

DEE DEE RULES: NYC

LIFE, LOVE AND DESIGN

10 ways to move beyond
fear and become fabulous

365 interior design rules to
create the home you love



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CONTENTS

1. EMBRACE YOUR AGE
2. LISTEN TO THE VOICE IN YOUR GUT NOT YOUR HEAD
3. FEAR IS ONLY IN THE MIND
4. O.K. FEAR IS NOT SEXY
5. STORAGE IS CHEAPER THAN QUITTING YOUR DREAMS
6. DRESS THE PART UNTIL YOU FEEL THE PART
7. IT'S THE 21ST CENTURY RENAISSANCE, WOMEN ARE ALL AROUND US
8. BEING SCARED IS O.K.
9. LIFE
10. NOTHING TO LOSE

One Magical Year of Living

"A lot of it was great; and then there is life, right."

Dee Dee Taylor Eustace
Aka
Karen Anne Eustace
Dee Dee Taylor Hannah

365 RULES

365 Rules to create the home you love

There is a design rule for everyday of the year plus one extra for a leap year. These rules divide into room categories sharing with you my superfluous knowledge that has been ingrained in my obsessed mind over the last 5 decades. I practice what I preach and lead by example, consuming my world while bringing into yours. I have taken these rules and on a daily ritual written from my NYC magical year of living blending the rules with my year of exploring me. NYC Has become forever a chapter and in this case a book of my life.

DD

A YEAR OF LIVING IN NYC WITH THE ATTITUDE OF AN ADVENTURER

ALL OR NOTHING.

It started back April 2010 when I got separated and began my version of the divorce diet; recapturing my youthful physique and taking the blonde plunge. Blondes have more fun? I needed to know for myself. With my son safely enrolled in a pre-business University in Canada, my daughter entering 9th grade and my newly found life bringing back the glow into my eyes coupled with a residential project in Canada all while turning 50 years of age. So experiencing the big 50, "homeless" and seeking a new life experience. I packed away my former life in storage and moved to NYC to see what the city that never sleeps has to offer, it's not like I was sleeping anyway. My Canadian office is pared down to ride the waves as I travel back and forth while working in the US. I do admit over the last three years while I have been raising my children and exploring my new marital status, my business became slightly neglected.

The format of this book will follow Dee Dee's Rules (available online): 365 design rules, one for every day of the year based on room typology; meaning where is it, how big is it, and what's the straight line to making it fabulous. I will try to post one rule everyday with a comment and a sexy picture of myself, just kidding, a sexy image of something relevant. The fun part is also the New York Post headline tie in while I am creating a new life. Read on, and you will see what I mean. So, here it is! My magical year. Let's make a toast to New York, New York. This could be a bumpy ride, and even though I grew up without seat-belts and both parents smoking in the car, I recommend fastening your seat-belts, sit back, relax and enjoy the ride - turbulence and all.



DEE DEE TAYLOR EUSTACE

CONTENTS

- CHAPTER 1 | FOYER RULES
- CHAPTER 2 | GALLERY RULES
- CHAPTER 3 | LIVING ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 4 | DINING ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 5 | LIBRARY / DEN RULES
- CHAPTER 6 | POWDER ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 7 | FAMILY ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 8 | KITCHEN RULES
- CHAPTER 9 | MUD ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 10 | BEDROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 11 | CLOSET RULES
- CHAPTER 12 | BATHROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 13 | KIDS PLAYROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 14 | BILLIARD ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 15 | WINE CELLAR RULES
- CHAPTER 16 | THEATRE ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 17 | CRAFT ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 18 | LAUNDRY ROOM RULES
- CHAPTER 19 | GYM RULES
- CHAPTER 20 | GARAGE RULES
- CHAPTER 21 | OUTDOOR LIVING RULES





Chapter I

Foyer Rules

In the past when someone would tell me that they were writing a book about their life; I would think to myself: "Who is ever going to read that." So as I sit looking out of my fully articulated bay windows on the third floor of a brownstone at 80th Street and Madison in NYC complete with hidden shutters, while having a Jessica Parker "Carrie Bradshaw", Sex in the City moment - I ponder the same question. Why the "frig" would anyone read anything about my life? That is when the thought strikes home. How many people change their life a full 180 degrees at 50 years of age, makes the move to another country, land in New York City and starts all over!? Plus, my first life rule is not caring about what "they" might think, is a recipe for disaster at best.



RULE #1 ALWAYS REFER BACK TO YOUR RULES

"When in doubt you have the game plan. I always say Picasso could have never painted cubism if he didn't know how to paint a perfect still life."

PUSSY RIOT!

Kittens halt subway for two hours (New York Post)

"The day our lease starts two little kittens sleep on the track; we are on our way New York City!"

It's another long weekend, Labour Day to be exact. We are up in cottage country, Stoney Lake Canada, just three days before we embark with dogs in tow, minimal luggage and NYC as final destination. I have gathered many life experiences and now I am going to mix them together to create something new and exciting. We have fresh visas in our passports after our whirlwind visit to Buffalo. The border humour was non-existent as my interviewer was quiet as a winter morning on a frozen lake. I was told by my California lawyers to be chatty if inspector is chatty and to not speak if the inspector is quiet: a hard rule for me to follow.

My island and Stoney Lake always manages to give me a sense of peace and courage. My son, daughter and I, along with the two dogs crossed the lake from mainland to island sanctuary for the end of the summer. Stocking up on wine and food, we then wrap it up a few days later. The thought of moving to a new country could be daunting but I won't let it be. I have recently begun to just grab each day and deal with what is on my plate one meal at a time, digesting it and chewing all my bites. There is always, hopefully, tomorrow. Tonight: bliss surrounded by stars, the ones above in the pitch black of silent space.



RULE #2 INDOOR DOORMATS MUST BE LARGE ENOUGH FOR FOOTWEAR, LOW ENOUGH TO CLEAR UNDERNEATH THE DOOR AND MUST LOOK FANTASTIC. TRY A PERSIAN RUG! THEY HIDE YOUR DIRT IN THEIR SILK PATTERN.

"Use doormats inside front door and outside. I am not removing my shoes if I am visiting your home!" So help me to help you.

426 CHILDREN (New York Post)

"Life can be so unfair; I am so lucky, I must recognize this always. When faced with death, we must find life."

It is an interesting day for m---Sleep does not come that easily this evening, as I want to soak up every last drop of this "Island Girl" energy. My view out the window is of the moon as it dances on the lake, the air refreshingly still. The exterior staircase that connects the two floors is wide and welcoming. I perch on it and feel a part of the interior and exterior landscape. It is a magical moment to say good by and hello to new experiences.



Rule #2

**RULE #3 HIGHLY POLISHED, HIGHLY SLIPPERY AND VERY GLAMOROUS!
YOUR FOYER FLOOR SHOULD ALWAYS SPARKLE.**

“Remember you only get one shot at a first impression. A foyer is your handshake; look straight in their eyes and always a firm grip not a limp wrist.” So remember the three S(s) Sparkle/Simple/Shine.

The BUCK DOES NOT STOP here.
Obama punts on Syria. (New York Post)

“It is not easy being a super power, regardless of how big your budget is.”



Even though I have steady help at the cottage (well sort of, depending on the schedule of my “Girl Friday”, which can really be any day of the week and at any hour) my cottage remains a nautical jewel that is kept sparkling at all times. Everything is unpacked in the spring, cleaned, loved for a season and packed away for the cold winter. Some would say this is due to my OCD but for me it is simply common-sense.

With my mind focused on the daunting task ahead, which consists of: removing myself, my daughter, the two dogs and our possessions from my island retreat. I focus and apply my stubborn determination. Though easier said than done, as all of this must be loaded onto a boat then carried to a car after docking. This requires a little bit more than just mental concentration and creative efforts.

The day is way too beautiful to hop into the car right away so as it stretches before me; I putter - think about my wardrobe of course. I cross the lake to my girlfriend’s tennis court. The grounds are equipped with speakers and “Good Morning Sunshine” plays as I whack the ball while challenging the South American tennis pro on the other side of the net. He has been a constant for years, humorous and charming, apparently never coming back. However each summer, he is like a fresh bloom of a summer flower, thankfully present.

The remainder of my thoughts are focused on something more mundane but equally important: what (clothing) to bring to NYC and what to leave at the cottage? I have been forewarned, “no short shorts in NYC” by my loving fashion minded girlfriends. I must look polished at all times. I know I am not 20, 30 or 40, but I am definitely not “old” - either in mind or body. I am excitedly (like a school girl at a prom) ready to make a polished first impression on my new beau, Mr. NYC.

**RULE #4 A MIRROR IN THE FOYER IS A MUST-HAVE FOR THAT LAST GLANCE
BEFORE ROMANCE! ALWAYS PLACE ACCESSORIES ON EITHER SIDE OF
THE MIRROR. ACCESSORIES CAN BE CANDELABRAS (WITH DRIP-LESS
CANDLES PLEASE) NO DRIPS IN THE FOYER.**

“Mirror, mirror on the wall, should you be big, or should you be small!”

BAD TRIP
Drug-OD nightmare at NYC music fest. (New York Post)
“To OD or not to OD (on work). Not good for business: bad idea anyway you look at it.”



Reflecting on the years in Toronto while having breakfast with my ex-husband prior to flying to NYC, I really don’t have regrets. I am quite emotionless, because you never really say good-bye (to the ex). It is actually pleasant and he, being a gentleman, pays the bill. He is unable to comprehend the details or logistics required to get oneself to Manhattan, let-alone with a heap of lady luggage and two dogs in tow.

As the saying goes “the past is done and gone” and I am good with this. To me, the future is endless and filled with possibilities. It took a little convincing to get the ride from him over to the airport via the water ferry in my car and I could sense his frustration kicking in. My last glance at him was a good one, great natural lighting provided by that perfect overcast sky. I looked radiant. It was a good way to say goodbye.

After an official weigh in of the two dogs we were on the plane, exhausted but relieved. Who knew that dog’s weights were restricted in those doggie carry ons? With our driver waiting at the other end, forms filled out and the customs line crossed, I enter New York; all in a day’s work. Even though I have been to this City of Dreams countless times before, I have a feeling like this is the first time.

Yes, I had an apartment but no, it did not have any furniture and so I found myself at the Carlyle Hotel, two tired dogs and all. After settling the dogs in their personalized dog beds I am off to explore my little slice of NYC, starting with the restaurants. Amaranth at 62nd Street and Madison was a perfect start with it’s long narrow intimate room and fabulous Italian food. The location is walkable to the hotel and our new apartment, just a mere fourteen blocks away. Yes I did say fourteen blocks but in NYC even fourteen blocks is a joy. I am here, I feel blessed and ready for a new day and a new challenge.

RULE #5 PANELIZE YOUR WALL FOR WEAR AND TEAR THEN INSERT PRECIOUS WALLPAPER. WHETHER IT'S SILK OR LACQUERED, IT'S YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION.

"The panel minimizes the expense of actual paper and if you want to change the look you only need to inside panel. Smart, stylish and economical!!"

FRENEMIES

McCain backs bitter foe Bam's call to strike Syria (New York Post)
"Rallying together from opposites sides, doesn't always help."

It was my daughter's first day of school meeting all these new girls, so with a big hello/how are you we all embarked from the Carlyle Hotel. That was how I began my day: get up, walk dogs, feed dogs, walk daughter to school with dogs, only to get back to get myself organized. I have never had the opportunity to walk her to school every day and this was going to be one of my main events each day. A precious moment of five blocks every day to keep the connection and share our bond. We had no idea of what the city would present to us but right now I was trying to figure out how to make the dogs do their business on concrete and what does "Curb your Dog" mean. These sectioned off little gardens were the pride of Park Avenue, stylized jewel boxes no place for dog; we were the enemies of the guards: the doormen. Had I given up architecture for dog walking?

We were school ready and meeting her best friend in the lobby, it was a go. We were instructed by our girls no lulu lemons, dress nicely for our first walk to school. Since the hotel was a block away it was a fast inaugural run. The Hewitt School is from 1920 and is a triple brownstone that reeks in history. The problem is that there are only 33 girls in ninth grade and with the two blonde blue eyed girls arriving on campus (there is no real campus just prime NYC real estate) there will be some ripples with the upper east for sure.

The trucks are leaving today from Toronto with god knows what I have packed or more realistically what my housekeeper (wife) has packed for unpacking tomorrow. My best friend suggested: one Birkin bag on each arm, a bag of jewelry and a credit card, great advice! My next stop is our apartment, which is being: painted, cleaned, light bulbs stolen and a disgusting stair runner/carpet being re-cleaned. My real estate agent is forthright about NY leases and justifying cleaning a carpet that I will rip out a few days later. The best is meeting the Super, I call this game "How much can you pay for a request?". It is good humour, you ask a question, get a question back only to be reminded every other sentence that you are renting. Then it is back to the daughter for an after school Staples visit for school supplies with one million people in the store. This is followed by a much needed glass of chardonnay at Nobu 57 between 5th and 6th Street, a busier faster pace restaurant with New Yorkers at their prime eating, talking and spinning the world.

RULE #6 A FOYER REQUIRES REPETITIOUS ART, SO HAVE YOUR LARGE PIECES FOR OTHER ROOMS. BREAKING UP YOUR WALL SPACE PROVIDES RHYTHM AND VIBE TO YOUR ENTRANCE. DANCE ALONG WITH YOUR ART!

"Robin Thick, Blurred Lines, great visual to dance to!"

HIDE & TWEAK

'Zoo' kept drug tool from cops (New York Post)
"Keeping data out of the public as the business side of the rave helps their own."

Converse running shoes strapped on; not exactly dancing, as the girls feel Gossip Girl is a bit out of their reach at this school. So with less make-up, it is on to the second day of school. The Carlyle Hotel has a polished black granite floor that the dogs do not like to cross. I think they believe it is water, so I am compelled to drag both dogs and we are off to school. Dropped off and no kisses just a nod good bye, I am left wondering; where did my little girl go. My first walk to our new apartment, I decide to walk up Madison Avenue, which I later realize Park Avenue is the better route as a settled New Yorker.

As a note it seems "they" have kept the Starbucks off Madison Avenue and thrown them all to Lexington and beyond. I make the mistake of embracing the E.A.T. Café at 80th Street and Madison due to its proximity to our home; but seriously sixteen dollar a quart for freshly squeezed orange juice! I need the vitamin "C" so I indulge.

"How is that moving truck going to park on 80th Street?" (is all I can think of presently). The elevator is so small and three stories up; I don't need a latte, I need a miracle! Somehow, we get it done. Our driver who I have used for years, has not gotten smarter but brings some sanity into our new life of unknowns, picks up my friend from the airport in time to sit on the one chair that is placed in the Living Room, while I instruct the movers where items go. Never quite clear sailing, as the dining table (that is newly French polished) gets a deep gouge back in Canada while other items don't even make the truck. I have moved so much lately that I am in a self-induced coma that really nothing affects me anymore. If a bomb went off beside me I don't know if I would even flinch; the only good news is that it would wake me up. Where is that latte?! Beds are finally installed and made after digging deep to locate sheets. With the daughter and her best friend home from school, we all begin the transition to the new apartment. The best friend's mom is back to Canada while I am left in charge of the girls. They hate their new school, need I say more.

Dinner tonight is at Serafina on Madison at 79th Street, a northern Italian food chain that serves it in a New York minute. A couple of tears are shed from the girls with big life lessons coming their way. I wish we had a little more control of the situation so the girls could avoid the adjustment pains but it's not possible. Life has a way of exposing itself and others.



RULE #7 THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH DETAIL ON THE CEILING! ADD PANEL MOULDING AND CEILING MEDALLIONS WHERE YOU HAVE LIGHT FIXTURES. MAKE THE CEILING FIXTURE BEAUTIFUL SINCE LIFE SHOULD BE ALL ABOUT BEAUTY.

“Crystals are my favourite, more sleek with less cuts. Even add a little colour in the crystal!!! My chandeliers are in pieces ready to be installed in NYC!!!”

PUTIN ON THE BLITZ
US, Russia showdown over Assad (New York Post)
“Lying beautifully is not always a compliment.”

Funny how this rule and my life correspond: The Electricians are Coming! I have pre-booked all the trades through one of the interior designers who is on my television show that aired on HGTV for 2013 in Canada and Australia, not exactly prime markets. Anyways, I got Mr. Electrician who seriously is a true New Yorker, complete with the accent and big work hands. “I have a work order for: two chandeliers, two wall sconces and some weird cove lighting ballast,” he says in thick NYC twang. Every deviation from plan is a call to his boss for approval and a new price, so Upper East side New York, so New York City.

Breakfast has a whole new meaning in NYC as every corner has a coffee or bagel shop, it just all depends on the hood. We desperately need to hit a grocery shop as you could go broke here, one bagel at a time. The art installers are here to hang the art, even though some didn’t make the truck in Canada along with my sofas and other non-essentials such as a table to eat on. Somewhere, somehow, someone made an executive decision not to ship certain pieces after the dining room table was damaged. Honestly, at this point I am happy to find my underwear. So all five art installers are able to do the job in an hour or two and I am sure I will be charged the minimal four hours plus they will need to come back. Rule number zero: don’t pre book and stop delegating assuming all is good.

My solution today is to take the girls shopping at Bloomingdales to find beautiful smelling anything to get rid of the oil furnace old floor board smell. That medium brown bag from Bloomingdales coupled with a little late lunch at Fred’s Restaurant at Barneys at 61st Street and Madison, brings smiles to all our faces. Those French fries are the best in the tall paper lined glass. Torn between two lives, the tourist versus the resident, I am getting the best of both worlds. French fries plus laundry, it’s good to be me right now.

This being the first day of Rosh Hashanah, school is now closed until next week. The girls are exploring the neighbourhood from blow outs to eyebrow threading and free WiFi at Starbucks amongst the world, while waiting for our internet to be installed. I am watching these two girls blossom before my eyes, navigating a major city together. The plan is to spoil them these next few days before they’re back to school Monday. I unpack, a job I have not done in years as my housekeeper/wife of eighteen years, did those tasks for me. Bad nails and all, I am on it and loving it, sort of. Honestly, I just can’t stop myself; I am that type of person that can’t leave a task undone. So sleeping amongst boxes is a break through for me, it’s a huge step to becoming a fuller more developed person. I am on my way.

RULE #8 INSIDE THE CEILING PANELS USE SILVER OR GOLD LEAF. IT IS A PALATE OF JEWELRY. BUT FOR ACTUAL JEWELRY CUFF, DO A CORNICE IN SOLID POLISHED NICKEL.

“In jewelry, it is always good to have a little sparkle. In life, a little sparkle goes a long way. Silver leaf I prefer; but gold tones are definitely on the way back in. Even copper and bronze is hot.”

CHOPPED
Toy ‘copter decapitates owner in B’klyn (New York Post)
“That must be on the Darwinian list for stupid deaths making the Cover Page, not involving a salad.”

US Open is on and we have awesome third row tickets for the day. I am, again, in contact with a scalper for two more prime tickets for the girls. With a scalper nowhere to be found, a girlfriend (who happens to be Chairman and CEO of WTA) steps in and tickets fall in place. We are at the stadium, divided between court-side and stands but soon reunited in the third row. Women’s semi-finals singles and doubles with Serena Williams in both matches, this is heady stuff.

To cap this fabulous day spent between tennis and dining at the restaurant Aces, as chance would have it we dined beside the New York Times fashion editor and she gave us three tickets to a Herve Leger fashion show tomorrow. The girls are beginning to learn that all these people you meet take you on another path. Now, spoil and moderation, not an easy way to bring up a teenage girl or for any female for that matter in NYC. It is all at your fingertips but now living here we need to balance. This is not a TV show even though sometimes I feel like it is.

We stayed late until sunset and watched the start of the mixed doubles as our driver sat idly outside waiting for our return, Uber not in place as of yet. The dogs are back at the brownstone and my mind drifts as I try to figure out how much mess I will return to. My eyes will never be bored when I am walking the dogs as it’s an absolute visual delight with all the brownstones, row after row. It all seems okay, with the girls visiting Starbucks again for homework duty and WiFi. A new and exciting life living with this big city. How do NYC and I become best friends, as I am with my jeweler back in Canada?

RULE #9 UNDER THE FOYER MIRROR WE NEED A CONSOLE. IF THE SPACE IS TIGHT THEN LEAVE THE CONSOLE OPEN BELOW WITH A BENCH TUCKED UNDERNEATH. IT’LL BE FAR EASIER TO PUT ON YOUR CHRISTIAN DIOR WEDGES.

“I LOVE MY CONSOLES WITH A DRAWER FOR LIP GLOSS AND MY MIRRORS BEVELED FOR GLAMOUR!”
“I have my CD shoes on today in NYC and those sidewalks ate the rubber padding ... click, click, click...I require buster bandages.”

WHICH DOG HAS FLEAS?
Spitzer’s 70G to shady Dem group (New York Post)
“Funnelling funds is not smiled upon especially when caught.”

I am getting ready for the Herve Leger fashion show at the Lincoln Center along with the girls. I have my silver Leger dress paired with suede mules from Prada and the girls are in coral and black respectively coupled with the highest heels possible. We are photographed as we walk towards the doors and the girls soak in their Gossip Girl moment. The colours in this Spring 2014 show are silver, blue and sand with zippered accents. We have special VIP seating located in the back row which completely confuses my group, not understanding that celebs are in front on view while sponsors are to the rear for quick and easy exit. The typical packed house of celebs and paparazzi, is all a wrap in 7 minutes.

As we exit we run into another crowd going into the following fashion show, the previous designer all but forgotten for the moment while a new star is on the horizon. Fashion is not lasting and the buzz is actually more like a constant whirl. We taxi to meet a friend for sushi at the Amber Restaurant at 80th Street and 3rd, all dolled up in contrast to the casual attire around me (but it actually works). The craziest thing about being in NYC is that everyone has history and you check it at the door, start again, build and be good. If bad, don’t tell or simply, just don’t get caught.

RULE #10 IF THE SPACE IS LARGE ENOUGH THE CONSOLE CAN INCLUDE STORAGE. PLACE A CHAIR TO THE SIDE OF THE CONSOLE. MAKE THE CHAIR ARMLESS AND UNIQUE. TRY A VINTAGE CHAIR RE-LACQUERED WITH A FUN FABRIC!

“Today is the women’s final at the US Open. The new rage colour is coral with grey. Try a medium French grey on frame and alligator coral skin leather. Think Birkin coral body with white bottom and interior with nickel chrome. The French call the colour coral Sanguine.”

RFK SEX DIARY
Secret journal of Kennedy affairs (New York Post)
“Who keeps a diary and then lets it be found?”

Crazy, as today would have been my 23rd wedding anniversary, but being that I received my divorce (papers) in the mail, May 22, 2013 - it is just another day now (frig who am I kidding, right?). I did 19 years and still wonder what I would have bought myself for my 20th anniversary. Only in New York do we have fully booked Sunday tennis lessons on the roof of the UN Plaza Hotel that needs to be pre-paid for the entire year (as this two hour spot became available for the first time in 20 years). It really requires you to palm-in and palm-out at the beginning and end of the lesson. For real, close your eyes for one minute pressing your palms to eyes. Painful to calculate that cost of those two minutes; I am a believer now. I think my tennis improved (hitting with a pro always does). We actually walk the 36 blocks home and wander into a street fair which I soon learn is on every weekend somewhere in Manhattan, messing with traffic and street vendors.

I have dinner plans with two girlfriends at Café Boulud on 76th Street and Madison. Laughter is the best drink ever and as I walk four blocks down from our place to the Café I am feeling so alive - high heeled with a sleeveless dress in a fabulous colour pattern and fur trimmed wrap with my hair in a high pony tail. We toast my ex at dinner and tell war stories as one of the other ladies has been divorced for a while. I am polished and feel happy on this beautiful summer evening. Tomorrow throw me to the Lions, today Serena was the Lioness on the court and another Kennedy roar is muted.

RULE #11 PLACE A SILVER TRAY ON TOP OF THE CONSOLE FOR KEYS AND MAIL. ACCESSORIZE THE TOP WITH FORMAL VASES, PICTURE FRAMES AND SILVER. KEEP IT SIMPLE AND DON’T LET THE FRAME TAKE AWAY FROM THE ACTUAL PHOTOS. WHO’S PRETTIER: THE FRAME OR YOU.

“If your surface is highly polished and susceptible to scratches bring out the cut glass with a slight beveled edge. The silver tray goes a long way in protecting the surface from key kisses.”

RFK SECRET SLAMS
Diary Bombshell (New York Post)
"Why write it?"

Our first full week in the city, as there are no religious holidays, NYC is back in full display. Last week seemed like a fire drill in which everyone just ignored the bell. I have scheduled my first PR meeting and will meet her at a fellow Canadian's office in the Fashion District. Scheduling is all about doing so I start the process. My first real day in my new digs and office; I am baffled on where to get dry cleaning done but truly how do you wash sheets without wrinkles. I have been on the phone all morning with my Toronto office and can only hope my telephone plan is real (Why am I getting roaming messages?). My girlfriend is in from Nassau and has invited me to a super cool dinner with fabulous women involved in the fashion industry at the Beatrice Inn. It looked like such a dive from the outside I almost didn't get out of the taxi. So glad I did, these women were so on top of their game and I have not been surrounded by that much creative energy in such a long time. I taxi back up to the Upper East with the Fashion Stylist from Departures Magazine who was soon off to Paris Fashion week. I loved her style: so simple, elegant and cool. "I can do this," I repeat to myself. Keep it easy, make my apartment mine with the pieces I have. Add glamour, fresh flowers and candles; own it. Keep my business out there and my personal life in here, note the actions but not the points of the heart. Why write it at all better to leave a bit to the imagination.

RULE #12 CHANGE YOUR ACCESSORIES WITH THE SEASON. IF YOU DON'T HAVE SEASONS THEN CHANGE EVERY QUARTER. BUT TRULY, TWICE A YEAR IS AMPLE. IF YOU ARE STAGING AN ART SCENE, BE CREATIVE. TO EVALUATE YOUR CREATIONS TAKE A PHOTO AS PHOTOS RARELY LIE UNLESS THEY ARE TOUCHED UP OF COURSE (PHOTOSHOP ANYONE?).

"On the console perhaps a bowl, tray and statue, balance it in odd numbers. You are creating a still life in three dimensions for your visitors."

ELECTION DAY MEMO FROM RAY KELLY TO MAYORAL WANNABES
NEVER FORGET...that the terrorists are trying to kill us. (New York Post)
"Don't live by fear, that will kill you."

My very first business meeting in New York is taking place at 22 West and 19th Street, a mere 58 blocks away from my present location. How long could that take? My art dealer/friend set me up with "My Tuesday with Designer", a real life Woody Allen character who is playing interior designer as an architect. I fell in love with him as soon as I walked into his office. His office is large, quiet and productive, with heads down doing commercial projects and lots of them. His second wife is his partner and she stops in the boardroom to stake her claim; I now love them both. He reviews my work and is really genuine; he says "You are the real deal, you have talent, this cruel city will eat you alive!". I am not even taken back in my pink wrap dress in 90 degree weather. I have my LV briefcase, great heels and my legs still look good even though I was a crazy 45 minutes late for this meeting by taxi. I have to learn to leave earlier or use the subway.

I am toured around the office as he warmly offers his help whilst talking from personal to work to personal life after both our divorces. I leave ready to tame this city (not that I have a job here) but busy with all my other projects in Canada and Florida. The walk home was beautiful but not so much in these heels. No taxis were to be found because it is that time of day that taxis are off duty. Will I really have to switch to flats? Will this city be nice to me? How tough do I have to get? My daughter will be home from school soon and I want to share her day so I taxi up town which is normally impossible to find. I get a taxi; maybe it was the legs. We take the dogs to the park it is so hot and everything is prime late summer. A picture perfect moment and I am not afraid, just somewhat petrified busily placing my accessories out in numbers of three; I really didn't bring that many, maybe in ones.

RULE #13 IT NEVER RAINS IN CALIFORNIA...SO GET AN UMBRELLA STAND. MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL, AND HIDE THE DOGGY BAGS INSIDE IF POSSIBLE. GIVE US YOUR UMBRELLA TYPE AND WE WILL DESIGN YOUR STAND. WE WILL MAKE SURE THE SUN SHINES INSIDE YOUR HOME.

"Use form to define final shape. Tall thin pointy umbrellas, perhaps an egg carton approach, with individual holes to hold the points. Stubby umbrellas on a low tray on a stand or fish them out of an urn. Either way, study the object then create based on proportion and scale."

GAME ON
De Blasio and Lhota romp to city face-off (New York Post)
"Squeaks by with the magic 40 percent, so low."

The meetings with PR agents are just beginning and with every encounter I get a better idea of what to ask. I have hired a PR agent a couple times in Canada and have never been satisfied, as it is difficult to measure the results. In New York it is a complete different story, as I am looking to see what they can do for me and how long it is going to take (seeing that I have given myself a one year window). Today the interview is taking place on 9th Avenue though it is more like having lunch with a girlfriend and the-once-upon-a-time "It girl". The type who is fabulous, but takes too long to get back to me, so long that I question our relationship. A different day, a different recommendation for PR from my Designer Tuesday friend. This one



is really corporate, but we never really connect. Followed by a meeting with my PR Gal loud New Yorker which is similar to hiring a goth version of myself, with a Jewish Mother approach; so not like me at all. Really you need more than one PR person, as each seem to have their specialty. I want someone to exploit me as a design expert not dull-down my brand to design the perfect bowl. Anyone can do that. I also want to start this ASAP but I know no one in the design world here.

I am so not into this monthly retainer thing but it is the way they roll. What ever happened to a percentage of what you make from their connections?! I really just want to make money, I do not care if I am well-known. I get tired just thinking about the push to get up every day and ways of getting business. Maybe if I get this PR person they will wave their magic wand and my wishes will come true. I could then retire...kidding. It is strange to be in NYC on this day, the 12th year anniversary of 9/11. The city has grown and moved on, it is acknowledged but not dwelled on. NYC is definitely a moving forward not looking back type of city

RULE #14 WE SUGGEST SMOKEY GREY PAINT TONES FOR THE FOYER, AS PURE WHITES TEND TO LOOK DIRTY WITH EVEN AVERAGE WEAR AND TEAR. YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FRIENDS THINKING YOU ARE A DIRTY BIRD!

