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**BROOKLYN BROWNSTONE BECOMES
FIRST-EVER NEW YORK CITY RENOVATION PROJECT
ON *THIS OLD HOUSE*®**

**Popular Home Improvement Series Adds
Design Correspondent to Team of Experts**

Concord, MA, Tuesday, November 11, 2008 — Producers of the Emmy Award-winning television series *This Old House* have selected a Brooklyn brownstone to be the subject of the show's first-ever New York City renovation. Located in historic Prospect Heights, the 1904 Renaissance Revival townhouse was a former rooming house and will be transformed into a three-family home. Refurbishing well-worn period details while adding modern conveniences will repair years of neglect while updating the house for 21st century living. The *This Old House* New York City project, featuring 10 brand-new episodes, premieres nationally on PBS beginning Thursday, January 22, 2009 (check www.thisoldhouse.com/tvschedule or your local listings).

"When we issued our call for New York City project submissions over the summer, we received an overwhelming response from Brooklyn homeowners," says *This Old House* host Kevin O'Connor. "In fact, more than a quarter of the hundreds of proposals were from this area. Brownstoners here are very passionate and take great pride in their properties and, despite the economy, they are actively renovating. This project is particularly relevant today, and tells the story of one family converting a former rooming house into a three-family home to afford to stay close to the diverse cultures and resources the city has to offer. With dedicated homeowners, talented contractors, and a wealth of skilled tradespeople, Brooklyn is the perfect location for our first New York City project."

Homeowners Kevin Costello and Karen Shen fulfilled a lifelong dream with their recent purchase of the Brooklyn townhouse. In order to make this dream a reality, they had to come up with an affordable plan to defray mortgage costs. The solution was to turn part of the townhouse into rental units. Once the renovation is complete, the owners plan to rent both the garden and third floor levels, leaving the middle two floors as living space for themselves and their three young children. As the family grows, they hope to one day afford to reclaim the third floor for their private use.

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Considerable damage was done to the 4,000 sq.-ft. property during its years as a rooming house but many period details are still intact. The *This Old House* experts will work alongside architect Susanne Lyn and general contractor Michael Streaman to restore these elements, while selecting additional materials to match the existing characteristics of the home such as a salvaged 1930's spiral staircase.

New Design Correspondent Joins *This Old House* Team

This project also marks the official debut of the newest member of the *This Old House* team, design correspondent and Connecticut native Carole Freehauf. With more than 20 years of design experience, Carole brings to the series her trademark style of creating interiors that are sophisticated yet comfortable, architecturally appropriate, and elegantly understated.

"Design is one aspect of home improvement that we have not fully explored on *This Old House* but we've heard from our viewers that it's an area they are very interested in," says *This Old House* producer Deborah Hood. "Carole's industry experience will bring an authoritative voice to the show that will help simplify and demystify the design process for our viewers. We are thrilled to welcome her to the team."

For the New York City project, Carole plans to assist the owners in creating a home that fits their personality and busy lifestyle. She will also offer advice on selecting stylish, durable materials for the two rental units. Without breaking their budget, Carole will show Kevin and Karen how to make smart choices that will provide a good return on their investment.

Thisoldhouse.com/webcams will feature progress of the Brooklyn project 24/7 through four Webcams powered by EarthCam. Visitors to www.thisoldhouse.com also will be able to access other special features, such as a "before" photo gallery, project overview, and a time-lapse archive where an in-depth look at the project's progress may be tracked once the transformation has concluded. *This Old House* magazine will feature the New York City project starting with the January/February 2009 issue.

About This Old House: *This Old House* is produced by This Old House Productions, Inc., for This Old House Ventures, Inc., and is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Vice President of Television Operations is Michael Burton. Senior producer and director is David Vos and producer is Deborah Hood. Founder is Russell Morash. Funding is provided by Andersen Windows, Inc., GMC, The Home Depot, and State Farm Insurance Companies.

This Old House is the No. 1 multi-media home enthusiast brand, offering trusted information and expert advice through award-winning television, a highly regarded magazine, an information-driven Web site, a comprehensive line of books, a DVD series, and live events. This Old House Ventures, Inc., is a business of Time Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Time Warner.

About WGBH: WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer, the source of fully one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup, along with some of public television's best-known lifestyle shows and children's programs and many public radio favorites. For more information, visit www.wgbh.org.

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