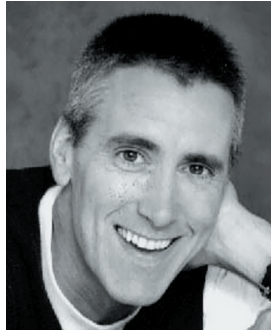


The home show's home boys

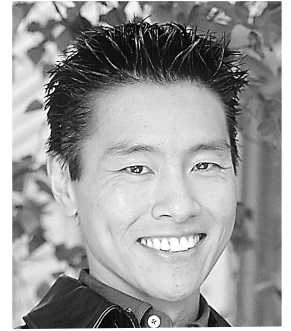
The New England Home Show, which runs Saturday through Feb. 29 at the World Trade Center, will present television figures of varying renown among its 500 exhibits. Correspondent Angela Shaw caught up with three of them in advance of their visits.



Billy Costa
Director, news and entertainment, WXKS-FM morning show
Host, "New England Dream House," "TV Diner," both on NECN



Evan Farmer
Host, "While You Were Out" (TLC)
Fill-in host, "Total Request Live" (MTV)



Vern Yip
Designer, "Trading Spaces" (TLC)

Home town	Cambridge, now living in Lynnfield	Baltimore, now living in New York	Atlanta
Common design mistake people make	When renovating, people should "wait until [they] can do it all," but often don't.	"People are afraid of color so they follow folklore and they don't take chances."	People "buy sets of things because they're not sure what they want in their house."
A good tip for first-time decorators	"First impressions are everything."	"Painting is one of the easiest ways for anybody to make a change to a room."	"Create a list of items that you need and make a budget."
The favorite thing about your home	"I'm big on master bedrooms."	"Location — it's right in the heart of Manhattan."	"It's really representative of me. It's how I like to live my life"
A design trend you like	"I'm amazed at how much you can do with kitchens now."	"People are doing more intense faux finishes, more complex things in general."	"People no longer feel confined to follow a specific design style. It's about mixing and matching."
A design trend on its way out	"Bottom line, everybody's thinking comfort now. I've never been a fan of contemporary."	"People are going away from the traditional."	"For a long time people were into faux stuff, and the beauty of the real thing is going to stay."
Where do you go to relax?	"My boat — just being on it, just smelling the water makes me relax."	"I go to the top of a mountain and I fly off of it. I'm a paraglider."	"I like my local pub, I like to watch hockey, I like to hang out with my friends, I like to go out to dinner."
Your favorite home show, not including yours	"I was into 'MTV Cribs' very early on, and my kids love it, too."	"'Bob Vila,' 'Home Again,' 'This Old House,' because I'm more of a nuts-and-bolts kind of guy."	"I really don't focus on design shows."

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