

DESIGNER PATRICIA BONIS  
SAYS FAVORITE COLORS  
*fill a home with joy.*

Patricia's color choices reflect the bounty of nature on the 2-acre grounds of her home, which was built with exterior views in mind. Windows are tall and expansive, inviting in sunshine that contributes to the crisp, fresh look of the interiors. French doors connect to the patio for easy indoor-outdoor living and entertaining, which suits the family's lifestyle. "Large windows really bring the outside in, and the whole room is much more affected by the changes that go on outdoors," she says.

With a large lot, there's less need for privacy. Accordingly, the windows are lightly dressed. Draperies frame the beautiful views rather than draw attention to themselves. Long on fabric but short on fussiness, the window treatments establish a look that manages to be formal, yet light, bright, and sunny. "I'm always toying with how to create the perfect balance of casual and formal," Patricia says.

She succeeds with simply gathered panels of sumptuous silks and substantial cotton. "The design of the window treatments emphasizes the height of the living and dining rooms and gives them a certain drama and elegance," Patricia says. "One of my tricks is to hang draperies close to the ceiling. I never hang them at the window casing. That's like smashing a hat down



OPPOSITE: Pumpkin-color walls in the dining room impart a warm, enveloping ambience. Heavy cotton draperies have a simple rod pocket at the top and lush fringe embellishing the lead edge. ABOVE: Light fabrics and creamy wood trim temper the strong color of the wall, while gleaming hardwood floors complement the warm tones. LEFT: A color in the drapery fabric inspired the deep-tone walls. Silk fringe and double tassels finish the simple panels in style.







“DIRECT SUNLIGHT IMPACTS HOW  
COLORS LOOK AND GIVES A  
ROOM A MORE ALIVE,  
**vibrant feeling.**”  
—Patricia Bonis

OPPOSITE: Pretty tied-back curtains hang at the same height as the top of the wallpaper for visual continuity in the guest room. BELOW: A vine-print toile applied to the walls and windows matches the soothing green tones found in subtle stripes and checks on the bedding. RIGHT: An old mahogany chest takes on new life when refinished in white and green and topped with an oversize mirror.



## Key to Draperies Success

Although luxe silk and rich cotton damask adorn the windows of Patricia Bonis' house, the designer says one thing outranks fabric when it comes to window coverings. "The truth is, even the most expensive fabrics get lost when folded. The way curtains are hung is far more important than the fabric," she says. The key is using enough fabric for generous pleats or gathers. "I can take a plain, inexpensive sateen, add lovely trim, gather it tightly on a rod, and let it puddle on the floor, and it will be gorgeous."