

Palladian Window

Many people love the grace and beauty of the palladian window. Its elegant shape is comprised of a center (demi-lune) arched-top window with two smaller sidelight rectangular windows which flank it. It is named for the Italian architect Andrea Palladio who lived and designed during the Renaissance in the 1500s. The popular window design that carries his name has been his legacy to architecture through the years, throughout Europe, Great Britain and in Colonial America.

Today, one can find palladian windows not only in historic structures but also in suburban homes which seek to echo the grace of bygone times. Many people enjoy the beautiful view seen through these tall windows and the ample light streaming through them.

If you have palladian windows, you might wonder how to give your room a finished look by adding window treatments to them. The first question might be, "Do I need to add anything?" You might want to leave the window without treatments, especially if the molding is particularly attractive. This simplicity will accentuate the beauty of the window's shape and create an outside-in landscape if you have a beautiful view.

Do you want to give the window a little something more? You can mount a decorative curtain rod just below the base of the palladian's demi-lune, and arrange a window treatment scarf across the rod. If you feel you'd like to add more, run crinkle sheers through the rod, and pull back to the outer edges of the window to let in the light and soften the window. To make the window appear wider, pull the sheers to the edges beyond the molding. The demi-lune would remain uncovered.

If you have privacy, insulation or room darkening considerations, or if your view is not great, you could go further in covering your window where needed. There are several options for window treatments. Here are a few:

You can use shades of a light blocking material, which come in a variety of textures and colors. Keep in mind that shades can help insulate your windows, thus saving you money on heating and air conditioning. Depending on the style of the room, leave the moldings showing and roll the shades up to let in the sun (and the world) or add sheer panels to soften the light and provide privacy during the day. You then have the option of whether or not to roll the shades down at night. An alternative to shades would be covered miniblinds, which combine the soft light of a shade with privacy. The fabric covering the shade also softens the strong horizontal lines of the blinds.

As you go about covering your rectangular or square windows, you can also go to a number of websites or your local shade fabricator to ask about fan or curved shades, which are increasingly available with the rising popularity of palladians and other differently-shaped windows. Consider using the same colors for both the demi-lune and the window directly below to create a cohesive look, and to follow the beautiful arch of your window.

Here is another interesting method of covering your palladian window: Pay a visit to an architectural salvage store, where you'll find framed stained glass windows preserved from razed buildings. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes, and the demi-lune shape would be ideal for your palladians. They can be installed with hook-and-eyes on both the back of the stained glass window and the window frame. Use picture hanging wire to connect the hardware so that it is totally secured. It can be a colorful and dramatic look for your beautiful window.