



## An Opening for Greener Thinking

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARE MOST CRITICAL** at wall openings, where air and moisture infiltration, thermal bridging, and passive solar gain happen. It's also where LEED criteria for views and daylight – and comfort factors such as glare – are put to the test. In response, manufacturers are churning out high-performance window treatments like new fabrics, meshes, and adaptable frames. Even components once left to engineers or subcontractors to recommend are now called out by the architect: high-efficiency motors, actuators, even BAS integration. Shown at right is an unassuming office with floor-to-ceiling window walls that benefits from energy-saving, super-quiet motors from Hunter Douglas tucked above the ceiling.



**HUSH NOW** Whisper Motors from Hunter Douglas keeps things quiet.

### SNAP BACK



**ANDRE LANDON, AIA**  
Design Director, Principal  
EDI Architecture  
Houston



**JANE AHRENS, AIA, LEED AP**  
Director of Sustainability  
Gresham, Smith and Partners  
Dallas



**CARRIE HENRY, NCIDQ**  
Interior Designer  
JCJ Architecture  
New York City

“Our practice takes the position that window treatments should be integrated into architectural design. Because they are exposed, treatments have an aesthetic impact on the building. The wall space adjacent to windows needs to accommodate stacking space for draperies. This is often overlooked, particularly in multifamily and hospitality.”

“Light shelves are a great passive way to do many tasks with one item. To maximize your efforts toward the LEED Daylight and Views credit, locate your light shelf at 7' 6" above the finished floor. Daylight glazing – above the shelf – does not need interior shades, saving some cost and resources or allowing you to put better shades below.”

“Roller shades are the optimal solution for interior window treatments. Remember that when selecting a color, it may be visible from both the inside and outside of the building. The openness factor determines the visibility through the shades. For a clean design, match the fascia finish of the shade to the window frame finish.”

KEY \$ = VALUE, \$\$ = MID-RANGE, \$\$\$ = HIGH-END



### A-TEAM

**MANUFACTURER:** Mermet  
**PERFORMANCE:** 14% openness factor

**PRICE RANGE:** \$\$\$

**APPLICATIONS:** A novel woven fiberglass fabric featuring Enduris Glass Core material, A-Screen is ideal for roller shade, roman shade, and panel track applications. Filtering up to 97% of UV, A-Screen is Greenguard and Oeko-Tex certified and fire rated (NFPA 701). Roll width is 98.4”.

[WWW.MERMETUSA.COM](http://WWW.MERMETUSA.COM)

(SNAP #87)



### CORNICE BOARDS

**MANUFACTURER:** InPro Corporation

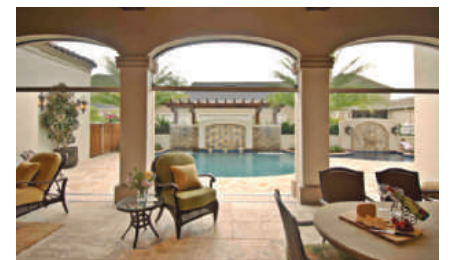
**PERFORMANCE:** 100% fire-retardant boards, fabric, trim

**PRICE RANGE:** \$\$

**APPLICATIONS:** Ideal for hospitality and health care settings, these cornice boards look hand sewn, have an extruded PVC frame and install with simple J-brackets. Standard fabric range includes four neutrals and 11 colors of fire-rated cord trim. Up to 14' long in standard heights of 8" or 12".

[WWW.INPROCORP.COM](http://WWW.INPROCORP.COM)

(SNAP #88)



### INTEGRAL WINDOW SHADING

**MANUFACTURER:** Phantom Screens  
**PERFORMANCE:** Up to 75% UV block

**PRICE RANGE:** \$\$

**APPLICATIONS:** Ideal for casement, double-hung, and tilt-and-turn window types, Serene retractable screen assemblies are available in solar mesh, sunscreen, and block-out materials and in a variety of colors. Aluminum frame sizes range 13.5"–72" wide and up to 78" tall.

[WWW.PHANTOMSREENS.COM](http://WWW.PHANTOMSREENS.COM)

(SNAP #89)

### SNAPSHOTS

**REDUCING SOLAR HEAT GAIN**  
REDUCED SUNLIGHT = REDUCED ENERGY COSTS

65%

WINDOW AWNINGS (SOUTH WINDOWS)

77%

WINDOW AWNINGS (WEST WINDOWS)

62%

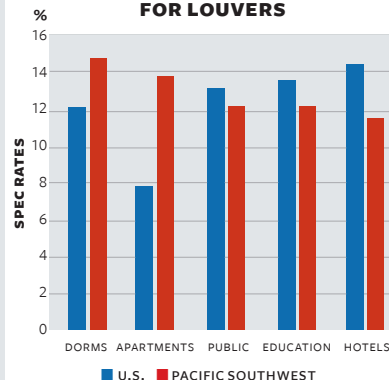
HONEYCOMB/CELLULAR WINDOW TREATMENTS

45%

WINDOW TREATMENTS

SOURCES: WWW.DWCONLINE.COM, WWW.EERE.ENERGY.GOV, WWW.SMARTENERGYLIVING.ORG, AND US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

### TOP 5 BUILDING TYPES FOR LOUVERS



SOURCE: MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH & ANALYTICS

### WINDOW SCREEN MANUFACTURERS TO WATCH

AMETCO (SNAP #90)

NANAWALL SYSTEMS INC. (SNAP #91)

PHANTOM SCREENS (SNAP #92)

TRACO (SNAP #93)

PATIO ENCLOSURES INC. (SNAP #94)

SOURCE: TOP FIVE DOWNLOADS AT SWEETS.COM FROM 6/09–7/09

### NEW MATH

40 PERCENT

In the winter, the quantity of heat that escapes a home through the windows.

SOURCE: WWW.WINDOWWORKS.CA