

Model Design

TELEVISION PRESENTER, MODEL AND FASHIONISTA **PAMELA FLOOD** TOOK A DETOUR FROM THE RED CARPET TO LAY HER OWN IN RTÉ'S **CELEBRITY SHOWHOUSE**. HERE, **LAURA BURY** TALKS TO THE *WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?* STAR ON AVOIDING DODGY DECISIONS, WHY BIGGER IS BETTER AND HER UNDYING LOVE OF COUCHES.



*Pamela at the Beacon Hotel, Sandycove.
Photograph by Mark Duggan.*

How did you find your experience on CELEBRITY SHOWHOUSE?

I honestly loved the experience. I found it far busier, more pressured and more hectic than I expected. I had no previous experience and there were so many decisions to be made. If it wasn't for Rachel [Harvey], my professional designer, I'd probably still be making decisions now!

Did you enjoy working with Rachel Harvey?

I absolutely loved it. I'm the kind of person who really feeds off another person's energy and she was an incredibly positive, chirpy and lovely person. We had great fun and she never lost her energy. I'd say to her, "I can't make any more decisions, you

can't make me!" and she'd be there coaxing me with "Come on Pam, you can do it!" She made it fun and I think that was important. She was absolutely brilliant.

Did you learn a lot from the show?

I think I did in fairness. Ultimately I had final call on everything, but I think I could have gone down some iffy roads if it wasn't for Rachel's guiding hand. She wasn't leading me down any particular road, but let's just say she was steering me away from dodgy decisions!

What was the high point for you?

It was brilliant towards the end of the week when I finally saw all the furniture going in. Whatever about the tiling or the painting and all that stuff – that was fun. But to be honest I wanted get stuck in! Seeing my lovely sofa go in, which was the piece of furniture I adored most, I absolutely loved it. I thought it looked amazing. It just looked so

rich and the colour we chose for the walls in the living room really complemented it.

Will you be getting it for your own house?

No, but funnily enough I was thinking about it. I did get a new sofa recently but I went for something quite different. It's an L-shaped sofa which is very 'in vogue' at the moment. As I said on the show, I love TV, I love relaxing and I love a cheeky snooze on the sofa. So, for me, longer and bigger is better – one that takes over the room!

And what was the lowest point?

There weren't any low points. The only difficult bit, as opposed to a low point, was that there were so many decisions to be made. Myself and Rachel went out shopping together for at least four solid days. We were in Enniscrone and in a couple of shops around Dublin. It was just decision, after decision, after decision – wallpaper, paint, furniture, colours... everything.



Living Room, House A, Enniscrone

Style Stealer



Pamela with Lisa Murphy on the *SHOWHOUSE* set in Enniscrone

Was your initial concept different from your finished show house?

I wouldn't say completely different but it was definitely different. It's funny because when we started out I was absolutely hell-bent on having a huge red sofa. It was going to be huge and it was going to be red and I wasn't budging on it. Rachel told me not to limit myself but I said I really wanted red. Then we went shopping and I saw the sofa in Meadows & Byrne. I just thought, "Oh my God, I'm in love." Things changed slightly because of that. The final result was that it looked grander than I expected, but I think it was still cosy.

How would you describe the style in your own home?

It's still very much coming together and I still have quite a bit to do. I'm only in it seven months, but I would say it is relatively modern, although it's very cosy and very homely. There's quite a bit of colour as well. It's still finding its own style though, so it's a work in progress.

What's your favourite room at home?

I just love my bedroom. It's also the only one that's completed! I pinched a few ideas from the paints we used in my show house. The walls are painted very soft colours and the headboard and curtains are a very dark plum, which works really well. With the curtains drawn no light gets through so it's like being back in the womb! It's just

Heaven. And the crazy thing is the curtains were cheap as chips. I got them for £22 in Ikea. They're not even lined, but they're so dark they block out the light. They're amazing.

What's your favourite piece of furniture?

That would have to be the new couch; I practically spend the whole weekend on it. I just love it! The base is brown and the back cushions are a mix of cream and caramel. It's huge. I can spread myself out on it. It's the perfect L so you can fit two people lying on it each way – just the way it should be.

What's your favourite furniture store?

Carl's Furniture on the Longmile Road, where I got my sofa from. I've been looking in there for years. I think their furniture is amazing.


If money was no object, what would be your fantasy buy?

It's hard to come up with something because I have the same attitude to furniture as I do to clothes; I don't think you have to spend a horrendous amount of money on any one thing when you can get fabulous pieces for reasonable prices. I think it's how you put things together. If you look long enough, you will find something gorgeous that is not outrageously expensive.

What's the best gift you've ever been given for your house?

I've always been really keen on plants, but when you don't have your own place it's not something you really acquire. I've gotten a couple of lovely plants as presents for my home. They're lovely and were carefully chosen. One is absolutely massive; it goes from floor to ceiling and is the liveliest thing you've ever seen. Another friend of mine bought me a beautiful orchid and they live for ages. I love plants; they just breathe life into a place. One thing I ensured was that there were loads of lovely plants for the show house – we got them from Ikea.

What's your pet peeve in interiors?

