



Antique Embroidery

designer Maureen Wilson Footer
lambrequins The shaped pelmets have sides that extend at least two-thirds of the window's height. Popular in the Victorian era, they are occasionally reappearing in contemporary interiors. A lambrequin makes you stop and take notice, which is the reason Footer used one to highlight a huge window placed high above the main staircase in a classically inspired house.

something old She found the 17th-century Italian embroidered silk at Virginia Di Sciascio Antique Textiles (in NYC, 212-794-8807). The piece, which Di Sciascio believes was ecclesiastical, determined the lambrequin's shape, which follows the curve of an embroidered ribbon. The textile was worn in places; you can see Di Sciascio's patches.

"It is the pentimento of age," Footer says. The oxidized tassels are more than 150 years old.

special glass Because the house has considerable privacy, the treatment didn't need to obscure the window's antique glass, which has tremendous character.