

NEW YORK

# SPACES

THE HOME DESIGN MAGAZINE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

ARCHITECTS' FLATIRON DISTRICT LOFT

WEST CHELSEA PENTHOUSE

OCT 2012

NEWYORKSPACESMAG.COM

THE ART OF LIVING

\$5.99 US / \$6.99 CAN 10



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# PHOTO *finish*

The focus is on crisp comfort in designer Diana Rice and photographer Marco Ricca's black-and-white apartment

AMERICAN FASHION  
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HANEL

MARION

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50 CHIC  
DECOR  
SO CHIC  
GLAMOUR

INTERIOR DESIGN DIANA RICE / SISSY + MARLEY

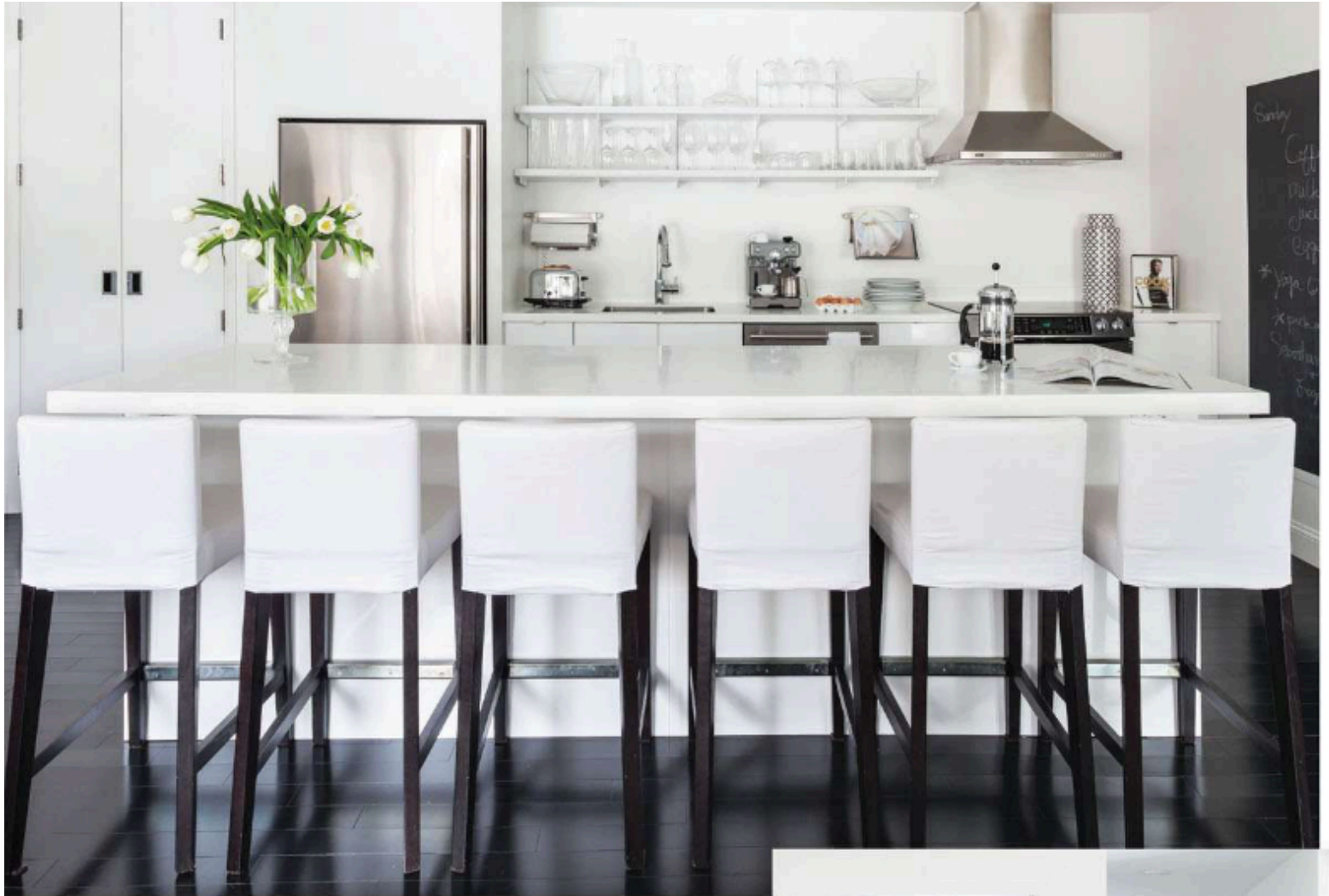
TEXT MARJORIE E. GAGE

PHOTOGRAPHY MARCO RICCA



ART + ingenuity

(OPPOSITE) Books become decorative objects in the pared-down living area. Framed Louis Vuitton prints, culled from the book *Legendary Trunks*, hang from a folding screen behind the slipcovered sofa, by Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams.  
(ABOVE) Round Lights from Moooi illuminate the dining area.

