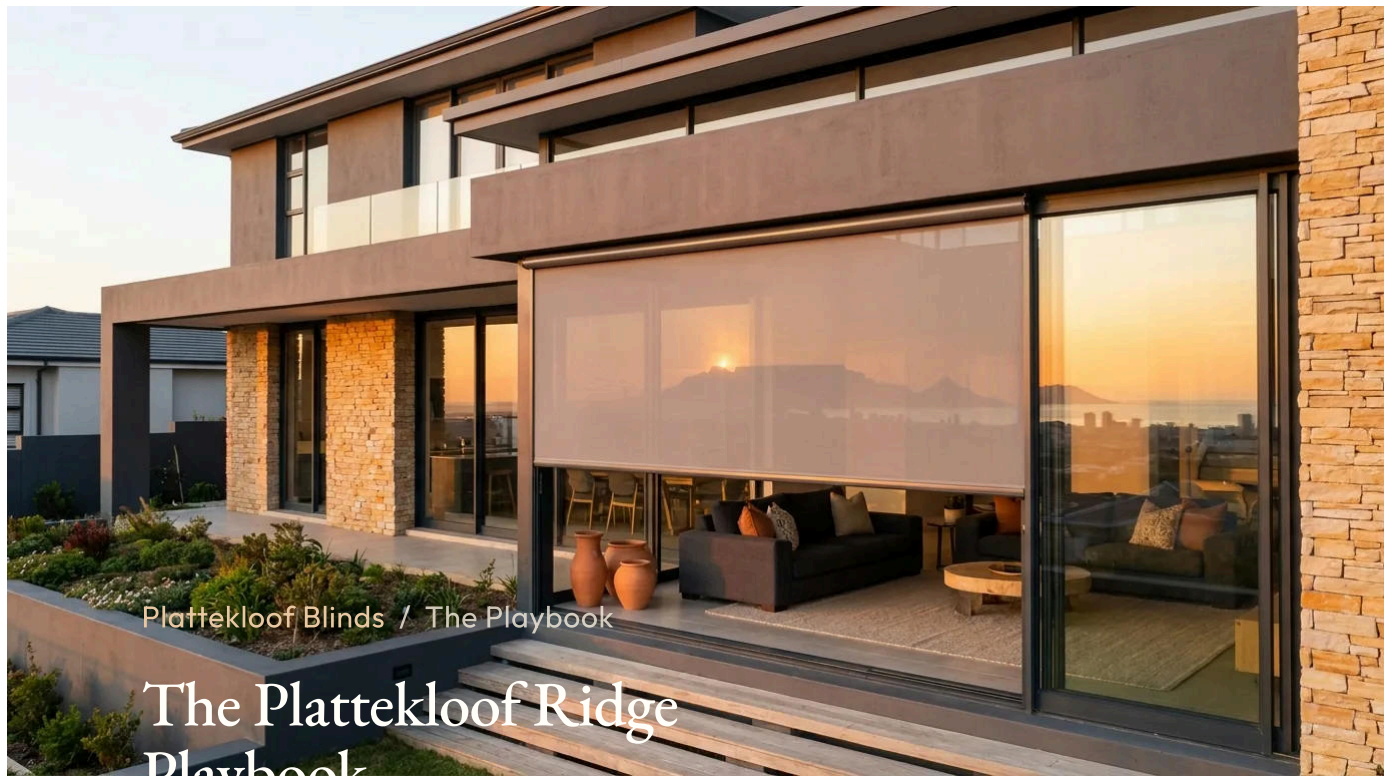




Plattekloof Blinds / The Playbook

The Plattekloof Ridge Playbook

A window-by-window field guide to shading a Plattekloof view home — how the west-facing view glass, the low afternoon sun and the summer south-easter change what belongs on each elevation. Written for this ridge, not lifted from a catalogue.

— START HERE

Why Plattekloof is a shading problem of its own

Almost every stand in Plattekloof was laid out up the slope of the Tygerberg to capture one thing: the view across the city to Table Mountain and out over Table Bay.

That view is the whole reason the house exists — and it is exactly what makes the windows tricky. To catch it, the big glass faces broadly west to south-west, out toward Table Bay and the sunset. Which means the living-room glass, the deck doors and the double-volume stairwells are all aimed at the hottest, glariest part of the Cape afternoon. A flat-stand suburb never has this problem; a ridge built for the view has it on nearly every main window.

The housing stock sharpens it. Most homes here are modern — the majority under about fifteen years old, rarely on less than 500 square metres, and built to entertain, which means

a lot of large-format glazing, frameless corners, stacking doors onto view decks and double-volume glass rather than cottage windows. One shading approach across all of it, on all four elevations, gets most of it wrong. This guide walks it elevation by elevation.

— THE LIGHT

A high summer sun, a low winter one, and a hard west afternoon

Cape Town sits at about 33.9° south, so the sun tracks through the *northern* sky all year and swings a long way between the seasons. At the December solstice the noon sun stands nearly overhead — roughly 79° up — so a north-facing window is easy to shade with the eave already above it. At the June solstice it drops to about 33° and rakes low across the north all day, pushing deep into north-facing rooms, which in winter is warmth you actually want.

The elevation that catches Platteklouf out is the west — and here that is the *view* elevation. In summer the late sun comes in low and hard, under any eave, straight onto the glass, from mid-afternoon until it drops over Table Bay. Cape Town's UV index runs Very High to Extreme from about October to March, peaking in January and February — which is what fades fabric and floors and loads heat through unshaded glazing. So on this ridge the brief is rarely just “block the sun”: it is keep the view and the light, cut the glare and heat off the west glass, and hold privacy after dark once the ridge lights up.



A sunscreen roller on west view glass: the low afternoon sun is knocked back to a glow, but the mountain and the bay stay the view rather than disappearing behind an opaque blind.

— ELEVATION BY ELEVATION

Which side of the house you're standing on changes the answer

WEST / SOUTH-WEST

The view side, and the hard one

Where the big glass points on most Platteklouf homes — and where the low summer afternoon sun lands hardest, under the eave, onto the pane. Stopping that heat outside the glass beats absorbing it inside. External shade, or a serious sunscreen, earns its place here more than on any other wall of the house.

NORTH-FACING

The sun-catcher

High and easy to shade in summer, but the low winter sun pushes right in — so the job is tempering glare without throwing away the July warmth you want. Sunscreen keeps the light; blackout is for north bedrooms that need to stay dark past a five-o'clock summer dawn.

EAST-FACING

Bright early, calmer later

Morning glare on breakfast rooms and east bedrooms, then an easy afternoon. A sunscreen or a light-filtering cellular takes the edge off the early sun without darkening the room for the rest of the day.

SOUTH-FACING

Cooler, and the weather side

Little direct sun, so glare is rarely the issue — but this is the side the winter north-wester drives rain against, and the coolest rooms in the house. Here the job is comfort and privacy, and cellular honeycomb earns its keep as an insulating layer, not a glare-blocker.

— WHAT WE'D SPECIFY, AND WHY

The recommendations, with both sides of every trade-off

Every choice below is a trade-off, so we've put both sides of it. Tap **Add** on any recommendation to drop it into the ballpark tool and the free-measure list at the foot of the page — so you carry what fits straight into either path, with no retyping.

West heat: stop it outside the glass

On the hot west view elevation we'd usually stop the heat *outside* the glass — external venetians on the wall, or a folding-arm awning over the terrace — rather than an interior blackout roller. The reason is physics: an external screen intercepts the sun before it reaches the pane, while an interior blind only stops the light after the glass has already absorbed the heat and begun radiating it into the room. On a west wall in a Cape summer that difference is one you feel by four o'clock.

The honest trade-off the other way: external shading costs more, wants a motor and a wind sensor to survive the south-easter up here, and external venetians do change the look of the elevation. If budget or an estate's facade rules point away from it, a high-performance sunscreen roller inside is the next best thing, with a blackout behind it for the evening.



