

HOME, LAWN & GARDEN

Matching fabrics hold a look together

Open your mind to open-concept living

By Simon Molyneux

An open-concept plan, with spaces flowing together and minimal barriers, creates a welcoming feel of light and warmth in a home. It also creates a decorating challenge: how to establish private areas, and how to make the best use of natural light from different sources.

"Open-concept rooms need to be decorated with restraint," says Mary Dobson, spokesperson for Levolor Window Fashions in Canada. "Too many colours and too many styles for window treatments can cause visual chaos."

Mary's advice is that if all the windows are alike then using an identical window treat-

ment is the smart choice. But if the open-concept space includes small windows, picture windows and a patio walkout, then different styles of blinds are necessary to do a good job of controlling light and ensuring privacy. Mary's suggestion is to use different window treatments but match the scale and proportion of the blind to the window and use the same colour and fabric for all.

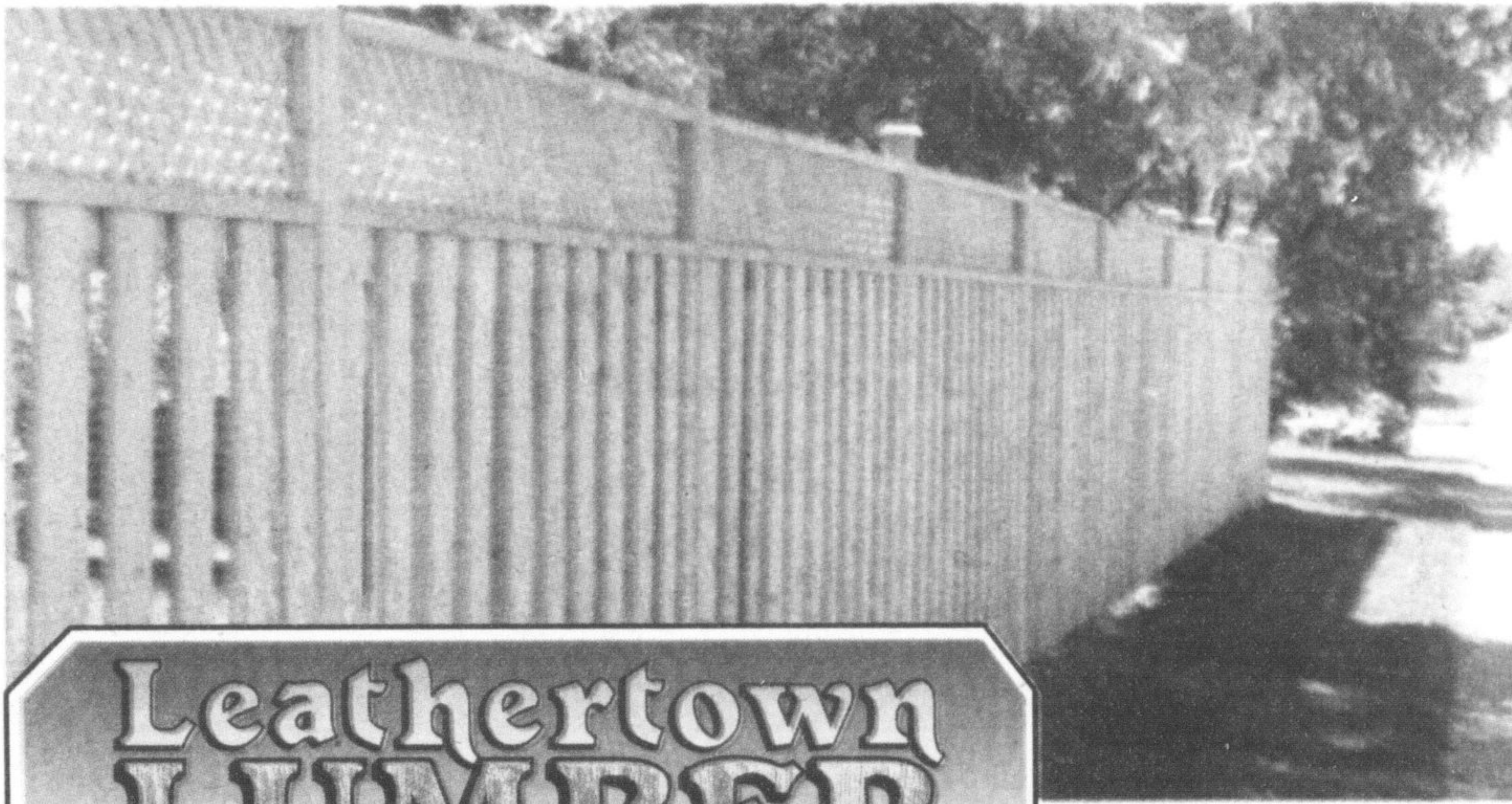
"Roller blinds are a simple and dependable way of dressing almost any kind of window," says Mary. "With over 50 different fabrics available, it's no challenge to find one that creates the necessary visual continuity. Layering with drapes or sheers can add to their appeal. And for the really big windows there's PanelTrac, available in the same

