



Georgian House, Edinburgh.

Inside, the window can be seen to have additional means of adjustment. Flanking wood panels open to expose collapsible shutters that filter sunlight. Drapes lower or pull aside to provide still more layers, each independently adjustable.

Doors, like windows, tell us of life in the place. Open, the door catches a cooling breeze while passersby glimpse a vase of flowers on the hall table. Closed, the door is a shield against weather or climate as well as human interaction. As with closed windows or drawn drapes, passersby lose the sense of the heart of the house. And those inside lose their connection with the world around them.

THE SLOVAK FARMHOUSE

Less stylish than the Georgian, but more flexible, are the double windows of a Slovak farmhouse in the Carpathian Mountains. Traditionally built on south-facing slopes, such thick-walled dwellings open to the winter sun, leaving the north wall solid against blowing storms.

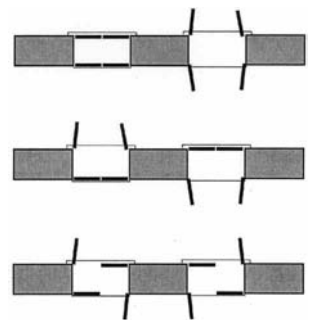


Slovak Farmhouse:
 (Left) Front door and window;
 (Right) Window from inside.

Each window contains four separate sashes, hinged on their sides. Two open outward and, separated by the wall's thickness, two open inward. Each sash can be independently adjusted. For example, all the sashes can be either closed or opened. Another possibility is that outside sashes can be either opened or closed while inside ones are opposite. Finally there are different versions where only one sash is opened on the outside and only one on the inside. When combined with degrees of opening of each sash, the possibilities for effective responses to sun, wind, and water are both subtle and many.

THE FRENCH HOUSE

In southern latitudes, where protection from the hot sun is essential, louvered shutters are common. Saintes, an ancient town in southwestern France, has warm, humid summers and cool, wet winters. Here too, as in the Georgian house, a combination of devices maintains comfort. Inward-opening casement windows give protection from cold and rain. Outward-opening shutters



Slovak Farmhouse Window:
 Some of the possible
 adjustments.