

# Celebrity Interview: Leanne Ford Talks Interior Design Advice and Upcoming Projects



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by [Meghan Khameraj](#).

Leanne Ford took the interior design world by storm and made a name for herself with a now-famous 1907 schoolhouse renovation in Pittsburgh, her hometown. The home which is referred to as The Schoolhouse Project was featured in *Country Living Magazine*, and helped cement her career. Since then, Ford, whose designs are best described as modern, yet lived-in, continues to build a following with her signature “white on white” aesthetic. She leads design projects in Pennsylvania, New York, and Los Angeles and is a published author and HGTV

staple on top of it all.

## **In our celebrity interview, Leanne Ford gives us valuable interior design advice and insight into her upcoming projects.**

In a recent [celebrity interview](#) with [CupidsPulse.com](#), Ford gives interior design advice and discusses her busy schedule full of new projects. She even gets personal and reveals some design details in her child's nursery.

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The house and specifically the bathroom, that solidified Leanne Ford's reputation was The Schoolhouse Project. This project recognized her white and minimalist aesthetic, as the walls of the main living area were painted white, but the floor was left black for the perfect contrasting touch. In the bathroom, she knocked out the crawl space to create room for the bathtub. Though Ford's style was unique and grabbed the attention of the design world, when asked about the biggest risk she's ever taken, this was not one she would count in that category. "Honestly, everything is a risk in some form," the designer says. "If you're not making yourself nervous, you aren't doing anything special."

In addition to the time she spends on interior design projects, Ford and her brother Steve can be seen renovating old homes on their HGTV hit show, *Restored By The Fords* which is slated to come back for Season 3 early next year. She also recently appeared on *A Very Brady Renovation* and the new competition show, *Rock The Block*.

On *A Very Brady Renovation*, which premiered September 9th, the

six surviving members of *The Brady Bunch* cast came together with current HGTV stars to renovate the San Fernando Valley house used in exterior shots on the series. Ford says, "We just knew we had to get it right...we were not accepting anything less than perfect on that place." As for *Rock The Block*, which premieres on October 21st, four of HGTV's brightest stars, including Leanne Ford, square off in a home renovation showdown. Ironically, Ford admits that she's "the least competitive person, probably, like ever." However, she did mention that there is a healthy competition among the other women on the show.

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Although she is kept extremely busy on professional projects, Ford and her husband are focused on their family. In March they welcomed their first daughter, Ever Allen Ford. When asked if there was anything special about the baby's nursery design, Ford says that she didn't have a pre-determined vision. However, she tells us that the baby has a "Love Wall," going on to explain that this is a wall of "love letters and sweet things" that she and her husband have given to each other over the years.

Design ideas like sentimental additions to her daughter's nursery seem to come naturally for the HGTV reality star. However, to some couples, a redesign could destroy a marriage or relationship. When it comes to working through how your home will look when you are a couple, Ford gives us some healthy [relationship advice](#), explaining how two people can come to an agreement on differing design opinions and the risks of making a big change in your home. She says compromise is the best way to keep the peace at home. It sounds like picking your battle is important. To reduce nerves when it comes to a big home renovation she says, "It doesn't mean that everything has to go away...if you want to do it, you're going to love it!"

A busy schedule won't stop Leanne Ford! On top of her numerous design gigs and being a mother, Ford has no plans to slow down anytime soon. Check out Leanne Ford on *Rock the Block*, premiering October 21st on HGTV.

Keep up with Leanne on Twitter [@HeyLeanneFord](#) and [Instagram](#).

For more videos from [CupidsPulse.com](#), check out our [YouTube channel](#).

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## Relationship Advice: Keys to Growing a Business When the Marriage is Over





By [Amy Osmond Cook, Ph.D](#)

Hollywood certainly has its share of dramatic endings – relationship endings, that is. Stars like Laurence Fishburne, Fergie, Chris Pratt, Jennifer Hudson, and Danica Patrick, to name a few, were invested in a long-term [celebrity relationship](#) and either personally or professionally called it quits. But what happens when a couple's livelihood relies on maintaining a relationship after the marriage is over?