"To up the ante, install panels on walls and put lacquered paper inside. If you wallpaper without panels perhaps create purposeful seams with applied mouldings on seams creating a vertical rhythm. Your foyer will be singing!!!"

THEY'RE ALL YOURS NOW!

Silda, Huma stuck with rejects (New York Post)

"Rid yourself of those losers, even the ones in your own head."

My own foyer is a bit dull and all I want are flowers but so far no vases were packed. So after my soy chai latte at Dean & DeLuca at 85th Street and Madison, I venture up Madison and start pricing out Lilies. I want tall and fragrant avec vase. Mission complete, three tall circular vases arrive at my doorstep, you can order literally a tooth brush here, one light pink, dark pink and of course; white. They are so robust and last for a full week, much better than the Variety Store three day wilt.

Second furniture delivery has arrived, with the missing pieces and the dining room table still a no show. The large mirror is on the floor waiting to be hung, at least I have the mirror un-cracked, (good luck, right?).

Looking at my belongings and loving most of them, I am thrilled that they actually fit in this New York environment, but I must edit and keep only the good stuff, no room for losers.



Chapter 2

Gallery Rules



RULE #15 DO NOT USE A CHAIR RAIL, THIS ONLY MAKES IT HARDER TO HANG ART. USE LARGE PANELS SO YOUR PRECIOUS PICASSO'S ARE NOT CUT IN HALF (EVEN YOUR CHILD'S FRAMED FIRST DOODLE IS A PRECIOUS "PICASSO")!

"Large panels floor to ceiling give that tall vertical! That horizontal stripe is not easy. Have u seen a Tom Ford shirt for men in a horizontal stripe?? Height is HOTT!!!"

BUY BUY BIRDIE!

Twitter IPO set to launch (New York Post)

"This is a sweet tweet."

Doing this working gig from New York and running my Canadian office is not as easy as it appears. I am sure some of the staff are doing their best but it is not the same without the "boss" present. I have to stay positive, keep busy and focused. My e-book, Dee Dee's Rules, is in its final edit and you have to laugh as the editor is still missing simple spelling mistakes. True to form, one of my girls is leaving to open her online store, selling home goods. Essentially based on my designs and concepts (what is that phrase again, sincerest form of flattery?). At this point, all you can do is wish them well and remember they are not who you are. I am starting to open accounts in some New York design stores basically giving up all my personal information even down to my shoe size and all for 20 percent off.

I do my first virgin bike at Soul Cycle at 83rd Street and 3rd getting the spiritual message and a good sweat. This is a nice cardio ride versus the Fitting Room on 80th Street and Lex where it is circuit driven filled with squats and butt killing burpees. There is a fitness craze in NYC with many women my age, pencil thin with biceps and gaunt faces. Thomas Wolfe Bonfire of the Vanities X-Ray's are alive and not well here, with that vertical proportion is the thing with a cap sleeve and perfectly blown shoulder length hair.

My older sister arrives at the brownstone looking fabulous in a pink shift dress and we embark off to The Mark Hotel lobby bar where we settle in with another couple and discuss relationships. My sister can break down a situation in no time, and give you the no nonsense truth as in he is still married and she is so looking for a nice wallet. To end the evening, a Canadian royalty couple pop-in after a few drinks themselves. It is a rich fun-filled night and the theme of the day is: beware of your tweet, as it hits the public market.

RULE #16 LIGHTING IS PARAMOUNT. LIGHT THE ART OR LIGHT THE ROOM, AVOID SHADOWS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU WANT TO GET TECHNICAL YOU CAN CALCULATE THE ANGLE OF HOW THE LIGHT HITS THE PAINTING. MY SUGGESTION, HIRE A PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING CONSULTANT.

“For art, it is paramount to flood the canvas evenly spreading the light so the beauty of the piece shine. The quality of the light source is also a super important factor to not overlook.”

HAVE A NICE DELAY

Subway star wows riders as crisis comic. (New York Post)
“Nervous nellies with all this talk of terrorism.”

It’s a beautiful day and the three of us (girls) venture to Soho for a little shop therapy, but the crowds; I really can’t take it. We finally get off of Broadway, as I spy sanction in the café Balthazar at 80 Spring Street. Frig! There is a line-up, but somehow 3 blondes get a table, my sister thinks she is recognized... the lighting is dull in here, a good thing. Busy, fun, great food, so New York and gives us strength to do Soho, but not on Broadway. We are randomly shopping at Rag and Bone on 119 Mercer Street, and I hear my name, it is the girl my brother met in Greece on my family Mama Mia birthday party; we called her Aunt Sam. Now, there is I think another Aunt. Anyway, another guest to join us for an Italian dinner on the UES in my NYC neighbourhood, we will do Vivolo at 140E 74th Street.

I had a blast with my sister, she is leaving far too soon. We laughed all night and walked the blocks home, our way of freezing time. We are Canadian and not afraid to be on the streets especially peering in all the Park Avenue apartments. Wait until we call our brother; he will roar and have to give up tickets for the Justin Timberlake concert with the new Aunt, bye Aunt Sam. We all settle in for a great night of air conditioned (hummed) sleep.

RULE #17 PULL FURNITURE AWAY FROM THE WALLS TO ALLOW FOR PLACING OF LARGE PIECES OF ART. USE BENCHES IN THE CENTRE OF THE ROOM FOR EASY ART VIEWING. THINK OF IT LIKE A “BENCH WITH A VIEW”.

“Think of your walls as canvases; can you float the furniture layout?? A wide bench that can accommodate people both sides or one that has a back a great angle of repose in the middle. Think Thomas Crown Affair movie with museum scene that you view the art as elegant man steals and replaces art all for you.”

NEW YORK FIX

Knicks shaved points for drugs: FBI Probe (New York Post)
“Cocaine for points back in the day, 1982: relentless and stupid, really stupid.”

There is so much homework in this 9th grade class we can only steal some moments away together. Our first joint Soul Cycle class she is amazing, knocking out those songs with her long beautiful legs. Sweaty and finished we venture to a hair salon on 3rd Avenue and I mean, we stepped out as each of us have a cut and I brave a root touch up, which is not exactly smart as I am now a shade of brass. I will live with it for a few days, and then will bite the bullet for my relationship with Valery Joseph on Madison and 80th Street. This will become my full service beauty bar and my Thomas Crown who is loyal and renaissance in nature.

Sunday NFL Football, we are hanging out it is really our first big relax day just my daughter and I in our New York brownstone plus the dogs. We are two weeks in and just starting to get our feet stable, or for this afternoon, up on the sofa. Soon the last bit of art will get off the floor and this is where our home is, careful what you wish for. We start the routine homework and I get the opportunity to go out to play. Tonight, I meet my fashion designer friend, who is American lives in Toronto/New York with his partner of many years, who are usually apart for dinner at The Mark and drinks followed at the Carlyle Hotel. Wow, this is my hood, we walk everywhere discussing life. Always confused when to split, take or not participate in the bill, living in this modern age: dining with a male friend, I split the bill which is contemporary.

Rule #18 ALWAYS MAKE SURE THE LIGHT (NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL) IS NOT DISCOLOURING THE ART IN YOUR HOME. REMEMBER LIGHTING COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT COLOUR SPECTRUMS. FOR VIEWING ART, USE CLEAR CRISP WHITE SIMILAR TO A GOOD WHITE SHIRT. THE PURPOSE OF GOOD LIGHT IS ACTUALLY TO REPRODUCE THE COLOUR SPECTRUM FOUND IN SUNLIGHT WITHOUT THE HARMFUL, AFOREMENTIONED UNWANTED SIDE EFFECTS.

“Find that true white has more blue; far crisper than a yellow warm white.”

BAM’S NEW RED LINE

Would strike Iran nukes – and this time, he really REALLY means it (New York Post)
“Will he ever take a stand. Sometimes you just have to do and not play around, just do it.”

Sometime last week the Time Warner Cable guy came to install the cable, with that big swinging work belt that always hits one piece of your furniture. I have to admit in my previous life, TVs just went up and on, with all the wires hidden while Wi-Fi just magically appeared. This is no longer the case. The new routine: my assistant in Toronto pre books the appointment, opens an account and the building Super who is not in a good mood (ever) hangs the TVs for a cash payment. Cable guy brought in actual feed and wireless. The Super made TVs work (sort of), with two remotes, wires hanging out at sides which I am training to ignore while watching TV. I barely watch TV because I can never find anything interesting to watch. Plus, with all this new unchartered ground to explore, I am physically exhausted. (Make note to self: find out where the movies and music are located on this new TV set up.) The room has only plug-in lamps outlets, so no pot lights, ceiling fixtures or wall sconces. The large TV is installed over the polished mahogany fireplace acts as a table lamp when on, it gives a diffused light depending on the programming which actually is quite complimentary.

New York is filled with thousands of events every day of the week. Most of them are based around some type of business, as New Yorkers really go 24/7 and are here to work. They are usually conducted by a PR company and happen all over the city. The “It PR Girl” sent me an invitation to Lauren Remington Platt Vensette Pop-Up at Bloomingdales so I invite my younger sister and daughter where we have a quick drink and a tiny bite size something in a roped off area that was maybe 100 square feet. Pictures taken, who knows where they will land, and it becomes a piece of press for all. The concept of this Pop-Up, was come to my house with an Uber like App, blow my hair and do my make-up for 300 hundred dollars. Concept: good, a bit pricey, but how cheap can it go. Glam-squad is just a year out and only 50 dollars, too cheap. We all have to make a statement, how much is our hair/make-up worth? My message, I can’t do brass hair colour.

Rule #19 DOUBLE HEIGHT SPACES THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE LARGE PIECES OF ART: CANNOT LOOK LIKE THE SUBURBS. MUST BE ELEGANT, PANELIZED AND LIT PROPERLY. NO SUB-DIVISIONS IN THIS HOME.

“Try the Philip Johnson approach; book matched travertine double height on the walls with a floating bronze stair that is away from the wall so art can hang with space: hang out in style.”

CARNAGE

NYer slaughters 12 at DC Navy Yard (New York Post)
“Why is murder always on the front cover? It just adds glory, when there should be no glory.”

The art installers are back again, if my furniture arrived (with art) as it was planned I would not be paying twice for everything. I have some blank walls that I want to fill with New York art as the time goes on so I really need to expand beyond the UES. Everything is in this neighbourhood although it is at least double the price found elsewhere in the city. Back in the summer, a recently retired friend was so kind to make an introduction to the Consul General of Canada in New York, possibly the next prime minister of Canada and his lovely (doctor) wife. Tonight they are hosting a cocktail party for the new female Deputy Consul General at their official residence at 550 Park Avenue at 62nd Street.

Off to the Consul’s house riding down Park Avenue, I feel like a high school girl going solo for the first time in NYC, except I am no school girl and my destination is not Starbucks. With “good hair” and conservative, but fabulous tall shoes, I arrive. I meet his press secretary and we chat away, then I am all alone so I turn to the closest man and just introduce myself. Another rule of mine, when alone at a society party, just say this little word “hi”, it works like a charm. “Hello, I am Dee Dee” and they say “Nice to meet you, Judy.” I correct the name only if I want to continue the conversation. It is a great night, I meet dozens of people including the Consul General’s wife who just happened to be a huge HGTV fan so we completely hit it off. Out of the blue, a girl recognizes me from high school days, and after a little Jewish geography I finally manage to peg her to a great girlfriend in Toronto. Apparently, I was pretty and still am, for the life of me I don’t remember her but she will introduce me to my love in NYC: the perfect date, an educated, elegant, brilliant, handsome gay man, my favourite style. I am one of the last to leave, as I chat away with the new Deputy Consul fascinated by her career while raising her children and remaining happily married. The evening ends with me having my photos taken with the young fresh soldiers in uniform; I smile and think where they will go or where they have been. I cannot help but admire them and their courage. Now Cinderella, says the voice in my head; back up Park Avenue you must go. It is way past midnight.

Rule#20 WHITE WALLS WILL NOT FIGHT WITH ART. IT PLACES A BLANK CANVAS FOR THE ART TO CONTROL THE WALL. DARK BLUE OR GREEN WILL MAKE YOUR ART POP! THE ART CAN TAKE ON THE COLOUR OF THE WALL, ROLL THE DICE.

“On the other extreme have crazy wallpaper frame the art w square black frames and create a bit of that London vibe!!!”

SIGN HIM UP!

To honor Mo, NYC should change River Ave. to RIVERA Ave. (New York Post)
“More sports and more sports...”

Crazy, is one way to describe this day, as I am on an inaugural trip to Sanibel Island and back in one day. This is my new amazing race, living and travelling in the same country. So, up at 4am for 7am flight, land, drive, work and reverse back in New York by 10pm to pick up my daughter at her friend’s house. I do it with my trusty driver, Mr. Spanish, who sometimes

forgets me but this day all is good. The other issue is clothing, from cold to hot to cold in one outfit. Layering, but what colour? It is still September so it will get more interesting in January. The house in Sanibel is still under construction, giving advice from roof, pediment to hardware then furniture layout. My mind is fried and hot but a great day using that brain of mine versus grocery duty. I never know what to buy in those aisles after a while despite the wall colour it is all a blur as all fruit starts to look the same. Give me a room to design; no problem. Planning a meal; give me a chef.

Home back in NYC, I collapse in bed and actually forget I have two dogs as they are at Bath and Bark on 83rd Street and 3rd which I couldn't find at first; it is in a lower level, call it a basement with display windows. My neck is so itchy when I wake up and I think there must be bed bugs as I have been travelling so much. I am crazed, searching the internet (for bug remedies) when my client calls and I blurt out my itch issue. After setting up an appointment with a bed bug specialist she tells me they are nose-eums and she has bites. It was like the itch disappeared in my head, but creams with pills fully required.

Rule #21 BE CAREFUL OF WHAT WHITE YOU PUT ON YOUR WALL. SOME WHITES HAVE A YELLOW, BLUE OR RED TINT. FOR ART WALLS WE ARE LOOKING FOR A CRISP WHITE THAT IS NOT TOO BLUE!

"Love Benjamin Moore 118: a cool blue white!!! OC 130 too yellow for today's modern transitional vibe!"

NYPH.D

Profs to advise on stop-frisk (New York Post)

"Perhaps someone in the law enforcement business get involved?"

I am the bad Puppy Mom as I wait until the last second to pick up the dogs from Bath and Bark just to give me one more hour of freedom. As I arrive they have new collars on since they are first-time guests, sitting proudly in the display window (why won't someone buy them?). Truth is, I love them but without a housekeeper or a doorman I am their Mother after 10 years of having them. Strange how I didn't notice them that much before (in terms of work); I bet it is more expensive to have a dog in NYC than a child!

It is one of those picture perfect days in New York and I am on a walk-fest around the city. Up Madison Avenue amongst all the branded stores eyeing the new Valentino Store, a classic Georgian facade. Then over to Lexington, buying fresh flowers that are so beautifully wrapped in tissue. Truly feeling like a beauty queen walking down the street with a bunch of lilies to 5th Avenue with all the gardens and awnings. I am fascinated by all the doormen and I want to know all the back-story. How long have they been at that building? Some gossip on who lives there? Do they like their uniform? How do they do it? The building on the corner of Madison and 80th Street right down from us has an amazing doorman who gets us taxis, pets the dogs until recently when the co-op board voted that they no longer could pet the animals. Would have loved to be in that meeting so my dogs jump up for a pet and now nothing, just an embarrassed man... a new Board is needed.

Rule #22 INCORPORATE MUSIC TO MAKE THE MOOD OF THE ROOM FLOW. PLACE SPEAKERS IN THE CEILING (BEHIND DRY WALL) AND LET THE ART RULE THE WALLS.

"Hidden music is like angels playing in the background. The new iPod and iPhone have put all songs at our finger tips. Try What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong."

FIRING BLANKS

Frisk foe Bill at a loss on gun surge (New York Post)

"Next mayor has no answer from increase in gun violence and no frisk."

My brother has really moved to Toronto but with his boys in New York he does a work day in NYC occasionally and then sees the boys. The three of them aged 7, 11 and 14 years old, miss their Dad but when together, he is another kid... so in fact, there are really 4 boys. The divorce thing is not anyone's dream as we embarked on marriage but with three out of four of my siblings taking that path, it is our family reality. It really plays like a bad song on repeat. It keeps us busy and fully engaged with each other. At our place my daughter bunks in with me and my brother moves into my daughter's room. Much to her first complaints, she actually enjoys hanging with me and the TV.

I book my second flight of the week as it is decided to attend a fundraiser in Toronto. The only problem is every time there is an event we start the bid for auction items and end up with many wild adventures we must remember to use them. With this flight booked I need to plan out my daughter/dogs next two days. Tonight we venture over to Broadway Dance School at 45th Street and 9th to buy booty shorts for her first Saturday dance class which is located beside a strip club. The great, the bad and the ugly all in one block. How does a 14 year girl navigate this? From the protected tree lined streets of Toronto, to Times Square, she is my daughter and seizes it buying the booty shorts. And for the record, no one is liking the new proposed mayor on my side of the Park.

Rule#23 FLOORING IS OPTIONAL HERE, USE WOOD WITH AREA RUGS TO CONTINUE THE ELEGANCE OF THE ROOM. THE CARPET WILL HELP CONTROL THE SOUND OF YOUR HIGH HEELS AS YOU SCURRY AROUND

TO VIEW YOUR BEAUTIFUL WALLS.

"In contrast a border of stone then an inlay of 1/4" nickel and in the centre a grid of squares within a squares in stone. Think "carpet of stone". No absorption, so you can hear a pin drop. High drama!!!"

CRYING UNCLE

'Addicted' Biden niece plays the blame game (New York Post)

"I am an addict because of the Vice President family connection, come on? Is it in the water?"

It is a 10:45am flight from Newark to downtown Toronto and Mr. Driver, who is absent-minded, remembers to pick me up at 8:45am which is my rule of thumb: leave 2 hours prior to flight, but I did forget that NJ is an hour away. All was good: I made my flight, dogs with dog-sitter (lady across the street who I think smokes drugs with the dogs, and reminds me of the tanned lady in the movie "All about Mary"), she has the dog lick love thing going on. In a drop of the hat, I get ready for the gala and I put together a table for my friends which only takes 30 phone calls to get another 8 people. I am tired but excited to see everyone.

First time back in Canada and already, I feel like an outsider. I land on the island airport, rush over to the Royal York Hotel where my arrival is awaited; the energy is contagious. The gala are jeans and diamonds so I qualify with both, dancing the night away. A gift is bought for the main speaker who is a young girl with cancer as she comes to our table for hugs. Tears in my eyes, I understand her daily struggle, not to suggest I have an illness but compassion.

Rule #24 WILL YOU HAVE VIEWING PLATFORMS? CHOOSE AN AREA IN YOUR HOME WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE ART ON DIFFERENT LEVELS. CREATE AXIS POINTS SO THERE IS RHYTHM THROUGHOUT THE SPACE. A PERFECT GALLERY WILL PLAY LIKE A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF MUSIC. STARTS, PAUSES AND FLOURISHES.



“WE WALK ALONE
AMONGST THE
CROWD.”

DEE DEE RULES: NYC

“Architecture needs to lift your spirits and enrich the soul. The actual art is the type of music where the gallery itself is the musical score without the notes.

WISE PIES
Secret mob history of Ray's Pizza (New York Post)
“A heroin drug front in a pizza parlour.”

It is a whirlwind, a ridiculous early flight to NYC so back to the airport I go. Travelling is never dull and I am always fully entertained. The usual, we take off, we land, absent-minded non business-man driver gets me, picks up daughter, gets dogs and goes to apartment; all in under 3 hours. Sunday New York Times day, my favourite mixed in with football and we hit an outdoor café on 3rd and 82nd Street, The Atlantic Grill. The people-watching are so fantastic, just ask Brandon Stanton who wrote Humans of New York. We make best friends with the maître de so we are so plugged-in, again. On the way back to our apartment we discover Eli's 20,000 sf grocery store that is mostly underground and full of everything you would ever want at ridiculous prices, but almost a piece of art. As I no longer cut fruit due to my former marriage, I am in love here, with row upon row of cut fruit displayed in plastic containers in varying colours; a musical score for sure. Love this, except maybe the orange juice, I can't over pay by 10 dollars.

Sundays in NYC slip away as you stock up for the Monday battle. This is the day you can lounge guilt-free but I am having a craving to share my girlfriend, The Girl with Pearl Earring. I love this painting and the museum, it is a perfect piece of architecture and the collection is stunning. It is a mutual love affair. In the 1960's some members of the Frick family still lived upstairs as the museum opened. I have connected to this space and joined as a member to beat the line and to always know that I could just wander about soaking it all in, thinking of when the Fricks erected this mansion and moved from room to room amongst the treasures, it was a gallery in a home. There are few places that hold that magic for me and I am never disappointed when I visit. Perhaps I was Adelaide Frick in a past life?

Rule #25 ACCENT THE SPACE WITH BENCHES, CHAIRS AND LOUNGE FURNITURE TO ASSIST IN YOUR GALLERY VIEWING. MAKE SURE YOUR ART DOES NOT GO BELOW THE HEIGHT OF THE FURNITURE. YOU DON'T WANT TO BLOCK ART WITH FURNITURE.

“With the UN in NYC the whole city is behind with the blocked traffic everywhere and I, in my travels, missed a blog day. I am a little further south, but shouting out to float the furniture in a gallery and keep the backs off the benches. Full views ahead!!!

BLOODY ROAD
Kenyan soldiers storm mall, save most hostages (New York Post)
“68 killed terrorist attack this time in another country.”

Fully ensconced in our NY routine of: wake up, breakfast, feed dogs, walk dogs and bring daughter to school. For different reasons, our worlds are spinning in a positive vibe. Today would turn-out to be a very important day as I was going to meet my new best friend who would be at least an hour and one bottle of wine late for lunch. On our way to lunch, walking down Madison to 59th, truly at almost running speed I barely could see what was in the store windows. (I believe that was the idea, I really needed time to soak in the displays from a street bench or no bench.) Lunch is at 7E 59th Street at Bottega del Vino, this dark place but packed. I do what I do best, have a fabulous time at lunch; it is my favourite meal. Charity girl really doesn't eat or drink hence amazing cut arms to be proud of. We are talking about me joining the Council for Canadian American Relations for the Spring Gala and she is gushing over how great this PR/Event person is and worried that something has happened to him. I am in heaven, just enjoying lunch and I don't really care.

Finally, after I have committed to everything, I will be a Vice Chair PR man arrives. He is tall, thin, elegant, handsome from the 1950's way and he just starts to rattle on about this car, this event, this person, why he is late and now, he has me. He wears these chic black framed glasses which he wears and takes off at the perfect time exposing his big brown eyes. Charity gal fades away like she is in another country and we finish eating (rather drinking) our lunch while she takes her uneaten lunch home in a doggie bag. My new best friend continues his banter which will just enrich my own and he will become my new male best friend. Next stop, that darn airport again.

Rule #26 LIGHTING IN THE GALLERY MUST LIGHT THE ART AS WELL AS THE SPACE. INCORPORATE WALL SCONCES BUT BE CAREFUL BECAUSE IT TAKES UP PRECIOUS ROOM FOR ART. ADD COVE LIGHTING TO LET THE CEILING FLOAT AWAY!

“The angle that the light hits the wall is crucial to avoid shadows. Two schools of thought here: dramatically light the art or light the room and the art will be lit. My preference is to light the art, dim the room and reap the benefits on your own features”.

NO MERCY
She was 8 months pregnant - but jihadis showed these Samaritans... (New York Post)
“Terror in Kenyan Mall”

My daughter is hanging out at her best friend's penthouse on Park Avenue at 63rd Street while I am in Ocala at the farm. Just a bit of a contrast; I am in white jeans and chaps while my daughter is preppy schoolgirl attire. We have our white polo shirts in common. I have come to see the latest business ventures, including publishing local magazines and various building acquisitions while running the Chamber of Commerce and soon-to-be mayor; I am sure. I have to say, I am impressed by the enthusiasm that is contagious. The new Theme Park is abuzz with over 65 year age volunteers and Ranger Sally. I can't make this up but in it a cool 1970's vibe with the globe lighting to boot and floating staircase with photos that are now vintage terribly (if at all) lit. Think Slim Aarons, meets Jonny Cash.

This is a new playground, almost two years in and that is considered a baby here as many people have never left Marion County. Born a Christian right republican, taking your horse to church is part of the community fabric and adds a certain flavour. Don't talk politics but I have learned to barrel race, shooting balloons as I go. This is gun carrying country, they shoot balloons, not people, so I've heard.

Rule #27 A CENTRAL CHANDELIER FLOATING IN THE SKY-LIGHT-DETAIL MUST BE ON A RETRACTABLE WIRE TO CHANGE LIGHT BULBS. FLEXIBILITY IS KEY, SO THE ART IS NOT BLOCKED. TELL CHILDREN IT IS NOT A RIDE AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE SWINGING ON THE CHANDELIER!

"Only your friends should be hanging from the chandeliers after a fabulous event not children. Make sure chandeliers are blocked for proper weight."

PERSIAN MUG

Bam hit with triple snub by Iran chief (New York Post)

"No manners by Iran chief, just be polite."

Sleeping at the farm is so quiet and dark in comparison to NYC. New York never sleeps and really never gets dark there are no real stars to speak of in the sky that is. I take the day flight back in time to be there when my daughter is out of school. The travel time from farm to apartment is 6 hours and I work on emails/phone call between flights. No one knows where I am and I don't let on. When I land I always let my children know that I have landed and my son usually responds: 'Where?'. That pretty well sums it up: where am I? I am combining my life with responsibilities, love and living it magically. I need to get use to a different pace and different sense of accomplishment in my way. It is my way that is beginning to be defined; I have never travelled a predictable road, why start now.

I am so disciplined that I must have the house in order prior to play: beds made, dishes away, flowers straight and candles burning (or all light bulbs actually working). The dogs need to be walked and fed so I plan each walk with a chore and always have my bags with me for the pick-ups. Not that I always use them when they do it in the prized little gardens monitored by the doormen, I just smile and be polite, faking a different language. I brush my teeth, but wait until I completed my work-out, to wash my face and I dress according to the day, but always with a heel. Even my Hunter boots have a heel. Tonight, I will fall asleep from physical exhaustion with all clothes are washed, put away and breakfast awaits us. I would have been a perfect home-maker...wait, now I am. Remember, politeness goes a long way.

Rule# 28 IF THE LIGHT DOES NOT REACH THE PAINTING FROM THE CEILING, INCORPORATE WALL MOUNTED ART LIGHT. THIS CAN BE VERY DRAMATIC. MATERIAL PREFERENCE: POLISHED NICKEL.

"I prefer the long slim horizontal light with a square extension frame as oppose to old school slightly rounded and bulbous. You want your eye to be attracted to the art while the light disappears."

STALKING HIS PREY

Dramatic photos catch Navy Yard killer in the act

"Too many movies that become copy cat."

I am back in New York and Central Park is a buzz with a concert coming Saturday during the day for general admission plus a VIP ticket so with my ex coming in to stay with our daughter; I inquired if he wants to take her but he tells me it is not his scene or ticket price. He will stay at our space making fun of it but I only smile as I love it. I remind him that in 1894 the mechanical systems were only so good. The park looks so primed for a day of fabulous music with crowds lounging on the grass; the stage is massive but will disappear when all lit up and the music blaring only to see the artist perfectly glowing.

I exit the park up in the 90's and walk down 5th Avenue cutting in the side streets to view the brownstones. I am addicted to them with their different colour doors, iron work, window articulation and stone placement, so many to choose from. I really need to narrow it down; I know they don't come with a doorman but honestly if you own one of these you would be deep in staff, the doorman would be the least of your problems. It is time to book a ticket back to Toronto tour weekend with our invited guest. For now it's all about being in the moment while photographing my prey and soaking up my real boyfriends, the brownstones.



" I feel at peace..."

DEE DEE'S NOTE

My Year of Magically Living in NYC started and finished August 30, the day I stared blankly at the custom official and didn't speak until spoken to which is an impossible task for me he granted me a two year visa and proceeded to update my Nexus and life despite his sense of non-humour; he called me the real deal, we will find out. I pair one design rule with my daily discipline of writing and the discovery of who I am and how I made it this far without washing my own sheets? As living speeds up in NYC and I the polished one who landed from outer space into the top tier despite my efforts to promise to visit Brooklyn I stayed on that island and mainly, happily in my hood oscillating from The Mark to the Carlyle Hotel. At the corner of 80th and Madison I become who I am today: that person who loves and laughs at herself, crying when needed and we all need a good release some more enjoyable than others. Even I learn more every time I reflect back: did I really pack it all up, leave my country and set up shop in the Upper East??? Did the movers almost damage all my best pieces on the inbound and outbound?? The answer is "I put my head down and piece by piece, broken or otherwise I got to my 1904 three fireplace Brownstone between Madison and Park, who knew that was my next gig? In the New York Times Real Estate Section I would be and the cover of The New York Post. Mario Buatto Interior Designer USA renown looked at me blankly and said "You are a brace soul". Being scared keeps me moving forward and forward I will go now equipped with a bit more of me.



Rule#29 LET'S BE HONEST MOST PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A LARGE ENOUGH SPACE TO HAVE A SEPARATE GALLERY PERHAPS THE WHOLE HOUSE BECOMES A GALLERY. DO NOT HANG THINGS THAT YOU DON'T FIND BEAUTIFUL

"Find beauty in your life and on your walls every day. Beauty is in our soul."

