

Project Runway Exclusive!

Laura's New Project: Baby No. 6

Laura Bennett's self-described "clean, simple and not outrageously innovative" design aesthetic on *Project Runway* couldn't differ more from her private life. She juggles a part-time job as an architect with raising five kids—and as she told her surprised mom on the show, she's expecting a sixth.

But the 43-year-old Louisiana-born redhead is as calm as can be—an attitude that helped her through the grueling *Runway* audition process (which starts with a 21-page application). "I watched and thought, 'I can do that!'" she says during an exclusive interview with TV GUIDE. "I've sewn all my life. And I thought I was a different kind of character. How many gay guys out of fashion school can you have?" Bravo agreed.

Bennett's already got four sons—Peik, 10, Truman, 7, Pierson, 4, and Larson, 3—and, from her first marriage, an 18-year-old daughter, Cleo, who just started college. With a fifth son due in late November, Bennett's confident she'll be able to balance her life. "What's the difference between a five-time and six-time mother?" she says. "It



Bennett lives in a midtown Manhattan loft with her husband and children

wasn't my plan, but I'm in an emotionally and financially stable relationship." Besides, she adds, "every time we had another child, it's not [been] planned."

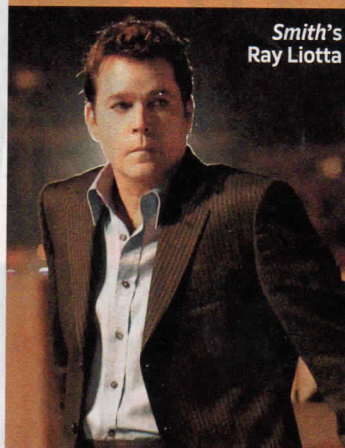
Her husband, Peter, the owner of the architecture firm where she works, is just as good at multitasking. "He's really here with the kids," she says, "and we're doing it as a team."

The real reason she's so relaxed about being pregnant again: "To be honest, I think I kept trying for another girl." Maybe the seventh time's the charm? —Charles Curtis

GOLD RUSH WATCH

THE BUDDY SYSTEM *Survivor* boss Mark Burnett knows about alliances. And so it's no surprise that in Gold Rush (aol.com/goldrush), the online reality game in which he's partnered with AOL, there's an element of teamwork—up to a point. "Not unlike how when you play *Survivor*," explains Gold Rush exec producer Ted Smith, "you sometimes depend upon the collective to advance yourself." The collective in this case is the Gold Buddies you pick, who you can instant-message for help as you compete in the pop-culture challenges. And if you're one of three finalists to get to the coveted vault, you can actually phone as many as five of those comrades to help you win one of the \$100,000 awards, or even the million dollar grand prize. But who should you pick? "You want the guy who's sitting behind his desk waiting for your call," Smith says. "An air traffic controller or a surgeon are probably not good ideas. Video store clerk probably works." —Danny Spiegel

THIS WEEK'S GOLD RUSH CLUE



Smith's
Ray Liotta

"BOBBY STEVENS TRAVELS UNDER THE ALIAS BRAD BOWEN"

Watch the premiere of Smith, Tuesday, 9/19, 10/9c, on CBS.

Info needed to crack more Gold Rush challenges can also be found this week on CBS' The Class (Monday, 9/18, 8/7c), Jericho (Wednesday, 9/20, 8/7c) and CSI (Thursday, 9/21, 9/8c).

No purchase necessary. Open to U.S. residents 18 or older. Round 2 Gold Challenge starts 12:00:00 Noon ET on 9/18/06 and ends at 5:59:59 PM ET on 9/20/06. For complete official rules, visit www.aol.com/goldrush. Void where prohibited.