

# Arts & Entertainment

## TV's Arresting Design spruces up local home

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
The Champion

When Brian Storzuk answered his front door one morning last week, the last thing he expected was to come face to face with officers handing him a citation.

But that's exactly what happened... sort of.

The officers were really 'design police' Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher, hosts

and designers of the W-Network's show Arresting Design, and the citation was for design crimes.

"I opened the door and saw a film crew... I was like, 'It's 9:30 in the morning, what's a film crew doing here?' Then it set in and I was like, 'No way'. It starts off with disbelief and then it's 'That's too cool.'"

Waiting in another room on that memorable July 22 was Mr. Storzuk's fiancée, Sara Lancaster, the 'informant' behind the bust.

"It was all surreal," Mr. Storzuk recalled.

Arresting Design, which airs on the W-Network, works with each informant to solve the design crime. Its designers then re-decorate the room in question in 24 hours to solve the case.

"Sara busted her fiancé for the state of the living room. She thought, 'Wouldn't it be great if I busted him and gave him the living room of his dreams?'" explained show director Romano D'Andrea.

What happened after the bust was a whirlwind for everyone involved. Mr. Storzuk was swept away for the next day-and-a-half and taken to Toronto, where he was put up at the glamorous Royal York hotel.

And the designers quickly got to work transforming the living room of the Victoria Avenue century home the couple has been living in for the past two years.

This is the first time the show has filmed in Milton.

"We're thrilled it's a historic home," Mr. Fisher said, adding, "I love Milton."

As the two designers explained, the room was originally a mish-mash of everything.

"There was a futon from his college days, a TV on a wicker basket, no draperies... but they had a lot of nice antiques. We wanted to do country with a modern edge," Ms Schnurr said.

Before he was taken away, Mr. Storzuk was told he was allowed to keep one piece of furniture from the room. He chose a leather chair he had recently purchased.

Over the next day, an armoire was built, furniture was purchased and recovered, and accessories were chosen. The room was already painted a pale green hue, and the designers painted wide off-white stripes over portions of the green for an elegant wall treatment.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, the crew had more surprises for Mr. Storzuk. Since he and Ms Lancaster are planning to wed next summer, he was given the chance to get a head start on some planning and the camera followed him as he met with a wedding planner, looked at wedding cakes and even investigated some bridesmaid dresses — something arranged by the crew to provide some comedy for the camera, he explained. "I thought, 'How do I do this and keep my dignity?'"

Ms Lancaster said it was tricky making all the arrangements so the 'bust' would go off without a hitch. And, she admitted, she did have to tell a few fibs. Fortunately, her fiancé didn't suspect anything, she said.

"He was completely stunned," she said, adding, "I made a few blunders."

When Mr. Storzuk was taken back to his house to view the finished product, he said he loved it.

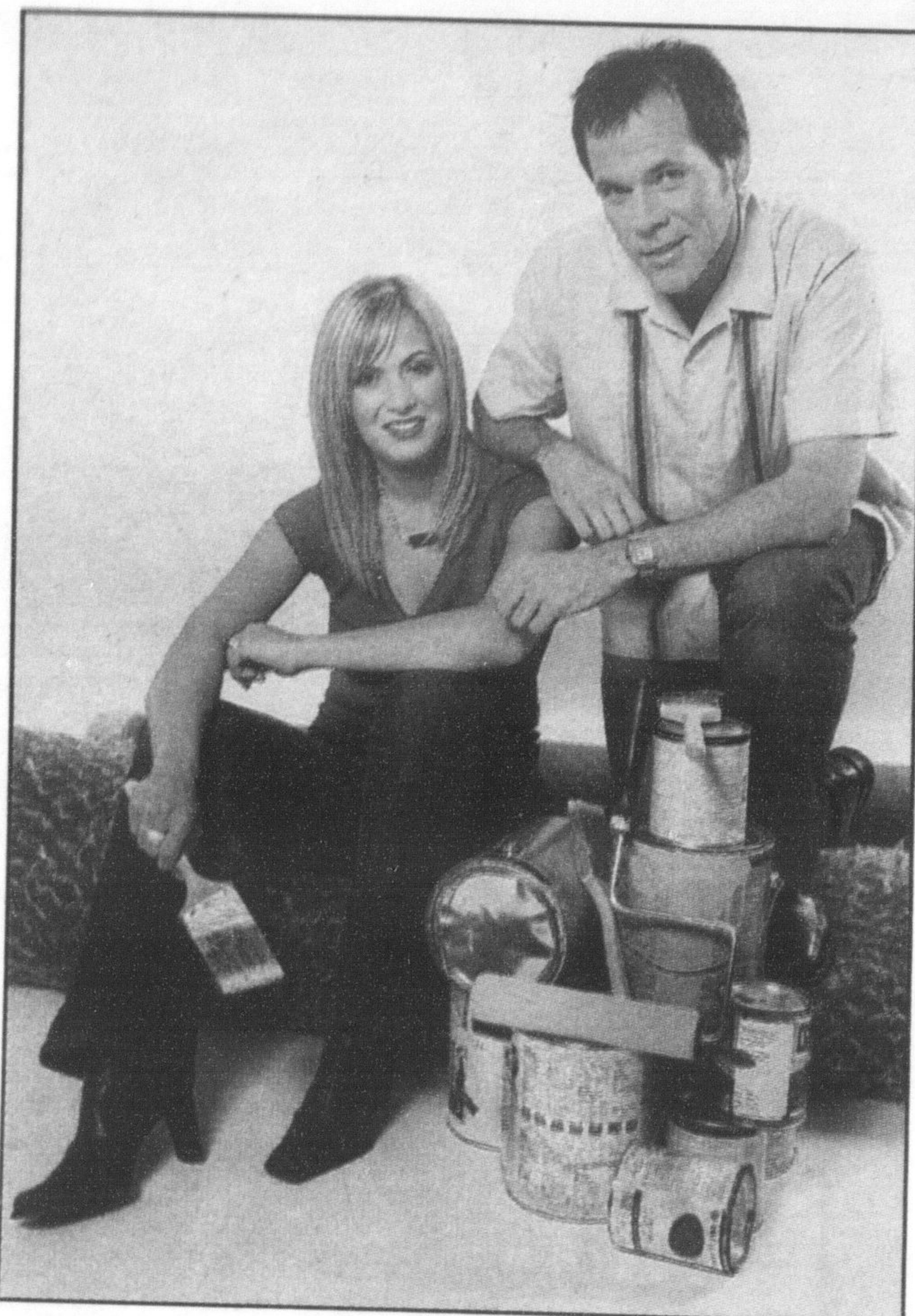
"It was amazing. It wasn't what I had expected. I thought it was going to be one horrible cabin scene. Before, it had old and new (stuff). This is classic and works well with the house, which is 100 years old."