CANADIAN CRISP

Exit sad man (New York Post)
"Time to enjoy the farm-life"

I am on a 3pm flight, the usual two hours in advance and I am gone this time to Pearson Airport and off to the farm in King City. It is cold and so Canadian beauty crisp. Roaring fire and play "home cooked meal" by calling our local restaurant while I set a beautiful table adjacent to the flames. Nicely settled, in contrast my ex has arrived to a cold New York. In NYC, they don't turn the heat on until a certain day with a certain lower temperature; he can't quite grasp this concept and as I have been using the oven for heat in NYC, nor can I. You would think at a certain monthly rate you are a master of your environment, but no, you even need a 80 percent floor coverage rule; I really must stop tap dancing at 6am.

Talked into the night and serenaded by coyotes, the evening was more than lovely except for the chatter from New York on the accommodations. I need to remind myself to let people make their own plans and not to offer my sleeping arrangements to ex-husbands since I only have one at the present. Should I be able to keep him happy or is it no longer my job? An early morning start as our guests will arrive at 9am; I am sure to wake up at 4am. Sweet dreams.

Rule #30 A GREAT TRAVEL TIP: HANG ART FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. NO ONE WILL KNOW YOUR PIECE FROM BALI ISN'T WORTH \$100,000. JUST USE AN EXPENSIVE FRAME!

"For the frame, use wide black lacquered flat (no profile) with slight space to actual art. You need a deep frame for deep canvases. A museum quality frame, gives the whole picture validity...hopefully!!!"

MEMORY LANE

Party Pooper (New York Post)
"It's not what you spend, it's how you spend it."

Our guests are flying in from Vancouver and Montreal, arriving for the full tour. Two large men in the back seat of my 550S, the adventure begins. Our next stop is the Polo Barn. The pictures of polo are in consistent white frames, classic and some of my chairs and pillows inter-mixed.

Next is the real reason we are here, the Muskoka retreat, which really is a drop-in centre for adults and children to play at the highest level. On arrival, a fabulous lunch by Chef M, who doesn't stay past this weekend for bad behaviour not to do with the cuisine. This followed by a visit to the 1894 Paulsen Steam ship that I am working on to restore. Then in very cool waters, the three men go water skiing; it is a fantastic sight though none of them quite as ripped as they use to be. The Muskoka experience is sealed. We are visited by three real estate agents that join us on the tour of the lake of its various mega cottages that during this off-season, are ripe for a snoop attack. We aren't quite sure where the pair of women real estate agents came from or why they were here but the more the merrier; this happens often. A lively discussion on the concept of "Superwoman" at dinner; I clearly have more experience on this subject and it is always good to find out who has a sense of humour.

Rule #31 LAYER IT UP ON THE FLOOR. SIMILAR TO FALL DRESSING, SCARVES ARE FANTASTIC ACCESSORIES!! BORDER THE FLOOR WITH STONE FOR WEAR AND TEAR WHILE ADDING ELEGANCE. WE SUGGEST 1.5" ONYX INLAY AND 1/4" STRIP OF NICKEL. FINISH THE WOOD IN HIGH GLOSS.

"Your floor may become more beautiful than your art!!!"

SHAFTED

School banished beloved aide to elevator gulag (New York Post)
"That is one way to fire someone."

A fabulous breakfast by Chef M who soon will be let go with his girlfriend for basically pretending to be the owners in absentia, always interesting. Guests leave and newspapers replace them, there are emails to be answered and it is a stormy day. I want to hang out but I have moved already into work mode; I say another good bye and start my drive to Toronto. Listening to music while calling friends is my car routine and I have not driven in a while so this is fun! I head to my brother's condo at the Ritz Carlton, the divorce dorm. I have an early morning call with ET Canada and really could use some sleep, no drinking and a good blow out. Two out of three will have to do.

Fielding business calls in the car even on a Sunday trying to steal quick glances at the photos in question, keep in mind



Chapter 3

Living Room Rules

I am driving. I do my best and circle back to the client over the next few days. When I flew in it was Friday traffic so I was unable to visit our new home/office. So on my way in I hit mid-town (Yorkville) and in its glory the rear framing is complete over the garage and the full back face of the existing is missing. I feel like I am more of a demolisher than a builder but it is coming very slowly. An extremely difficult build on a commercial street with underpinning, shoring and a party wall legal agreement and the bank balance that is hard on the eyes; we are almost a year in and I am seriously thinking of firing myself. I remain positive and at least I am supporting the concrete industry. The garage is truly a concrete bunker and I am building my dream building, similar to the Bunker Museum in Berlin... not quite; I am finding beauty in my concrete because that is all I have. I dream of a real floor.

Rule #32 AREA CARPET: SHOULD THE FULL SOFA BE ON THE CARPET, OR SHOULD IT BE HALF OVER TO ONLY CATCH THE FRONT FEET? I LIKE TO HAVE IT CATCH THE FRONT FEET ONLY. NOW THAT YOU HAVE CAUGHT THE SOFA, PAY ATTENTION TO THE LEG DETAILS. KEEP THEM IN WOOD, OR VALENCE THEM UP!

"Too many legs on a sofa and chairs become very busy. Valence a sofa and show the legs on the chairs. Your living room should not be a chorus line."

STORM COMING

Nation braces for Obamacare and shutdown (New York Post)
"No government for a while, maybe a good thing."

This morning starts with an 8am site meeting, followed by potential clients which is a continuous flow and a numbers game. I need to get better numbers both on site and in the office. Hard to explain living in NYC and working in Toronto; I am and I do explain. Truth is, I have never worked harder but my game has changed. The days of high end clients have taken a different course, and I am also doing my own developments. Keeping staff paid, lights on and some clients that hopefully are not that demanding while making money? Changing the rules for a while sharpens your game; I am hoping.

I have to show up on the set of ET Canada with minimal hair and make-up done soot of a duffel bag and the Ritz fitness



DEE DEE RULES: NYC

club; I do the best I can. It is for a survivor of breast cancer who has had it twice so really it is not about what I look like. I do admit, looking back at the pictures, my hair is yellow with massive split ends which I will correct in due course. This is my spoke person work for Kruger, designing a room based on the Breast Cancer Tissue box which is true to form. We hit the design out of the ball park with a love seat, chairs, ottoman all different, the girl is ecstatic but the client is not happy how the edit came out as the brand recognition could have been higher in their eyes. Not a paid advertisement I was controlled on my mentions actually warned. For me, I didn't hear about it until later and we fix it with another spot on Global TV with better hair. Back to NYC, fetch dogs from sitter: girl dog's leg hurts again and a soul cycle class with daughter just before utter exhaustion and falling into bed.

Rule #33 AREA CARPET: SHOULD BE THIN, NOT THICK. SAVE THICK AND CUSHY FOR BEDROOMS. THE LIVING ROOM SHOULD BE ELEGANT AND LUXURIOUS WITH MATERIALS SUCH AS SILKS AND WOOLS. THINK CRÊPES, NOT PANCAKES!

"Just heard Alessandra Branca speak at the D&D, so bring in the colour!!! Or color, as they spell it in the USA."

ROLLE ANOTHER ONE

Blunt Antrel says 0-4 Giants can table (New York Post)

"This safety is a believer no more losing for his team."

It is the Fall Market at the D&D Building at 3rd and 59th Street, which I have been asked to speak at but due to some miscommunication at my office with a girl that (thank god) has left who I believe was working on her jobs because mine got so mixed up, my fault. So now that I am not speaking I am on a mission to get the most interior design books so I can display them vertically in my 33 shelf bookless library. In the crowd there are the design stars and from there down it goes probably my ex-employee somewhere. I walked down in my riding boots, 21 blocks in my Gucci outfit as I was determined to be comfortable since I traveled in heels yesterday. I am a believer in heels but my feet are not.

I managed to get great books starting with a talk sponsored by Architectural Digest, featuring the Dallas designer (love the accent and the hair) Jan Showers where I so related to her methodology of work. How she traveled to Europe buying beautiful pieces and placing them in clients homes lovingly. She really dived into the interior architectural detail and she has talent. I bought her book, lined up, had it signed did the iPhone credit card purchase and good to go. It was probably the first time in a long time that I got excited about someone else's work. As I was leaving I met my first dinner date, a woman from Paris and Palm Beach (not sure when she is where?), who liked my outfit. How else do you meet friends? We shared a taxi heading to the UES and exchanged numbers. She would make me laugh with her social conscious climbing status that really she represented a furniture line looking for business and I laugh hard.

Rule #34 THERE WILL BE NO TRAFFICING IN THIS ROOM. A.K.A. NO STAINS! A TYPICAL LIVING ROOM IS NOT A HEAVILY TRAFFICED AREA. USE FINER MATERIALS AND WHITE, LIGHTER COLORS, RATHER THAN DARK.

"Beautiful silks slightly ribbed full of light, would be fantastic for drapes and wall coverings. Opt for a Gracie wallpaper in the orange with hand painted white branches never a repeat, ever!!!"

SHUT AND A BEER

Federal workers booze it up (New York Post)

"Shut down in government drinking time."

Today Mr. Chintz of the USA, Mario Buatta, is signing books at the D & D and I want my new best friend to come but I forget he really has a day/night job. So I go but the line is so long that I buy the book and skip out as I know somewhere down the line I will get it signed. It remained unsigned for almost the full year which is almost funnier as I was asked to host a lunch for him in Toronto (which I wanted to but the condo that I was to have it in sold for 19 million). There is always Spring and I need to think of a great place for the man that does Chintz book signing in Toronto, it should be a space of finery to set off his elaborate designs, maybe I will get mine signed.

I actually get to the D & D building at 9am for more books and speakers; I am fascinated by Ms. Make-up Empire Aerin Lauder's line that is mimicking her lifestyle, at a lower rate. Yet without the authenticity, which when asked about it, she says she struggles with, honestly she doesn't need to work at all. The best line was from the audience, who said quietly that for a woman in the make-up business you think she could wear some eye shadow? People are tough; I enjoyed her influences and her style. A great day ended with a wonderful night with my daughter and I stroll down 2nd Avenue since that is where girls her age groups hang. So lucky to have this amazing best friend daughter of mine to hang out with, as the government is not working at all, everyone has some spare time. I can't wait until she can drink chardonnay.

Rule #35 DON'T FORGET YOUR WALLS IN SILK LINEN, NOT TAFFETA. WOOL IS THE NEW HOT FABRIC! NOTHING FUSSY AND OVER THE TOP JUST SIMPLE LUXURIOUS FABRICS AND FABULOUS TO THE TOUCH. YOU WILL WANT TO HANDLE YOUR DRAPES.

“Remember to interline your drapes with flannel for prime luxury.”

EASY RIDERS

Biker thugs leaving cops in the dust. (New York Post)
 “Senseless violence escapes again”

My bookshelf is looking far more full as I display my books vertically for maximum coverage; I have never done this before and my bookshelves are not flat, they all lean, not ideal for my display technique. It is a varied day, getting reports and photos from jobs everywhere while weirdly I find myself in Barney's at 61st and Madison. I am in the bra department, spying a cashmere bra and undies set that I send to the appropriate email, with the price tag - no response. Moving on braless while at least cashmereless the 19 block walk up Madison which I never tire of (except my feet). I get ready for a book launch at Edwina Sandy's Soho loft with architect husband Richard Kaplan, a quirky couple that interlining your fabric is a thing of the past for them for sure with large drape-less windows and the coo that granddad was prime minister of England.

The loft is fabulous, painted red with white. Red walls, white sculpture and vice versa. Fabulous cast of characters and lively discussions around art, books, travelling and life. The full mix from jeans to suits and everything in between, it seems that grande dames have done the studio 54 days and have a secret bond. The book titled *My Mother, My Father and His Wife Hortense* by Dialta Alliata-Lensi Orlandi is a subject deep in history and today has relevance. Three of us leave the comforts of the red as the crowd thins; we hit a burger joint in Soho. My favourite talk - relationships while eating beef, hopefully this time the good guy will win.

Rule #36 INSERT VERY LARGE INSET PANELS IN THE LIVING ROOM FOR FABRIC OR ART. USE EVERY PART OF YOUR LIVING ROOM AS A SHOWCASE FOR YOUR FINEST COLLECTABLES. CREATE YOUR WORLD AS A GALLERY.

“The frame and wall covering gives you the structure. Now, you bring the panache!”

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Busted at Barney's again (New York Post)
 “What good pr can do to damage control.”

I went to the meatpacking district for my hiring of PR Gal, who talks a mile a minute and I only hope she can take my brand and do something with it. I sadly met with another potential Publicist that wanted more money per month and wanted to know why I was such a “loser” having been on Oprah three times and I wasn't a billionaire; I agree. PR number 2 spoke with PR Gal and had a full brawl; I need to start somewhere, I needed structure in this US market not a screaming match. I liked PR Gal, she came recommended from a successful TV anchor that I will learn later was more of a friend than client, really specializing in lower end mass market (which is not me). I take her to the Soho House at 9th Avenue and 14th Street to have a celebratory lunch and we discuss my future. I prefer to pay as a fee against new business but this is a big no. I thought she would have at least paid for lunch - bad sign...apparently not how this PR business rolls, it is actually a monthly retainer, ugggh. How do I evaluate and they have no skin in the game?

After lunch I go to the roof as I just have to check out the pool deck, it is hot and beautiful - filled with people on deck chairs lounging in the sun. I remember this so vividly from the Sex in the City TV Show where they slip-in as non-members. I take a photo and it is so Slim Aaron, even in the colouring and awnings. I am elated, I have accomplished my goal to get a NY PR company and I am already on a charity gala as a vice chair. It is going to take time to get real work in NYC but for now, from roof top of the Soho House as I look in all directions - complete with water towers, chimneys and fire escapes, the pool, the billiards table and the people; I belong. Members and guests only (who can't come in?).

Rule #37 AVOID POT LIGHTS. INSTEAD USE ART LIGHTS, CHANDELIERS (MORE THAN ONE IF NEEDED), PENDANTS AND TABLE LIGHTS. NO ONE IS COOKING IN YOUR LIVING ROOM SO DON'T TREAT IT AS YOU WOULD A KITCHEN!

“Relax light candles ponder the world from your Loro Piana fabrics.”

DRINKING ON THE JOB

Deli Boss in a Pickle (New York Post)
 “Who's the boss?”

I get pictures of the contractors drinking champagne at the dining room table of the client's newly finished house in Martha's Vineyard. This is a first - typically it is the client drinking. I was the interior architect under a heavy hand of the island's historical do's and don't's, where we brought a little more modern interruptive clean line action. We will see what really got incorporated but at least the contractor's happy.

Daughter is off to Broadway Dance School and she is in need of character shoes. We hit the professional dance store which is just off Broadway and a store front reminiscent of years gone by. They size her up, spreading out the blue velvet cape as she tries them one without scuffing the soles. She is long legged and the shoes upon her remind me of a Chorus

Line waiting for that big break. We both take classes that morning. I am cool with the beginner jazz except when the beat picks up and after an hour I am good to leave from the very back of the class as I can't follow the steps and I feel over lit with all eyes on me. Kill the lights, I beg! We wandered 9th Avenue for juice and healthy snacks, being the dancers we are - despite not finishing the class.

I have a sleep over tonight at our brownstone with my girlfriend who is a New Yorker - yet settled in Greenwich. She is a full time talker and loves her shopping. She has this crazy habit of over-ordering the most expensive item on a menu and then taking the calculator out to figure how to divide. I think she is completely unaware of; it is just innate. Tonight we dined at Milos at 55th Street and 6th at the bar chatting with a developer, at least he said few words.

Rule #38 FABRICS SHOULD BE FORMAL. USE SILKS AND VELVETS THICK ENOUGH TO SIT ON COMFORTABLY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEIR DURABILITY DURING COCKTAIL HOUR.

“A flimsy silk belongs in this room but as drapes. Ribbed silk good for upholstery.”

CON JOB

Convicted felon bats for A-Rod in MLB suit (New York Post)
 “Witness has a long history with the law maybe not the best wing man.”

Sundays should be relaxing and the best way to start the day is to wander down Madison to Sant Ambroeus for a latte at the bar. It is amazing who you meet and what is discussed. My daughter thinks we are living Gossip Girls since we are on the UES and she is constantly watching the episodes, recognizing the sites and sounds. This latte at \$5.50, plus tip; it really is \$6.00 and it is stand at, have a water and chat kind of café bar. This is where I meet the real mom of Gossip Girls, Kelly Rutherford, her brother is an architect and we both have dogs. We will meet another day for breakfast, keep in touch a bit but sadly, her kids are in another country and schedules reign. In NYC everyone is just an email away depending what you have to offer.

Talker friend is still with us, we play tennis, brunch to some jazz music and she even pays. The New York Sunday Times is a full time job on Sundays and it's tough to have a life plus read the paper. I am a Style Section girl followed by Real Estate then the magazine after that I hope to catch some insights into the world. With a full brunch, we happily eat cereal at home for dinner. Eating here is another full time job, the best food at any hour is only a delivery away.

Rule #39 REGARDING FURNITURE IN A LARGE ROOM TRY TWO DIFFERENT SEATING AREAS! ALWAYS ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE A PLACE TO SIT, A SPOT TO PLACE A DRINK AND IT USED TO BE A PLACE FOR AN ASHTRAY...BUT NOW: CLEAN LIVING AND WITH ALL THIS TEXTING...A PLACE TO TALK TO SOMEONE. TIE IT ALL TOGETHER WITH ONE LARGE AREA CARPET AND YOU HAVE A PERFECT ENTERTAINING ZONE!

“After the large carpet, put a small intimate carpet on top emphasizing the important areas similar to a great layered haircut!”

FREE BIRD

Motor psycho was released by soft judge (New York Post)
 “The second mouse gets the cheese.”

So excited that my girlfriends (the other two from the Terrific Three from our original Fabulous Four plus two more) the Fantastic Five are coming to visit me in NYC for a couple of days; I want my apartment to look fabulous as well as my hair. I am having them over for cocktails this evening and as life would have it my dining table comes tomorrow so I don't have a place to put out my candelabras. They currently sit on the rad cover which you could also put a drink on. My girlfriends always have the best blowouts, in spite of the rain I get one too. Okay, so the curls are gone by the time I get to Bar Italia on Madison at 72nd but it doesn't matter; I am so excited they are here. We have traveled the whole world together and we settle right back into our routine: lunch, laugh, shop.

Barney's after lunch is like going to a Candy Store, I have not really been shopping since I moved here, so busy with getting the apartment set up and us settled in our new lives. I get a fabulous Thomas Broome dress and matching coat, plus a long Celine blouse for my Jackie O NY look. I really am very conservative and love classics, sometimes it's hard to tell by my outfits and skin exposed.

Everything can be ordered here but you need to know what you want and if it is groceries they will give you the worst produce and broken crackers. So, with wine - know your labels, the pate/cheese come fine but don't worry broken crackers still work. This is my first of many cocktail parties with the girls plus a couple of my New York friends and added extended friends from the girls. Glorious with the much needed AC on full blast after everyone walks up the three flights, even some standing beside the unit. This mechanical system, or lack thereof, is really for the birds. I am way too soft on the Super, demanding very little as we only have two units for the main floor. We dine at Crown on 81st Street and Madison where we of course see fellow Canadians - they are everywhere.

Rule #40 USE ONE UPHOLSTERED SOFA. NEVER SAY COUCH, IT SOUNDS LIKE MR. POTATO HEAD.

"Please sofa! Sofa! Sofa!"

JOHNNY GOT HIS GUN!

Amed & furious over wife's Gifford 'affair' (New York Post)

"Love is a dangerous business."

It figures that after the cocktail party last night the dining table arrives today, as items leave Canada on a Monday come delivered here on a Tuesday. With the highly polished top that is one piece at 4' x 10', the delivery men look at me and say "Hey Lady, have you seen the size of the elevator?". Nothing that a big smile and tip can't solve. The table is installed after the three storey walk up the circular staircase. I need to push on as I have a ladies lunch on Park Avenue that I am to make an appearance then off to meet my girlfriends at Amaranth. I am going to Mrs. Charity with three names lunch in honour of a Canadian powerhouse in wealth and prestige for the gold medal of Casita Maria. This is on Park Avenue, I walk into a room and I don't know anyone which is my new forte. The Honoree is charming, she is the daughter of the



ex-Prime Minister of Canada, so gracious. I am wearing simple Christian Dior - elegant and understated and share stories of my daughter whereas the rest of the ladies speak of their grandchildren but why do I look older than most? You can never say plastic surgery; they just look rested.

I graciously bow out as the butler is starting to seat for lunch and I tear down to meet my Toronto posse. Lunch slips into an afternoon with my girlfriends; I am missing my daughter with the girls in town. My time with her has been cut short... we are so connected. The group grows for dinner at Caravaggios 23E 74th Street; we are a full table of seven and it's hard to chat to the whole table. I play down at my end but don't have time with my Toronto friends; I am in the NYC section. They offer a rack of fresh apples at the front of the restaurant - so farm-like in comparison to the décor; I have a bag to take back home that night. A beautiful evening as I walk home with my girlfriend, they are staying at the Surrey Hotel 76th Street and Madison which is out of their hood to visit with me. I am very lucky as I start here to meet new friends; I have the core right at my doorstep. There is no place like home, my home is really me shared with my world in any city, lucky I am.

Rule #41 ACCESSORIZE WITH TWO PILLOWS. USE TWO DIFFERENT FABRICS ON THE FRONT AND ON THE BACK WITH A GROSGRAIN EDGE. THE IDEAL PILLOW SIZE IS 22" x 22". THEY WILL ADD INTEREST WHILE PROVIDING SEASONAL OPTIONS AND ARE PERFECT FOR YOUR SCHIZOPHRENIC FRIENDS!

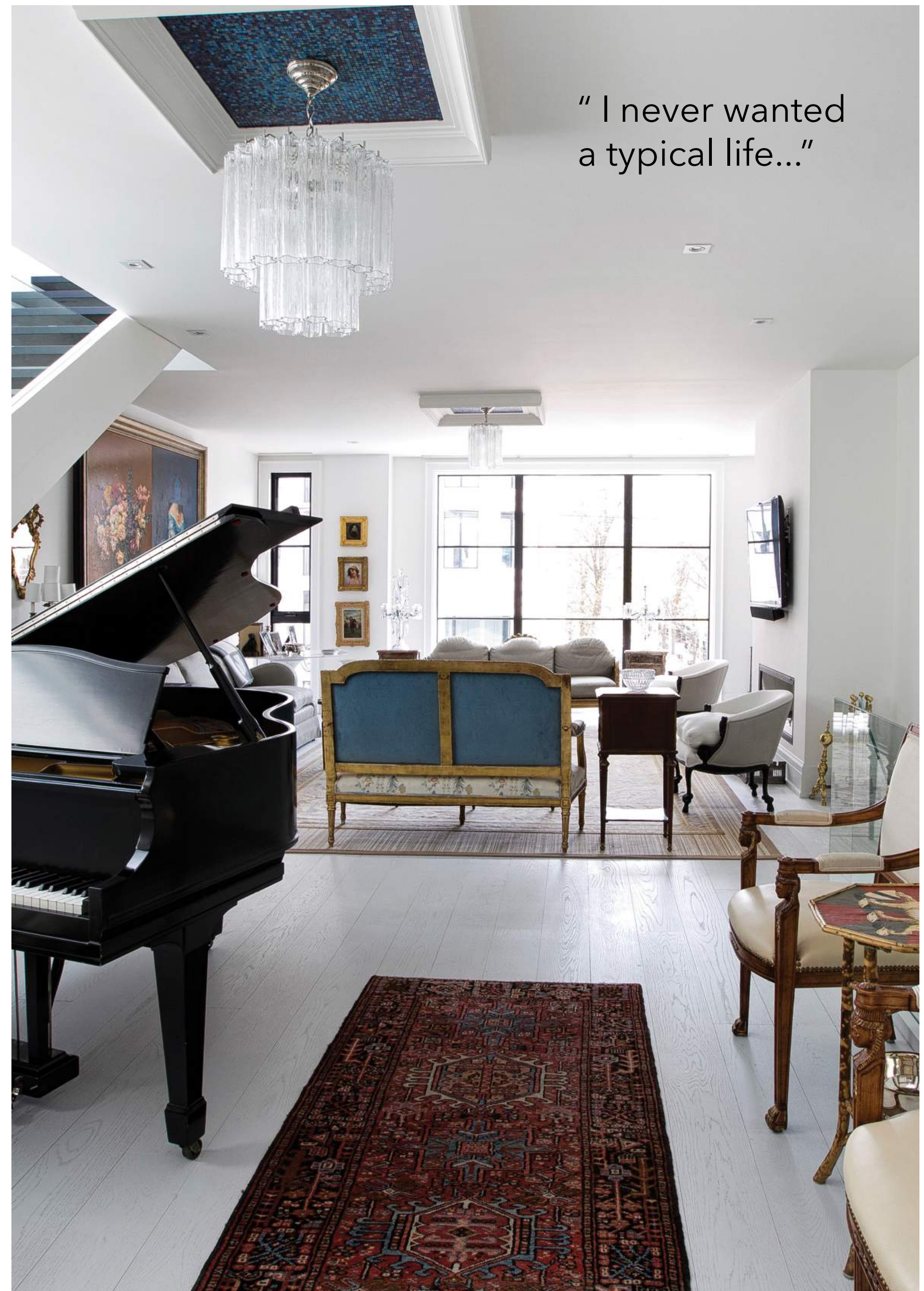
"The pillows in the formal room are slightly smaller than the family room pillows. Think of the living room pillow as a skinny latte."

BIKE COP LIED

Arrested in gang beating (New York Post)

"The crazy and the lying cop please pick a side."

It has gone too quickly and the Toronto girls are heading back - only after a good bye lunch at our favourite La Grenouille at 3E 52nd Street. Way too much wine and way too much soufflé I cut it with Dover sole and my black cashmere Gucci



shorts and long blue silk Celine blouse is the perfect “eating chic” outfit. It will be the last day of my straight un-layered yellow blonde hair, I feel with this new city life I want a new look, but today is all about soaking in the beautiful formal restaurant with the appropriate scale of design, glorious flowers and laughter from the girls, truly bliss. What could be better?

I say good bye and make my way up Madison Avenue, a walk I will never get bored of... every time, I stop at a new store. Crazy moments like this - I randomly check my phone and they have sent me the ET Canada clip where the woman, Lynn, who we re-did her apartment, talks about her hair and what this new designed space has done for her after her battles with Cancer. I am truly humbled and looking around at this opulence, wonder what are these people’s back stories are? You can’t beat yourself up, you can make a difference, live it - really live it. We are lucky and as I think this I feel a blister on my foot from my high heels with ten blocks to go! This is an UES problem. Okay, I need to re-focus. Calling my aunt, the nun, when I hobble home; it is that Catholic guilt gets you all the time.

Tonight at The Mark restaurant Jean George with very phoney Paris/Palm Beacher probably a renter and her ancient TV producer friend, seriously is called by his last name and is the walking dead who tells us of days gone still has the accountant mind adding up almost every piece of bread. I get when you are that frail, you can turn into Howard Hughes, plastic gloves and all. I am not that interested, just trying to expose myself to it all, making good decisions along the way.

Rule #42 A BABY GRAND REEKS OF ELEGANCE. MY FAVOURITE IS BLACK LACQUERED AND IVORY KEYS. IF YOU HAVE A PIANO, PUT IT IN THE LIVING SPACE. LET THIS BE YOUR PERSONAL CONCERT HALL.

“If in Miami lacquer it red, if in NYC, French Polish mahogany and if for your eyes only, dream...be risky!!!”

HOOD COP

Undercover ‘assault’ biker’s court shame (New York Post)

“Ashamed and hooded cop has bad past.”

We are flying back to Toronto tonight as I am doing the Global morning show (in the morning) and it is Canadian Thanksgiving. My roots are terrible so today is the day I begin my affair with Valery Joseph Hair Salon, located down the block, across the street. I can’t go on camera with this dark patch and the weird blonde I go in and I am hooked. I get matched up with chic colourist to the upper east style girls who magically fixes my hair and then I move over for a blow dry with the same length hair and opt for layers, from hot young rising star; I have Farrah Fawcett hair and loving it.

My daughter, both dogs and I, head to Newark for our flight to Toronto Island airport, not an easy travel day. The dogs are coming back to visit my son, who has been in University all fall, making his independent stand that he barely answers texts or phone calls. The girl dog who is smaller, needs to visit the over-priced vet as her knee is sore from all those New York steps. The kids will spend two nights with their Dad then up to Stoney Lake with my parents. First thing’s first, need to get dogs and luggage to Toronto and I am carrying all of it... this must be quite a sight to see. Why did I bring the dogs? After the ferry ride and taxi ride my daughter heads to Forest Hill with a friend of mine we happened to see on the plane. Soon she will be so independent, flying on her own. I get by-passed by ten taxis because I have two dogs and most taxi drivers in Toronto are religious addicts - not believing in pets. Finally I get to the Ritz, intact - minus a couple of brain cells. Dogs get walked on a small patch of grass adjacent to the concrete and I am back at the Divorce Dorm.

Rule #43 USE A FORMAL THROW, IT MUST HAVE A FORMAL LOOK. TRY FUR, PERHAPS CHINCHILLA OR AT LEAST TRIMMED IN MINK.

“Remember Canada was built on the fur trade.”

KOSHER ASSAULT

Rabbis in ‘divorce or torture’ plot: FBI (New York Post)

“A religious torture group is not sexy.”

Last night I met my brother’s current girlfriend, she is tall, dark and younger by 15 years. How can he go wrong? She is from a completely dysfunctional family, her Dad is on his fourth marriage and she shipped my brother’s dogs back to the USA via Craigslist with two Russians she never met - I have to respect that. This morning brings an early call at Global Morning TV shoot with anchorman, well known, distinguished, with grey sideburns, moved to USA then back to Canada to be a celebrity. To do well in Canada you need to do well elsewhere and then come back in. Canadians don’t like home grown talent; they like the world to judge to confirm their opinion. Canadians are different, we started selling beavers and wood as a country; my current sales tool I am about - one tissue box at a time.

