

# Get the proper treatment(s)

## Warren homeowners learn to dress their windows

By JEFF WEBER  
Staff Writer

For most people, being naked in public is, well, awkward.

Windows are lucky; they're not human. Still, that doesn't mean undressed or under-dressed windows can't be awkward. There's just a lot less blushing involved.

Fortunately, the means to "clothe" our windows is out there, and residents of the Four Seasons at The Promenade in Warren recently got the help they needed to dress up theirs, courtesy of Metropolitan Window Fashions on North Plainfield's "How to Dress A Naked Window" program.

Susan Levine, Nazarena Martinez and Ellen Smith, shop-at-home decorators for Metropolitan Window Fashions, showed off new drapery and upholstery fabrics, shades, blinds, shutters and decorative accessories — then handed out \$100 gift certificates for custom upholstering to every woman in attendance.

Light control, privacy, safety and security issues, new energy-efficient designs, motorization and decorating challenging windows also were discussed.

**EFFICIENCY:** The decorators stressed the importance of layering windows, not only for beauty, but for energy efficiency — something important right now as temperatures have struggled to get above freezing for most of the past month.

They showed before-and-after photos of windows that had been treated with window film, a practically transparent film from Medico applied directly to the window that eliminates nearly 100 percent of damaging ultraviolet rays.

"Window film not only keeps your room temperature consistent, but it plays a major role in preventing fabric fading," Levine said.

The decorators showed samples of Hunter Douglas' Duette Shadings and Eco-Smart's insulated shade with its side-track system. Both products keep the high cost of heating and air conditioning down with air-trapping barriers.

Other energy-efficient products include hardwood shutters from Kirtz with elliptical louvers that form tight seals at the window.

"Top treatments such as swags, valances and cornices can be positioned above the window to seal off leaks and add extra insulation, as well," Smith said.

**MOTORIZATION:** Promenade residents had questions about motorization, especially those with hard-to-reach windows.

"The use of remote-controlled window fashions have simplified everyday tasks, especially in bedrooms, skylights and in bed-



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Window Fashions

Above, an elegant swagged top treatment and silk side panels combined with shutters were one of the many layered looks shown to residents at the "How to Dress a Naked Window" at the Four Seasons at The Promenade in Warren. At right, Ellen Smith, second from left, and Nazarena Martinez, center, show Promenade residents how to use shades and top treatments to layer their windows.

### METROPOLITAN WINDOW FASHIONS

WHERE: 855 Route 28, North Plainfield

PHONE: 908-735-4700

WEB: <http://windowfashions.com>

HOURS: 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays

rooms," Martinez said. "Companies like Somfy and Hunter Douglas provide the technology for programming draperies, shades, shutters and blinds to open and close at the touch of a button. Today it's so safe and easy."

**COLORS:** The team also showed three different color schemes, building the look of a room with examples of different textures, pattern scales and trimmings.

"Today's most popular colors



range from earth-toned rusts, oranges, yellows, sage green and cinnamons," Levine, Martinez and Smith agreed, "to lighter tones such as beige and camel accented with rich 'jewel' tones such as amethyst, sapphire and ruby red."

Shades of rich chocolate brown combined with "spa" blues and greens also have gained popularity for traditional and contemporary rooms.

**SILK:** Moving on to fabrics, the consensus was that silk is the most popular for draperies.

"Silk always lends an air of luxury," Levine said. "There is such a great range of colors and styles available today — from big bedroom stripes and bold plaids to beautiful textured shantung, dupioni and tulle silk."

More information is available by calling 908-423-8969.

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## What's hot and what's not in window decorating

Staff Report

**'W**indow fashion has become an art form," according to Lois Croce, director of design at Metropolitan Window Fashions in North Plainfield. "Just as a picture frame sets off a painting, windows enhance the view from within and without — adding the finishing touch to any room."

According to Croce and members of the store's shop-at-home decorating team, there are plenty of window fashions that are "hot" right now:

■ **Decorative hardware:** thick wood poles, fluted and smooth finishes; stainless steel, metal, brushed nickel, copper, wrought iron rods; finishes in metal, crystal and wood.

■ **Energy savers:** window film, cellular shades with side tracks, drapery panels that frame windows, cornices, grout-top panels, roman shades.

■ **Shutters:** woods and faux woods.

■ **Roller shades:** fabric and fiber textures.

■ **Motorization:** shades, blinds and draperies.

■ **Colors:** grays, charcoal, silver, gold, metallic, chalky white; plum, purple, lilac, cranberry; sage green, burnt orange, rust, tangerine, warm browns.

■ **Natural fibers:** silks, linen, bamboo and cotton.

■ **Styles:** side panels with simple top treatments; simplicity — clean lines, less pleats; trims of all kinds — bead, wood, ribbon, crystal; box pleated top treatments; comforters and duvets.

■ **Fabrics:** paisleys, stripes, plaids, modern geometric, Asian influenced prints.

However, there also are plenty of treatments and fashions that are not "en vogue" right now and should be ignored:

■ **Style:** wall-to-wall draperies, tie-backs, full ceiling to floor styles, bedspreads, overdone styling of any kind.

■ **Colors:** jewel tones — sapphire, emerald greens, ruby, amethyst, turquoise; moose, burgundy, hunter green, lilac.

■ **Fabrics:** floral, fruits, velvets.

### ON THE WEB

Are you considering redecorating your windows or are in the process of applying new treatments? Talk about what you are doing on our forums and blogs.

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