



[Home](#) / [The Notebook](#)

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SOURCED**

The Waverley Window Notebook

How the Johannesburg sun crosses this small, heavily treed suburb through the year, what Waverley's three generations of

window each need from a blind, and what we'd fit on every elevation — with the honest catch written next to each answer.

Book your free measure →

Start reading

-
- ✓ Written for Waverley, sourced at the foot
 - ✓ Free measure & written per-window quote
 - ✓ Child-safe operation as standard

WHERE TO START

One-point-three square kilometres, three generations of window.

Waverley was proclaimed on 9 April 1903, on part of the old farm Syferfontein, and named off a Walter Scott novel like several of its neighbours. It covers 1.37 km², and you pass three building eras walking it: the early established homes; the post-war family-home layer that went up around the years Waverley Girls' High began in eight prefabs, in January 1953; and the clusters since built on subdivided stands.

Three eras, three window vocabularies: deep older reveals, the long horizontal runs of the mid-century houses, big regular aluminium openings in the new clusters.

Almost nothing about the fixing or the right product carries across. The useful unit here is the window, not the house.

THE LIGHT HERE

26 degrees south, 1,700 metres up.

Waverley is too small to hold a weather station of its own, so every figure below is Johannesburg-wide — and every one of them is sourced at the foot of this page.

DECEMBER · NEAR VERTICAL

Overhead at noon, rising and setting behind you

At the December solstice the midday sun reaches roughly 87° , so the roof takes the noon load. But sunrise sits at about 118° and sunset at 243° , both south of the east–west line, with 13 h 47 m of daylight from 05:12. East and west glass pays for that.

MARCH & SEPTEMBER · THE SHOULDER

The angle nobody plans for

Around the equinoxes the noon sun sits at roughly 64° — arithmetic from this latitude — high enough to feel like summer, low enough to reach past

an eave, with the trees only half in leaf. Most "but it was fine last month" complaints start here.

JUNE · LOW AND DUE NORTH

Forty degrees, straight into the room

At the June solstice the midday sun sits at about 40°, due north, with sunrise at 69°, sunset at 295° and 10 h 30 m of daylight. Free winter heat through the window that cooked you in January — and a low, raking glare on the west.

01 The street trees are generous at exactly the wrong time

Johannesburg's two most prominent street trees — jacaranda at 7–12 m and London plane at 21–30 m, in a city of more than ten million trees — are both deciduous. Leaf cover is therefore heaviest from October to March, when the sun is nearest vertical, and gone in June and July when it arrives at 40° almost horizontally.

02 Wet, stormy summers and bone-dry winters

Johannesburg is Köppen Cwb: about 784 mm of rain a year against a mean of 15.9 °C, and it falls in summer — when the Highveld takes intense afternoon thunderstorms from October through March, peaking for severe storms over Gauteng in October and November. Winter is dry, with June and July minima near 0 °C.

03 Altitude buys you extra ultraviolet

Waverley sits at roughly 1,700 m, and ultraviolet rises about 10% for every 1,000 m of altitude because a thinner atmosphere filters less of it. Johannesburg's UV is

rated extreme through the summer half of the year, and ultraviolet is what fades a rug, a timber floor and eventually the blind itself.

By four o'clock the sun has stopped arriving from above.

A blind that only goes up and down has one answer to a low western sun: cover the window and close the room. A slat that tilts has a second.



ELEVATION BY ELEVATION

Which side of the street you are on decides more than what the room is for.

We found no published survey saying Waverley's stands favour one aspect, so treat it as a per-window question. Walk the house once with the compass on your phone before reading on.

01 North — check what the eave is already doing before you spend

North glass takes a near-vertical sun in summer and a low one in winter, so it is the one elevation where a horizontal projection genuinely works: a modest overhang blocks most of December while still letting the whole of June in. That is the orientation logic SANS 10400-XA:2021 applies to new work — check what your eave already does before spending.

