

Home, Lawn & Garden

Window treatments are about the look not the price

BY SINEAD TOMASIO

(NC) When it comes to windows, you don't have to spend big. Just like shopping for clothes, you can go for the real designer or the look of designer, and feel happy either way. Today's window solutions come in a range of price levels, helping you achieve the exact window look you want.

"Being on a budget doesn't mean your windows can't look great," says Mary Dobson, spokesperson for Levolor Window Fashions in Canada. "It's not about the price of your window treatment, it's about the look. Your aim is to dress up the windows in a way that enhances the overall look of the room. If the existing style is traditional, then layers of fabric are appropriate. If it's a contemporary space, keep the windows simple with harmonized colours."

Mary made these suggestions for alternative ways of achieving the special look you want.

Wood blinds look great and come in a range of colours and slat sizes. You can also choose between real wood and the look of real wood. And with the money you save you can bracket your wood blinds with ready-made drapes for a rich, traditional window. To unify the exterior of your home, use real wood blinds on your main floor and opt for faux wood on the second level.

Roman blinds are perfect for "show-off" windows. Once expensive, because they had to be custom-made, Levolor now makes them far more affordable with over 30 fabrics to choose from. You could select the latest luxury material from Europe or you could select something less lavish but just as stylish. Or look at roller shades, which also come in a variety

of fabrics, colours and patterns. Mary really likes Sheerweave – an enchanting, translucent material that filters light without concealing the view.

PanelTrac can make a big impact. It's a floor-to-ceiling blind available in a wide range of fabrics. A perfect application would be on patio doors. PanelTrac opens wide when the doors are in use and closes snugly when they are not. A lower-cost alternative would be vertical blinds, available in a number of colours and textures. Consider a center split application in your blind to really frame your view and still give you easy traffic flow.

"Get your colours right, create a look that works and your guests will wonder whether you won the lottery," says Mary. "Your budget doesn't really matter, it's all in the look of your window!"

For a closer look at the latest in window fashions, visit www.levolor.ca.



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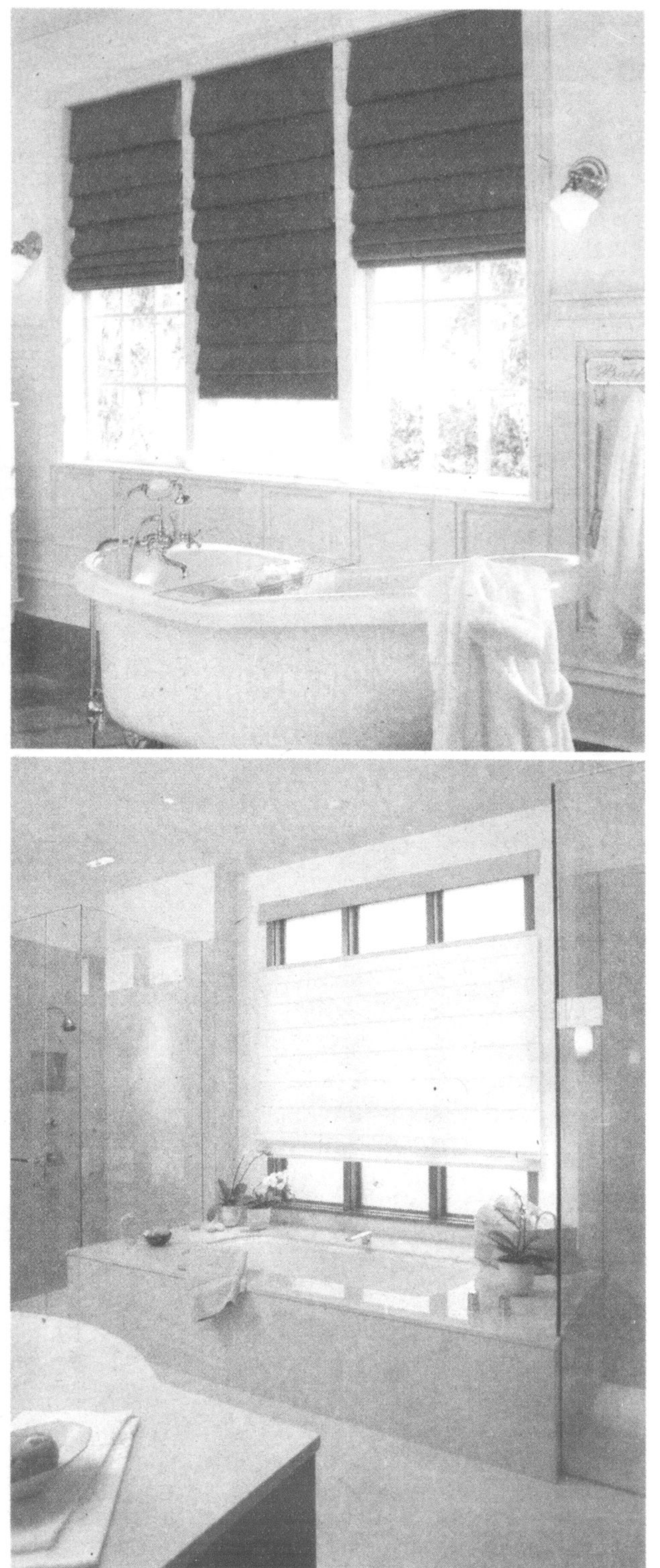
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