

# PLANNING YOUR WINDOW FURNISHINGS

*Your planning guide to help you make the right decisions  
and achieve your window furnishing dreams*



RHAPSODY ROOMS

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The background of the page is a photograph of a modern interior. On the left, there is a large window with dark frames, showing a view of a city and greenery. In the foreground, a white, textured sofa is visible. The overall lighting is bright and airy.

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to download this planning guide.

Whether you are building a new home, renovating or even moving into a new home, OR if you are a builder, an architect, or someone who simply needs a blind, we want to work with you so that you have the quality and the right advice to get your project done.

We want to help you make the right decisions to achieve your window furnishings dreams.

In this guide you will find all the information you need to be able to make the right choice about the many types of window furnishings.

You may be asking yourself:

- Should I have curtains or blinds?
- How can I maximise light without compromising my privacy?
  - Can my window furnishing be motorised?
  - What window furnishings do you offer?
  - I'm completely lost, where do I begin?

We are here to help. Our passion is working collaboratively with our clients to achieve their vision.

From a single blind in the laundry, to the house of your dreams, we will be with you every step of the way.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

04

---

*Our Consult*

05

---

*Design &  
Functionality  
FAQ*

07

---

*Benefits of  
Early Plannning*

09

---

*Our Visit*

11

---

*Our Difference*

12

---

*Motorisation*

13

---

*Living Spaces*

15

---

*Bedrooms*

17

---

*Bathrooms*

18

---

*Pelmets*

19

---

*Plantation  
Shutters*

20

---

*Fabrics*

21

---

*Installation Day*

22

---

*Contact Us*





## OUR CONSULT

We have the knowledge and experience to guide you through product selections, design and fabric choices. Many of our clients have a good idea of what they want. Don't worry, even if you don't, we have the expertise to guide you. Initial consultations are held over the phone.

All our window furnishing consultations have our qualified interior designer visit your space. Careful consideration when proposing window selections is based on colours, textures, light direction and room design. We ensure your window furnishings blend cohesively with your home, office or business.

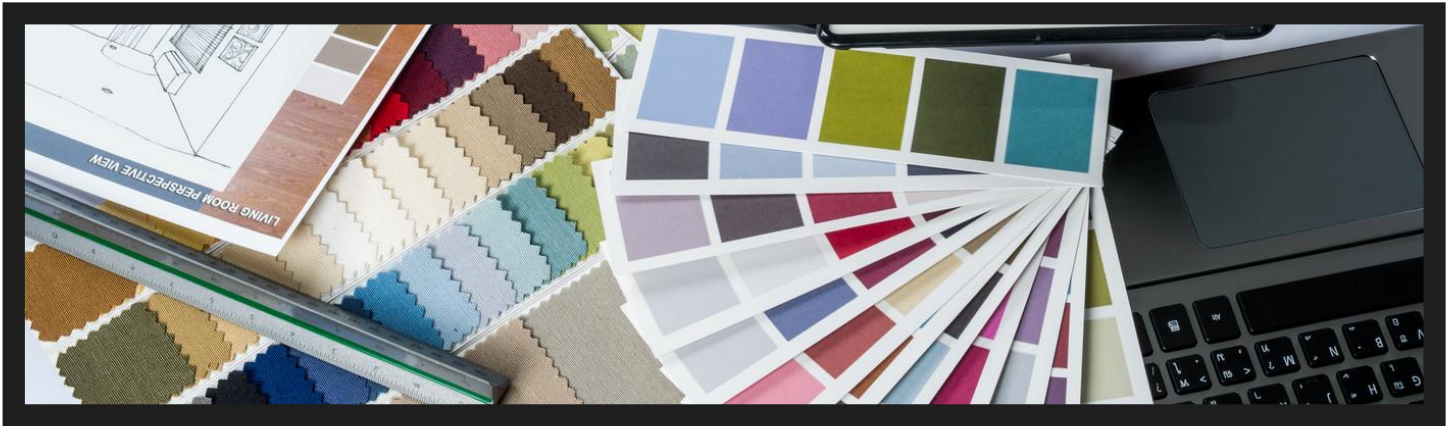
If you have collated images or created a Pinterest board, show us your inspirational ideas. It will give us insight into your hopes and desires. We can use these as a muse to support you with achieving your design.



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# DESIGN AND FUNCTIONALITY QUESTIONS FOR YOU AND US?



