

AUDIO SCRIPT

[F1: Interviewer; M1: Interviewee]

F1: Good morning, viewers. Today, I'm talking to Jack Carruthers, whose program *Fix My House* is wildly successful. Welcome to the program, Jack.

M1: Thanks for having me, Jill.

F1: So, Jack, how do you explain the enormous popularity of home renovation programs on TV?

M1: Well, Jill, my viewers fall into two groups. In the first group are viewers who have no interest in repairing or fixing up their homes. They simply like to watch *other* people go through the joy and pain of home renovation. The second group includes viewers who are very interested in DIY. They love fixing things, and they like to save money by doing the job themselves.

F1: It appears there's been a cultural change, too. In the past, people weren't very interested in renovating. If a house needed fixing, people called in the professionals.

M1: That's right, Jill. I think today people generally want to live better lives ... eat healthier food, live in nicer homes. People get inspiration from renovation programs. They get lots of ideas. Many projects don't require any previous experience—just intelligence and hard work. And some projects don't cost much. For example, you can update a bedroom for under \$1,000. However, kitchens and bathrooms usually cost more than \$10,000.

F1: But for major renovations, people still need professional help, right?

M1: Yes, they do. For example, if you want to remove a wall or add an extension, you need an engineer. You have to know what you're doing if you plan to attach a new room. Most people draft their own design and then give it to an architect or builder.

F1: I see a lot of women getting involved in home renovation.

M1: That's a cultural change, too, Jill. More women are prepared to get their hands dirty and knock down walls compared to 50 years ago. I can't imagine my mother operating heavy machinery, but plenty of women enjoy that today. Plus, there are more women architects and engineers than there were in the past.

F1: So, how do you choose the people on your show, Jack?

M1: Well, first, they have to have an interesting project. Second, we'll meet and discuss whether the project can be completed in two weeks. Third, they may be

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required to move out while we work, so they have to agree to that. Finally, they have to be willing to talk about the experience on camera. Oh, and they definitely need a sense of humor.

F1: Yes, I bet that's *very* important. Now, we'll be right back after the break.