

AUSTRALIAN

# HOUSE & GARDEN

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3 WAYS TO...

# Blend old & new

**Q** We have recently renovated our home. Should there be a continuity in window treatments from the older part of the house to the extension? We have curtains in the bedrooms but I worry they won't be right for the new rooms, which have large windows focused on the outdoors. *Susie Fraser, Belrose, NSW.*



**Rod Smith**  
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**A** The extension should have its own identity and if the windows are prominent a new treatment is the way to go. Think about the function of the rooms in the new extension. If you have a new bedroom choose something to block out light and give privacy, such as roman blinds. For communal areas you could try venetian blinds or sliding panels in a sheer fabric to give you a diffused view to the outside. Slimline Helioscreen roller blinds, which fit into the recess of the window, are an excellent option, too. When they are pulled up you only see a neat roll at the top, so they are the least intrusive of any window treatment. If sun control rates highly, choose a block-out fabric, however a semi-translucent fabric will still give a hint of the view.



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**A** I employ a fashion theory – you don't have to match everything. Having said that, if the extension is crafted in the manner of the original house, you would expect continuity between old and new. An alternative approach is to choose the designs, materials and fittings – including window dressings – in a style that's a departure from the original house. Consider the function of the window as this will dictate window covering choices. For example, a window that frames a view needn't be one that opens, so louvred plantation shutters are a good option. Following this logic, treatments should be determined on a window-by-window basis.



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**A** I'm definitely someone who chooses a window covering to suit a specific window, so heavy curtains for front bedrooms and simple roller blinds in back rooms make sense to me. To avoid losing the effect of big windows that offer a view, you could install blinds on the outside to stop the sun from actually hitting the window. Install exterior canvas awnings such as those from In Vogue Blinds, in either a style that drops down as a vertical blind, or a horizontal blind on retractable arms. Choose a colour to match the exterior of your house. I also love interior blinds in sheer unlined natural linen. I use Fjord linen, in flax and oyster, because it is 2.8m wide. Furniture and accessories set the style of a room, so you want the windows to be fuss-free.

**Have a question?** H&G's little black book contains the who's who and what's what of interior design and all manner of household matters. If you have a decorating dilemma, send it to us and we'll seek the professional opinions of the best in the business.