

Curtains & Draperies

First Place



Valentina Guenther, W/FCP Associate
Valentina's Home Designs
Durham, Connecticut

Valentina Guenther acts as both decorator and seamstress for most of her projects. As a decorator, she says her goal is to provide her clients with unique designs that suit their lifestyle and taste. As a seamstress, she faces the challenges of creating window-treatment patterns and working with difficult fabrics.

Her winning project presented many challenges, including the fact that it was the first time she worked with an arched dust board. Fabrication of the draperies and the arch was delayed until she had the crown in hand—she needed to know the precise height of the arch in order to match the pattern, and she needed the crown in order to determine the curve of the arch. With a swag only 26 inches wide, it was difficult to create a deep drop. The client wanted the window dressed, but not covered, so much of the treatment had to be on the wall. This led to another dilemma—a wide gap between the swags where the wall and woodwork would be showing. In order to resolve the problem, Valentina altered the length and width of the cascades, making sure that all of the pieces were proportionally right. In the end, all the problems were resolved and the client's expectations were well met.



Valentina Guenther was both designer and workroom for this project. Upholstery: Renaissance Interiors, Glastonbury, CT; upholstery fabric: striped velvet from Kravet. Drapery installation: Valentina and Don Guenther. Drapery damask: Robert Allen; lining: Crown Cotton. Crown: Designer's Supply, Tucker, GA. Trim: bullion fringe with beads and rosettes, antique key tassels, and antique tiebacks with beads from Trimland USA's Cavalier Collection. Photography by Rick Ciaburri, Rick Ciaburri Studio, Cheshire, CT.