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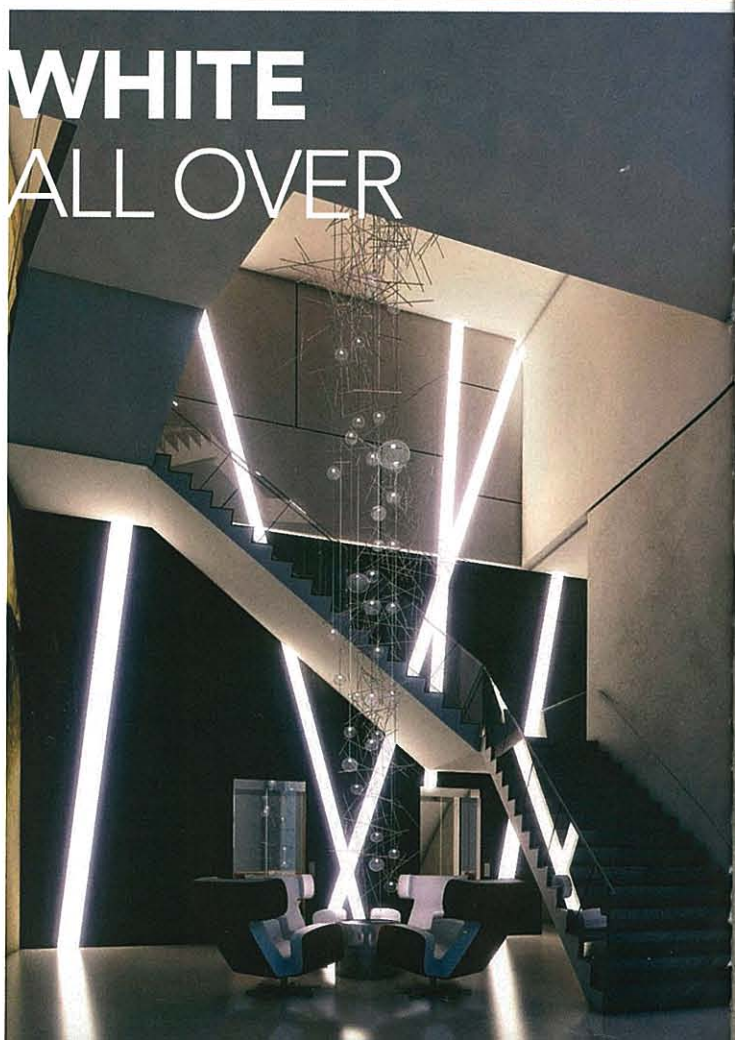




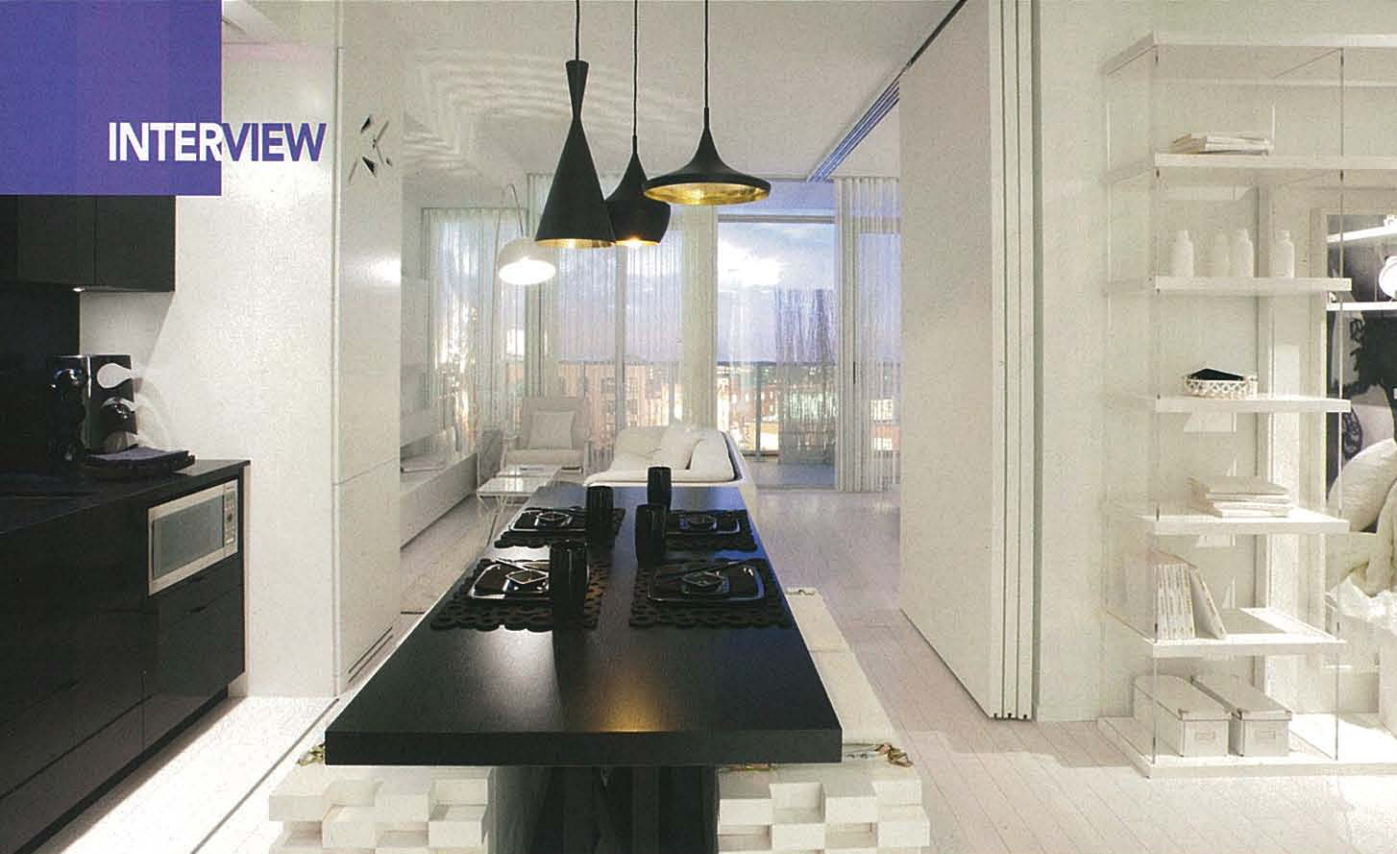
# BLACK AND WHITE AND *elegant* ALL OVER

