
Episode Title: Renovation Husbands: How They Meld Styles to Renovate a Historic Victorian Home

Episode Description:

In 2017, after fixing up a couple homes together, Stephen and David (the creative couple behind Renovation Husbands) happened upon a completely gutted 1893 Boston Victorian and it was love at first sight. They began a multi-year renovation project filled with DIY elements. In this episode of The Better Buy, the pair share how they preserved the historic details of their home, the biggest lessons they've learned along the way, and how they created the perfect shade of beige paint.

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Music begins.

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

Welcome to The Better Buy, a new podcast from Better Homes & Gardens. I'm your host, Mélanie Berliet. Each week, we'll talk to experts about the highs and lows of home ownership, and share stories, advice, and practical tips you can actually put to work in your own space.

In this episode, I'm speaking with David and Stephen St. Russell, also known as the Renovation Husbands. Currently, the duo is renovating their 1893 New England Victorian home with an eye towards preserving its history. And they're documenting their room-by-room DIY journey for their hundreds of thousands of fans.

Music fades out while David and Stephen's voice fades in.

Melanie Berliet:

Well, thank you so much for joining me. We're very excited to be speaking to you both today. Can you introduce yourselves first to our listeners?

David St Russell:

Sure, I'm David St. Russell.

Stephen St Russell:

And I'm Stephen St. Russell.

David St Russell:

We are the Renovation Husbands.

Melanie Berliet:

Well, we would love to start by just talking about your first home purchase as a couple. Can you tell me about that process?

David St Russell:

Yeah, we were actually... We moved in together in 2012 in Fenway, Boston. Our rent was going up. So I was like, "We could afford a mortgage." And we ended up moving quite far out of the city. We moved south, about 45 minutes, to the town of Walpole. And bought a 1912 fixer upper. Four square.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah.

Melanie Berliet:

And how long did you live there?

Stephen St Russell:

We lived there for about two and a half years, although at the time, it felt a lot longer. And through that time just started renovating it, and sold it, and moved back to the city.

David St Russell:

Yeah, we didn't really have any solid skills yet, so we were cautious to buy something that needed to be fixed, but technically worked fine as is.

Melanie Berliet:

That makes sense. So you're not renovators by trade. You're more of renovators who have learned by doing?

Stephen St Russell:

We definitely learned our skills by doing. I'm an architectural designer by trade. So that helps, but not with the hard stuff.

David St Russell:

Yeah, and when... Let's just be clear. When we bought that house, you were still like-

Stephen St Russell:

I was in school.

David St Russell:

A sophomore. So. (laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, we were very young.

Melanie Berliet:

And your most recent home is an 1893 Victorian. Can you tell me about the process of purchasing your third home, versus your first home?

David St Russell:

Yeah, it's a little bit different. We took a break from renovating. We were living in, again, in the city of Boston just to spend some time with, you know, in the city and hang out with friends.

Stephen St Russell:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

David St Russell:

And we drove by this home, kind of by mistake.

Stephen St Russell:

On our way to lunch.

David St Russell:

On our way to lunch with some friends. And then, one of our friends pulled it up while out, and was like, "It's for sale. You guys should do this." Now, here we are.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, the next week and a half, we were closing on it.

Melanie Berliet:

Wow. And Boston is such an historic city. Do you know who originally built the home? Is there an interesting history to the house? Is it haunted?

Stephen St Russell:

I- oh-

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

The haunted part, we wish. We almost kind of assumed it would be, and it's never come to fruition. But we don't know who the designer was, although a lot of houses around here do know. But we know the original deed was Emma Thayer. We've always thought it was interesting that it was a woman's name on the original deed and kind of loved that. But our entire neighborhood is part of Boston Streetcar Suburbs. So as the train kind of moved out, the houses were built along it. So if you hear the train go by, that's why. (laughs)

David St Russell:

Yeah, if you look through our neighborhood. The entire place was built in the same 10-year period, probably. So every home is, I think, by the same architect.

Stephen St Russell:

The same developer, probably.

David St Russell:

Yeah, the same developer.

Melanie Berliet:

It is really interesting that there was a female, um, homeowner in the late 19th century. That had to be rare, right?

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, exactly. And you look on the atlases of that year, and they're all men's names. And then ours is Emma. Which we assu- Emma can- can be, uh, can be either, I suppose.

Stephen St Russell:

But from what... Our research, what we have, it seems like it was a young woman.

Melanie Berliet:

And while it may not be haunted now, you two can always haunt it 100 years from now.

