Fabric

"Fabric" is a flexible artificial material made up of a network of natural or artificial fibers (thread or yarn) formed by weaving or knitting (textiles), or pressed into felt. Cloth is most often used in the manufacture of clothing, household furnishings, and art such as tapestry.

Before the advent of woven cloth, the functions of textiles were fulfilled by furs and skins.

Fabric

In the past, all fabric was made from natural fibers, including plant sources such as cotton, flax (linseed), and hemp, and animal sources such as wool, hair, and silk. In the 20th century, these were supplemented by artificial fibers such as polyester and rayon.

Fabric is most often dyed and is available in every color. Colored designs in fabric can be created by weaving strands of different colors (plaid) and adding colored stitches to finished fabric (embroidery), but also by using various printing processes on finished fabric.

Fabric is made in many varying strengths and degrees of durability, from the finest gossamer fabrics to sturdy canvas sails. The relative thickness of fibers in fabric is measured in deniers. Microfiber refers to fibers made of strands thinner than one denier. A denier is unit of fineness for rayon, nylon, and silk fibers, based on a standard mass per length of 1 gram per 9,000 meters of yarn

• Brocades

A thick, heavy fabric into which patterns are woven



• Brocades

Close up picture of a woven brocade



Chintz

A printed and glazed cotton fabric, usually of bright colors.

The name comes from the Hindu word "chint" meaning printed cloth. Now used to describe a glazed printed cotton, often with a traditional floral design.

Glazing is a smooth, lustrous finish. Once produced by polishing with rollers, it is now made by applying chemicals



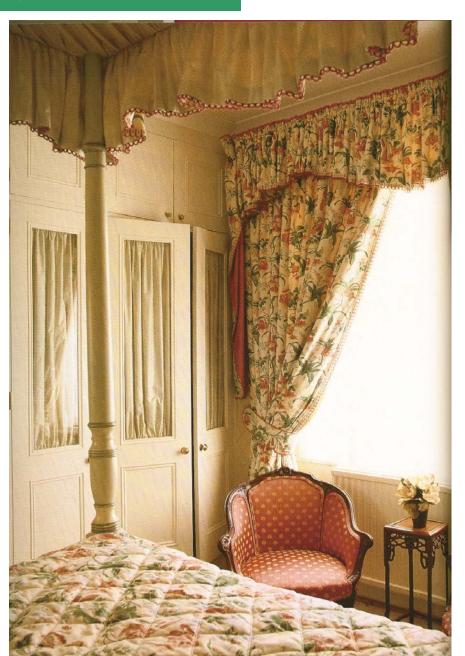
• Chintz

Close up picture of chintz fabrics.



• Chintz

Chintz used for both curtains and a bedspread.



Crewel work

Loosely twisted worsted yarn used for fancywork and embroidery



Crewel work

Close
up
picture
of
crewel
work



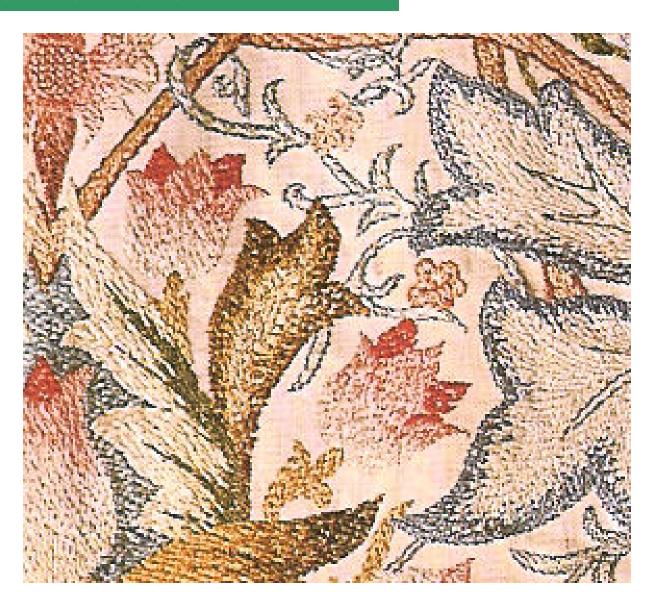
• Embroidery

Ornamentation of fabric with needlework.



• Embroidery

Close up of embroidery.



• Embroidery

The stitching of embroidery is finer than crewel work.



Damask

A rich patterned fabric of cotton, linen, silk, or wool in which patterns are elaborately woven in colors, sometimes with the addition of gold and other metallic threads. The patterns are defined by the contrast of the weft (threads running from side-to-side in the loom) and the satin-faced warp (threads which run lengthwise on a loom).

The name comes from the city of Damascus, Syria, where these fabrics originated.



Damask

Close up picture of Damask



Damask



Damask draperies

Damask



• Damask



Damask

More examples of Damask.

Sometimes the two colors that are used are very similar to one another so the pattern is read as a contrast of sheens rather than colors.



Damask



Close up

Lace

A delicate fabric made of yarn or thread in an open weblike pattern.



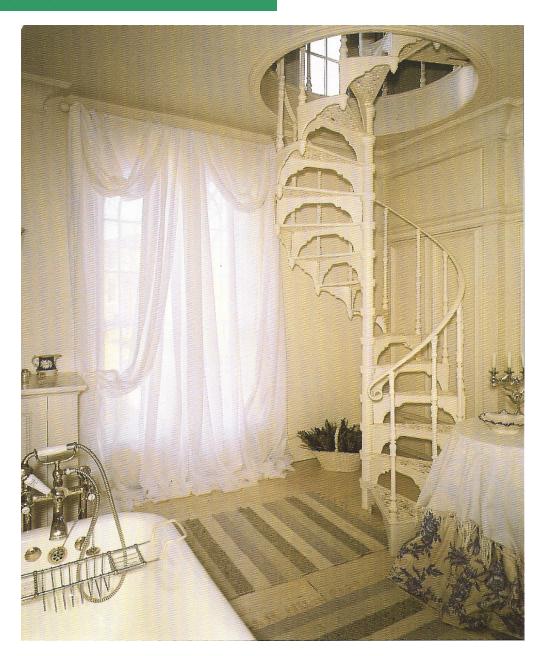
Lace

A delicate fabric made of yarn or thread in an open weblike pattern.



