MAVRIC ELECTRIC

Motorized Shades & Drapery

A comprehensive guide to automated window treatments — from system architecture to fabric selection and installation planning.

*"Design it once.
Design it early.
Design it right."*

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ELECTRICAL & SMART INTEGRATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Your Window Treatments Are Infrastructure

If you are planning a custom build or a major renovation, you are likely discovering that a modern home is a complex ecosystem of moving parts. Among these, motorized window treatments are frequently misunderstood. Often tucked away at the end of a decorating budget, they are actually a critical component of your home's architectural infrastructure.

When designed correctly, automated shades manage your home's temperature, protect your interior finishes from UV damage, and provide privacy — all without you having to lift a finger. However, achieving this "invisible" luxury requires early coordination between your architect, electrician, and technology consultant.

> *"This guide is designed to move you from the 'decor' mindset to a 'planning' mindset."*

The decisions that define your shading system — the control platform, the wiring infrastructure, the pocket depth in your ceilings — must be made during construction, not after.

WHAT THIS GUIDE COVERS

— How to choose the right control platform for your project scope

— The six treatment styles and when to specify each

— How fabric openness affects heat, light, and privacy

— The exact sequence for planning wiring and ceiling pockets

— The four most costly planning mistakes — and how to avoid them

Choosing the Brains of the Operation

The "architecture" of your system is the foundational decision. It determines how your shades will communicate with the rest of your home and how reliable the system will be over time.

CONTROL PLATFORM SELECTION

PLATFORM	BEST FOR	KEY STRENGTH
Savant	New construction with whole-home integration	One button dims lights and lowers shades simultaneously
Lutron RA3 / Triathlon	Renovations or standalone shading systems	Industry-leading battery options; exceptional reliability

MOTOR & MANUFACTURER CONTEXT

MANUFACTURER	WHEN WE SPECIFY THEM
Screen Innovations (SI)	Large openings and recessed pockets; accommodates heavy fabrics and complex mounting conditions
Clara Shades	Curated retrofits or mid-scale projects where clean automation is desired without structural changes
Elite Window Fashions	When automated treatments must coordinate with decorative interior finishes at a cost-effective price point

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If you want a "Goodnight" button that handles everything at once — lights, shades, climate — we plan for a unified platform like Savant early in the rough-in phase.

Selecting the Right Treatment Style

While the motor provides the movement, the shade style defines the aesthetic and functional footprint of the window. Each style has a distinct visual weight, light behaviour, and installation requirement.

ROLLER SHADES

The architectural standard. Smallest visual profile — disappears almost completely when raised.

ROMAN SHADES

Fabric folds into elegant horizontal pleats. Softness of a traditional treatment with the precision of a silent motor.

WOVEN WOOD

Natural textures — bamboo, grasses. Adds organic warmth while maintaining automated control.

ZEBRA (DUAL)

Alternating sheer and solid bands. Shift to transition from open view to total privacy instantly.

CELLULAR

"Honeycomb" structure provides superior insulation. Highly effective where thermal retention is a priority.

AUTOMATED DRAPERY

Motorized rails recessed into the ceiling. Effortless movement of heavy, floor-to-ceiling curtains.

> *"For many luxury spaces, a roller shade is too 'hard' for the design. Automated drapery tracks provide the highest level of comfort and aesthetic softness."*

You are not limited to "tech-brand" fabrics. Mavric Electric can assist in sourcing and implementing custom fabrics to fit the desired track, ensuring your shades match your interior designer's exact vision.

Balancing View, Heat, and Privacy

Choosing fabric is a mechanical specification. The "openness" of a fabric determines how much light and heat enter your home. The right selection can meaningfully lower your monthly cooling costs by reducing the load on your HVAC during peak sun hours.

FABRIC TYPE	OPENNESS %	BEST APPLICATION	EFFECT
Sheer	3%–10%	Living areas, offices	Reduces glare while preserving the view
Solar Performance	Varies	South- & west-facing windows	Reflects solar heat before it warms the room
Blackout	0%	Bedrooms, media rooms	Complete light elimination; requires side channels

WHY THIS MATTERS

Think of sheer fabrics as sunglasses for your windows — they protect your art and furniture but keep the room feeling bright. Blackout fabrics require side channels to ensure light doesn't leak around the edges. Proper fabric selection can lower your monthly cooling costs by reducing the HVAC load during peak sun hours.