External venetians on a west wall: the slats stop the sun on the outside of the glass, so the heat never gets into the room — the single most effective solar control there is.

The view: a sunscreen roller, not a plain blackout

Most of the glass in a Plattekloof house exists to see Table Mountain and the bay, so an opaque blackout on the lounge windows “solves” glare by throwing away the reason the window is there. A sunscreen mesh cuts glare and UV and keeps the view as a soft silhouette, with the openness of the weave chosen against how bright the outlook is and how much privacy the room needs by day.

The honest trade-off: a sunscreen is not a night-privacy blind. Once your lights are on and the ridge outside is dark, people can see in more than you’d like — which is exactly why the day-and-night roller below exists.

View by day, privacy by night: the day & night roller

Where a room wants the sunscreen’s view in daylight and a real screen after dark, a day-and-night (zebra) blind carries both on one bracket — alternating sheer and solid bands that line up

for privacy or open for the view, answering the sunscreen's one weakness without a second blind on the wall.

The honest trade-off: a day-and-night gives you graded control but never a true blackout — the bands still leak a little light at the edges. In a main bedroom that needs to be properly dark, a dedicated blackout roller behind it is the better call.

Bedrooms: blackout roller, or blackout cellular where the room runs cold

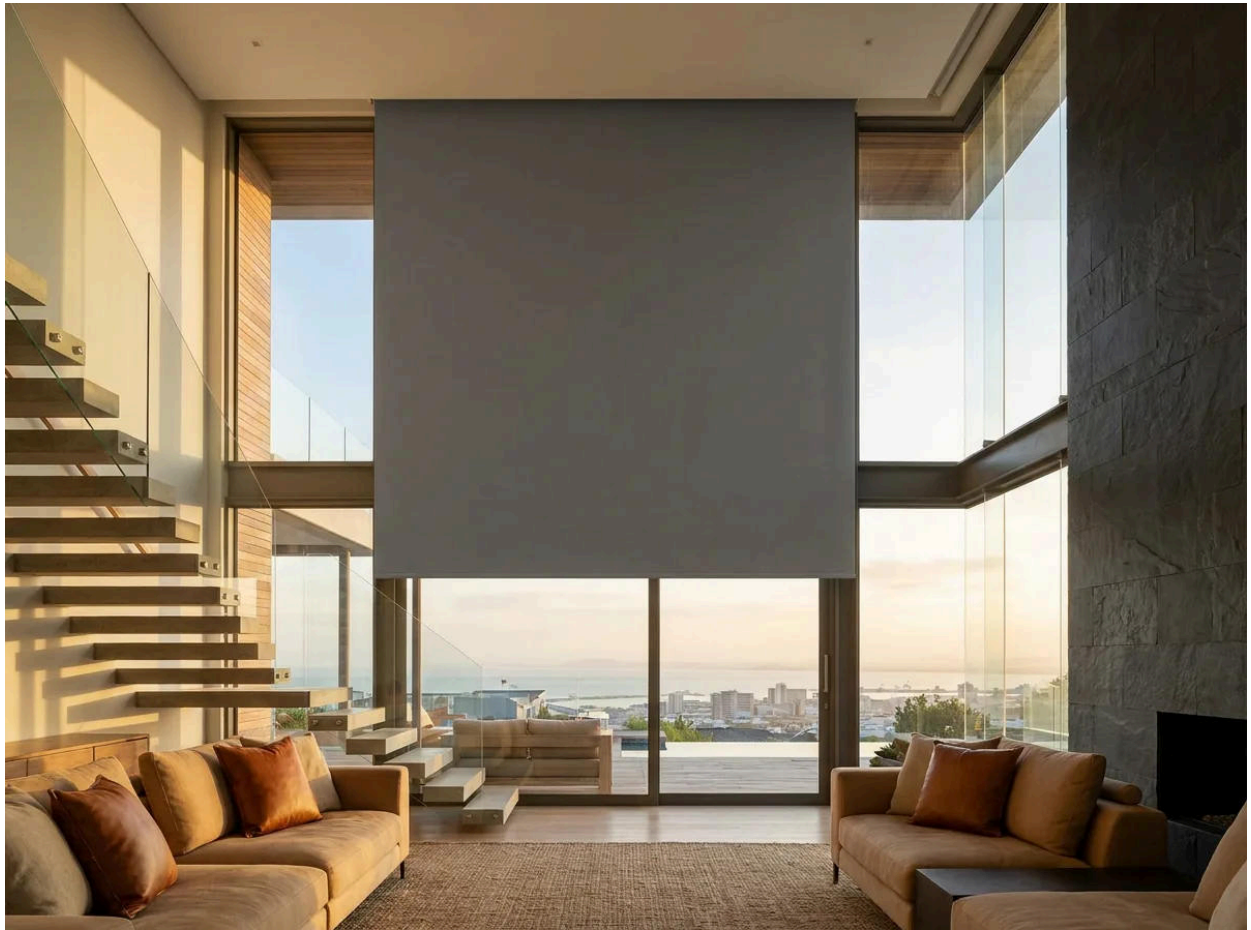
A north or west bedroom needs to stay dark past a bright summer dawn, and a blackout roller does that cleanly. But in a double-volume ridge room that also loses heat through a lot of glass, a blackout *cellular* honeycomb earns its place: the pleated cells trap still air at the glass, giving darkness and a real insulating layer in one blind.

