

Textiles to Enhance a View



Artful fabrics and design add warmth to the comforts of home

BY KIRSTEN CORBETT

In the West, we love our views. Expansive windows invite the wilderness inside, showcasing pine forests, wheat fields drenched gold by the sun, and, most predominantly, mountain peaks. In fact, we are so captivated by the scenery outside that we are almost afraid that a window covering might cut it off.

But Sabine Shannon, the owner of Sabine Soft Furnishings, knows that the artful use of fabric enhances indoor spaces, lending comfort and warmth to residences boasting some of the best views in America.

One of Shannon's Jackson clients, Deanna Briggs, recently worked with Shannon to create window treatments for her contemporary home on West Gros Ventre Butte. "We're in the woods with Teton views, and I was reluctant to

cover the windows," Briggs says. "But Sabine helped me find a sheer fabric for our master bedroom that's exciting, yet maintains a certain neutrality to it that's just perfect."

When it came to the bedrooms for Briggs' daughters, Coco, age six, and Maya, age seven, Shannon involved the girls in the fabric selection. In the elder daughter's room, they chose a sheer silver fabric with detailed ribbon flowers, framed by Roman shades bursting with fuchsia-pink flowers.

"Sabine's work makes a big statement in my daughter Maya's room," says Briggs. "It added her personality and style to the space, while still fitting in with the modern style of the house. When the drapes are closed, it's a cozy, private room to retreat into, and when they're open, there's

still a sheer curtain to shield her from the openness of the outdoors and the occasional wandering moose."

Shannon's swift needle has taken on everything from window treatments to bed coverings and sound panels for a theater. She creates custom soft goods, including drapes, shades, bedding, cushions, valances, and chairs in a range of styles, from contemporary to European and Western. "Fabric adds softness and comfort. It warms up a room," Shannon says.

Originally from La Lorraine, France, Shannon learned the art of sewing in technical school. After becoming captivated by the United States, she crossed the Atlantic in 1997 to make her perma-

derful and professional," she says. Her client list includes such regional stores as Festive Living, The Rusty Nail Interiors, Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Red Chair Design, Dwelling, and Harker Design.

Shannon's greatest passion is watching a fabric roll delivered by a UPS truck finally transformed into a finished piece that her client is excited to add to a home. She especially enjoys being a part of the design process, from fabric selection to final installation.

"I like meeting my clients, visiting their homes, helping select fabrics, and getting to know them," she says. "You end up making friends and developing a relationship."

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ment home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. There she apprenticed with a master interior seamstress, eventually opening her own sewing studio and fabric sales business, Sabine Soft Furnishings, more than ten years ago.

Last year, Shannon uprooted her successful business and moved it to Driggs. After just one year, she's thriving in her new location and working with designers and clients in Teton Valley and Jackson Hole. "The designers here are really won-

derful and professional," she says. Her client list includes such regional stores as Festive Living, The Rusty Nail Interiors, Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Red Chair Design, Dwelling, and Harker Design. Shannon's greatest passion is watching a fabric roll delivered by a UPS truck finally transformed into a finished piece that her client is excited to add to a home. She especially enjoys being a part of the design process, from fabric selection to final installation.

Shannon serves as a kind of textile curator, using her experience and industry



knowledge to guide her clients through a myriad of choices. "After I see their home and we have a conversation, I am usually able to return with samples that meet my clients' tastes," says Shannon. "When you overwhelm the eye with twenty sample books—that's exhausting. I like to simplify and make the process enjoyable."

Occasionally, Shannon also assists people with reusing what they already have, by refurbishing memorabilia or vintage fabric that is still in good condition. For one such project, she transformed a grandmother's cross-stitched chair into a keepsake pillow. In another, she converted Roman shades into pillows for a sitting area.

No matter what the project, two things remain constant: The quality of Shannon's work and her close relationships with clients.

"Sabine was wonderful to work with," says Briggs. "I sometimes have trouble pulling the trigger on projects like this; but, with her help, it was easy. I don't know of anyone else in her field who does the same quality work."

Shannon's portfolio may be viewed online at sabinesoftfurnishings.com. ■