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Published: 06:30 AM, Wed Jul 20, 2011

## Newest 'Extreme Makeover' designer is TV regular



Staff photos by Raul R. Rubiera

Sabrina Soto, center, is the newest designer on 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.' The Fayetteville show, filming now, will be her first.

By **Amneris Solano**  
Staff writer

Sabrina Soto, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition's" newest designer, knows her way around a television set.

Soto is the star of HGTV's "Get It Sold" and "Real Estate Intervention," among other lifestyle cable shows.

For the first time, she is bringing her design expertise and aesthetic to the ABC reality series.

She is joining other celebrity designers including John Littlefield, Tracy Hutson and Paul DiMeo to build a dream home in Fayetteville.

"It's my first season and my first episode," said Soto on the set of the Fayetteville build. "I love this show, and I love that they not only do great design, but they are helping one family at a time."

The "Extreme Makeover" crew, along with several hundred volunteers, has been working nonstop since July 14 on a home for Barbara Marshall, founder of the Steps N Stages Jubilee House for women veterans in transition.



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Evelyn Long, a 96-year-old volunteer and World War II veteran, is interviewed Tuesday by Soto. 'I felt like a celebrity,' said Long. 'They treated me so nice.'

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Marshall and the five other women and two children who live at Jubilee House are enjoying a Disney World vacation while their new home is completed.

"What's so fabulous about this house is that it's not just about the women who are living there currently," Soto said. "It's about all the women that Barbara is going to help in the future and all the women who are on the waiting list now."

The show's designers are assigned to different projects within the Marshall home, Soto said. She's designing a bedroom and helping design the kitchen and a resource center.

She's been collecting pictures of women soldiers for an artwork.

#### VIP veteran

Evelyn Long, a 96-year-old World War II veteran, brought photos from her two years of military service to share with Soto, who interviewed Long for a segment of the Fayetteville episode.

"I felt like a celebrity," said Long, who lives in Fayetteville. "They treated me so nice."

Long got the VIP treatment while on the set, including getting to stay in an air-conditioned trailer until her segment was shot.

Long, who joined the military when she was in her early 20s, was stationed in Florida during the war.

"I'm not much of a public speaker," Long said. "I had to sort of sputter along to answer the questions. ... I got along OK."

While details about the house won't be released until the show airs this fall, Soto said it will be a functional living space suited for Marshall's mission of helping homeless women veterans get back on their feet.

"It's going to be amazing," Soto said. "The plan is to give them a place where they can live, work and survive."

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