

\* The Guide to Modern Design

# Metropolitan

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*Eve Robinson, designer*

Fabrics that emphasize texture and light filtration can make a traditional window look modern. For a room that looks directly out onto the street at sidewalk level, *I needed to create something for my clients that provided privacy but also allowed them to control the amount of light.* I used two layers, one a sheer gray organza and the other a deep, soft gray wool. Each was hung with simple large rings on parallel tracks; manipulating the openness of each layer was not only a practical thing, but added a design element to the room as well.

*Alana Homesley, designer*

The number of layers you have in a window treatment and the amount of fabric you use are the two big contributors to cost. The old rule was that you needed two and a half times the width of the window to make the curtain look full, but that doesn't apply anymore—that fullness can even look dated—so minimize your costs by cutting back on yardage. I'm really loving natural reeds,

bamboos, fibers and grasses for shades. One of my favorite sources is Conrad ([conradshades.com](http://conradshades.com)). It's expensive, but remember you're not using lots of layers or folds, which increase material costs. Conrad makes a shade called Sandalspice made of vetiver root—it's a gorgeous sheer brown and makes a room smell like spice tea!

*Lori Weitzner, designer*

*Using fabric on windows can be crucial for controlling sound,* but a lot of fabric curtains are too traditional-looking for me. For a soft look that's still modern, Roman shades with crisp, square folds are a great option. To get the shade to fold evenly, chose a fabric with a weft (the horizontal fibers) that is thicker than the warp (the vertical fibers). This includes most silks except taffeta, in which the warp and weft are the same density.



**Editors' Choice**

1) These whisper-light organza panels—*Feather*, left, and *Horizon*, right—from Shades of India are handmade (42 inches wide, 84 to 106 inches long; \$100 to \$120). 2) Hunter Douglas's NewStyle shutters are constructed of a composite material that incorporates wood elements. Louver widths range from 2½ to 4½ inches (from \$670 for a two-panel shutter to fit a 4-by-5-foot window). 3) British company New House Textiles now sells its stylish, unfussy window accessories over the Internet; their website is a great source for wood, suede, leather and glass tiebacks and blind pulls. The *Charleston* tieback, here in pearl, is hand-wrapped in a bouclé yarn (1½ inch diameter, about \$50). ❏ See Resources, last pages.

