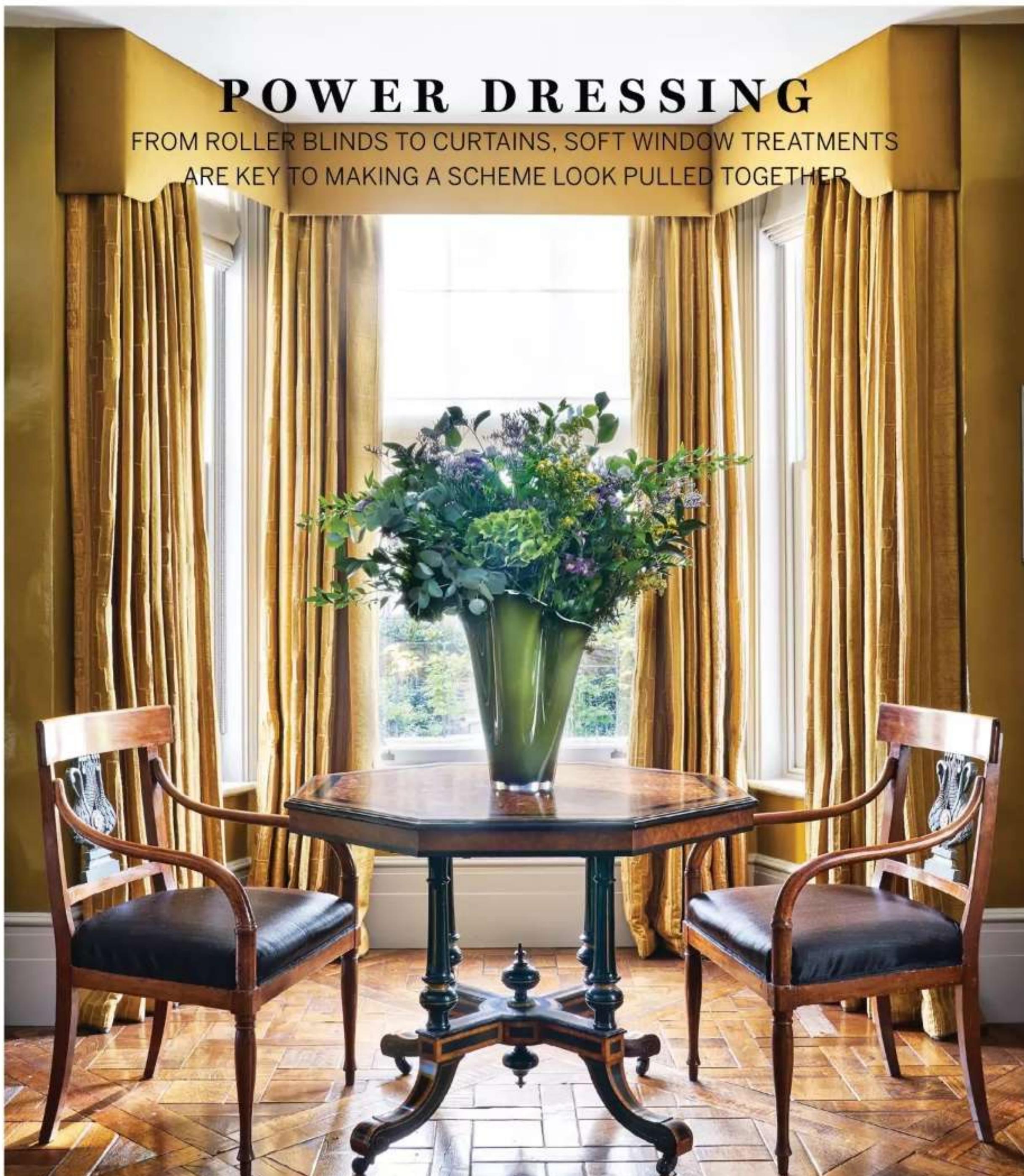


POWER DRESSING

FROM ROLLER BLINDS TO CURTAINS, SOFT WINDOW TREATMENTS ARE KEY TO MAKING A SCHEME LOOK PULLED TOGETHER



FEATURE Y'VETTE MURRELL PHOTOGRAPH DAVIDE LOVATTI/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

GOLD STANDARD

A pelmet, also known as a cornice board, is a box frame used to conceal the top of curtains, and is commonly found in classic interiors. Pelmets can be made by using foam core or plywood to create a structure which can either be painted a similar tone to walls, or upholstered in fabric to match the curtains. Though largely decorative, they also offer insulation around windows, which is why they are popular in older buildings such as this Kensington house. Here, interior designer Christiana Syrris, then at Studio Indigo, used a mustard hue both on the walls and the window dressing. This provides a modern twist while also adding depth and interest within a singular colour palette. →



"IT'S IMPORTANT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STYLE OF THE BLIND IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE WINDOW AND THAT THE SCALE OF THE DESIGN COMPLEMENTS THE OTHER FABRICS IN THE ROOM"

JANIE MONEY, associate director, Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler



THINK PINK

These curtains in Osborne in Red from Blithfield make a statement alongside the Iznik wallpaper in Madder Pink from Rapture & Wright at The Fabric Collective. The secret here is to keep the density of colour the same. A table breaks up the intensity of pattern.

FEATURE LENGTH

Floor-to-ceiling curtains can create a sense of height, and a contemporary solution is to hide the track in the ceiling cavity. The Vedra Amarilla curtains from the Livingetc collection for Hillarys cost around £511 for a 254x183cm piece of fabric, including measuring and fitting.

EMBELLISHED EDGE

'I often use a sheer Roman blind within the reveal and a more decorative design on the outer,' says Janie Money, associate director at Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler. Shown is Carsina fabric in Red/Sage with Corin braid trim in Tomato/Teal, both Colefax and Fowler.

PHOTOGRAPH (THINK PINK) JAN BALDWIN/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM



