

Tough Window Treatment Problem.... Finally Conquered

INTRODUCTION

Coming up with attractive, practical window treatments for some window shapes can be difficult and, at times, nearly impossible. Those who created these unusual, many times unique, and attractive shapes have given zero thought about how the window is to be integrated with a window treatment. The focus is strictly on the window itself and not the entire environment.

Many believe architects are notoriously oblivious to the fact that the sun will indeed shine through a window regardless of its unique shape or inaccessible location...just ask an interior designer.

This paper explores one designer's window treatment solution for a very difficult window.

THE PROBLEM

Lynne Heritage of Heritage Innovations located in Bellefonte, PA has been providing her clientele window treatment solutions for over 20 years. Her creativity in window treatments is aided by the experience she garnered in her first career as a carpenter. When necessary, Lynne has been able to "engineer" fashionable solutions to difficult problems to the delight of her clients...until she came across a project with a "monster" eyebrow window. The window manufacturers call this type of window an eyebrow window. People that need to design window treatments have a completely different name for it (one that we will leave to your imagination!).

The easiest way to describe an eyebrow window is that it starts out as a perfect arch window (window guys call them half round) but then the lower portion is removed.



The photo at left shows the "monster" eyebrow window. Adding to the complexity are the three segments that are divided by the vertical jambs. The window has a diameter of 94" and a center radius of only 34".

Lynne had proposed a number of solutions to her client. They included three segments of moveable cellular shades, shutters and mini blinds . First and foremost, the client insisted on the treatment having a small stack to allow the sun to shine in when they wanted it. This ruled out the shutters and mini blinds. Second, because of a new television in the room, the sun needed to be controlled. Complete blackout was not required, just adequate filtering. The client wanted to easily open and close the treatment to give the necessary light control. The curve of the window kept even the quarter-round cellular shades from working.

NEW CONCEPTS

Lynne continued to think of solutions to the problem. While working on another project with a perfect arched window she had an idea. The treatment she was using for this project was the ADJUST-A-VIEW® arched window treatment manufactured by Omega Mfg. Corporation. Lynne wondered if there was a way to make the ADJUST-A-VIEW® work on this large eyebrow. Lynne's "engineering" side kicked into high gear. She knew the ADJUST-A-VIEW® could handle a degree of imperfectness, but the monster eyebrow was far outside the tolerance for imperfect windows. Then Lynne had an "eureka" moment. She visualized face mounting the ADJUST-A-VIEW® to the wall and providing a shelf instead of the sill. Normally, the ADJUST-A-VIEW® is inside-mounted within the jamb space . For Lynne's project the perfect arched ADJUST-A-VIEW® would be outside-mounted around the imperfect eyebrow. Lynne was confident the client's needs would be met with this solution.

THE PERFECT SOLUTION

Lynne contacted the sales group at Omega Mfg. Corporation, the people who manufacture the ADJUST-A-VIEW®, and shared her problem and proposed solution. Omega's sales and engineering people put their heads together and came up with a way to implement Lynne's idea.

A standard ADJUST-A-VIEW® system was used with one exception; mounting holes were added to the side flange of both the left and right side track frames. The shelf was a standard Omega sill. Lynne was able to install the track sections to the wall. Spacers were added to bring the track out a bit from the wall to prevent interference with the existing window mouldings. The perfect arched ADJUST-A-VIEW® was laid over the very imperfect monster eyebrow window to create a fully moveable light filtering shade solution.

ADJUST-A-VIEW® arched window treatment: wall mounted.



Shades fully opened.



Shades partially closed.



Shades fully closed.

CONCLUSION

Lynne came up with an innovative way to solve a tough problem. Lynne's client loves the treatment. They are able to easily control the light when they want to. All of the window treatment issues the client had for Lynne were addressed. In a word, they were "delighted". And, delighted clients regularly share their stories with others creating new customers in need of being "delighted"!

Adapting the ADJUST-A-VIEW® system to solve the problem speaks highly of Omega's willingness to explore new concepts and do whatever they possibly can to please their dealer and more important the dealer's client.

The ADJUST-A-VIEW® system is now available with a motorization option. Chances are Lynne is already looking at how she can use this new feature to delight future clients.