## Window dressing: no longer a pane

OME MIGHT say a window treatment's job is simply to hang there and look pretty.

Interior designers know differently. To them, an attractive window treatment can be an instant remedy for decorating dilemmas, provide insulation, add sound-proofing and protect furniture from the sun.

Functionality, of course, was the window treatment's first calling. Long before colorful miniblinds and billowy fabric curtains, people were putting up cloth or skins for comfort and privacy.

Window treatments still can't be beat for energy-conscious home owners. The editors of "The Book of Inside Information" (Boardroom; 1985) suggest white, tightly woven shades that run on tracks permanently affixed to the window for blocking out the heat of the sun. At the same time, shades allow enough sunlight to minimize any additional lighting requirements.

ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE for energy-saving households is to combine venetian blinds with tightly

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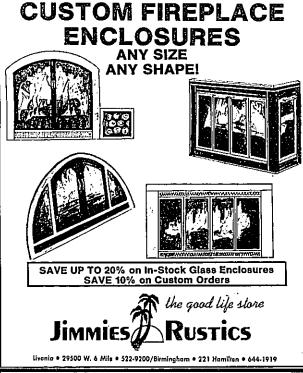
woven draperies for an attractive, but insulating treatment.

Covering window glass with a reflective film coating allows windows to reflect radiant energy back into the room rather than allowing it to escape through the glass. Thermalined draperies and window blankets of yesterday are also showing up again in fashionable sheers, draperies and valances.

Window treatments can also serve as a home's "makeup," according to the editors of the "Better Homes and Gardens New Decorating Book" (Meredith; 1981). For instance, fabric window coverings are a sure way to soften the angularity of a room. Harsh lines of walls, floors and ceilings can be eased with soft, flowing draperies.

A window treatment also can change the visual dimensions of the window it's dressing, or make a window look tailored and compact without appearing severe. Skimpy windows grow with oversized draperies while shirred curtains on generous windows provide the softness of fab-

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