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WINDOW FASHION

# VISION

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**KAREN BARNES**  
THE ELEGANT WINDOW

**FIRST PLACE,  
SPECIALTY TREATMENTS**

**WORKROOM STATEMENT**

For this dramatic seating area the designer wanted a cornice that would unify the five windows and enhance the panoramic views of the city skyline.

When creating the template for the cornice, Karen Barnes immediately noted three key challenges: 1) Centering each arch over each window; 2) Guaranteeing a tight, smooth upholstered finish across the entire expanse of the cornice; and 3) Figuring out how to transport the cornice to the job site, as the finished size was 250 inches wide by 30 inches high.

After discussing the template with the carpenter, it was decided that a hinge in the center of the cornice would solve the transportation issue. The hinge allowed the cornice to fold in on itself, so that it would fit in the installer's van and then be opened up at the job site. Otherwise the finished piece would have required a moving truck.

The cornice was upholstered in the "open" position and the fabric on the dust cap, as well as the facing on the bottom of the cornice, was split in the center in order for the cornice to be able to close. Barnes explains one of her other concerns: "A bowed cornice is challenging to upholster because one is not able to simply pull the fabric taught, securing the fabric to each side of the cornice and then stapling the fabric down at the top and the bottom of the box as is done on a straight cornice. Instead it is upholstered beginning from the center out, and you need to proceed very carefully, making sure the fabric is smooth and free of any wrinkles around the curved box."

The banding was upholstered using the same method, with rope trim applied to set off the border and conceal any edging. The folded cornice was opened on site and the installation proceeded without any difficulties.

**DETAILS**

**CREDITS:** Designer: Teresa Ridlon, Ridlon Interiors, Tempe, Ariz. Workroom: Karen Barnes, The Elegant Window, Gilbert, Ariz. Installer: Dan Helser, The Taltler Installer, Phoenix, Ariz. Cornice carpenter: John Tomesek, Peoria, Ariz. Photographer: Ed Taube, Taube Photography, Phoenix, Ariz.

**SOURCES:** Fabric: Eastern Accents, Ashby FB6-64 in Raven. Banding: Eastern Accents, Prescott FB6-65 in Ink. Rope trim: Eastern Accents, PCD160.