The honest trade-off: the cellular costs more than a plain roller and the fabric is a little more delicate to clean. If the room isn't cold and it's only darkness you're after, the plain blackout roller is the sensible spend.

Kitchens, bathrooms and studies: sealed aluminium versus timber venetian

A wide-slat timber venetian tilts light beautifully and suits a study or a formal room, warm against stone and timber joinery. In a steamy kitchen or bathroom, though, raw timber is the wrong call — it moves and marks. There we'd switch to a slim **aluminium** venetian with a sealed, powder-coated finish, which tilts exactly the same way, shrugs off the moisture, and cleans off the fine dust the wind carries up the slope.

The honest trade-off: aluminium is the practical, hard-wearing choice but reads cooler and more utilitarian; timber is warmer and more architectural but wants a dry room. Same product family, opposite rooms — the trick is putting each where it belongs.



A concealed, motorised roller on double-volume glass: raised, the window shows nothing but glass and frame; a sun sensor can drop it before the west heat arrives.

Double-volume, frameless and stairwell glass: concealed and motorised

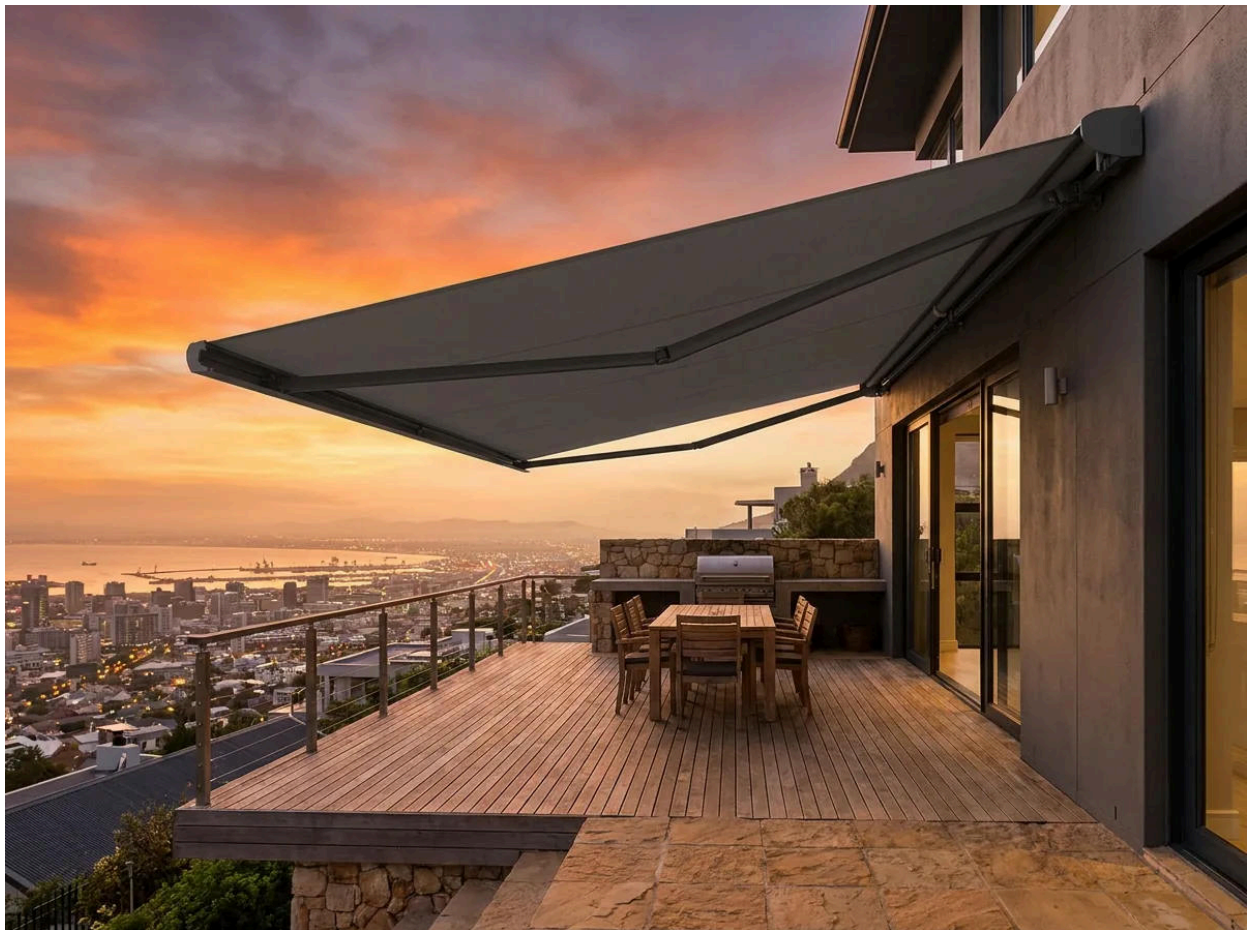
The modern homes here run to frameless corners, double-volume glazing and stairwell windows — and a chain hanging four metres down the glass ruins exactly the view the architect drew. A concealed roller drops out of a slim ceiling slot or a plastered bulkhead, so raised, the window reads as