"Blackout fabrics require side channels to ensure light doesn't leak around the edges."

Pockets, Wiring, and Trades

POCKET & RECESS DIMENSIONING

A "pocket" is the hidden space in the ceiling where the shade hides when raised. Pockets must be designed and framed before drywall. If the pocket is even an inch too shallow, the shade hardware will be visible. For renovations, we use decorative brackets or valances.

THE PLANNING WINDOW

Pockets must be framed before drywall — this is a hard deadline. Failing to account for the "roll diameter" (how thick the fabric gets when rolled up) is the single most common construction error we see.

WIRING & POWER DISTRIBUTION

POWER METHOD	BEST FOR	KEY BENEFIT
Hardwired	New construction	"Set it and forget it" — no batteries to change, ever
Battery Powered	Renovations and retrofits	Highly reliable from Lutron or Clara; no wire runs required

LEAD TIMES

Custom motorized shades typically take 4–8 weeks to fabricate. Planning late leads to moving into a home with no privacy. Measure only after the window trim is fully installed, then fabricate and install.

What to Watch For

The following are the most frequent planning failures we encounter on projects. Every one of them is avoidable with early coordination.

01   UNDERSIZED POCKETS

Failing to account for the "roll diameter" — how thick the fabric gets when rolled up. If the pocket is too shallow, the shade hardware will be permanently visible from below.

02   MISMATCHED PLATFORMS

Buying "smart" shades that don't speak the same language as your lighting or HVAC, resulting in a home controlled by five different apps with no unified experience.

03   THE "WINDOW CRANK" INTERFERENCE

Not checking if existing window hardware — cranks, handles, locks — will physically hit the shade as it goes down. Caught in design review, never in the field.

04   IGNORING LEAD TIMES

Custom motorized shades take 4–8 weeks to fabricate. Planning late leads to moving into a home with no privacy, no light control, and expensive expedite fees.

> *"Technology failures are usually planning and coordination failures — not product failures."*

Infrastructure First.
Devices Second.

At Mavric Electric, we do not view ourselves as product installers. We are contractor-consultants responsible for the design and implementation of your home's technical infrastructure.

Many homeowners assume technology failures are product failures. In reality, they are usually planning and coordination failures. When electrical, lighting, and shading are designed by separate trades, they work in isolation but conflict in the finished space.

TYPICAL ISSUES WE PREVENT

— Lighting glare caused by fixture placement without shading consideration

— Keypads competing with millwork and finishes for wall space

— Change orders during finishing stages because a wire was missed at rough-in

— Multiple apps controlling a single home with no unified logic

Because we design and install both the electrical and integration scope, coordination happens inside one workflow rather than across multiple contractors.

WHAT WE DESIGN

Luxury residential electrical, lighting control, motorized shading, smart home low-voltage, and structured infrastructure — as a single coordinated scope.

WHO WE WORK WITH

Architects, interior designers, custom home builders, developers, and discerning homeowners across the GTA, Hamilton, and Niagara regions.

Your Path Forward

Follow this sequence to protect your investment and ensure your system performs correctly from day one. Each step depends on the one before it — skipping or reversing this order is the single most common cause of expensive change orders.

01 PLATFORM FIRST

Decide if you want a unified home (Savant) or a dedicated system (Lutron). This decision must happen before any infrastructure is planned, as it determines wiring requirements, keypad placement, and integration scope.

02 INFRASTRUCTURE SECOND

Pull wires and frame pockets while the walls are open. This is your only window to do this work cleanly. Retrofitting wiring and pockets after drywall is expensive, disruptive, and often results in compromise.

03 STYLE & FABRIC THIRD

Select the treatment type — Roller, Roman, or Drapery — and match fabric performance to the sun's path. South- and west-facing windows need different fabrics than north-facing ones.

04 FINAL TOUCHES

Measure only after the window trim is fully installed, then fabricate and install. Measuring before trim is set is a common cause of remakes. Allow 4–8 weeks for fabrication.

READY TO PLAN YOUR SYSTEM?

The Home's Nervous System

In the modern luxury home, technology should be felt, not seen. Your window treatments are the home's "eyelids." They regulate sleep, protect your interior, and manage your home's energy footprint.

Contact Mavric Electric for a Shading Infrastructure Review. We will review your architectural plans to ensure your wiring and framing support your vision before the construction window closes.

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REQUEST A SHADING INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW