

# ALEX McLEOD

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## Homes of the brave

BY CAROLYN KELLY

Ralph Barrera/AA-S

Alex McLeod enjoyed visiting such haunts as Matt's El Rancho from her UT days.

### Host hit old Austin 'Spaces'

Alex McLeod, the effervescent host on TLC's "Trading Spaces," was glad to get back to Austin for filming.

"I hit Matt's El Rancho right when I got to town," said McLeod, who graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in speech communications. "I hit all the vintage stores."

McLeod's family comes from the Galveston/Houston area, and her father was a state legislator. She said she had not been back to Austin in five or six years, although a sister, aunt and cousin live in town.

McLeod, who declines to give her age, has appeared on the TV sitcoms "Partners" and "Ned & Stacey" as well as co-hosting a British newsmagazine.

She loves her role on the home-improvement show "Trading Spaces," where she interviews the designers and homeowners and prods them along as they race to finish their room makeovers.

She lives in L.A., though the show keeps her on the road. She hasn't forgotten much about Austin and can still rattle off some of her favorite places around town, such as the Cedar Door and Castle Hill Café.

"I'm more in the loop in Austin than I am in L.A.," she said.

— Carolyn Kelly