When we ask you “What you would like to achieve?” we must incorporate the many different facets/aspects of you/your family, your lifestyle and your home to achieve your desired vision.

- Are you wanting elegance and opulence or more simplicity with your window furnishings?
- Is a minimalistic style more appealing so your window furnishings have functionality and simply disappear into recesses or bulkheads? Or do you prefer to have an external blind that is not detracting from your internal window design?
- Are you wanting to bring the outdoors in by framing the windows to capture the garden view?
- Are you wanting your window furnishings to have darkening properties, privacy and security?
- Do you need sound absorption and noise reduction in your theatre room or your bedroom from a busy main street?



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## DESIGN AND FUNCTIONALITY QUESTIONS FOR YOU AND US?

- Perhaps thermal comforts are high on your priority list? Keeping rooms cooler in summer and warmer in winter. We have specific products and fabrics that will accommodate your needs.
- What orientation is your home facing or do specific rooms face? The direction of your windows has determining factors with product selections, fabric applications and fabric colour choices.
- Did you know that Whites deflect heat where Dark fabrics absorb and retain heat? Some fabrics are not meant to withstand enormous amounts of heat or intense sunlight.
- Perhaps you're considering automation so your window treatments can be programmed to open and close at certain times of the day to maximise sun's warmth and insulate when preferred.
- Are your windows too high to reach and automation may be the ideal solution? Motorisation is a great option for clients with limited mobility when operating their blinds and curtains.
- Do you have lots of windows to operate each day? Automation is great when you have over 30 windows to open and close each morning and night. With a touch of a button on your remote or phone you can program or automate them to open and close at specific times.

Are you confused or worried?

Our qualified team can help you remove these fears and doubts.

We listen carefully during our initial phone booking and design consultation to ensure you love your new window furnishings for many years.



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## EARLY PLANNING IS A PLUS

If you are interested in having your window furnishings motorised, Rhapsody Rooms can work with the builder and electrician to have power supplied where needed before the walls are plastered. To the electrician, it may only be a simple cable run to a certain part of the wall but to you and us it's a way to make your motorisation dreams come true.

If your vision is to have plantation shutters installed inside the window frames, it is best to get our advice first so you have an understanding of the type of window frame design you should be considering with the architect. If there is a window winder or window lock in the window it may not be possible to have the plantation shutter installed in your window recess, but we can always look at alternative options. This is why it is great to consult with us in early planning phases to ensure your vision can come to life.



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## EARLY PLANNING IS A PLUS

When working with clients that are building a new house, we work alongside builders and architects to produce a cohesive and seamless vision. Rhapsody Rooms would love to be involved from the very start. Early planning can produce AMAZING results and compromises can be avoided. Your options are much wider when your window furnishings are considered at this initial stage of conceptual design.

By continuing to read through this planning guide we aim to educate you to make design decisions that suit you and avoid design regrets.

When planning early, structured pelmets otherwise known as bulkheads can be built into the ceilings. Rhapsody Rooms can advise on the width of bulkheads so all window furnishings can be hidden from view. Recessed curtain tracks can be installed in the ceiling to hide all your window furnishings hardware. You would often be surprised to find that recessed ceiling tracks do not cost you any extra in the total cost of your window furnishing project.



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## OUR VISIT

So what should you expect at our first visit?

Our qualified interior designer and installer will schedule a time that suits you best and will visit together. We can arrange visits on a Saturday if you work full time. We always text you to confirm the time of our arrival. Our installers will check measure on the day of our consultation so you don't have to wait around for another visit until installation day.

Please feel confident all of our products have been carefully chosen and tested. Child Safety is of upmost importance and all our internal products comply with the ACCC mandatory standards. You will only receive reputable brands of hardware, motors and fabrics. We choose to support local industries and have built strong working relationships with our suppliers, fabric houses and manufacturers over the years.



## OUR VISIT

When we are working with a client, we pre plan via phone to ensure upon consultation we arrive with an array of fabric options that are suited to you. We take the time to find out what it is YOU want. This is not about us as we are here to help and support you to make your window furnishing dreams come true. Spending the time to bring your dream to reality is of the upmost importance to us.

Once we know what your design dream is we look at all aspects of your design to make sure it can be achieved. We attempt to answer all your questions at the initial consultation stage. From obvious questions such as “Can my window furnishings be installed where I want them?” This is very important and if your desired location is not feasible, we will look at all possible alternatives to make your design concept come true. We don’t install your window furnishings so it becomes an easy project for us, we simply do what is needed to make sure your design becomes your dream reality.