Christina and Tarek El Moussa can relate. After becoming household names as co-hosts of HGTV's hit reality TV show *Flip or Flop*, they publicly announced their [celebrity divorce](#) just over a year ago. Despite moving on in their personal lives, both are committed to working together to make their successful business grow.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Divorce: Christina & Tarek El Moussa Announce Break-Up](#)

It's not uncommon for former partners to maintain a business relationship. There are an estimated [3.3 million businesses](#) in the U.S. that are jointly owned by spouses. In some cases, a

partner buys out the remaining portion of the business. But in a growing number of cases, the former married couple opt to remain invested in the business long after the divorce is final.

“I worked with one business where, actually, [the ex-spouses] were better business partners and got along better after the divorce and stayed together within the business for a while,” says [Dann Van Der Vliet](#), executive director of the Smith Family Business Initiative at the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. Van Der Vliet believes that, when the divorce relieves the anxiety in a relationship, the partners can focus on the strengths they contribute to the business.

## Reality TV Stars Open Up About Celebrity Divorce & Share Relationship Advice

I talked with Christina and Tarek about their transition from a blended life to one that is now exclusively professional. They shared five rules they follow to maintain a positive and supportive professional relationship, even though they now lead separate personal lives:

**1. Be professional:** Part of their success derives from their ability to separate professional obligations from personal responsibilities. “We believe in this company, and that means keeping our personal lives separate,” Tarek explains. “When we’re on set, it’s like a different life than what we live outside of the set. When we’re doing our job, we’re doing our job.”

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Is Your Job Killing Your Relationship?](#)

**2. Focus on the ultimate goal:** Whether it’s personal or



business, staying focused on your goals can help minimize distractions. “Every day that we film, I remember why I’m there,” says Tarek. He says his priority is to support his kids and family. “Second, I remember how I worked my entire life to build this thing. I don’t want to throw it away because of a divorce. We are good at what we do,” he adds. “We love flipping houses, and we enjoy delivering a great TV show that helps change people’s lives.”

**3. Put kids first:** Tarek and Christina understand that it is in everyone’s best interest to get along. “Children come first, and that means doing things that are best for them,” says Christina. “In our children’s case, it was in their best interest to do things together.” Often that decision requires some sacrifice and adjustments on the parent’s part.

**4. Don’t sweat the small stuff:** When tensions are high, it seems everything is a big deal. Immediately after a divorce, no matter how amicable, there is going to be a transition period. “Take time apart in all areas to better understand what you want,” says [Kate Taylor](#). “As you redefine your relationship, you should draw clear lines around your roles and responsibilities at work.”

Christina quickly discovered that not everything is worth fighting about. “When you’re not with that person, you’re not entitled to have those disagreements anymore,” she shares. “When Tarek and I first separated, if there was a disagreement, it was important that we walk away from it.” When disagreements happen, her rule is: Don’t react, because that is the moment when you need to think more clearly.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Six Ways to Keep Work and Life Demands in Balance](#)

**5. Keep it fun:** Tarek and Christina make sure to contribute to a positive work environment. Their professionalism means everyone feels happy and comfortable when they are at work.

“We have a great crew,” says Christina. “We’ve been friends with all of them for a long time. Because of that, it makes everything much easier because it’s such a great workplace.”

There are those who are skeptical that this type of relationship can work, but Christina is unfazed by the criticism. “Business is what we’ve always done best together. Tarek and I both agree that we work great together regardless of whether or not we are married,” she explains. “We make a great co-parenting team as well. There is nothing I would have done differently.”

*For more information about and articles by our relationship expert Dr. Amy Osmond Cook, click [here](#).*

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## Celebrity Break-Up: ‘Flip or Flop’ Star Christina El Moussa Officially Files for Divorce from Tarek







By [Marissa Donovan](#)

Famous HGTV series couple has officially split. Christina El Moussa filed for divorce from former husband and co-star Tarek El Moussa. The *Flip or Flop* real estate agents broke the news to fans last December that they were calling it quits after seven years of their [celebrity marriage](#). According to [UsMagazine.com](#), the two are staying civil and will still work together on the [Reality TV](#) show.

