Inspector Panels

Applications are encouraged to reuse windows by having panels serve multiple functions, changing the display as appropriate.   This is feasible when the user wouldn't want or need to see more than one of the displays at once.   See the inspector panels in Interface Builder and the Workspace Manager for examples. Inspectors permit the user to look at and modify attributes of selected objects, e.g., windows, files, or applications.

A reusable window also is the best way to present a large selection of controls.   By changing the content of the panel to reflect the user's current choice, the interface remains simple and organized around the user's actions.   Such panels are the recommended alternative to placing control objects in ScrollViews, w'd can hide the control and confuse the user.   The advantages of reusing a window are a less-cluttered user interface and considerable savings in memory that would otherwise be used for separate windows and their backup buffers.