

## Inspiring Design *for the* Do-it-Yourself Kind

by Carol Saunders . Photos by Ginger de Vegh

**Krista Watterworth goes by many titles: interior designer, TV host and producer, journalist, wife and mom. This is because she has combined her gift of gab with a talent for creating stylish, contemporary spaces, and turned them into stair-steps to stardom.**

Not bad for a small-town girl from Connecticut.

Watterworth's rise to fame can be attrib-

uted to her varied skill set. After taking interior design studies at the prestigious Parsons School of Design, she merged it with a master of fine arts in acting from the famed Actors Studio, giving her a foundation that is both technical and artistic.

She's now a TV personality who can be seen on programs like HGTV's "Save My Bath," and the Food Network's "Restaurant: Impossible," a new program featuring celebrity Chef Robert Irvine. She also stars in the DIY Network's "The Vanilla Ice Project," starring rapper "Vanilla Ice" a.k.a. Rob Van Winkle.

For "The Vanilla Ice Project," which was filmed right here in Wellington, Watterworth was tasked with assisting Van Winkle (a fellow Palm Beach County resident) in his endeavor to purchase, redecorate and "flip" a Florida mansion.

"Van Winkle was very easy to work with," she said, "sweet and nice. Not what you would expect from a big rap star."

Watterworth said she started preparing for the show just five weeks after giving birth to her second child, but was able to pull everything together in time with some help



The DIY Network's Krista Watterworth and "Vanilla Ice" (a.k.a. Rob Van Winkle) of "The Vanilla Ice Project"



Watterworth and members of her design team in a space they constructed for the Miami Home Design Show.

from Pier 1 Imports. The program became a substantial hit for DIY, and the second season of "The Vanilla Ice Project" is expected to begin shooting in Palm Beach County this July.

Watterworth said that she and husband Eric Alterman, who works in the social networking field and recently sold his company Kickapps.com, moved to Jupiter full-time after the birth of their second child. Their children include 10-month-old Skylar and her brother is 2½-year-old Griffon.

"We had this vacation condo here and in February last year decided this was a better place to raise kids, so we got out of New York City. I had just gutted and redecorated our apartment before we moved, so we kept it. Of course, I had to gut and completely re-do our condo here as well. Now we travel back and forth for business," she said from her home in Admiral's Cove.

"My real hope is to do a lot more shows right here in the future."

Along with her current shows, Watterworth's designs have appeared on such programs as "You Should Live Here," "Ultimate Bathrooms," "The Big Reveal," "Spice Up My Kitchen," and "Moen Design Off," where she competed against fellow HGTV star Frank Fontana.

Among the impressive list of publications that have featured her articles, interviews and designs are *The New York Times*, *Designer Dream Homes*, *Newsday*, *CNN Money* and *US News & World Report*.

As the host/designer of HGTV's "Save My Bath" for four seasons, Watterworth has designed more than fifty bathrooms - from gut renovation to final touches with her trusty carpenters Marc Bartolomeo and Steven Whittle.

A true multi-tasker, she also runs a professional interior design practice and an instructional website ([www.roomrecipes.com](http://www.roomrecipes.com)) where people can go for their own redesign inspiration. In the same week that she sat down with

*PBG Lifestyle*, the busy mother of two said she'd also be heading for South Carolina to film another episode of "Restaurant: Impossible."

"We are completely redoing a restaurant there," she said.

Watterworth is the product of an Italian-influenced home that includes four sisters, and said she uses a specific recipe process of designing.

"I'm not a cook, but I realized when watching my mother and sisters create great Italian dishes, that interior design is like cooking with a good recipe. Attention to detail, balance of color and flavors, and a careful selection of ingredients is the secret to a great recipe for both."

"Save My Bath" runs Tuesdays at 8 a.m. on HGTV and "Restaurant: Impossible" appears Wednesday evenings at 10 p.m. on the Food Network. For information regarding Watterworth's full-service design studio and other projects, visit [www.kristawatterworth.com](http://www.kristawatterworth.com).