



Ask a designer



HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT BLINDS

Words by **Elaine Skinner**, design director of **Camellia Interiors**

Practical and decorative, well-chosen curtains and blinds can have a transformative effect on any room. Follow our ideas to select the perfect blind for your needs.

Can't stand net curtains?

Net curtains are a bit like marmite – you either love them or hate them, but many homes along the Cornish coast need privacy. Voile Roman blinds or Duette blinds give a soft diffused light, and look great teamed with curtains. Silhouette shades are another option - these work a bit like a Venetian blind, with a sheer fabric between each slat, to give views out while still maintaining your privacy.

Don't want to obscure the view?

You don't want to impair a knockout view, so choose a blind that folds away completely. Hang Roman blinds above the frame if space allows, or try pleated blinds that clip into the window frame and have a small stack size when raised. Modern vertical blinds fold away completely to the side and come with solar reflection, dirt and moisture repellent and antibacterial finishes, making them ideal for conservatories.

Can't afford shutters?

Venetian blinds could be the answer and are a relatively inexpensive way to achieve the same effect. Available in both natural wood and contemporary painted shades, from crisp, coastal-inspired whites to rustic greys and bold colour, or you can enjoy the natural beauty of pale and dark wood for a timeless look.

Want something modern?

Depending on the fabric you choose, a Roman blind can look crisp and contemporary. For a really minimalist feel, install motorised wi-fi controlled roller blinds, which can be fitted neatly into the window recess for an unobtrusive seamless look.

How can I keep out the cold?

Opt for a thermal lining in Roman blinds or try a Duette® energy saving window blind. The honeycomb structure of a Duette® blind is designed to trap air inside, so it helps you

keep your home warmer in the winter by keeping up to 46% more heat inside. If space allows, team with thick lined curtains for extra cosiness.

Want the kids to sleep in?

A Roman blind with a blackout lining or Silhouette Day & Night blind - a two-in-one installation that allows you to combine two contrasting fabrics - will allow you to control the level of light in the kids' rooms to get you that extra hour in bed!

What about bi-fold doors?

With moveable or tilting windows and folding doors, you need a blind you can attach to the inside frame of a window or door, so it stays in place when it is opened. Go for pleated or vertical blinds which can also introduce pattern or colour into your room.

What about skylights?

Velux® windows are great for getting light into a room, but sunshine streaming in can be a problem when working or sleeping. Venetian, roller or pleated blinds are a perfect solution for skylights. Available in semi-transparent, translucent and opaque fabrics, they give a perfect balance of light, shade, insulation and privacy.

Can't reach your windows?

Opt for a motorised or wi-fi controlled blind. They can be fitted to roller, Duette or pleated blinds, providing finger-tip controls to allow you to adjust the amount of light in hard to reach windows.

Unusual window shape?

Architectural apex and gable windows look amazing and feature in many Cornish new builds, but they can present a challenge when it comes to light and privacy. Whether your room or roof windows are wide, tall, triangular or curved, we can still make and install custom blinds that perfectly fit and enhance your individual architecture in every detail.

Got an interior design dilemma? Contact **Elaine** at hello@camelliainteriors.co.uk www.camelliainteriors.co.uk and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