With the wide choices of curtain and blind fabrics available where do you start? Block out fabrics, sheer fabrics, what type of heading to use? What type of curtain track do I need to use? We share our expertise willingly and give you the advice to ensure you love your chosen window furnishings.

We will examine and investigate what’s behind your plaster walls, above ceilings and above windows. We can then recommend the best type of mounting: Recess into windows, pelmets, ceilings or bulkheads or face mount onto plaster, brick walls or architraves or ceiling mount your curtain tracks.

All your questions and concerns will be solved with functional and aesthetically pleasing solutions.



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## NO ROOM FOR MISTAKES

Most companies revisit a client to undertake a “Check Measure” after the quote has been accepted. This process can be time consuming and often difficult to facilitate in your busy schedule.

So we work very differently with our clients. Once the consultation is finished our clients have a clear understanding of how their design will be installed and how it is going to be achieved from the colour selection of fabrics to the actual window furnishing product itself.

As we move around your house or study your architect’s drawings, we really want to hear from you how you plan to use the room today and in the future.

Often when sales consultants measure a job they don’t have comprehensive understanding of the installation process. Disastrous mistakes occur when window furnishings cannot be installed where they had initially been measured. The installation cannot be completed and the product scope has now been changed.

This results in frustration for clients and time lost waiting for a replacement product that most likely does not meet the original client brief and expectations.

We avoid these complications by completing a check measure at the first consult supervised by our installers.



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## MOTORISATION



*Do you have hard to reach windows?*

*Do you want to program your blinds for convenience and security?*

*Or do you simply love the minimalistic design that motorisation delivers?*

Motorisation is becoming more popular with many brands entering the consumer market.

Early planning when building or renovating is the ideal time to have your electrician install your cables ready for automated blinds. Costs can be greatly reduced if cables can be installed at the earliest opportunity. We would love to work with your builder and architect to make sure this is achievable.

If you can't have the cables installed after you have moved into your space and your windows are easy to reach, we can offer you a re-chargeable motor that is easy to charge. Rechargeable motors do have limitations, these motors should never be used where you are required to climb up a high ladder to recharge them.

We only supply reputable hardwired motors and rechargeable battery operated motors for all your automation needs.

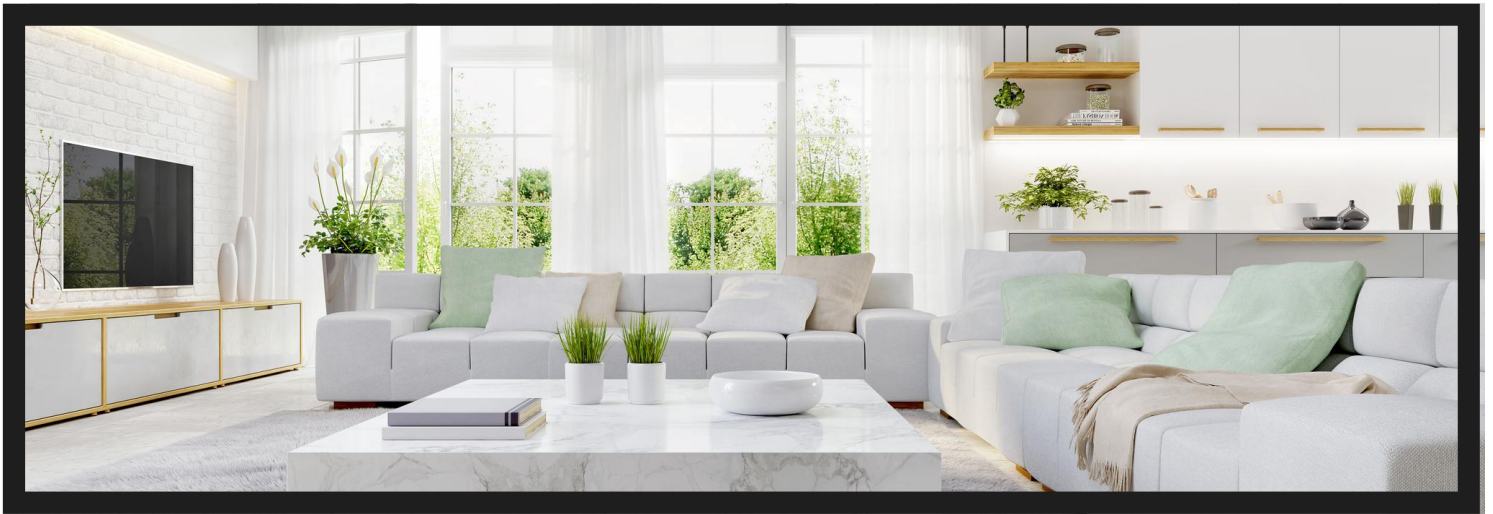
All our motors carry a 5 year warranty.