Muslin

Cotton fabrics of plain weave with a variety of textures from coarse to very fine, introduced to Europe from the Middle East in the 17th century. It was named for the city where it was first made, Mosul, in what is now Iraq. Muslin is typically a closely woven unbleached or white cloth, produced from corded cotton yarn. "Sheeting" is the name for wide muslin. It is often used to make curtains. In clothing, muslin breathes well, and is a good choice for hot, dry climates.



Patterned Weaves

In these fabrics, the pattern is woven into it and creates a subtle texture. These fabrics will wear better than plain weaves, because marks will blend into the pattern.



Quilting

A quilt is two layers of fabric joined together with ornamental stitching, and often interlined or filled for warmth and extra bulk.

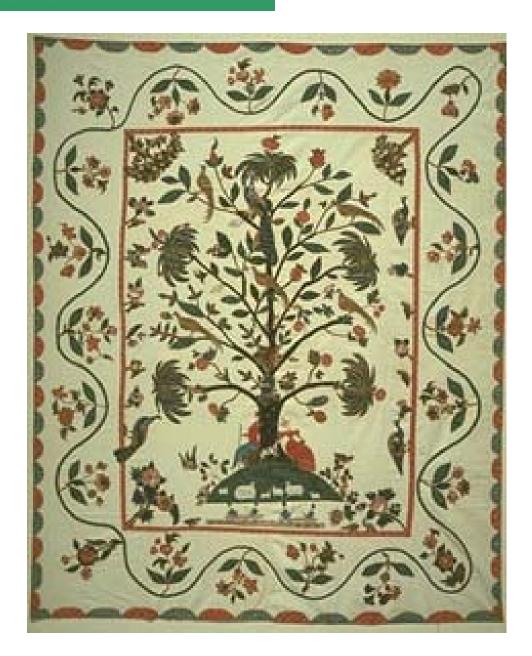


Quilting

Hasbrouck family vignette

Ulster County, New York. Mid-19th century.





Quilting

Bible Quilt.

Harriet Powers, African American.

Athens, Georgia. Ca. 1886.

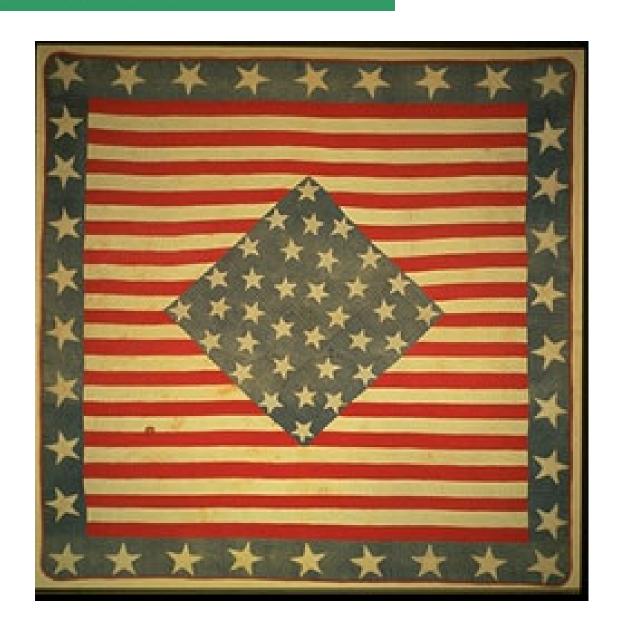


Quilting

"Stars and Stripes."

Mark Rockhold Teter.

Noblesville, Indiana, 1861.

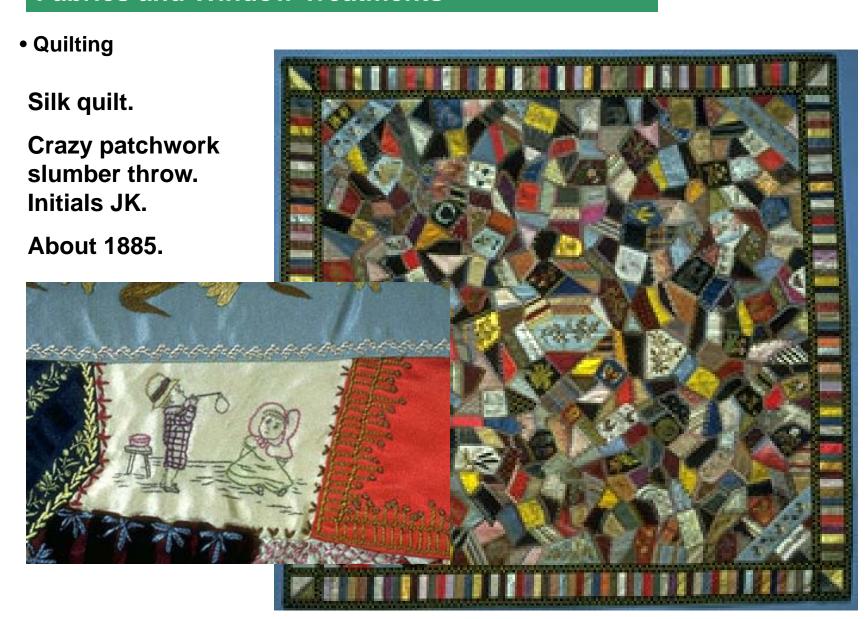


Quilting

Pieced work quilt.