This is the makeup spot for Scotties Tissues Breast Cancer designer box where we need more coverage on company; we do it under the guise of my new show that essentially aired and was shelved. We do the previous reveal of the designed apartment and we plunge into the discussion plus promote the HGTV Real Designing Women. The show was fun, energetic and with great hair to boot, a positive morning experience that evaporates as I head into the office for the first time in over a month.

I meet with all the girls and say good bye to a girl that has essentially messed up all the jobs...she started costing me money- just saying. She is starting her own business which I will find out has been up for a while now. I wish everyone the best. Right now my plate is full and I will put this house in order slowly over this next year; I have no choice the money is running out! I have the dogs with me at the office and I head out to buy food for the weekend. As the grocery gentlemen

loads my car he says he watched the segment this morning and cried. I happened to have tissue boxes in the trunk, which I give him. I am so used to no one knowing me in the United States - this feels fabulous!!!

Like clockwork, I am off to Stoney Lake still trying to get to the island with the luggage and dogs, which I have had all set up for the weekend. First stop, my parent’s mainland cottage for the customary glass of wine and then load boat in this starry night over to the island. We land at the boat house and we temporarily lose the boy dog, thinking he fell in the lake and for more than a brief moment - we panicked. Calling his name, a small yelp, he appears one heart attack later. A roaring fire, a great dinner, luggage finally settled for a few days of bliss.

Rule #44 DON’T O.D. ON PILLOWS: 2 PER SOFA, 1 PER LOVESEAT. TRY TO AVOID ON CHAIRS UNLESS THE CHAIR IS TOO DEEP AND NEEDS A PUSH SO YOUR FEET DON’T DANGLE.

“Too many cooks in a kitchen, too many pillows on a sofa. It ruins the broth, it ruins the seating.”

FIX EL-EYE!

After another spec-tacular loss, Giants need to... (New York Post)

“0-6 loss record need help.”

It is so glorious at the island, a bit brisk but sunny. I am not sure why we leave to play golf with my parents but we do and the fall colours are magnificent. My father as usual, talks all the way through everyone’s back swing and pretty much the entire game; we are used to that so I order a bottle of Kistler for the round which is poured into plastic cups complete with lids and straws. This dulls my hearing and helps my golf game. We came by boat and this is my second round of the year, which really makes it very expensive per hole.

Thanksgiving dinner is cooked by mom and dad; it is amazing, leaving Dad as chef is the key since Mom can’t cook - keep it simple and her out of the kitchen. The kids arrive, they are both tired but adorable. My son is six weeks into his freshman year and is an expert on just about anything. We get engaged in a topic and he is good; you just can’t leave him alone to form opinions as they are always opposite than mine. I am told they mellow but just prior to his 19th birth date, he rules his world; I will be there to pick up the pieces when he is at a loss and celebrate his successes while doing his own thing.

Rule #45 PILLOWS, THROWS, CANDY DISHES, FRAMES, AND DECORATIVE BOXES, ALL BELONG IN YOUR LIVING ROOM! BE A LITTLE FORMAL IN DESIGN AND EDIT OUT. DON’T OVER LOAD WITH TOO MANY BELLS AND WHISTLES.

“The rule always apply the edit. Before leaving the house, take off one piece of jewelery, I think??”

BABY HOPE KILLER

Suspect ‘confesses’ to 22-year mystery (New York Post)

“1991 murder solved and he is related...nice.”

One more sleep at the island then it is shut down until the Spring. When your children leave for University it is a new balance to find the right tone, ask the right questions and examine each other’s life that is now only in sight but not really in reach. My daughter and I have our own groove, like my son and I did when he lived with me. He is now a man, yet still a boy in many ways. We love each other so much but sometimes life just gets in the way. I can’t overload him, I am his parent not friend; guidance is my job with him.

Don’t judge, walk a mile in someone’s shoes. Don’t listen to gossip, see how you are treated. It is simple, lead by example filling the world with love. Trust, breathe and live. This may be heavy but when I was nineteen I was in my own world and only in the last five years have I come back to my parents with real empathy. It takes a village to raise a child and I am lucky to have that village. Sometimes we are the cruelest to the ones we are the closest to, unfair but true.

Rule#46 TRY USING DIFFERENT LEG STYLES ON YOUR FURNITURE, THEY SHOULDN’T ALL BE THE SAME! BREAK UP THE SYMMETRY IN FURNITURE PLANNING AND HAVE SOME FUN! NO ONE LIKES TO STAY INSIDE THE LINES ALL THE TIME.

“Colour away, even in the background. Snug a chair, ottoman, floor lamp and a great magazine in a corner.”

TORTURED

New horror twist in ‘91 murder of Baby Hope (New York Post)

“2 days on the cover and gross details don’t promote this stuff.”

From island to New York City: a boat, a car, a ferry, a plane and a car service - it takes eight hours. We could have gone back to Greece; let’s just call this is a wrap. With the cottage put away for another season and my crew will be back over the next few weeks to shut it all down. Son is back to University to further his education, I hope. The dogs, my daughter and I are back in NYC with homework, walks and a photo shoot to stage with asymmetrical energy. Tonight, I will sleep and this will be ecstasy after the laundry, grocery shopping and unpacking.

Fall is in the air, pumpkins and straw decorate the brownstones awaiting the Halloween décor. New York is ABB, all business baby, with the parents of some of these girls very busy with themselves, ignoring their children. My daughter and her bestie are blonde, blue eyed and smart, not a likable quality for other girls to grab upon. We are all dealing with a cyber-bully rude ill-mannered child whose parents are never in the city and don't support or condone the situation, whatever that means. The bottom line is that there are only 33 girls in grade nine and these mean girls aren't going to make life easy. The solution: kill them with kindness, let the school know, support the girls and time will heal. It did, not without some tears and heart ache. We learn the most from these difficult times, not dwelling on them as promotion of the negative just make matters worst. You only have to look at the parents to know the children.

Rule #47 ACCESSORIES IN YOUR LIVING ROOM CAN BE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN YOUR FAMILY ROOM. HOWEVER, THE LIVING ROOM IS MORE FORMAL THAN THE FAMILY ROOM. WHEN YOU HAVE ONE LARGE ROOM FOR GATHERINGS YOU CAN DECORATE THE SPACE WITH FORMAL OR INFORMAL ELEMENTS. YOU ARE THE DIRECTOR, MAKE IT THE WAY YOU WANT.

"Remember life is not a dress rehearsal. P.S. Pillows larger in family room than living room."

MY SISTER, BABY HOPE

'She would have looked just like me' (New York Post)
 "Now day 3 on the cover at least it is a plea of compassion."

Back in New York City the fall is so beautiful and much warmer than Toronto with all the fall flowers and produce lining the grocery shelves. The buzz is in the air - come play with me. It is a full day of getting re-stocked, laundry being dropped off, fresh flowers and my Russian cleaning lady coming to do her magic. This usually includes some minor disaster such as putting dish washing liquid in the dish washer and suds all over the floor or making the whole bed only to forget the mattress cover. She has a newborn, so she is exhausted; I get it. In fact, I almost pre-clean. I really just don't do sheets or toilets. It was cute, one day she displayed the toilet bowl cleaner on the floor beside each toilet for easy use but not on my watch; I live as if I am in a full production shooting every day.

I go into The Hewitt School to discuss the mean girl situation and we stand back deciding to just move on, we just can't give this any more air time. My daughter amazes me, she is strong and reasonable, love that. After, we walk up Madison, popping into the stores and we find a fabulous J. Crew orange fall coat; she is such a little lady. We will have to go to tea in that one! It is nice that she doesn't have after school programs right now so we can hang after her homework is done; she is all mine now until next term's plays, practices and tennis team. Tonight we will order in as we are experts at Seamless, which is online take out/delivery from almost every restaurant in NYC. This is way better than throwing out all the groceries you buy after being seduced by the magic of take out.

Rule #48 HOW DO YOU LIVE IN YOUR NEW LIVING ROOM? THE ROOM ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE! WE ARE SEEING A TREND OF COMBINING THE LIVING AND DINING ROOMS. AFTER ALL, WHAT'S THE POINT OF USING A BEAUTIFUL ROOM ONLY ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS?!

"Divide the house up: Informal vs Formal and live it!!! Make the transition zone the butler's pantry, now find a butler."

BRINK OF DISASTER

Midnight debt crisis looms (New York Post)
 "The USA going over Niagara Falls."

Last night is such a contrast to this evening as I meet one of my oldest best friends from LA; she is a fashion designer and a buddy of a famous bachelor. She says I am far too smart and successful, with too many clothes on for him which will actually prove untrue as he will actually fall for Ms. Beautiful Smarty. We meet downtown in the village for real Japanese with two of her girlfriends: a TV actress and clothes stylist, so artsy. We end up at a retro bar for champagne and I go home whereas the girls make their way to the Boom Boom Room at the Standard Hotel. In stark contrast, tonight I go from informal and unstructured to formatted and formal. I am at the Women's Initiative New York Gala back downtown at 10 Desbrosses Street, between Hudson and Greenwich hearing two successful women, Candy Magnate from famous parents and African American Power Business woman celebrating this amazing organization that helps women in the work place. Later, this organization will fold with improper use of funds - only in America.

My girlfriend and I are guests of a board member in California and we are surrounded by parents with 14 year old children; I am gathering names so I can find friends for our two 14 year old daughters. I really need some of my own friends but Hewitt only has 33 girls in grade nine and I feel we need to expand their circle. This dinner rocks, even though the US economy is going down the tubes (or over the edge) this program gives hope that women that have gone through this program will soar, they have strength beyond; I am very impressed. I will follow up with the two new parents that I have met and get the girls new friends or least expose them to others. My daughter will roll her eyes and go "oh Mom...".

Rule #49 THE NEW TREND IS DIVIDING THE HOUSE INTO TWO AREAS: THE FORMAL ROOM AND THE INFORMAL ROOM. WHETHER IT IS MODERN OR TRADITIONAL, YOU ARE THE PLAN MASTER

"To lounge in the formal room in your lulu's... very cool and you should!!"

GET BANKSY

NYPD hunts artist (New York Post)
 "The artist is attacking quick get him!"

My PR Jewish Mom has this whole plan about photographing my apartment and other projects to get them in International magazines which will makes me International and get work here. I keep repeating the Bill Murray's line in the movie Translations: "Do you want to be rich or famous? Trying being rich first." I have had this little fame thing in Canada, now I really want to do business in all different avenues take my brand and seriously exploit me. I am not patient with this at all. Apparently getting published in Lebanon gets you work in NYC I am not really buying it but I will get the photographs and go from there. I have formal and informal spaces in my apartment but it is just decorating not what I am really capable of - for me this is all fluff but fluff gets published. This photographer is my PR Gal's client as well - maybe I can design his space?

I have pre met with the Greek photographer and his wife, come assistant so they know the apartment; they are late with coffee in hand. I am in tracks and the stylist playing with the flowers and accessories. Interesting he doesn't shoot with anything but natural light, oh boy am I in trouble for my portrait. The photos of the rooms are fabulous and the hair/make-up girl is late with no concept of time or night fall. Not a good combo in this situation. My hair looks like a curled up poodle and she is still is not done with my daughter. She's paid to come and to leave; I have never been on a shoot where the hair/make-up doesn't stick around for the actual shoot. Regardless, we get awesome shots outside on Madison Avenue even with yellow taxis in the background. Since we are all dolled up we go to Paolo's on Madison at 93rd and then check out the Upper East Side girl's schools in the night as they are the competition, Sacred Heart is so architecturally beautiful, full Catholic regale and Spence School the Upper crust is almost hidden but we hunt it down on a side street, typical - private and invisible.



Chapter 4 Dining Room Rules:

Rule#50 DO NOT PLACE CARPETS IN THE DINING ROOM. THIS WAY CHAIRS CAN SLIDE IN AND OUT AND FOOD WILL NOT GET ENCRUSTED. TRY AN INTERESTING FLOOR FINISH, PERHAPS A HIGH GLOSS ON WOOD. FOR PATTERN, TRY CHECKERBOARD OR CHEVRON.

“As Paul Simon said “Slip Sliding Away”.

DELI BOSS IN A PICKLE
Carnegie wife’s suit: sex on side (New York Post)
“Aren’t most men faithful?”

So exciting, my Florida/Toronto client coming to NYC to shop and do a little business with me. She is a mother of five, now investing in her children’s businesses, having just sold her company for a great price. The best is that she hires and fires them consistently. When she gave a speech at The Board of Trade to mainly men, her best line was “Everyone has a number and I guess mine was 20 million”, then the men listened usually the men only look. I meet her at her make shift bedroom/office at the W Hotel which in New York is cramped and we do drawings, review plans, and take snap shots sending them to the contractor, landscape architect and architect. A modern office, a pen and iPhone this is the wave of the future. The president, me and my client in her world does it all and more just keeping assistants back at the office up to date if necessary. Even better, I had room service while working.

After our three hour meeting we taxied up to the Upper East (no easy feat to get a taxi at that hour on a Friday) to check out my apartment with its 1890 wooden floors complete with nails sticking out and all, even a better reason not to put a carpet in the dining room. We land at The Mark Hotel bar for lunch with her daughter. We are still in work mode so kale and water was the poison of choice - hardly poison. Next stop was back downtown, another 60 blocks to Abc Carpet & Home where we played on all the furniture floors keeping a running photo stream for future reference and purchases. It has carpet in its name because it has amazing ones; we found the most incredible dyed Persians in pinks, purples and blues, after three carpets purchased and total just shy of six numbers we are offered limos home especially when I met the NYC sales person who knows the Canadian connection ELTE didn’t hurt, what we dropped, dollar figure not food, on carpets. Abc Carpet and Home will become a big part of my NYC connection. Designer Show Houses and all.

Rule #51 YOUR FORMAL ROOM IS PERFECT FOR YOUR PRIZED POSSESSIONS. SO USE YOUR BEST SILVERWARE, CRYSTAL AND CHINA. DISPLAY YOUR BEST ART. PAINTINGS BY THE HOME OWNER SHOULD ONLY BE DISPLAYED IF YOU HAVE GALLERY CASHED CHEQUES.

“I am so good with kid’s art, in fact depending on the edit it can be a Picasso.”

MEAN LITTLE RICH GIRL

My family has money-so deal with it! (New York Post)
“Bragging on line or in person is not cool, money or no money be humble.”

A true New York weekend with my daughter; she is out with friends on Friday night down on 2nd Avenue. Saturday morning doesn’t exist in her world, as she sleeps through it and I go to my grueling exercise class which has circuit training and too many burpees; I loathe burpees but apparently my harder butt loves them. The cool “in place” to get a hard butt, is the Fitting Room at 80th Street and Lex. The two teenagers miss the morning as my daughter’s best friend for now is sleeping over; it is double wake up duty as they have dance at Broadway Dance School at the crack of noon club. We all have a croissant and latte at Dean and DeLuca; they taxi or Uber away. The days are gone when I have to go and supervise, my little New Yorkers.

The rest of the day is filled with shopping and soaking in the New York vibe on the streets. After hearing from my girlfriend that Banksy the British graffiti artist sold his pieces in the park anonymously we need to do a full Central Park Trek around the reservoir and through the trails we go, lapping up all the strangeness that occurs in this park which is endless. The athletic, the artistic, the homeless, the animals, the theatrical and the list goes on including a famous artist who doesn’t brag, just does. I so wanted to score a free Banksy and display it in my formal room, a great story and contrast. We fit right in and our dogs love it, even the girl dog whose paw is fine for now with all the good meds she is on; drug up and walk on!

Rule #52 THE SIZE OF TABLE (AND IT MATTERS) SHOULD ALLOW FOR TWO FEET PER CHAIR.

“Dining Rooms are all about size. How much from the wall to allow for seating? Minimum 3’0”. Keep asking...”

UNCLE SCAM
U.S. robs bank of \$13B (New York Post)
“JPMorgan Chase pays record fine, they must of made a lot to pay that high.”

From the dinner last week at the woman’s charity, my real mission was to find more 14 year olds friends for my daughter to hang with. She would not be happy to know this with two lined up; our first is in effect this Sunday, we are meeting single proud father who is the head of the Port Authority until the new year when the government will change. His two girls that he brings: one daughter, one friend, are more academic based and my two are in heels with make-up. It was not the perfect girls combo; they are all at an awkward age, either braces just off or ready to come off but the Four Seasons Hotel is always a good brunch at 57th Street. We split the bill and go on our separate ways. Hilarious that my girls notice that the man didn’t pay the whole thing; it is hard to teach independence versus hospitality? Even I get confused, I think he could of expensed me in terms of our related fields.

We head home stopping at the Threading Salon on Lex. Who doesn’t do that after brunch for the perfect brows and settle into that New York Times newspaper horizontal on the sofa looking symmetrical the correct distance from nose to brow! I am fascinated by the Real Estate Section which I will be in very soon, even more than the Style Section these days. This city is really a whole different world, where some pay very little and others - there are no boundaries. For co-ops you need to be coached to buy and then hard to sell. Many of the condos are low ceiling and to get high ceilings you need to go downtown and West. For 3 million, the deliverables are not great, maybe a two bedroom that needs work and you can’t move the water stacks, live with that toilet in your clothes closet. I love the column: who spent the most that week in real estate purchases, called Big Ticket; it is beyond!!!

Rule #53 CREATE FLOW, A.K.A. A GOOD HAIR DAY. MAKE SURE YOUR DINING SPACE BLENDS WITH CONNECTING ROOMS. DURING A FORMAL DINNER, I DO NOT WANT TO LOOK AT OR SMELL LAUNDRY!

“Remember your site lines and the full experience definitely no powder room views from your culinary delights.”

JETS RULE
Gang Green beats Pats after rare OT penalty (New York Post)
“Rules should not win the game.”

This is like school photo day I attend two functions, the first at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Conservancy Lunch for Central Park with my brother’s business partner’s wife and her posse including TV gal and Restaurant Gal. The room is full of women and is sponsored by Van Clef and Arpels featuring the editor of Cosmopolitan Magazine and designer local New York native Issy Maske. They banter on stage, jewelry is given away and very little wine is drank. These New Yorkers take lunch seriously. All for a good cause but slightly boring. I wore my fall dress with matching coat plus big hair. After I walked around Columbus Circle, clearly overdressed but with great hair wanting to go to the design museum but Mondays is a no go.

The same social photographer who snapped me at the lunch is now at the book signing party for Mario Bhuatta given by the uber wealthy couple, 2 or 3rd marriage for sure who rule both New York and Palm Beach. The venue was the Four Season restaurant at 52th Street and the upper crust crowd was there in full attendance. The women charming, mainly tall with shoulder length hair and names like mine - similar to cute little doggies: Muffy, Mindy, Miffy, CeCe, Leelee and the list goes on. There are rules here and one of them is to be conservative but it is your connections that win the game. My escort, his step mother Marianne (it sounds like Gilligan’s Island) and I go to the bistro downstairs for a full debrief. It is my first full exposure to it all and I loved it, from the who’s who to what medical procedure and what charity you can advance yourself through to Peter Marino in his leather chaps. Ironically, I still have not had Mario sign my book and this is my second book signing.

Rule #54 DON'T BE AFRAID TO ADD DRAMA, MIX UP FABRICS, WALLPAPER, PAINT OR USE COLOR OR DETAIL WITH NAIL HEADS.

"Layer it up and blend all the luxury for the best ever dinner party. Who would you want to invite?"

OBAMA SCARE

Gal faints amid O's med-plan glitch fix (New York Post)
"At least he made a joke, this happens when I talk too much, I think."

Now that I get a play date between 7pm to 10pm, when homework is getting done, the nights are really becoming full fun. It is like I dropped in from outer space when people ask where I am from and what I am doing here they are amazed I just packed up, moved and started a new life. I, on the other hand, think everyone should do something once that just takes you out of your box. I am out of my comfort zone every day; I try new things and I can do this. I am constantly on the search for new projects; it is hard just to meet people and ask if they need some design work- though sometimes I do. I have met the management company of my apartment vice president and have had him over for a visit. Now it is full game to ask if I can re-do his lobby by sending really bad photos of what exists - a girl's got to try. They can only say no; I promise not to faint.

Tonight is a challenge as I am going to attend my first black tie event alone but sort of with a date that is working the event. I make sure that my daughter loves my coral red dress, straight hair, jewelery and all my luxury blended together to make me up. I taxi down, having my photos taken by the same woman who took them yesterday and now we are friends. The Maria Casita Gala is one of the biggest events of the fall and again Mario Bhuatta is there being funny as the MC. The gala is at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel; I wonder if I will go there tomorrow, as it seems like the only place to have an event. More photos taken that will show up on the internet much to the glee of my PR agent. I am seated at a fabulous table beside a French architect who speaks through the speeches; we get some bad glances from the important eyes at the table. I interpret that I was told I am the most beautiful woman in the room. I dance a few songs as my coral skirt twirls, thinking my prince is not here; I meet a few more people, hand out cards and Cinderella heads home.

Rule #55 LIGHT UP YOUR WORLD! LIGHT IS THE JEWELRY OF THE SPACE USE A DIM-ABLE SWITCH SO THAT YOU CAN CREATE SETTINGS. BETTER YET, KILL THE LIGHTS AND GO FOR CANDLES, YOU WILL EVEN LOOK MORE BEAUTIFUL. TRUST ME ON THE SUNBLOCK!

"Never install pot lights in a dining room unless you want to be feeding ghosts during Halloween!!!"

HE'S A KNOCKOUT

Babe belted by Jets fan also busted (New York Post)
"A dustup after the game can lead to charges."

New York has a full smile sunny face on to match mine. I have a magical morning and stroll through Central Park in all its fall glory. The perfect fall lighting bestowed on my face just catching the sparkle in my eyes; lighting is key to beauty it can alter truths. I head for lunch at Bar Italia and have my favourite food and wine to just enjoy. I sit in the window with a bestie and get caught up with all our plans beside an older couple with a dog who is nestled beside my legs and I feel right at home. The winds pick up in this city between the buildings, I am accustom to low temperature, not the winds - I am never prepared. I seem to always be in a whirl wind. I go grocery shopping at Eli's at 3rd and 80th Street, which has everything you can imagine. Honestly, this is just as much fun as Barney's and about the same prices.

Hanging with the dogs and groceries put away in our brownstone, what could be better? New York at night takes on a different hue and flavour. The bustle calms down and the lighting is soft, subdued, where you can spy in the grand apartments on Park Avenue. We take the dogs up Park Avenue while spying in; they are fishbowls at night, just awaiting our glances. There is so much money here and the doorman culture has me mesmerized. The dogs live for grass in this concrete landscape so we take them on the boulevard on Park Avenue, ignoring the "no dogs" sign; they can't read.

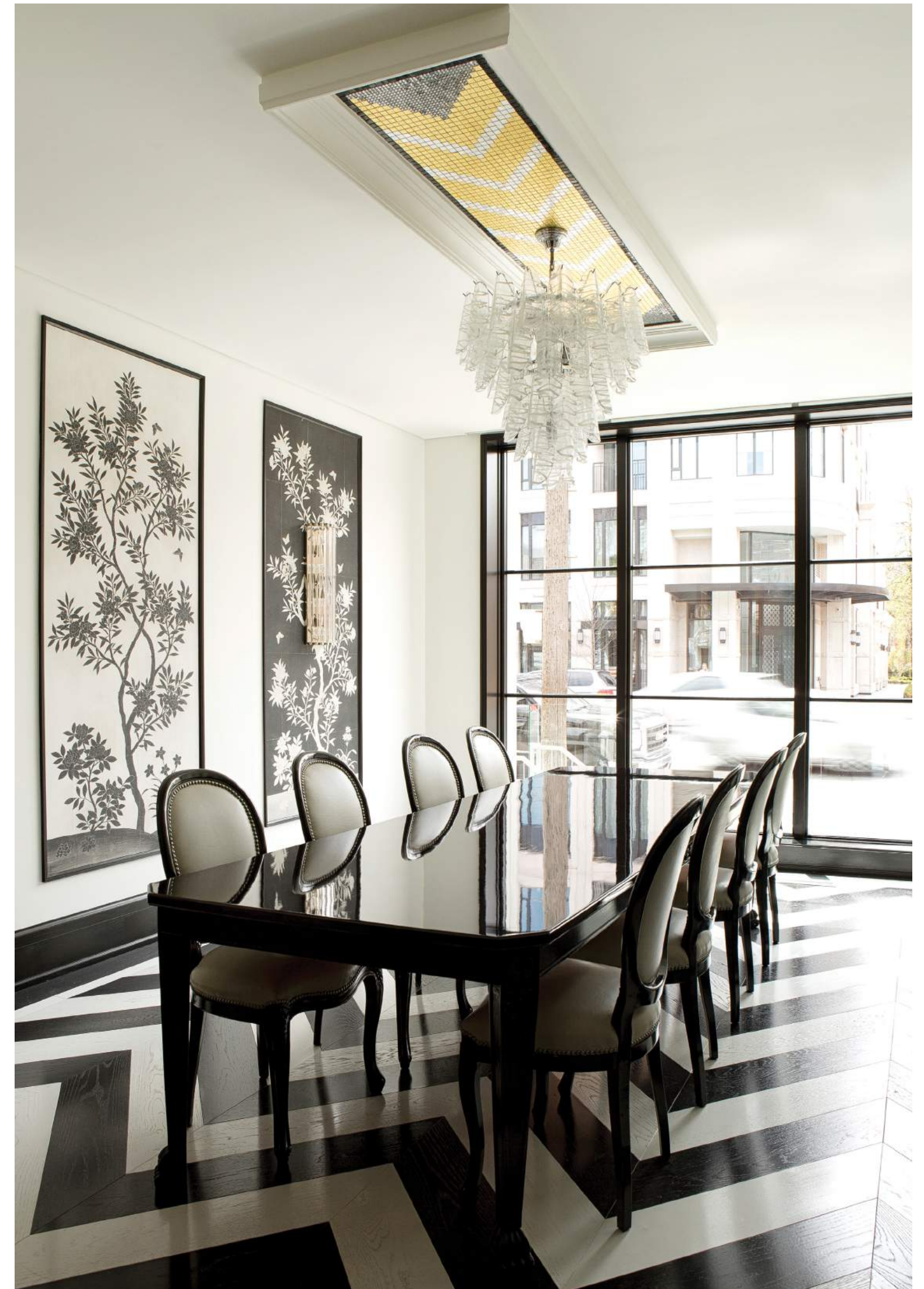
Rule #56 IN LARGE SPACES MULTIPLE CHANDELIERS WILL CREATE REPETITION AND PULL A LARGE SPACE TOGETHER. BIG TABLES - MULTIPLE LIGHTING. SMALL TABLES SINGULAR LIGHTING.

"What size table gets two chandeliers? It depends on the size of the chandelier, rule of thumb a five light chandelier can handle 5 feet in either direction. Or better yet use candles."

RIAL AND ERROR

Break for killer Kennedy cuz (New York Post)
"Lawyer mistake you get a new trial even if you killed someone?"

My morning routine is viewed from afar, there is lots of repetition. It goes like this: wake up at 6am, feed the dogs, set the table, make daughter's breakfast, get her up at 6:30am, walk dogs so I can accompany her to school, clean up, everything has to go in dishwasher, make beds, take male dog with us because he never finishes his business that early but the girl dog does (go figure), make sure daughter is at school on time - which is not easy, get lattes and after ten blocks back to apartment it is 8am. It is amazing how much I get done in the morning and I am still late for appointments. Today not such a rush, it is interview day for a potential butler which consists of lunch with questions.



I have chosen the restaurant Michael's at 24W 55th Street, as it is one of my NY friend's power places and my mom reads about it all the time in NYSD. It reminds me of Nello's, more local and business great flowers and doesn't spill to street trapping unsuspecting tourists. We meet the owner Michael as we always do and we are amongst the branches in the garden area; I will learn later that you want to be on display at the front. Either way, the potential hire is slightly dull and questions more about where to put his car when travelling and being dazzling. It is decided he will cook a dinner party for me on Saturday and we will go from there. It is still early and it is hopping time from restaurant to hotel/restaurant at Central Park South, to Ciprani's on 5th. Restauranted out and time to head home to chill.

Rule #57 IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS, SO ADD DETAIL WHEREVER YOU CAN. CREATE A CUSTOM TABLE AND CUSTOM CHAIRS THAT ADD YOUR OWN PERSONAL TOUCH! MAKE SURE THE REVEALS FOR YOUR INLAY ARE PERFECTLY PROPORTIONED. FOR A TABLE WITH 2.5 INCH OF WOOD BORDER THERE SHOULD BE AN 1/8 INCH INLAY. THE WIDTH OF THE BAND IS RELATIVE TO THE WIDTH OF THE INLAY.

"Defining the edge of a table gives the dining experience structure and etiquette."

HERMAN MONSTER

Legendary rock jock Dave busted in kiddie-sex sting (New York Post)
"Disgusting, say no more."

Eating and dealing with business, I am mainly handling our new live/work space in Toronto it really can't go slower, it is a difficult project with tight constraints on a busy commercial street. I am sent reports and pictures that I am not sure will either reassure me or frighten me. How much needs to be demolished, to be rebuilt. I stay positive. This all occurs on the west side during breakfast at Barney Greengrass at 541 Amsterdam Ave. This is a recommendation from a Toronto stock promoter and no table inlay in this joint! I must admit the orange juice is fresh and way cheaper; it is not the upper east and not my gig. Plates thrown at you, big portion coffee from a pot, the real bagel with endless cream cheese and a buzz - not my buzz. Fun to go back in sweats with a big appetite and in need of freshly squeezed at a discount price; I never return.

I find a Starbucks on the way to hit my latte fix. We all become creatures of habit and I am no different, even though I have stepped into another world completely. I now weave my way back to what warms me up in the inside. You just know innately what works; it is genetic I can't explain, a full St. Regis breakfast right down to the latte in a silver tea pot hits my bell. You can say that would hit everyone's bell but that is not true. For me it holds memories, whereas Greengrass just gives me heart burn. I don't want it loud and thrown food. This afternoon I will attend the International Art & Antique Show with my artist friend foreshadowing things to come, this will become my event; we will meet his friends and relish in the treasures. Again, I feel the right temperature in this environs the morning just went against my grain. On our departure, I was thinking taxi but the New Yorker reminded me "You are a New Yorker now, 13 blocks is nothing, walk it." So I am told and so I did.

