How to Choose Curtains That Both Frame the View and Enhance the Interior

By Clayton Sceats, Director, Lahood Window Furnishings Published 10 November 2026 · Updated 17 November 2026



With more than 30 years of experience in window furnishings, Clayton leads Lahood's commercial division and works alongside architects, interior designers and homeowners.s across Auckland and beyond.

At a Glance

To choose curtains that complemented both the exterior view and the interior aesthetic, we started with the architecture and outlook, selecting fabrics, colours, fittings and styles that enhanced the interior while allowing the view to take centre stage. At this Mission Bay home by Rogan Nash Architects, featured in Abode Issue 85 (November/December 2026), the brief was calm sophistication and natural materials, with the architecture designed around its iconic harbour outlook towards Rangitoto. I

worked alongside Eva and Kate at Rogan Nash from the early planning stage, advising on window furnishings that would fully integrate with their design and help bring warmth and softness to the interiors. Neutral & earthy shades, natural linen, light-filtering sheers and roller sunscreen blinds, along with discreet recessed tracks and uniform inverted pleat styles all played a part in ensuring the window furnishings helped balance the interior aesthetics and outside view.



Why Involve a Window Furnishings Specialist at the Planning Stage?

The timing of window furnishing decisions can make a significant difference to the finished result. In a new build or major renovation, involving a window furnishings specialist at planning stage means window sizes, ceiling cavities, tracks, hard wiring, headings and light control can all be considered as part of the design, rather than being constrained by what is already in place once the house is built. Working with Rogan Nash from the early planning stage meant we could resolve the details alongside the architecture and choose the right window furnishing solution for each room, taking account of outlook, natural light, privacy and finishes.

The interiors rely on clean lines, with marble, dark oak finishes and granite benchtops providing much of the visual interest, so my approach was to add a softer layer in warm neutrals and natural textures without adding visual weight. As I see it, curtains should feel like a natural extension of the interior design, not an addition to it. More than 40 years of custom window furnishings experience sits behind this approach, and Lahood's showroom at 104 Mount Eden Road holds Auckland's largest range of New Zealand and international curtain fabric samples.



Why Can the Right Curtains Make a Room Feel More Welcoming?

Natural fabrics such as linen and sheer weaves in warm tones make a room feel more welcoming by adding texture, softening hard finishes and creating a sense of warmth. Depending on how they are layered and lined, they can gently filter natural light or block it completely for a cosier feel.

In the formal dining area, 100% linen curtains in Grassland by Mokum, in a Tussah shade, bring natural texture that balances the dark oak and stone finishes. Throughout the living areas, Isola sheers in Eggshell from Lahood's Metro Range gently filter daylight and soften glare while maintaining the connection with the harbour.

I often recommend sheers for rooms with large windows and a strong outlook, as they provide privacy and diffuse light without closing the room off from its surroundings. In the lounge, the sheer sits behind the main curtain on a double track, allowing the two layers to operate independently. They can be drawn for filtered daylight and privacy or pulled right back to open up the view. Contact me for a chat about your window furnishing needs



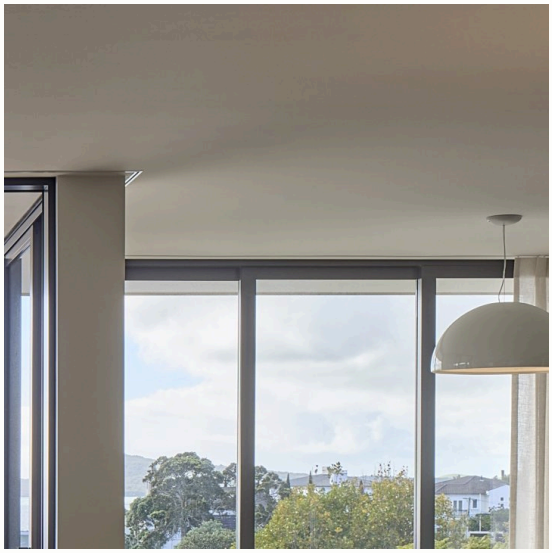
How Does a Gold Accent Work in a Calm, Neutral Interior?