David St Russell:

Oh, yeah. (laughs)

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs)

David St Russell:

I would love that.

Melanie Berliet:

So now that you're pretty practiced as home buyers and home owners, do you have any house hunting deal breakers?

David St Russell:

We want the, like, worst house in the best area we can find.

Stephen St Russell:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

David St Russell:

That's the combo for us, which I know is not always the norm.

Stephen St Russell:

'Cause we're always gonna want to look for something that's below market value anyway, just because we want to put the equity into it. So that's usually it. We usually, like, set by a certain year when we're looking, just to know that at least it's an older house that might need some work. But if we see, like, new development or anything, or even new renovations we're kind of flipping past.

David St Russell:

Never stopping there. Not for us.

Melanie Berliet:

Fixer-uppers only.

David St Russell:

Exactly.

Melanie Berliet:

I like it. So you recently won the Annual Preservation Achievement Award from the Boston Preservation Alliance. Can you tell us about the importance of preserving a home's original characteristics? And how you go about balancing the desire to update and modernize a space while preserving its original qualities.

David St Russell:

Yeah, I think first of all, we were kind of astonished that we were even eligible for such an award. To give a little background, the house when we bought it was completely gutted. Someone had purchased it and started a renovation, gutted the entire thing, and then for whatever reason, had to leave it. So when we found it, we were like, "This is an awesome opportunity." We were the right type of people to want to buy a house like this. Not a lot of the original details were preserved. A lot of the original molding was ripped out, except for some stuff that was left in the basement. So when we add stuff back, we're considering character. We want to be putting character back into the house. We're not completely replicating what was originally there, so we were left with this opportunity to kind of play with that balance, like you're talking about.

Stephen St Russell:

And I think for people who see the project now, it's like, "Oh, they knew what they were doing," and, like "Oh, it all came together." But to be honest, in the beginning, we were, like, extremely anxious about what to do. You know, we moved into this house. We had walls put up, basically. We had zero trim, and we had a lot of decisions to make. A decision we make now will have a huge impact going forward on the entire feel of this home. So we did spend a lot of time kind of looking through the details and made some mistakes along the way. But in all, back to the award.

David St Russell:

(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

Winning the award was amazing. It's usually reserved for bigger projects.

David St Russell:

Really large scale renovations of big buildings in the city. So to be a homeowner winning it was a huge honor.

Stephen St Russell:

It was very cool.

Melanie Berliet:

You mentioned making a few mistakes along the way, and I think that will really resonate with a lot of people who have been through the process of renovating at any scale. Can you tell me what the biggest mistake is that you made?

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah.

David St Russell:

Yeah. Easy. So I think the biggest mistake, and it kind of goes back to what we were just talking about. We were moving into this completely gutted house. We had to make a lot of design decisions right away, and we needed to create certain spaces right away, like kitchens and bathrooms. We were living in this contemporary loft at the time, and I had this idea to design a contemporary kitchen into this Victorian home. And it was the first project we did. And we were also learning that skillset at the same time.

Stephen St Russell:

We put an Ikea kitchen in this house, is what he was trying to say.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs)

David St Russell:

Yeah, very flat slab. Very contemporary.

Stephen St Russell:

It was this balancing act of, like, "How do we do a modern Victorian?" That sounded like a really fun, cool idea. And we put this kitchen in, and we actually really liked it until we started doing the rest of the home. You know, we do the parlor project. Probably, that was the one that had the biggest impact on our decision about the kitchen. It really changed the feel, and all of the sudden, that room was just completely out of place. And not to the quality that our skillset had become. Because we had been growing... I mean, we're five years in, and really, our expectations of each other and ourselves have been evolving and changing. So now when we look at that project that's five years old, we're like, "How are we gonna salvage this?"

David St Russell:

We're, uh, in the middle of the kitchen renovation now.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, we're doing it now.

David St Russell:

Which is, uh, somewhat backdating the kitchen. Not-

Melanie Berliet:

Right.

David St Russell:

... it's still gonna be a very modern-day kitchen, I should say, in terms of the amenities and what you expect in a kitchen. But using materials that you would find in a traditional home. Painted cabinetry, wood furniture, Carrara marble, all that fun stuff.

Melanie Berliet:

So the lesson learned being to think about the home holistically before you dive into...?

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, I think if you have the opportunity to kind of master plan, do that. Ours was such a rush in the beginning. And we knew we needed those spaces you need to use every day, that... It was a lesson learned. We love the

kitchen standalone, but not with the rest of the house.