Rule #58 MR. BIG! BIG DISPLAY AREA FOR ART AND FLEXIBILITY. ELIMINATE ALL THOSE HORIZONTAL LINES, LARGER PANELS ARE THE TREND.

"If you have the horizontals just cover them up with a recently purchased Sotheby's Cy Twombly."

TART REFORM

Juris-prudes lay down lady law (New York Post)
"Come on women not to show cleavage at work, ok men don't wear tight pants."

My daughter and I are to deal with quiet potential Butler being the chef this evening and we are all going shopping for groceries at Citronelle. I am slightly worried my daughter is planning the whole dinner (potential Butler not speaking), while we wander around the store; I always get into a coma near groceries. We have done all the aisles and decide on two courses with a salad with various ingredients none of which we can cook as we lack certain kitchen utensils. We have fresh everything, tuna to be seared, burrata cheese to top a primavera pasta and chocolate molten cake to be displayed then devoured. Next stop, drop the quiet one at the apartment while we go to William and Sonoma for kitchen devices. Pots, pans, prongs and plating we require, truly my daughter did all the shopping and planning at both places; she has her black belt in shopping at a luxury level; I am in trouble.

This is my first dinner party, as most people in NYC eat out and we have eaten out daily. Table set, candles lit and flowers in place, the guests arrive to some fabulous appetizers; I decided that Quiet Butler will not cut it when he changed the garbage bag in the kitchen; the bottom was wet and he didn't address it. It just shows that he will cut corners, plus he has been obsessing where he parked his car. This decided, we just enjoy the evening. Great food, it is a small with a mixed crowd of PR, antique books, real estate and politics. My daughter and her bestie eat in the breakfast room, fully served. No one is allergic to pine nuts so the night goes well. The adults wander up Madison for a bday celebration and I wander back with antique books as escort. All is well in NYC and my foot wear was high and performed, we are not judged on comfort but sex appeal or slammed for being too hot. You can never win being a woman; you just play the game, moving with the rules.

Rule #59 K.I.S.S. RULE: KEEP IT SIMPLE SWEETY! DRAPERY DETAILS SHOULD BE ELEGANT AND SIMPLE. INTERLINE THE DRAPE WITH FLANNEL FOR FLOW AND LUXURY.

"Keep the pleats down to a full roar!!!"

BLOOD BATH

Four kids, mom dead in B'klyn stab horror (New York Post)
"Don't put this on the cover, sadly all in the family."

Coming up is my daughter's bday week and we are planning out our celebration. First, deal with the school, so not to upset them as they don't accept just not going to school; it is a doctor's appointment just before lunch, that we will initiate that morning. We keep the calls to the school simple and few. Today is all about her. I want most of her homework organized and done, which she is brilliant at. The lists she makes on a daily basis are amazing and, a sharp contrast to my son who is, still slightly missing in action, completely disorganized - strategizing the least amount to do to get the exact minimum mark required.

My daughter and I chat about the girls stuff: what to wear, shoes that are high that you need to walk in during an event, tops that actually hide your tummy, purses with their associated costs and general shopping tips. It is decided that I will get her the earrings for her bday and we will try to practice some of the topics discussed. She has actually gone up and down Madison Avenue to find the jewelery store that has exactly what she wants so she can determine the exact size; she is so my daughter. Never leave much to chance, it is a control issue and I am the exact same way. That way bad things won't happen, at least that is what I believe...not true.

Rule #60 THERE SHOULD BE NO FLOODS IN THE DRAPERY. LET THE DRAPERY BREAK ON THE FLOOR SIMILAR TO THE WAY A PAIR OF PANTS BREAK ON THE SHOE.

"Note: Cuffs are out. Another note: over pudding is SO out!"

BUTCHER

Envy fuelled massacre of Brooklyn family (New York Post)
"Illegal and related kills hand that helped."

It is a Monday morning in NYC and the usual morning routine is done. Crisp beds perfectly folded and linen drapery freshly opened and due to lack of sewing, let puddle on floor, this is a rental and even rules are meant to be broken. I have a fabulous lunch planned with a new friend, they are all new friends typically and this one is truly brilliant. I met her last week and we both have daughters in the Hewitt School and divorced. There really is a club out there of single moms with a variation of the same story, either you left him for bad behaviour or he left you for his bad behaviour, either way we all find ourselves laughing, navigating this brand new world.

We meet at Sotheby's Auction house for lunch where she has been working on and off for the past 15 years. It is an amazing warm fall day; I walk the 13 blocks to 72nd Street and York to the modern new building. It is just before the major fall art auctions we dine in the cafeteria or rather eat then a delight I get to walk around the entire auction house as they are about to set up. I see the Andy Warhol Silver Car Crash, estimated at 30 million, leaning against the wall ready for hanging. Crazy that this desolate scene of blood will sell record high (give me beauty, not death). It is almost surreal with the abundance of art and objects for a private viewing. We discuss art, daughters and dating which she is interested in literature, so only dating writers at the moment. I like the themed dating approach.

Rule #61 THE LEADING EDGE OR THE BOTTOM DETAIL OF YOUR DRAPES ARE TO HAVE A HEM STITCH OR A GROSGRAIN DETAIL OF 5 INCHES FROM THE HORIZONTAL EDGE, AND 3 INCHES FROM THE VERTICAL EDGE.

"That extra detail similar to a great seam on a jacket separates the men from the metros"

TIME FOR REALITY CHECKUP

White House FINALLY admits med-plan truth (New York Post)
"Standards not being met."

It is one of the two most important days of the year for me it is my daughter's bday (the other being my son's bday). She is 14 years old today, so beautiful in every way. I am proud of how she has handled everything: moving to a new city, country, school and pursuing a new experience in every way. My daughter has poise and grace - that extra elegance that makes her a ballerina versus a rapper. We dress to go out for lunch to Fred's at Barney and we are dressed similar with jeans, sweater, scarfs and good hand bags - mine a Birkin, hers Valentino. She will have her second cake of the day; she woke up to breakfast in bed with a red velvet cupcake complete with candle. Next are the ear rings on Madison Avenue then onwards on our favourite Avenue for some tops and sweaters, having a mother daughter day. I keep it real; the diamonds are cubic zirconia and tops from Juicy - shopping on Madison can be lethal. Trying to explain to a 14 year old that 3,000 dollars is very expensive for a bag and the real value of what 3,000 dollars is, in this city you are inundated with surreal material wealth promptly displayed.

Needless to say, the day continued on to dinner at Mr. Chow's downtown with relatives and friends. The fourteen year age

LOWE

is a hard one, not a child any more nor an adult so even the choice of restaurant seems a bit too old; I lovingly watch her blossom. I want this age thing to slow down for me as well; I admit I am now looking at what to fix admitting that I see the wrinkles but in some weird way I like this truthful face, literally.

Rule #62 KEEP DRAPERY HARDWARE SIMPLE. USE AN END CAP WITH A 1 INCH METAL ROD AND RINGS. COMPLIMENTARY, NOT OVER-BEARING, LET THE RODS SIT BACK AND HAVE THE DRAPERY IN THE SPOTLIGHT. THE FLIP SIDE, SUNSHADES IN CEILING CAVITY

"The fabric beautiful Italian wool elegant understated."

SPY VS. SPY

Vlad gave G-20 bigs snoop gear disguised as gifts (New York Post)
"Russia playing big brother and breaking in to foes computers again."

I really am on a ride as I need to go back down to Sanibel Florida to review the site and do a full walk through, reviewing interior trimmings. The house is really coming and the previous requests are getting met but no way will it be ready for December. We measure for drapes and start to discuss the actual price point of mass merchandise, versus custom. My world has changed and so has the world. Back in the day, it was the custom drapery person that measured the drapes, now it is me and the product is off the shelf standard.

This time I am going to stay the night and have dinner with my artist friend who is in recover. Client and I, who are not but maybe should be, on Captiva. We do the drive as the sun sets on the two lane road winding down to the bohemian end. We have a great night at a little restaurant that is almost like being in the Caribbean with Jimmy Buffet. It is an unusual combination of sobriety and tolerance with a lively discussion about that very topic. We are friends and we know in our worlds today there are little secrets, the air is warm and sweet; I am thankful. Funny, I find a job posting for a construction manager at the Four Season Hotel and I am seriously considering applying - wow would I love a pay check just about now.

Rule #63 THE DRAPERY MATERIAL IS TO BE LUXURIOUS WITH YARDS OF FABRIC INCLUDING: WOOLS, SILKS OR LINENS.

"Even if the fabric is beautiful if you don't make them full enough they will appear cheap not easy on the eyes."

40,000\$ BUST!

Breast gal tops NYPD in suit (New York Post)
"Busted 10 times she gets money from cops"

I think it is important to be back for Halloween or is my daughter getting of an age where she probably doesn't care about it. Regardless, I do, so I get the first flight back to NYC and meet her walking home from school in her pyjamas down Park Avenue, her long sleeved, long pants, pink striped flannels - adorable. Next scene, daughter and her best friend have the short dress, thigh high socks, bows in hair and converse shoes (being the sailor girls), aka a bit too tight and short, resembling a bit too Hott!!!

NYC has little ones wandering around disappearing into buildings all dressed up. My daughter does a couple of buildings, resulting in an abundance of candy that we throw in a bowl and will throw out in due course. We contemplate going down to the Halloween parade but instead we watch it on TV - thank god it is a mob scene and only subwayable. Her girlfriends are in this weekend and I am going on a photo shoot. The dogs have gone to the groomers and each with their respective bows in their hair, are beaming. It is a noon start tomorrow on the adventure. Friend's daughter from NYU is coming to daughter/friend/dog sit, logistics worked out for visiting girls; I think I can leave with confidence - I think.



Chapter 5

Library/Den Rules:

Rule #64 USE A WOODEN FLOOR TO ENSURE DURABILITY FOR HEAVY TRAFFIC THROUGH THE SPACE. EVEN THOUGH TODAY'S BOOKS ARE ELECTRONIC, THE DEN / LIBRARY SHOULD START WITH A WOOD FLOOR AND END WITH AN INLAY AND AREA CARPET!

"Keep the area carpet inside the inlay, why introduce beauty just to cover it up."

GO FRISK YOURSELF

Appeals court tells NYPD judge... (New York Post)
"Taking the law into your hands can back fire on you."

Not letting my hair to chance after the last photo shoot, I take an early appointment at Valery Joseph on Madison; my hair and I are ready to fly. I have booked The Greek Team for this adventure to get photos of the properties I have recently completed, better head shots of myself are so required. It is the usual start with forgetful driver thankfully driving now to the private airport; this time with bags of accessories I have for all the properties - courtesy of Madura, a store in NYC on Upper Madison. Of course I can't help myself with my OCD I need to style the plane before we take off even though the first set of pics are in Fort Lauderdale. It is in my nature, I like everything to sit in harmony and square, in the perfect place.

The three of us bond on our way with our truth serum. We trade war stories, moving to a new country - me from Canada and them from Greece. Why they ever left that warm beautiful country where there is no stress to work, I will never know. Next stop is Ocala private airport where we pick up young new business partner (who will fail the loyalty test and not be a partner for long). He becomes my hot beach partner in pictures anyway. We all continue down the blue sky highway to meet up in Fort Lauderdale. The plane is unloaded, Greek Goddess and I style it up. We all behave, the photo shoot is done on the tarmac despite planes landing. We are good to go to the boat for minimal rest & relaxation. My hair still looks good, despite the humidity level.

Rule #65 IF YOU HAVE OFFICE CHAIRS ON CASTORS USE A COOL FLOOR COVER. FIND A LUCITE MAT, KEEP THE WOOD FLOOR UNDER WRAPS BECAUSE NOTHING IS WORSE THAN A CHAIR MARKING UP YOUR BEAUTIFUL FLOOR.

"No one wants to think people have been roller blading on your floor."

BURNIE GOETZ

Infamous '80's vigilance in pot arrest (New York Post)
"First murder back in the day now selling pot, a leopard never loses its spots."

After a night on the back of the boat in Miami enjoying sushi and more wine, the morning comes a little early. Back in NYC, my daughter is running the brownstone and the sitter. She has two friends visiting from Toronto, shopping away while exploring the city, leaving the sitter with the dogs. Really in the dust - the sitter never had a chance. We have left the plane with its new brown leather accessories contrasted to the boat theme that is definitely white. Last Christmas, I made the boat gleam in white leather accents and white sheeting/towels/linens with hemstitch adorned with initials. Bringing in more layers required, kicking all the company off so we could get started for photos. We sent them to the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show, shopping for yachts; we need to add accessories to make the yacht dressed for relaxation, ironic .

Three hours later, we get some fabulous photos of the interiors; I am off to size up yachts and join the lunch guests. I leave my crew behind to do more exterior shots where we will rejoin for some portraits at a sunset cruise. We wander amongst the boats and bump into one of our great friends who join our crew of merry people back to the boat we go and off to a photo cruise. It has been a long day and we are all in need of some good laughs that we get now with a count of eight of us; collecting people, I am getting good at - always was. Dinner on the Miami boardwalk facing the Alcatraz type Fisher Island, we are entertained and fed. My portrait and myself are looking good, despite wet environments; a test of a great blow out.

Rule #66 INSET PANELING, BOOKSHELVES AND STORAGE MAKE WALLS FUNCTIONAL. THEY CAN BE PAINTED OR WOOD PANELED. EVERYTHING HAS A FUNCTION!

“If you see some space hidden in a stud wall, use it, a secret hiding spot.”

JFK Jr. DEATH FIGHT
Secret diaries reveal (New York Post)
“In death, there are bound to be disputes over funerals, why write it down.”

It is early morning and we are out of the boat heading back to the plane on our way to Nassau. We have lost one person but we are still strong. We know everyone in the Nassau airport, including the guests and today is on a tight schedule. The theme today is orange and blue. We start on the three storey townhouse, bottom to top, finding ways to bring magic, with repetition and styling. Again, I send our posse away (or more like they bolt for an island tour with drinking) while we go to work. Time seems to fly and the photos are fabulous, all by this incredible natural light. Just as we reach the top floor the drinking team is back.

Switching gears as skies are going to open with rain, we are on the exterior for playtime shots. Walking, running, swimming, lounging and general resort living, we cover it. We missed the lunch and drinking, now my team is eating the fruit props, really it is time to go; we need to be in Ocala for dinner. Magically, next we find ourselves at the dinner table at the farm in Ocala with a chef who certainly enjoys eating his own cooking. Some days when I wake up I am not quite sure where I am going to lay my head to sleep. We are all giggles in Florida while my daughter is saying good bye to her Canadian friends in NYC. She is maturing and I am digressing. I would never write anything down, personal relationship wise, I truly feel that could make my life even more complicated.

Rule #67 TURN YOUR INSET PANELS INTO A PIECE OF ART! ADD LEATHER WITH NAIL HEADS OR COOL VINYL WALL PAPER. MAKE IT INTERESTING!

“Interesting doesn't have to mean lasting, the panel is the structure have some fun.”

BACK IN USSR
'Progressive' Bill's secret Cold War trip (New York Post)
“The mayor in Russia back in the 1980's while Reagan was in power, maybe a bit left?”

My hair definitely has to be washed today and my products/skills are limited. This is a large property and I have decided that even though I have to get back to NYC tonight, my crew needs to stay to capture the full experience of the property and vibe. We are shooting the angle of the before shots, to showcase the afters which are awesome all from the internet purchases as delivering to this remote farm, not so easy especially 48 mattresses. All this taking time and my flight is looming in Orlando a mere 1.5 hours away with a security line a mile long. We get what we can including some mediocre portraits and they are on their own to finish the resort. We have done 4 locations in 4 days, these shots will be used for social media of my decorating skills, not really architecture. It is a vast improvement on the existing snaps that were on the website and I get some killer portraits after 100s of shots, yeah!

My daughter had a fabulous time with her girlfriends, not sure she spoke with the sitter - typical 14 year old girl. I am not that impressed and next time I remove the friends so she can display to the girl sitter “I was brought up properly skills.” It is a late night flying back commercially to NYC after a whirlwind of really work plus fun, there goes the weekend or really I like it that way. My life is really blended. Now these pictures can go to work in the international press world. Just looking back, was I always mixing play with work? What has changed - the players?

Rule #68 YOUR CEILING SHOULD BE AN ARTICULATED COFFER CEILING. USE WHITE, NOT WOOD. HAVE THE CEILING FLOAT AWAY!

“Don't rain on my parade, light and airy.”

MALL PANIC
Terror as mad N.J. gunman open fires (New York Post)
“No one hurt, man still at large”

I wake up in NYC to the flavours and sights that tickle my brain. The routine I have made my own: down Park Avenue, up Park Avenue for chai latte, various stops for flowers, laundry and groceries to get the apartment back on its feet. The daily calls to my office where we are working on the farm in King City. Crazy that all these clients feel they are interior designers and know more than I do after 25 years (I admit there are some good ideas); I am a control freak with a long set of rules. “What colour do you want the ceiling” is a loaded question.

I am invited to a cocktail party for a book signing, *The Power of Glamour* by Virginia Postrel at the home of glamour woman herself, perfectly maintained on Park Ave. It is lovely traditional decor with elaborate details and the women are well turned out. I go simple, in a white wool cap sleeve dress and coat. My picture will be in NYSD with the rest and I blend in minus the elbow length gloves. Fabulous conversations with journalist abound, the night is a spin on, topic after topic. I meet an infamous NYC photographer, Rose Hartman, who did the Studio 54 days daily. The next day, I will receive her book from a friend stating that this woman scares his partner and most people. The life she has lived while if those photos could only speak, a rich fabric of visuals.

Rule #69 YOU'LL NEED WALL SCONCES, DESK LIGHTS, FLOOR LIGHTS, ETC. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE OVER 45 YEARS OLD TO LOSE YOUR EYE SIGHT! LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE!

“Not sexy wearing those readers, they are always dirty.”

BIG BILL
De Blasio romps in mayor race (New York Post)
“He is going to win, oh boy, he did!”

I am working away in my NYC office which is also my apartment as so many New Yorkers do the same. I get that door buzz and I know it is not for groceries or dry cleaners. What could it be? Beautifully wrapped with a fabulous card, it is the book of INCOMPARABLE Women of Style which the author gave to my friend. My new book has his name inscribed and her signature. I am happy with that as I am desperately in need of books for my shelves and he is not allowed any more, according to his partner, a perfect storm. Since having my laser eye surgery, I can read it all with naked eyes. This gift brings me pleasure and hope that I will have real friends here; we all only need 1 or 2 real friends in life anyway.

My parents are in NYC and are coming to stay with us this weekend; I am planning restaurants. Via the grapevine my father's displeasure with my choices are coming through, I ignore as he thinks I am booking the Four Season Hotel not the Four Season infamous restaurant. I will let him stew and then all will be resolved upon ordering the food. On a different note, ordering furniture for our Sanibel client in NYC and the price checks amongst States has begun. This new world of beat the neighbour with price and internet promises makes the furniture business a tough one. Continuing on the “order” topic, a late but beautiful order - The Dog Bowl has arrived in the Toronto office that was supposed to be for a pet charity. It is similar to a fish bowl, but for dogs, did not arrive on time for the actual event. I love it so much I am shipping to NYC, no I will not fill it with water.

Rule #70 DRESSING BOOKSHELVES IS SIMILAR TO DRESSING YOURSELF. VERTICAL ITEMS SHOULD BE CONTRASTED WITH HORIZONTAL ITEMS... IF ONLY BOOKSHELVES CAME IN PRADA (NOW THAT IS A GOOD IDEA!)

“I am a vertical girl, give me stripes.”

CHASED OUT
Blasio reject Kelly eyes JPMorgan job (New York Post)
“Not wanted by mayor, go into Finance.”

Tonight, I am going to go to a cocktail party at Sotheby's Real Estate office at 61st Street and Madison to view the Liagere Villa in St Barts. I'm also going to really catch up with my real estate agent. To date, said she could help me with potential clients but so far, nothing and will prove to be nothing at the end of the day, but she still takes her commission. The villa is beautiful, as expected, and I make an appointment to look at real estate with her, who really never shows me what I want (there are always so many complications, money being one of them) and still no leads. I gave her business and that being done she has her eye on the next. It is starting to turn cold; the walk up Madison is fabulous and refreshing. I do a little gourmet grocery shop around 73rd and feel very New York.

I have that New York look on: black boots, tights, cashmere dress coat and freshly blown hair... really, I could go anywhere. The act of dressing can make you fit in, the perfect combination of proportions. I opt to walk right by the Carlyle, knowing inside the jazz is fabulous, but tonight I want to do it solo in NY and feel the street beneath my feet. I take the dogs for yet another walk, this time over to Fifth Avenue which is always a bit windier but the buildings are worth it. The city is alive and twinkling, its lights and the strong limestone architecture protects its people. The Metropolitan Museum is at the end of my block and despite its hoarding, it sits proudly on the edge of the Park. I dream of dancing up those stairs at night; I am going to put that on my bucket list. Good night New York.

Rule #71 BOOK CASES SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN 3 FEET WIDE. YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL THE PLASTIC SURGEON FOR SHAGGY SHELVES! MAKE SURE THEY ARE THICK ENOUGH AND STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD YOUR THICKEST READS!

"Remember those saggy knees photos in the National Enquirer, don't let them be yours."

AT-WAH!

Bad taste: Feds eye trans-fat ban (New York Post)

"Cracking down on fats, look out oldies but goodies."

I have guests coming in, my parents - so, family; they arrive to the upper east side, fresh out of New Jersey. New York neighbourhoods come with a variety of experiences and you simply choose your poison. You just need to make sure that you are getting what you want just in a different place, you want ease and not to stick out. For brunch I wrongly choose E.A.T., the most silly and expensive diner, my Dad laughs and sticks me with the l'addition.

I get everyone settled in the apartment plying them with some food and wine. Tonight, the four of us are going to the Four Seasons Restaurant at 52nd Street and Park. This infamous restaurant from the 1970's where it is rumoured that Philip Johnson, the architect did the staircase. In its day and even now, it is a place to be seen. We sit in the Pool Room and the table service is exquisite as they prepare Caesar salad table side and the dover sole is deboned beside us. A beautiful elegant old school night was had by all in this modern building by Mies Van der Rohe, the black box. The pink candy floss dessert is iconic and old school which I am sure not an ounce of health is consumed contrasted to the high octane interior architecture of the room.

Rule #72 IF YOU HAVE A SHELF THEN LIGHT IT UP! INCORPORATE ROPE LIGHTING UNDER THE SHELF TO ILLUMINATE THE BOOKS BELOW. THE PERIMETER OF THE SHELF CLAD IN WOOD AND GLASS INSERT PANELS WILL LET THE LIGHT SHINE THROUGH.

"Lighting through the shelves from the top is dramatic and even gets better as it hits objects on the way down."

BRUTAL

State probes fight after boxer coma (New York Post)

"Is this a sport or an assault."

Everyone is getting the vibe of the UES, dressing accordingly as today is museum day. First, we go to the Neue Gallerie at 86th Street to see Gustav Klimt and the fabulous stair case. Then, we go to the New York Historical Society on the west side at 76th Street, touring the architecture and visiting the restaurant for a quick bite before an early dinner; we are the meal family.

After our famous dinner last night I choose a local Italian restaurant, Antonucci at 81st Street and 3rd for dinner, easy and walkable. My dad is not impressed with the non-italian and unattractive waitress who, when asked what she recommended on the vast menu, states: "Meatballs." (I guess he was hoping for more). After a day out in NYC and an early reservation, I am glad to be home early; dinner seemed more combative than actual dining plus the meatballs were fantastic! I always adorn the apartment with flowers and some pistachios, so it is fragrant and salty; it is just my thing now I am in Manhattan. I used to be jube jubes and wine gums in Toronto; I must be maturing.

Rule #73 DECORATE YOUR SHELVES WITH BOWLS, FRAMES AND GLOBES MIXED WITH BOOKS. THIS BALANCE WILL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU CAN READ AND THAT YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE TOGETHER.

"A story is told from your personal books and objects: tell a fascinating one."

WASTE LAND

Worst storm ever kills up to 10,000 (New York Post)

"The nannies need to locate families back in their homeland."

It is that amazing day, Sundays in NYC you lounge around, get good lattes and see where the world is going. I walk down Madison and visit some galleries; I am more interested in the spaces than the art: black high gloss floors, tall white walls and interesting lighting. Photos are streaming in to my computer from the previous week of photo shoots, they look wonderful and will be good for business. From galleries to Dean & DeLuca which is similar to an art gallery for food; I get the usual breakfast foods they bag it up beautifully and we are still on Madison Avenue my fave. It is dreamy and I pinch myself as I go to the local book store to peruse books. I'm looking for J.D. Salinger Nine Stories; they actually have a first edition at Crawford Doyle Booksellers at 82nd Street.

I read the one story, *Just Before the War with the Eskimos* which I really do not relate to and the half eaten sandwich in the pocket at the end leaves me empty and not hungry for more. It is restauranting that defines so much of our New York experiences as people just want out of their environs to visit their local haunts and on Sunday night, Milos restaurant is the haunt for many. The fish is fresh and the buzz is pre-Monday, having said that, there is no pre-anything in NYC as this

city never sleeps; I am loving the Greek waiter who gives almost a built in comedy routine amongst fabulous food. Time is ticking in my OCD brain and there is always something waiting back in the homeland to repair or to schedule.

Rule #74 FOR A CRAZY ENGLISH MANOR LOOK MOUNT FRAMES ON THE GABLES OF THE BOOK SHELVES

"Know the rules to break the rules, complexity."

LOADED FOR WEAR

Bryant Park rink thug 'opened fire' over coat (New York Post)

"Shooting over material goods, some hand gun laws please."

It has been a fabulous weekend and I have suggested in celebration of the UES experience, a breakfast at Sant Ambroese. I field some calls and head over after dropping my daughter over at Hewitt School. I have a fabulous breakfast and walk all the way down to 54th Street, visiting galleries and stores on the way. It is not about what you buy but that all the stores are sprouting the latest of the latest in trends, colour and style. It is an education in its self.

Back at the apartment, the bags are packed and laundry will begin. I take a moment and I am thankful for this time with my parents. The peonies in the living room are fully bloomed and busting with beauty; I feel so NYC and you just have to keep going to the trough for more opportunities. I will order in some chopped salads tonight and plan out the week ahead while I play homemaker/housekeeper. Still building our new home in Toronto, looking for work in both countries and planning a Toronto site visit this Thursday, I am finished doing the housework, my life is full of complexity or some would say enriched - others chaotic; I hold on to beauty in spirit, not materiality.

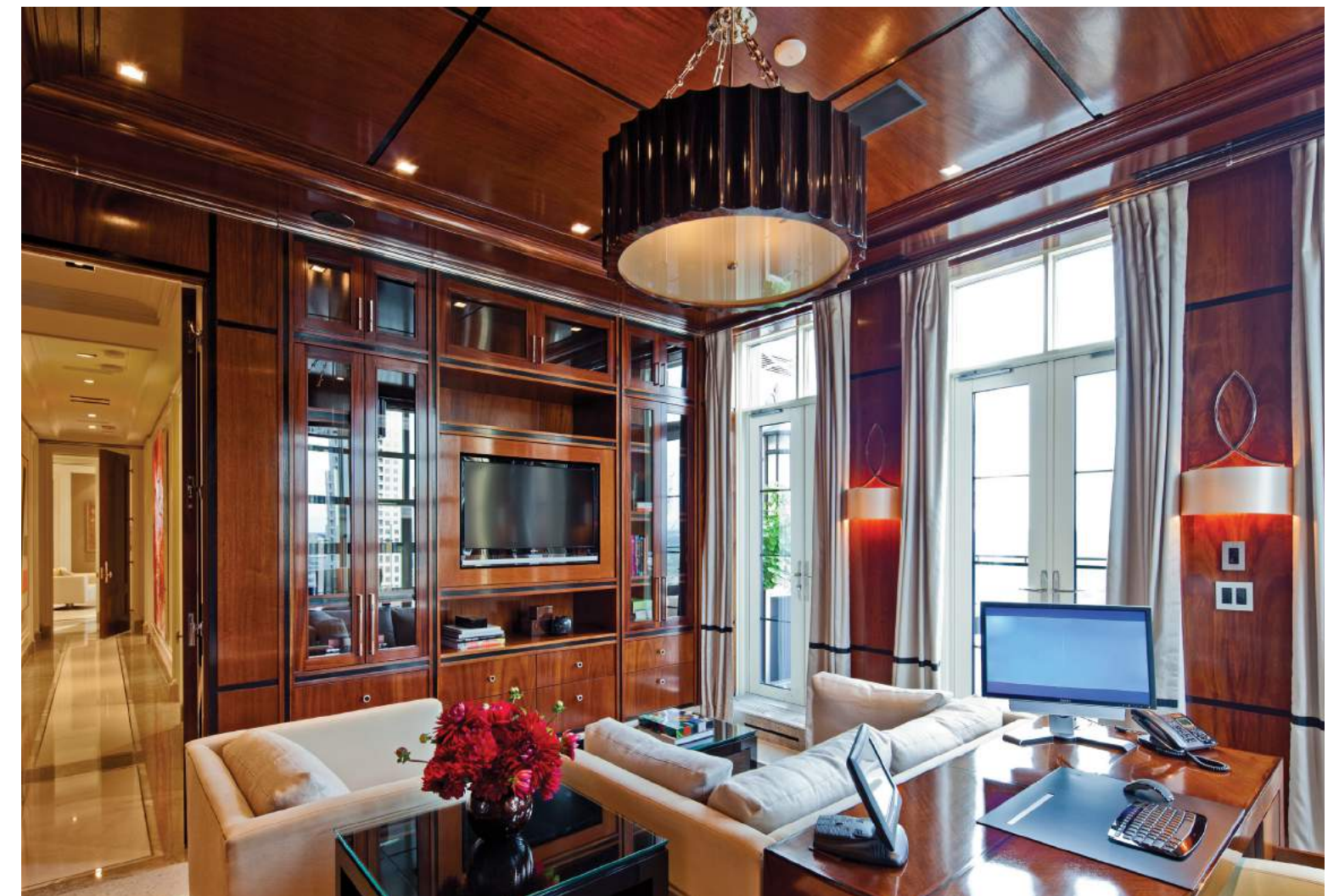
Rule #75 MAKE SURE THE CABINET BELOW YOUR BOOKSHELVES ARE AT A MINIMUM OF 20 INCHES DEEP IN ORDER TO HOLD PRINTERS AND ELECTRONICS. THE HEIGHT OF THE LOWER CABINET SHOULD BE 30 INCHES.

