

Homestyle

Echo insight into trends and fashions about the house

Give your windows the 'wow' factor



● Kew curtains, in pink, fabric £38 a metre or made up from £85, from Prêt à Vivre.

WINDOWS don't just let light into our houses, they're the stars of today's homes.

Think of them as a blank canvas that you can dress to suit your room's style.

Thanks to the variety of window treatments now available, it's easy for them to reflect your individual taste.

If you're baffled by blinds, confused by curtains, uncertain of shutters, but want windows that "wow", follow this guide to window wisdom.

Curtain up

Tailored curtain headings, such as deep pencil pleats, are an excellent way to set off luxurious plain silks and velvet fabrics, but keep to eyelet headings to show off patterned fabrics.

Stores such as John Lewis,

Marks & Spencer and Next offer an excellent selection of ready-made curtains.

Keep an eye out for Sainsbury's new ready-made curtains (£19.99 to £49.99) and curtain poles, which will soon be available in selected stores.

Brilliant blinds

Although blinds look less dressy and won't help retain warmth in a room like curtains, they can be an economic way to dress windows. B&Q's Pleated Linen effect rollerblind decorated with mother of pearl effect buttons is a steal at £12.98.

Panel blinds, a new wider version of vertical blinds, can make a statement in a contemporary room. See Eclectic's Kyoto range.

Stunning shutters

Shutters are rapidly gathering popularity.

They can look brilliant – as long as you ensure you choose the right style to suit your home.

B&Q has teamed up with The California Company and has an online shutter service, which gives advice on selection, measuring and installation.

Visit www.diy.com/shutters for more information.

Sam Tamlyn, operations manager at Shutterly Fabulous, which makes made-to-measure wooden shutters, believes they also offer one of the best ways to achieve the balance between having natural and privacy.

"Tier-on-tier shutters have greater flexibility as the upper panels open independently to the lower, and are ideal for rooms that look straight out on to a street," he said



● Shutters from Shutterly Fabulous. Prices start from £245 sq m (for all finishes).

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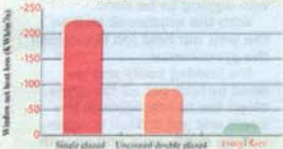
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