02 West — the elevation that ruins the afternoon

Across the year the sun sets between bearings of 243° and 295°, low by then: it arrives *under* the eave and straight at the glass, so overhead projections do almost nothing. It is also where the deciduous canopy fails you hardest, because the worst low-sun months are the bare ones.

03 East — the same geometry, half the penalty

East glass gets the mirror image from 05:12 in midsummer, but the air and the brickwork are still cool, so glare and waking early matter more than heat. East bedrooms are a blackout conversation; an east breakfast room is not — there, the sun is the point.

04 South — not immune, just late to it

Because midsummer sunrise (118°) and sunset (243°) both sit south of the east–west line, a south wall takes low direct sun early and late in December and none in winter. The coolest, flattest-lit rooms in the house — often privacy is all a south window needs.

05 The M1 side, and one thing we will not pretend

Waverley sits hard against the M1 corridor, and it comes up at almost every measure on that side. Blinds are a light, heat and privacy product, not an acoustic

one — a cellular blind and a heavy blackout take a little edge off, and that is all. If traffic noise is the real problem, glazing is where the money works.

WHAT WE'D FIT, AND WHY

The reasoning — and the honest catch with each.

Nothing here is right everywhere. Each beats its obvious alternative on a particular elevation, and each costs you something, so the catch is written beside it. Tap **Add to my window list** and it carries down to the form below — nothing to retype.

Roller blinds — sunscreen or blackout

BEST ON: STREET-FACING LIVING ROOMS (SUNSCREEN) · BEDROOMS (BLOCKOUT)

Why here. A low-openness sunscreen keeps the tree-lined street view while cutting glare and much of the ultraviolet that fades floors at this altitude. Blockout does the opposite, answering a 05:12 sunrise with one flat sheet on a tube.

The catch. Sunscreen reverses after dark — lights on inside and it gives away more than you expect on a street of low front walls. Blockout is only as dark as its edges; a double roller puts both on one window.

Add sunscreen

Add blackout

Cellular (honeycomb) blinds

BEST ON: SINGLE GLAZING YOU CANNOT OR WILL NOT REPLACE

Why here. The fabric folds into cells that hold still air against the glass. In a mid-century room with single panes and June minima near freezing, that trapped air is the least invasive comfort upgrade going.

The catch. It sits on the wrong side of the glass for summer heat. Against a hard west sun an external product beats it, because a cellular blind only slows heat that already came through the pane.

[Add to my window list](#)



Day & night blinds

BEST ON: ROOMS FRONTING THE PAVEMENT, OR CLOSE TO A BOUNDARY WALL

Why here. Alternating sheer and solid bands slide past each other, so one blind moves from open view to eye-level privacy without ever being raised. On Waverley's newer

cluster stands, where a living room can sit a few metres off a boundary, that beats dropping a blackout at four in the afternoon.

The catch. Never a true blackout, and the banding is a strong horizontal pattern — hold a sample in your own light first. On a three-metre sliding door, vertical or panel blinds stack clear of the glass and usually beat it.

[Add to my window list](#)

Timber & aluminium venetian blinds

BEST ON: STUDIES AND LIVING ROOMS (TIMBER) · KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS (ALUMINIUM)

Why here. Low western sun is a sideways problem, and a tilting slat answers it sideways: close the angle and the room stays bright while the direct beam stops. A roller has one move, a slat has two — and slats suit the long horizontal runs of the mid-century houses.

The catch. A timber venetian stacks deeper than a roller, so it eats more glass when raised — noticeable on a short kitchen window. Timber dislikes steam, which is why wet rooms get aluminium.

[Add timber](#)

[Add aluminium](#)



Roller shutters — shading on the outside of the glass

BEST ON: HARD WEST AND NORTH-WEST GLASS WITH NO OVERHANG

Why here. Stopping the sun outside the glass keeps a room cooler than absorbing it inside: an interior blackout kills glare, but the pane behind it still heats and radiates all evening. A roller shutter is rigid aluminium slats rolling down from a headbox outside the wall, then rolling away into a small box. On a west wall, that is the difference between using the room at six and avoiding it.

