



Shedding Light on Window Treatments

Custom window treatments are the crowning glory of any interior design project. With fabric and trim selection, custom fabrication and specifically designed hardware elements to fit a window style, they are also the most complicated and intricate of any design piece in the room.



The unique window styles and sizes found in Oak Park/River Forest area homes demand custom treatments, making them a popular project among many Fringe customers. Arches, casements and art glass are a few of the styles of windows used in this area's older homes, which call for careful consideration. Treatments can include beautiful fabric draperies, shutters, blinds or shades...or any combination thereof.

Because of the intricate nature and many details involved in designing treatments, they are also the single biggest investment in any design project. Generally, custom treatments begin at \$1,000 per window and increase from there based upon style, fabric selection, trims and cording. Multiply that starting price by the number of windows in a project to determine the required investment. Therefore, we encourage creating draperies right the first time, so they may be enjoyed for many years.



Fringe uses quality Hunter Douglas products for blinds, shades and shutters.



The first step in a window treatment project is determining the **function** of the treatment. Does it need to block sunlight or merely serve as a decorative element in the room? How much privacy should they provide?

Design work begins with an **initial measure** to record specifications needed for pricing. Measurements are exceedingly important as the final drapery needs to precisely fit the window. It's also important to keep an eye out for architectural elements which can impact the style and installation of a treatment, such as the direction windows open, radiators, sills, stereo speakers, security devices, cove ceilings, etc.



Archway draperies can add a dramatic flair to interior spaces.

Next, treatment **style** is considered and decided. There are an amazing array of style options, all dictated by the function and budget of the treatment. Most importantly, drapery style determines the amount of fabric that is required. Once fabrication costs are determined it is easier to gauge the selection of fabric based on the overall budget. Then, two to three different fabrics are reviewed along with lining, trims, tassels, tie backs and any operating controls.

There are many options in drapery **hardware** to complete the design treatment. First, one



needs to consider the hardware style, be it rods or hooks, and then the finish, including wood, iron, and stainless steel. Decorative finials are the punctuation point at the end of each treatment and should complement the

furniture style in the room. Once finalized, the drapery installer comes to take **final and exact measurements** to be used in workroom fabrication.

Drapery fabrication is akin to dressmaking, requiring seamstresses with extreme precision. Our work room applies great care in working with the pattern and texture of each fabric so that it hangs perfectly in the final treatment. This process requires four to six weeks of fabrication and assembly.

Finally, **installation** by a professional is imperative to handle unexpected challenges and ensure each treatment is properly hung. Then it is time to enjoy the beauty of your new treatments and admiration of your friends and family.



Tie backs and tassels are a wonderful touch on treatments designed with high aesthetic value.