

LOVING THE SKY-HIGH LIFESTYLE

Condo Living

MARCH 2018

NATURAL HABITAT

Spaces styled by experience and designed for living

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PIECES AND
SWATCHES FOR
A GLOBAL
LOOK

Machuca 101

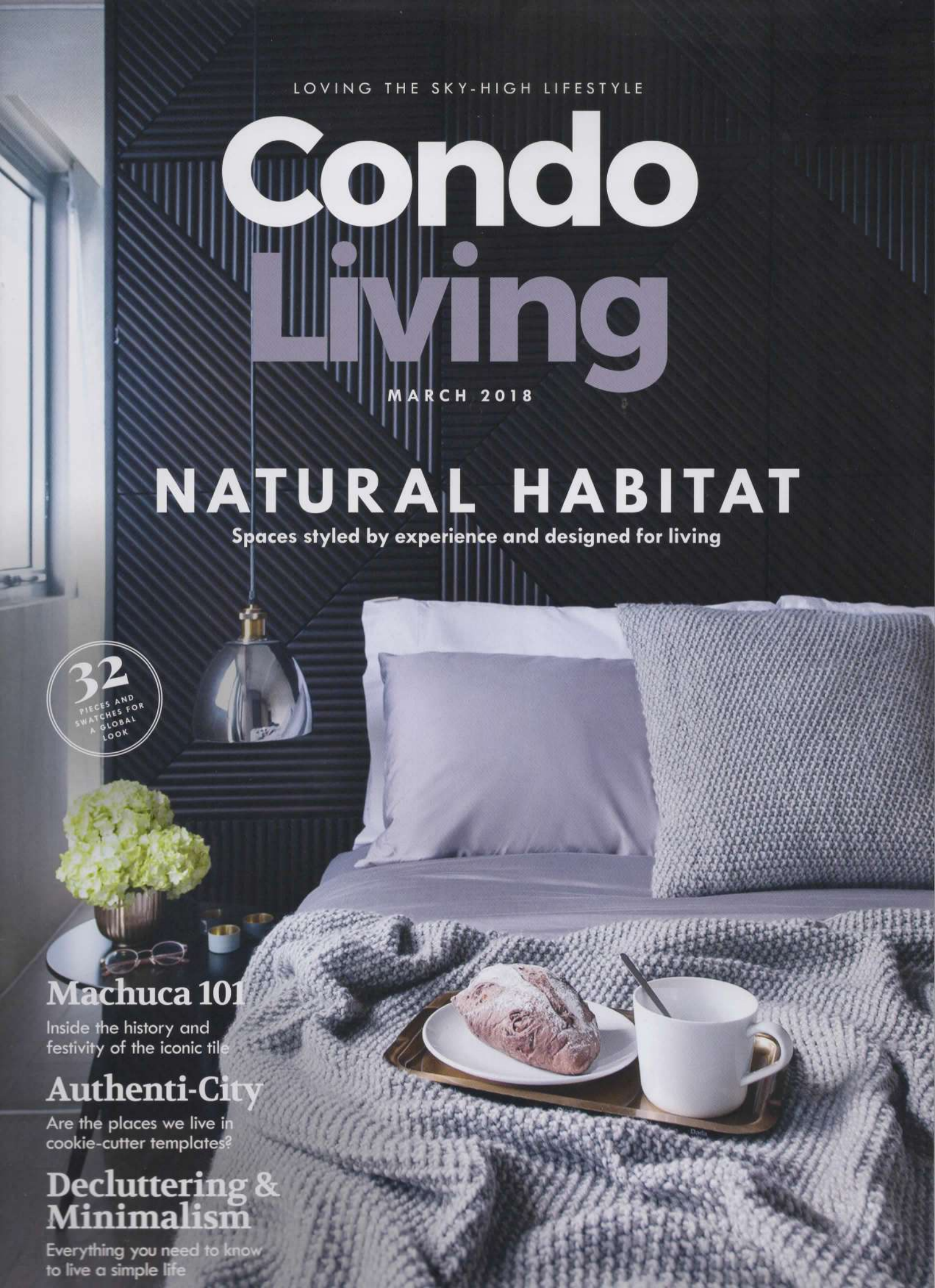
Inside the history and
festivity of the iconic tile

Authenti-City

Are the places we live in
cookie-cutter templates?

