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Designing for Sun Shading in Bespoke Residential Applications

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1. How important is it that specifiers understand the light and solar properties of various blinds, curtains, and other shading systems?

It's particularly important for internal shading systems because the heat is already inside the building. It's important because light and solar properties affect the appearance of interior spaces and because controlling glare can be important.

2. Name two factors involved in planning ceilings and structural elements to allow for blind recesses?

Answers include any two of the following:

- Dimensions of recessed components.
- Ensuring support is located at the correct points.
- Interfacing with other finishes, such as plaster.
- In the case of blindspace, considering what will be seen when sun shading is retracted.
- Drawing the shading products in advance for asymmetric and raked windows.

3. What does the building code require when it comes to the installation of sun shading devices in residential applications?

It is mandatory to consider state/territory regulations, as well as the National Construction Code (NCC). The NCC highlights that blinds and other sun shading devices can enhance window performance and are often necessary to meet energy performance criteria, which become more challenging with each new iteration of the code

4. How affective are sun shading systems in terms of improving thermal efficiency in residential applications and therefore reducing energy consumption?

Sun shading systems are a highly effective means of improving thermal efficiency because they change the performance values for windows. i.e. they change the U and R value and the solar heat gain coefficient.

Competency Codes: PROJECT INITIATION AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PC18, PROJECT INITIATION AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PC18, DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION PC39, DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION PC46

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5. Do the various types of sun shading systems vary much in terms of sustainability? Are some a better option for those looking to cut energy costs and improve sustainability?

All products transmit, reflect or absorb solar radiation. Internal products can also influence convective heat loss significantly. External products perform much better in reducing heat, while internal products are better for reducing heat loss. In addition, automated sun shading control systems optimise the shading work and provide much greater thermal efficiency.

6. How important are the relationships between specifiers and suppliers of sun shading systems? How soon should suppliers become involve in residential projects?

A good supplier is one who supports an architectural practice, from early planning to implementation. It should be a collaborative process to achieve best results. For fully integrated solutions, specifiers should involve your sun shading suppliers at the design development stage or earlier.

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