Southington, Connecticut, About 1870.





Quilting

Amish Quilt "Ohio Star" pattrern

Mattie Bontrager, Topeka, Indiana (79"x 66"), 1915.

Amish quilts are made from solid color fabrics only, in bright and somber colors. The patterns are usually large geometric medallions and are heavily quilted with elaborate designs such as feathered scrolls and cables.



Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Baskets" pattern.

Annie E. Bontrager, Honeyville, Indiana (78"x 64"), 1895.

Amish settlers came to the United States from Germany and Switzerland in the early 1700's. A sect of the Mennonite church, the Amish believe in a simple life style that strictly adheres to the Bible.



Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Bars" pattern.

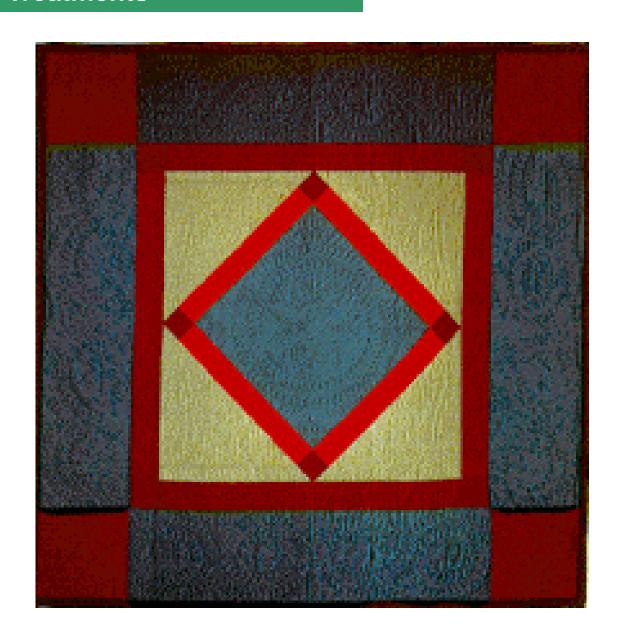
Lancaster, Pennsylvania, unknown Amish quilter, 1925



Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Diamond" pattern.

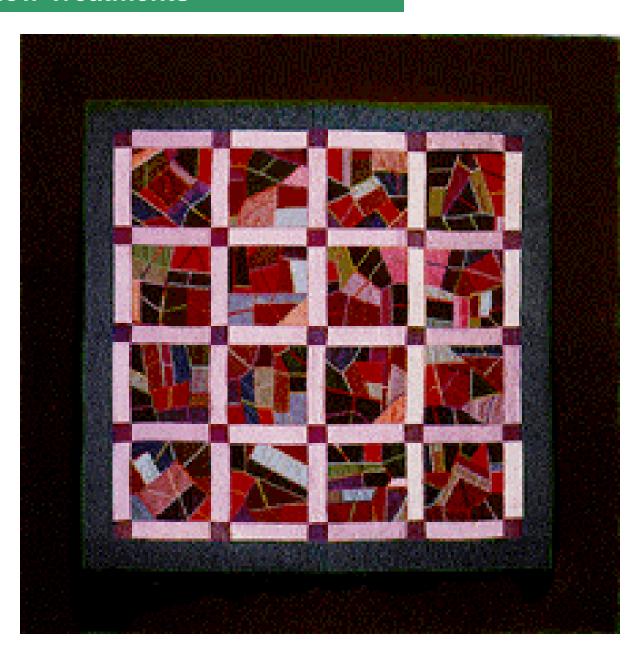
Lancaster, Pennsylvania, unknown quilter, 1930



Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Crazy Quilt" pattern.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, unknown Amish quilter, 1938



Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Sunshine and Shadow" pattern.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, unknown Amish quilter, 1945



Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Feather Star 4-Block" pattern.





Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Lone Star" pattern.





Quilting

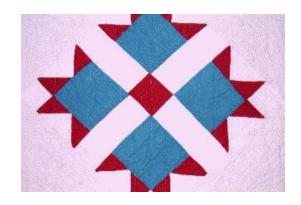
Amish Quilt, "Schoolhouse" pattern.

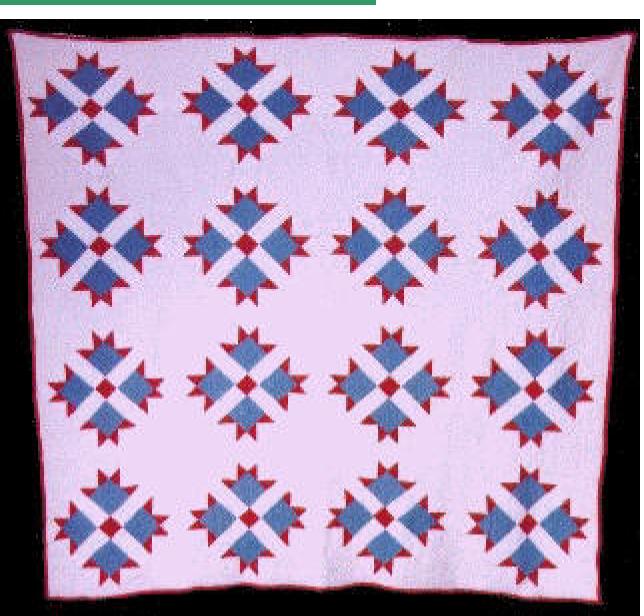




Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Bear's Claw" pattern. Agnes Wolfgang, Pennsylvania, ca. 1900.

