

LAYER IT UP

BY AUDREY CONRAD | Windows are your view to the outside world! They are a great source of natural light, but let's face it there are times we want them to be covered. Today's window coverings offer an abundance of choices. They are not only practical, but they also provide an opportunity to elevate the finishing touches when designing a room. One approach to window design is to use layers to create a sophisticated look.

There are many ways to create a layered look for your windows. Whether you prefer sheers, blinds or roman shades, starting with one of these options can address light filtration, degree of privacy and be a solid start to creating a layered look on your windows.

For the addition of the second layer you may consider selecting a fabric that is slightly weightier. If privacy or light control are concerns, you really need to address this with the addition of a proper lining. There are various different types of lining and inter-lining available that can simply darken a room to a degree or provide virtual black-out. As a manufacturer of custom drapery and window treatments, my recommendation is to determine what degree of privacy and light filtration you require and select your fabrics and lining accordingly. You should also consult a professional if you are unsure as to which linings are most appropriate for the fabrics you have selected for your new window coverings. Lining and inter-lining not only serves a purpose when attempting to deal with light filtration, it also acts as a protection for your fabric from sun damage



as well as adding body to your drapery. A beautiful silk fabric that is manufactured correctly using lining will not only be protected from sunlight but will also have an exquisite fullness and richness when hung.

There are many options that work well together to create a layered look on your windows. Whether you like sheers with side panels, lightly textured blinds with beautifully pattern sheers as an added enhancement, or perhaps a full complement of sheers with drapery panels and a valance.

Fabric selections today are endless. We have so many amazing colours, textures, and patterns to select from so be creative and a little daring to create windows that will make a

statement in your living space.

One of my go-to fabric suppliers that consistently offers great selections is **Alendel Fabrics**. Whether you prefer solids with the added enhancement of great texture, or perhaps what you're seeking is a pattern layered over a pretty sheer, either way you are sure to not be disappointed.

Remember when considering a layered window treatment it is important to maintain a cohesive look between your layers as well as with the rest of the décor in your room. Work with common colours, textures and patterns found throughout your space when selecting your window fabrics, and you'll achieve a beautiful coherent design.



AUDREY CONRAD is a Drapery Designer for Specialty House Manufacturing Ltd – known for full service custom and ready made window covering designs. For more than a decade they have been providing affordable stylish custom window design solutions throughout the GTA. www.specialtyhouse.net