The catch. In relative terms the dearest answer on this page. It wants a motor, a wind strategy through storm season, and it is an exterior alteration — read the next chapter first.

Shading, not security. These are specified for shade — sun, heat, glare and privacy, all dealt with outside the glass. A security-rated shutter is its own product, quoted separately if that is what you are after.

[Add roller shutters](#)



Folding-arm awnings & zip screens

BEST ON: THE STOEP, THE BRAAI PATIO, A CLUSTER'S SMALL COURTYARD

Why here. An awning shades a patio with nothing in the way of the table, which is why it beats a fixed pergola when you want the June sun back. A zip screen is different: fabric under tension in side channels, holding its shape in wind.

The catch. This is the Highveld from October to March. Wind and hail ratings are engineering limits, not marketing copy, and an awning caught open in a November storm does not survive it — so we specify a motor and a wind sensor.

[Add awnings](#)

[Add zip screens](#)

Motorisation & automation

BEST ON: GABLES, STAIRWELLS, SKYLIGHTS, SHAPED WINDOWS, ANYTHING OUTDOORS

Why here. A blind nobody can reach is a blind nobody adjusts, and an unadjusted blind is just a permanently dark room. Outdoors, a wind sensor retracts the awning before the storm arrives. It also removes hanging cords entirely.

The catch. Motors need power, and a cable route that does not chase a wall is a real question in an older house. A battery motor trades that for a charging routine you have to keep.

[Add to my window list](#)

OPTIONAL

Want this Notebook marked up for your own house?

Tell us which rooms are the problem and we'll send it back with notes against your own elevations — what we'd start with, and what we'd leave alone. No visit, and no obligation to book one.

Your name

Email

Suburb or area

Waverley

Which rooms or elevations are giving trouble?

e.g. the west lounge and the two front bedrooms

Roughly how many windows?

1–5



Send me the marked-up Notebook

POPIA: we use these details only to send you the marked-up Notebook and, if you ask for it, to arrange a consultation call-back. No marketing lists, and never shared or sold to a third party.

— BEFORE YOU FIX ANYTHING OUTSIDE

In 2026 the sixty-year line falls at 1966.

Section 34(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 says no person may alter or demolish any structure, or part of one, older than sixty years without a permit from the relevant provincial heritage resources authority — in Gauteng, PHRA-G. Age is the trigger, not listing.

Do the arithmetic for Waverley and it stops being abstract. Sixty years before 2026 is 1966, so the suburb's whole post-war family-home layer — the houses built around the founding of Waverley Girls' High — is already past that line, along with everything older.

That draws a clean division through this Notebook. Blinds fitted *inside* a room touch neither the structure nor how the house reads from the street; anything mounted *outside* the glass is an exterior alteration. We fit blinds and are not heritage practitioners, so we will raise it at the measure and design the interior specification so you have a good option either way.

BEFORE AN ORDER GOES IN

Five questions that only get answered at the window, with a tape in hand.

The honest limit of any guide, this one included. Everything above narrows the field; these five decide it, and all five are what the free measure is for.

01 True reveal depth, and whether the opening is square

Decades of settling and repainting leave frames out of square, and reveals vary wall to wall inside one room. Depth decides whether an inside mount is possible at all — which decides how much light escapes past a blackout.

02 What the frame is made of, and what it will carry

Old timber, mid-century steel casement and modern aluminium each take a fixing differently, and some original timber is too soft, or frankly too good, to drill. Then we mount into the masonry instead — but only once someone has seen it.

03 How exposed that elevation really is

Anything external lives or dies on wind exposure through storm season. A patio tucked behind a gable and one thrown open to the west are different specifications, and sometimes different products.

04 Where the power for a motor can actually go

Motorising a stairwell or gable window is simple in principle and fiddly in practice: the cable has to arrive without chasing a wall or lifting a ceiling. Sometimes a roof void solves it; sometimes the answer is a battery motor.