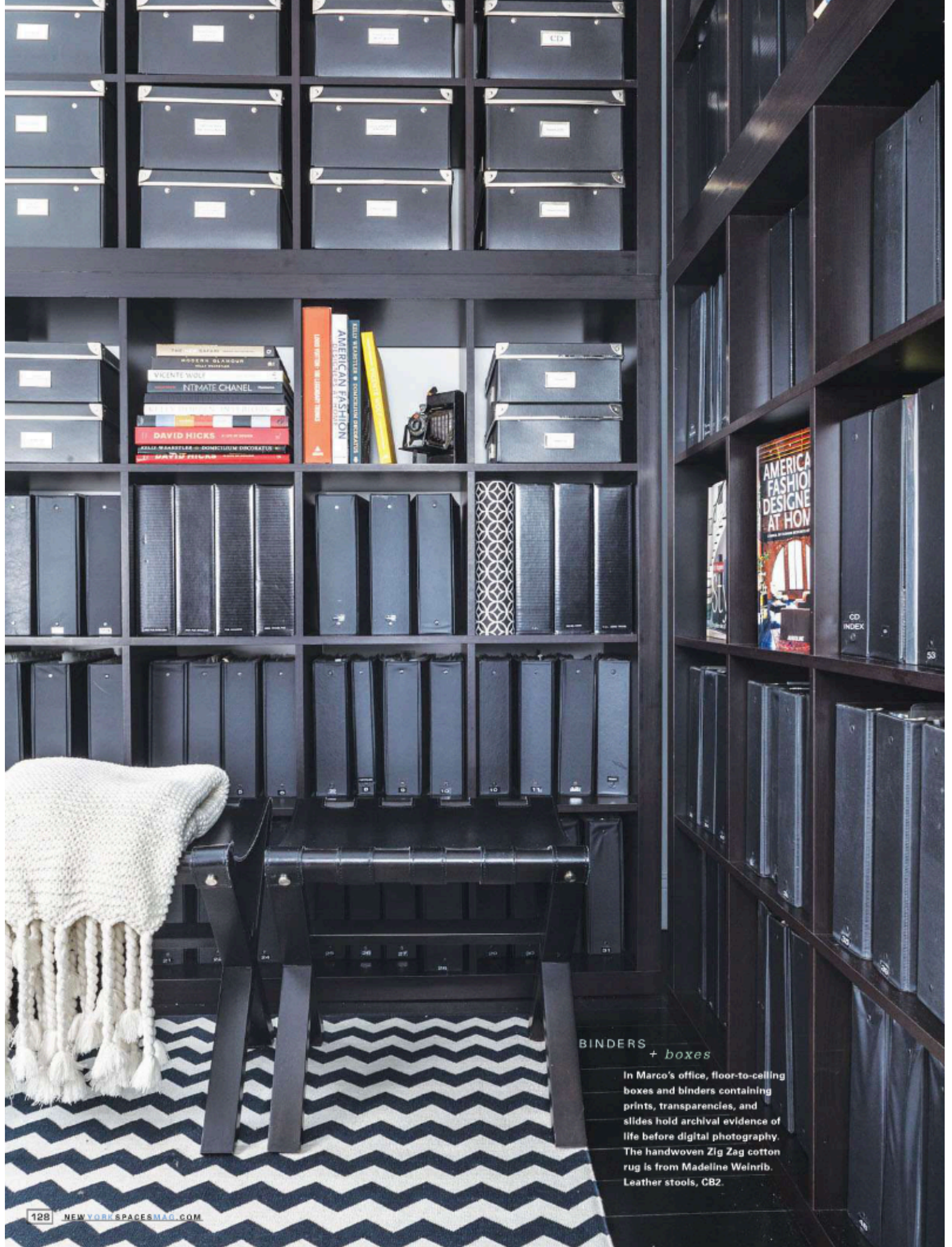


## BLACK + white

(TOP) Glossy white Corian tops the nine-foot-long laminate island; IKEA stools are slipcovered for easy care. (ABOVE) Grocery lists, interfamily reminders, and spontaneous musings are written in chalk on a washable kitchen wall painted with black Benjamin Moore chalkboard paint. (LEFT) The living area's faux-painted "zebra" cowhide, from Williams Sonoma Home, stands out against the dramatic ebonized floor. The gold Buddha on the console is from ABC Carpet and Home. Coffee table, Desiron.



Matted and framed, swatches of damask serve as art on a shelf above the wall-mounted desk in Marco Ricca's office. "Any photographs we display at home would have to be black and white, and we can never agree on which ones that would be," says Marco. Desk chair, DWR.



BINDERS + boxes

In Marco's office, floor-to-ceiling boxes and binders containing prints, transparencies, and slides hold archival evidence of life before digital photography. The handwoven Zig Zag cotton rug is from Madeline Weinrib. Leather stools, CBZ.



## CHECKS + *balances*

(LEFT) In the master bedroom, a simple lacquered-wood tester bed offers a modern take on a timeless furniture form.

(RIGHT) A bold houndstooth-check throw, from Gracious Home, and Italian satin-embroidered hotel-style linens, from Restoration Hardware, keep the look clean, crisp, and comfortable. "I love the feeling of freshly laundered, high-quality cotton sheets," says Rice. "Not complicated, but luxurious." The task lamp, on the nightstand, is also Restoration Hardware.

(BELOW) Another zigzag-pattern rug—this one in soft-to-the-touch chenille—underscores the black- and-white theme in the bath. The octagonal Venetian mirror adds a bit of glamour above the vanity, which is topped with a slab of polished Absolute Black granite.



