

The Property Queen

Melissa Porter speaks exclusively to PPW about her life in property.

By Danny Gallacher

Melissa Porter is the face of channel 5's 'The Property List'. She started from humble beginnings to become the Queen of property TV. Her career has seen her travel the globe to bring us some of the most exquisite properties around. She is also co-owner of interior design, and renovation, company Porter and Smurfit. Melissa took time out of her hectic filming schedule to speak exclusively to PPW's Danny Gallacher.

How and when did you first get involved in property?

It must have been about 12 years ago when I first moved to London and realised that there was absolutely no way I could afford to buy the type of property I desired on my salary. I begged my dad to lend me £10k and the rest is history.

How has your property renovation and interior design company, Porter and Smurfit, been affected by the current market trends?

Our market is high end luxury and, touch wood hasn't been affected

Do you think it is the case that people are choosing to renovate/re-design their own home rather than move altogether?

Absolutely, people are sitting tight and making the most of what they have, extending and improving vs moving.

What advice would give to someone looking to add value to their property through design?

Increase the floor space by creating rooms in lofts, excavating basements and building side returns.

It must be a dream come true being able to combine your passions for property and TV. How did it come about for you?

I was extremely lucky. I worked in Knightsbridge with a company called Homesearch, helping people move their lives into the UK. A production company called Endemol phoned and asked my boss if any of his team would like to do their real jobs on television. Traveling and meeting people, they didn't need to ask me twice!

I see from your website that you will be working in America this year. Can you tell us more about that?

I've been going for screen tests as I love Americans CAN DO attitude to life but nothing's been confirmed yet as frankly the UK is busy and exciting for me at the moment, professionally and personally I'm having a good time.

You also have a new show here in the UK, 'The Property List', on Channel 5. What can you tell us about it?

We've identified the best places in Britain to live. A wonderful show. We worked with Savills to unravel some very insightful research findings. Definitely worth a watch!

The Property List is currently being shown on Five every Thursday at 8pm.



Melissa Porter Factfile:

Melissa Started her property career in 1996 when her father helped to buy her first home.

She was recruited by Endemol production company whilst working for Homesearch in Knightsbridge.

She is the co-owner of an interior design and renovation company called Porter and Smurfit.

She is currently working a new television series, 'The Property List', shown every Thursday at 8pm on Five.

For further information see:

www.porterandsmurfit.com
www.five.tv

www.melissa-porter.com