DOOR TO DOOR

The requirements of a window dressing will vary from room to room, but they are all designed to provide levels of privacy, shade, soundproofing and warmth. In this three-bedroom Belgravia maisonette design by Gunter & Co, the bedroom has double doors which lead out onto a patio. Wall-to-wall curtains were added in front, not only to help block out light and sound when the room is occupied, but by using heavy fabric floor-to-ceiling, the curtains will also help keep out any draughts. As well as these practical elements, the rich textures and deep folds of the Christopher Farr Cloth fabric in the curtains help to create a cosy atmosphere in the bedroom when drawn. →



RELAXING RETREAT

A blind is sure to add softness and character to a contemporary bathroom. Here, a simple motif on the blind is reminiscent of Indian woodblocks and chimes well with other Eastern influences. For blinds or curtains to work in a bathroom, make sure the room is well-ventilated to prevent mildew developing. Avoid full-length designs – or at least ones that hang on the floor – and opt for a lightweight fabric that will not only maintain privacy while letting in light, but will also dry quicker in case they do get damp. Shown here is a Roman blind in Tasha's Trip in Charcoal linen by Kit Kemp at Christopher Farr Cloth and edged in Newport Galons braid from Houlès. The bath is by Drummonds.



PICTURE PERFECT

PHOTOGRAPH (RELAXING RETREAT) DAVID DE LOVAT/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM (PICTURE PERFECT) REID DODD/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM (PICTURE PERFECT) SHANE BRENT DARBY/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

A window dressing that looks just as good as the real view behind it – this roller blind by Surface View features Dedham Vale by John Constable from the V&A collection, which helps to create an inspiring office space, no matter what time of day.

FOLLOW THROUGH

Your guest bedroom is a perfect opportunity to get creative and design a scheme reminiscent of a boutique hotel. These curtains run the course of the walls, and were made by JAB Anstoetz to match the velvet-upholstered sofa bed nestled in between.

