

# On the rise

TV Presenter Sarah Beeny  
talks property development,  
family and online dating

What do you enjoy most about property renovation?

I suppose it is the ultimate in recycling. There is something very exciting and rewarding about taking a redundant property and making it work for people today.

What project have you been most proud to have completed?

It is probably Rise Hall. It was a major project to take on, and turning its fortunes around has been one of the hardest things we have done. For me, it was about finding the building a new use and giving it a future. In a way, the restoration was not that complex. It was just a bigger scale of what we have done many times.

Of all the property shows you have worked on, what has been your favourite?

I like all of them, and for the same reason really, and that is that I get to go round the country and meet lots of interesting people who are passionate about what they are doing. Every time I meet people who are doing up houses one way or another, I learn something new.

What interests you most about property?

I think homes are so important, as ultimately it is too cold in this country to live outside. We need shelter, so it is massively relevant. I also like family, friends, and that is everything that home means.

What makes a perfect home for you?

I think the people in it are what really makes a house a home for me.

What do you feel is the most important feature or asset to have in a home?

Practically, it needs to be fit for purpose. Now I have a family, it needs to work with that, and that is the most important thing.

What is your trick to juggling four children and such a busy lifestyle?

Well, I couldn't tell you! I'm not sure what the trick is, but I don't do it very well. I'd love to say I do it brilliantly and the trick is eating an orange a day (laughs), but unfortunately it's not. I think you just have to compartmentalise your life, let a lot of people down and do a lot of things not as well as you really ought to!

How do you like to relax when you're not working?

I like just hanging around with my kids and my family.

What projects are you currently working on?

At the moment I am doing another series of Double Your House for Half the Money, which is exciting. I've got a DIY book coming out in the spring next year, as well as mysinglefriend.co.uk, which is the dating website I developed. There is also Rise Hall, of course. I have kind of got things going on all the time, and all over the place, which is quite nice.