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World's ugliest mansion

HGTV may be known for its gorgeous remodeling shows, but Ugliest House in America is on a search to find the most atrocious abodes to single out one winner for a once-in-a-lifetime renovation. Hosted by Retta (Parks and Recreation, Good Girls), the show follows the comedian and actress to 12 different homes across various regions in the United States as they're graded on a scale of least to most ugly. One lucky home will be crowned the "ugliest house in America" by HGTV who will give the winning family a \$150,000 renovation overseen by Alison Victoria. As the event series prepares to kick off, running weeknights between Monday, January 3 and Friday, January 7, Retta spoke to TV Insider about what viewers can expect from the series, her own love for home rennos, and much more. (Credit: Danielle Levitt/NBC) How did you first become involved with this new series? Retta: I got a call. They wanted to try this new show, and asked would I be interested, and having just gone through a renovation of my home, I've been very into [home improvement.] I love a before and after. Whether it's the makeover of a face, a closet, or a home, I thoroughly enjoy them. So, the fact that [I'd get to see] particularly ugly homes become a new and refreshed home was very exciting. Your reactions are priceless to the homes you're visiting. Were you given any warning or photos before stepping into the "ugly" homes? No, they hid me from it. I asked not to see any of them. So oftentimes I was being blindfolded so that they could walk me into the house and it could be a surprise for the very first time. And for the most part, they were all shocking in their own way. It was surprising to find out that some people bought the houses without telling their spouses. I think people might have different opinions. But there was something in each where you're like, "whoa." See Also The perfect show for Zillow Gone Wild fans has arrived. What was it like traveling and what did you learn from the process of this show? Will you take any tips home with you? Alison had her vision and it was interesting to see where she chose to get things. Obviously, the region will dictate what you can get in the area, and then there's putting it together and making it work. So she would design something and then when you see it all together and you're like, "oh, okay. I see." So, it's interesting. Once you see something in a space, you can finally make a decision. I'd like to think I have my own personal style. I have these lamps in my home [that others initially doubted] and now I get nothing but compliments. Every time somebody visits, they're like, "oh my God. Those are so cool." And I'm like, "I told you guys, nobody would listen to me." Retta in Parks and Recreation (Credit: Colleen Hayes/@NBC/courtesy Everett Collection) People know you best for your roles in Parks and Recreation and Good Girls. Is it nice going off script with this show for a change? Yeah. I don't have to spend the night before learning lines. I get a good night's sleep before work [Laughs]. When it comes to designs, who's house would you rather live in? Donna from Parks and Rec or Ruby from Good Girls? Donna. A queen. I think I vibe a little more with Donna with regard to the fact that she likes nice things. I like nice things. Ugliest House in America, Series Premiere, Monday, January 3, 10/9c. HGTV They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and never has that phrase been truer than in the face of these challenging architectural choices. From the gaudy to the downright weird, we take a look at some of the most questionable houses found around the globe. But are the unique or ugly? There's only one way to find out... Ugly home hunter, Hannes Coudeny, started the blog Ugly Belgian Houses to document the architectural oddities that seem to flourish in his home nation. Just like this 'mountain' house, he's captured some incredibly challenging designs for a coffee table book of the same name. This is just the tip of the iceberg! For some, this might be the pink house of dreams, but this old cement home in Chonburi, Thailand, is one that will definitely divide opinion. Even pink lovers might think twice: the house is in a state of disrepair and needs a lot more than a lick of paint to transform it. Another home courtesy of Ugly Belgian Houses. Although the front of this house looks pretty normal, the strange scale design on its side really makes it earn a spot on this list. We can't help but wonder what the architect was thinking when they came up with this ugly addition to an otherwise normal-looking property. Brutalist architecture has always divided opinion. Habitat 67, a remarkable housing estate in Montreal, was designed by architect Moshe Safdie as part of his McGill University thesis. The