

In this "Your Projects" column, pg 30, December 2012 issue of Remodeling Magazine, author Mark Wyatt explains ideas to reduce window cost by emulating transoms and using fewer windows, but making other windows larger, and to enhance the exterior by using muntins on the outside of the glass. Cover illustration by Carl Wiens. Remodeling is a Hanley Wood publication, One Thomas Circle, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005-5811, 202-452-0800, subscriptions 888-269-8410.



Tall & Transom

Ideas for adding the look of transoms without the cost

TRANSOMS OFFER AN ATTRACTIVE way to add interest and bring muchappreciated daylight into homes, but they also increase the cost of a project because they require rooms with ceiling heights of 8 feet or higher and the budget for the transoms themselves. Here are some ideas to create a similar look more cost-effectively.

• The tops of windows are usually aligned for a consistent flow. However, when adding transoms, a new height is established and the remaining windows must be well planned to maintain that flowing appearance. On the other hand, the **transoms could stand alone** as a unique feature.

The inclusion, or absence, of muntins allows transoms to **adapt to architectural styles** ranging from traditional to modern.

- Adding transoms to **double-hung windows** creates a stack of three "boxes" — an outcome that is too busy for some people. One option, with just as much glass, and less cost, is to use a single, taller, double-hung window with muntins only in the upper sash. This helps achieve the look of a separate, transom-like window.
- With **casement windows**, switching from standard muntins to the short-fractional style creates a look similar to a transom, but without the cost.
- Also consider how the muntins look from the outside. When muntins are on the exterior of the glass, they're more visible and are just as attractive as the inside. Standard widths are about 3/4 inch. Opt for muntins slightly larger than 1 inch if you want them to stand out more. Spending more money here gives the muntins pop and pizzazz. —Mark Wyatt is the president and founder of Wyatt Drafting & Design, in Warsaw, Ind.

Take It Outside



Glass reflects sunlight like a mirror, so the interior muntins are hidden by the glare.



On the outside of the glass, muntins are always in view.

Double-Hung Windows





More parts, more cost, busy looking.

Same size, fewer parts, and less cost.

Casement Windows





Standard muntin pattern

Standing Tall

muntins



Transoms make standard-height doors look taller.



