

## **Beginning at the End!**

Everyone knows that it's the curtains and soft furnishings that can give the finishing touch and turn a house into a home – whether it's an opulent dining room, a cosy living room or a friendly child's bedroom. Maybe you have moved house and you need to stamp your own personality onto it and make it your home. Or maybe, like many people, you are working to improve and enhance the home you have rather than find a new one. It's cheaper, helps improve the value of your home and allows you feel more comfortable where you are.

When renovating or extending your home, considering all aspects right at the start of your project, from the building right through to the decorating and soft furnishing, can help avoid expensive mistakes and having to make compromises at the end. What do you do if the cupboard, radiator, sockets etc are not quite in the right place! Planning will also, of course, help with the overall budgeting!

But where to start?

For each room you are dressing, here are a few points you could think about to help you plan: ~

~ What will the room be used for? How will the room be used?

~ What sort of atmosphere would you like to create?

~If you are building in cupboards or units, is there enough room for any poles or tracks for your curtains or blinds?

~Is there an item or feature which you would like to match, compliment or disguise?

~ Is the position of the alarm sensor going to fight with a curtain pole? Or are the curtains going to obscure its range.

~does the radiator really need to go under the window?

It would be worth checking on your plans, or with your builder, as to where electric wires and/or water pipes are to be sited. Are they where you are likely to be have brackets fixed for a curtain track or pole?

Although it may feel ahead of time, getting your curtain maker, decorator etc in to discuss the final touches at the beginning could make things easier in the long run!