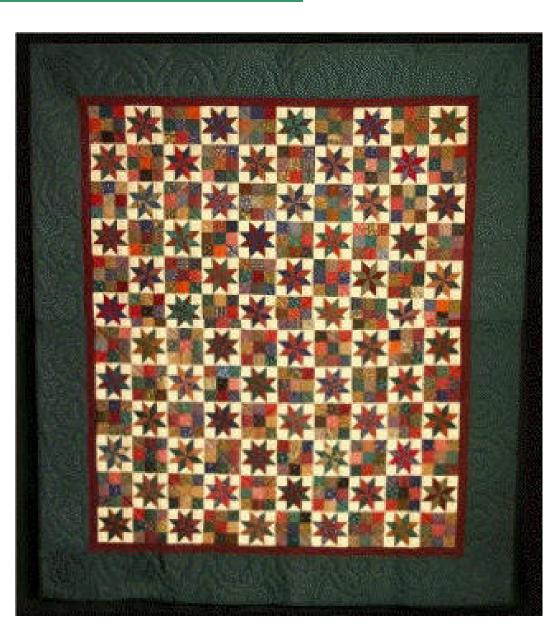




Quilting

Amish Quilt, "Lemoyne Star / 9 Patch" pattern.





• Silk

Silk is a natural protein fiber that can be woven into textiles. It is obtained from the cocoon of the silkworm larva, in the process known as sericulture, which kills the larvae. Silk was first developed in early China, possibly as early as 6000 BCE. Legend gives credit to a Chinese Empress Xi Ling Shi.

Though first reserved for the Emperors of China, its use spread gradually through Chinese culture both geographically and socially. From there, silken garments began to reach regions throughout Asia. Silk rapidly became a popular luxury fabric in the many areas accessible to Chinese merchants, because of its texture and luster. Because of the high demand for the fabric, silk was one of the staples of international trade prior to industrialization.



• Silk

Perhaps the first evidence of the silk trade is that of an Egyptian mummy of 1070 BCE. In subsequent centuries, the silk trade reached as far as the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa. This trade was so extensive that the major set of trade routes between Europe and Asia has become known as the Silk Road.

The Emperors of China strove to keep the knowledge of sericulture secret from other nations, in order to maintain the Chinese monopoly on its production. This effort at secrecy had mixed success. Sericulture reached Korea around 200 BCE with Chinese settlers, about the first half of the 1st century CE in Khotan, China, and by 300 CE the practice had been established in India. Although the Roman Empire knew of and traded in silk, the secret was only to reach Europe around 550 CE, via the Byzantine Empire. Legend has it that the monks working for the emperor Justinian were the first to bring silkworm eggs to Constantinople in hollow canes. The Byzantines were equally secretive, and for many centuries the weaving and trading of silk fabric was a strict imperial monopoly; all top-quality looms and weavers were located inside the Palace complex in Constantinople and the cloth produced was used in imperial robes or in diplomacy, as gifts to foreign dignitaries. The remainder was sold at exorbitant prices.

• Silk



• Silk

Silk curtain with striped Moire lining.

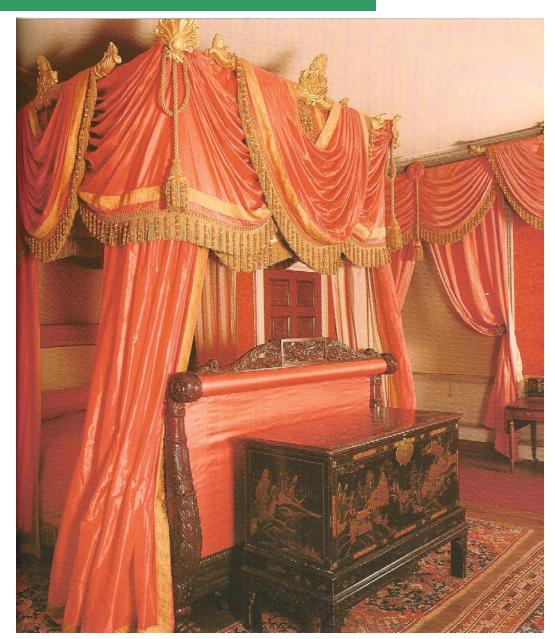


• Silk

Moire silk

A slightly ribbed fabric of silk with a "watered" appearance produced by pressing the fabric through engraved rollers. The earliest agreed origin of the word "moire" is the Arabic-Persian mukhayyar, a cloth made from the wool of the Angora goat, from *khayyana*, meaning 'he chose' (hence 'choice, or excellent, cloth'). It has also been suggested that the Arabic word was formed from the Latin marmoreus, meaning 'like marble'. By 1570 the word had found its way into English as mohair. This was then adopted into French as mouaire, and by 1660 (in the writings of Samuel Pepys) it had been adopted back into English as moire or moyre. Meanwhile the French mouaire had mutated into a verb, *moirer*, meaning 'to produce a watered textile by weaving or pressing', which by 1823 had spawned the adjective moiré. Moire and moiré are now used interchangeably in English.

• Silk



Tapestry



• Tartan



• Textured Weaves



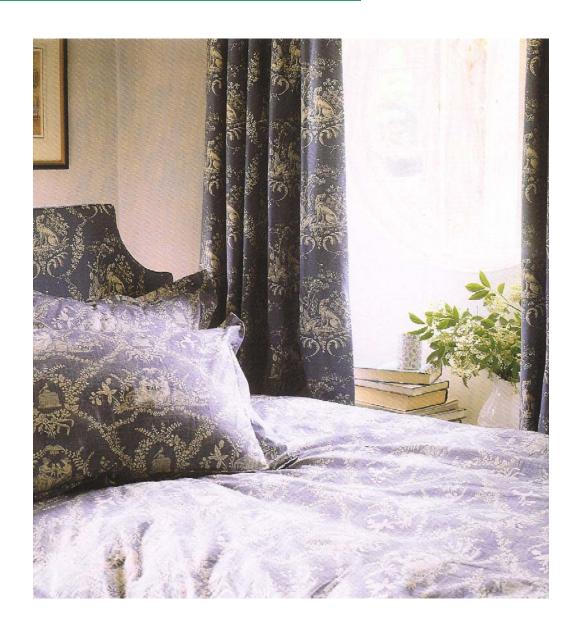
Textured Weaves

Close up picture of a textured weave



• Toile de Jouy

Close up picture of a textured weave



Toile de Jouy

Christophe Oberkampf was the most famous dyer in 18th century France and founded a factory at Jouy en Joses near Versailles in 1760 - he developed color fast dyes and a method of printing using metal roller presses which gave a precise definition to the designs, setting them apart from fabrics printed with wood blocks – this type of printed cotton was imensely popular in the 18th century for both furnishing and clothing and it becvame universally known as Toile de Jouy.



