

The Faerie Glen Ridge Light Playbook

Sun, glare and privacy below the Bronberg — room by room

Faerie Glen homes were built to face the ridge and the green belts, which is exactly what turns the afternoon sun into a problem by mid-summer. Here is what the Pretoria sky actually does to a Faerie Glen floor plan, elevation by elevation, with the trade-offs written down instead of glossed over — and nothing to fill in to read it.

-
- About 8 minutes to read
 - Written August 2026
 - Free — no email needed
 - Sources at the foot

Start reading

Book the free measure



Sheer bands up for the ridge view, solid bands down for the glare — one blind, tuned through the afternoon.

Why Faerie Glen is its own brief

Most shading advice is written for a flat with one wall of glass. Little of it survives contact with a Faerie Glen stand below the Bronberg.

Faerie Glen was laid out in 1974 and grew into one of Pretoria East's most established suburbs, its streets lined with big trees and its houses built mostly in face brick — a blend of eighties homes into more modern designs, freehold family houses with big gardens alongside townhouse complexes nestled into the green belts and valleys.^[1] It sits on the southern slopes of the Bronberg mountain range, a proclaimed conservation ridge that is a continuation of the Magaliesberg, with the 128 hectare Faerie Glen Nature Reserve folded into it.^{[2][3]} The Bronberg is the reason so many stands here were designed around a view.

That view is the whole point of the big glass — and it changes the question. On a Faerie Glen home the brief is rarely “how do we cover the window.” It is how to keep the ridge, the garden and the green belt in the frame without the lounge cooking by four o'clock, or the bedroom lit up at first light. The suburb also enjoys some shelter from the Bronberg against wind and frost^[1] — a real difference from the open Johannesburg highveld — but a Pretoria summer afternoon still puts a hard, low sun onto west-facing glass.

So this playbook works the way we'd work the house: start with what the sun does over the ridge, then walk it wall by wall, then match a product to each room with the catch spelled out both ways. It is the same reasoning our consultant brings to the measure — just written down first.

— 02 — THE LIGHT

What the sun does over the ridge

Geometry, not opinion — published figures that run everything below.

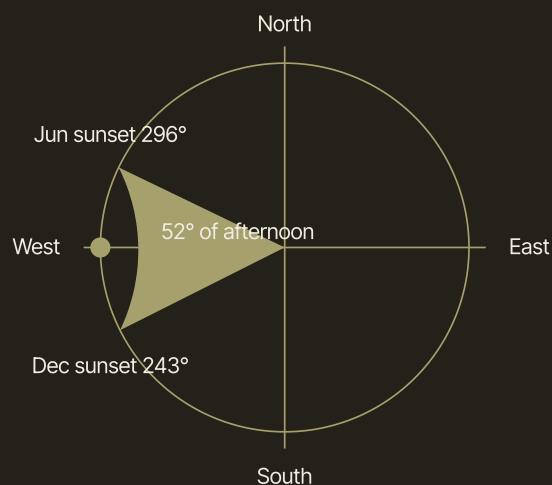
Faerie Glen sits at roughly 25.77°S, on the highveld at about 1,385 metres, with the Bronberg behind it reaching around 1,484 metres.^{[3][4]} The nearest published solar-angle study is calculated for Pretoria at 25.733°S — a difference of well under half a degree, so its figures apply here as they stand:^[5]

21 December — the sun rises at an azimuth of 116.6°, sets at 243.4°, and at noon stands **87.7°** above the horizon, within about two and a half degrees of straight overhead.

20 June — it rises at 64.2°, sets at 295.8°, and climbs no higher than **40.8°** all day.

Midday in summer isn't a Faerie Glen home's problem. At 87.7° the sun is near vertical, and an eave, a tree or the suburb's mature landscaping does most of the shading for free.^[1] Nobody phones us about noon.

