie-backs. See figure 12.

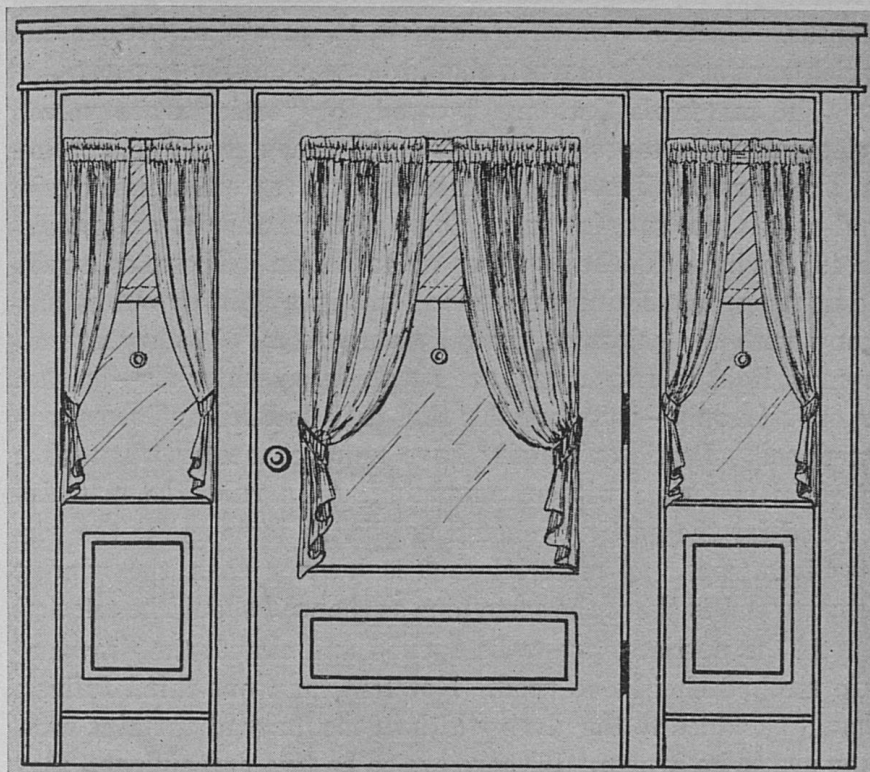


Fig. 12. Simplicity is always in good taste. Doors should not be draped with elaborate draperies and tie-backs such as are pictured above.

The same treatment may be used for the transom as is used in the glass panel of the door. Transoms above all-wood doors do not require curtains.

Openings Between Rooms. If the opening between the rooms is poorly proportioned and lacks distinction, it usually is possible to remedy the defects by using a suitable draping treatment. In selecting the materials for portieres, it is well to avoid vertical stripes for a long, narrow opening, since stripes accentuate the height of the doorway; likewise, cross stripes on short, broad openings should be avoided as they decrease the apparent height and increase the width.

Since portieres may be considered as dust-catchers, it is advisable that they be dispensed with unless they are needed to provide privacy or protection against drafts during the cold months. Materials which are somewhat smooth in texture and which may be easily cleaned should be selected for portieres.

The materials that are favored for portieres are velvet, velour, damask, tapestry, monk's cloth, fancy reps and poplins. In summer, the light-weight fabrics, such as cretonnes, denim and sateen, are satisfactory. Some of these fabrics are double-faced, having a finished surface on each side. These, as a rule, do not require a lining unless too light in weight or out of harmony with the colors of the adjoining room. If they are extremely light in weight and are single faced materials—finished on one side only—it is desirable that they be lined and sometimes interlined. Portieres usually have more character when made of plain materials without trimming. As a rule, the materials selected for the portieres should not be the same as for the window treatment. A material that is heavier than the window drapery and is about the same tone as the wall should be selected.

If the portieres are to be opened and closed, the draw-curtain method should be used. Not less than one-third fullness should be added to the given width in the finished curtains when they are to be drawn. If there are to be two curtains and they are not to be drawn, each curtain should be 36" wide. If it is necessary to hang a portiere in a doorway that is only 30" wide, a single curtain made of 50" material may be used. Portieres should hang about 1 inch from the floor.