Melanie Berliet:

And where do you each look for inspiration?

David St Russell:

That's a good question. I think we look everywhere. Is that an answer? We're part of this, like, Instagram community, obviously. We pull a lot from Instagram. It's just an ability to see really talented people from all over the place doing what they do best. So you see the best kind of tile people, you see the best kitchen people. And you can pull very cool things from those.

Stephen St Russell:

And I think on the opposite side of that, I mean, you can find inspiration wherever you want on the internet, between Instagram and Pinterest. I think sometimes we try to step back and look at the houses around us. Because all these houses were built around the same time, we're able to say, "Oh, the paneling we want to do in the dining room, our neighbor has something very similar. Let's kind of try and replicate that, but take our own spin on it." So it's kind of a balance of both. And then, that's how I think we end of balancing our traditional versus contemporary.

David St Russell:

That is a good point, because I think sometimes when you're on a platform like Instagram, it's really easy to go through a lot of ideas. Like, you're like, "Oh, I love the look of this and I love the look of this. And then you just, you have 30 Pinterest boards, and you have nothing cohesive. But if you just look in your own backyard, there's, like, really beautiful things that make more sense, probably, to your home, that you can draw inspiration from.

Melanie Berliet:

Do you ever disagree on your vision for a space? And if so, how do you reconcile those different visions?

Stephen St Russell:

Yes and no. I think because we now have learned to really plan out a space ahead of time and I have the tools in my skill set in order to visualize those designs, we work out a lot of design details beforehand, which is very, very nice. And at the same time, we've now been renovating homes together for over 10 years, so we literally kind of grew into our style together, and grew into things we like and dislike.

David St Russell:

Yeah, I think our styles have pretty much melded. So we're on the same page about most things. Any disagreements come from, like, "Oh, I think it should be a little higher, or it should be a little lower."

Stephen St Russell:

The details. Yeah.

David St Russell:

The small details, and then Stephen just ends up winning those usually.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs) So in the process of renovating this house, have you found anything awesomely old or historical? Like, I don't know, in the walls, or in the attic. Anything noteworthy?

David St Russell:

No. (laughs)

David St Russell:

We didn't have any walls. So one of the things-

Melanie Berliet:

Oh, right.

David St Russell:

... that happened was that the house was gutted, so we literally had nothing. I think what did surprise us is the entryway is the only part of the home that wasn't gutted. The woodwork, the staircase, the fireplace was all intact. But when we had viewed the house initially, the fireplace was covered up. So we didn't know what was there. And when we removed it, it was all the original tile, and it was all in really good condition, which you don't always see in a house of this age, where you see a lot of, like, broken tile or pieces missing. So the fact that the entry is intact is kind of like the crown jewel of the home.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah. And it was also when the rest of the house was completely gutted, walking in and seeing that was like, oh, there's big potential here. Like this, we can make something.

David St Russell:

Yeah, that's true.

Music fades in.

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

We'll be back with more from the Renovation Husbands after the break.

Music fades out.

[Mid-Roll Break]

Music fades in.

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

Welcome back to The Better Buy, a podcast from Better Homes & Gardens

Music fades out.

Melanie Berliet:

What are some of your favorite money-saving home tips?

David St Russell:

This is a- I think a misconception: that places like lumber yards, they're scary and expensive. But their quality is so much better. They're always super nice, and it's more affordable. So you know, a lot of times when you're looking for things like trim profiles, or you want to add a detail to the wall, in our experience everyone's been very nice to, uh, like, non-commercial buy- like, residential buyers. The quality is much better, and it's usually

less expensive. So, um, we always encourage people to go, kind of, that route. Get some trim profiles. They'll have lots of samples. Make a day trip out- Make it a date.

Melanie Berliet:

Yeah. Don't default to the big box retailers, necessarily.

David St Russell:

Exactly.

Melanie Berliet:

I love that tip. Is there anything in the process of renovating a home that is always worth splurging on?

Stephen St Russell:

I would say fixtures. Between lighting and faucet and plumbing fixtures. Those are the things that are really gonna shine around whatever else you're designing.

David St Russell:

And they feel different when you use them. So something that's a higher quality is just gonna last longer, and the experience is often better. So, you know, find out what's in your budget, and you know, there's kind of a range for everybody there.

Melanie Berliet:

And how do you decide when customization is necessary? I believe you recently tackled some custom shades in your primary bedroom? At least, I recently saw them on your Instagram.