The afternoon is the problem. Across the year the point of sunset swings through a **52° arc** of the western sky — from 243° in December to 296° in June — and by mid-to-late afternoon that sun is arriving almost flat. No tree canopy and no upstairs balcony stops a horizontal ray. It lands in the west-facing lounge exactly when the school run gets home and the kitchen fills up.



Winter light is worth having, not blocking. In June the low midday sun pushes real warmth into a north-facing living room, on days that turn cold by evening — Pretoria's June average high sits around 21°C, with the occasional overnight frost the Bronberg partly buffers but doesn't cancel.^{[1][6]} Fabric left down all year over one bad January throws that free heating away for good.

Altitude adds a fabric question. UV rises roughly 10% for every 1,000 metres of altitude^[7], and at Faerie Glen's ~1,400 metres that is a real, year-round load on anything left unprotected on west-facing glass — the reason a fabric's UV rating matters here more than at the coast.

Elevation by elevation

Find your worst room's wall. On an open-plan Faerie Glen home it's the compass, not the floor plan, that decides what a window actually needs.

⬆ North — the wall that earns the electricity bill down

Sun for most of the day — high and short in summer, low and long in winter^[5] — and the free heating that makes a Faerie Glen evening bearable once June's cold nights arrive.^[6] Blocking it for good over one hot January is the costliest mistake we see on a north-facing living room.

VERDICT: tune it by season — never block it for good.

➡ East — brilliant early, then finished

Sunrise swings from 116.6° in December to 64.2° in June^[5], so an east bedroom takes a hard, low hit at first light and almost nothing after mid-morning — a smaller heat load than the west. A nursery or main bedroom on this wall wakes the house before the alarm does.

VERDICT: solve for darkness at 5am, not for temperature.

⬅ West — the wall everyone's calling about

Low sun across that 52° arc for the entire back half of the day, through the hottest hours a Pretoria summer has.^{[5][6]} An unscreened sliding door here turns the open-plan living area into a greenhouse by mid-afternoon. Where you stop the sun matters as much as what you stop it with.

VERDICT: stop the heat as far outside the glass as you can.

⬇ South — no sun, but the neighbours can see in

Almost no direct sun all year, and the coldest rooms come June.^[5] On a townhouse stand with a smaller garden buffer it's also the wall most likely to look straight into next door. Shading is rarely the brief here — being overlooked is.

VERDICT: think privacy and light quality — not sun control.

— OPTIONAL

Want this marked up for your own home?

Tell us which rooms are the problem and we'll send this playbook back with your own elevations noted against it — which windows we'd treat first, and what we'd weigh up on each.

It's an email, not a visit. Nobody phones you about it.

What we'd fit here, and the catch with each

Each is right somewhere on a Faerie Glen home and wrong somewhere else. Tap “add to my enquiry” on anything that sounds like your room — it carries straight into the form below.

OPEN-PLAN LIVING & DINING, WEST AND NORTH

Sunscreen & day/night roller blinds

One flat sheet of fabric on a tube — no folds, no pleats. Sunscreen keeps the ridge and garden view readable through an open weave; a day/night roller alternates sheer and solid bands so you dial from “view” to “closed” without changing blinds. On a Faerie Glen view elevation this is usually the first blind we'd hang.

Why not a blackout here: it stops more heat but also the view, so it lives permanently down and you lose the reason for the glass. **The catch:** an open weave still lets low afternoon sun through — on the worst west rooms it's the inside layer, paired with something outside, not the whole answer.

BEDROOMS, ESPECIALLY EAST-FACING

Blockout roller blinds

The same flat sheet in a coated fabric that stops light rather than filtering it. On an east bedroom it buys back the sleep a Pretoria sunrise steals — first light hits hard and low from an azimuth as tight as 64° in June.^[5]

Why not a heavy curtain: the blind sits in the reveal, takes no floor space and collects less dust. **The catch:** a reveal-fit blind leaves a hairline gap either side; true edge-to-edge dark for a baby's nap or a shift worker wants an outside fit or side channels — a measuring decision, not a fabric one.

