

Priceless

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LAKE NORMAN

Woman

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

a
PASSION
for
COMPASSION

A woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing bright blue V-neck scrubs over a white long-sleeved shirt. Her right hand is on her hip. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

MARY CAYE GRADERT
PELVIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

By: Starr Miller

THE Scoop

ON HOME MAKEOVERS



Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes of a home redesign show? As a former interior designer for HGTV's "Save My Bath," I can give you the scoop on the interesting stuff that you don't see!

YOU MAY BE A PART OF TELEVISION'S NEXT HOME MAKEOVER!

THE APPLICATION

Most HGTV shows are produced by outside production companies and then sold to HGTV for their programming. The production companies have websites you can access via HGTV and are usually casting for future shows or pilots. A potential candidate fills out an online application to be on one of the many programs through the HGTV website or through one of the production company websites.

The first big obstacle for a homeowner is that you need to live in close proximity to one of the production companies. They have a certain mileage radius that they work within—production costs increase as the distance to the job increases.

Secondly, potential guests must show that their space has makeover potential. They

must answer questions such as: Why do you need this change? Is your bathroom so dated that anything will help? How old is your home? When was this space last renovated? Do you have orange sinks and a blue tub? The producers are looking for dramatic visual changes. In one show, I merged a small bathroom with a closet to create a luxury spa bath. In another, I knocked through an exterior wall to add a window. Dramatic visual changes make for good TV!

The production company also wants to know how committed potential candidates are to seeing the project through. They will ask if you will contribute financially to the project in order to offset some of the cost. For instance, on my bathroom projects, the production company asked for a minimum of \$4,000 from the homeowner.

SCOUTING

If you and your project are determined to be a possible candidate for a show, the producers will set up a scouting visit. They will film a video of your home while you show them around, take pictures in every room, interview you on more specifics, do a rough sketch of the space, and develop a pitch for a possible

episode. Questions that they will ask in forming their pitch are: Why would a viewer want to see this person, couple, or family receive a makeover? Are they hard workers? Has there been a family illness? Are they newlyweds? Have they tried this renovation on their own and failed miserably? Is he or she a firefighter or police officer? Have they just gone through a significant change in family circumstances? Is someone in the military? Does the current configuration of the space cause family angst? Or are they just funny and fun to watch?

Once all of the scouting has been done, the producers will get together and review the pitch and tapes to determine if your project will make it into the seasonal line up. Depending on the show, there may be dozens, hundreds, or thousands of applications. The process can take months to complete—so be patient. But if you have a project and the characteristics that they're looking for, give it a go—you may be a part of television's next home makeover! 🏠



Starr Miller Interior Design, Inc. has been featured on HGTV's show "Save My Bath." She can be reached at 704.896.3321, and through her blog at starmiller.com.