RODS

The flat rod with curved ends, single or double, is the best type for all-round use. For casement windows and French doors small, round rods with holes in the ends and hooks to hold them in place are satisfactory. These rods hold the curtains close to the window. However, if it is necessary to use shades on doors, it is best to use the curved rod which will hold the curtain away from the glass, making room for the shade. A

shade placed over the curtain rather than underneath mars the appearance of the room. Rods for portieres should be of wood and fastened in brass or wood sockets. Rings which will slip easily should be used on them.

SHADES

Use. Shades are placed at the windows for the purpose of regulating the light and for privacy. They may be drawn in the summer to exclude heat during the hottest part of the day. The habit of drawing shades in order to darken a room during the day is a harmful one. The sun rays, when not intense, should be permitted to penetrate into every corner of a room, if possible. The sun will benefit the colors in most rugs.

Selection of Shades. Since cheap shades crack easily and soon pull out of shape, it is economy in the end to buy the best grade. Two-tone shades are very desirable since they may be selected to harmonize with the interior and exterior surface of the house. When practical, the shade should be the same tone as the walls of each room. The shades at all windows should be of the same color on the outside. It will add to the appearance of the house if they are kept at the same height. See figure 4.

Window shades should be made to roll easily. In general, they should be rolled up half way in long windows, three-fourths the way up to the top at short windows in order to admit sunlight and in order not to interfere with outside view. The shades may be concealed behind valances during the day. See figure 3. Cords to match the shade are a convenience and preserve the shade by preventing careless handling.

Glazed chintz shades may be used to advantage in breakfast-rooms and some kitchens. They can be used with or without the plain curtains of scrim, muslin or dotted swiss. They add color and are attractive when kept at the mid-rib during the day. These shades can be removed for laundering when necessary.

**SPECIAL POINTS TO BE OBSERVED IN TREATMENT OF
WINDOWS**

1. Glass-curtains, which are hung next to the glass for the purpose of softening the light, providing privacy, and adding interest to the room, may be made to extend from the top of the window frame to the sill or the stool under the sill. Since they usually draw up after hanging a short time, it is desirable to put in the bottom hems a few days after the curtains have been placed at the windows. They may be hemmed at the windows.
2. The material for glass-curtains should be free from spots and figures in order to admit light, create a restful effect at the windows and not interfere with the view outside. Cream curtains create a softer light in a room than white curtains.
3. Draperies should be provided when there is a lack of color in the room. A figured material should be provided with neutral, uninteresting walls while the plain material is desirable with figured walls. Tie-backs, when used, should be rather generous in length so as not to produce too much of a break in the line of the draperies.
4. The valance, when made of the same material as the side draperies, may be used between the draperies only. When it is not made of the same material as the curtain or side draperies, it is necessary to have the valance extend all the way across the window.
5. The finished valance should be about one-fifth of the finished curtain. From one-half to two-thirds the width of the window should be allowed for fullness.
6. Headings, when used in a glass-curtain or light-weight drapery, should be about one to one and one-half inches in width. They should not be so wide that they will not stand up straight. Thin materials lack body and should have headings that are only one inch wide. Headings produce a finished effect and make the curtains hang in softer folds than when the curtains are used without headings.

7. A group of small windows which are short but extend over considerable wall space may be treated by using the curtains or draperies at each window in the group.
8. Two windows in a group of average proportions may be treated singly or as a unit.
9. Tie-backs, when used, should be placed at a point about one-third the distance from the sill to center of window frame.
10. Glass-curtains should extend all the way under side draperies when both are used at the same window.
11. Curtains for adjoining rooms should be similar in texture.
12. The windows will look more attractive from the outside as well as inside if the glass-curtains are hung alike and as nearly as possible made out of same material.
13. Window shades should be made to roll easily. They should be rolled up half way in long windows, three-fourths the way or up to the top at small windows so as to admit sunlight. They may be concealed behind valances during the day.
14. The habit of drawing shades to darken rooms during the day should be discouraged. It is desirable during hot weather only.

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