pure glass. On a sloped, multi-storey stand the top-floor and stairwell glass is also genuinely out of hand-reach, which is where motorisation stops being a luxury: a sun sensor drops the west blinds before you feel the heat, and a schedule handles the windows you'd otherwise never touch.

The honest trade-off: concealed systems are almost always motorised — there's no hand-reach into a ceiling slot — so they cost more and the motor power routing has to be planned, ideally before a ceiling is closed. On a standard-height window you can easily reach, a neat surface-mounted roller does the same shading job for less.

The view deck: a folding-arm awning, or a zip screen in the wind

The deck and braai area is where these homes live in summer, and it points the same way as the view — into the afternoon sun. A folding-arm awning throws shade across it and folds away when the winter sun is welcome. Where the deck is more exposed, a zip screen runs in side channels and stays taut in the wind, dropping straight down the outside of the glass.

The honest trade-off: an awning is the sociable, open choice but it must retract before a real south-easter — so up here it wants a wind sensor as standard, not a nice-to-have. A zip screen holds far better in wind and gives more privacy, but it's a fixed vertical screen, not the open, cover-the-whole-deck feel of an awning.



A folding-arm awning over a west-facing view deck: shade for the afternoon, folded away for a winter lunch — with a wind sensor so the south-easter can't catch it open.