IDC's Candis Green speaks  
with Elaine Cecconi of  
Cecconi Simone about  
Tableau Condominiums

Tableau Condominiums rests high above the popular Peter and Richmond Street West corridor. The long, elegant legs of the exterior structure by Wallman Architects are a mere preview of the sleek interior design by Elaine Cecconi, Principal of Cecconi Simone, weaved throughout the building; showcasing the hallmark of Cecconi Simone's design philosophy where the interior is echoed back to the exterior. The black and white palette has echoes of old Hollywood, but upon further inspection, one will come to realize that Tableau is more indie cinema than glossy silver screen. The beauty of Tableau's design is that it leaves space for the future residents to decide how they will take its simplicity and make it a place to call home.







## What was your vision for this project?

Our vision is always a delicate balance of working in concert with the architecture and landscape design to create a cohesive building; one that flows from the macro to the micro, and creates an interior that connects with the purchaser. The idea of connection and seamlessness, from exterior to interior, is an important theme in Cecconi Simone's work, through design elements, palette and materiality. Elements such as the table legs of the podium, the Shayne Dark sculpture and the sleekness of the Wallman Architects-designed tower influenced the interiors. In addition, the neighbourhood and locale play an important role in creating a market-appropriate project.

## What areas were you responsible for designing?

We were involved in all interior elements of this project including the sales centre and model suite, along with suite standards, the common areas and amenities.



## How did you decide on a theme or concept for this project?

We decided on a concept for Tableau in collaboration with Urban Capital, Malibu Investments and Alit Developments, as well as with the consulting team, including Wallman Architects and Claude Cormier + Associés, the landscape architect. We began by fleshing out the targeted demographic, gaining an intimate understanding of their needs in terms of suite standards, common areas and amenities.

## Once you identified your target demographic, how did you tailor the design of the interiors to the aesthetic of the young, urban city dweller?

We recognized that the residents of Tableau would be individuals who would have an appreciation for design, so we wanted to address that. The interiors, the furnishings and accessories are completely white, with punctuated black accents in the kitchen and bathroom. This is intended to let the visitor appreciate the beauty of the space without the distraction of colour. In the way one views





## INTERVIEW



a black and white photo, the details become more poignant.

The furnishings are a combination of new purchases and refurbished mid-century modern. The living room sofa is vintage sixties Warren Platner in acrylic designed for Steelcase. The side chair is a fifties lounge refinished and reupholstered in white. The den has been customized to function as both a home-office, and guest room with a daybed and library.

### Describe some of the unique features of this project.

The model suite sits in the middle of an all-black sales centre; it is clad in backlit-white translucent panels inspired by the grid-work used on the balconies of the condominium tower. It is a beacon.

While the foot print of the suite is conventional by industry standards (20'w x 33'd), the layout is anything but. The suite is split in half: kitchen/dining/living on one side; bedroom/den/bathroom on the other. Rather than divide the suite with walls, full-height sliding panels are used to close and open the spaces. The suite can be compartmentalized or opened up. Add to this the hide-away kitchen — the first to be done in the Toronto market — and you have optimum flex space. The den has been outfitted to serve as an office, lounge and library.

### How did you incorporate the exterior elements of the building location with your design?

Wallman Architects raised the building up on a structural “table,” or podium, upon which the residential tower sits, locating it above the site’s existing warehouse which will be reconstructed to accommodate office space, the ground-floor lobby and retail. The table creates a large, four-storey colonnaded plaza along Richmond Street that merges with a new landscape created by Claude Cormier + Associés. “Nova,” a 90 foot-high, vibrant-green art installation by Shayne Dark sits playfully in the public square while piercing through the 5 storey-high table top that defines Tableau.

The lobby is located under the colonnade and has a dialogue with the landscape treatment outside.

The exterior amenities are at podium-level, while the interior amenities are one level below. Their connection to one another is achieved through a grand stair, a dynamic three-storey space with natural light streaming in.

### How does this project reflect Cecconi Simone’s overall design aesthetic and philosophy?

Our aesthetic has always been contemporary, with clean lines, simplicity, richness of materials and timelessness. This project has all those elements but is neither staid nor predictable. There’s a freshness in the design that makes it current and dynamic. **CL**