"When in doubt and near a desk make surfaces at 30 inches in height always useful for pens to write at."

BAND ON THE RUN

Fled Iran only to be gunned down in B'klyn (New York Post)

"Safer in Iran?"



I now have my hair done once a week because my bath enamel tub (which has been repainted a thousand times) does not always seem to produce great hair. It is a good move today that after my hour, well 50 minute power circuit class, I opt for the quick fix and continue my day with constant emails and phone calls. I have volunteered for the school gala committee and having lunch today with a fellow architect who is pregnant and really can't do the job either as she is giving birth in the new year close to gala time. I feel everyday here I am giving birth to something new. I start to hear the politics of the gala and I think we will donate a live auction item instead of being crazed with these mother sharks. In addition, she is from South America and tells me the woes of buying a co-op in NYC and being rejected; you need to be nice to the right people once you figure that out. New York is not friendly in some areas and one of them is real estate while the other may be galas.

Tonight I am going to mid-town for a fashion presentation which is avant-garde and the clothes are slightly non-wearable while hanging off skinny models. I watch or rather stare and make the executive decision to bolt straight back and grab an E.A.T. dinner in the café. It has candle light - just to make the bill slightly hard to read. Drinking tap water is a good idea; it balances the \$25 Caesar salad. All things being equal, the restaurant is across the street from where we live. Funny, I was there for both lunch and dinner still complaining about the prices but will continue to frequent. It is our hood: upper east, overpriced and safe.

Rule #76 ESSENTIALS FOR THE LIBRARY: DESK, DESK CHAIR AND A MINIMUM OF TWO CLUB CHAIRS! DO YOU HAVE A LARGER ROOM? IF SO, THEN TRY A LOVE SEAT AND TWO CHAIRS. IF YOU ARE BLESSED WITH AN OFFICE / LIBRARY THAT DOUBLES AS A LIVING AREA THEN TRY TWO DIFFERENT SEATING AREAS! CREATE CONVERSATION AREAS, THIS WAY, PEOPLE MAY ACTUALLY SPEAK IN PERSON RATHER THAN TO COMMUNICATE VIA TEXT MESSAGES!

"The art of conversation is getting lost, create furniture to speak by."

WHAM BAM!

Even Bill raps O'Care (New York Post)

"Democrats putting down democrats, poor President."

Another shot at the real estate game, looking all over to see neighbourhoods and prices from full houses to apartments. I go with my lady from Sotheby's and a driver so I can get dog food on route which is fabulous as my local haunts are all gourmet, oh those dogs; I could book a driver once a week for errands, walking is my new car. I can't get excited even over one place, I see either the bad neighbourhood or the creepy space regardless of price but I do get reasonable dog food and treats. This really takes the whole day and I can see why people just stay renting in this city, it may just be the right call. I give my feedback to the agent and even the classic 6 at Lex and 76th Street just seems ok for the price, the only good news, you don't need that much furniture because they are all so small; I want to be excited and have a view, all these agents speak like I would be lucky to actually get a place, tough real estate love.

I stay positive and I will know when I see it or win the lottery, in the meantime the Toronto Christmas party invitations are starting to come in and I am not sure how I feel. Where do I live? Always great to have options though the allure of going backwards has never appealed to me. I want to have some New York road time before I go back to Toronto for the social set. Happy to have my work in Toronto but I want to keep my social schedule south of the border for now. Tomorrow, another in and out day in Toronto. My girlfriend asked me: do I have two feet in or out? Truth is, I am dancing on both. When your own kind observes you on an issue, you need to listen.

Rule #77 OFFICE ACCESSORIES ARE A MUST! THIS INCLUDES TRAYS, LAMPS AND DECORATIVE BOXES. WHEN ORGANIZING THE DESK AREA, EVERYTHING NEEDS A PLACE, EVEN YOUR UNDERUSED PEN.

"Place your accessories in odd numbers, they balance."

30 LOCK

Alec 'stalker' jailed a month for trial antics (New York Post)

"If you have an order against you just stop talking about it."

I have plans to go to the horse farm in Ocala this weekend and I am thrilled. My flying day this week, I do a site visit in Toronto, the project is complex and a semi-detached - our new live/work place. The front façade still on, the rear is all steel awaiting walls, the massing is bold and the cladding material a work in progress. Holding up the walls, literally bracing as we go, we demolish and rebuild in the metal stud world of non-combustible construction. A fine balance of architecture and budget. Funny, the actual floor framing can be wood, don't ask who wrote the building code. From office to clients, which will turn out to be very high maintenance, really need to pick clients better, some are super fantastic while some absorb too much time and are never satisfied. The bad clients are the ones where things keep going wrong and continue to do so, that Karma thing is real.

My girlfriend is away at Necker Island training with Nadel for our up and coming ladies doubles event in Nassau; I am starting to specialize in visiting airports, trying to keep my flights to once a week. This week will not be one of them. Land and pack ready for tomorrow's adventure!

Rule #78 YOUR DESK SHOULD BE 30-31 INCHES HIGH, DEPENDING ON WHETHER YOU WISH TO CROSS YOUR LEGS OR INSERT A PENCIL DRAWER.

"What height is comfortable to write at versus type at versus thickness of thighs, the last number being the least interesting number."

DISASTER

The president yesterday finally admitted what everyone in America already knew: ObamaCare is a total and unmitigated (New York Post)

"Where are the presidential advisors?"

Errands at 1pm, flight at 3pm and dinner at farm. The weather here: heaven. I am trying out a new chef and have the run of the house including the office where I occasionally do some work. It is quiet, skies filled with stars and I am relaxed. Dinner is yummy and the bed awaits me. This house finally feels like home as I haven't seen it since it has been finished with all the touches. What is a home in my life right now, is it something that can be rented out and promoted on the website? For this weekend I will call it home, as the one in Toronto doesn't have walls.

I worked on this house for two years: gutting the floors, re-painting all walls, re-doing the exterior, ordering over \$500,000 of furniture on-line. In summation, ordered 48 beds, that really states the scope of work. Now with art touches on the walls, it feels great. Stop moving magazines and candles for perfect eye candy, relax and read the mags. I can now admit easily when I am wrong and when we all need just to rest - time to chill. I am becoming an adult.



Chapter 6

Powder Room Rules:

DEE DEE RULES: NYC

Rule #79 USE INDIVIDUAL LINEN TOWELS ON THE VANITY TOP AND SUPPLY A WASTE PAPER BASKET FOR DIRTY LINEN TOWELS TO BE LAUNDERED. THESE LINENS MAY GO MISSING WITH YOUR GUESTS... WIERD!

"I have had one returned dry cleaned, now that is OCD and theft."

GRAND THEFT TATAS

Teen steals boob job (New York Post)

"Stealing identity for boob job, is that a crime?"

It is one of those days at the farm with zero responsibilities. I sleep in and wake to a fabulous breakfast and latte. We are all on a slow start with a rainy day so riding is cancelled and we embark on an Ocala tour with the groomsmen, the non-English speaking Brazilian in tow. We are all bonding, first to Silver Springs we go with our entourage - now the four of us. Groomsmen, daughter and I go on the tour of the glass bottom boats, interesting these springs have employees that have worked here for 25 years as tour operators; we learn it all and then some. Armed with information, we take Brazilian for sushi, let me tell you: South American gauchos don't do sushi, he has 4 Coca Cola's while we chop stick away.

All of us are learning Spanish and maybe some English too as the next stop is the Tack Shop which involves all of us riding a mechanical horse and buying some riding boots. The day is slowly falling into night; I am sure the gaucho is happy to be rid of us and hungry; we have dinner, relaxed at the farm. The candle light is softening, I take a snap shot with my memory; I embrace the moment. Stealing anything does not have to be actual "stuff", the worst is trying to take your memories and your time. The weather is improving tomorrow and we will ride before we leave. Tonight is bliss and really in the moment in the middle of nowhere. I miss NYC with all its sights and sounds, glad for the break, will be happy to go back for more.

Rule #80 NO SOAP PUMP! USE SMALL SOAPS IN A NICE DISH ADJACENT TO THE SINK AND AVOID LARGE SOAPS BECAUSE THEY BECOME DIRTY AND UGLY. SMALL SOAPS DISAPPEAR QUICKLY. THERE IS NOTHING WORSE THAN AN OLD SOAP THAT'S BEEN AROUND SINCE LAST CHRISTMAS! THE ONLY PUMPS I WANT TO SEE IN THE POWDER ROOM ARE ON YOUR FEET!

"Actually in a powder room it is okay to have pumps on as no bath mats in here."

TART TAKES THE CAKE

Waitress stole hubby - then the recipes! (New York Post)

"She got the man and the business secrets."

We have a 6pm flight which means we need to leave the farm by 3:30pm for the 1.5 hour drive and the Orlando security line which is always long as it is the hub of Disney World, I call it Micky Mouse Air. The day starts earlier with horse riding trails and polo lessons. These horses need to be ridden more as they are a bit sluggish with the farm not in full capacity; we are the trainers by either kicking harder or holding on stronger. For me, it is really time in the saddle that slowly builds up the confidence. Some are born on a horse but some are not, a little apprehensive the horses sense that we need to bond with these animals and get their secrets; I, on the other hand, am just trying to cantor by leaning in similar to the book *Lean In*. It takes a village and I am having full conversations with the horse. Our groomsmen has us practicing stick and ball while adding different shots to my repertoire; I am gaining a game and getting the right equipment in the right place.

We are booked to fly back to New York this evening as we have a fundraiser tomorrow night in Manhattan for the Urban Arts, a very cool concept of a 24 hour play. I call my best new NYC friend and make sure he is available on short order. I settle back in to the brownstone around 9pm, pick up the dogs from the quirky dog sitter across the street who probably is high and the dogs can breath at home again away from the weird fumes in her apartment; the dogs seem happy or stoned.

Rule #81 WALL SCONCES SHOULD DIMLY LIGHT THE POWDER ROOM THERE IS NO NEED FOR BRIGHT LIGHTS SINCE YOU SHOULD NOT BE DOING YOUR MAKEUP OR PLUCKING YOUR EYEBROWS HERE!

"This is a formal room for primping not beautifying."

RETURN OF THE GUNS

"Frisk" ruling's scary stats (New York Post)

"Read the stats and fix the problem."

I always forget when I return from a trip that the days of leaving the suitcases in the front hall are over and I have to sort out the laundry from the shoes. It brings back memories, back in the day there would be a mind game play with my housekeeper, where she would always unpack the kids, but mine would stay as she knew I couldn't leave it that long without unpacking/sorting. Wow, those days are over. We arrive to no food and dead flowers but at least, our own beds. I was so excited about this charity because the hostess is LA/NYC based and husband a big TV executive: a couple event,

DEE DEE RULES: NYC

now with change in partners all I want to do is enjoy the event with a lovely friend that makes my life in NYC so enriched. It is from restaurant, to theatre, to bar and we add bar in first eliminating the last leg. The theatre portion is so amazing, light and full of laughter with recognizable actors. It is good we supported their charity and I bank that for we can call on them in the future, that is how the charity circle works or it should go that way but some people just do the wrong thing in the wrong place even though the writing is on the wall and in the report. Even if you can't attend, send money - just saying. The charity thing is all about you give to theirs and they give to yours, helping the common good. We all need to help look around and hopefully you are dimly lit in the right places.

Rule #82 THE DIVISION OF ASSETS: THE SINK SHOULD BE IN ONE AREA, SEPARATE FROM THE TOILET.

"When you open the door it is the sink you want to see not the toilet."

LA COSA BUST-RA!

TV Mob Wife eyed in NYC abduct & rob (New York Post)

"There should be a separation between TV and reality."

Today is a blast from the past from when I was a cheerleader (over 30 years ago). I am meeting one of the jock hunks for breakfast at Michael's on 54th Street, the power breakfast haunts and they seat me up front which apparently they place the people to be seen. Trust me, I have been at the rear before. Well, thirty years and we share war stories of the divorce game after he is 20 minutes late; I can't believe I am in that club. If he had come before me, I wonder where we would have been seated, actually I know. These men all tend to have a tummy and their ex-wives are horrible. They are all the victims of being ignored and they have been faithful. Look, I have heard this story too many times and usually the men don't want to part with their money, keeping both wife and girlfriends. These men need to make a true divide and choose one. It is when the woman leaves that the game is very different.

I am working on getting organized to go back to Toronto for the weekend as I am then off to Nassau and the dogs to dog sitter, who is in her 60's (I think) but loves younger men or so she tells me after meeting my brother. In amongst working away on Toronto's projects and getting as much of my projects published internationally it is getting heated up who will get my NY apartment according to my publicist. This PR game is hard to track what real results you get from the internet and social media, I keep the faith at \$4,000/month; I feel like the song in Chorus Line: God, I could use a job. Some line like that, I feel there is a blur between the reality of my actual work and the social media blasts, like I am going to get hired in Lebanon, how does a site visit work? I did the grocery shop and the flowers so tonight by candle light we will dine.

Rule #83 THIS IS YOUR NICEST BATHROOM THEREFORE IT SHOULD BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BATHROOM IN THE HOUSE! DON'T BE AFRAID OF SILVER OR GOLD ON THE VANITY AND REAL ART ON THE WALLS.

"Do the taps in silver or gold, so decadent."

CAMELOT LIVES

50 years after JFK, Caroline represents US in glided carriage (New York Post)

"Are there only three families that rule the US? Japan is it on our radar?"

It seems you can order items in the United States that only ship within the United States. So I become a drop off point where items will eventually show up in Canada. I know rule number one; open the shipment to review what you have before it goes any further, I broke my own rule out of exhaustion and sure enough three months later a blue carpet is not grey and a broken lamp in glass doesn't turn on. The shipping papers were correct if that helps. I have too many boxes and not enough cupboards, I manage to mask them, hopefully shipping out before Christmas, but that doesn't happen due to a snow storm, one of many this year.

We are all packed: my daughter, myself and the dogs, all going different places. I have friends going to Nassau this weekend as well, they will be on different parts of the island. I stay with my girlfriend in their club - everything here is all about membership, you must be of the right family. My daughter and her girlfriend will fly to Toronto solo, with a chaperone, to hang with friends; our NY brownstone will be lonely. I have found matching whites to bring for our ladies doubles and have not really played in a while. I will find out this is much more than tennis; it is Lyford Cay: a very private club that loves to reject people; I will be on my best behaviour.

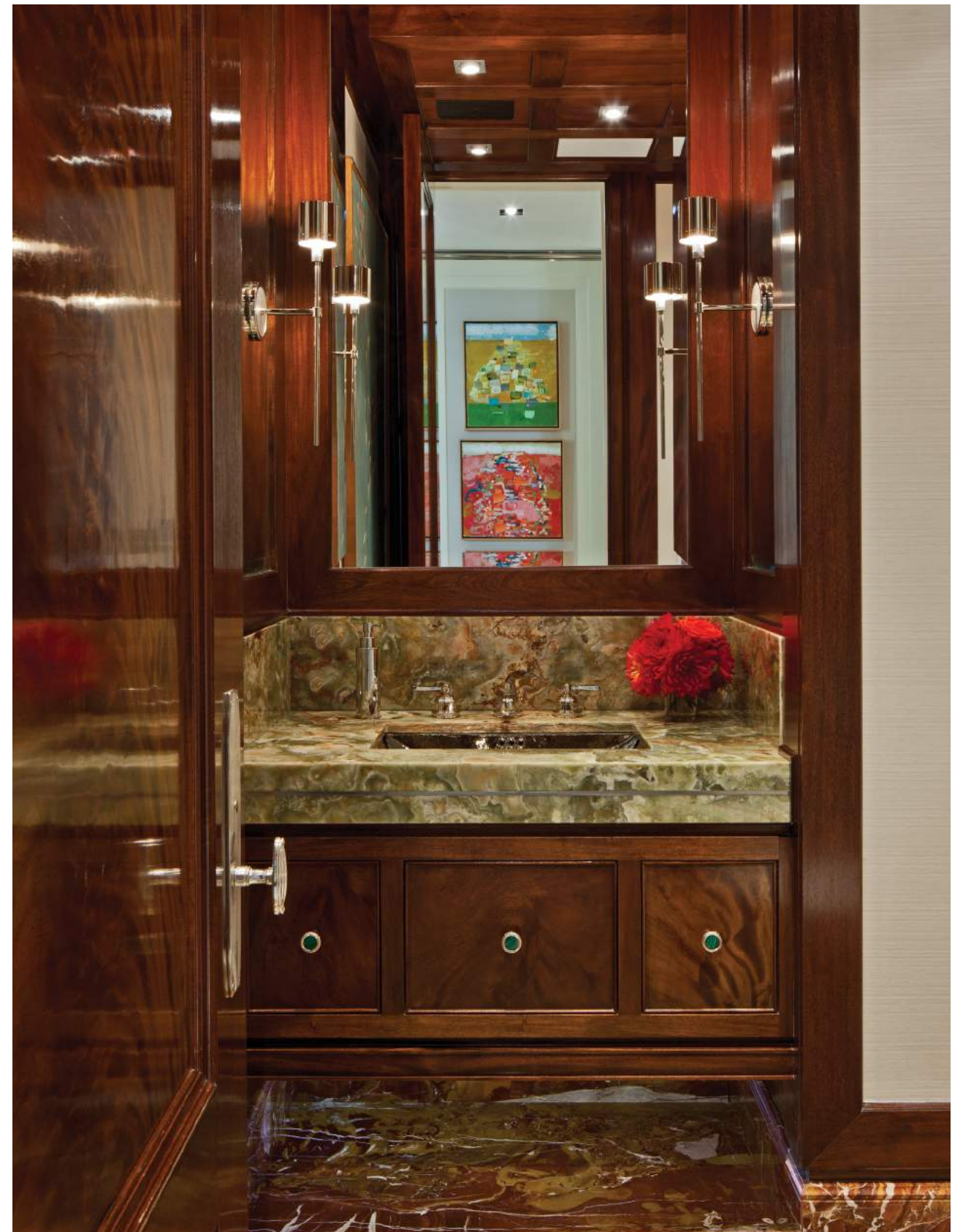
Rule #84 FURNITURE DOES NOT NEED TO BE FUNCTIONAL IN THIS ROOM! FEEL FREE TO ACCENT THE ROOM WITH A NICE STOOL OR CHAIR. FURNITURE IN THIS ROOM BECOMES AN ACCESSORY. A SMALL BENCH OR STOOL IN THE POWDER ROOM IS GREAT FOR REFRESHING YOUR MAKE-UP! REMEMBER THIS IS ONLY A ROOM FOR TOUCH UPS!

"Leave the full maintenance to the main bathroom with the magnifying mirror. Here, candle light and antique mirror rules."

FREE CHEERS!

Wrong jailed man's joy after 25 years (New York Post)

"That is a positive attitude thanking the lord for a second chance not blaming the system".



It is just one of those weekends with everyone everywhere. I am leaving for Nassau as I have committed to a tennis tournament back in the summer when I was actually playing tennis. There is a horse show at the Ocala farm that I should be at instead, Paradise Island.

I am on the 2pm flight with half the New Yorkers playing in this tournament and I happen to sit beside the most popular women on the flight. She hangs in Connecticut and is very much on the social committee at Lyford which is the dictating board for many things. After she asked me to hold her canvas bag with her initials while she says hello to the plane, I instantly love bantering with her. Energetic, proper, smart, connected and commercial real estate magnate; we fully entertain each other on the flight down trading contacts and promise to be in touch. My girlfriend picks me up at the airport and I know more about the weekend now than she does; we laugh about the close lipped details and ponder our dress for a barn party that she has been told "no jeans". We don't do jeans and everyone else does; we were duped. Fabulous we look and fabulous we play, at the party that is. Sometimes if you are set up by someone it works in your favour, if you don't need a chair in a room but it is there it becomes a thing of beauty, not a seat.

Rule #85 REGARDING DRAWER DESIGN THE FRONT DRAWER IS NOT TRUE TO WHAT IS BEHIND IT SINCE INCHES ON THE SIDES AND BACK ARE LOST. MAKE SURE THE DRAWER IS BIG ENOUGH TO HOUSE YOUR TOILET PAPER; YOU DON'T NEED IT ON DISPLAY.

"The toilet paper on an extra hook on the wall near the toilet does not fly in this room, please!"

JFK SHOT TO DEATH

"50 years ago today." (New York Post)

Today is rain and after a fun wine-filled night with only pizza, we hit the tennis court with a bye in the tournament practicing with the pro. We are the perfect match, one forehand and one backhand, we are both more singles players and athletic, not the best communicators, that is how we have stayed friends for over 20 years. We seem good against the pros but with the rain hitting, we get little practice. The Charity Pro-Am is cancelled and we stay at the other end of the island, enjoying a fabulous dinner by the hostess chef. I feel right at home with my own suite, it is gorgeous, with places for everything to unpack. Also, everyone that lives here has a wing - a very civilized way to exist. Going to bed at night is equal parting; I don't even feel at all rare or lonely.

I have put Lyford off for another day and will play there tomorrow; I haven't been there in 20 years. Tonight the breeze through the French doors off the marina side will sweep me to sleep. I text to check in with everyone as the Nassau phone rates are insane, spending thousands of dollars last time I was here (actually, my sister using my phone spending thousands is more accurate). Getting caught up with girlfriend and watching the lovely life she has made for herself on this small island, makes me happy. My island Manhattan is slightly bigger and I am just beginning this new life with hopefully, many years to explore my life keeping many islands in it.

Rule #86 IF YOU ARE USING A FULL LENGTH MIRROR PLACE A PIECE OF FURNITURE THAT HOUSES THE SINK IN FRONT. MAKE SURE TO BRING THE PLUMBING OUT OF THE WALL AND NOT OUT OF THE FLOOR, ENSURE THAT YOU ARE NOT SHOWING YOUR INTERNAL FIXTURES.

"You really don't need to see any plumbing connections. Best to dream where the water comes from."

HIT MEN

'Knockout' thugs slug B'klyn man (New York Post)

"The knock out game, who made that up?"

It is game day and about a 45 minute drive away. We play, well we sort of play, my outfit is so perfect, topped with a jacket of white trimmed in red piping. Some people have actually paired themselves with pros and there is no rating so you get an alright player with someone ranked in the world; there is no such thing as losing gracefully - everyone wants to win. The New Yorkers have brought their A game and their hired help. Enough said, we lose after a heated pro set of 8 coupled with rain delays, bad line calls and arguments. The locals are exposing all their inner non-sportsmanship and this game doesn't feel like tennis. Not fun at all, the opponents are Nassau based and I hear all about who is sleeping with who, as well as who is hated and not attractive. It is full comedy that continues on to lunch at the ocean side cabana.

The competition done, we think, we have our wine and sit amongst friends enjoying the afternoon. We all slide back to the tennis courts to watch some games and the atmosphere is jovial with lots of laughter on the sidelines while the court remains serious. Somehow I am laughing so much I let a wine glass slide to the ground, which of course breaks, even though I am horrified this kind of noise is normal practice at this Wasp dominated club. Quickly it is cleaned up and forgotten; I should really join. My girlfriend and I have brought our dinner duds to change into, this happens at the pool cabana amongst used towels. The night picks up as we are driven to a cocktail party and dinner in a vintage Bentley - civilized. We found out that we play in the consolation finals tomorrow, another type of game to play.

Rule #87 DON'T BE AFRAID TO HAVE DECORATIVE WASTE BASKETS! THEY MUST ALWAYS HAVE A LID AS NO ONE WANTS TO SEE YOUR GARBAGE. NO FOOT PEDALS THOUGH, THOSE ARE FOR PEDSTRIAN SANITY FREAKS ONLY!

"Crystal basket with a silver lid or even stainless with an ebony lid: traditional or modern, just hide unsightly."

SEASON'S BEATINGS

'Santa' pushes man onto tracks Knockout game thugs target Jews (New York Post)

"Everyone is fighting, dirty fighting."

A noon finals and our opponents have to go to the airport, it's a pro set. The hardest thing to watch is that the semi-finals prior were two Bahamian women that have won the island competition many times, they are in their 70's; I pray they lose so we don't have to lose to them. Doubles is time on the court together and though we have spent many times together, it never near a tennis court. My wish is granted, the elder ladies lose and in turn we lose the finals to a lovely doubles pair,

which is neither my girlfriend's wish or mine, but we get over it. We are very popular now after our first cheating match where it was below the belt tactics that the members all weekend come to talk to us about. I am over the days when it is all about winning, this in a weird way, is way more fun; you make more friends and in this formal setting of Lyford. It is all about the crystal, not being unsightly.

We head back to the other side of the island to relax, regroup and plan a lovely dinner at Nobu at Atlantis. Really planning is simply showing up. We chat about life on the island and in NYC with such vast differences; where do you really want to live. I have not really questioned where but with who holds the main focus for me. NYC this year is about my daughter and I as we experience this city together building each other up and growing independence that will last a lifetime. This city has given me confidence - if you can make it here you can make it anywhere. Now the definition of making it, that is yet to be determined. Making it right now is grabbing every day and playing the game: win, lose or draw.

Rule #88 DECORATIVE WALL PAPER? YES YES YES!! THE ONLY CAUTION IS BEHIND THE TOILET, HERE, TRY A DIFFERENT MATERIAL.

"At least put glass in front of the wallpaper, better lacquered panel."

FALLOUT

DC goes nuclear over O's Iran deal (New York Post)

"For once both democrats and republicans agree, Obama is wrong."

I had booked a Monday flight just in case we had late play Sunday and took an afternoon flight to get some tennis in that morning. We played with the pro and the owner of the court who seemed to have a heavy schedule coming up including flying to the moon, for real. Most people on Nassau are there because they have made too much money and need to get it to a tax haven of sorts. The funny thing is, for all the wealth there is no convenient washroom; I completely misunderstood when I was told you were to go through the trees, I was expecting a building - not a tree. When I returned to the court and asked where the door was, they all broke out laughing; I hope there are washrooms on the moon and they protect the back wall behind the toilet with the gravity thing, an issue.

I arrive at 6pm in NYC, driver takes me to get my daughter at friends then to dog sitter pick up for the \$120/day rate which I have to find a better way. The little one Sparkie barely likes to walk now and her paw seems sore. My daughter and I agree that the dogs have a very different life in NYC; there are a lot of stairs. I love returning back to NYC, it is home now and with the hired help down in Nassau, my clothes are clean - for that I am very thankful. Tomorrow is catch up day with groceries and work, tonight is order in dinner, so New York.

Rule #89 ART, TRAYS AND FLOWERS ARE A MUST IN THE POWDER ROOM! FLOWERS ALWAYS MAKE A ROOM BEAUTIFUL AND SMELL BETTER TOO!

"Flowers are my favourite accessory by a mile and kilometer!"

HIS MAD OBSESSION

Shock Discovery in killer's room (New York Post)

"Maybe gun control should happen and some education."

The weekend is coming, so in addition to the usual, I need to do maintenance. The day whips by as it is American Thanksgiving weekend coming up and there are turkey decorations everywhere. It seems more about electronic equipment on sale than Christopher Columbus discovering America but when in Rome do as the Roman's do. We plan to go to the parade. We had also planned to go to the Halloween parade, but it always seems complicated, better viewing on television and far less people. It seems you need to go early to get a spot and it is jammed, not exactly smelling like a bed of roses with street meat and human bodies combined. You never know who you are beside; a great guy or a complete weirdo shocking to find out.

I get all the goodies, bowls of candies and beautiful fall flowers in numerous vases (as I am collecting them now). The apartment looks and smells amazing; the brisk fall is in the air. Still trying to figure out what PR Company is doing, are they really getting my whole picture? There are many of the online publications everywhere including Dubai, still the NYC apartment has not been placed in the United States. Apparently NYSD is interested but has not confirmed; I want this one because my mom has been following this forever and she would be thrilled (me too) even though I never go on-line for that. No different than when I was on Oprah three times, I had never watched a full show, still haven't. A soul cycle class for the evening entertainment after I get my very green chopped salad and protein shake; I am in for the night.

"E cigarettes same as real cigarettes, interesting interpretation."

My first Thanksgiving in NYC and I am all geared up for the parade but with the wind today the news is not sure of the outcome. So similar to the Halloween parade, I will watch on TV! Maybe I will go to the Christmas parade or St. Patrick's day but I doubt it—the crowd control is insane. Easter for sure I will do, need to get the movie "Easter Parade". Today, I am going to New Jersey, driven by driver, to see Montclair and my little's sister new house/life. After they applied their first child to the gifted school system in the upper west and did not qualify, she had to attend a PS that had a metal detector for Senior Kindergarten. In my little sister's style, she found a house/school in Jersey and moved on out within a week. So today is the visit day for Thanksgiving dinner.

The houses are fabulous and so affordable as this whole suburb goes into the wrong train Penn Station, which is not so desirable. This fact keeps the prices low; the New Yorkers are fickle. The dinner is amazingly homemade and after dinner, music gig by hosts, I linger and even invite my cabbie in for key lime pie. They are just an adorable family in an adorable suburb. Happiness is abound and I get a cabbie going through some personal disaster which he shares on a full stomach of pie. I check emails back at home and a friend of mine has died in Toronto. The funeral is next week; she was 43 years old, how life changes on a dime.