Security estates, body corporates and a modern material palette

Plattekleef grew out of the old De Grendel farmland, and a good part of it now sits inside security estates and gated developments. Two practical things follow for a blind fitting. First, sign-off: many estates and body corporates ask owners to submit the product spec — especially for anything visible on the outside, like external venetians, a zip screen or an awning — before it goes up. We supply that documentation as a matter of course, and we choose clean profiles and finishes that sit comfortably with the ridge's mostly contemporary render, stone and aluminium palette rather than fighting it.

Second, access. Long driveways, gated entrances and the odd steep stand are worth noting at the measure, so the fitting team isn't held at a boom with a van full of made-to-measure product. And on the newer builds the constraint flips — big frameless openings and double-volume glass that want a concealed head detail planned in early, before the ceiling is closed, not retrofitted on fitting day.

— BEFORE WE COULD QUOTE

What a photo and a floor plan can't tell us

This guide gets you most of the way to the right product for each elevation. The last stretch only an in-home measure resolves — and it's the stretch that decides whether a blind still works in five years or rattles loose in one:

- ✓ Exact reveal depth on each window — whether a blind sits inside the frame or has to face-fix above it, which decides the whole look on frameless and deep-set modern reveals.
- ✓ The fixing substrate behind the plaster — brick, a steel lintel, or a double-volume bulkhead — which decides the bracket, and whether a heavy motorised unit can hang safely from it.
- ✓ How exposed each deck and upper window really is to the south-easter — the difference between an awning and a taut zip screen, and whether a wind sensor is essential rather than optional.
- ✓ Motor power routing on concealed and double-volume installations — where the cable runs, whether it's a battery or a wired motor, and what has to happen before the ceiling is closed.

- ✓ Any estate or body-corporate sign-off your development needs for exterior products — we'll tell you at the measure exactly what to submit, and supply it.

— TWO WAYS FORWARD

Ready to price it? Two honest ways to start

Want a ballpark first? Pop your rough sizes into the tool below and we'll send a budget range by the next working day — no visit, no obligation. Not sure how to measure, or you'd rather it was done properly? Leave the sizes: our consultant measures every window free and you get exact per-window pricing. The free measure is the one we'd point you to — the ballpark is just there if you like a number in front of you first.

Book your free expert measure

The one we'd recommend. A consultant measures every window, checks the light, the fixings, the wind exposure and any estate sign-off, brings fabric and slat samples, and leaves you with a written, itemised, per-window quote.

We take five or six measure appointments a week across Platteklouf and the northern suburbs, so the diary tends to fill a week or two ahead — booking early just means you get the day that works with your slope's access.

Or start with a rough ballpark

Low-key, and it commits you to nothing. Add each window and we'll send a budget range by the next working day. Not sure of a size? Leave it blank and note the room — or just book the free measure alongside and we'll do the measuring.

ROOM	WIDTH (MM)	DROP (MM)	FIT	PRODUCT
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Where the local facts come from

The suburb, geography and climate facts in this guide are drawn from the sources below. The summer and winter sun angles are worked out from Cape Town's latitude of about 33.9° south and the standard solar declination, so they're calculated rather than quoted; everything else is cited.

- ✓ Platteklouf — Tygerberg slopes, views over the city, Table Mountain and Table Bay, De Grendel origins and the 1956 naming swap: privateproperty.co.za
- ✓ Housing stock — mostly modern homes under ~15 years old, 500 sqm+ stands, 4+ bedrooms, large entertaining areas, N1 access: property24.com
- ✓ Elevated Tygerberg position and grandstand views over Table Bay toward Robben Island: sa-venues.com
- ✓ Cape Town latitude (~33.9°S) and the sun in the northern sky year-round: timeanddate.com
- ✓ Southern-hemisphere sun path (low winter, high summer, sun in the north): harvestingrainwater.com
- ✓ The south-easter "Cape Doctor" — season (Sept–March, peak November) and strength: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Doctor
- ✓ Cape Town UV index (Very High to Extreme Oct–Mar, peaking Jan–Feb): nomadseason.com