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A Beautiful Blueprint

Trading Spaces Designer Laurie Smith launches a practical, personal guide to home design and renovation

Designing rooms and personal spaces is what Laurie Smith does for a living. As one of the very first designers on TLC's hit television series *Trading Spaces* Laurie has crafted and perfected her design techniques into an innovative and unique art. Now, in her very first design book, ***Discovering Home: Find Your Personal Style*** Smith shares her original and classic approach to home design and renovation.

In ***Discovering Home***, Laurie takes readers through the "ultimate journey" of her newly renovated mid-century home with all original photography documenting the entire room-by-room process. From this, Laurie teaches homeowners to approach design a bit differently than they might have previously thought. Rather than looking at color and fabrics immediately when trying to envision a room, she encourages homeowners to look at the architectural "bones" of a home and find inspirational pieces for design concepts.

“I approach the home first by understanding its structure— many times people will see a room and immediately fill it with color, textures and furniture without understanding the architecture of the room,” says Laurie.

While teaching you to understand your home’s architecture, ***Discovering Home*** also encourages readers to branch away from the traditional rules of renovation and home design and look for things that inspire them - a vase, an object of art or a swatch of fabric, just to name a few.

“An inspirational piece creates a point of reference you can be passionate about,” says Laurie. Wooden pears, her grandmother’s chandelier, a **Gabriel Godard** painting and an oval mirror all became the inspiration for Laurie when designing her mid-Century 1950s Mississippi home.

“Laurie’s approach to design is both innovative and unique”, says Vicki Ingham editor of ***Discovering Home***. “She gives people new things to think about and she approaches design a little bit differently, allowing abstract things to make sense.”

Laurie through ***Discovering Home*** also shows homeowners how to combine elements of classic and modern styles by applying up to the minute colors and fabrics without denying balance, scale or proportion.

With her remodeling experience and savvy interior design knowledge Laurie offers a no-fail, inspirational home renovation process – one filled with strategies to arrange furniture, choose colors and play with patterns. Her step-by-step approach is laid out in each chapter along with impressive before and after photographs of Laurie’s journey.

“This book shares Laurie’s passion for design with readers. It’s personal, reflective and informative – it’s the story of Laurie’s home. She wants homeowners to learn from what she has done and wants to empower them to make their spaces comfortable, practical and ultimately reflections of who they are,” says Ingham.

About Laurie Smith:

Laurie Smith was the one of the first designers to hit the airwaves on TLC’s breakout hit show *Trading Spaces*. Going into the show’s sixth season fans get to see Laurie’s modern classic design each week as they remake a space in just 48 hours. While design is now Laurie’s first passion, her roots began in television first.

After receiving her Bachelors Degree in Broadcast Journalism from SMU in Dallas, she worked in Marketing at Turner Network Television (TNT) in Atlanta before moving to Manhattan to attend the New York School of Interior Design. Once in New York, she knew that she had found her true calling.

From the exposure that *Trading Spaces* has afforded her, Laurie has branched her style and eye for design into various lines of products. Launching February of 2005, the Laurie Smith Fabric line was unveiled selling exclusively through Hancock Fabrics. The line, which includes 40 different patterns, allows the consumer to use high quality, vibrant material in various home decoration projects. A secondary line of fabrics for juveniles will launch September 2005, spanning ages from babies to pre-teens.

Additionally, in 2004 Laurie began a relationship with Lane Home Furnishings appearing as their spokesperson through commercials and in-store appearances to launch Lane’s dedicated furniture stores across the country. In September of 2005, fans will be able to purchase Laurie’s first book, *Discovering Home – Find Your Personal Style*, which takes the reader through her personal, documented journey of renovation and design of her mid-century home. The book will be a “how to” manual for anyone wanting to plan, shape and redefine a space in their house.

Self described as a “modern classic,” Laurie uses color and vibrancy to create new spaces and always does so with style and passion. Always bringing forward up-to-the minute color and style, however, when it’s all said and done Laurie doesn’t stray away from her classical training. She has now returned to her Southern roots and settled in Jackson, Mississippi with her husband, Brad, and her son, Gibson Witherspoon.

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