

SMART SHOPPER

# Curtains

From luxurious layers of insulating velvet to pretty patterns or a fine veil of sheers, curtains are the key to a beautifully finished room, writes Sarah Pickette.



Sydney-based interior designer Greg Natale worked with Design Curtains to create this pinch-pleat curtain from a Zepel Fabrics velvet and a Charles Parsons sheer. Taffeta banding provides the finishing touch.

Styling by Lucy McCabe (opposite). Photograph by Ella Brodie-Reed (opposite).



Curtains weave a special kind of magic in a room. They add warmth, texture and movement; they filter sunlight, provide privacy and a layer of insulation and should deliver years of service. Best of all, they exude elegance and grace.

“Even if they are never drawn, curtains help soften the hard lines of glass windows,” says Sydney interior designer Thomas Hamel. “I would usually suggest a sheer or slightly transparent fabric with a soft drape to the body.”

There are a few rules of thumb to follow when you’re considering curtain styles. Pinch pleats, where the curtains

are grouped in triple pleats at intervals, stack neatly and confer a formal look – this makes them great for dining rooms. Eyelet and tab-top styles are best for sheer curtains and most suited to bedrooms. Pencil pleating – evenly spaced narrow pleats – are more casual, perfect for a living or family room. Whichever style you choose, aim to have your curtains skim the floor.

If you opt for custom-made curtains, look for “drape or softness, stability, and colourfastness” in the fabric that you choose, suggests Cameron Warwick, managing director of sales and marketing for Warwick Fabrics. >

**BEST OF BOTH**

If you love the look of curtains but favour the functionality of blinds take a look at Luxaflex’s Luminette Privacy Sheers. Made up of vertical fabric vanes, the Luminette range is available in a variety of soft whites and natural colours and can now be motorised, for whisper-quiet rotation and retraction. “The Luminette range is a good solution for someone who wants a soft yet striking look in their home,” says Jenny Brown, marketing manager of Luxaflex Window Fashions.

- 1 Designers Guild Kimono Blossom cotton in Heather, \$180/m, Radford Furnishings.
  - 2 Treillage cotton-linen-nylon in Navy, \$120/m, Westbury Textiles.
  - 3 Ecume de Santal cotton in Rose Pale, \$102/m, Olivades Fabric Warehouse.
  - 4 Floss Delight organic hemp in Natural/Canary Yellow, \$88/m, Ella and Sofia Furniture.
  - 5 James Dunlop Envoy Pegasus polyester in Delft, \$59/m, Mokum.
  - 6 Invite poly-cotton-viscose in Mink, \$62/m, Warwick Fabrics.
  - 7 How To Live Long hand-printed cotton-linen in Black, \$35/m, Publisher Textiles.
  - 8 Handwoven cotton in Mottled Light Blue, \$37/m, Duckcloth.
- For Where to Buy, see page 228.