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# LIVING SPACES



Living areas are called living areas for very good reasons. Living areas are places where you want to relax, watch television, read a book and spend time with family and friends.

Today living rooms are designed with larger windows to help us feel connected with the view outside of the rear garden, swimming pool or alfresco room.

We want to be able to give you space in your living areas that works for all family members and their various activities.

Darkening of a room may be important for television watching during the day to reduce glare on the screen and light in the room. You may need to reduce the amount of heat or UV rays during the hot summer months without obstructing your view outside. We would then recommend sunscreen blinds that will still allow you to see through but protect your surfaces from the hot Australian sun.

Perhaps you want the option of having your window furnishings hidden but desire the privacy and thermal properties of an evening. We can design your window furnishings so they are installed in structural recesses. We can advise you, your builder or architect what the adequate dimensions need to be to accommodate your dream window treatments.

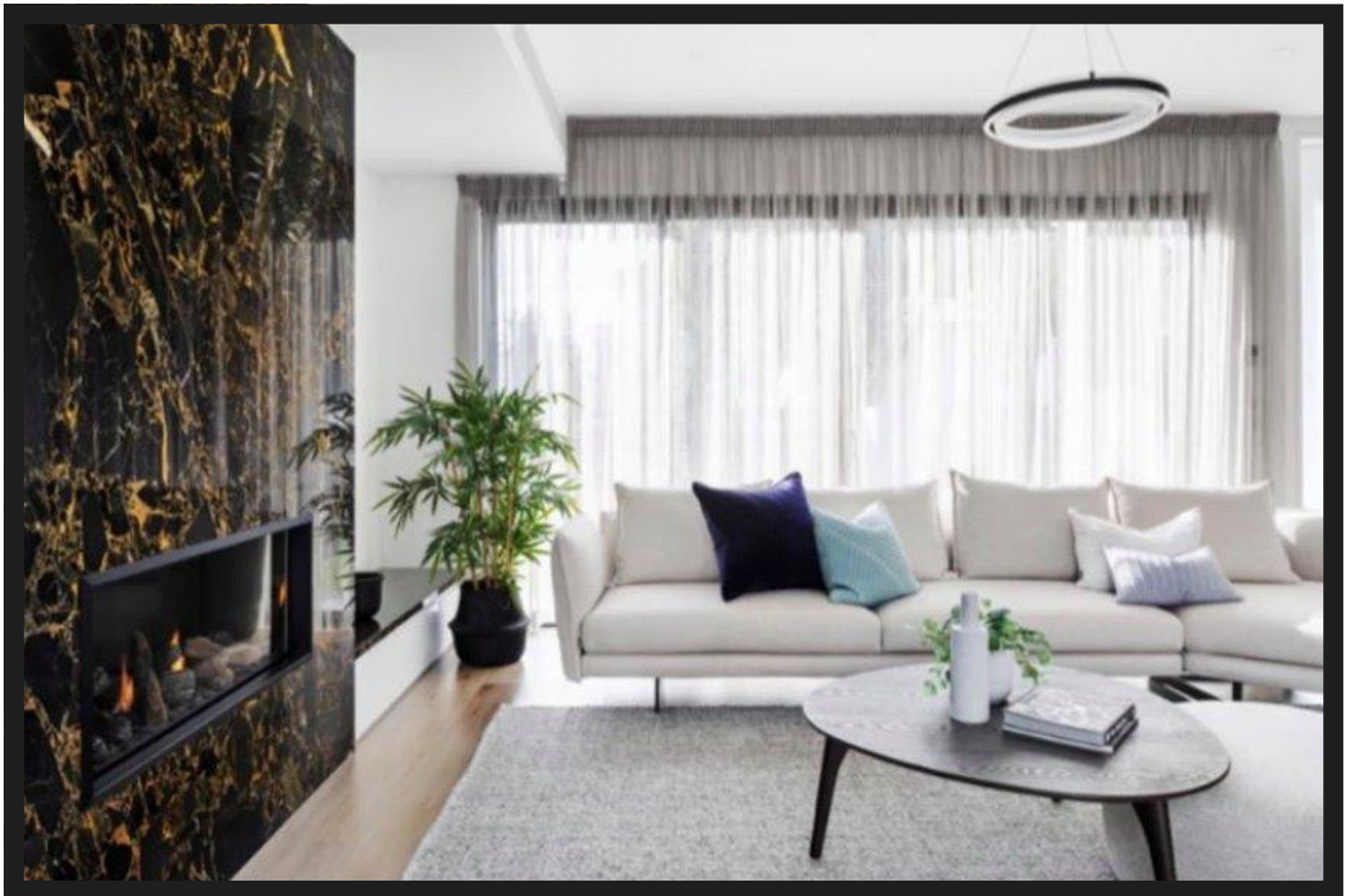


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## LIVING SPACES

Motorisation is also very popular in living areas due to its ease of use and no visible chains or cords. We install wider curtain tracks past the windows on most of our curtain orders these days, to allow curtains to stack back away from glass. This also enhances the amount of natural light during the day.

All you have to do is let us know how you want to use the space and we can propose the best suited window furnishings that will enhance your overall design.



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A background image of a bedroom. On the left, a painting of white flowers is on the wall. In the center, a bed with a white duvet and a striped pillow is visible. On the right, a window with white blinds is partially open, letting in light. The overall tone is bright and airy.

## BEDROOMS

Bedrooms are a place of sleep and rest so we recommend block out shades to ensure a good night's sleep, of course your options are not limited to block out and we cater to everyone's needs.

When assisting you with your bedroom window treatments, our main concern is not just the block out capability of each window furnishing but also getting light back into the room during the day.

Having your curtains stack off the window is just as important to allow more light to filter. We can provide the best advice to achieve that goal, just as we will with every window in your home.

If you want to install a block out roller blind in the bedroom we suggest it is installed onto the face of the architrave to allow for better light block out. If daytime privacy is essential we can install a viewscreen blind in the window recess or on dual bracket systems.

