

OK! AT HOME

WHERE H

During their home renovation, Susie and her husband lived with friends.

OK! GETS
A SNEAK
PEAK INTO
THE PRIVATE
WORLD OF
SUSIE CASTILLO,
CO-HOST OF
**SUPERSTARS
OF DANCE**



Susie painted her bedroom pink to promote love.

ER HEART IS

ONLY IN
OK!



The kitchen cabinets are maple, with an antique glaze finish.

Susie Castillo deserves a little time to relax. Since becoming Miss USA in 2003, she has been on a whirlwind: She got rave reviews as an MTV veejay from 2005-2007, and has been racking up acting credits on Tyler Perry's *House of Payne* and *Two and a Half Men*, among others. Last year, Susie, 29, added to her list of talents by writing *Confidence Is Queen*, a book inspired by her travels around the country as Miss USA.

Taking a break is unlikely for Susie, however. Her latest gig, as co-host (with **Michael Flatley**) of NBC's *Superstars of Dance*, is keeping her plenty busy. But she recently carved out a day from her schedule to invite **OK!** to the Los Angeles home she shares with her college sweetheart and husband, screenwriter and Web-design-company owner Matt Leslie, 29. Susie shared fun and juicy details about her

Susie says that husband Matt does the vacuuming.



house, her beauty regimen, and oh, yeah, hosting a hot new dance show.

You've lived in this house for two years. Which room is your favorite?

Our bedroom. We fell in love with our cream-colored, tufted sleigh bed. I love the look of oversized pillows, especially on big beds, but Matt doesn't like having to take them all off when he goes to sleep, so we compromised — now we have only four. We painted the walls a very light pink because I read in a feng shui book that pink walls promote love.

Did you decorate it yourself, or did you hire a pro?

I have a degree in interior architecture and design from Endicott College, so I knew what I wanted my home to look like. When we couldn't find the style of house we wanted — French country — we bought a fixer-upper and completely gutted it. Now there are French details throughout the house, in the decorative

moldings, floral fabrics and toile plates that hang on the living room wall. I even found some beautiful drapes with a fleur-de-lis pattern for the French doors.

We also took down an upstairs wall to fit a double shower into the master bath. We like to shower together — it's where we have our family meetings!

Is there anything you would have done differently, in hindsight?

If you want to mask the dust that gathers naturally on your floors, make sure you choose a light-colored hardwood. We chose an antiqued dark one, and now we have to vacuum every other day so we don't see dust everywhere. That gets on our nerves.

You met Matt in college. How do you

keep your relationship happy and exciting?

The key, I think, is to grow and evolve together. I'm not a big believer in "absence makes the heart grow fonder." I think being apart makes you grow apart. So we do everything we can to be together.

You're great parents to your two Chihuahuas, Oscar and Lupe. Do you have any plans to have kids?

Not right now. Outside of the health of our relationship, our careers are priority number one. I've learned that nothing endures but change... and that includes changing our minds. Matt swore we'd never have dogs, and now we have two!

OK

—Jennifer Birn



I CHOSE EVERY DETAIL OF THE HOUSE
—SUSIE CASTILLO

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!

Susie Castillo talks about her *Superstars* gig

Are you a dancer yourself?

I grew up dancing salsa with my mother, and I dance with my hubby if we go out, but I don't do anything too fancy. I joined a dance group in high school, but I quickly became the person who pushed "play" on the CD player because I was so terrible doing the actual moves.

How is this show different from the others, like *Dancing With the Stars*?

This is not an amateur dance show. They're the best in their countries and we're bringing them all together in one place.

What's your role as co-host?

I'm backstage. If the dancers cry because somebody fell, I'll be capturing those moments. I come from the same place as the viewer, where I don't know the technical aspects of dancing.

Any backstage bloopers moments?

When we were shooting the first episode, there were wardrobe malfunctions with the Argentinean lady dancer. I think I saw boobs and butt.

