

Window fashion says something exciting is happening in the woods

Home, Lawn & Garden, Thursday, August 8, 2013

There's a lot of wood in and around Canadian homes. Decks and gazebos; floors, doors, trims and furnishings – as fashion trends dictate. This fall, it looks as if wood blinds are coming on strong as well.

Once only for family and recreation rooms, wood blinds are ready to cover every window in the house and co-ordinate with other styles. The fall Custom Woods Collection from Levolor are an eye-catching example.

“Wood finishes have always been popular in Canadian homes,” says the Levolor director of marketing, Mike Moyal. “A homeowner may like the idea of using wood in window treatments, but is reluctant to add yet another wood finish to the room. We aim to remove that worry by offering a really wide choice of on-trend finishes – including distressed surfaces and reclaimed textures – to simplify co-ordination with existing room treatments.”

Wood choices

In the Levolor program, says Moyal, there's Real Wood, which is what it says it is. Then there are the Faux Woods. A line called, Nuwood, is heat and moisture resistant, making it suitable for bathrooms, kitchens and laundry rooms. All Nuwood colours co-ordinate with Real Wood colours and the Vi-



Dining room, contemporary style. Real Wood blinds, cordless, in Espresso finish co-ordinate with chairs and wall accessories with a contemporary valance.

sions Faux Wood offers the best value in the collection on all the options, in every room.

For maximum savings, Moyal points out, there's the classic value style package. Choice of finish will be limited, the valance and tassels will be in classic look, and you will make an economical entry into the world of woods.

Real Wood offers the widest choice. It is available in three widths of slats and in the widest range of finishes, now all cordless. Both Nuwood and Visions share a large number of finishes with

Real Wood, so the look you choose can be co-ordinated throughout the house.

Moyal explains that many of the new finishes are also available on other types of blinds – custom verticals, for example. With wood blinds available in widths up to 12 feet, I can imagine some spectacular treatments where windows are large and ceilings are high.

No cords

Concern for safety, especially where children and pets play, has created a demand for cordless operation, usually supplied as a special option on selected

styles. In this generation of wood blinds every style is available in an advanced cordless version. Just grasp the sturdy bottom rail, shaped to fit the hand, to move the blind up or down; it will stay where you put it. This feature is accompanied by a wand tilt control.

Concern for privacy is a personal thing, and it's recognized by a LightMaster option that holds the slats tightly together to eliminate any gaps when the blind is closed.

Custom service

The Levolor website lets you study the many colours and finishes in the Custom Woods Collection; when you have decided what you need, take your order to a nearby retailer and ask for the brand.

First, decide on the material – real or faux wood. Second, decide on the width of the slats, the finish that will work in your home, and the style of valance. Third and last, decide on which options will suit you best. Cordless? LightMaster, for complete privacy? Decorative tapes? There are many ways to make the blind uniquely your own.

More information is available online at www.levolor.ca.

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