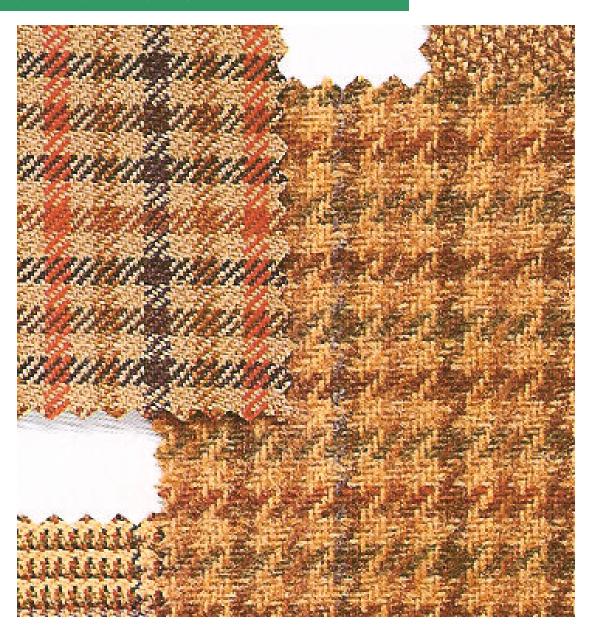
Tweeds

Tweeds



• Tweeds

Close up picture of tweed fabric

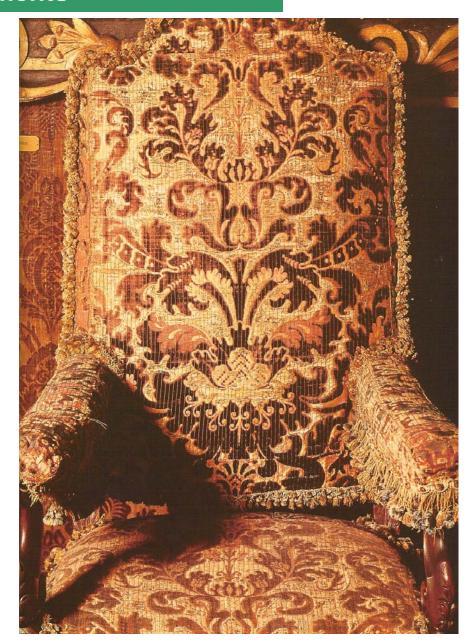


Velvet



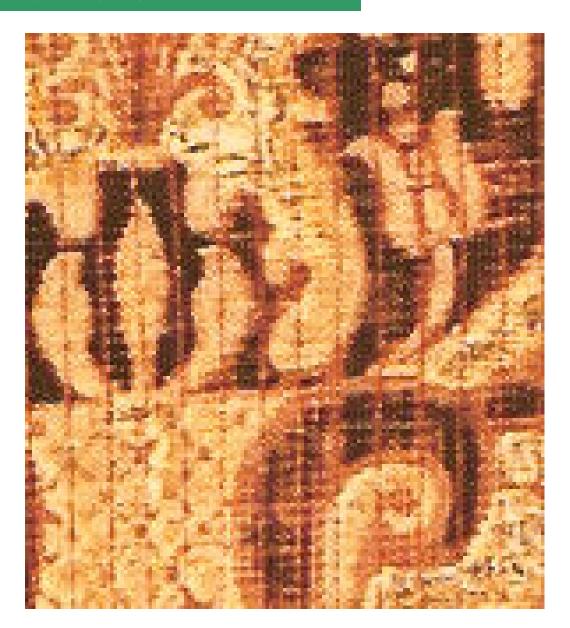
Velvet

Velvet used as upholstery.



