

ALEX McLEOD

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The Amateur Hour

BY JULIA SZABO

The British show's American offshoot, "Trading Spaces," is bigger, starting with the budget (\$1,000 versus 500 pounds, or roughly \$730) and the program length (an hour with commercials, 47 minutes without). That's plenty of time for the host, Alex McLeod, to sink her teeth into her "instigator" role, pointing the "Alexcam" at her fellow cast mates, egging homeowners on and debriefing the designers about their feelings.

