



**Jean Greeson Richard Fast**

HE SAID, SHE SAID

# Consider window dressing

**C**an you give some advice on window treatments? We have varied windows in different rooms, including an enormous sliding glass door, and don't know where to start.

— **Janice and Steve, Old Fort**

**Richard:** Hi, Janice and Steve. Wow, where to start!? Entire books have been written on this subject, so I'm going to take your question literally. First, I would begin with answering several questions for each room. Do you need privacy, or do you just want to dress up the room? Do you need to insulate the room from temperature extremes or keep the sunlight from fading fabrics and artwork? Do you want to disguise the view or highlight it? Often different types of blinds can be a practical answer to some of those questions, which we can talk about at a later date.

**Jean:** Richard's right to begin with those questions. If I've learned anything in my 25 years of dressing windows, it's that you have to know what the objectives are. But I would start with even more basic questions, like do you have small children or pets? Do you want to "get by" with the best look for the money, or is your goal to truly complete and enhance the room?

**Richard:** Jean, what do small children and pets have to do with this? Janice and Steve are asking about window treatments.

**Jean:** Are you serious!? Now our readers know you don't have children! Sticky fingers and pet hair don't mix well with long, formal drapes. In one of those situations, you might consider a simple valance over a window to add design and color, and allow blinds or shades to adjust the light. (This often works well in the kitchen, too.)

**Richard:** Meanwhile, back to those big doors. For large expanses of glass, a pleated drapery on a traverse rod can fit the bill. For a temperature situation, use a thermal lining on it, or even an inner lining. Lining protects the fabric from the sun and helps the drapery hang more richly. If you're not using a valance to cover a standard white traverse rod, make sure you use a decorative metal or wood rod and rings.

**Jean:** I bet you learned that the hard way! Remember on a

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