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Light up your home with new windows

How to make the most of your windows

BY SARA BEDERMAN
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Wonderful windows! Is there anything more welcoming in a room? From a designer's perspective, I doubt it. Windows become the natural focal point of any given space, as the source of light and views. In fact, when you ask people what they want most in a home, "windows" and "views" will often top the list. It's easy to understand why.

Let's start with the obvious: naturally lit spaces are more functional and "warmer." Everything looks more vibrant and alive in the light of day. When you've got great windows, rooms appear larger, which bodes well for compact spaces. Even a small room is completely transformed by a window or two.

If you're short on windows, work with what you've got and add mirrors into the mix. Position a large mirror opposite your window, and you've just visually doubled your window area and outdoor views! Choose a mirror that complements the overall aesthetic of the space and draws attention to its reflection.



SARA BEDERMAN Over the decade, this Toronto bespoke design firm has become known for creating stylish, thoughtfully curated, livable interiors. sarabederman.com



Windows these days come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and designs. Here are some things to think about to highlight your windows.

Finishing Touches: Think of the window trim as the frame containing a beautiful piece of art. You want something that will complement the view, but also be a feature piece on its own merits. A contemporary trend is painting the trim work in a dark shade of grey or black, as an alternative to the traditional white baseboards, window and door frames.

Also consider your window dressings. Are you leaning toward contemporary shutters or blinds, or a classic curtain? Consider which type of window covering will best meet your needs for privacy, which will vary depending on whether this is a public versus a private space, like a bedroom or bathroom. Window hardware can also be a real statement piece, so be thoughtful in your selections.

Size & Shape: As they say, go big or go home. If you're adding windows, make them as large as allowed by the building code. Alternately, window walls have been trendy for some time. This is a great way to maximize your views and natural light, and offer direct access to the outdoors. Ostaco Windows & Doors (ostaco.com) has a wide range of selections to choose from to suit your home's existing aesthetic or to give it a whole new one!

Art & Inspiration: If you're graced with a fabulous view, why not make it something to be seen? Rather than hanging paintings or wall art that will compete with your windows, let the views do all the talking. In fact, you can take cues from those views to make a cohesive, harmonious decor statement. This can mean a marine-inspired colour palette, organic, "woody" textures, or an "urban-chic" aesthetic!

If you're ever short on ideas, all you have to do is look out those windows and let the inspiration in. ●



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