**It looks like this estranged couple is officially having a [celebrity break-up](#). What are some ways to salvage your relationship?**

#### **Cupid's Advice:**

This couple decided to end their relationship after many years together, but some couple may feel that they can still reclaim their love for each other. Here are some ways you can salvage

your relationship:

**1. Notice the little details:** Noticing the little details while being together is important. Mention how you like their new wardrobe or express how much you appreciate when they take out the trash. It may seem silly, but you and your partner will connect over compliments.

**Related Link:** [HGTV Realtor Steven Aaron Talks 'Selling LA' and Love: "You Can't Be Everything To One Person All The Time"](#)

**2. Take a vacation:** Sometimes getaways are needed to save a crumbling marriage. Plan a vacation that you and your partner can escape the stress of your daily lives.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Video Interview: Love Advice From HGTV Host Kelly Edwards](#)

**3. Seek a couples therapist:** Reach out to an expert when it comes to helping others try to save marriages. A couple therapist can give you and your partner tools to help you problem-solve and help you decide if you want to save your marriage.

**What do you think of this celebrity break-up? Let us know in the comments!**

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# Celebrity Video Interview: Love Advice From HGTV Host Kelly Edwards



By [Rebecca White](#)

Home improvement and lifestyle expert Kelly Edwards shares all of the ins and outs of designing and redecorating your home for the summer season in our exclusive celebrity interview. Moving in together is a big step for any relationship and love, and tackling the design process can be daunting. Don't fret though! In our [celebrity video interview](#), Edwards chats about how to compromise if your design styles don't match up and how to save money and stay on a budget. Plus, she shares the piece of love advice that helps keep her 11-year marriage strong.

**Related Link:** [Brooke Burke-Charvet Talks About Her Marriage in Celebrity Video Interview: "We Carve Out Time for Each Other"](#)

# Kelly Edwards Shares Love Advice For Decorating and Design In Celebrity Video Interview

If you're moving in as a couple and your design styles don't match up, compromising is the best solution. Take a cue from Edwards' own story: "I had a coffee table that my husband hated, so I told him if we put it in the space and he still hated it after 30 days, then he could take it out," she says. "Well, 30 days later, he forgot it was even there. I got to keep it! Now, he's in love with it, and it looks amazing."

Don't be scared of the design and decorating process – you don't have to do it all at once. "It should happen over time," the lifestyle expert explains. "You should have a curated space that's all you, and you've found pieces along the way from traveling or picking it up together as a couple."

You can also save money while designing your home by having some do-it-yourself pieces. "I love to say that, if it has good bones and good structure, then you should keep it," she says. "You should have things in your home that you love."

**Related Link:** [Do-It-Yourself Date Night Advice from HGTV Host Monica Pedersen](#)

## Lifestyle Expert Talks Relationships and Love

It's no surprise that Edwards and her husband – a photographer – both travel a lot. "We both travel often, so I say that's the key to happy marriage," she shares in our celebrity video interview. "We travel together and separately too."

Being in a relationship and love for over a decade is no easy task! Edwards' love advice for a lasting partnership is to

find an interest you can share. "Have a hobby you like to do together, so you're always falling in love with something new," the HGTV star says. "[My husband and I] are big foodies, and we love to travel, so every time we go to a place we haven't been before, we can experience that together. We're creating memories, so later on, no one else has that particular memory but us."

*You can keep up with Kelly on Twitter @KellyEdwardsInc and her website, <http://kellyedwardsinc.com/>.*

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## HGTV Designer Sabrina Soto Shares Her Party Planning Secrets in Celebrity Video Interview





Interview by [Whitney Johnson](#).

## Celebrity Video Interview with Sabrina Soto

The holiday season is in full swing, and for many people, that means the next few weeks will be filled with parties to plan. With that thought in mind, we enlisted the help of style expert and author Sabrina Soto. In our [celebrity video interview](#), the host of reality TV show *The Great Christmas Light Fight* shares her top tips for hosting a stylish and affordable party.

**Related Link:** [Kathy Hilton's Advice for Holiday Entertaining](#)

Plus, she let us in on her holiday plans: "I have been engulfed in Christmas décor for the past two months, so this year, I'm going to Europe for Christmas just to get away and not have to worry about it!" the HGTV designer reveals.

