



# Maureen Whitemore

The Penrith-based interior designer continues her Cumbria Life column with a look at curtains and blinds to dress the 'eyes of the house'

Curtains, blinds and everything that goes with them are the bread and butter of many interior designers. Window treatments can affect atmosphere, style and light in a room all in one go and they are also the frame of the biggest picture in the room.

At risk of stating the obvious, how you decorate or treat your windows is not just about decoration but can also affect the privacy, any sun filtering and also the warmth and insulation so it is worth considering all options and making an investment in getting this right.

Over the years, I've learnt a lot about those options.

Firstly, and perhaps surprisingly, sometimes good interior design can be about leaving well alone and doing nothing. If you are not overlooked and the room is private, why not keep the window bare and make the most of a view? If you want to ensure a basic level of privacy, simply design lighting to be close to the window and you'll create an invisible curtain.

And don't be limited in the fabrics you consider. Roman blinds are ideal for using a small quantity of an expensive (and gorgeous) fabric and there are techniques available now to laminate and stiffen soft fabrics such as sheers and cottons to make them suitable.

Finally, your window treatment can change the apparent shape of the window.

A small window can look wider by extending a curtain pole to the sides; blinds hung from above a small window and outside the alcove, for instance in a high barn



Full wall treatment: blinds and curtains in Vanessa Arbuthnott fabric; sheer roller blind in Bakari by Harlequin; roller blind in Tulipa fabric by Romo



conversion, can give the impression of tall windows; and an awkward corner in a bedroom can be transformed with curtains that "disappear" to the side of fitted furniture.

Think of your windows as the eyes of the house – looking



out and creating a first impression too.

Based in Penrith, Maureen has been in the interior design trade for more than 45 years. See her blog at <http://maureenwhitemore.co.uk>

## Spotted out and about

At the Interiors UK show at the NEC, Birmingham, lighting was top of the agenda. Best finds were fun (and inexpensive) shades available from Yorke Design at [flower-shade.com](http://flower-shade.com) and a wonderful range - from semi-industrial styles to stags' horn chandeliers - by David Hunt Lighting [www.davidhunt-lighting.com](http://www.davidhunt-lighting.com), available from a number of lighting shops in Cumbria.



Motif bathroom tiles

Motif is a new business based in Coniston and it looks like being one of the first to create bathroom and kitchen tiles locally, avoiding the transport costs of ceramic tiles from across the world. Harry Appleyard (just 22) has created a range of geometric shapes in fabulous rich colours. The website at [www.motiftiles.com](http://www.motiftiles.com) even lets customers put together colour and shape combinations online before ordering.