dedicated architectural landmark, which was highly celebrated locally, has grey and beige modules stacked on top of one another to form 148 residences. We have to say, this one has rather grown on us. Located in San Francisco's Sunset District, this eye-catching colourful home took looking sunny a little too seriously. The pastel yellow, pinks and blues make this gaudy house look like it came straight out of a cartoon show, but sadly not in a good way. It may look like a boulder, but this is actually someone's house, captured beautifully by this Flickr user. Sandwiched between two enormous rocks, Stone House is constructed from mortared masonry in order to seamlessly blend into its surroundings. Located in the mountains of Fate, Portugal, it was inspired by the Flintstones and has even appeared in a Portuguese film called 'Moon'. This quirky property is home to American multimedia artist Ricky Boscarino, who also designed the home. Luna Parc is located within the 8.5-acre wooded landscape of Sandyston, New Jersey, inspired by the Hundertwasser House in Vienna, Austria, and Gaudi's Park Guell in Barcelona, Spain. The main 5,000-square-foot main building houses thousands of absurd and exotic artefacts for visitors to explore. The unique home comprises of a semi-private home, museum and workshop, which is open three days a week. During his stint as Mayor of Suwon City in South Korea, Sim Jaedeok campaigned to improve local toilets. He became so obsessed with his crusade that he demolished the house he'd lived in for 30 years, and replaced it with this toilet-shaped property. Designed by architect Go Giung, the home was finished in 2007. Following Jaedeok's death in 2009, his family donated the property to the city, turning it into a toilet-themed museum. Built back in March 1986 in Austria's capital city, Vienna, Hundertwasser house has become quite the tourist attraction. The expressionist-style colourfully decorated apartment building was designed by Friedensreich Hundertwasser and Joseph Krawina, also inspired by Gaudi, and has quickly become one of Vienna's most visited buildings. Surprisingly, Hundertwasser residents can decorate around their windows however they choose. For more information on visiting one of Austria's cultural staples, check out Vienna's tourism website here. What could be more normal than homes shaped like flying saucers? Known as the Sanzhi UFO Houses, these colourful pods were abandoned for years. Located in New Taipei, Taiwan, the futuristic properties were never completed. Some say this was due to the site being an ancient burial ground, while others attributed delays to financial loses. Either way, and perhaps for the best, the UFOs were demolished in 2010. If you like your solitude, this house is guaranteed to keep the neighbours away. With its barred circular windows and red brick merlons on the roof, the home closely resembles a prison fortress, uninviting and pretty scary. You may remember this end-of-terrace property from when it went viral in 2016. The so-called 'Hitler House' looks curiously like the German dictator thanks to its slanted roof and prominent door lintel, both of which have an uncanny resemblance to Hitler's iconic side-parting and moustache. Located in Swansea, Wales, the property hit the headlines when it went on the rental market for just \$112 (£85) per calendar month. Located in the Mount Roskill suburbs of Auckland, New Zealand, is this Flintstone-style home which was featured on a TV program called 'Ugly or Cute? You Decide!'. The peculiar property includes a four-bedroom, two-bathroom (one ensuite) home, plus the connected prehistoric-style house, which comprises of another bedroom and bathroom. After an unsuccessful auction in October, the property is currently on sale via Barfoot & Thompson for NZ\$618,000 (£310k/\$400k). Located in Poplar, East London, The Balfron Tower was designed by Hungarian architect Erno Goldfinger in 1963. The tower block is a prime example of New Brutalist architecture, which swept Europe between the early 50s and mid-70s. Drab and unforgiving to some eyes, the tower covers 27 storeys and is now Grade II listed. Another questionable Belgian home. The jagged bright blue windows and oddly pointed roof resemble something straight out of a fairy tale, but not in a good way. The layered roof of the garage alongside the main house is really the icing on the cake. A product of German post-war modernism, this somewhat dreary home definitely challenges our 21st-century ideals of beautiful architecture. Located in Galgenberg, the home has distinctive features of properties built after the Second World War, a time when architecture became the eyesore of many German cityscapes. Another shocker discovered by the blogger behind Ugly Belgian Houses, this minimalist building has a curious resemblance to a modern-day