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HOUSE CALL

# No Triplex Before Monogamy

Patti Stanger, TV's matchmaker for millionaires, finds a mate online and hunkers down in a three-story rental with a pink room, a man cave and a no-phone-zone bedroom

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Feb. 13, 2014 7:04 p.m ET



'Pink Means Love': Patti Stanger decorated a room for her boyfriend's daughter that doubles as a Zen office *Jessica Sample for The Wall Street Journal*

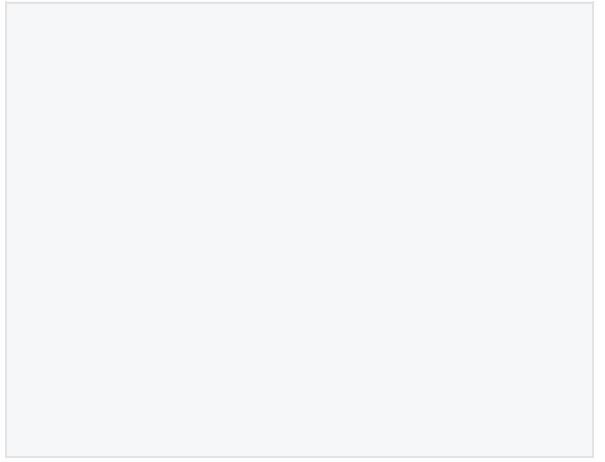
Patti Stanger, 52, is founder of Millionaire's Club International, a matchmaking service, and stars in TV's "Millionaire Matchmaker" (Bravo). Last year, she launched Je T'aime, a costume-jewelry line. She spoke with reporter Marc Myers.

I've always had better luck with real estate than love—until 2012, when the two came together for me. Today I live with my boyfriend, David, in Marina del Rey—a quiet community in Los Angeles. It's convenient—about 15 minutes from the airport and within walking distance to my nail place, my pharmacist and my grocery store. It's also on the water, which is important to me.

David and I live in a three-story, 4,000-square-foot house with our two dogs and a great view of the boats and channel. Over the past 14 years, I've lived in four different places in Marina. As my money grew, the houses got better. But when I first moved out here from Miami in 1999, I was taking a big risk.






I was 38 years old then and had no money. I had been working for a marketing firm that downsized and I was collateral damage. I had always wanted to start a film career, so when a good friend in Marina invited me to live with him, my mother said, "Here's your chance—get out." So I did.

To make ends meet in L.A., I brokered artwork sales and earned matchmaker commissions on the side. Every time I dated a guy who wasn't a good fit, I'd pass him on to matchmaking services and collect a finder's fee. I also fixed up my girlfriends for free.



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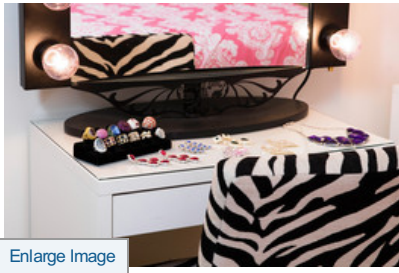
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My mother said, "You have to charge." I eventually did that, too.



The vanity in the bedroom is also a desk. *Jessica Sample for The Wall Street Journal*

I was a good matchmaker and a good salesperson, so I began planning a business. But living in an alcove living room without a door was trouble. While designing my website, the guy I lived with saw what I was doing and wanted 50% of my business—even though I paid rent. I had to move but couldn't afford \$3,000 a month—the going rent in Marina.

My friend told me about a building nearby with one-bedroom apartments for \$1,000 a month but warned there was a waiting list a mile long. So I walked over and talked to the manager. There was one left and I took it. You could hear the foghorns from the 800-square-foot apartment, which was a pain, but the view of the water was great.

Over the next eight years, I launched my Millionaire's Club and landed a reality-TV show in 2008. I was frugal and never took out a loan. By then I had saved enough to move to Galleon St. in Marina, where I found a beautiful two-bedroom, 1,200-square-foot rental. That's when it dawned on me I wasn't attracting good guys out here.

Love is in the mind, and if your mind isn't clean and healthy, you can't attract love. Happy people who are content don't want crazy people, and I had a lot of insecurities. I was 50 and had to get over them. I used the strategies in my books and a month later I felt good enough to anonymously use a free dating site—PlentyOffFish.com. David had just joined and found me and it was done. We were a match.

After a few dates, David moved in, but we soon felt cramped. We began searching for a larger, modern house but most of the ones on the water were Mediterranean baroques from the '80s. We looked for about a year. Then David suggested we rent baroque and design it modern. We found a three-story house with a boat window that was perfect.

David is a mortgage banker and has a teenage son and daughter who visit every other weekend. I created a "boys" room—a man cave where David's son can sleep over and David can work. It has red tones and is very feng shui. But the room I love most is the "girls" room that doubles as my workspace. David's daughter wanted an all-pink room and I was good with that. I had a bed custom-made and put in a chandelier, night tables and a vanity that doubles as my desk. It's my Zen room. Pink means love. David even likes to go in there. It's the love room.

I don't get out much these days. I'm a nester now and love being home with David. It brings us together. We cook dinner every night, and iPads, laptops and cellphones aren't allowed in the bedroom. That's David's rule. I used to sneak them in but now I realize he's right. It's our space.

We aren't engaged but I have a promise ring. To be honest, I don't feel any urgency to marry since we're not having kids. Anyway, the next step isn't marriage, it's a bigger house. We need a larger yard, offices and a gym. David is talking about Malibu but I told him if I give up Marina and the ocean, I get a pool.

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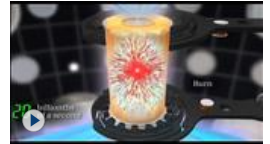
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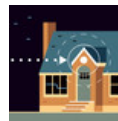
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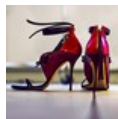
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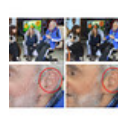
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