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New Season, New Sources

FALL marks not only the beginning of school but also a new season for home furnishings. Stores buzz with people foraging for fresh merchandise, and this year there are three new shops to serve a growth market. (Those apartment towers springing up around New York typically contain about 400 units, and next year several new luxury condos and high-rise rentals will join them, said Pamela Liebman, the chief executive of the Corcoran Group.) One new store is geared for first-time apartment dwellers; another sends curtain-and-shade experts to the homes of New Yorkers too busy to browse; and a third offers unusual handmade wood furniture and lamps.



Metropolitan Window Fashions

469 Amsterdam Avenue (83rd Street), (212) 501-8282 or www.metropolitanwindowfashions.com.

Window treatments are often a challenge for anyone not working with a decorator or architect. Metropolitan Window Fashions aims to change that. The store offers a free shop-at-home service: a representative comes by with samples and a tape measure. "New Yorkers don't have time to shop," said the owner, Bruce Heyman. The store offers Hunter Douglas blinds and Roman shades (with and without remote

controls) at a 10-to-50-percent discount, Mr. Heyman said. Sheer ready-made panels, 60 by 84 inches, are \$10 to \$40. Custom drapes start at \$300. The store stocks 1,000 fabrics, all discounted, Mr. Heyman said. Installation of curtain rods and hardware starts at \$8 a linear foot.

The store can install transparent window film, \$8 to \$16 a square foot, to protect furniture and drapes from sunlight. One type ensures crisp views at night by reducing the glare of lights from inside the apartment.