David St Russell:

(laughs)

Melanie Berliet:

And I'd love to know when you make that choice to go custom.

Stephen St Russell:

That's right.

David St Russell:

We had never actually considered custom until, you know, that project. Our suite project was the first time that I can think of that we really went a custom route. And it made a huge impact. So when you have a space, I don't think everything needs to be custom, but you know, if you're looking for that little bit of extra, going and finding, like, a really nice fabric, or your example is the window treatments. And I think it really elevates the room a lot and was worth the time and money. And it was a lot easier than I thought it would be.

Stephen St Russell:

And it puts something into the room that when someone walks in and sees it, they'll say, "I've never seen that before. That's so cool. Where did you get that?" versus a shade that you might have seen a million times.

Melanie Berliet:

Speaking of shades, can you tell me about Barbra, the paint color?

Stephen St Russell:
(laughs)

David St Russell:
Oh, yeah.

Melanie Berliet:
(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:
You did your research. Barbra has become, like, a thing on Instagram. And we love it. So, the evolution of Barbra... We had been looking for a beige, greige, gray, for our cabinets for a very long time. We wanted to get it right because it also had to continue onto our trim work and through our hallways, so we wanted to pick the right color. And so we initially decided and landed on Accessible Beige by Sherman Williams. The cabinet company then had to recreate that. They sent us a sample and it didn't match perfectly, which they let us know might happen. But we love the color even more. We found after painting Accessible Beige on some trim work that it had a little bit of pink in it. And Barbra- the sample door didn't have pink in it. So we got that matched at Sherman Williams, and then became Barbra. We got the code for it, and shared the code, and now...

David St Russell:
People are redoing, like, full kitchens in Barbra.

Melanie Berliet:
Really?

David St Russell:
Posted the photos. It's wild. And I just don't know why Sherman Williams hasn't reached out to us yet-

Melanie Berliet:
(laughs)

David St Russell:
...to add it to their color catalog. Because it feels correct.

Melanie Berliet:
Great question.

David St Russell:
Yeah.

Melanie Berliet:
I love that. Barbra-

David St Russell:
Yeah.

Melanie Berliet:
... has a fan base of her own.

David St Russell:

She does.

Melanie Berliet:

Is there a DIY project you would recommend to beginners or people who consider themselves not so DIY-inclined? Something that's relatively easy?

David St Russell:

Yeah, our first project was upholstering a coffee table, making an ottoman. Something that is not gonna, like, destroy your home. Find a cool piece of furniture that needs some restoration. You know, sand it. Try some paint on it. Just, like, things that have really... are affordable, and you know, are not high stakes.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, and from there, I think not only your skillsets snowball, but also your confidence in doing projects can snowball. We accredit that ottoman a lot to just building what we've built, and acquiring the skillsets that we have.

Melanie Berliet:

Are there any personal touches that can automatically make a space feel more welcoming?

Stephen St Russell:

I think an obvious one is art, of course. Not only, like, finding something at a store and putting it up, but taking your time, and finding artists that you love – young artists, new artists that you can buy affordable pieces from – and use them. And people will be asking questions about them. You can find spaces to customize around those pieces of art. And you're supporting smaller artists.

David St Russell:

Yeah, it's very much an assumption that art has to be very expensive. But there are so many talented people out there who are creating, and who are so accessible now, with, like, Instagram and TikTok, that you can find them, support them as young artists, and have very, very cool pieces you just can't find anywhere else.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, have a custom piece of art that's not what you bought at the store.

Melanie Berliet:

What is your favorite room in your home, and why?

Stephen St Russell:

I think my favorite room in the house is probably the parlor. Not only for what it became, and the final design of it, but the process took many, many years. We picked the color at the very beginning of buying this home, but then the color just kind of evolved into this greater design of this very studious, masculine, moody room that we love to entertain in, and it's right in the entrance of our home, and it kind of exemplifies, I think, what a parlor...

David St Russell:

It really did take years.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah. (laughs)

David St Russell:

Somebody joked in a comment, “So what, did you paint one wall a year?”

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs)

David St Russell:

Like, what took you so long? Stephen does renderings of a lot of our spaces and I think it was the first time that the rendering matched what we created in real life. So we look back to those photographs – those original images he created – and we’re like, “This is the same space.” And it was so cool to see the power of doing that work ahead of time, and seeing it come to life. And the fact that we were actually able to make it happen-

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah.