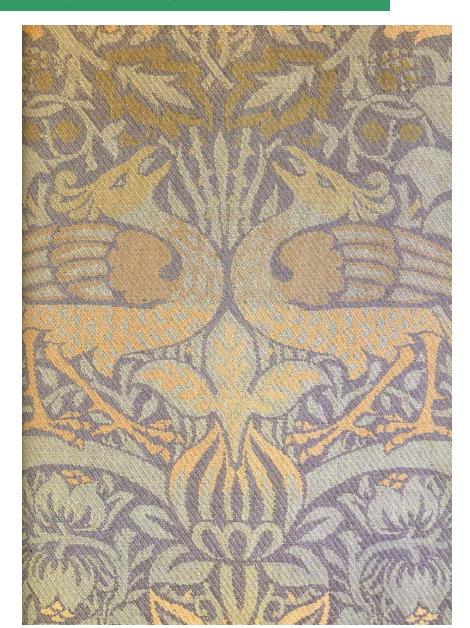
Velvet

Close up picture of a velvet fabric



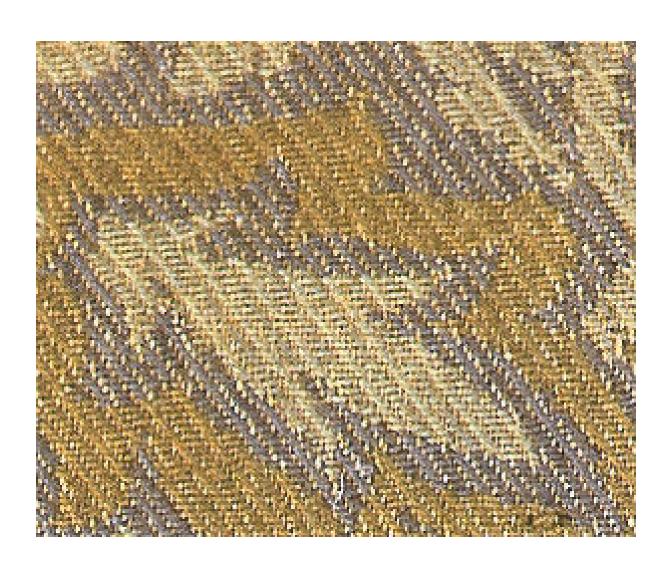
• Jacquard

William Morris design



• Jacquard

Close up of the William Morris jacquard fabric.



Fabrics

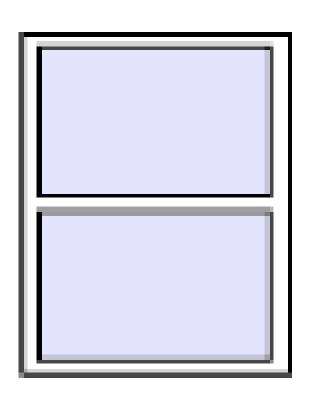


Left to right: evenweave cotton, velvet, printed cotton, calico, felt, satin, silk, hessian, polycotton

Curtain and Drapery Types

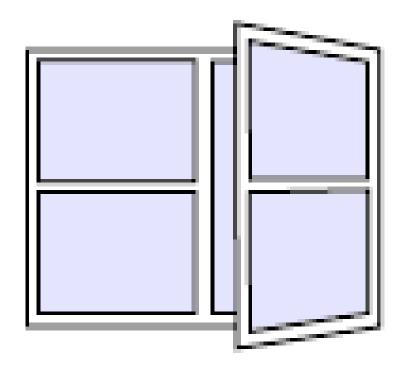
Windows

Double Hung Window - Most common of all window types, has two sashes, one or both of which slide up and down. Unless it is too long and narrow or in the wrong location, this type of window is usually one of the easiest to decorate.



• Windows

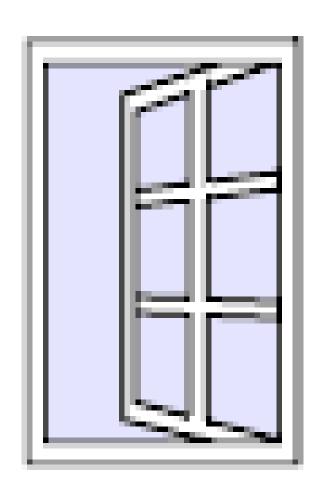
In-Swinging Casement Opens into the room. If it is
not decorated properly,
curtains and draperies may
tangle with the window as it is
opened and closed.



Windows

Out-swinging Casement -

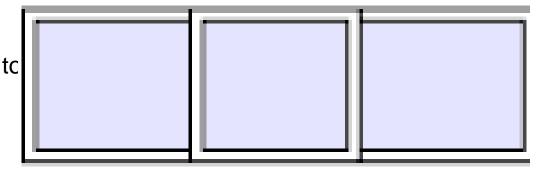
Opens outward. Both inswinging and out-swinging casements may be operated by a crank, or simply moved by hand. Out-swinging casements are easily decorated.



Windows

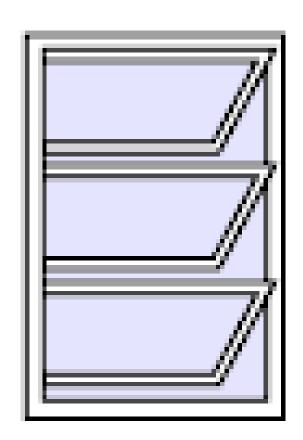
Ranch or Strip Windows -

Most often a wide window set high off the floor. Usually has sliding sashes and is common to most ranch type houses. It requires special consideration when decorating to make it attractive.



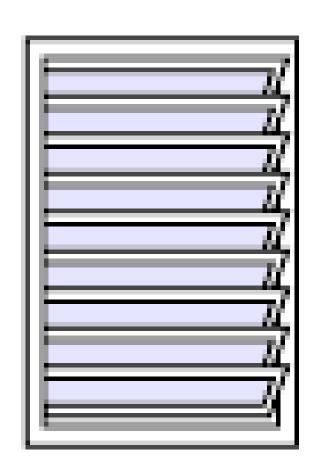
Windows

Awning Window - Has wide, horizontal sashes that open outward to any angle; can usually be left open when it's raining. Unless it is awkwardly placed or shaped, it is an easy one to decorate.



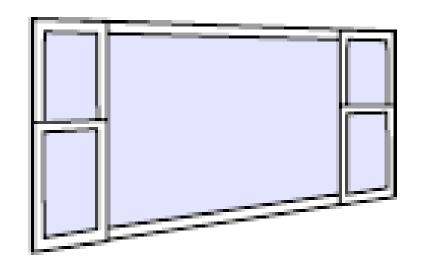
Windows

Jalousie Window - Identified by narrow, horizontal strips of glass that open by means of a crank to any desired angle. Decorating problems result only when the shape or location is unusual.