What really puts me off is when you walk into a house and it's overly neat and tidy. When it's too perfect it doesn't feel like a home. You're almost afraid to sit down! 



From top: Pamela prefers an L-shaped sofa, such as this one from the Urbino Collection at Marks & Spencer; A big sofa is key for relaxation – Windsor Sofa, €950, Meadows & Byrne; Pamela uses plants to breathe life into her home; Studded Velvet Chair used in Pamela's show house, €220, Meadows & Byrne

Golden Girl

SHOWHOUSE CAUGHT UP WITH SOCIALITE-TURNED-BUSINESSWOMAN, LISA MURPHY, IN HER FABULOUS WICKLOW HOME, TO FIND OUT ABOUT HER GOLDEN ROOM, THE JOYS OF GLAMOUR AND THE DIFFICULTY OF STICKING TO A BUDGET. BY LAURA BURY



*Lisa relaxing in her Wicklow home.
All images of Lisa's home by Mark Duggan.*

Did you enjoy working on SHOWHOUSE?

I had a wonderful experience. Of course it helped that I had a great girl, Riceal Boisse, by my side. She had a lot of similar tastes and she was fabulous. I think we worked really well together. I'm glad I wasn't teamed with anyone that was really extravagant and daring; because I wasn't a bit bold on the show. In certain things, like picking a

ballgown, I'd be daring, but certainly not in the home! I was glad that I wasn't stuck with someone who wanted bright garish colours.

Were you prepared?

I suppose I didn't expect so much to be involved. Then again, when you're designing a house,

you're designing it from scratch; from skirting boards and architraves, to bathroom tiles and paint. Literally everything.

Did your show house turn out exactly as you envisaged?

Well, as you can see, I would live in a cream and gold house! Obviously it's not really going to work in a family home in Enniscrone. It's a holiday home, so you have the beach and you'll have children coming in with muddy feet, so it's not really feasible. If it was just for me I would have gone with cream and gold, but instead I went with muted shades of the same colour. I was very happy about it.

What did you find most challenging?

Putting together my mood board. I think I went through about a million magazines! I told Riceal that I didn't want to see another interior design magazine as long as I live. It was difficult trying to look for my style because the content of the magazines was

very modern and that wasn't really what I was going for, so that was a bit of hard work. But we got through it and I was extremely happy with it in the end.

What was your favourite room in your show house?

My favourite room was probably the kitchen, dining, sitting room – they really complemented each other. I went for the same colour scheme and fabrics throughout so I'd have to choose that area.

You can't choose three rooms, that's cheating!

Well, the kitchen/dining room then. I absolutely loved the kitchen.

What's your interior style?

I'd say my style is sophisticated, elegant and classy with a touch of glamour. I love old world – it never dates and it's so sophisticated and opulent. You need a bit of that in life.



Lisa's bedroom glitters in gold.

Style Stealer

What's your favourite room at home?

My favourite room would definitely have to be the sitting room. I love the piano, the gold antique furniture, the wallpaper and the cream carpet. I just adore it because it's elegantly gold!

And your favourite piece of furniture?

[After much thought!] It would probably be the antique console and mirror in the sitting room.

If you could choose one thing for your house, what would it be?

It would have to be a big, massive, elaborate chandelier. I can work around that!

What house gifts do you like to be given?

I love being given scented candles and photo frames – anything really. We've been given some lovely gifts. Definitely photo frames though, Gerald loves photographs. They're everywhere!

What interior style do you dislike?

I don't like loud colours or anything too modern.

What's your favourite furniture store?

I love all the beautiful antique shops on Clanbrassil Street. I also love shops that you can get little accessories in, cute girly things. I love London, especially Harrods – they have fabulous furniture. They're very costly but, rather than squandering money on something else, I'd save up and get



Living Room, House B, Enniscrone



something special that I'll be able to look at and enjoy for a long time. That's why I enjoy investing in pieces of art.


Do you think you've learnt a lot from your time on SHOWHOUSE?

I think I learnt a lot from the whole experience really. Taking something from just a shell was quite full on and very hard work but I really enjoyed it. Working with all the guys involved was great as well. Seeing how dedicated they were and how hard they worked was great. When you do something like this in your own home you always go over time and over budget but not in SHOWHOUSE – we didn't have a choice there! But certainly in my own home and even in my own salon I went over time and over budget.

Did you find it daunting to have a strict budget and timeline?

That was very difficult because all the things I wanted I couldn't have. We didn't have a lot of money. I would have spent the whole budget on the kitchen! I was actually very surprised with the end product, what I actually achieved with €27,000. It certainly didn't look cheap or tacky in any way. I was actually very proud of what we were able to achieve.

Has it given you an itch to redecorate your own house?

Well I'm just finished doing up my salon, now Gerald wants me to do up his office and then we're getting an extension done, so I'm already working on that. 



Clockwise from top left: Solstice Chandelier by Baccarat; Lisa's 'Gold Room' is a firm favourite; This antique console and mirror is Lisa's favourite piece of furniture; Artwork is an investment for Lisa, her collection includes sculptures and paintings from artists such as Graham Knuttel; Scented candles are a perfect gift for any home; This Seda France Classic Toile Jumbo Candle is available from www.wildandfunk.com