Be sure to check out Sabrina Soto on *The Great Christmas Light*



*Fight*, which premieres tonight at 9/8c on ABC.

*For more great holiday party ideas, visit [www.target.com/](http://www.target.com/).*

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## HGTV Realtor Steven Aaron Talks 'Selling LA' and Love: "You Can't Be Everything To One Person All The Time"





By Kerri Sheehan

From the Hollywood Hills to the Sunset Strip, Los Angeles is home to the rich and famous. Landing a real estate job in the area is like swimming in a shark tank with blood in the water. Steven Aaron, one of the stars of HGTV's reality show *Selling LA*, can attest to that. The cameras follow Aaron and two other real estate firms as they attempt to book millionaire clients, tour breathtaking properties, and network their way to the top of the high-end real estate ladder.

**Related Link:** ['Love It or List It, Too' Star Jillian Harris Chats About Doing It All](#)

Aaron started his career as an interior designer before discovering his talent in real estate. He urges others to follow their gut when it comes to a career choice. "I followed my attraction to real estate, and it's the best decision I've ever made." Still, his interior design background helps him when it comes to staging a house and preparing a property for sale, as he's able to create a space that potential buyers can see themselves living in and making their own.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Aaron is among the rare, as many people move to the area later in life. He's enjoyed watching the city transform and mature during his years of living there. Due to the region's "traffic problems, so many areas have become walking communities and have their own vibe. That never existed years ago." Each area of L.A. is as unique as the last, from the hills to the ocean to the urban grit.

When working with a client to help them find their dream home in the bustling city, the real estate agent always tries to connect in a personal and understanding way. This method has helped him build a loyal clientele and a reputation for providing results and being as direct and tenacious as necessary.

For couples looking to buy a home together without input from this house hunting expert, consider the following advice: Agreement is key to keeping both people happy. “You have to respect each other’s differences in taste,” says Aaron. “If you don’t agree on something, you can always move onto another choice that you can both agree on.”

Speaking of couples, Aaron will soon be marrying his long-time partner in a beautiful backyard ceremony. Their wedding is taking place in the garden of a close friend who has “a lovely, informal, country-style ranch house with lots of flowers and greenery.” As far as wedding planning goes, they’ve been using the divide and conquer method. “I am in charge of the party. I have always been the one who handles the entertaining.”

**Related Link:** [8 Things Your Wedding Can Do Without](#)

Aaron and his fiancé have been together since first meeting at a Mexican restaurant in West Hollywood back in 1987. For them, their big day is about celebrating a milestone with their loved ones. “We have so much history together. Since we’re so established, it’s a very different planning process than a younger, new couple.”

According to the real estate tycoon, the two have made their relationship last so long by sharing the same values. “We both love family. We are very close with our families, cousins, and nephews.” They also each have their own interests as well. As he explains, “You can’t be everything to one person all the time.”

*Currently, Aaron is working with several investors on fixer homes that they’re flipping. You can catch Aaron in action on Selling LA on Thursdays at 9/8c on HGTV. Be sure to follow him on [www.facebook.com/StevenAaronLA](https://www.facebook.com/StevenAaronLA) or Twitter @StevenAaronRltr for more updates!*

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# EXCLUSIVE: Designer Christy Biebrich from 'Brother vs. Brother' Says, "Laughter Is The Secret to a Healthy Everything!"



By Sarah Ribeiro

HGTV's hottest new show *Brother vs. Brother* takes John and Drew Scott, stars of the hit series *Property Brothers*, and pins them against each other in a sibling rivalry of design

and ingenuity. Interior designer Christy Biebrich, an organizing specialist, joined Drew's team for the ultimate renovation showdown – a task she was more than ready to face and knew how to overcome. "The biggest challenges were the time constraints," she reveals. "We were doing massive renovations in timeframes as low as 48 hours. There were value-increasing choices that could not be completed simply due to time, so it definitely required strategic thinking." Despite her prowess in design, she was unfortunately sent home on Sunday night's episode.