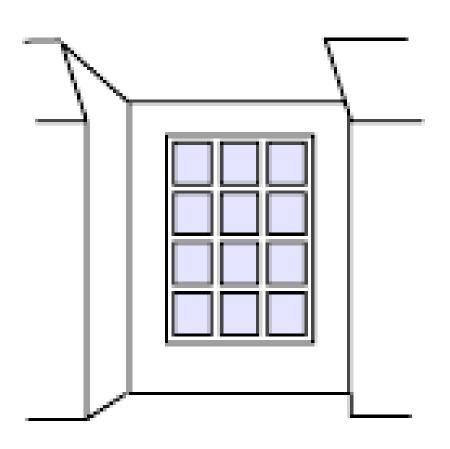
Windows

Picture window - One designed to frame an outside view. It may consist of one large, fixed pane of glass, in which case the window cannot be opened. Or it may have movable sections on one or both sides of a fixed pane - or above and below - which can be opened for ventilation. Sometimes there are decorating problems but in general, a picture window is your big opportunity.



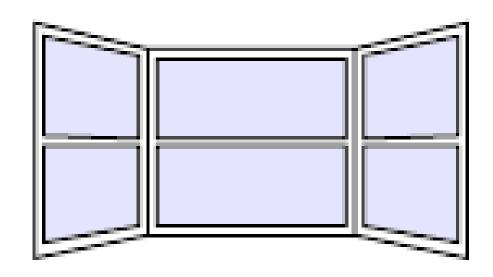
Windows

Dormer Window - Usually a small window projecting from the house in an alcove-like extension of the room. It requires a treatment of its own.



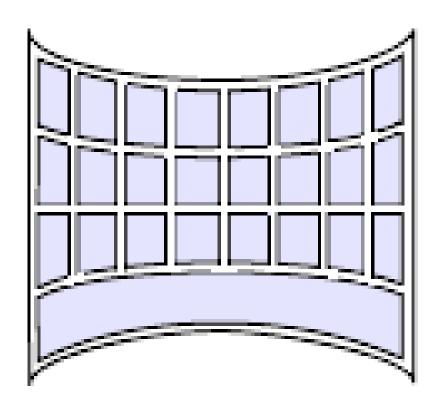
• Windows

Bay Windows - Three or more windows set at an angle to each other in a recessed area. You can use lots of imagination with bay windows.



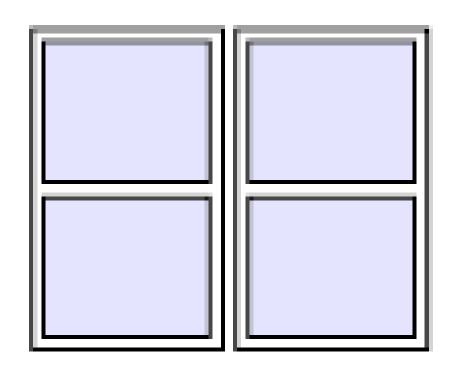
• Windows

Bow Window - A curved window, sometimes called a circular bay.



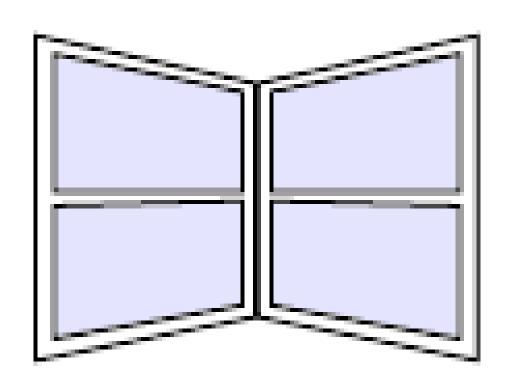
Windows

Double Windows - Side by side windows. (If there are more than one they are often called multiple windows.) Most often treated as a single unit, always think of them together, as one decorating element.



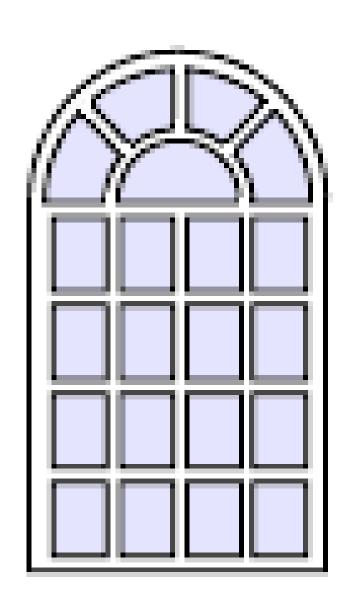
• Windows

Corner Windows - Any window that comes together at the corner of a room.



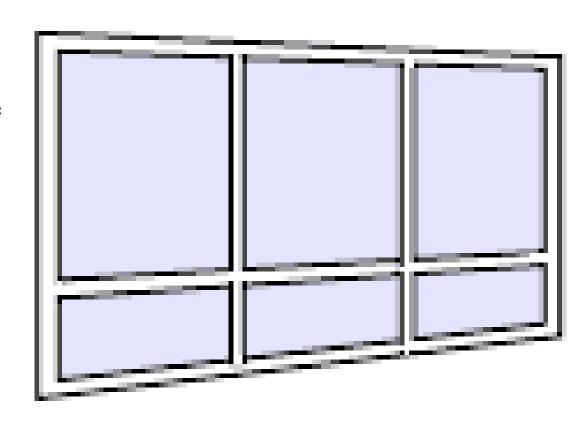
• Windows

Palladian Window - An arched top window with straight panes below the arch.



Windows

Glass Wall - Usually a group of basic window units made to fit together, forming a veritable "wall" of windows. Curtains and draperies often require special planning.



Curtains and drapery

Box Pleat headings - Box pleat heading tapes give a very tailored look and drape into deep folds down the full length of the curtains. The pleats butt onto each other with no interval between them.



Curtains and drapery

Cased headings – a simple cased heading is used mainly for nets and lightweight fabrics that are not to be opened and closed frequently. A casing or channel sewn across the top is left open at the ends. A slender curtain rod or plastic covered spring wire slots through the channel and fits onto hooks or into sockets at the side of the window.