THE WORST WEST LIVING ROOMS

External venetians

Wide slats mounted *outside* the glass, tilted to cut the low sun while you keep a slice of the view between them. The physics is the whole point: heat stopped before the pane warms up never enters the room.

Why outside beats an interior blind here: anything inside the glass still lets the pane radiate absorbed heat inward; an interior blackout roller can leave a west lounge warm even while it looks shaded. **The catch:** it's an exterior, powered product that changes the face of the house, so it costs more than an interior blind and wants a wind and sun sensor — and on the estates nearby it's a guidelines conversation first.

WEST-FACING SLIDERS, AND HAIL SEASON

Roller shutters

Rigid aluminium slats roll down from a headbox on the outside of the glass — the strongest single move on a west elevation, because it stops the sun before the pane even warms, and it closes the opening down completely for blackout too. Worth being plain: these are **shading shutters, sized for sun, heat and glare control — not security-rated shutters**. That's a different product we can quote separately.

Why it earns its place in Faerie Glen: highveld hail runs from mid-November through February with an afternoon peak^[8], and a shutter that's down survives what fixed fabric takes on the chin. **The catch:** it changes what's visible from the street, so it costs more than an interior blind and, on an estate, is a sign-off conversation before it's an order.

BEDROOMS & STUDIES THAT SWING HOT THEN COLD

Cellular honeycomb blinds

Rows of hexagonal cells trap a layer of still air against the glass, so they insulate rather than just filter — real relief on a room that bakes by four and then loses its warmth back out on a frosty Pretoria morning.

^[6] Cordless as standard, so there's no chain within reach of a cot.

Why not a plain blackout roller: the air layer works both ways — heat out in summer, warmth held in through a cold June night — where one fabric sheet only ever does one job at a time. **The catch:** it costs more than a plain roller for the same window, and a top-down/bottom-up version adds further to that.

KITCHEN, SCULLERY & BATHROOMS

Aluminium venetian blinds

Thin, tiltable metal slats — wipe-clean and heat-tolerant where fabric struggles with steam and cooking grease. Tilt them and the low afternoon sun throws onto the ceiling instead of the countertop: glare gone without losing the light.

Why not a roller here: fabric holds odour and grease in a working kitchen; aluminium doesn't. **The catch:** a lot of slats means real dusting, and on a wider kitchen window the stacked headrail is deep enough to notice.

COVERED PATIO & BRAAI AREA

Folding-arm awnings

Hinged arms extend the fabric over the patio with no support poles in the way of the furniture, and retract fully to let winter sun back onto the same spot — exactly what a Faerie Glen outdoor room is built for.

Why not a fixed roof: it blocks the same low winter sun you'll want back in June, and needs its own approval. **The catch:** highveld hail peaks in the afternoon^[8] — braai time — so an automatic wind and rain sensor that retracts it on its own isn't optional here.



Stop it outside. On a west elevation, an external roller shutter or venetian stops the sun before the pane warms — where an interior blind only manages the heat once it's already in.



The nursery question. Cordless as standard on any kids' room — the honeycomb air layer is the bonus, the missing chain is the point.

— ALSO IN THE RANGE

Six more, briefly

Zip screens

Fabric held in zipped side channels, so it stays taut against a gust and closes a patio into a usable outdoor room. The sheltered side of a Faerie Glen stand can still catch wind funnelling off the ridge — the channel is what stops the flap.

Timber venetian blinds

Real wood-grain slats for a main bedroom or study that wants warmth over cold hardware — aluminium's precise tilt, heavier, so wide openings split in two.

Vertical & panel blinds

Vanes or wide fabric panels stack clear to one side, so a four- or five-metre slider onto the garden stays fully usable instead of sitting behind a heavy roller that can bow across the span.

Concealed / recessed blind boxes

Built into a ceiling slot so the blind drops with no visible headbox — the clean finish for a double-volume entrance, easiest specified while a renovation is still open.

Skylight & shaped blinds

Gable windows, stairwell voids and roof lights — awkward openings that need a made-to-template, tensioned fit that holds flat at any angle, almost always motorised above reach.