Decluttering & Minimalism

Everything you need to know
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Even if the designer wasn't really up for it, the owners requested for a recliner couch in the living room. "He wanted all chairs here to be recliners, but I had to say no," shares Rock. Aside from breaking the aesthetic, two more recliners would make the living room feel tight. Instead, blue custom chairs were added **Opposite page:** Separating the living and dining is the bar the owners personally requested. "He wanted this by the window for the view but it would block the light, so we placed it here. It's practical when he entertains, especially if he has guests in both the living and dining," shares the interior designer

NEIGHBORS

Moving In

This couple's first home is half him, half her

Produced by Patricia Herbolario | Assisted by Janina Bautista and Denny Mata | Photographed by Ed Simon of Studio 100





FLOOR PLANNED

To visually separate the dining, it was "cordoned off" through the tile flooring

Initially, the unit had an open floor plan with the kitchen exposed. However, the man of the house wanted it closed off to avoid cooking smells taking over the rest of the unit. Mirrors were installed to make the space larger. The dining set was custom-made by Casa De Dios. The luxe cubic lighting fixture is from La Maison. **Above:** A mini foyer was installed right across the dining area. The artwork was a department store find. "I'll sign my name on it so it will look like an expensive artwork," the designer jokes.

While most would assume that the girlfriend would be more hands-on in the design process, it was the other way around in this case

In today's technological age, some would say that being Facebook-official is a gigantic milestone. What comes after is asking your S.O. to move in with you. For this couple, the big step was to move in to their new condo in Makati, a gift from him to her.

"It was my birthday, we had tempura, it was a normal night," blushes the lady of the house. In the parking lot, he brought out an envelope. "He said he got me a gift, he handed me an envelope. When I opened it, there was a cardboard key and he said that he got the place," she gushes. "When we went up, I opened the door and everyone was there, it was a surprise!" she adds.

Meant to be their first home together, they wanted to invest in it by having it designed. "We want a place for us," she adds. The couple searched online for an interior designer and had a Goldilocks moment when they were scouting. The first one they met was too bold in terms of style, the second was too minimal, the last one was interior designer Rock Robins, who they dub to be a perfect fit for the job. "We really like his style, we saw his old projects and we liked it," shares the lady of the house. It was also a plus that Rock was Cebuano since the man of the house grew up in Cebu. "They would talk in Cebuano sometimes and I wouldn't know what's happening," the lady laughs.

While most would assume that the girlfriend would be more hands-on in the design process, it was the other way around in this case. "He is more *maarte* than me, I think that's why he and Rock got together so well," she jokes. During the start of the design process, Rock asked the couple for 10 photos from him and her.



Since they often have family coming over, a guest bedroom was a must

**ROCK'S HOME
MUST-HAVE**

The interior designer shares that a photo frame is his favorite home accessory. "I can put any item on a shelf but a photo of the person staying there instantly makes it more personal," he shares



Since the couple is fond of heading to the beach, they wanted something that will remind them of the beautiful, blue sea shores



Deeper in the unit is the owner's suite with its own bathroom. The imported wallpaper gives the space a distinct style, despite the rest of the pieces looking modern and contemporary. The vanity was requested by the lady of the house. **Right:** The master bath was completely retiled with imported tiles from La Europa



Upon receiving the photos, the themes were polar opposites. "He wanted something really masculine and I wanted the palace type with chandeliers," the lady of the house laughs. However, both agreed that they want something simple, modern, light and with a slight pop of color. "He asked me for nothing too feminine, but the girlfriend's personality had to be incorporated in the design," adds Rock. Also in the brief was a color palette of blues and whites. Since the couple is fond of heading to the beach, they wanted something that will remind them of the beautiful, blue sea shores.

With these things in mind, Rock and his junior design team renovated the dark and dreary two-bedroom unit into a modern marvel that merged the couple's need and wants. Upon entry is the dining, the bar, and the living room. To the right is a hallway leading to the kitchen, maid's quarters, powder room, and two bedrooms. Rock shares he also incorporated a lot of hidden storage in the space, from under the beds to the top of the media consoles. "The only place we didn't add storage in was the ceiling!" laughs the interior designer.

The couple is more than happy with how their unit turned out. They even point out that they couldn't imagine what the space would look like without Rock. "He planned everything!" adds the lady of the house.

With a unit key given on her birthday, we're almost certain that a ring is coming soon. **CL**