Rule #92 THE FURNITURE HOLDS THE AREA CARPETS SO THAT THE LEGS ARE SITTING ON ITS EDGE FOR AT LEAST THREE INCHES. IF THE CARPET IS IN FRONT OF THE FURNITURE IT WILL BUNCH UP AND CURL AT THE EDGES. WRINKLES ARE NOT AN ATTRACTIVE SIGHT!

"A carpet on a carpet is similar to a room within a room, a complex good thing."

STORE WARS

Holiday rush is on to gobble up bargains (New York Post)

"Shopping over family, come on."

I drop friends at airport with the good bye airport kiss and continue on to the Hamptons with the two dogs. It is a post-Thanksgiving lunch at South Hampton on Gin Lane. Not that I knew, but Gin Lane is on the Ocean with stunning mansions beyond. I am slightly late, arriving just as everyone is to be seated in casual jeans and sweaters amongst the 4 butlers in two different rooms. The food is traditional boiled meat with vegetables and the most amazing desserts. It is a formal setting with help in casual attire. We know the daughter and the granddaughter is at my daughter's school. My friend's stepfather is quite elderly, he spent some time not sleeping in his own bed. All of that forgotten, his spread is good.

I thank the hosts, meeting her mother who was a beauty queen and knows the correct people, eliminating some who have their own investigations. Outside, I decide some more driving amongst the mansions, this can really make you feel like you need to change businesses or at least marry into it, there is no free lunch, even with the one I just had, I brought a gift and hired a driver for the day. Keeping up with the Hampton's is costly. A little shopping in South Hampton, the dogs loving the view from the car versus the apartment and it is time to head back to Manhattan. People really live that way, this is a step up from whatever I have ever seen in the past: beautifully insane.

Rule #93 A SHAG CARPET IS NOT A BAD IDEA, AS IT IS SOFT. HOWEVER, IT NEEDS TO BE VACUUMED AND COMBED ON A REGULAR BASIS. THE DUST FREAKS ME OUT!

"I love a white wool shag extra soft mix with cashmere."

DON'T WALK

Pedestrian fatalities on the rise in Gotham (New York Post)

"Up by 15 percent unplug and watch for cars."

Still have images of Hampton beach houses dancing in my head as I lie awake this morning in my New York brownstone, thinking how amazing this experience of New York has become. It seems that every day the city gives me a new taste and nibble of itself. The weather has turned and keeping with traditions it is time to get Christmas decorations, as tomorrow is the 1st of December. I head out to Bryant Park and it is freezing but full of Xmas. I search out the best ornaments and get them personalized.

I am really freezing and in need of a Starbucks pop in, I decide it is time to join the MOMA, the closest museum to us and we do. I bust the Saturday line and tour the full museum, now warm as toast and soaking up the culture. Exhausted by it all, I taxi home to settle in for an order-in dinner and movie. I have been NYC over load, as I string the decorations all as NYC monuments. It is a NYC Christmas, well until we leave for Florida.

Rule #94 PLACING AN UNDERPAD BENEATH THOSE CARPETS ADDS LONGEVITY AND NO SLIP SLIDING AWAY, AS PAUL SIMON SAYS.

"We have all stepped on a thin area carpet and watched the corners wrinkle in."

TOO FAST

'Furious' actor dies in fiery car wreck (New York Post)

"Too fast, too young."



Chapter 7 Family Room Rules:

Rule #90 THE FLOORS SHOULD BE WOODEN IN THE FAMILY ROOM. EXPOSE THEM BY PLACING AREA CARPETS WHERE CONVERSATIONS ARISE. IF YOU WANT TO BE REALLY GROOVY THEN CREATE A CONVERSATION PIT.

"Just getting people to talk versus text is an amazing thing, make it a no text zone."

FLEE CIRCUS

NYers race storm for holiday escape (New York Post)

"The beginning of the crazy weather has begun."

Friends visiting NYC is always a vacation of sorts and my friends do it in style. They arrive with their usual "I am taking over New York" attitude and I love that. We start the day off the usual way, the weather a bit windy which makes us hungry walking down Madison; we go to our go to: Nello's at 62nd Street. The flowers are stunning and the waiters always happy to have us there. A bottle of chardonnay and an adjacent customer has a full on heart attack, both the paramedics and firemen come so we decide to order a second bottle. Then the games begin—we go shopping.

First to Brunello's on Madison and it is a flurry of activity and laughs. We get fabulous things and honestly you need two bottles of wine at these prices. We all get goodies and we are off to Bergdorf Goodman. We close down the store, we are literally shopping behind closed locked doors after hours. Armed with bags, we, the New Yorkers, head home racing back as our day has been crazy, not to a hotel but to my brownstone where my desk is perched in a bay window perfect for writing and watching NYC. I love unpacking all the purchases, so beautifully wrapped, not so much getting rid of the boxes to the basement dungeon of garbage. We have a quiet night home, we order in Sushi, a pretty perfect day except the heart attack victim, as he walked out with the fireman the waiter said he looked pale when he came in and shouldn't be wandering around in NYC and certainly not at Nello's, that made me roar.

Rule #91 LAYER UP THE CARPETS. START WITH A MR. BIG ONE AND POSITION THE OTHERS AS ACCENTS TO THE FURNITURE. BE SURE TO CAPTURE THE LEGS OF THE FURNITURE ON THE CARPET.

"Nothing like a pair of great legs."

KICK IN EBUTT

City set to snuff electric smokes (New York Post)

It always starts with my two parents that give little direction on anything and a father that is incredibly cheap. Last summer when we took my entire family (all 15 of them) to Greece, leaving only 2 infants behind, my father barely left the hotel and tried to cash in the ticket to Greece for a trip to London. So now I have learned to place ideas and let the pieces fall. My son had restrictions, my brother had his issues, my LA sister would fly if provided for and my now New Jersey sister was not moving. My parents went with the cheapest least path of resistance, taking a three week airline fare as it was the cheapest.

This is the worst time of year for separated/divorced families. My daughter wanted Christmas in Florida and I made it happen. Meanwhile I get the Sunday email from Carol PR gal, she is over the moon that NYSD is going to showcase my apartment as long as it has a more lived in look—less empty. OMG, this is what we all hoped for. My mother has told me about NYSD forever and I told her I would be in it moving to NYC. I had been in the social pictures already but now a full feature; I hope this is a good thing I have been fried in the newspaper before. Need to pull from my storage and of course, first week of January. Excited, nervous (will they like me) and exhausted thinking about getting stuff. I am going to watch 60 Minutes, as my family life is a logistical nightmare.

Rule #95 THE WALLS NEED TO BE INVITING AND SOFT. A LINEN LOOK IS SO WARM AND IN A PANEL MOULDING, IT SCREAMS CALM & ELEGANT!

“Screaming elegance I love that term, so chic.”

DEAD RUN

Metro-North crash kills 4, injures 63 (New York Post)

“Who made the breaks, on US soil?”

It is one of those days that you do because you know innately it is right. Not that I was that close with my friend who had a biking accident 2 years ago that left her a quadriplegic but days after her accident she asked to see me. I went, she was on a breathing tube and I slowly listened then told her this was her time to watch and listen, that she didn't have to be the poster child for this cause. I went back periodically, helped with her new living accommodations that never really materialized as with three young boys under the age of 15 as a single parent in a wheel chair, her life was changed forever. I brought my kids to visit and she thrived as a motivator; the body couldn't fight the constant infections. She was given her last rights and due to the strength of her heart she lived three days, saying good bye and preparing her death. At the end she motioned for her family to move to the left as a biker does when then pass, and she passed.

I flew in to Toronto today to attend the funeral and to participate in her strength. There were very few friends from the earlier wealthy days, but many recent friends and caregivers. For me, this was a beautiful day and I was so proud of the person she had become. I was humbled and enriched. There were rumblings at the office of a new client; for me, today was business-free.

Rule #96 FAMILY PHOTOS WORK WELL IN CONSISTENT FRAMES OR IN ONE LARGE FRAME FLOATING IN GLASS. KEEP THE FAMILY TOGETHER, AT LEAST IN PHOTOS!

“Repetition gives strength, a great design tool for order.”



RUNAWAY TRAIN

Train driver doing 82mph on a 30mph bend! And he just walks away (New York Post)

“Stay on the scene your presence makes a difference.”

This morning is not business free and flying back to LaGuardia also gives me a bolt of energy. It is hard to describe but as you head down Park Avenue the world just seems like a better place especially for those people living on Park Avenue. I have many things to organize: my children's air tickets, my sister's children's airline tickets for Christmas, my upcoming site visit to Toronto, throwing out my weekly style column for the Globe & Mail newspaper and trying to arrange to see my turning 19 year old son on his birthday. He is in the middle of exams so that is a no go but the rest is achieved. With Christmas plans made and many airline tickets organized, I can enjoy my New York social life.

I am meeting a Canadian businessman from Toronto for dinner, who did not impress me last time when he noted that I should not mention our dinner to his wife, whom I know. Wow is that provincial immature and so Toronto. By the way, I am not single—just not married. Anyway, I rise above to meet for drinks at the Core Club, introducing to another New Yorker as he is moving here. In New York everyone has friends in all different genders and really no one pays attention, in Toronto they take notes. Drinks, dinner, laughs, honesty and respect is re-built. On the eve of my son's birthday, I think back nineteen years and how much I have done launching this 6'5" young man; I am proud.

Rule #97 HORIZONTAL STRIPES ON THE WALL BRING DOWN THE SCALE AND PROPORTION. THE COZY “NORMAN ROCKWELL” FEELING IS PRONOUNCED IN A HORIZONTAL DATUM LINE PROVIDING A SENSE OF INTIMACY.

“Coziness horizontal, power vertical.”

SELFIE-ISH!

My photo with Brooklyn Bridge suicide dude (New York Post)

“Smile, the back drop of life can be harsh.”

My son, whose name is not on his birth certificate, turns 19 today. He wakes up to beer juggling in his University dorm as he can legally drink in Canada and 19 balloons sent by my daughter and I. I was to have lunch with his roommate's mom but an hour after her mom's 80th lunch at her house, she unexpectedly passed. You never know when it is your day. Today not being mine, I now have time to deal with the office, hunt down my son for an actual phone call and call my mom to go over that day when he was born, as I always do. My beautiful innocent loving son with his white blonde hair has developed confidence, an opinion and distance (which I respect) as he states his independence; I still miss him daily and can't wait for his NYC visit.

Tonight I have two cocktail parties on Park Avenue with my best male friend where I elect to wear my silver lame one shoulder which has tiers similar to a Christmas tree. My first Park Avenue party, I converse with a former president's daughter who loves my hair colour and we have similar professions. Upon asking her how she gets around in NYC with the traffic and if she takes the subway (which I have been on only once so far), her husband spits out his canapé and she simply smiles. I sometimes have no idea why I ask certain questions.

Rule #98 THE CEILING SHOULD BE CHALKY WHITE AND FLAT IN SHEEN LEVEL. THE FLATNESS WILL FLOAT TO THE SKY AND NOT SIT HEAVILY ON YOUR HEAD. NO ADVIL PLEASE.

“Chicken Little the sky is falling doesn't work well in interiors.”

DOG OF WAR

Historic NY divorce custody case (New York Post)

“Dog custody plans and support, a victim but well loved.”

After a workout and blow out, I venture over to Hewitt School to catch the end of my daughter's play tryouts for the Wiz. They are gathered around the piano, leafing through the songs and singing, only problem—she is trying out for a dance part. Tonight I am off to Twelfth Night with a group of three: PR, fashion and writing plus me. The play is fantastic and beautifully staged, the men being women; it is all confusing and funny. We all grab a light bite after near the theatre such a cultured night and with the writer being from Brooklyn—I remind myself I really must go to Brooklyn. It seems like cheating on Manhattan.

As the night settles in, I get the emails from Toronto: a sign has gone awry and the Condo Corp doesn't want it. With me living in NYC and staff leaving, there are certainly things falling in between the cracks. We will get in our groove with a more lean office with fewer staff. It will only get better but clients insist they wanted something else that our office can't find since our move: give me strength. This will cost me, the question is—how much?

Rule #99 THE CORNICE SHOULD ALSO BE FLAT WHITE WITH NO SHEEN LEVEL SO THAT THE TOP OF THE WALL IS SEAMLESS AND A PART OF THE CEILING FLOATS UP. UP, UP AND AWAY IN MY BEAUTIFUL BALLOON...

“A cornice is the junction between the wall and ceiling; I prefer to cove it or reveal it.”

MANDELA 1918-2013

The death of freedom's champion (New York Post)
 "Freedom does not die with men with his character, it lives on in his memory."

My weekends jaunts are always last minute, part of me loves it but I am always ill packed. Tonight is a Christmas party for a great friend of mine who is in Dallas which now has an ice storm (but it is Dallas, how bad can it be!). I take the 10am flight from LaGuardia and hear that many flights are being cancelled. I have a great chat on the flight with a father of a woman professional golfer who is not so keen of his daughter's choice of husband to be; we exchange stories and cards. We land at a deserted Dallas airport as the Captain says there is good news and bad news: good news there is no rush for connections as the bad news is that there are no connections; the airport is closed.

Well, I am alone in Dallas with many strangers and Christmas party is cancelled; the roads are a nightmare. I, being Canadian in my open toed shoes (as I was going to Florida Saturday) hire a driver go to our host's house for a Texan dinner who is snowed. I get one of the only two flights leaving Dallas, at 6:10am to Toronto Saturday morning; the other flight going to Vietnam. Logistically, this is an issue but I make the most of it attending a Toronto Christmas party with my bikini in hand. Tonight I will sleep in an airport hotel that I could of sold many times over.

Rule #100 SIZE OF SOFAS ARE SO IMPORTANT. FOR A 7 FOOT SOFA, USE ONE LARGE CUSHION OR TWO BUT NEVER THREE. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THREE MEN SITTING IN A ROW ON A SOFA? I SEE, HEAR AND SPEAK NO EVIL!

"Two men on a sofa works, give them a love seat and one of them will stand."

CRAZY TRIPLE PLAY

Yanks and Mets players in wild free-agent frenzy (New York Post)
 "Wow 345 million for three players, spread the wealth."

After slip sliding along the highway in a ten year old Lincoln, I have a 5 hour sleep to catch my 6:10am flight to Toronto (flight is full...but not really to go to Toronto but to get out of Dallas). Toronto is actually warmer and I have my open toed shoes still on—now with socks. Landing in my home town unexpectedly is amusing as I check into the downtown hotel awaiting arrival of the entourage. My ex-brother-in-law is hosting this party which will become a scene from a bad movie down the road.

He has moved on from my sister to marry Tori Spelling and it is 8 years since I have seen him last; he seems amazing, a bit heavier and tattooed up but basically the same guy. He can perform on a dime, the night is entertaining. I see people I know, yet, I feel like a guest in my own city. This night will become a reality show for real in April as his exploits will bring ratings to them and alimony to my sister, seriously keep this stuff private, there are children involved. I end up with more auction items to add to our list this time it is for celebrity chefs that I will have to remember to use. I have wine, dinners, trips, TV show and golf experiences still in the vault.

Rule #101 CONSIDER THE HEIGHT OF THE BACK OF THE SOFA VERSUS THE HEIGHT OF THE ARM. THE ARM SHOULD BE NO LOWER TO REST YOUR WEARY HEAD! HOWEVER, YOU CAN HAVE A LOW ARM AND A LOW BACK WITH ALL OF THE CUSHIONS HIGHER AND STILL MAKE IT COMFORTABLES TO REST YOUR HEAD.

"We are in the family room not living room; we want to lounge."

WEDDING SLASHERS

Newlyweds murder stranger for the 'thrill': cops (New York Post)
 "Get rid of them."

Sunday Brunch at the Soho House, I learn far too much information about senior's homes and the insane sexual relationships that exist from these previous New Yorkers who have all moved to Florida. I need to see my parents, I invite them as well which always put life into an event or rather drama. My ex-brother-in-law was invited for brunch, but was occupied in his hindsight—he should of come to brunch.

I need to see the building that I am constructing and it is like a jungle gym at this point, 5 floors of framing that is just sitting, waiting the insane winter that Toronto will have so we will be even further behind and over budget. It is now time to go back to NYC, I am dropped off at the commercial airport while the pack heads to the FBO aka private airport, in my car. Something is wrong with this picture; I, the polite Canadian, going to NYC and the loud New Yorkers going to sleepy Florida, at least I don't need to hear any more weird sex stories.

Rule #102 LOVE SEATS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 60 INCHES LONG. CHECK SEAT HEIGHT FOR INDIVIDUAL TASTE. FOR BAD KNEES, KEEP THE HEIGHT OVER 19 INCHES ALLOWING YOU TO EASE INTO THE SEAT.

"If seat too low, too much exposure, especially in a skirt."

\$TREET WOLF HOWLS

Film villain making millions (New York Post)
 "Selling your life is profitable, regardless where you are sitting."

My daughter is obsessed with Christmas and decorations, with us going to farm country for Xmas we are light on décor for the holidays except her room. After my morning fitness beat up at Fhitting circuit training with more burpees than humanly possible, I spy a boxwood Xmas tree at the florist; it is a fortune but as you wander away from Park and closer to 3rd the prices lighten. I get a fabulous boxwood Christmas tree for \$200.00, sadly I think I got a deal; I am sure in the flower district away from the UES a whole new set of prices. When my daughter gets home from school she is elated, we rush down to a Home store on 73rd and get our mini size decorations complete with crackers, lights and a star. We place it in the main room lit up and it brings back memories of Christmases of yester years, the pink, silver and blue one from Miami. NYC is alive with pin lights and the windows everywhere have gone from pumpkins to Santa overnight. This city is magic this time of year, now living here all I can say is: "The tourists are coming!!!". Help me with the traffic and reservations.

Rule #103 LIVING ROOM CHAIRS SHOULD NOT BE AT THE DINING SEAT HEIGHT OF 18 INCHES. INSTEAD, THEY SHOULD BE A BIT LOWER AND MORE LOUNGE-Y. THE HEIGHT GAME : THE CHAIRS SHOULD BE 17 INCHES HIGH, AND THE OTTOMAN SHOULD BE 16 INCHES HIGH. IF YOU NEED A BIT OF A LIFT FOR THE VEINS ADD A PILLOW BENEATH YOU. THE FAMILY ROOM PILLOW SHOULD BE 23" X 23". NOTE: THE PILLOWS MUST BE A BIT SMALLER THAN THE FAMILY ROOM!

"Height in seats and size matters in pillows."

SHOE-ICIDE

Gal's footwear fetish drives lover to leap (New York Post)
 "You should always be buying your own shoes: rule of life."

Today is one of those days that is hard on the wardrobe, my besties are in town for the opening of the Van Cleef & Arpel store on 5th which in its self was interesting to get invites for from a lonely sales girl, however, the actual party was très boring and the necklaces were looking like a dime a dozen. I had to show up for lunch with an outfit that could slide into evening. This was not easy as I really missed the mark, with a chanel top, black sequin pants and some crazy added jewelery. I was over dressed for lunch and under for cocktail party and perfect for dinner. Best part was my two girlfriends, they always make me feel amazing. Dinner was the highlight, so fun and so much laughter.

We part after dinner, them to the Peninsula Hotel, me to the upper east to tuck cutie to bed and walk those dogs. As I circle around the block with dogs, I'm chatting on the phone and I am struck with how simple life can really be which is strange after a completely over indulged day, living in a brownstone on the UES. As much fun it is to have exposure to the New York wealth, I can't help laugh at the woman with the massive emerald necklace and the older husband with the facelift; it seemed it was like a ball and chain around her neck. The sought after Van Cleef & Arpel L'Ombre line it was like a swatch watch everyone had it. Ironic, I wore a diamond encrusted one as well; I have to say my sequin clad butt got more attention: just sayin'.

Rule #104 MIX UP SOFA AND CHAIRS WITH CONTRASTING LEGS. TRY METAL LEGS ON ONE SOFA AND A FABRIC VALANCE ON THE OTHER SOFA. TOO MANY WOODEN LEGS IN A ROOM LOOK LIKE A NEW YORK ROCKETTE CHORUS LINE!

"Spice of Life is variety and skirts add softness."

FLIRTING WITH DANE-GER
 Mrs. O not amused by Bam & pretty PM (New York Post)
 "Smart beautiful well positioned be graceful."

Dogs are going into boarding and we are going back to Toronto after lunch at Amaranth. On route to lunch I get a mini Celine bag for my girlfriend's daughter and after lunch my girlfriend will be introduced to my best friend's mate to receive the mother load offer at Hermes. All and all, we are a happy crew.

As we land in Toronto at the private airport and ask for our luggage, we realize the knuckle head who drove us from our apartment to the Teterboro left it on the street; not that we knew that information at the time. Out of desperation, I call our dog walker across the street to look for a piece of luggage on the street of New York (good luck). Turns out someone put it in the lobby of the brownstone next door (which they have been getting long time tenants out and have it listed for 15 million). Somehow, she looked in and saw the luggage. I just laugh and am happy to have clean laundry to go home to.

Rule #105 IF YOU HAVE THREE SOFAS, CREATE A CONTRAST BY ENSURING THAT TWO SOFAS HAVE ARMS, AND ONE DOES NOT. KEEP THE MATERIAL

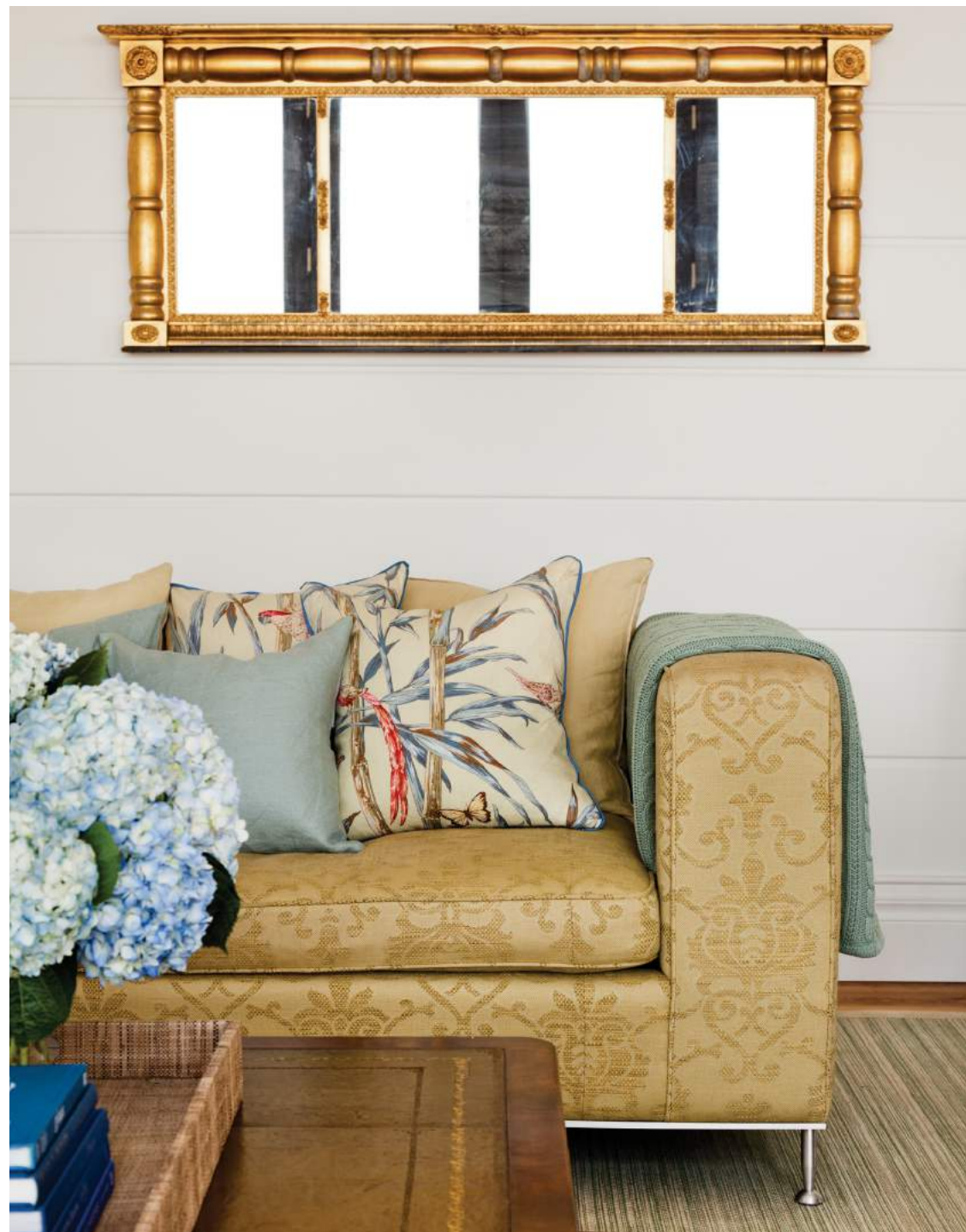
THE SAME WHILE MIXING DIFFERENT PILLOWS AND THROWS. THIS RULE IS ALL ABOUT KEEPING MAJOR PIECES IN THE SAME FABRIC AND MIXING UP YOUR ACCESSORIES.

"Establish order to break the rules."

RED hot
O's great Dane a real Helle-cat (New York Post)
"Smile, you are on candid camera."

I stay at my brother's condo and the twin bed is super uncomfortable. It is late, so we both chat a bit and call it an early night as I have a full day of meetings in the Toronto office. It will be my last visit before the new year and checking in on the building site which is so slow and complicated, really complicated. The fun part is the PR meeting for the Scotties tissues boxes that will hit the stores in the January. I am really happy with the boxes, not sure this PR company has the right approach, but I leave it with them. They need to be innovative and hit the fashion world to get these boxes some coverage; in the end they do nothing.

This day is long and this evening I have a delight to attend the National Club with an old friend for a lovely Christmas dinner. We all sit in a private dining room at a large round table in full regale. Night caps back at the Ritz with my brother we all chat and have some great laughs. There is something lovely about knowing someone for over 20 years to share and be so honest about life. I am on full exposure and I don't mind. I can re-invent myself in NYC back in Toronto I am me with all my luggage; I don't do baggage.



Rule #106 SECTIONAL SOFAS: HOW MANY PILLOWS ARE TOO MANY? ONE PER PERSON IS A RULE OF THUMB IF THE SECTIONAL IS EXTREMELY DEEP. IF IT LOOKS LIKE PLANET OF PILLOWS THEN START TO ELIMINATE.

"It is all in the edit."

BRIDE AND BOOM!
US drone strikes 'Qaeda' wedding (New York Post)
"Too much exposure can be deadly."

Today is a fast round, up at the Toronto office and off to Florida for a Christmas party. Soon after people start to arrive we all go to the newly acquired park and tonight is the Xmas light show. A little cool (weather wise) in Florida but the light show is fun with cheerful music. How can I not enjoy even though the mock Christmas dinner is a little off, the lit up pine trees are a full hit—love them.

There are 30 people over the weekend to host and so many characters. This company is growing quickly and the sales people really have done a super job. It really takes a certain person to sell this service to a hospital and I meet them all, love the Jersey shore contingent. My daughter is back in Toronto, it is snowing for real and she is having a fabulous time with new clothes, it was her luggage left out on the street with fresh snow. The guests in Florida will party into the night and the morning will bring many activities that many are not rested for.

Rule #107 A HOUSEHOLD THAT READS LOOKS SMART! USE A COFFEE TABLE WITH SHELVING BELOW TO HOLD BOOKS IN STACKS. IN OUR CURRENT WORLD OF EBOOKS, WE NEED NEW SPACES TO STORE OUR COMPUTERS!

"Unplug and get your hands dirty with a book."

AGAIN
Colo. School gun mayhem (New York Post)
"This is so wrong, gun control is a must end of story."

After yesterday at the Park, today was about the farm as we start with a walk to a very old tree that is about a half an hour walk. You have to laugh ,the Jersey girl carried her Fendi purse contrasted with me; I wore Nikes on my feet. Everyone has a look and really you have to admire a consistent approach. After walking, the biking commenced where young and old were everywhere similar to the Wizard of Oz times 30; we had one or two spills but no houses fell on anyone. In between we had a horse demonstration with a horse whisper avec wine that made: go fetch look way too easy, these horses can stop turn on a dime and lie down. These gypsies and horses are truly one. Some went horseback riding after, hope they didn't practice what they saw.

We all had a great farm dinner by the chef in the dining room. Now, having a chef in Florida is not exactly like New York, there is little healthy, a lot of over cooked and dessert is primary. Well ridden, well fed and drinks galore the night went on while slipping away to sleep was the right call; the crowd would regret the early morning send off.

Rule #108 PLACING DRAWERS IN THE COFFEE TABLE IS A FABULOUS WAY TO HIDE STUFF, SUCH AS LIP GLOSS DURING A PARTY

"Make tables throughout the house: long live lip gloss."

RV-SIDE DRIVE!
Living in trailers on the UWS (New York Post)
"Street rent is cheap."

Except for the early to bed crew, the rest look worn and many have sunglasses on; I was both chipper and busy planning Christmas with the farm manager as I would be back in 5 days. A tree needed purchasing and decorations, I had envisioned a soaring tree in the stair hall, instead we got a 7'0" in the corner of the family room. I am better to do this myself, don't want to offend. It is still a hard Christmas for the split up families and I am surrounded by them, including myself.

Most of the hung over crowd are driving back, I am flying home to NYC to meet my daughter who flies in earlier from Toronto; we will meet in the apartment picked up by different drivers. This Christmas time in Manhattan is magical and the tree at Rockefeller amazing, the driving is insanely packed with people everywhere, except our hood remains civilized and predominantly Jewish. It feels like Christmas came too early this year and logistically it feels over whelming back in NYC until Friday, my son flies in Wednesday. Why am I travellingso much out of this city; I feel I have one toe in.