range of fabrics."

Mary describes PanelTrac as "vertical blinds on steroids". They can cover the largest areas of glass, from ceiling to floor, but when they are no longer needed they virtually disappear, stacking compactly on one side of the opening. They also answer the need for private areas within the open space by creating temporary walls. For example, in the evening they can be closed to define an intimate dining area, then in the day drawn aside to maximize the play of light throughout the room.

To learn more about PanelTrac, today's roller blinds, and the wide range of fabrics available, visit www.levolor.ca.

- News Canada



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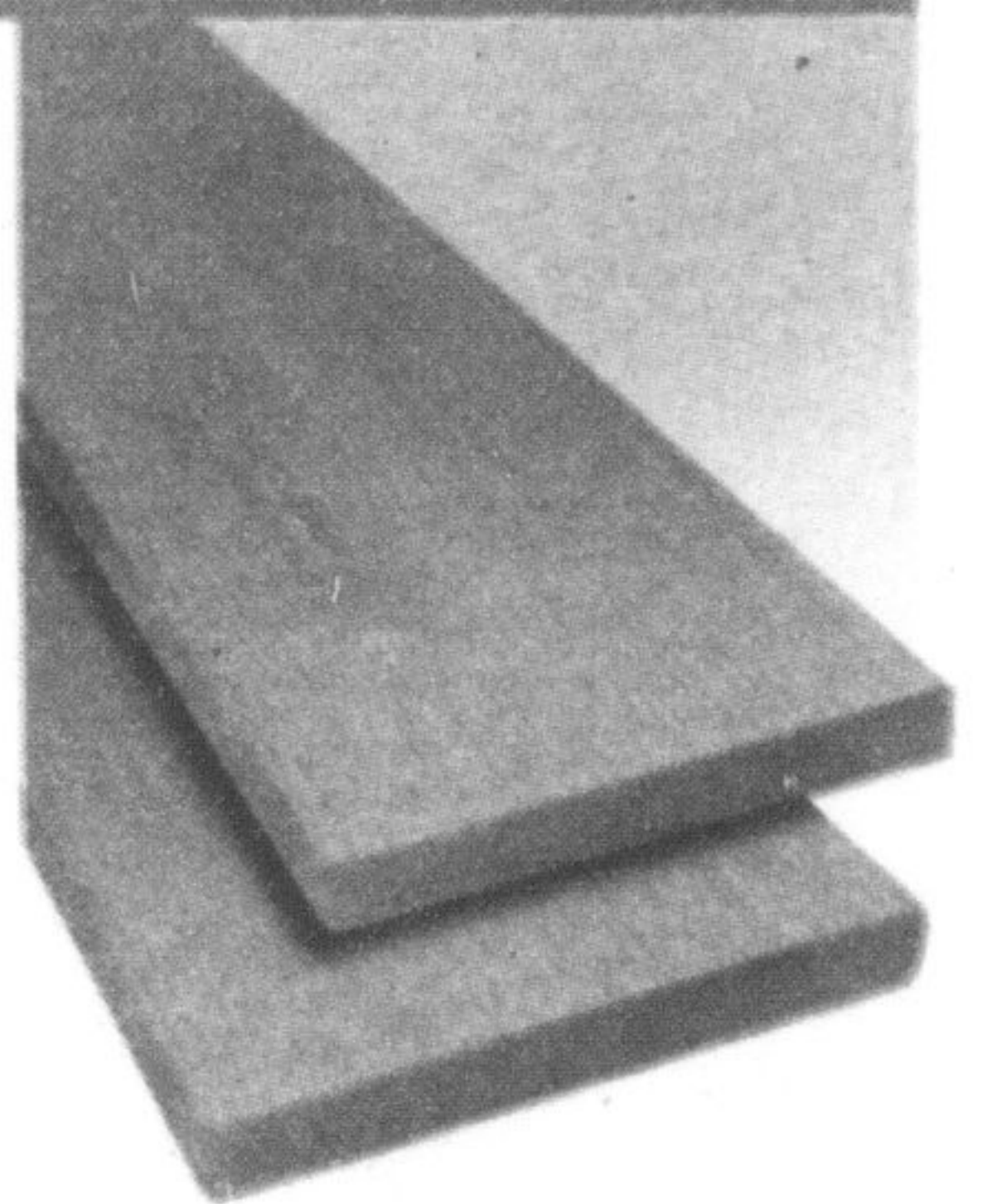
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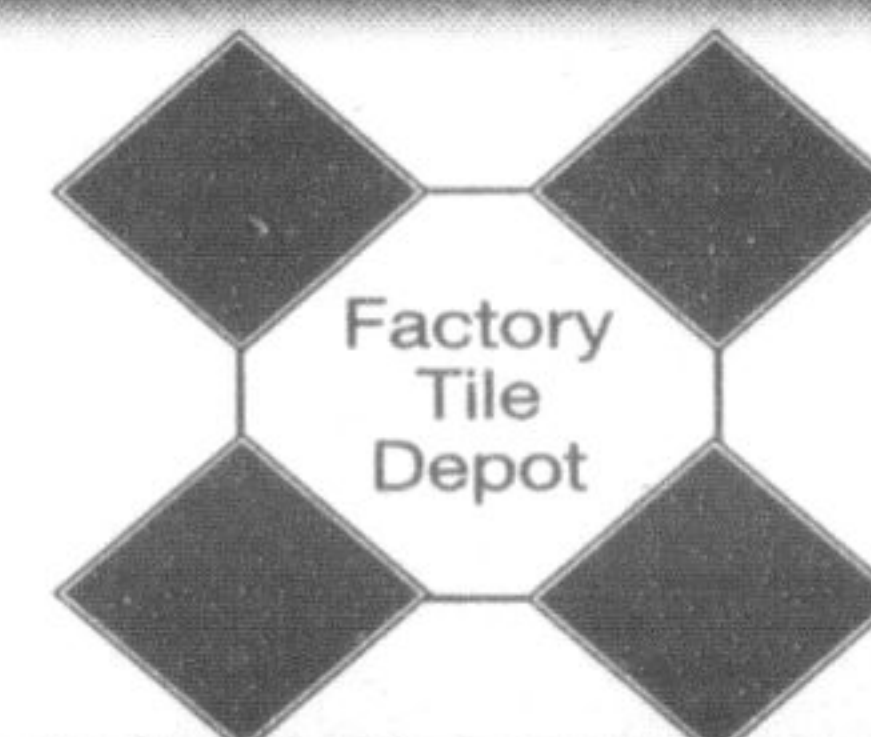
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