Motorisation & automation

Battery motors are the retrofit default — no chasing a face-brick wall, no trailing cable. Group west blinds to close on a timer before the school run's back, so the room's already cool by four; the honest catch is a recharge every few months.



Tilt, not just up-and-down. In a working kitchen the ability to aim the slats at the ceiling beats any amount of extra fabric.

Faerie Glen itself, and the estates around it

Faerie Glen is a suburb, not a single boom-gated estate, so there is no one architectural committee governing every stand — most of it is standalone freehold and townhouse complexes, each complex with its own body corporate rules.^[1] The practical line is simple: **an internal blind, inside your own reveal, changes nothing anyone outside can see**, and in most schemes is nobody's business but yours. Anything on the outside of the glass — an external venetian, a roller shutter, an awning arm, a colour that doesn't match the face brick — is worth clearing with your body corporate before you order, not after.

It matters more on the neighbouring estates we also fit, which run proper aesthetics committees: **Silver Lakes, Woodhill Golf Estate, Mooikloof and Boardwalk Meander** all approve exterior finishes visible from a fairway or the street. On those we confirm the estate's guidelines first and put anything external in writing for your trustees. There's no heritage overlay on Faerie Glen itself to worry about — the constraint is aesthetic consistency, not a formal listing.

And if you're renovating rather than fitting new: SANS 10400-XA:2021 raised the glazing-to-floor-area threshold that triggers a fenestration energy calculation from 15% to 20%, and dropped the older rule that judged west-facing glass more harshly than north or east.^[9] Opening up an older eighties face-brick plan with more glass than it was drawn with is worth checking against the current 20% figure, not a number a previous owner may have worked to.

What we'd still need to check on site

All of that is true of Faerie Glen. None of it is true of your home until somebody stands in it — five things no guide can settle from a distance:

01 The actual reveal depth

Older steel casements and newer aluminium sliders take different fittings, and even within one complex the reveal can vary unit to unit. That single measurement decides inside-or-outside fit — which decides whether a nursery actually goes dark.

03 Your stand's real wind exposure

The Bronberg shelters the suburb generally^[1], but a stand backing onto open green belt catches gusts a walled-in one never sees. That decides whether a wind sensor on an awning or external screen is a nice-to-have or non-negotiable.

05 Power routing and the charging reality

Whether a plug is reachable for a motor's charger, whether a solar charger would ever see sun on that elevation, whether an existing point can be reused — on a double-volume stairwell blind that decides whether motorisation is a pleasure or a chore.

02 What we're allowed to fix into

Face brick, a plasterboard bulkhead, a structural lintel: each takes a different bracket, and an exterior fixing may need your body corporate's sign-off first. We check before you order, not on fitting day.

04 What glass you already have

Eighties Faerie Glen stock and recent extensions may sit under different SANS glazing rules^[9]; only the actual pane tells us what fabric or external shading is doing real work versus just habit.



The patio question. Wind exposure off the ridge and the sensor spec get decided standing on the patio with hail season in mind, not from a photograph.

— 07 — TWO WAYS FORWARD

Book the free expert measure

A consultant comes to the house with fabric and slat samples, takes the compass reading rather than guessing it, measures every window and leaves a written quote per window. Neither the visit nor the quote costs anything, and neither obliges you to order. Would rather have a rough number first? The ballpark list sits inside the form below — quieter, and entirely optional.

✓ Free in-home measure and a written quote per window

- ✓ The compass reading taken on site, not guessed from a photo
- ✓ Anything external written up for your body corporate or estate
- ✓ Still deciding? Say so on the form and we'll leave you be

Anything you added while reading is already carried into the form. You don't have to type it again.

— NEITHER, FOR NOW

Just take the playbook, marked up

Not ready for a visit or a number? Tell us which rooms are the problem and we'll email you this playbook with your own elevations noted against it. Nothing is booked, nobody phones.

