

ANNALYNNE MCCORD

INSIDE THE MIND OF 90210'S NEWEST STAR

PLUS

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window treatments manor

Window Dressing

Forget the drapes. Blinds and shades can add a bit of flash to your décor. BY CARRIE BERRONG ESTOK

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE—house or apartment, city or suburbs. Unless you're an exhibitionist, you've got to put something on your windows (at least for the sake of your neighbors). Thank goodness we've moved past the standard plastic blinds; there are myriad choices that are sure to blend beautifully with whatever your style may be.

Sandi Young, owner of Moderne Life Interiors of Jenkintown, explains just how far we've come. "There was a time when the window was the focal point of the room and heavy draperies were all the rage. But when you put anything weighty up, you block the energy in the space." A firm believer in minimalism, Young says, "The more treatment you have, the more dust and darkness you have to deal with."

So what does she recommend? "Pleated or honeycomb shades are great. Not only are they affordable and easy to purchase, they help with energy conservation and come in a variety of colors. Plus, you can get them in varying degrees of opacity, so you can choose how much light you want to let in."

Shades like these are supereasy to keep clean, so you can finally get rid of that old-fashioned blind duster. And if you want to dress up your blinds a bit, Young suggests adding a valance above the window for a little more flair. "Valances are easy to install and you can coordinate the fabrics to match the color scheme in your room." A fabricator often makes custom valances, so you'll spend a little extra, but it's a detail that can have a big impact on any room in your home.

If light isn't an issue and you just want to go for that airy, ethereal look, sheers are still the answer—just not for the bedroom. "They're great for a layered look, but for optimal sleep, you need a dark room. Sheers can be paired with another curtain that you pull closed at night, or you can choose to layer something else underneath that you keep open until bedtime."

And just as in the rest of the fashion and home-furnishing world, eco-friendly trends are making their mark on window treatments. A variety of styles can be found in bamboo, organic cotton and silk. Just make sure it's lined on the window-facing side so that your colors or patterns don't get washed out.

