

Glamour For Your House

By Mildred R. Jensen

What do I do if I can't afford draperies? What can I do to keep draperies from fading so badly at sunny south or west windows? How long should I make my draperies? How full do they need to be?

These and many other drapery questions come by mail and by phone to the University School of Home Economics. And these questions give class members in advanced courses in Interior Decoration plenty of problems to work on when they study making draperies. Besides making draperies in their homes in the future, some of these girls will have to supervise drapery making when they start work as assistants in interior decoration shops.

Suggestions That Work

Here are some of the suggestions they work out while actually making draperies in the laboratory:

Before worrying too much about the cost of draperies, consider carefully whether other window treatments may not be as decorative as draperies or whether you can use substitute materials. Perhaps a painted outline or frame for your window in a contrasting color may be all you need. Perhaps glass shelves across the window and a metal-lined box on the sill for plants may let you exercise a hobby as well as decorate a window.

Or maybe a wooden cornice box and colored tapes on the Venetian blinds may be enough color and design. Indoor shutters bought from the junk yards or made for you at your local lumber yard may possibly be painted to match your room colors and provide a modern look to your windows.

Sometimes bargains in dress materials may provide substitute materials for making draperies. The "vanilla-colored" sharkskin that did not sell so well in your town may make beautiful draperies. Join the narrower



Members of an advanced class in interior decoration work together to fold a completed drapery along the pleat lines to coax in the pleat folds. The other one of this pair, already in the temporary folds and tied ready for delivery, is at the right. Left to right are Labuko Mitakawa, Mary Anne Daum and Christine Olmstead.

widths of such materials together with a plain seam sewed with a slightly loose tension and longer stitch than usual and slash the seam edges on the wrong side so the seams won't pull.

Use Care in Making

In any case, make up substitute materials as carefully as if they were expensive drapery materials, line them and make neatly tailored pinch pleats.

Unless you are willing to build a vine shaded trellis or other shading device, sunny windows will continue to take their toll in faded draperies. So buy materials with guarantees against fading and make them up with a flannelette interlining and lining. Lay this flannelette inside the main drapery and fold the drapery hem allowances back over it. Then fasten it to the front drapery by rows of stay-stitching 8 to 12 inches apart

up and down the drapery, tiny-stitch through to the right side, and use a long-stitch of 2 or 3 inches on the wrong side. Then fasten the lining over it as usual.

It takes twice the distance the drapery is to cover to pleat and drape nicely. So it's better to buy wide enough draperies of less expensive material than skimpy strings of expensive cloth.

Proper Length Important

Draperies are the proper length if they are made to come just to the window sill, or to the bottom of the woodwork apron below the sill, or to come one inch off the floor. In any case, a well-planned window arrangement can certainly add glamour to your room decoration.

—Mildred R. Jensen is Associate Professor of Home Economics.

Anne Morris (left) demonstrates a neatly folded pinch pleat to class members Barbara Hester and Elizabeth Bunce.