— WORKING OUT

Sources

Every climate, geography and building-regulation claim above traces to one of these. Where the text is our own reasoning rather than a citation, it says so on the spot.

1. Your Neighbourhood — “Suburb Focus: Faerie Glen”: established 1974; face-brick homes with low levies; “a good blend of 80's into more modern styled designs,” free-standing homes and townhouse complexes nestled along the green belts and within the valleys; the suburb “enjoys the shelter offered by the Bronberg mountain range against wind and frost” and shares Pretoria East's subtropical climate. yourneighbourhood.co.za — Suburb Focus: [Faerie Glen](#)
2. Private Property — “Faerie Glen in Pretoria East, a peaceful gem”: “nestled on the southern slopes of the Bronberg Mountain Range, a proclaimed protected conservation area”; larger freehold family homes with big gardens and townhouses in Old Faerie Glen, smaller modern dwellings in New; “views of the Bronberg mountain range, the peaceful environment, low crime and relative mild climate are also major drawcards.” privateproperty.co.za — [Faerie Glen, a peaceful gem](#)

3. Wikipedia — “Faerie Glen Nature Reserve”: 128 hectare reserve within the Bronberg Conservation Area; coordinates 25°46'26"S 28°17'53"E (25.7739°S, 28.2981°E). en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faerie_Glen_Nature_Reserve
4. Topographic-map.com — Faerie Glen Nature Reserve / Bronberg elevations: reserve average ~1,385 m, Bronberg terrain ~1,484 m. topographic-map.com — Faerie Glen Nature Reserve
5. “Sun, shade and natural daylight in South African town planning, with emphasis on Pretoria,” *Acta Structilia* (SciELO SA) — Pretoria at 25.733°S; 21 December sunrise azimuth 116.62°, sunset 243.35°, solar-noon elevation 87.7°; 20 June sunrise 64.24°, sunset 295.76°, solar-noon elevation 40.84°; and the observation of “how much hotter the afternoons (western exposure) are in comparison with the mornings.” scielo.org.za — Sun, shade and natural daylight
6. weather-and-climate.com — Pretoria: January the hottest month (average daily maximum ~27°C); June average daily maximum ~21°C; winter nights can be frosty (lows near -1°C); wettest November–March with frequent heavy afternoon thunderstorms October–April. weather-and-climate.com — Pretoria
7. World Health Organization — “With every 1000 m in altitude, UV levels increase by approximately 10 per cent.” who.int — Radiation: Ultraviolet (UV) Q&A
8. Punge et al., “Characteristics of hail hazard in South Africa based on satellite detection of convective storms,” *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences* 23, 1549–1576 (2023) — South African hail concentrates over the Highveld; events most frequent mid-November through February with an afternoon peak; Gauteng records roughly 23 overshooting-top hail-event days per year. nhess.copernicus.org — Hail hazard in South Africa
9. Roos Architects — Summary of the revised SANS 10400-XA standard (2021 edition): the fenestration-calculation threshold rose from a 15% to a 20% glazing-to-floor-area ratio, and “there now is no distinction drawn between the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) requirements of glazing facing west, north or east.” roosarchitects.co.za — Revised SANS 10400-XA

Four honest caveats. The solar figures in source 5 are calculated for Pretoria at 25.733° south; Faerie Glen sits at roughly 25.77° south, so its own angles differ by well under half a degree — we quote the published numbers rather than invent our own. Temperature, rainfall and frost detail is Pretoria-town-wide (source 6), because there is no published Faerie Glen weather station. Hail statistics (source 8) are Gauteng/Highveld-wide, from a national satellite study, not Faerie-Glen-specific. And Faerie Glen is a suburb, not a single homeowners' association — no one architectural code governs it; the estate rules mentioned apply only to the neighbouring estates we also serve, and complex owners should confirm any exterior rule with their own body corporate.

— READY WHEN YOU ARE

Now let's look at your actual windows

Free in-home measure, a written per-window quote, and a consultant who already knows how the light moves across this ridge.

[Book a free measure](#)

[Browse the range first](#)