emoji, which probably isn't the look the architect was aiming for... Another home that was captured by Ugly Belgian Houses is this unique property. A fusion between a garage and a rooftop apartment, it doesn't quite have the symmetry or glamour of a penthouse suite. This boxy brick property in Australia features no windows and is finished off with dull, off-white masonry. It's definitely a front-runner for one of Adelaide's ugliest houses. This lopsided property seems to be a failed attempt at modernist architecture. The roof looks like it is sliding out of place - does anyone else feel seasick? This angular, bulky and off-balance home looks almost like an optical illusion, with the main body of the building appearing to sink into the ground. It leaves us wondering what the architect was thinking... This flying saucer-inspired property was designed by Finnish architect, Matti Suuronen. Known as the Futuro House, this prefabricated building is one of only 100 in the world. The pod is built from fiberglass-reinforced polyester plastic and measures just four metres in height and eight metres in width. The house is now on show in France in Les Jardins Suspendus and, despite being an acquired taste, has garnered fans from all over the globe. Unsurprisingly, this unique property in Dalat, Vietnam, is also known as the Crazy House. Designed by architect Dang Viet Nga, the building is actually a guesthouse, drawn from Viet Nga's vivid imagination. Located on Highway 395 in America, the Big Yellow Lemon Dome House is an iconic roadside attraction on the edge of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. With one bedroom, the submarine-style property also features a unique garden, decorated with dinosaur skeletons and faux cacti. Developers across Europe are always striving for innovative designs for large-scale housing projects. This particular scheme, located in Rotterdam, was designed by Piet Blom in 2013. Blom's concept was to create a village in which every house represented a tree, uniting together to become a forest. We don't know about you, but we think Blom perhaps couldn't see the wood for the trees... We return to Belgium for another delight found by Ugly Belgian Houses. This obscure home may look a bit like a cat's face, but it certainly isn't as cute... This home in Ostend is reminiscent of flat-pack furniture gone wrong. This bonkers property may look like one of Picasso's impressionist paintings, but it certainly doesn't carry the critical acclaim! Known as Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village, this unique home is built from numerous recycled and landfill objects, including dolls heads and thousands of empty glass bottles. Located in Simi Valley, California, the village was the brain child of Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey, who spent 20 years building her dream home. Rather surprisingly, the village has been labelled a historical landmark by the State of California and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This former council house is located in Kingston upon Hull, East Yorkshire. Local graffiti artists have taken the facade into their own hands, creating a unique canvas. The Bankside Gallery project was a way for Hull City Council to improve the visual draw of unsightly properties across the city. We'd love to see the before photos... Flickr user Steve Baker captured this house with a controversial dwelling on his travels around Indiana. He said: "I thought I was a bad painter but this is one horrible paint job. Maybe the teddy bear and dinosaur helped with the painting. Maybe it's a statement." Why this new build has undoubtedly delighted its owners, Alex Livet on Flickr was not so convinced by the unique architectural vision in this particular corner of England. He said that the area was "home to millionaires and to some of the ugliest buildings in Poole". We're saying nothing except that his house has taken a love of triangles to its ultimate conclusion. Captured by a Flickr user in a Vancouver neighbourhood, this huge brown residence certainly bears a confident footprint. It is positively hulking out compared with the other homes on the street. Also, the random window shapes are making us anxious... The Haines Shoe House is somewhat of a roadside marvel in York, Pennsylvania, with visitors travelling from around the world to step inside this architectural phenomenon. Completed in 1949, the house is seven and a half metres high and covers five storeys. You can even visit the property's Tea Room, located in the shoe's heel. Read more: Amazing round houses from around the world 06 December 2019 Homes See more on this topic Be the first to comment View All ({{ vm.comments.length }}) Do you want to comment on this article? You need to be signed in for this feature



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