



Workroom Threads

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carolina custom draperies
Workroom to the Trade

The Low Down on Lining



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After spending time with your client discussing the design of a window treatment and deciding on the fabric that is to be used, how much time is spent on choosing the best lining for the project? I often think that the lining is an afterthought when in reality it is as critical to a successful result as any of the other elements in the project.

I'm frequently asked, "What lining should I use?" There isn't a single answer. It depends on the weight of the chosen fabric, the style of the treatment, and the overall objective regarding light.

So let's explore the options and benefits of the available choices.

Sylvia Marvelli

Selling the Secrets



Look at this beautifully executed valance. What's the first thing you notice? The quality and appearance was greatly diminished because the incorrect lining was chosen. The light penetration varies due to the layering of pleats which results in obvious color changes. Had a blackout lining been used in this valance the colors would have remained consistent and rich because no light would have penetrated.



Flannel interlining combined with a quality cotton or cotton blend lining is a good choice for fabrics that are rather limp and need the bulk and body of the interlining. I always recommend flannel interlining if silk is being used. Here again you can see that light penetration causes shadowing across the valance where fabric



penetration causes shadowing across the valance where fabric thickness varies. Many designers would find this acceptable when using a solid fabric.

Another option would be to use flannel interlining in combination with the new generation blackout lining which is softer and lighter in weight than the old blackout fabrics.



In this photo notice that there is no light penetration. The result is consistent color throughout. Blackout lining has been used on all parts of these window treatments. The blackout has also been used as an interlining between the dark lining on the cascades and the light color face fabric. Used as an interlining, blackout prevents the darker color from bleeding through and changing the face color.

If blackout lining is used on any part of a window it should be used on all parts. Otherwise you will have some portions being opaque and others being translucent.

Value Added

If you have always thought of blackout lining as being used only for room darkening I hope these photos have enlightened you to think beyond that use.

Thick flannel interlinings have been used for generations and continue to be an important choice. Napped fleece lining is a new economy version of the lining/interlining combination. It gives more body than standard lining, but provides only one layer of lining. Standard lining, a cotton or cotton blend, is seldom used as the only lining in quality custom drapes. Unless the face fabric is very heavy the result can look like a limp noodle.

When you choose your lining(s) educate your client to the importance of the lining choice and your reasons for that selection. She will appreciate the value of the lining and the value that your expertise offers.

Images obtained from the internet.

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