RISE AND SHINE

Whereas a bedroom benefits from black-out blinds, a kitchen is a place to welcome in light. Roman blinds, which fold up rather than roll, work well in this breakfast area by interior designer Sophie Ashby, as they allow you to control how much light comes in. →

“ARTWORK CAN BRING DRAMA, BEAUTY AND A LITTLE FUN TO WINDOWS WITH ROLLER BLINDS THAT ARE UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU WILL HAVE SEEN BEFORE”

MICHAEL AYERST,
managing director, Surface View



"ADDING TAPE OR BULLION TRIMS TO THE BOTTOM EDGE OF WINDOW DRESSINGS CREATES INTEREST, BRINGING INDIVIDUALITY TO YOUR SCHEME. AND LAYERING CURTAINS AND BLINDS WILL DELIVER WARMTH AND DEPTH"

EMMA CLARKE, director, Warner House

MATCH POINT

'Floor-length curtains add warmth to a room,' says interior designer Natalia Miyar. 'If the room has bold furniture, I use a soft, textured fabric or multi-toned curtains to add another dimension to the space.' The curtain fabric here is from Dominique Kieffer by Rubelli.

NATURE TRAIL

This curtain filled with dense foliage echoes the greenery outside. The fabric is English Oak in Teal by Linwood. Draw the eye through the room with a pouffe upholstered in a linking design, such as SN Schwarzwald in Verdure by Dedar.

PATTERN PLAY

'Almost any fabric can become a blind, and as with curtains we recommend the use of beautiful linings for an elegant finish,' says Emma Clarke, director of Warner House. Shown on this window is Warner House's Balmoral in Olive.

PHOTOGRAPH (NATURE TRAIL) POLLY WREDFORD/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

INSIDER INSIGHT

WE DELVE INTO THE DETAIL OF DESIGNING THE PERFECT WINDOW DRESSING

MEASURING UP 'Follow measuring instructions carefully for the specific blinds or curtains you wish to order and the situation you want to fit it into, such as a bay window or patio door or standard rectangular window,' says Leah Brandwood, head of design, Blinds 2go. 'These are provided on most retailers' websites. Use a metal measuring tape as fabric tapes can stretch or give inaccurate measurements. Also decide which side you want the controls on for convenience of use.'

FINDING THE BEST FIT How do you decide whether to fit inside or outside the recess? Leah Brandwood explains this will depend on whether your window has a recess or not and what obstructions there are to fitting the blind inside the recess, such as handles, window fittings and the direction the window opens. 'If the space is clear then it comes down to personal preference, but most people prefer to fit their blinds inside the recess and curtains are fitted outside the recess,' she says.

CHOOSING A HEADER The main options are eyelet – where metal rings are set within the fabric at the top of the curtain and loop onto a pole – or pleated – where gathered folds run along the top of a curtain, which can be attached to a track or a pole with hooks. There are then further variations between these looks, which all give slightly different appearances. 'At Warner House we love the pinch pleat heading; triple pinch for a heritage look, or double pinch for a sleeker finish,' says Emma Clarke, director, Warner House. Once you've decided, you

can then have fun choosing a curtain pole, or look into pelmets to cover the top of the curtain entirely.

PICKING A PATTERN 'There are a range of practical and aesthetic considerations when choosing curtain fabric,' says Emily Mould, design director Romo and Black Edition. 'Consider whether you want to make a statement with a strong colour, pattern or contrasting texture or whether you want a subtler look with a plain, textural neutral or muted pastel. A bold, large-scale design can create a striking focal point and will work best when used for large windows where the repeat can be fully appreciated. If you have smaller windows, opt for a small-scale pattern to create a more refined look. Consider the quality of the material; an elegant sheer can diffuse the light, while dressing your windows with more substantial fabrics such as luxurious wools or velvets can help prevent drafts and retain heat. Colour is also important; pale earthy blues and greens can provide a relaxing haven while rich shades of plum or scarlet create an intimate space and luxuriant tones of ochre or burnt orange can induce a feeling of warmth.'

"HANG CURTAINS ABOVE THE WINDOW FRAME FOR EXTRA HEIGHT AND TO SHOWCASE A FABULOUS SWEEPING DESIGN"

EMMA CLARKE, director, Warner House

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THE MILL SHOP ONLINE

Shop online from a huge range of fabrics, which can be ordered as made-to-measure curtains or be used for Roman blinds, the-millshop-online.co.uk