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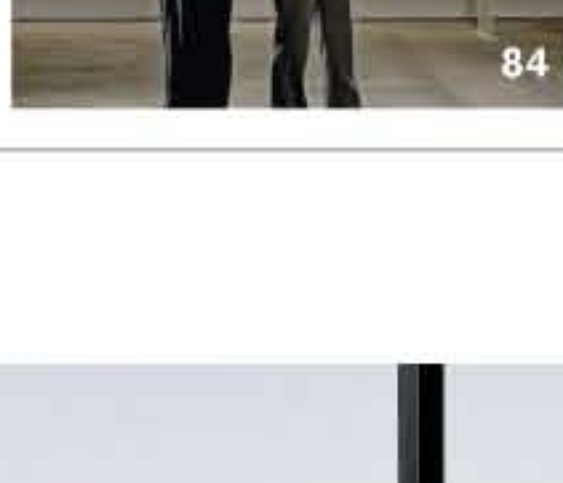
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ON THE COVER

Photography: Tony Solari
 Styling: D. Gaudin-Klein
 Hair: Christie Lord at Paul Armani
 Makeup: Christina Calabrese using
 The Cosmetics of Paris/Armani
 Shocks Color Stylist at Paul Armani
 Photographer's Assistant:
 Tim Nienpfe
 Stylist's Assistant:
 Sarah Freeman, Sarah



White-and-green stripe stretch-cotton jacket, \$2,295; pants, \$1,888; and dress hat, \$195, all at Gucci, 311.864.1504. Cotton tank with front pocket, \$55, by Sane of Liron, 352.587.1808. Velvet Chaco ankle strap sandal, \$1,270, at Louis Vuitton, 312.844.2933.



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Spare Cribbs

A family of six heats up Roscoe Village's city living to the minimalist max. Rooftop basketball court? Check. Indoor pool? Check. All white interiors? Why not?

