



## Energy-efficient panes can be attractive, too

**T**HEY MAY be the architectural, curved panes of a historical home. Or the well-appointed sills of a room decked out from top to bottom in a botanical print. Whatever their shape, windows give homeowners visual and psychological connection with the world outside.

Much to the homeowner's chagrin, however, this connection can also be a physical one. Inefficient, leaky windows can be credited with 25 percent or more of a home's energy loss and can create drafty discomfort throughout its walls.

The reasons windows are often targeted as energy-wasting culprits are based on a few simple scientific principles.

Loose windows allow air to infiltrate through the cracks and spaces. And, following the principle of convection, air cooled at a windowpane's surface immediately falls to the floor and sets the warm air in motion upward toward the pane to be cooled again — thus creating a vicious cycle.

Cool window glass also promotes conduction, which occurs when warm air transfers heat to a cooler surface in order to reach an equilibrium. Warmth is also reduced through radiation via windows — especially at night.

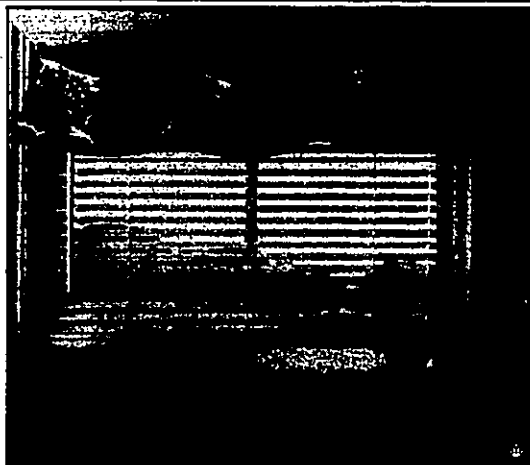
**BUT HOMEOWNERS** need not watch their hard-earned dollars fly out the window in the form of high-energy bills while they layer on the sweaters inside.

Instead, they can choose from dozens of options, ranging from warm-window treatments that both decorate and insulate to home improvements that make existing windows more energy-efficient.

Many home owners boost their pane power by installing thermal window coverings. Made by a handful of manufacturers, these energy-smart window treatments are sold at retail drapery and home decorator stores.

Energy-efficient treatments can help reduce energy bills and make a

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### Country look

These wood shutter blinds by Levelor are custom made in painted colors that dress up an entire room. The valance is loosely hung from the top of the shutter and could easily be made from a matching fabric used elsewhere in the room.

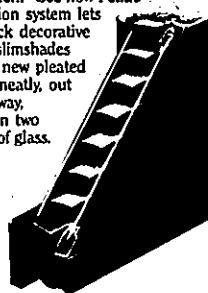


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