In the end, Mr. Storzuk said the room is great — everything he could have asked for and more — but the love shown to him by his fiancée is even better.

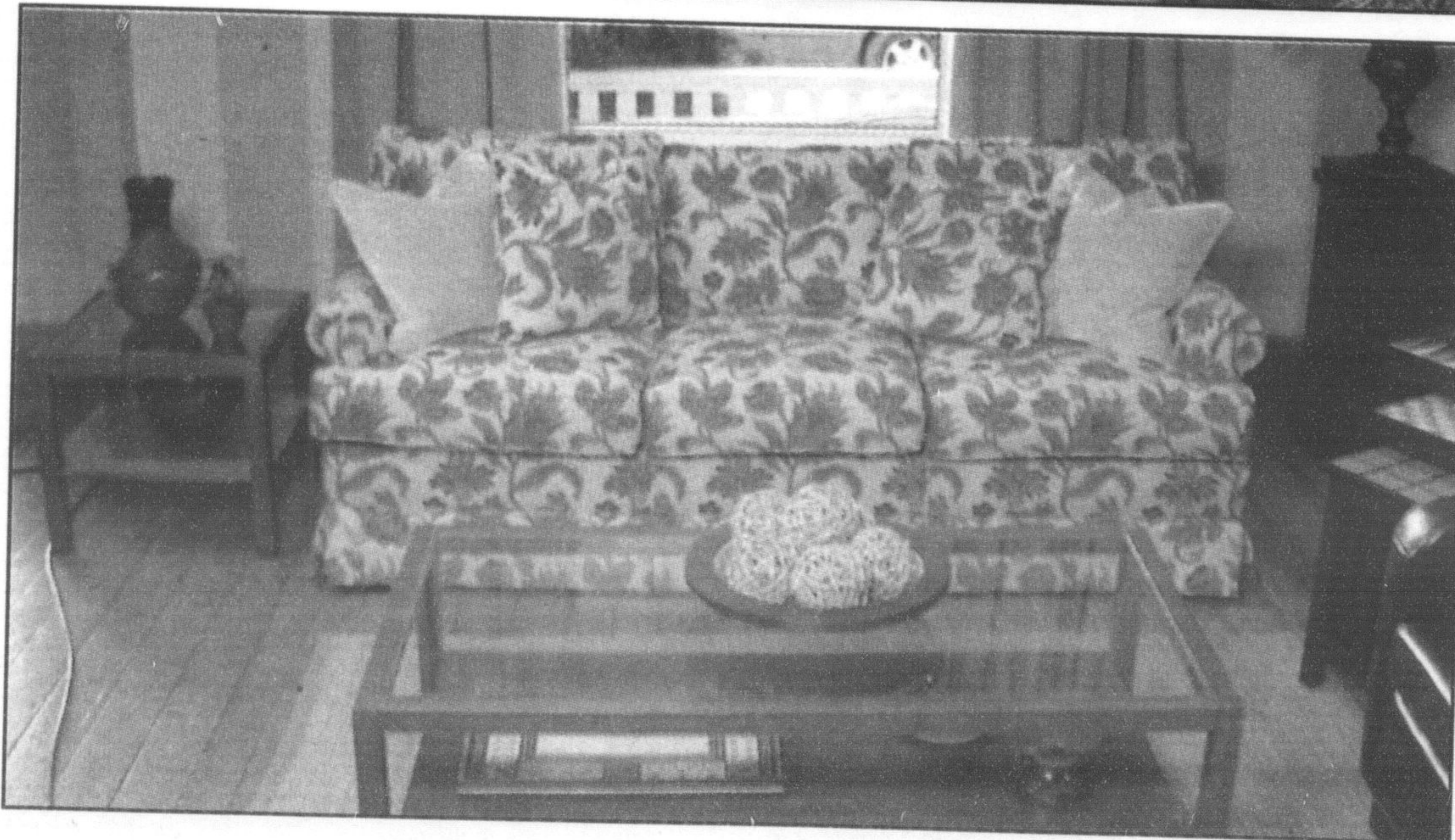
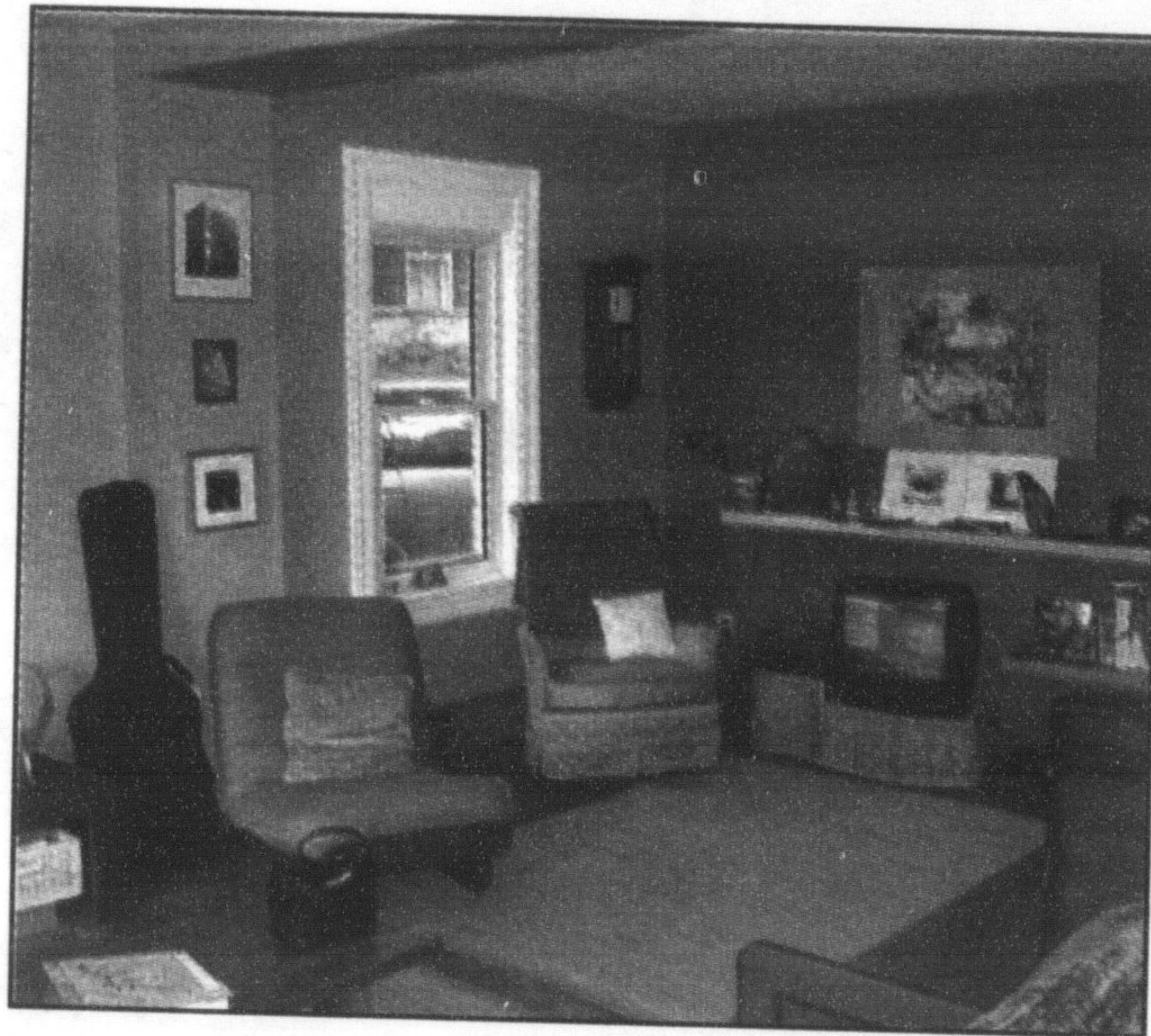
"It's not so much the furniture, it's that Sara would go through all this (for me). Could I be any luckier than that? It's a bonus that I have a beautiful living room."

Although it's not yet known when this episode will air, season two of Arresting Design will start on W-Network September 2 at 10 p.m. and will air weekly.

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Hosts Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher, of the W-Network's TV show Arresting Design, are more than just pretty faces. The pair worked their magic last week to transform a ho-hum Victoria Avenue living room (below) into an elegant country-style room with a modern edge (bottom). The make-over was a surprise gift from Sara Lancaster to her unsuspecting fiancé, Brian Storzuk.



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