

ALEX McLEOD

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by Linda Stasi, TV Critic

NEWS FLASH: I may give up watching documentaries about the mating habits of brontosaurus for the bright new world of decorating other people's houses.

My new fave is "**Trading Spaces**," on TLC. In every episode (since it's on every 15 seconds, I can't say every week or **ing Spaces**), two sets of neighbors (two people - husband and wife, mom and daughter, roommates, etc.) decorate a room in each other's houses.

They are given a carpenter, a decorator, \$1,000 to spend and 48 hours to finish the job.

Now, you can do a whole lot with a grand *if* you've got a free decorator and carpenter who's not only cute, but can make furniture from plywood and bowling balls.

I feel like there should be a disclaimer on every show that says, "Don't try this at home kids!"

Anyway, there's a whole crew of permanent creative types, and while they decorate you get to know their personalities. The two carpenters—Ty Pennington and Amy Wynn Pastor are my favorites... [and] We all agree [my daughter and I] Alex McLeod, the first host, was perfect for the part.

But despite the few problems, what makes this show so terrific is the combination of the type A personality designers and the real people they have to deal with.

It's beyond me how the entire United States is filled with people who have no clue that avocado green appliances and brown plaid couches are never "a good thing."

And then, when they get their nightmare rooms made over, some of them aren't even happy.

(I mean, how can you *not* be happy with "orthogonal" stripped walls made with painter's tape and dark blue paint.)

The show moves along at the speed of light, and the end results are usually quite shocking, often great and always surprising.

Too bad that can't be said for sitcoms!

Or for that matter, for most shows about brontosaurus.