

Doin' Up the Digs

Local Interior Designer Teresa Keegan Debuts on Bravo's *Top Design*

Written by Brandy Buston

Magical Elves, the Emmy-nominated producers of *Project Runway* and *Top Chef*, have reset the table for the newly revamped Bravo show, *Top Design*, and they have chosen Las Vegas' sweetheart decorator, Teresa Keegan, to join season two. The series will follow Keegan and 12 other eccentric professional designers as they live together in a fabulously decked-out pad while battling for the *Top Design* title, not to mention the chance to win \$100,000 and a four-page editorial spread in *Elle Décor* magazine.

The second season of the interior design competition raises the stakes from the first series, as Keegan and her opponents will be challenged to spruce up a fallout shelter, as well as contend in a design triathlon, among many other obstacles. "I am still just blown away by the fact that I was chosen to be part of this show," Keegan says enthusiastically. "It's such an honor to be part of a group of so many talented people and designers." The show also just received a mega-makeover, with a flashy high-definition face and noted design devotee India Hicks as its new host.

Keegan was born and raised in Tulsa, Okla., and she realized her true love for design at a very young age when her mother (an artist) took her to a 1920s mansion that was revamped into an art gallery. Keegan remembers standing on a balcony overlooking a koi pond, which had a crystal-clear reflection of a nearby gazebo, and when she stepped inside the gazebo, she saw that the pond perfectly reflected the mansion. This was the moment that fueled her craving to design.

Upon graduating high school, Keegan headed up to Seattle to study interior design. She spent the first 10 years of her career under the tutelage of Margaret Appleton and Terris Draheim, and she was

even fortunate enough to work with Tom Kundig of the prestigious Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen architecture firm.

She moved to Vegas in 2001 and now runs her own design firm, Keegan Designs, which specializes in high-end contemporary interior and exterior projects. "It's unfortunate that Vegas has such a bad reputation for tacky design, and I really hope I can help change that image into more neutral and timeless designs," she says. One thing she stresses to real estate investors, "You can't buy a million-dollar home and then expect to fully furnish it for only \$10,000."

Throughout her career, Keegan has been involved in a variety of commercial and residential projects, including the design of a boutique hotel, and she is always adding a little element of shimmer into her Modern Zen style. She is also now dabbling in her hidden love for landscape design and offers a little piece

of advice to Las Vegas. "When it comes to landscaping, less is definitely more," Keegan insists. "You are much better off spending your money on five really great trees for your property than 15 itty-bitty fillers."

When she's not designing modern concepts for Vegas' elite homeowners, Keegan enjoys day trips to nearby Red Rock Canyon, as well as gardening and wine tasting. In fact, it's possible to catch the Midwestern gal at one of her favorite hangouts, Grape Street Café in Summerlin. If not here, she can undoubtedly be found at Star Nursery, picking up plant food for her Summerlin abode. For the moment though, this top-shelf designer is fully engrossed in the new season of *Top Design*, set to air on Bravo on September 3. Make sure to add it to the TiVo queue.

Get a peek at the competing designers in the upcoming season

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Teresa Keegan is ready to show off her style.