**Related Link:** ['Design Star' Champion Leslie Ezelle Offers Relationship Advice for a Happy Home](#)

As the owner of Christy B. Designs, she has years of experience in interior design, which helped her make quick and efficient decisions on the show. As a self-proclaimed addict to improvement, the skills she offered her team come second nature to her. In fact, the designer has been renovating since she was a child. "From the time I was little, I was always looking around me and visualizing how I would improve spaces – from my room to my treehouse. I even had a renovation laid out in my head for the barn on our family farm!"

Though it is sad that she was ousted on *Brother vs. Brother*, the talented designer now has more time to focus on her personal life. Biebrich is tapping even further into her love for design with her upcoming wedding – and it hasn't been as easy as one would expect. "People think that, because of my line of work, I would be like a fish in water with wedding planning – not so!" she says with a laugh. "I've been happy to have others helping me through this process because it's very overwhelming. It's how I imagine people must feel when they come to me with a renovation or redesign project – they're out of their element, and they need me to walk them through the process, to make it easy, make it fun and make their vision come to life."

And, of course, the West Hollywood native is implementing her design aesthetic into her big day. "I love Art Deco, and we have several subtle hints to that style in our décor," says Biebrich. "Our centerpieces are very sculptural and architectural, and I like that they feel more like modern art than a bouquet of flowers. My wedding dress and my bridesmaids' dresses are very simple, elegant and contemporary. There's not a lot of frills, and I like it that way."

Most importantly, Biebrich's fiancé has been helping her throughout the planning process. She even admits that he has the stronger opinions and vision on the ceremony – a real role reversal. Then again, they've always had an interesting relationship. "We met on Match.com, but it wasn't your typical online dating story," she shares. "I wrote him a critique of his profile because I thought he had the worst headline I had ever seen. Remarkably, his ego was not bruised, and he didn't care what I wrote. He thought I was cute and asked me out! He caught me off guard; I said yes; and we started seeing each other."

Biebrich credits her fiancé's dependability, kindness and good heart for their successful relationship. "We get along so well because we are very silly," she says. "Laughter is the secret to a healthy everything! Neither of us take ourselves very seriously, so there's no butting heads or arguing. And the biggest thing is that we don't bring our work problems home with us or take our frustrations out on each other. We remain grateful, appreciative and respectful of each other and try not to take each other for granted."

**Related Link:** [Do-It-Yourself Date Night Advice from HGTV Host Monica Pedersen](#)

Once the wedding is over, the designer will face yet another challenge: moving in with her new husband. She believes that all couples should take each others' design styles into

account once they share a home. "I'd be completely unrealistic if I thought that I wouldn't have to consider my fiancé's likes and dislikes when it comes to design in our home. I like to think of it as an opportunity to expose myself to style possibilities I might not have considered before, and to become more well-rounded. Luckily, he's already said he will defer to me when it comes to our house, but of course, I will want to know his input because I love him!"

*For more information on Biebrich check out her website, [www.christyb.com/](http://www.christyb.com/).*

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## **Doing It All: 'The Bachelorette' Star Jillian Harris Launches Her Latest Project, Charlie Ford Vintage**







Interviewed by [Lori Bizzoco](#); Editorial by Kristin Mattern

Many of us remember the charming Jillian Harris from ABC's *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*. Since first revealing her sparkling personality, filled with irrepressible humor and emotional honesty, Harris has moved on to expose viewers to her design expertise on both *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and *Love It or List it Vancouver*. Staying true to her motto of "doing it all," she is now sharing her adoration for vintage and antique items as founder and creative director of Charlie Ford Vintage, a website that brings unique pieces, hand-selected by Harris and her team, to people across North America. "I've always been passionate about antiques. My mom used to take me antiquing when I was a little girl," says Harris. "And I realized that there was opportunity to share the things I loved with the world."

Harris is the quintessential busy bee, and she puts all of the energy her petite frame has into everything she does. Driven by her zeal for design and antiques, she decided to launch her online shop with her closest friends, Tori Wesszer and Alyssa Dennis. *The Bachelorette* star is not only the face of



the brand but also helps search for everything you see on the site. The website offers one-of-a-kind items from a variety of Canadian and American antique dealers that adhere to the company slogan of “redefining the way consumers view and buy vintage and antique home décor across North America.” Harris is excited to work with her friends and the rest of her team, who she notes “is incredible!”

