

Think you've got the chutzpah to apprentice with The Donald? Or maybe you're handy with a compass and don't mind munching on whatever might happen to scurry by — good skills for a “survivor” or during an “amazing race.” But regardless of the reality, there's a serious science behind the selection process for these shows — although having a pretty face never hurts.

Little Italy loft resident Judith Meyers, Psy.D., knows precisely what it takes to get a shot at reality TV. “I authored a paper and testing applications for cross-cultural compatibility, which was adapted to screening applicants in the booming reality programs market,” says the clinical psychologist. “I've worked on shows from *The Apprentice* to *The Amazing Race*.”

No stranger to loft-space living, Meyers embraced open floor plans and poured concrete walls long before it was commonplace. One of the original inhabitants of the Gaslamp Quarter's Pioneer Lofts, Meyers moved to DOMA Lofts and Townhomes on Kettner Boulevard between Fir and Grape streets for more space and to escape the ever-increasing decibel level of her city-center neighborhood.

“When the Gaslamp underwent its renaissance, living at Pioneer just got too noisy and traffic was constantly congested,” says Meyers. “I'm from Philadelphia and I loved the East Coast feel of Little Italy. It's a beautiful neighborhood and a very tight-knit community. When DOMA was completed, I couldn't wait to move in.”

Meyer's two-story loft boasts the characteristic floor-to-ceiling windows, but, unique to her space, an additional side room with access to her private patio. “Most of the units in DOMA have a rectangular footprint,” says Meyers. “However because of its ground-floor location, my space included an extra area I use as my living room. Besides my bedroom, home office and dining room, I also have a place to relax, entertain and watch a little reality TV.”

A lifelong collector, Meyers' home is a combination of antiques, modern furnishes,



A living room with outdoor access makes Meyers' space unique to other units with rectangular footprints.

ings, and lots of original art and family heirlooms — like a pair of blown-glass swords inherited from her father. “I had them mounted and framed with the points facing down,” says Meyers. “It was the first thing my feng shui consultant noticed. She explained it was symbolic of defeat and would need to be corrected immediately. I now have them pointing the other way.”

An antique tin magazine rack, purchased from nearby La Pensione after its hotel restaurant underwent remodeling, dominates the loft's entryway. An avid reader, Meyers' library of periodicals rivals the selection of magazines at Barnes & Noble. Adjacent to her hyper-modern kitchen, which is full of brushed stainless-steel appliances and Italian marble countertops, is a circa 1920 Wedgewood stove Meyers uses as a wine rack and plant stand. A nearby Metro shelf, stacked with dozens of colorful Fiesta ware bowls and subtle Russell Wright plates carries the period feel one step further.

The open design of the kitchen overlooks an expansive, sun-filled dining area, furnished with a rustic, rough-hewn slab table and elegant leather chairs that are juxtaposed by a row of gleaming Alessi

grid-seat bar stools. Meyers displays her growing collection of the shiny Italian housewares, purchased at neighborhood mainstay Disegno Italiano, throughout her home. “I love everything they carry.”

But what really attracted the psychologist to her Little Italy loft was the patio. Besides being able to pick a good



Dr. Judith Meyers