Bedrooms are a retreat for people of all ages. Bedrooms change as we change. A young child's room will one day become a teenager's and then a young adult's room.

Depending on the window furnishings, there are ways we can help you save in the future when re-styling the room as your child grows.





## BEDROOMS

Curtain tracks with some basic maintenance tips from us can last for years. That being the case it will be possible to have curtains installed that suit a very young child and years later can be changed over to suit an older child or teenager. With an updated new fabric choice on the existing track a whole room can be modernised.

There are many ways to dress a bedroom window, you only have to ask us and we will gladly work with you to give you the solution you need.

If the bedroom window is in a tight space, one window furnishing that can work is a pleated blind. Pleated blinds can give you options you probably never knew about. It is possible to have a block out and viewscreen fabric in the one blind.

Another configuration of the pleated blind is that you can have the block out blind as what is known as “Topdown, bottom up”. Roller blinds for instance are either up or down. This style of pleated blind allows you to pull the blind down from the top allowing light into the room while also giving you privacy. Or if you want, simply pull the blind right up and have full light in the room.

You can always have us make a sheer curtain over the pleated blinds to soften the window and add some luxury.





## BATHROOMS

Bathrooms are a place for cleanliness, privacy and rejuvenation and you don't need to worry about anything when you're taking a hot shower or soaking in your bath.

We can supply you with window furnishings that are easy to clean, offer privacy, are mildew proof and water proof and can be operated with a touch of a button.

Rhapsody Rooms have installed roller blinds, sheer curtains and waterproof plantation shutters in bathrooms and ensuites throughout Melbourne.

We have a product suitable for all your wet area needs.



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## PELMETS

Bonded pelmet boxes are a great way to conceal roller blind hardware, curtain tracks and cables from motorised window furnishings.

With most window furnishings if they cannot be installed into the ceiling, light will still peek through the top of the furnishing. Whether it's a roller blind or curtain track the pelmet can block any remaining light that comes into the room.

Adding a pelmet to a room can also soften a room. With so many flat and hard fixtures in a room a pelmet box may just add a soft touch.

Pelmets can also serve other uses. They help with convection by keeping rooms warmer or cooler depending on the season.





## PLANTATION SHUTTERS

Plantation shutters are one of the most popular window furnishings due to their unique style and interior and street appeal.

Not only do they offer privacy and light control but ventilation with their easy to use moveable blades, low maintenance and increased energy efficiency.

