

# Workroom Threads

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*Workroom to the Trade*



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## Do You Want Your Drapes to Look Like a Dog? YES!

In recent years drapes have made a big comeback! No longer are drapes just the basic pinch pleat style on a traverse rod. With the abundance of decorative rods that are now available there is also an array of decorative pleat styles to give an updated look.

One of the newer styles is the shar pei pleat. It's a rather complicated method of making a pleat look relaxed and look like a dog . . . a shar pei.

Sylvia Marvelli

## Welcome the Wrinkles

This little pooch may not be your pet of choice and this might not be your idea of attractive. But the deep and distinctive wrinkles of this shar pei can inspire your next drapery project, bringing great style and new personality to your project.

Now, don't roll your eyes just yet. Let me show you an example:





This photo shows a drapery panel with an attached valance. The pleats of the valance are shar pei. In this case the pleats have loops which are hung on medallions. Another alternative would be to use drapery pins and decorative rings.

Just as in standard pleat styles the shar pei has a space between the pleats, although fewer pleats are used per width. Shar pei pleats are intended for decorative side panels and would not be recommended for traversing drapes. Because of the complexity of creating this style the labor cost is greater than most other pleat styles.

Not only is a shar pei pleat an element of the unexpected it also feels appropriate to most spaces. Depending on the fabric you choose this could be an elegant dressmaker detail using silk fabric or a soft, casual look using linen fabric.

Google a shar pei pleat and you will probably find nothing. Specify this pleat on an upcoming project and become a trendsetter. Let's see how long it takes for the shar pei pleat to be featured as a stylish new trend in custom window fashions.

Where the ordinary becomes extraordinary

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