

# TV makeover shows seeking your home?

BY JACKIE FREEMAN

Special to the Record-Eagle

It all started when "Trading Spaces" debuted in 2000 with an intriguing concept. Two homeowner couples — friends at the start — swap houses and work alongside a sometimes devilish decorator to make over a room in the other couple's house. Spending is capped at \$1000.

The decorators devise drastic design ideas, often using dollar store trash and glue guns; viewers get hooked watching the bizarre transformations. One decorator transfigured a bedroom into a maintenance-free plastic garden with Astroturf and man-made flowers.

Featured homeowners gasp in delight — some openly sob. Viewers began to question their own spending habits, like blowing two months' pay for custom draperies. With a staple gun and pleated craft paper, the possibilities seemed limitless.

Since the success of "Trading Spaces," home makeover TV has gone crazy. Shows have proliferated with premises as broad as blind dates and decorating (choose the apartment you want to make over; a date with the occupant comes with it) or uptown talk from gays to straights on getting hip.

Naturally, some fans crave more than simply viewing. They dream of being in the shows, interacting with the trendy decorators and relinquishing total design control to a casual acquaintance or an overbearing expert.

If you dream of being on one these home makeover shows, start by going to [www.hgtv.com/hgtv/beon-hgtv/](http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/beon-hgtv/). Circumvent the list of shows shot in major metropolitan areas — for example, "Sensible Chic" is San Francisco-based; "Room by Room" — Cleveland; "Ground Breakers" — Atlanta and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" shoots in New York City.

Still, a number of Grand Traverse area homes and artists have been featured on HGTV, like "Extreme Homes" and "The Carol Duvall Show" — who is dubbed "the queen of crafts." Leelanau County residents may have had more than their share of exposure on her crafting shows, since Carol lives in Bear Lake. It is not surprising she features show participants from our region. She has covered the Leelanau Furniture Show several times. (Her production company is in Los Angeles.)

Carol Duvall's Holiday Workshop will be cablecast soon and if you have a favorite holiday crafting tip, suggestion or project that you would like to share with Carol on the phone during the workshop, you can E-mail her at [CarolWorkshop@wellergrossman.com](mailto:CarolWorkshop@wellergrossman.com). Include your name, complete address, day and evening phone numbers and e-mail address along with a brief description of your tip, suggestion, or project.

In my opinion, "Extreme Homes" is one of the most fascinating programs of this type. Where else can you take a tour of fantastic residences created by homeowners who take living outside the box seriously?

A house in Kentucky inspired by Mother Goose or an Argentinean vacation home inside a retired train demonstrate that homes are much more than four walls and a roof.

Since a producer for "Extreme Homes" lives in Leland, several Leelanau County homes have been featured on this high-profile show: the traffic-stopping Japanese-style home owned by the Robert Martinsons and the huge, historic Old Stone Schoolhouse — both in Suttons Bay.

If you live in Northwestern Lower Michigan, opportuni-

ties do exist to appear on many of these shows. The application process usually begins on-line. Each program has a premise and the key is to determine if you meet the guidelines.

One show currently recruiting for guests from outside major metropolitan areas is HGTV's "Building Character." This show looks for unlikely structures

rehabbed into homes. Examples are a former firehouse, a once-rundown county jail or a deserted bank. Have you personally transformed a former commercial structure into a one-of-a-kind private home? Are you currently living there? Do you have "before" pictures? If so, E-mail [llovern@nahb.com](mailto:llovern@nahb.com) and take it from there.

Another casting call comes

from "Trash to Treasure." "Do you have a knack for spotting a diamond in the rough? Do you have the vision, skill and ingenuity to add value to flea market and garage sale finds? If so, E-mail to [trashtotreasure@westwind-pictures.com](mailto:trashtotreasure@westwind-pictures.com).

The producers of "If Walls Could Talk" are looking for homeowners who discovered

the unknown history of their home through restoration and research. Large or small, rural or urban, Victorian or log cabin — whatever your home is, if it has a unique history E-mail to [TalkWalls@cable.comcast.com](mailto:TalkWalls@cable.comcast.com)

Jackie Freeman, MA and BFA, is owner of Staged Homes Sell in Suttons Bay.



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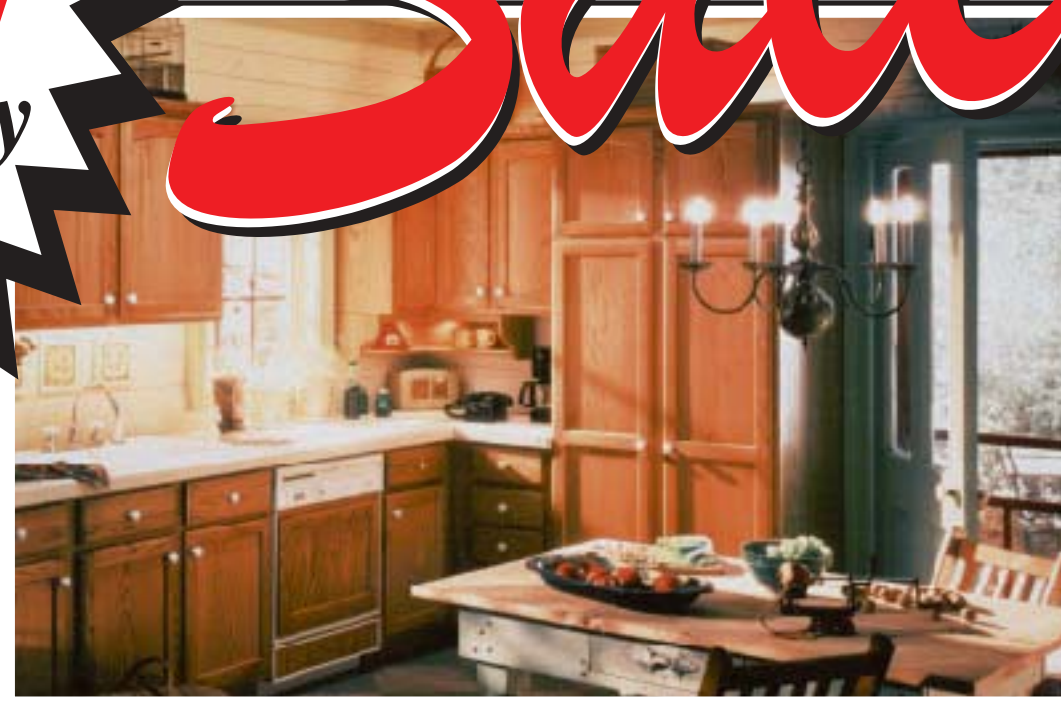


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