MIAMI HERALD



José María "Chepe" Serrano, CCIM 2019 Chairman of the Board MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

Miami is the 8th-Best Large City in the United States

Miami is the eighth-best large city in the United States, according to a recent study by Resonance Consultancy. The ranking is just the latest recognition for America's youngest major city that boasts a strong real estate market.

The ranking is based on six main categories: Place, product, programming, people, prosperity and promotion. Miami performed well in each category.

Miami, which boasts the largest financial center south of New York City, is among 20 U.S. cities being considered for Amazon's second headquarters. Hedge funds and corporations are also moving to Miami after the tax reform last year that penalizes residents in high tax states. Florida has no state income tax.

Miami has a multicultural, multilingual community. Miami is home to more residents born in another country than anywhere else in the U.S.

Miami is also a center for art and design. The New World Symphony Center, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Frost Science and more cultural institutions are based in Miami.

Downtown Miami is America's fourth-fastest growing neighborhood, according to a 2017 Realtor.com analysis. Realtor.com looked at places where job opportunities abound, new households are forming, and new homes are being built to meet the growing demand.

A growing population of young professionals are living, working, and playing in downtown, which today boasts the highest concentration of cultural institutions in the Southeast and almost 400 restaurants and bars

A look at the top large cities, according to Resonance Consultancy

1.	New York	6.	San Diego
2.	Chicago	7.	Huston
3.	Los Angeles	8.	Miami
4.	San Francisco	9.	Seattle
5.	Las Vegas	10.	Boston

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE & RENT



Curtains, drapes, shutters, blinds ... the options are seemingly endless

BY JOSEPH PUBILLONES **Creators** Syndicate

DESIGN AND DECOR

Windows are considered to be the eyes of a home. Through them, we can see a framed view of the outside world, and when we are outside looking in, they offer us a glimpse of the daily goings-on of life. Some windows require no treatment due to a spectacular view, and yet other windows require some sort of treatment, either for privacy reasons or to protect the interiors from the intense rays of the sun. There are many types of window treatments for addressing issues of privacy, sun protection and aesthetics, too.

Most of us are familiar with curtains or drapes. People often use the terms invariably, however, there is a difference. Curtains are generally made with lighter fabrics and are not intended to protect against sunlight. They are mainly for privacy and aesthetics. Drapes, on the other hand, are usually lined and meant to block out light. As for aesthetics, depending on where you live and the type of decor you have, drapes can be made of velvet, silk, cotton, linen and even synthetic fabrics. Curtains and drapes can be simple and demure or as fancy as a ball gown. (Remember in 'Gone with the Wind, when Scarlett O'Hara has her dress made from fancy drapes?)

Shutters are another viable option for window treatments. This treatment gives an architectural flair to any room, as it reinforces the openings and



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becomes part of the millwork. Although generally painted white, wood shutters can be stained to match the millwork and, in certain instances, painted to contrast in color. Sometimes shutters can be divided in two, with closed panels on the bottom for privacy but open ones on top to allow light to come in to your space.

Blinds are quite common and useful. They can provide privacy and also mitigate the sunlight due to their adjustable blades. These come in a variety of materials, from wood to vinyl to aluminum, and a variety of sizes, from 2 inches to a mini blind. which has 3/4-inch blades.

Similar to shutters, blinds are often associated with traditional architecture. Vertical blinds came about during the 1970s in response to the many sliding glass doors of modern architecture.

Then there are those who prefer shades. Shades offer a more contemporary style to any interior because when they are rolled up, they are out of sight. There are shades made of vinyl which are meant to block out or filter light and even some that are considered blackout, which block all light (great for sleeping in on a sunny morning). Light-filtering shades can be made of woven vinvl fabric or a light sheer fabric.

Yet another variation of shades is translucent shades. Made from opaque paper or nylon, these shades stack like horizontal blinds, yet allow in a copious amount of light.

Surely, there are many more styles of window treatments. There is no wrong type of treatments, as long as they ultimately do their job in concealing your home and controlling the light.

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