**IN FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY, CAPTURING A SCENE IN BLACK AND WHITE** calls sharp attention to shapes and patterns that the use of color can sometimes distract the eye from. Diana Rice—owner of the design company Sissy + Marley and the wife of veteran photographer Marco Ricca—knows the same philosophy applies in interiors.

"For our own home, I liked the idea of using white for continuity and black for drama," says Rice. She and her husband both work with a lot of color during the day, so at home, the absence of color serves as a refresher for the eye and mind—a way of erasing the impressions of the day, and starting fresh. In a home that is not overly large (this apartment is about 1,200-square-feet) limiting the palette and keeping surfaces uncluttered plays a practical role, as well. "It helps to expand the space," Rice explains. "It feels bigger in just black and white."

The designer, from New York, and Ricca, a native of Milan, Italy, purchased this apartment in Monmouth County a few years ago to be closer to their growing family. "I love SoHo, but I love my daughters and grandchildren more," says Rice, whose company specializes in sophisticated nurseries, bedrooms, and play spaces for kids. "Using black and white here was my way of bringing a little bit of downtown Manhattan to our new home," says the designer. She also developed a loftier feeling for the space by taking down interior walls and opening up the living and dining spaces to a clean-lined galley kitchen of her own design.

One of the apartment's bedrooms became an office for Ricca. Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves are neatly stocked with black boxes and binders filled with archival slides, transparencies, and camera equipment; with the addition of a small desk and computer, the sanctuary serves as a dark room for the digital age.

"We are at a time when things can be complicated or simple," says Rice. "Marco and I like to keep things simple." — See Resources.