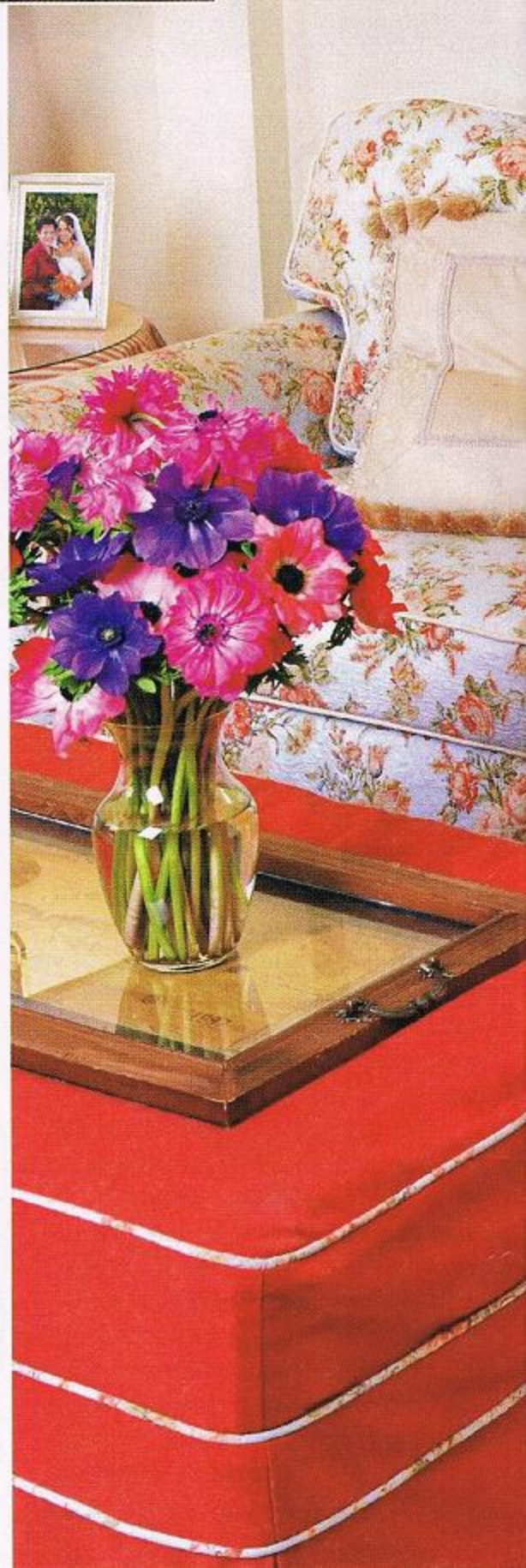
What were the judges like?

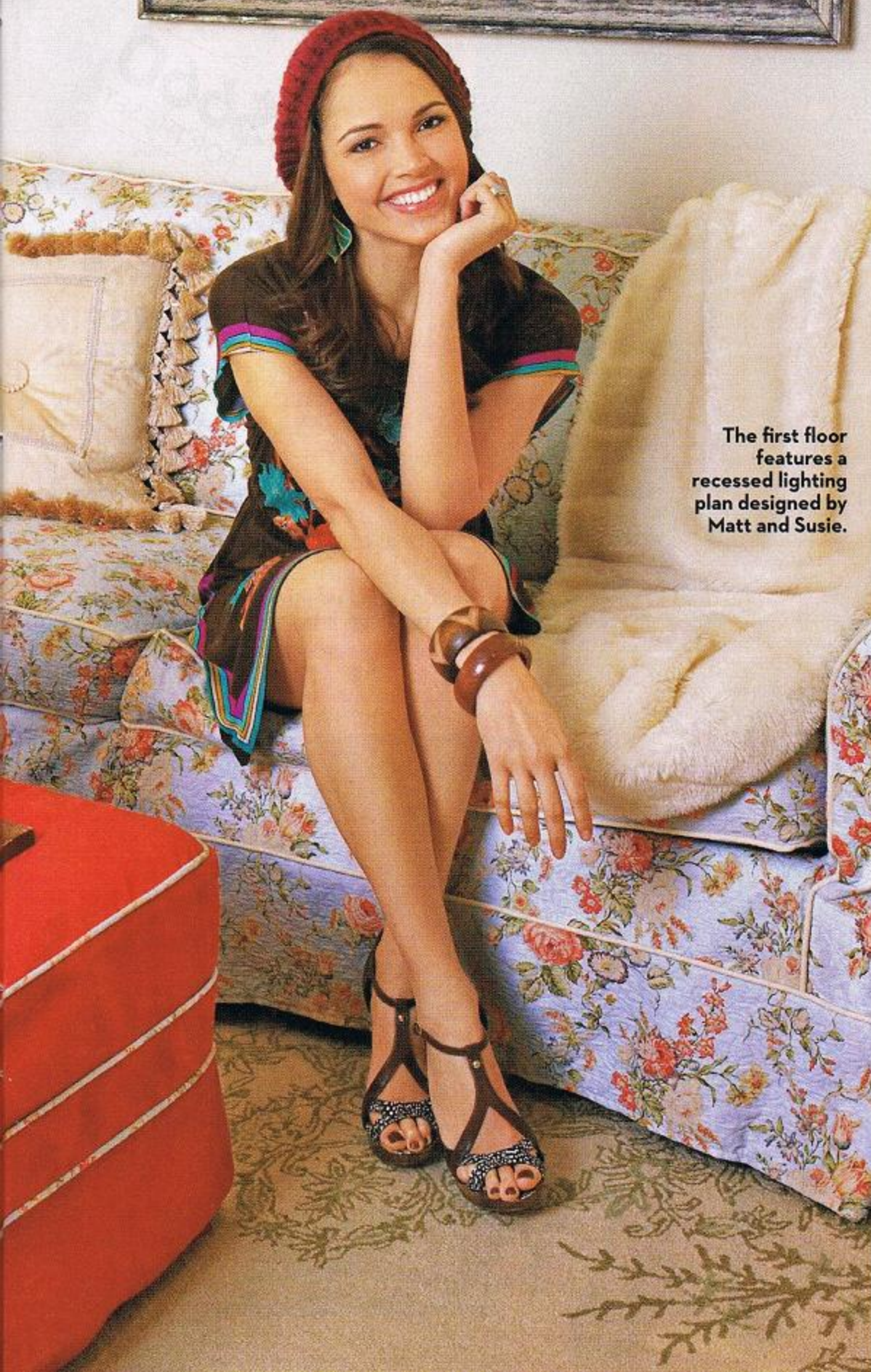
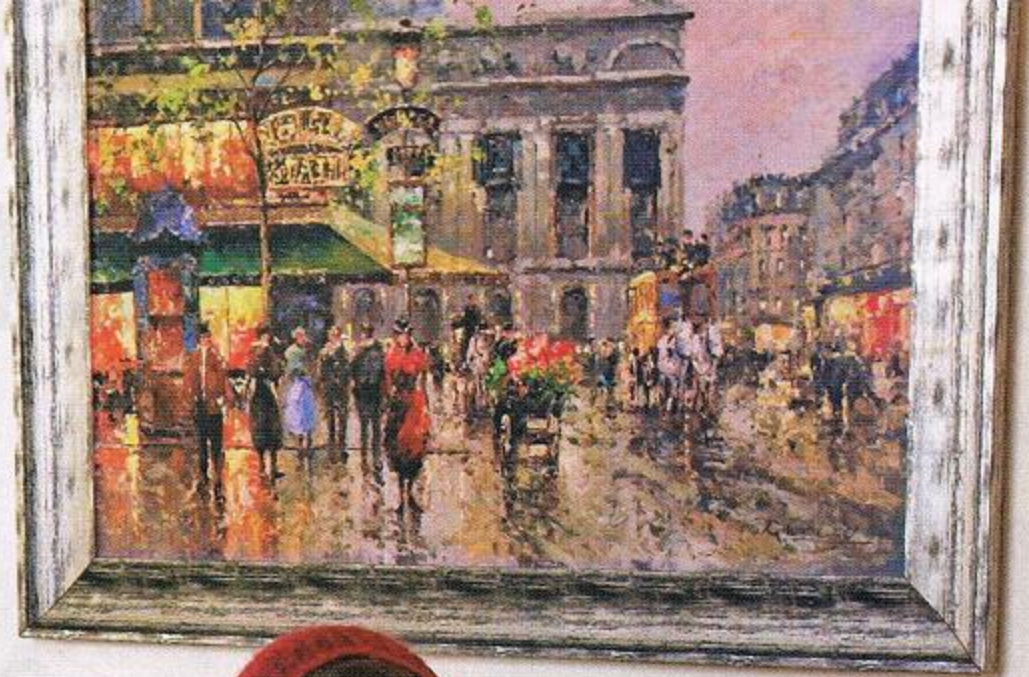
The South African judge was particularly brutal. I asked him why