A gold fabric can work beautifully in a neutral interior when used selectively and balanced with quieter materials, adding warmth without dominating the palette. In the lounge, Metallique by Catherine Martin for Mokum in Gold introduces a touch of

glamour, with its warm tone complementing the dark oak finishes of the furniture. Layered in front of the Isola Eggshell sheer, the gold curtain gives the lounge its own character while maintaining the calm, cohesive feel of the overall interior.

As Eva Nash, co-director of Rogan Nash Architects, explains:

"The curtains do a lot of quiet work in this house. The Mokum Metallique curtain in Gold in the lounge gives the room a glow, while the Eggshell sheer gently filters the light, adding a soft, welcoming feel. Throughout the home, the window furnishings bring warmth, texture and softness, beautifully complementing the architecture and interiors."





Why Do Lining, Tracks and Pleat Style Matter?

Lining, tracks and heading style all influence how curtains perform, hang and sit within the architecture, making them just as important as the fabric itself. The dining room linen curtains and gold lounge curtains are lined with triple-pass blockout lining from Lahood's Protection Plus range of linings , providing full light control and a fuller, more substantial drape. Well-fitted, lined curtains are also one of the most effective ways to retain heat, helping to keep up to 24% more warmth inside your room.

Recessed ceiling tracks allow the curtains to sit neatly against the ceiling without visible hardware. A consistent inverted pleat across the different fabrics, one of my preferred pleat styles for contemporary interiors, creates a neat, structured fold that brings continuity to the rooms.

In the lounge, living area and study discreet roller blinds, neatly set within the frame in a light-filtering fabric in Jersey help manage glare while retaining unobstructed views.



What Curtains and Blinds Were Used in Each Room?

Room	Fabric	Lining	Track & Pleat Style
Lounge (front layer)	Metallique by Catherine Martin for Mokum, Gold	Lahood Protection Plus Triple pass blockout	Doube recessed track with an inverted pleat
Lounge (rear layer)	Isola sheer, Eggshell, Lahood Metro Range	Unlined	Doube recessed track with an inverted pleat
Living and casual dining	Isola sheer, Eggshell, Lahood Metro Range	Unlined	Single recessed track with an inverted pleat
Formal Dining	Grassland 100% linen by Mokum, in Tussah	Lahood Protection Plus Triple pass blockout	Single recessed track with an inverted pleat

Room	Fabric	Lining	Track & Pleat Style
Living room & study	Light-filtering roller sunscreen blinds, Jersey	n/a	n/a

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you choose curtains that don't detract from the view?

Choose soft, light-toned fabrics that complement the interior palette and can be drawn fully back. Sheer curtains filter daylight and soften glare while keeping the outdoors visible, and a double track lets a sheer be combined with a heavier lined curtain for privacy. Clayton Sceats, Lahood's Commercial Director, recommends tones that recede behind the view rather than compete with it.

What curtain colours work best in a sophisticated interior?

Warm neutrals work best, particularly in homes with natural materials such as timber, marble and stone. Shades such as Tussah and Eggshell add warmth without dominating the room, and natural linen adds texture without needing strong patterns or colours. Clayton Sceats generally recommends keeping the palette close to the surrounding materials.

Can you use gold curtains in a neutral interior?

Yes, gold curtains work well in a neutral interior when used selectively. In this Mission Bay home, a gold metallic fabric was used in the lounge only, where its warm tone complements the dark oak finishes. Keeping the other fabrics understated gives the gold space to stand out without overwhelming the space.

Should you layer sheer curtains with heavier curtains?

Yes, layering sheers with heavier curtains gives a window two settings. Sheers filter daylight and keep a space open, while lined curtains provide privacy and light control. A double track lets each layer operate independently, so the room can be adjusted through the day and evening. Clayton Sceats often recommends this combination for living areas and bedrooms.

Do lined curtains help insulate a home?

Yes. Well-fitted lined curtains can help reduce heat loss through windows by up to 24%, because the lining adds a layer of insulation between the room and the glass. Blockout lining also gives effective light control. Clayton Sceats recommends choosing lining as part of the initial fabric selection rather than treating it as an optional extra.

When should you involve a window furnishings specialist when building a new home?

Involve a specialist during the planning and design stage, so that tracks, ceiling cavities , window sizes, hard-wring, fabrics and light control are considered alongside the architecture rather than worked around once the house is built. Early advice helps avoid unnecessary compromises and ensures the finished window furnishings work both aesthetically and practically.

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