By Tate Gunnerson | Photography by Tony Solari

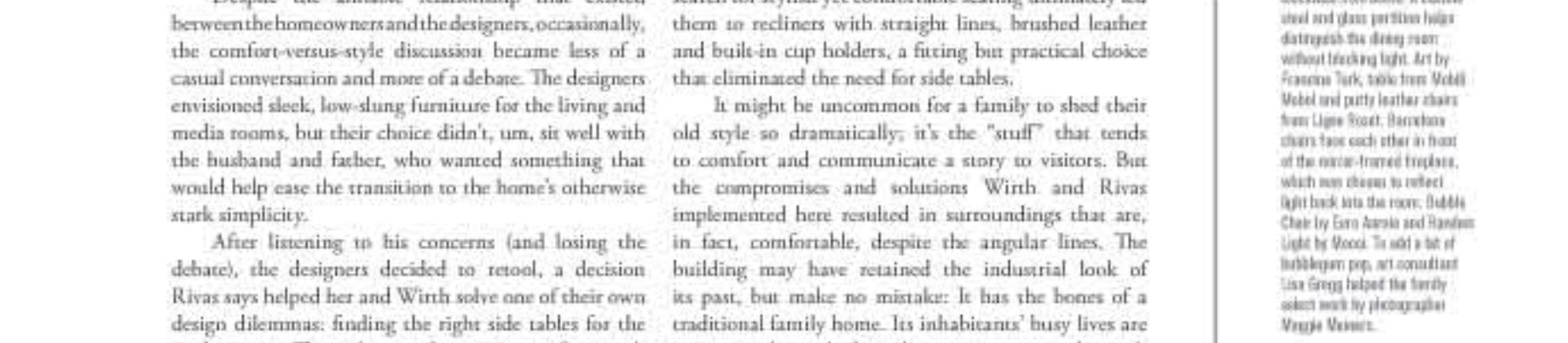
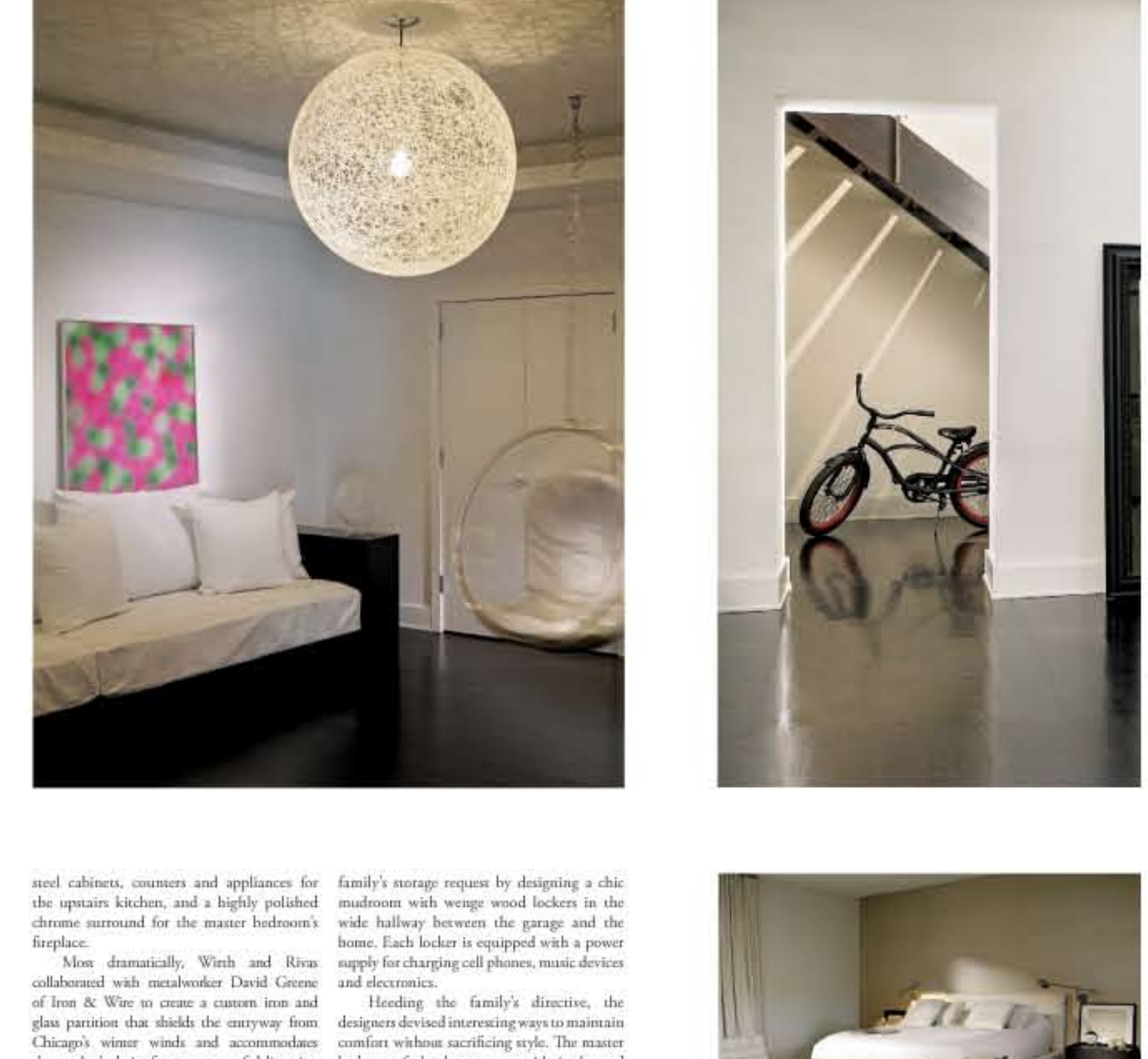
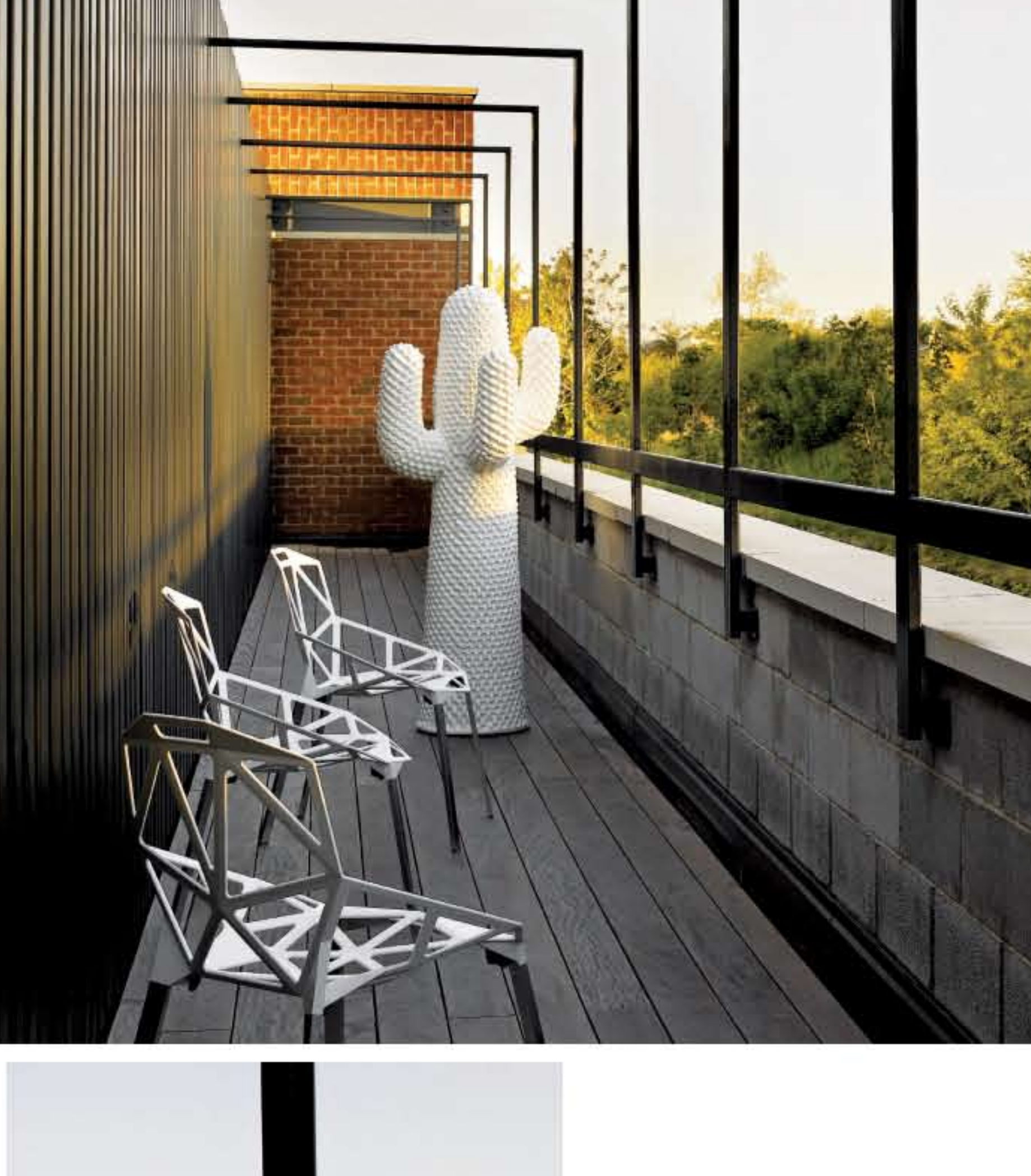
When the busy mother of four first laid eyes on her future North Side home, she asked her realtor if they could skip the showing. The boy, modern structure, formerly a nail factory, didn't really look like a house, at least not like the more traditional houses in which she and her husband had lived. But the agent, also a longtime friend, knew the family (known to have as many as 80 for Thanksgiving dinner) needed space—something the six-bedroom, six-bathroom house had in spades, so she kept citing the home's features until her dubious friend agreed to at least walk through.

