



CRAFTY: Tara Dennis.

Artist in residence

If your reaction to decorating and craft is "I could never do that", Tara Dennis is out to convince you that a budding Martha Stewart lies within.

The new presenter on *Our House* has developed time- and budget-conscious ideas to make your pad a nicer place to come home to.

"We're trying to seek a wider audience," she said. It would be horrible if we just aimed it at the really experienced craft people. We're trying to make everything as simple and realistic as possible. I think by doing it this way people can say, 'I can have a go at that'."

Dennis's ideas and inspirations range from renovating existing furniture to making things out of inexpensive materials.

The more experienced craft person can then take the initial idea

further, said Dennis, who joins the *Our House* team of Rebecca Gilling, Shirley Strachan and Reg Livermore.

Starting her on-screen TV career with *Changing Rooms*, Dennis has turned her life-long hobby into full-time work. When she moved to London at 17, she completed courses in decorating and paint finishing. On her return to Sydney, she started working for Chroma, an artists' paint company.

"That's how I got involved in *Our House*. I used to dream up story ideas with their researchers to promote the paints. It's a personal passion which has moved into my work, which is fantastic. It's great to be paid for something you enjoy."

Our House airs Wednesdays on
Channel 9 at 7.30pm.
