

Get any phone priced under \$50 Free!
WITH NEW 2-YR ACTIVATION
Exclusively Online 4/28 - 4/29 Act Now!
 Free Overnight Shipping Free Activation Mon-Tue



ONLY FROM
verizon wireless

Learn More

search site web MSN Home | Mail More Sign In 

featuring **Today Show** **Nightly News** **Dateline** **Meet the Press** **MSNBC TV** **NBC**
Sports

BREAKING NEWS: Authorities say at least 1 killed, 200 injured in possible tornadoes in Va.

Entertainment Reality TV

Categories

U.S. news

World news

Politics

Business

Tech & science

Health

Sports

Entertainment

Gossip

Celebrities

Television

Reality TV

Movies

Music

Arts, books, more

Horoscope

Lottery

Fate of 'Real World' houses varies after filming

Plus: Why doesn't 'Supernanny' film in small homes? Running 'Hell's Kitchen'



Jack Plunkett / AP

MTV's "Real World" 2005 house in Austin, Texas, is now a chain restaurant called Rio Grande. The main living and kitchen area of the then home is shown.

ASK THE REALITY TV EXPERT

By Andy Dehnart
 MSNBC contributor

Related stories

[Is Simon faking his audition show 'irritation'?](#)

[What's this?](#)

Sponsored links

2008 Diet Breakthrough
 Lose 25 lbs- Money Back Guarantee. Available Without a Prescription.
www.Phenocerin.com

XELODA® Official Site
 Learn About A Proven Effective Oral Chemotherapy—Get More Info.
www.xeloda.com

Reduce Cellulite Today
 2008 Cellulite Breakthrough. Start Your Free Trial Today!
www.CaptivaSkincare.com

Prepare to be Shocked
 Millions have already taken this amazing test. What's your RealAge?
www.realage.com

Lose 30 Pounds- No Diet
 2008 Weight Loss Breakthrough. New Mom Lost 32 Pounds in Only 8 Weeks.
www.Lipocerin.com

Resource guide



[Comics, Sudoku](#)

[Travel](#)

[Weather](#)

[Local news](#)

[Browse](#)

[Video](#)

[Photos](#)

[Community](#)

[Disable Fly-out](#)

[Marketplace](#)

[Shopping](#)

via MSN Shopping

[Start a business](#)

Entrepreneur.com

[Dating](#)

via PerfectMatch.com

[Homes for Sale](#)

via HomePages.com

[Investments](#)

\$7 online stock trades

[Career Center](#)

via Monster

[Diet & Fitness](#)

via WeKnowDiets.com

[Autos](#)

via MSN Autos

updated 3:38 p.m. PT, Sun., April. 27, 2008

Wondering about how a certain reality show pulled something off? Have a question about a certain contestant?

Whether it's "Survivor," "American Idol," "The Apprentice," "Real World" or another show, [send in your questions](#). Andy Dehnart, msnbc.com's Television Editor and creator of [Reality Blurred](#), will try to answer them.

Q: What happens to "Real World" houses after the season is over? — *Anonymous*

Story continues below ↓

advertisement

Sponsored Links	
Flooring Contractor	Free Estimate. No Obligation. 15 Years Experience. Financing Available. www.LibertyConstruction.net
Reality TV Character Quiz	What Reality Show Should You Be On? Learn Your Reality TV Personality. QuizRocket.com/reality-tv-quiz
Watch Internet TV	Enjoy over 12,000 + Live and On Demand TV Channels on your Computer. watchtvonpc.tv
Find Houses for Sale	Search by Size, Price, & Location. Find Your New Home Today. www.realtor.com

A: The houses that host the debauchery that is MTV's "Real World" have varied lives once the show leaves them behind. Many return to being private residences or commercial spaces, and some are even open to the public, although only one looks like it did during the show.

Recently, most of the spaces haven't actually even been residential houses, starting with the firehouse used in Boston and continuing with the pier warehouse used for the Seattle season.

[A Real World opportunity that was almost passed by](#)
[At 20, 'The Real World' hasn't changed](#)

Most popular

Most viewed · Top rated · Most e-mailed

- [The 20 saltiest foods in America exposed](#)
- [Dean: Clinton or Obama must drop out by June](#)
- [Police: Man confined daughter, sired her 7 kids](#)
- [Woman taunted into losing 120 pounds](#)
- [GM to cut truck shifts, leading to layoffs](#)
- [Most viewed on msnbc.com](#)

Dating - Get two months free!



Search Jobs



Find your next car



Find a Diet That Will Work!



Find Your Dream Home



Find a business to start



\$7 trades, no fee IRAs

Of the 20 locations used for the 20 seasons that have taped so far, at least nine are currently private residences. Others have been converted to office spaces, while seven are open to the public in various forms. (The Chicago house is a gym; the Boston firehouse is a non-profit community center.)

