

NZHOUSE

FEBRUARY
2015

& GARDEN

INSPIRING HOME LIFE

GARDEN GURU
LYNDA HALLINAN'S
BRILLIANT BACH
(all done in 6 months)

OUT *of the* BOX

A TEENY-TINY
HOME & OTHER
SURPRISING SPACES

SIDE BY SIDE
3 FRIENDS;
3 STYLISH
APARTMENT'S

CURTAINS
OR BLINDS?
EXPERT TIPS
ON WHAT TO
CHOOSE

CLEVER
WAYS WITH
PEACHES
& PLUMS

YUMMY
ONE-BOWL
DINNERS



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SPECIAL FEATURE

SURFACE PARADISE

When it comes to covetable wall and window treatments, we're spoiled for choice

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STYLING JUSTINE WILLIAMS





THIS PAGE Harlequin's Jardin Bohème collection is a modern bohemian fusion of floral designs, casual stripes and embroideries as well as bold wallpapers, in a versatile palette ranging from brights to vintage hues; from Malcolm Fabrics, available at Lahood Window Furnishings.

OPPOSITE (clockwise from top left) Jeff 1-6734-052 fabric, Bomlo tie-back and Wonderful sheer fabric, all by JAB Anstoetz from Seneca; Avoca fabric in Marine from Warwick; (lying flat under bowls) Élitis Parfums wall covering from Seneca; Impressions bowls \$34.95 for set of four from Freedom; (bottom right corner) Artisan Stripe wallpaper in Indigo by Threads for GP & J Baker from Warwick; Varanasi Eclipse wall covering by Black Edition from Seneca; paint samples: (two in a dish) Resene 'Blumine' and Resene 'Norwester' and (bottom centre) Resene 'Prussian Blue'; (bottom left corner) China Club fabric in Indigo by Diane von Furstenberg for Kravet from Warwick; (snakeskin self-pattern) Rosslyn Kintail fabric by Nina Campbell from Seneca.

HOW LUCKY WE are to have such an extravaganza of choice when it comes to wall and window treatments. But such abundance often brings indecision in its wake: paint or paper or a bit of both; drapes or blinds or a combination of the two? It's enough to cause a severe case of interior-design inertia. Susan Templer of Templer Interiors has pondered such questions for several years and here shares her thoughts and ideas on the subject.

WAYS WITH WALLS

- We tend to focus on colour when choosing paint, but texture plays an important role too. Investigate the range of textural paints now on offer, including milk paint, which gives an antiqued look, and limewash, which gives a mottled matt finish. There are even paints that replicate zinc, tin and stainless steel.
- Feature walls are still popular and they are an easy way to use a colour you love. They add impact without requiring too daunting a commitment.
- Don't forget you can use colour to highlight an architectural feature, such as a fireplace or wall with alcoves.
- Wallpaper tends to be more expensive than paint, so it's a bigger financial commitment. Most people, although they may back

themselves with a paintbrush, will prefer to pay for professional paperhanging. On the plus side, wallpaper can bring unbeatable personality to rooms.

- Many recently released wallpapers are all about texture, so you don't have to use pattern or make a big flourish. There are some that look like leather, crocodile skin, pebble or linen, for instance.
- Smaller rooms, such as powder rooms and studies, suit a wrap-around cocoon of wallpaper. Larger rooms, not so much.
- In general, tiny patterns look more tailored and classical, while larger prints suit modernist or modern homes. >



LEFT (clockwise from top left) Staveley Damask fabric in Paprika and Burr Velvet fabric in Ruby, both by Mulberry from Warwick; paint sample: Resene 'Lusty'; Anguille wall covering by Élitis from Seneca; curtain rod POA and Floret finial \$147 from Gracious Living; Silhouette Stripe wall covering in Red/Gold and (lying flat) Willow Fern wall covering in Red/Gold, both by GP & J Baker from Warwick; Athina Stripe fabric in Red/Ginger/Plum by Mulberry from Warwick. **BOTTOM LEFT** Clarke & Clarke's Kashmir is a classic crewel embroidery collection produced on rustic linen in a variety of ethnic-inspired designs, both floral and geometric; from Villa Textiles, available at Lahood Window Furnishings.

WAYS WITH WINDOWS

Drapes, blinds or shutters? Full-length curtains or puddled on the floor? Susan Templer shares her thoughts on window treatments:

- So you think you want drapes, but have you considered how the walls of the room are laid out? In other words, is there somewhere to stack the drapes when drawn? New Zealand homes are often designed with swathes of windows and sliding doors. Are you willing to stack them over the glass? Homeowners certainly don't want to be pulling curtains aside every time they step outside.
- Venetian blinds with wide slats are a good option for windows where you don't want to lose the view. Venetians can be used to control light and also allow good airflow that is important for a healthy home.
- It's a valid idea to custom-paint timber venetian blinds to match the wall colour so they blend in with the decor, especially if you are using them in a smaller room.
- A good combination to consider in bedrooms is a diaphanous roller blind used in conjunction with heavier drapes on a track above it. This way you can let the light into the room during the day (while maintaining privacy) and draw the curtains at night to darken the space and help keep the heat in. Double blinds – one see-through, the other with blackout backing – can be fitted on one track and serve the same purpose.
- Drapes soften a room but tend to make a space more formal. And when you have a very wide bank of windows, using drapes can be overpowering. In this case, consider blinds for a streamlined, modern look that's not imposing.
- To give the impression that a room is larger, take the curtains all the way up to the ceiling or at least above the height of the window frame. This technique lessens the visual "choppiness" of the decor.
- Heavy pooling of curtains on the floor is something reserved for show homes. Most people don't want to pay for all that extra fabric to puddle on the floor or the cat to sleep on.
- Always take curtains to the floor, even if the window stops halfway. *Always.*
- Shutters are an appropriate addition to the street facade of a Victorian villa as they are likely to fit with its architectural detailing. If you have a double-storey villa, you could team shutters downstairs with wide-slat venetians in the upstairs rooms, as this would be more economical. >

