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## Dressing Up Our Bare Windows

We Try Design Services To Find Curtains, Blinds; Forgoing the Froufrou

BY SUZANNE BARLYN

Our living-room windows have been bare for the past 10 years. We're not exhibitionists. We just have never been able to make up our minds about what to hang.

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A consultant from V2K Window Decor & More, a unit of V2K International Inc., was prompt and easy to work with. We explained that froufrou designs were out, given that we need the room to be a comfortable space for a man to sit and read. (We also use our living room as music room and library.) Our V2K consultant suggested woven wood shades -- typically made from reeds, grasses or thin wood strips. He generated a price quote on a laptop, and also showed us digital simulations of how the shades would appear on our windows. His recommendation was smart-looking -- and among the most economical, at \$270 per window.

tal rug with another whose colors are a better match for our sofa and furniture.

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of a proposed window treatment. It was an elegant swag style -- scallop-shaped gathered in horizontal rows, but more sophisticated than a ready-made, with beaded trim. The starting price of about \$400 per window (depending on fabric), however, was nearly double that of J.C. Penney's cornice.

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lar living-room windows (measuring about 42 inches wide by 67 inches high). We found that custom-design advice from the pros is preferable to choosing readymade window treatments at the mall -- especially for our home's most visible room. Custom services, however, are pricier. A prefabricated cornice we considered including the rod, cost about \$75 per window plus the aggravation of hanging it up -- no feat for allthumbs homeowners. The price for custom services, however, ranged from \$260 to \$800 per window, including installation.

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SHOP-AT-HOME SERVICE	SUGGESTED WINDOW TREATMENT/APPROXIMATE PRICE*	EST. COMPLETION TIME	COMMENT
Ethan Allen	Rectangular cornice upholstered with a plaid fabric in shades of green, brown, beige and maroon. Trimmed with two rows of wooden tacks / \$800 installed.	6 to 8 weeks	The window treatments our designer suggested were the nicest, but also the most expensive. We visited the store after her at-home consultation, where she showed us a fabric that blended with our existing rug and sofa. She also gave suggestions for rearranging our furniture.
Interiors by Decorating Den	Swag-style valance, but more sophisticated, with generous fabric allotment and beaded trim / About \$400 installed, possibly more depending on our final fabric choice.	6 weeks	Our prompt, professional window designer suggested switching our living- and dining-room rugs, since the colors of our dining-room rug blend better with our living-room sofa. She maintained a courteous, business-like demeanor despite our loud children and barking dogs.
<b>V2K Window Décor &amp; More</b>	Standard woven wood shade in earth tones / \$270, installed	2 weeks	Our window designer was sensitive to the multiple purposes for which we used our living room and suggested a style to capture the feeling of a study. We looked at digital window décor images on his laptop.

received an email several days later with a photo