



## Your Dream Home

**I** DIDN'T GROW UP WITH CABLE TV. IF IT wasn't network television or PBS, it didn't filter its way into our house.

And so it went for years and years. Many of my friends were shocked, uncertain how I could survive without access to the pop-culture fueled world of 24/7 television. I never thought much of it until three years ago, when the digital conversion of local networks made cable a necessity in order to have a clear picture on your television.

I remember it was two days before Thanksgiving when the cable man came, and suddenly, with that little black box and my official Comcast remote control, there was a nearly limitless supply of television shows that I never knew existed. I came back from Thanksgiving with my family and promptly plopped myself in front of the TV, surfing the stations for an entire afternoon and evening.

"I never knew there was so much trash that I was missing out on," I told my friend, a long-standing cable consumer who had years of viewing shows like *The Real Housewives of Orange County*, *Dog the Bounty Hunter*, and *Say Yes to the Dress* under her TV-watching belt.

Much like you feel after binging on an all you can eat buffet, or over-indulging on Halloween candy, I gradually came to the point where these TV shows were not the delicious treat I once thought they were. Sitting and watching too much of them tended to leave me feeling sluggish and like my brain was on trashy-TV overload. It was not as much fun to watch anymore, and more often than not, the remote would only flicker between one or two beloved stations; the rest disappeared off my radar.

Come to find out, you can save a lot of money by eliminating stations you don't watch, while still keeping just enough cable for them to pipe in the picture nice and clear. And so, the change was made this last fall, bringing to

an end my brief affair with cable TV. Truth be told, I don't miss it—except for one little station. Channel 68. Home and Garden Television. An entire station devoted to shopping for dream homes, selling dream homes, sprucing up dream homes, decorating dream homes, renovating dream homes, remodeling dream homes, landscaping dream homes and building dream homes. It is dream home central, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

With so much programming devoted to your home, it is obvious that I am not the only one hooked on the topic. Perhaps the reason for the popularity is not because we love the shows themselves, but because we love our homes. It has been said that a man's home is his castle, and where do you feel better than in your own castle? It is your sanctuary, the place where, when you go inside and shut the doors, you are safe.

It's not just the viewing public that loves homes; our readers do too, and so do we as a magazine. In every issue, one of our most popular articles is the featured home. We bring in the lights and cameras, clear off countertops and make the homes look pristine ("Doesn't anyone else have piles of papers tucked into corners of their home?" you may ask yourself as you flip through the pages. The answer is yes, but we have hidden them off camera!)

This is even our annual home improvement issue, so if your house is less than camera ready, we might be able to help. With the assistance of our advertisers that focus on home improvement or home remodel projects, we are pleased to bring you tips and hints that just might help you turn your home into your dream home.

When all the dust settles, though, there is one truth about dream homes. It is not the number of granite tiles you install, the amount of square footage you have, nor the price tag on a house that makes it a dream home. It is the life that is lived within the walls that puts the true value on a home.

For some, their dream home may not even be one that you'd find on a realtor's listing, but is one in which life seems to have placed them. One example is the Hutton Settlement, in Spokane Valley. On page 78 we get a special look into this home, where children in need are able to finally feel right at home.

As you read through this issue, may your sense of home be defined and enhanced. May you enjoy every page of the magazine and all that we have to offer. When you reach the last page and finally set it down, don't turn on the TV; instead, look around at what you have been blessed with, and enjoy the life that exists within your home. That's where the good stuff happens - it's the people and the love within those walls that truly makes it a dream home.

*Blythe*

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