David St Russell:

... was just, like, completely unreal to me. And now it happens, and it’s like, “Oh, just making his renderings again.”

Stephen St Russell:

(laughs)

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs) Do you have a favorite room in your home?

David St Russell:

Yes. I also love the parlor. But during our suite project, we did our bathroom over. And the shower was, like, such a big undertaking. We also did it as part of a challenge, so we had a limited amount of time. But we did that room, and it just came together in every way that I wanted it to. And it kind of surpassed my expectations around what we could do.

Stephen St Russell:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

David St Russell:

We upped our skill sets like crazy in that project, and I kind of joke, but it’s not really a joke, that I’m more proud of that shower than I am of my master’s.

Stephen St Russell:

(laughs)

David St Russell:

I just love that room. And I get to use it every single day. I never use my master’s.

Stephen St Russell:
(laughs)

Melanie Berliet:
(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:
You definitely use that more than your master's degree.

David St Russell:
It was all very expensive, but it was still less expensive than my master's. It's just, like, the best for me.

Melanie Berliet:
Speaking of the cost of renovation, I have a theory about home reno math, that it always costs at least twice as much as you think, and takes at least twice as long as you think. (laughs)

David St Russell:
Yeah, that's true.

Stephen St Russell:
I would say that's pretty accurate.

Melanie Berliet:
Can you describe each other's aesthetic or design style?

David St Russell:
That's hard. Stephen... Our style's are so close-

Stephen St Russell:
Yeah.

David St Russell:
It's hard to describe-

Stephen St Russell:
It's hard to say.

David St Russell:
... the difference. But his thing when we look at stuff are light, and... is that accurate?

Melanie Berliet:
(laughs)

David St Russell:
I don't know how to put it to words really.

Stephen St Russell:
Yeah. I don't even know if I have a good answer for it. It- it is hard because we've kind of melded together into

one, for better, for worse. I'll say maybe what I think you're leaning towards nowadays, is spaces that have resilient materials, and don't take a lot of maintenance. In the best way possible. Like, concrete floors that you can make really, really beautiful, heavy timber spaces that you can see the strength of the design in them.

David St Russell:

We actually have been really growing on like, Cape Cod style, 'cause we go to P Town a lot, Provincetown, Mass.

Stephen St Russell:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

David St Russell:

And that style of home, the Shaker and just, like, easy living is so exciting given that we're in this...

Melanie Berliet:

Coastal grandmother chic, one might say? (laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

I still don't know what...

David St Russell:

I'm not commenting. No comment.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs)

David St Russell:

Uh...

Melanie Berliet:

No comment.

David St Russell:

(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

Well, I think part of that comes from, being in a Victorian, we've now made, like, such meticulous spaces that-

David St Russell:

High finish.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah, or high finish stuff.

David St Russell:

Everything's painted.

Stephen St Russell:

We want something that's, like, low maintenance, but also not precious.

David St Russell:

Right. I wanna, like, kick my shoes off and not worry about the water stain on the table.

Stephen St Russell:

Right.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs) What is the first thing you notice when you enter someone else's home?

David St Russell:

The molding.

Stephen St Russell:

Definitely the millwork, yeah.

David St Russell:

100%.

Melanie Berliet:

Interesting.

David St Russell:

Yeah.

Melanie Berliet:

Interesting answer. I ask a lot of people that, and I don't think I've ever gotten that answer.

David St Russell:

I feel like for me, the molding sets the tone for everything else you put in the room.

Stephen St Russell:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

David St Russell:

So when somebody has, like, really nice stuff but really bad trim, it, like, stands out to me. And that might just because we've been doing it for, like, five years.

Stephen St Russell:

Yeah. Because I think you're right. I think, at least it's been our approach that... And maybe it's because we had to start from gutted spaces. But we have to think about the rooms architecturally before we can think about it in the soft finishes. So it's the millwork, how the space is framed. So I think that's what, at least our eye goes to first.

David St Russell:

That's probably the flip we made too in this process. We thought so much about, "What is the right trim? How

do we do our cased openings?" that we had designed so much of the architecture of our home before we were, like, "What pillows do you purchase?"

Stephen St Russell:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

David St Russell:

And now, we're getting better at doing both together, which is definitely a different skill set.

Melanie Berliet:

What do you think people should know before undergoing a home reno?

David St Russell:

Nothing. Know nothing. That's, like, my superpower is, if I don't know anything about it, then I feel like I can figure it out. Sometimes knowing stuff is really scary because you're afraid to start. Maybe that's the opposite of the answer that you wanted.