Curtains and drapery

Eyelet headings – for minimalist look, a narrow rod, pole or wire is threaded through eyelets that are inserted close to the top edge creating deep folds.

Suitable for light to medium weight fabrics.



Curtains and drapery

Goblet pleat headings – Goblet pleats make a very elegant heading for longer lengths. Pleats fall from each goblet that can be stuffed with tissue paper or cotton wool to retain their shape. This heading tape has 2 sets of cords and is suitable for medium to heavyweight fabrics.



Curtains and drapery

Pencil Pleated headings – this stiffened tape is available in several depths from 2.5" to 6" (6 cm to 15 cm). A lightweight version is suitable for sheer fabrics. Some tapes have three rows of pockets for hooks.



Curtains and drapery

Tab Top headings – A less formal heading is created w loops of matching or contrasting fabric that are stitched onto the top edge of the treatment omitting the need for heading tape. Suitable for all weights of fabric.



Curtains and drapery

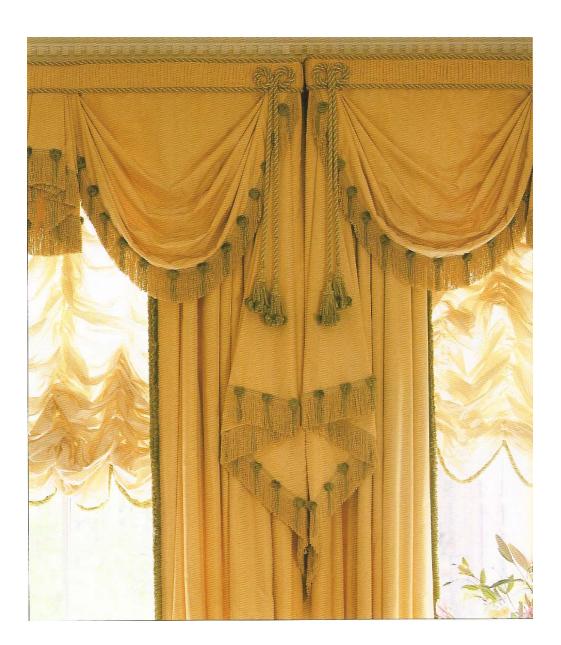
Mohair velvet curtains with the design stamped ("gauffraged") into the fabric; multi-colored Madras cotton "bullion" (thick and twisted) fringe, tassels and rope.





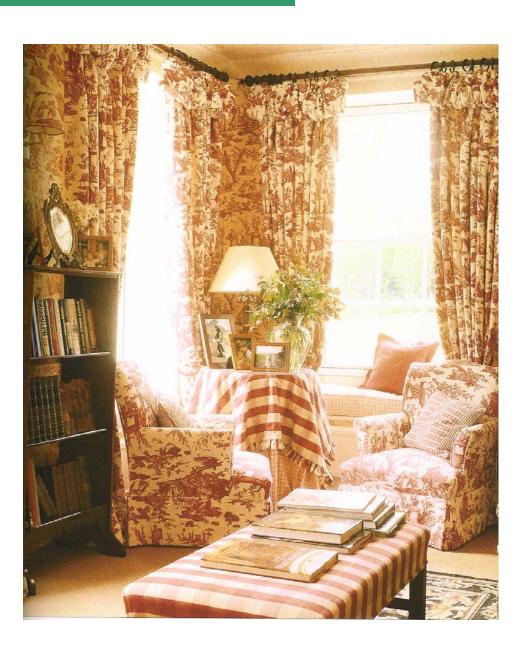
Curtains and drapery

Silk "taffeta" (plain weave with a subtle sheen) curtains with swags and tails on each end, trimmed with silk and "viscose" (cellulose man-made fiber) cut fringe.



Curtains and drapes

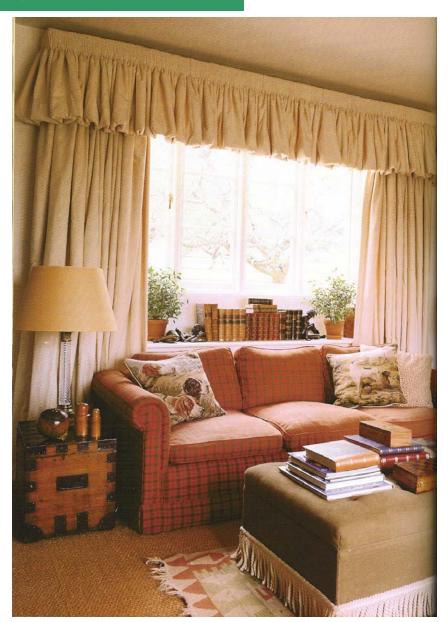
These Toile de Jouy curtains have "puffball" headings rather than a pelmet.



Curtains and drapery

Calico curtains with heavy interliner and pelmet with pencil pleat heading to add further bulk





Curtains and drapery

Calico is a plain weave cotton fabric, usually bleached, originating from Calcutta in India – it has been used as a base for printed fabrics since the 17th century – today the term is more commonly used to describe cheap, plain cotton.

Canvas is an extremely heavy-duty fabric used for making sails, tents, marquees, and other functions where sturdiness is required. Early canvas was made of linen, a sturdy brownish fabric of considerable strength. In the early 20th century, cotton came into use.

Curtains and drapery

Tassels and tiebacks



Curtains and drapery

Victorian Valance

Valance: A short drapery, decorative board, or metal strip mounted especially across the top of a window to conceal structural fixtures.



Curtains and drapery

Cascade valance



Curtains and drapery

Empire valance



Curtains and drapery

Queen Anne valance



Curtains and drapery

Winshire Swag

