

February 22, 2007: Columbus, Ohio



547 Things  
to do  
This Week

## Project Home

### Extreme reprise

By **Chris DeVille**

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Since ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" taped an episode in Whitehall last fall, the show's designers just seem to keep coming back to town. One is a patient recovering from an accident he suffered on set. The other will be a featured speaker at the Central Ohio Home & Garden Show.

Forty-three minutes simply isn't enough time to tell the story of building a house in a week. Even 86 won't do the trick.

"Though you may think that you're seeing a lot, it's funny because from my perspective, we're not seeing anything," said Paul DiMeo, a designer on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

"We probably shot 400 hours of tape," he said. "We miss so much."

Fans will have a chance to pick DiMeo's brain about the seen and unseen aspects of Extreme Makeover and anything else they please when he appears on March 3 at the Central Ohio Home & Garden Show, which is produced by The Dispatch.

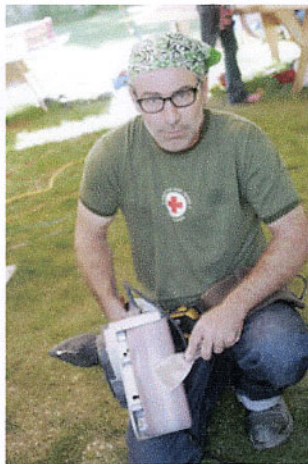
"I try to get to Q&A as quick as I possibly can," DiMeo said. "What is great about those home shows is that it is a place where people can come and get a ton of different ideas, whether they use them today or whether they use them a year."

DiMeo's area of expertise is carpentry. He got his start doing set design for theater groups in Pittsburgh, then New York. He wasn't confined to backstage work, though.

"When I was living in New York, during the day I was a carpenter, and during the night a whole group of us would go around the city doing theater," DiMeo said. "That's what's so great about this television show—those two worlds have come together for me."

Considering Extreme Makeover is in the midst of filming a week in each of the 50 states, DiMeo is surprised to be coming back so soon to Ohio, where he helped build a new home for 9/11 hero Jason Thomas. But the bespectacled, often teary-eyed designer was glad to find out he had a hole in his schedule allowing him this rare speaking engagement.

"The Thomas family, they hold a special place in my heart, so the idea of coming back to Columbus is pretty cool."



Paul DiMeo