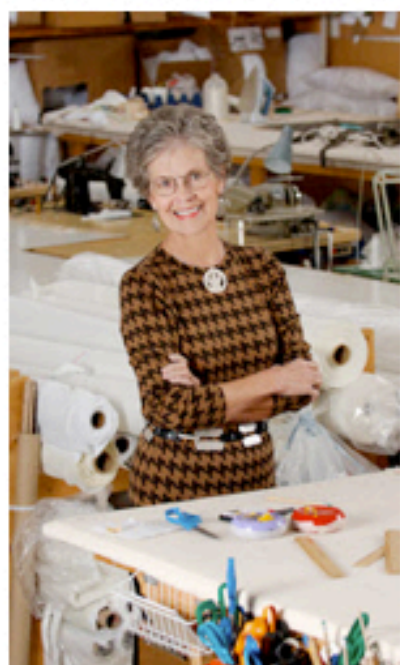


Workroom Threads

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carolina custom draperies
Workroom to the Trade



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Details Make the Difference - Part 2

Last month my newsletter about custom details focused mainly on finger pleats and the application of that detail. This month I'm presenting several dressmaker details for draperies that will instantly upgrade plain drapes, giving a completely custom look. While these details do cost more, dressmaker details are worth the investment. Not only do they achieve an exquisite, one-of-a-kind look, they add an entirely custom element to a window treatment.

Sylvia Marvelli



Dressmaker Couture for Windows

These goblet pleats are given a couture upgrade with ballet slipper laces. Notice the elongated appearance of this heading. The goblets are long and narrow with the laces giving additional length to the pleat. The scale of this heading should be used only with extra long drapes. Other types of knotted laces or buttons can be used for goblet pleats on standard length drapes.

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Does this heading remind you of a ballgown? Choosing a fabric that will successfully produce the desired result is always an important decision. This treatment is most successful with silk fabric. Silk performs well for the pouffed heading and the overall "ballgown" appearance.

This treatment should always be considered a stationary treatment, not operable, and hangs on decorative rings.

Frequently contrast fabrics are used for the bottom portion of drapes. Consider this, a softly pleated contrast skirt. In this case inverted pleats form the lower portion of the drape. Lightweight fabrics were chosen, allowing light to penetrate the panels. In my opinion this drape would be enhanced with a decorative braid at the seam line, hiding the visible seam allowance.

A series of small horizontal pleats are a tailored element giving a crisp detail to a drape. Because this heading is flat, the horizontal pleats work well at the top of this treatment. In most cases these pleats, which we call "tuxedo pleats", are placed about two-thirds down from the top of the drape. These can serve as a transition to a contrast fabric at the bottom of the panel or just as an added detail if only one fabric is being used.

Dress It UP

Similar to its namesake in ballgowns and evening wear, dressmaker details are the added frills, skirts and embellishments that give an ordinary fabric a luxurious look that brings personality to any room. Just as a dressmaker takes special care to add exquisite details to make a luxurious, couture gown, the dressmaker details of a drapery add unique styling and personality.

Where the ordinary becomes extraordinary

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