Two recent spaces — from the Denver and Austin, Texas, seasons — are now both restaurants. In Denver, it's martini bar and restaurant Theorie, and in Austin, a chain Mexican restaurant called Rio Grande.

 Slide show



Launch

The week in celebrity sightings

Mariah Carey signs for success, it's curtains for Mary-Kate, Naomi Campbell displays model behavior and more.

Only one house has remained almost exactly as it was during production of its season, and thus that location is also the "Real World" house in which you can actually stay without being cast on the show. That's the "Real World" suite at the [Palms in Las Vegas](#), which has rates that reportedly start at \$5,000 a night. Since the show filmed there, many celebrities have stayed there, including Britney Spears. She was there on New Year's Eve 2004, when she briefly married Jason Alexander.

For detailed information about all 20 houses, check out the Web site called, appropriately enough, **The Real Truth Behind MTV's The Real World Houses**. It documents the houses with detailed pictures, and frequently has reports about what happens to them after they're abandoned by the cast and crew. Among other things, the site says that the San Francisco house used for the show's third season caught fire in 2000 and suffered damages, while the "Back to New York" loft is "(a) available for special events and short term stays."

Q: On "Supernanny," why does Jo seem to help only families who live in big, beautiful homes? Surely, there are families out there in smaller, more modest houses and apartments who need her help. — *Anna, Seattle*

A: If there is such a trend on "Supernanny," the reality series where Jo

Frost helps parents wrangle their out-of-control children, it's coincidental and not by design. A staff member for the show said they have no such restrictions.

"Supernanny" casting producer John Magennis told me, "There is no requirement as to how big a family's house or living space must be in order to be cast on the show." He added that they are "casting all kinds of families from a variety of backgrounds across the country for the brand new fifth season of Supernanny."

That casting is currently taking place nationwide, with both open casting calls and faxed/phoned in applications. The actual application potential families are asked to fill out confirms what Magennis said, as it doesn't specify a requirement for certain kinds of houses. In fact, the application asks potential cast members to "describe your home," and offers "apartment, house, number of bedrooms, number of stories" as possibilities.

Sociologists might have theories to explain why featured families seem to live in nice houses; perhaps upper-middle-class families with those "big, beautiful homes" have more obnoxious children than people who live in less-glamorous accommodations. Or perhaps those homeowners are the ones more likely to let a television show film them, never mind call a TV show for help with their kids.

Now, go sit on your naughty step for five minutes for accusing Jo of only helping people in big houses.

CLICK FOR RELATED CONTENT

After 19 seasons, 'Real World' hasn't changed
5Top: Our favorite experts from reality TV
Q&A: Gordon Ramsay dishes on 'Hell's Kitchen'


Q: I am curious about the show Hell's Kitchen. Does the restaurant operate when they are not filming and if it does, who runs the kitchen? — Steve S.

A: The restaurant called Hell's Kitchen featured on the FOX reality series "Hell's Kitchen" is not a real restaurant — or at least, is not one when the show isn't filming. It operates only when Gordon Ramsay and crew

are there, and its **patrons are people who are paid to show up**, as we've discussed before. Otherwise, it's an empty soundstage somewhere in Los Angeles — or, more correctly, soundstages, as the show has actually moved three times in its five-season history.

The first two seasons were filmed in a studio that previously housed a TV station, KCOP, and earlier, a number of game shows such as "Tic-Tac-Dough." Season three moved to a Century Studios soundstage, and for seasons four and five, which were filmed back-to-back ("Hell's Kitchen 4" is currently airing on Tuesday nights, and season five may debut in the fall), the show moved again. The new location is in Culver City, Calif., according to **Eater LA**, and it definitely looks different than previous ones, with a more expansive exterior entryway, and a new, long corridor that leads into the dining room.

Behind-the-scenes clips FOX sent before this season premiere explained that the new location afforded more room, including for key components of the TV show: the cameras. Look closely during the next episode, and you'll see mirrored walls in the kitchen. Like the "Big Brother" house's mirrors, they actually have hallway-like spaces for cameras behind them, which is how the show gets great shots without having camera operators in the way.

 SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Do you have a question about reality TV? Check our archive first -- it may have already been answered. If not, send it in and our experts may take a crack at it. We're sorry, but we can't guarantee a reply.

Your name

Your city & state

Your e-mail address

Send

Your e-mail address and/or phone number will not be published. Leave your name or

hometown blank if you do not want it published.

Andy Dehnart is a writer who publishes *reality blurred*, a daily digest of reality TV news and analysis.

© 2008 MSNBC Interactive

Rate this story Low  High

Current rating: 2.5 by 2 users • [View Top Rated stories](#)



Print this



Email this



Blog this



IM this

MORE FROM REALITY TV

Next →

[Unlikable 'Fans' suck life out of 'Survivor'](#)

[Blame 'Idol's' ratings slide on bad song choices](#)