05 What the trees and the eaves already do — at the hour that matters

A fair share of the afternoon shade in Waverley is already free, and knowing which windows need nothing spent on them is worth as much as knowing which do. That is judged standing in the room at four o'clock in February, not read off a plan.

Have us measure the house — or take a rough range first.

One short form below covers either choice.

RECOMMENDED

The free expert measure & written quote

A consultant comes to you with fabric and slat samples, walks the elevations at the hour that matters, measures every opening properly, and leaves a written quote itemised per window. Free, with no obligation.

Book my free measure

OPTIONAL

Want a ballpark first?

Approximate sizes will do, and the budget range follows on the next working day. Not sure how to measure? Then leave that part out — our consultant measures free of charge regardless, and the exact per-window numbers come off that visit.

Open the window list

— WHERE THIS LANDS

Book your free expert measure.

One short form. If you'd also like a budget range, add rough window sizes underneath it — that part is entirely optional, and nobody will chase you for it.

Your name

Phone number

Email (optional)

Suburb

Waverley

What is your timing on this?

Ready now — please call me



What you're interested in (anything you added from the Notebook is already ticked)

☐ Sunscreen roller blinds

☐ Blockout roller blinds

☐ Day & night blinds

☐ Cellular / honeycomb blinds

☐ Timber venetian blinds

☐ Aluminium venetian blinds

☐ Vertical & panel blinds

☐ Roller shutters (shading)

☐ Folding-arm awnings

☐ Zip screens

☐ Motorisation & automation

☐ Not sure yet — advise me

Anything you'd like us to know

e.g. the west lounge is unusable from about four o'clock, and the two front bedrooms face the street

Optional: add rough window sizes for a budget range

Waverley Blinds — window list

Walk the house, fill this in roughly, then type it back into the form on the Notebook page. Each opening needs its biggest width and its longest drop. Not keen on measuring? The free expert measure does that part for you.

Rough really is fine — a tape across the outside of the frame is enough for a range, and we'll send a budget range by the next working day. And if measuring is not your idea of a Saturday, skip this entirely: the free measure gives you exact per-window pricing anyway.

ROOM	WIDTH (MM)	DROP (MM)	INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE REVEAL	PR

+ Add another window

Print a blank list

Nothing on the list yet — and that is completely fine.

Book my free expert measure

POPIA: your details are used only to arrange this consultation call-back and, if you've added sizes, to send your budget range. They are never shared or sold to a third party.

Not ready for a visit at all? You can still **have the Notebook marked up for your own rooms** — emailed back to you, with nobody phoning about it.

SOURCES

Where the figures on this page come from.

Every suburb, sun-path, climate, canopy and heritage figure above comes from the following. Where something was disputed or could not be verified, we left it out rather than round it into a sentence.

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- St Mary's School, Waverley, founded 1888 and the oldest school in Johannesburg — [Wikipedia, St Mary's School, Waverley](#)
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- Jacaranda and London plane as Johannesburg's two most prominent street trees, their mature heights and their deciduous habit — [Mapping the distribution and tree canopy cover of *Jacaranda mimosifolia* and *Platanus × acerifolia* in Johannesburg's urban forest, *Scientific Reports* \(2022\)](#)
- Johannesburg's ten-million-tree urban forest — [South African Tourism, Johannesburg's parks and trees](#)
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- Orientation and shading guidance for new building work — [a summary of the revised SANS 10400-XA, 2021 edition](#)

Reading this from a window nearby? The same sun-path reasoning applies across

Houghton Estate, Saxonwold, Melrose and Birdhaven — it is the housing stock and the exposure that change.



Waverley Blinds

EXPLORE

Products

The Window Notebook

Why Waverley

Areas we serve

About

FAQ

Free measure

PRODUCTS

Roller Blinds

Day & Night Blinds

Motorised Blinds

Folding-Arm Awnings

AREAS WE SERVE

Houghton Estate

Saxonwold

Melrose

Birdhaven

Made-to-measure blinds, roller shutters and awnings for Waverley's family homes. POPIA: enquiry details are used only to arrange your consultation call-back and are never shared or sold.

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