**Related Link:** [Exclusive: Maitland Ward of ‘Boy Meets World’ Believes that “Friendship, Trust and Laughter” Make for a Strong Relationship](#)

The inspiration for Charlie Ford Vintage came from a mixture of her live-in boyfriend Justin wondering what they were to do with the multitude of early 1900s apple boxes that Harris bought last year and repeated questions on her blog of, “Oh my gosh, where did you find that piece?” The brunette realized that saying she found an item in Vancouver didn’t help someone in Idaho. She quickly decided she should offer the items she found online for others to buy. And with that, Charlie Ford Vintage (named after Wesszer’s one-year-old son) was born.

But this isn’t any regular online antique store. “Essentially, what I’m doing is personal shopping for you,” Harris notes. “I go out, find the items and post them online, and then, our vendors just take a commission. We aren’t marking things up; we’re negotiating to make sure we get the best price.” In the future, she and her team plan to allow for client requests. “If there is something particular you are looking for, like an old cookie jar or a piece of art, we’ll find it. We’re out there all the time, in the trenches, searching for antiques that our customers want.”

Harris certainly has her own sense of style and design. Her favorite piece is a blue, vintage buoy from the early 1900s that she bought while in Paella, Maui and made a part of a nautical vignette in her living room. When it comes to decorating and using antiquated items, she is a pro – and not

just for women's spaces but for men too. "I think the great thing about vintage that a lot of girls don't realize is that guys love it too. If you put an old box for ammo on your coffee or side table, guys think it's awesome, and women love the connection and history. You really can't go wrong," she observes. "I think guys want the same thing girls do: something that's unique, something different. When you're decorating as a new couple or with a guy in mind, going vintage is great."

The former bachelorette has not only found love with antiques but also in her current relationship. Harris met Justin at a bar, and they immediately hit it off. "He was just gorgeous," she gushes. "He was very nice too. I was dating someone awful at the time and thought, 'You know, I'm gonna give this guy a try.' The rest is history."

"I will never let him go," she adds.

Through heartache, she learned what it takes to be happy in a relationship: "I believe that if you can't be happy with yourself first, you're not gonna be happy in a relationship. You can't beat yourself up too much, and you can't force something to happen. If it doesn't feel right, just let it go. Remember that there are plenty of fish in the sea and that you only live once." Wise words that the current bachelorette, Desiree Hartsock, should take note of.

**Related Link:** [Bachelorette 9, Episode 7: Confession in Madeira](#)

When not working as co-host of *Love It or List It Vancouver* (*Love It or List It 2* for viewers in the United States) or digging for treasures for Charlie Ford Vintage, she enjoys spending her date nights with Justin making dinner at home, playing cards and sipping wine by firelight. As for their future, she says, "I would like to have children in the next few years – in my late thirties, I think, would be a good time." So do we hear wedding bells? "Marriage is really

important to me, but I don't think that marriage defines a relationship. I'm more concerned with our relationship being healthy and happy, and if the marriage part happens, it happens."

Harris also dreams of some more time off and for Charlie Ford Vintage to become her main – and only – project. "It's my passion," she remarks. "I'm hoping one day it can be enough to support me and my family, and I can continue to share what I love about antiques with the world."

*To learn more about Jillian Harris, visit her blog [www.jillianharris.com/](http://www.jillianharris.com/) or stay connected through [facebook.com/designerjillian](https://facebook.com/designerjillian) or Twitter [@jillianharris](https://twitter.com/jillianharris)*

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## Amy Smart and Carter Oosterhouse's Wedding Was Eco-Friendly





It stands to reason that Amy Smart and Carter Oosterhouse would have the ultimate green wedding, as the pair initially met on a project they did for the Environmental Media Awards.

“We got assigned to adopt a school garden together,” said Smart at the 2011 EMA’s in Burbank, Calif. “We met, and we were both in relationships, so we just remained friends. And then we both got out of relationships around the same time, a year ago this summer. And then a year later we got married.”