Rhapsody Rooms have researched and sourced quality plantation shutters with the highest grade paints.

Our shutters are custom made from sustainable timber or composite products. We offer various applications to suit your home and needs – hinged sliding, swinging or bi-fold options.

We now offer you an exclusive shutter visualiser through an app that allows you to see your shutters before placing an order.

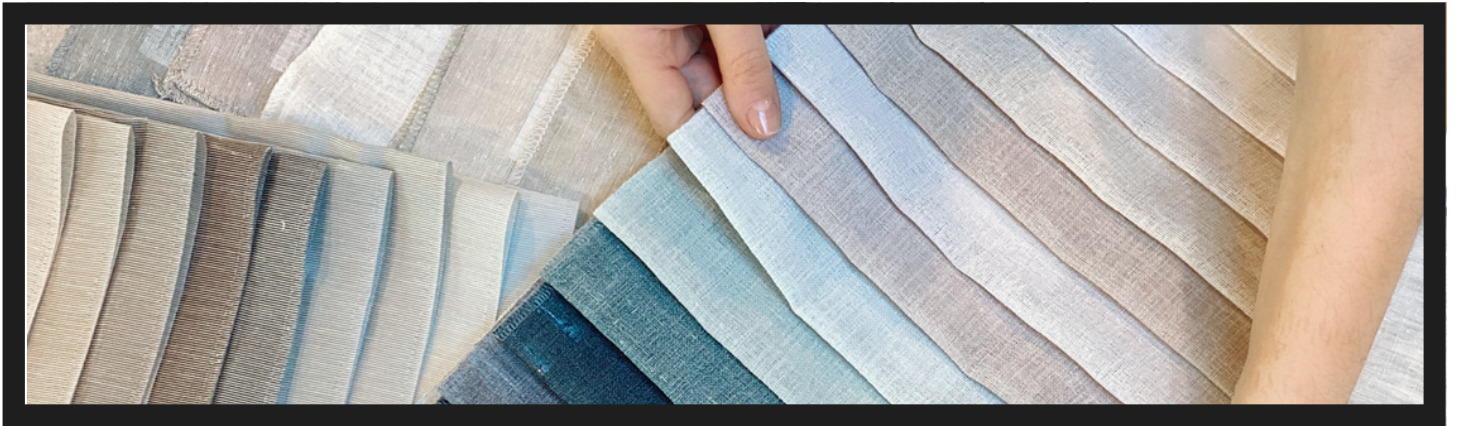
Why not add a curtain around your plantation shutters to add some interest and softness.

Like any investment, only shutters of exceptional quality will provide long term value and home appreciation.



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# FABRICS



Now that we have discussed your design, we need to choose your fabrics and colours to make your design come alive.

There are unlimited fabrics available to choose from with varying prices, styles, textures made locally and fully imported.

## ***How do you know which fabric is best for your rooms?***

When a client chooses a fabric from our display samples, you can be assured we have researched the fabric. We understand how the fabric will look when made into a curtain, roller blind or roman blind, how it will perform in the various weather conditions and what is suitable for different rooms of your house.

The final part of our fabric research is that we ask our suppliers about fabric quality and durability.

Some fabrics may look perfect when seen in a swatch, except a thread can be easily pulled, fabric may have an organic crushed appearance when draped, they may only be dry cleanable and other fabrics shrink and expand during the different climate changes.

We have the knowledge and expertise to guide you through your selections.



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## INSTALLATION DAY

You have chosen your products and it's time for your installation. Your check measurer on your first consult will also be the installer who will fit your window furnishings. All installations are overlooked by our principal installer.

If you are building or renovating, window furnishings need to be the last trade to install when your home has been cleaned by the builders.

We arrive with our cleaning kits, clean shoes and drop sheets to protect your floors from ladders and tools.

Your new blinds or curtains will be handled with gloves and your new curtain tracks will be sprayed to ensure an easy and smooth glide.

We will leave your place as clean as we found it and remove all the packaging from your premises.

If you have a Warranty issue we will give you priority and attempt to visit within 48 hours. You will not be ignored.

Rhapsody Rooms carry \$10m public liability insurance. Our business owners and installers carry Working with Children Certification, National Police Check and White Card Workplace Health and Safety Construction Training for building sites.



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Thank You

We thank you for taking the time to read over our detailed planning guide. We look forward to hearing from you and collaborating with you in the future.

Any further questions please have no hesitation in contacting us.  
We welcome all enquiries.

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