Stephen St Russell:

No, I would say the same thing.

David St Russell:

Yeah, I think less is more.

Melanie Berliet:

I think that's a very fair answer. Yeah, why not?

David St Russell:

Yeah.

Melanie Berliet:

And if you could give new homeowners one piece of advice, what would it be?

Stephen St Russell:

So to continue off of that, I think the piece of advice to tag onto that is, don't be afraid to try new things. I think a lot of people are paralyzed by, "I don't know how to tile a shower, or even a backsplash," so they just don't do it and hire it out. And if that's your prerogative, go for it. But I think you should try. Because it will build that skillset. It will at least let you know that you can't do it, and you want to have someone else do it. Or it will be something that you love and will make you want to DIY more stuff.

David St Russell:

I feel like: knowing your systems. If you don't care about a project at all, just go look at your furnace. Take 10 seconds, or find out where your water shut-off is. Or find out, like, which electrical switches turn off what in your home, because those can really save you. If it's in the middle of winter, and something goes wrong, you might have some familiarity, or even, you know, what you might need help with.

Stephen St Russell:

The right questions to ask.

David St Russell:

If you need to turn the water off very quickly, you'll know where it is. You're not looking for it later. It's astonishing how many people have no idea what's happening behind the basement door.

Melanie Berliet:

That's true.

David St Russell:

Yeah.

Melanie Berliet:

Do you believe that couples that renovate together stay together? Or would you caution people against tackling a reno together?

Stephen St Russell:

I mean, it's true for us. But... (laughs) I know a lot of people go through- through difficulties. And I think our biggest piece of advice is if you are renovating together, and you are arguing, is: treat yourself like a child and go take a nap and have something to eat.

David St Russell:

Yeah, 100%.

Stephen St Russell:

One of those two things, you're gonna feel better, and you'll not argue when you come back.

Melanie Berliet:

I think it might also help when one person in the relationship is a really good singer.

David St Russell:

Oh!

Melanie Berliet:

Because then you're automatically endeared to them, right?

David St Russell:

We know which one that is. It's not me.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs) I love listening to you sing. It's wonderful. (laughs) All right, I'm gonna wrap things up with some kinda quick fire questions... So, most underrated home tip?

David St Russell:

Ooh. The power of caulk.

Stephen St Russell:

Oh my g- C-A-U-L-K.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs) Oh, thank you for clarifying.

Stephen St Russell:

No, really. It is- it is-

David St Russell:

It goes far. And it's not expensive.

Melanie Berliet:

100%. What does home mean to you in a single feeling?

Stephen St Russell:

Security.

David St Russell:

Yeah, there you go. Security.

Melanie Berliet:

Spacious lawn or large basement?

David St Russell:

Spacious lawn.

Stephen St Russell:

Spacious lawn.

Melanie Berliet:

Super high ceilings or lots of natural light?

David St Russell:

Super high ceilings.

Stephen St Russell:

Super high ceilings, 'cause you're more likely to have natural light.

Melanie Berliet:

I love how aligned you two are. It's amazing. Living near loved ones or close to work?

David St Russell:

Loved ones.

Stephen St Russell:

Loved ones.

Melanie Berliet:

Neighbors or privacy?

David St Russell:

Privacy. Which is not what we have now.

Stephen St Russell:

(laughs) We have the opposite of that now.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs) Pom-poms or tassels?

David St Russell:

Ooh, tassels.

Stephen St Russell:

Tassels.

Melanie Berliet:

Wow, I love that.

Melanie Berliet:

And my very favorite, bowls or plates?

David St Russell:

Oh. You're definitely plates.

Stephen St Russell:

Oh, I'm a bowl.

David St Russell:

Oh. Wow. We're gonna fight after this.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

Wait, you think I'm a plate?

David St Russell:

Yeah, you're a plate.

Melanie Berliet:

(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

What are you?

David St Russell:

A bowl.

Stephen St Russell:

I'm a bowl, but, like, a wide bowl. Like-

David St Russell:

(laughs)

Stephen St Russell:

... one that you... (laughs) You eat pasta out of.

Melanie Berliet:

I love it. I love it. Well, thank you both so much for joining us today. It has been an absolute pleasure speaking with you, David and Stephen.

Stephen St Russell:

Thank you so much for having us.

David St Russell:

Thank you, Melanie, it's been a pleasure.

Melanie Berliet:

It really has been fun.

Music fades in.

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

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Music fades out.