At their wedding last month, Smart and Oosterhouse saw to it that only one bag of trash was generated for 200 people, according to [People](#). Now, that’s impressive!

### **Cupid’s Advice:**

#### **What are some ways to keep your wedding green?**

There’s no doubt that having a lot of people in one place can generate a lot of waste. Weddings are one of those occasions where masses of people get together to celebrate. Here are some ways to keep your wedding eco-friendly:

**1. Use recycled and re-purposed decorations:** Instead of

investing in brand new decorations you'll never use again (and will most likely throw away), either use decorations you've utilized at past occasions or buy decorations made out of recycled materials.

**2. Send out electronic invitations:** You waste a lot of precious materials by sending out paper invitations, and they're almost always thrown out after the fact. Send out e-mail notifications instead.

**3. Cut down on trash:** Follow in Amy Smart and Carter Oosterhouse's steps and cut down on waste you produce at your ceremony and reception. Use plates, glasses and silverware that can be washed and used again. Request that your guests don't wrap your gifts. Say "no" to paper or plastic decorations that will simply be tossed after your big day is over.

**What are some other ways to have a green wedding? Share your ideas below.**

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## **Surprise! Amy Smart Ties the Knot With Carter Oosterhouse**





*Shameless* actress, Amy Smart, recently married HGTV's Carter Oosterhouse in Traverse City, Michigan. According to [UsMagazine.com](http://UsMagazine.com), the bride looked stunning in a Carolina Herrera gown, as did her bridesmaids in navy Ann Taylor dresses. "We feel so excited and blessed to celebrate this happy day with our family and friends," said the wholesome Hollywood newlyweds. Both Smart and Oosterhouse are known for being environmentally friendly. In fact, the couple met in November 2010 at a green-charity event.

**What are some important things to see eye-to-eye on before getting married?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

Marriage isn't just about the dress and a reception; it's a union between two people. While it's healthy to have differences of opinion when it comes to the little things, you have to be on the same page when it comes to the fundamentals:

**1. Kids:** If one of you wants to have children and the other couldn't be less interested in adding children to your lives,

you are going to run into problems later. Talk about this in-depth with your partner before taking the next step.

**2. Finances:** It is always important to be financially responsible. But, that means different things to different people. If you can't come to an agreement on budgeting, consider separate bank accounts.

**3. Home:** People are often very attached to where they grew up. If the two of you grew up in different places and each want to start a family in your perspective hometowns, this could mark the end of your relationship if you can't compromise.

What techniques can you use to come to an agreement before the wedding about the important things? Share your thoughts below.

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## Amy Smart Says Her Fiancé Has Been Very Hands On With Wedding







Here comes the bride! Amy Smart has been engaged to fiancé, hunky HGTV carpenter, Carter Oosterhouse, since April. The couple was engaged after only a few months of dating. According to [Hollyscoop](#), the blonde bride-to-be is being very traditional, especially when it comes to the wedding dress. Though the TV handyman has an impeccable eye for design and is very involved in the wedding planning process, Smart insists he not see the dress until the big day. Aside from the detail of the dress, the two are all in this together as they prepare for their wedding on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Northern Michigan. “[He’s] very hands on,” said Smart, “He has definitely been my co-pilot with this.”

**How do you get your beau involved in the wedding planning process?**

### **Cupid’s Advice:**

Traditionally, it has been the woman’s responsibility to plan the wedding. However, that has not been the case with modern day festivities. If your beau is skeptical about getting involved, here are some ways to make him into a wedding

planning extraordinaire:

**1. Cake tasting:** Everyone has a sweet tooth. Take your beau along to the bakery for a special wedding treat that you will share with your guests.

**2. Get his friends on the guest list:** Half of the guest list will be made up of your partner's friends and family. Make sure to sit down with him to make sure everyone he wants to be there will get an invite.

**3. Have a jam session:** The music at your wedding should reflect both of your personalities. Set some time aside to listen to music together and pick out the perfect tunes.

**What is your favorite part of planning a wedding? Share your thoughts below.**