he was so harsh, and he said that when you're at such a high level of competition, you score accordingly. I thought he was mean — the audience was booing him — but the dancers didn't seem to be bothered at all.



Co-star Michael Flatley is "like a big brother," says Susie.





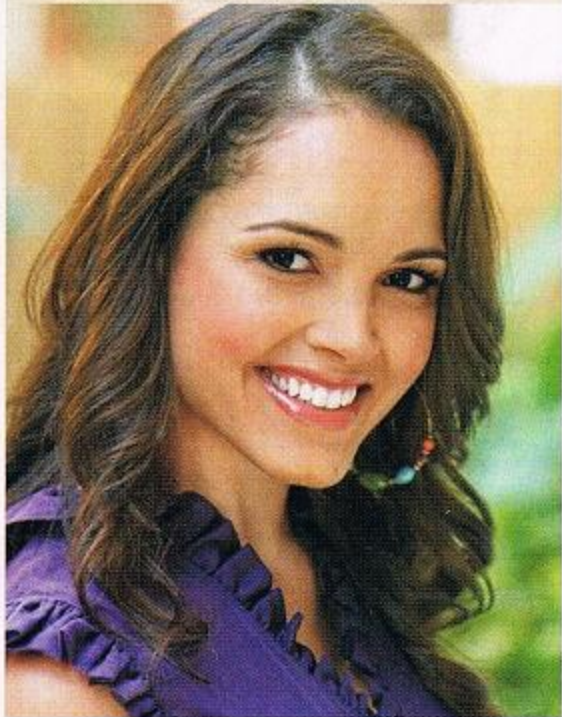
The first floor features a recessed lighting plan designed by Matt and Susie.

A BEAUTY QUEEN'S RULES

A spokesperson for Neutrogena, Susie shares her top three tips for looking and feeling good

1. Moisturize, Moisturize, Moisturize!

I don't want to wait until it's too late to start protecting my skin. I even use moisturizer with SPF on the tops of my hands because when I drive, they're exposed.



2. Eat Right

There's no better way to ruin your skin than by eating nasty processed foods. Check out *The Raw Food Detox Diet* by my nutritionist, Natalia Rose. The longer I continue to eat the way Natalia taught me, the more energetic I feel. Not only did Matt and I lose weight, but also, neither of us has been sick in about a year and a half.

3. Move Your Body!

I try to do something active every day. I don't particularly like going to the gym, but I love yoga classes and going on long walks with my doggies.