

Picture a window that brings outdoors inside

Think big — a big picture or bay window — if you're planning to replace drafty old windows.

You can have one if there's now a grouping of two or three small windows along the wall of the room that is a remodeling candidate. These, along with the supports between them, can be removed to accommodate a single large picture-type window.

Such a window will bring the outdoors inside, give you more light and improve the looks of the room and the exterior of the house.

Properly installed, with a thermalized frame and insulated glass, the new window will also help to conserve energy, and it will be virtually maintenance free.

If yours is a colonial-style house, you may want to duplicate the appearance of the original smaller panes of glass. You can do this by ordering a large window with grids set between the panes of double glass. They'll match the new frame, and despite their visual authenticity, will leave you with only one glass surface to clean.

IT HELPS to know how the various styles of windows differ, if you're considering new ones.

A picture window is stationary and framed so that is usually, but not always, longer horizontally than verti-

cally, in order to provide a panoramic view. It can also have one or two movable panes of glass that either slide open sideways or open from the top or bottom.

Generally, a bay or bow window is also stationary, but it extends out from the sill at an angle. The angle of the bay window may range from 30 to 45 degrees, while the bow window has a less extreme angle of about 10 degrees.

Within these limits, you may design a new-style window from a grouping of old ones, or if you already have a picture or bay/bow window that needs replacing, increase, decrease or change the angle from its original proportions.

But care must be taken in framing it and building sufficient support beneath it. The greater the angle, the more support the window needs, and the further the bay extends out from the house, the more its weight increases.

New supports under the window are usually wood, covered to match or blend with the surface of the house.

If your budget restricts the number of windows you replace, consider replacing all the windows in one or two of the most frequently used rooms, especially the ones where you can plan a picture-type window.

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