"The house hadn't been finished, so I couldn't even make sense of it," the mother recalls. "But when I saw the basketball court, I realized it could work."

Family is priority number one for her and her husband, and they had no doubt the children would love the home's indoor pool, media room and large bedrooms, but they were concerned they wouldn't enjoy living in the home, which just didn't feel like them.

TITLE CAPTION: The homeowners enjoy the view: one of the train line from their terrace outside terrace. Magis chairs and Gae Aulenti and Francis Wolfe's polychrome Corbusier from Lorissoni.

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"I like my things," confesses the mother. "But we felt the house lent itself to a more modern, contemporary design."

To help transform the raw space into a metropolitan home, the couple hired Leo Designs, with whom they were familiar because one of their children attended school with Leo cofounder Georgianna Rivas' daughter. "I just really liked Georgianna and felt comfortable with her," explains the mother, who had also admired their work at a mutual friend's nearby home.

The nervous couple gave the designers few specific marching orders, but they did request the design be as comfortable as it would be contemporary, and they asked for lots of storage.

"I have a lot of clutter with four kids," says the mother. "If I was going to embrace this minimalist life, I needed to give the kids a place to put their junk."

With that, the couple turned their focus to family, work and travel, essentially giving Rivas and his partner

Stephanie Wirth carte blanche to realize their vision.

Longtime friends who launched Leo Designs in 1999, Wirth and Rivas had been looking for a project to push them out of their comfort zone, and they'd never tackled a truly modern design. Embracing the challenge, the designers envisioned a stark palette using shades of black, white and sand, a color scheme they picked up on the home's art: a large piece by artist Francine Tank that hangs in the entry and black and white charcoal from Chicago Art Source that add texture and a sort of controlled chaos to the otherwise austere living room.

The designers chose Jean-Marie Wastaud's polished chrome Cubik lamps from Luminaire for the living room. The fixtures' rectangular shades work with the angular furniture to echo the home's long, horizontal walls. Wirth and Rivas repeat the theme of metal elements throughout the house; in addition to the lamps and light fixtures, the designers selected stainless

steel cabinets, counters and appliances for the upstairs kitchen, and a highly polished chrome surround for the master bedroom's fireplace.

After dramatically, Wirth and Rivas collaborated with metalworker David Greene of Iron & Wire to create a custom iron and glass partition that shields the entryway from Chicago's winter winds and accommodates the mother's desire for some sort of delineation between the front door and the rest of the home.

"I like a breeze way," explains the mother. "This was the perfect way to keep it open yet create a separation and keep it interesting."

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