

DESIGN STAR

Interior designer Lindsay Pumpa parlays a TV gig into design domination.

Lindsay Pumpa was a young talent with a keen eye for modern design when she joined the team at Tui Lifestyle in 2008 after graduating from Florida State University. She didn't have television experience or even many years of design under her belt by 2012. What she did have was a boss who believed in her, Tui Lifestyle CEO Jason Atkins, so when HGTV's *Urban Oasis Giveaway* was on the hunt for someone to design the condo during the Miami season of the home-design show that gives away a high-end fully furnished residence, Atkins threw her name in the ring.

"I was blown away when they chose me last year," she says. "I never had experience, but it's one of my favorite things that I've ever done. If I had my own way, I'd work on a show on the network permanently."

Wishes may come true for 27-year-old Pumpa, who, after the Miami season received 18 million contestant entries to win the Pumpa-designed home (4 million more than the previous season), was asked to stay on to design the 2013 home in Boston. The extra television time gave Pumpa the exposure and the confidence to go out on her own in the design world: In April she opened the doors to L. Pumpa Designs.

"I realized I could do this," says the self-described monochromatic modern designer, who counts design team Yabu Pushelberg and designer Kelly Wearstler among her influences. "If I have this many people agreeing with the way I design and like my design, I decided that I can support my own business and be my own boss."

While it's still unknown if there are more seasons of Pumpa on HGTV in the future, it is very clear that her 2014 schedule is filling up. She is at "max capacity" of clients around South Florida and has high hopes that good reviews on the Boston season will lead to even more work. She's already planning on bringing in a partner next year to help her company expand further.

"I've been swamped since the show aired," she says. "It's a wide range of projects, but I'm definitely full-time busy. Miami is very design oriented and is still a strong market, so I've been picking up clients left and right."





Interior designer Lindsay Pumpa, surrounded by the hanging fabric panels at the Romo Florida showroom. "I go there the most," Pumpa says.