Rule #109 INSTEAD OF COFFEE TABLE, YOU CAN INSERT AN OTTOMAN WITH A TRAY TO HOLD YOUR CHAI LATTE. SO SHOULD WE CALL IT A CHAI TABLE?

"Yes, you can put a glass of wine on a coffee table, names just stick, look at mine."

DEE DEE RULES: NYC

SMOKE ALARM
\$3M+ for FDNY's minority monitor (New York Post)
"Lawyers make their own fire."

It is a girlfriend's lunch at the Carlyle Hotel for the holidays and a shared birthday; I somewhat enjoy it, but not really. I can't explain why, the setting is lovely with delicious food but there is a disconnect for me. There is a girl at the table that I had met before who doesn't eat and just drinks, reminding me of a friend who has become a street person. I am seated next to her whom also came late; I just can't raise to the occasion; I can't wait to leave.

Funny I have to return to the hotel later at 5:30pm with my daughter and her friend for a jazz performance for a school project. Only in NYC can you study a subject by just going to the subject. Tonight Earl Rose is playing the piano and during his break he comes and chats with the girls. Having written music for the Tonight Show, he gives the girls a CD and his cell number. I love it, so interesting and first hand knowledge of their subject to study. The cell number was for any additional questions—no other thoughts. My girlfriend was still at Hotel from lunch and it was better to see her now without the x-ray girl toppling; she joined us for a set. Next door Woody Allen was preparing to play, only in NYC: the full monty.

Rule #110 THE SIDE TABLE GAME IS TOO MUCH FUN! MATCH OR DONT MATCH THEM. INSERT SHELVES OR DON'T: THERE ARE COUNTLESS OPTIONS. PUT A GLASS TOP SO THAT YOU NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHERE YOU'VE PLACED YOUR GLASS.
"Glass gives freedom."

MURDER AT THE MALL
Carjackers shoot lawyer in front of wife (New York Post)
"Shopping has become deadly?"

Today it is just one of those crazy busy days with snow/rain in NYC. I am expecting many deliveries and my son straight from University, but first I have a lunch with the lovely waspy girl I sat beside on my way down to Nassau. The lunch is to be downtown, which in this weather should take an hour by taxi and the delivery of course is late. I leave for lunch which is with four other business creative types and it is at one of the girl's family restaurant. As soon as I sit down the delivery is at my apartment now and they won't leave it there so it goes back to storage for over the holidays. At some point breaking an almost priceless vase occurs which I won't recover insurance from. Not that I know this at the time of re-scheduling, but they won't wait.

I finish lunch, make great connections and head up town with the girls in their car service, giving away my umbrella as it starts to pour rain and I am in mink. I will soon appear as a soaked rat. I really just had my first experience with the professional set in design, table setting and fashion who I remain the closest with and the other two will be essential for my upcoming photo shoot. My son lands, misses the driver sent to pick him up and he is exhausted and beautiful all in one. I send him to the shower, he lounges in a bath robe as his laundry is done and we order in lots of food; he proclaims he has lost 5 pounds just from studying. Great to have him here and I will feed him over the next days we have together; my two children and I—bliss.

Rule #111 PLACE A CONSOLE TABLE BEHIND THE SOFA. THIS IS A FANTASTIC SPOT FOR TWO TABLE LAMPS AND FOR A SURFACE TO REST A DRINK! BUT PLAN THE LAMP WIRING BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO SEE IT!
"Lights should be from a magical source."

BOW WOW!
Dog Leaps on tracks to save blind master (New York Post)
"Animals are man's best friend and best accessory."

Daughter is at school all week and I let son sleep in as I go sourcing for January photo shoots up Madison Avenue to have a later brunch with him of steak and eggs at the diner at 84th Street and Madison. He has been at University and developed independence (or rudeness) - I am not sure. What happened to that cute little boy. Slowly he is coming out of the fog and we converse, starting to get back in our groove. He has developed massive opinions and hopefully he will soften; I am trying. He wants to work out so we start the walk towards the NYAC only 25 blocks away enroute we eat more and meet one of my sisters at Bloomingdales. She continues the walk over to Central Park South and I go up to the Ladies rest room for an interview with the New York Times. In the U.S.A. it is rest rooms, in Canada—Washrooms.

I have always wanted to be in the New York Times weekend Real Estate section but not sure in this article titled *Why Renters Renovate*. We will wait to see what I actually said; it makes me nervous I am capable of saying anything. After phone interview amongst the sinks, I go back to the apartment to change and get my daughter as we are all meeting at the NYAC and then to Kinky Boots, the Broadway Show. My son has a ghetto outfit with a hoody—no way is that going to fly at the NYAC restaurant, we can't be served and his stomach growls throughout the musical. Tomorrow some clothes shopping. After the play, the three of us search for his favourite fast food, which is closed so luckily we dine on French food at 45th Street and ninth. We all go to sleep with a full tummy—sweet dreams.



Chapter 8

Kitchen Rules:

Rule #112 THE COUNTER HEIGHT SHOULD BE 36 INCHES. IF YOU ARE TALLER, THEN TAKE OFF YOUR HEELS! IF YOU HAVE A HIGHER COUNTER, YOU ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO BREAKING WINE BOTTLES WHILE OPENING THEM.

“There are rules for good reasons, no spillage.”

UNHOLY TRINITY

School fired me for being straight (New York Post)
“Give it to the best candidate.”

My son sleeps in and my daughter goes to school, this is similar to last year in Toronto when my son basically had all his marks in and going to school became optional in his mind. So our ground hog day I got to take care of business calls prior to his awakening and he woke to a yummy breakfast, thinking I still didn't really work. It is hard to explain to a 19 year old for the past 25 years you run a business and built several homes/projects. In time, he will understand, today is about feeding, clothing him at J. Crew so we can go out for lunch on the UES, visiting his sister's school and going out to a mediocre restaurant for dinner with hostesses that are used to serving men, not women and children; we wait for our table, sit in the rear but in spite of them, we laugh and have a great time.

On exiting, the manager asks me about the night; I share, smile and never return. My son found a gym during the day and he seems a little less stressed; I am happy that he is with us and we all leave for Florida in the morning with the dogs. This will be interesting, travelling with the dogs; an adventure especially as Sparkie has a sore paw.

Rule #113 BETWEEN SURFACES (COUNTER TOP AND ISLAND) YOU SHOULD IDEALLY LEAVE A PATH OF 42 INCHES. IF YOU ARE SUPER SKINNY THEN YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH 39 INCHES. IF THE COUNTER HAS LIMITED FUNCTION, 36 INCHES WILL SUFFICE. KEEP IN MIND THAT IF YOU GET ANY THINNER, YOU WILL NOT NEED A KITCHEN!

“The idea is one person at counter working while one person can pass by.”

GUN DRAMA

Why panicked NYers call 911 (New York Post)
“Our lives way to close to actual movies.”

This is my daughter's idea of Christmas in Florida and the 5 of us have a noon flight to Orlando. After checking our 4 pieces of luggage and carrying the 2 dogs in their little bags, we are good to go. We have a 2.5 hour flight and then a 1.5 hour drive to the house; I am sad about leaving NYC in its prime season with Christmas and New Year's Eve, but with all its tourists it seems it is time to escape. My son has not seen the farm and I am eager for him to see it so he thinks I have some kind of job. We arrive to my parents with my sister and her kids to follow from LA. It is good to be here and my daughter is quick to hang the lights on the stairs and the star on the tree. So much to do coupled with so much to relax amongst the quiet of the fields. The chef for the next few weeks starts and the games begin, a family dinner that brings us back to the past. Everyone has their assigned rooms, I flop into the master bedroom bed and sigh. No one knows how long it took to get here. Some wonderful thoughts, some not, but the mere thought of not being on a plane for a few weeks is music to my ears.

Sleep comes easy, there is little noise or light except my daughter has strung Christmas lights between the beds in her room and my son is in the bunk room with his cousin both over 6'3"; the beds just fit. My parents tucked in the same room for at least a night until my mom finds a room down the hall; she moves and my father sleeps with the lights on. The chef who keeps telling me she is not a chef, falls in love with the dogs and takes them to her room; she really can't cook, but good with dogs. The house is peaceful, I feel blessed and out like a light. Bye bye New York for a bit.

Rule #114 THE “WORK TRIANGLE” TYPICALLY USED IN KITCHEN DESIGN CAN BE BROKEN AS TODAY'S KITCHENS HAVE MANY LAYOUTS. THE SINK, FRIDGE AND COOKTOP PLACEMENT IS UP FOR GRABS!

“Diversity and options: to know the rules is to break them, intelligently.”

SCREWED UP

Obama on ObamaCare (New York Post)
“Admit fault better than lying.”

The farm is really a different place, it has a real train with animals that articulate including elephants and hippos, a zip line, waterfalls in the pool and a full games room with arcade games plus ping pong and billiards. It is kid and adult heaven, we all hang by the pool after our routine of breakfast for 8 at various times of the day and then a lovely lunch pool side, still trying to figure out the chef who is not really a chef. I have asked for healthy and we are getting a lot of beans. Everyone is chilling, except my son who seems to be engrossed in a book on stocks, reading in the sun with ray bans on.

The daily ritual of the train rides will start and will develop into my father taking the train every day at five o'clock for its one mile journey complete with the bell ringing and a glass of wine—life in the country. Tonight is a special night with a Christmas Laser Light Show at the State Park Silver Springs which I have seen but my family has not; it is really campy and delightful, all in one. We travel back and forth from the farm to park as a pack in a stretch limo laughing all the way. Back at the farm, sandwiches and snacks, some games in the arcade and Christmas plans galore especially after family picture with Santa Clause.

Rule #115 THE DEPTH OF LOWER CABINETS SHOULD BE 24 INCHES. BUT WHEN WE DESIGN CABINETS, THE DEPTH IS 25.5 INCHES FOR SAFETY SO WE CAN INCORPORATE COUNTER TOP PROFILES.

“There is rhetoric and then there are actual facts.”

BOWL BUSTER

Wife rats out hubby's \$600,000 Super pools (New York Post)
“The family funds must feed children before gambling, you must measure up to life.”

With the splitting up of the children I have them until December 24th, in our world tonight is Christmas Eve despite the date. We first need some shopping and I mean major shopping for stuff as everyone pretty much has what they need and desire. We head in a convoy to Target, soft pronunciation on the “G”. Seriously, three carts later and cash we are ready for our farm Xmas. The next job is wrapping and stockings, really fun so not serious gifts. Everyone has something under the tree and in a sock.

Every day we have been horseback riding and taking polo lessons, it is the 5 of us: myself, my sister and three of our kids. My son does not partake as his legs may drag on the dirt. I believe time in the saddle and this is early days watching my nephew on a lead at 6'3"; he is adorable and completely oblivious to the image. Today we are on the trails and then the actual polo field which feels amazing, such freedom and I am really getting the hang of this. I want to be able to play but not to play in any real game. Tonight we have a buffet and dine at the table, family style, a little dressed up and champagne toasts. When everyone goes to bed, presents and stockings get delivered by Santa

Rule #116 ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOU MEASURE TWICE WITH THE NEW APPLIANCES! THERE IS NOTHING WORSE THAN SOMETHING NOT FITTING! SIMILAR TO YOUR WEDDING GOWN YOUR APPLIANCES MUST FIT CORRECTLY.

“Gaining/losing weight can be accommodated in a seam, changing cabinet size can be a full new engagement.”

Eliot & DeBabe

Spitzer shacks up Blasio aide (New York Post)
“No engagement here just shacking.”

We awake to Christmas (ignore the date), a beautiful breakfast with freshly squeezed orange juice to be had by all. As every Christmas, you have to make it through breakfast to open the stockings then the gifts. It is a fabulous morning with the Target purchases and decorations completed throughout, the gifts are pure fun and yet creepily enjoyed; there is not one person here who needs anything—so a superman house coat, random tee shirts, bikinis and a few books plus cosmetics seems to amuse most. The best is a cribbage board that my mom and I will play nightly over a glass of wine or two.

The day is filled with more horseback riding and the confidence is building amongst our riders, by the end of the trip everyone will be off the lead. We are all dressed up tonight and a true turkey dinner we devour complete with mash and gravy. This will be one of three turkey dinners we have including the turkey buffet we had last night, the chef's skill seems to be turkey and repetition. As a person she rocks and she told me she is not a chef, but that is what she is here to do. It is Xmas, honestly it is better than having to do it yourself.

Rule #117 UPPER CABINETS SHOULD ALWAYS BE 18 INCHES ABOVE COUNTER HEIGHT. THE HOOD ABOVE THE COOKTOP SHOULD BE 24 INCHES ABOVE COUNTERTOP HEIGHT, MINIMUM. IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE HOOD BE SLIGHTLY WIDER THAN THE COOKTOP.

“Heat rises and a metal hood more durable than an upper cabinet, be cautious.”

MY POOR BABY

Roof-toss tot mom's torment (New York Post)
“Sometimes there are just no winners.”

So sadly, my kids have to leave at 4am to catch a plane to be back with their father for Christmas Eve, the real date; I will miss them but I don't show it; I cherish the time we have. Divorce is no fun this time of year. Driver looks as asleep as my



DEE DEE RULES: NYC

two darlings and I keep in touch all day as they get through the security lines and arrive at the other end. Good thing they left when they did as tonight in Toronto there is snow and rain as everything freezes and power failures throughout. Truly a complete nightmare just before Christmas, many people moving to hotels, luckily my ex lives in a hotel. This will impact my construction on my new live/work as the site gets shut down for a month since emergency crews wander through the city fixing broken pipes and more.

Back in Florida it is sunny but not warm, I take the convertible with my nephew and head to the downtown square and have a sushi lunch which you have to ask for rolls without cream cheese, remember this is Ocala. We are laughing about the contrasts in this town of horse people: the stable hands and the farm owners. It is very red neck and Christian bible belt and extremely white, very little ethnicity except at Starbucks where we see our first Asian. In New York we have it all and them some, here it is a slice of a time gone by. We are loving it and the fresh air from the convertible is heavenly mixed in with the warmth of the latte. Real Christmas Eve, we do left overs; more turkey and sing-a-long to Jesus Christ Superstar, does it get better than that?

Rule #118 UPPER CABINETS SHOULD BE DEEPER! WE ARE NOW DESIGNING 14 INCH UPPER CABINETS AND THE INSIDE USEABLE AREA IS 12.5 INCHES. GET RID OF THE STANDARD 12 INCHES AS DISHES ARE LARGER AND DEEPER THESE DAYS!

"Items must fit in the cabinets, doors slightly open very hard to observe."

SPITZ-VILLE

Poor Silda finally tells dirty Eliot: It's over! (New York Post)

"Enough is enough."

Tonight is Christmas dinner, cooked by my father and sister which we sourced in Ocala. The chef is simply chopping as she is invited for dinner along with another staff member and his family plus the polo instructor, which my nephew had to write the invite in Spanish. Minus the polo instructor due to illness or language barrier we all dress for a fancy dinner and we have Christmas crackers to pull that has hats and jokes. Loving the farm, my family minus my children are relaxed and laughing. Still missing my kids, I slide into the next phase of the holidays.

So wonderful to have the opportunity to spend time with my parents at their stage of life and they are really humorous; we have all fallen in to ground hog day. Kids sleep in, my Dad gets up early and gets local paper with update of locals from gas bar, my mom watches her news shows, my sister and I have lattes while slowly facing the day and we have daily riding lessons. The lunches are salad infused and dinners wine infused, we are all in a good groove.

Rule #119 TAKE THE UPPER CABINETS TO THE CEILING! A SHORT CABINET MEANS A SHORT CEILING. YOU ARE JUST ASKING FOR A BAD PLANT DISPLAY, A.K.A. A DUST CATCHER! GROSS!

"The days are over when the cabinets are not wearing heels. Introduce a reveal at the ceiling."

HO! HO! HO!

Santa Spitz bears gifts for Lis' folk (New York Post)

"Bearing gifts in this case doesn't help image."

Weirdly, I can't find the dogs at 2am in the morning; I believe they could be many places in my just woken state. I check the house, find the little one Sparkie, who in NYC barely could walk, now fully running the property but now missing Sassy, the wanderer. I think I heard him outside, in the middle of the night I search the 100 acres and even down to the road which is where the barking is coming from. These barks are tied up and with wolves and coyotes abound, I think my dog is eaten. Magically after an hour back at the main house Sassy is asleep with the chef.

More activities are introduced to our routine of bike riding, hiking, more horseback riding and general good times. We are all invited to a neighbour's boxing day party; a neighbour in Ocala is within 50 miles and my Dad is the life of the party. This is a pure horse crowd and Dad is irreverent and quite witty in fine form. He entertains everyone he meets; they love him. I meet the girls with all the various stories of competition riding and bad relationships, both subjects are intriguing.

Rule #120 DON'T HIDE APPLIANCES! I DON'T WANT TO FIND DIRTY DISHES WHEN I OPEN A CUPBOARD DOOR! LEAVE THE DISHWASHER IN A STAINLESS FINISH.

"Be authentic and let the fridge be real."

FACE CROOK!

Gal steals online ID of cyber pal's lover (New York Post)

"Careful what you put out there for public consumption."

My sister and I have fallen into a role playing, where she plays a Christian sex addict and I am the dumb blonde, not sure why we got each role but it entertains the car rides around the area and there is a lot of driving. Bad weather stirs up;

we go to the Villages for a late lunch. You can't make this place up, it is a village or rather a development that it is really Who Ville, where all the people drive golf carts, live in similar houses and look the same. It is middle America gone insane voting Republicans. The new mock cute Village has restaurants, stores and a movie theatre that I am sure is all very controlled with content and price point. Probably has big brother not only watching, but putting something in the water. They all look happy.

We have a family lunch; my mother orders a martini and we giggle for hours. Our numbers fluctuate daily with people coming and going with the weather. We have scouted out the buying opportunities for food restocked on wine and in the back of our minds planning New Year's Eve complete with theme and food to match. Back in the car our banter continues and the chef back at home has been put on household chores as the food seems to get worse. Have you ever eaten tasteless lasagna? This is the one food that has all yummy stuff; how can it taste like nothing? Our late lunch covers a big dinner so sandwiches work. It amazes me when someone is hired for the holidays and complains constantly about being over worked. Lessons learned, she will be gone soon.

Rule #121 MAKE SURE APPLIANCES ARE AT THE RIGHT HEIGHT. WEARING JIMMY CHOOS TO REACH YOUR MICROWAVE MAY LOOK GOOD, UNTIL YOU SPILL YOUR LATTE!

"It seems warming drawers are for squats."

SON OF A GUN

Chilling pic from Newton killer's home (New York Post)
"Starting at an early age, bad parents."

The weather is finally nice and we head over to the Country Club for some tennis and lunch. My sister and I hit, bringing back memories of our youth and competitive matches with both our parents watching. My niece and nephew play beside us, hitting the play and getting some much needed sunshine even though they live in California. We all have a lunch and discuss our party coming up with my family; it is all about the food and the journey to get there, the actual night can be a bit dodgy.

My sister and her kids are staying for New Years and I have extended their flights. All good as my nephew's father has gone AWOL and will not be taking him skiing as their public celebrity life is back in the gossip rags with sex addiction as the new topic which will turn into a TV Show in the upcoming months. This is a gift that keeps on giving to my sister's alimony.

Rule #122 THE INSIDE OF DRAWERS SHOULD BE WOODEN INSTEAD OF MELAMINE SINCE MELAMINE SIMPLY FALLS APART!

"Even better dove tail draws and even better not light maple."

ROUGH SOX

'Shove Gov' Spitzer liked to strangle me (New York Post)
"What is private these days: nothing."

Today after ground hog morning, we take to the horses going trail riding and polo lessons on the field at the horse park. Fielding calls from my daughter who is now in Miami and she wants to come back for New Years. It is decided—a vintage Frank Sinatra New Year, stuff from the 60's. This will be researched by the kids and data hung everywhere displaying all the cool ideas up the stairs on picture frames all throughout the house taped down will keep the house staff busy the next day.

I am actually getting better at Polo, I have 3 of the 4 shots and moving faster up the field wait until I play a real fake game. Arranging my daughter's flight while she is with my ex is our routine, just keep positive and take the high road. Anyway, she is booked and I will find later I paid for the flight on my son's credit card which is really mine. Holidays are a collection of feelings that are best left alone and time to just breathe and stay positive. My whole world is spinning; I need calm and that will not happen this year.

Rule #123 DRAWERS WITH SELF-CLOSING HARDWARE: YES PLEASE! WHY SHUT YOUR OWN DRAWERS WHEN THEY CAN SHUT THEMSELVES?

"Don't put the glides on the sides place out of sight underneath."

DA WAS MY PIMP

Spitzer gal: I was sex slave to nail madam (New York Post)
"Officials pushing bad behaviour."

I decide it is time to concentrate on myself and this is the day I really start my book: *One Year of Magical Living* and I am living it and I am doing this for me and I am happy, god damn it. When does anyone have this opportunity to put there life in storage and move to a different country, finding yourself all over again; I bet this is worth thousands of dollars in therapy. I have done this on my own and I am getting my old self back; the woman, not girl any more, that walks into a room confident with an inner glow and smile as her face moves after stopping the anti-aging steps. Who said you look younger when your face doesn't move?

I go to the farm office that I have made white bright and airy; I continue this ritual everyday while I am here and beyond



"Rule of life: Always buy your own shoes it is a metaphor for control"

as I have lost days to account for and I need to write down my memories before they are lost; I can't remember yesterday sometimes, or the name of the book I am reading. This is a tall order, I start and begin to share with my mother and she likes the vibe, not that she is critical of much on the other hand my father thinks I am writing some female empowering crap; he could be right. During dinner my daughter arrives and my heart is warmed—she lights up my life, even though I miss my son, he is with his father and this is the right thing to do.

Rule #124 WHEN IT COMES TO FLOORING, WOOD IS SOFT ON THE TOES BUT STONE IS MORE DURABLE AND STYLISH! IF WOOD IS YOUR CHOICE, THEN MAKE SURE TO USE AREA CARPETS IN HIGH TRAFFIC SPOTS SUCH AS THE SINK AREA. THIS IS NOT PRETTY BUT PRACTICAL; I AM NOT INTO PRACTICAL.

“Today they make remarkable porcelain that looks like wood just wear a good cork wedge shoe.”

HUNG OUT TO DRY
Portrait for Mayor Mike's final day (New York Post)
“The truth is in the actions not the story.”

It is a beautiful day and we are back on the tennis courts, my parents playing golf and the kids working hard on the theme and scavenger hunt for tonight. I am getting this independent thing and starting to really understand what is the right thing to do. I need to drill this into my head because happiness starts with me being happy with what I am doing, not what other people are doing. I am just such a sharer and really don't like to be alone, yet, I am alone a lot and I am making myself really happy. Am I growing up?

My sister is with me in the convertible as I purchase road side fireworks, they are barely legal and absolutely crazily fantastic. The Scavenger Hunt is stellar with clues all over the property and we were divided into teams with my mother on my team with my nephew; she is our secret weapon as she really looks creepy in many shots—love that. We win and slide into New Year Eve without a hitch. We have fellow partiers with us, the Park Manager and the chef; the night is elegant and relaxed. The new year comes and slides to another day, marking it in so many ways yet; leaving it alone in others.

Rule #125 THE MOST USED CUPBOARDS ARE THE ONES BELOW THE SINK. TREAT THEM WELL.

“They are the first ones to sag perhaps heavy duty hinges and finish.”

HAPPY NEW MAYOR!
De Blasio sworn in at midnight (New York Post)
“Oh boy here we go, the democrats are back for this financial city.”

I enjoy the moment and as the weather turns we all chill in for a relaxing day. My sister and her kids leave back to LA with uncertainty in their lives with the daughter having some health issues and the son dealing with Hollywood at its lowest. My sister needs a break; she really needs to create it for herself. That ship has sailed and she needs to chart that course back to her own race. It is time to walk away from the limelight and find shelter to explore her future. Her road is complicated and hard to have fame; it is her ride she needs to figure it out.

We head out to the Country Club for a fabulous meal and we really are the only people there. We all laugh and seem to find a nice balance of my ever talking father at full speed; I enjoy the night letting everyone do their thing. My new thing is just that—let it happen. No square pegs in round holes, they don't fit. We are getting near to the end of the holiday and it is has been communal living for almost two weeks with no alone time. I need myself in full gear where I can stop focusing on all the others, it really is not in my nature ,I am a full giver.

Rule #126 MIX UP YOUR CABINET PULLS AND KNOBS! THIS IS THE BLING-BLING OF YOUR KITCHEN!

“In addition nothing sticking out too much you can hip check a hip.”

D TRAIN ARRIVES
... AND SMASHES INTO Bloomberg (New York Post)
“No one looks good ripping someone else apart.”

Day 2 of 2014 and everything seems to be good; I would even say 100 percent. We have one of those amazing days with horseback riding practicing Polo—really relaxing. People are back at work in the world and people are in email purgatory responding Happy New Year to a million people. I personally avoid all that and do not reach out, as it is a constant computer day I would rather be amongst the living, this email communication is really not for me; I am short, sweet and almost too cryptic, some of my friends laugh saying I do bad email which I take as a compliment.

Tonight it could not be raining harder and it is a personal night. Out and about in the land of strip malls then head back to the farm with wind shield wipers going at full speed to a country music song.

Rule #127 USE STAINLESS STEEL SINKS ONLY! WHITE SINKS STAIN AS SOON AS YOU MAKE ITALIAN FOOD! DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON BLUEBERRIES.

“A metal pot in a white ceramic sink makes my sink crawl like finger nails on a blackboard.”

SNOW WAY OUT!
Blizzard Kos flights, shuts highways (New York Post)
“Shades of things to come, crazy weather year.”

There is another ice storm hitting Toronto and the whole eastern coast, the plane is basically stuck somewhere and I need to get a flight out for my daughter and I plus the two dogs, with so many flights cancelled this is no easy feat but somehow we manage to find two seats for tomorrow. It is our last day and I have acupuncture and a massage, plus a lot of packing to do after our two week stay. I come back to the farm with a back that has been cupped pulling out toxins and seriously in two weeks my 8 month old injury is gone. As I am packing, everyone is heading back to their world while my parents are planning their extra week on the road before heading back to Canada. There is no rush, as Canada will have the worst winter on record.

I have been here two weeks and I have not done a drop of work, making the list of chores to be completed on the farm even longer; I have given this to chef who is now the household manager. I do a quick check list, manage packing for all travelling with me and get driver on tap for tomorrow's early departure at 10am from the farm. Now I slip into one more night of ground hog day, playing cribbage with my mom. Dinner in the dining room with now the four of us and a fabulous sleep amongst the stars with visions of NYC dancing in my head.

Rule #128 KITCHEN LIGHTING RULES: UNDER-MOUNT LIGHTING TO ILLUMINATE YOUR WORK SPACE USE SPOT LIGHTS FOR OVERALL LIGHTING IN THE ROOM USE PENDANT LIGHTING FOR YOUR ISLAND, WHICH SHOULD BE 7 FEET ABOVE THE FINISHED FLOOR LEVEL USE CEILING FIXTURE OR CHANDELIER TO LIGHT UP YOUR DINING AREA SHOULD BE 5 FEET ABOVE THE FINISHED FLOOR LEVEL USE WALL SCONCES FOR AMBIANCE ARE ALWAYS CENTERED ON THE WALL AT 5'6" ABOVE THE FINISHED FLOOR. THESE LIGHTING RULES GIVE US FLEXIBILITY AND CREATE NEW SETTINGS FOR YOUR KITCHEN; IT'S ALL ABOUT SEEING THE FOOD.

“Food surgery requires white LED lighting then dim it for ambiance.”

HEX & THE CITY
Loser pol: Rival put curse on me (New York Post)
“Really blaming the world of magic for your failure?”

Today is the day and good thing we leave early for the airport, it is a zoo with thousands of flights cancelled and people not getting home for days, the pilots are so overworked with planes stuck everywhere; this is all going to come to a head. This is our lucky day, we fly home really uninterrupted and the dogs now with full energy are New York bound. With dogs, you meet so many people who are just interested in the breed or names, honestly people are more friendly if you have an animal. We meet a great couple who are interested in getting a dog and we end up on the same flight in front of them. The two women have such similar interests, we chat, exchange contacts and re-group in Manhattan. We have luggage and our driver actually locating us in the pouring sideways rain is always a crap shoot.

We wander out and through broken telephone, we find each other. Back in the Big Apple, I am so happy; I have missed everything this city has to offer. The buildings, cars, the lights, coming down Park Avenue and turning on to Madison, it is home. Our brownstone on 80th is home and the foyer now is a luggage drop zone, we start or rather I start to put it all back together, as we have the big photo shoot January 7th with NYSD. This is going to take a lot of energy and let's be honest I have been on vacation since December 20th; I am re-charged!

Rule #129 FOR YOUR BREAKFAST TABLE TRY BANQUETTE SEATING WITH A SOFA INSTEAD OF CHAIRS. RATHER THAN UNCOMFORTABLE STRAIGHT SEATING THIS PROVIDES A COOL, RELAXING SPACE.

“Make sure to incorporate an angle of repose for lounging.”

WHO DIDN'T WANT HIM DEAD?
Slumlord found burned in dumpster (New York Post)
“Kindness wins in the end.”

We landed to rain and today it is an ice storm; the doggies need booties which are sold out everywhere. We have to buy



DEE DEE RULES: NYC

little rubber yellow ones that look like little condoms on their feet, without these the little one won't walk outside. The time these dogs require is insane; I can't describe how I feel as I love them but in NYC without a back yard they require constant supervision and walk after walk. I promise myself these are the last dogs, ever; I always promise myself that.

We have no food, so we order up groceries from Dean & DeLuca as tonight is home-made meal of Pasta Primavera which I even surprise myself with sautéed vegetables and bocconcini cheese sprinkled with basil. In NYC you can order anything from groceries to probably the best meal in the world with staff. Tonight after two weeks away, we are all about making our own meals, healthy and fresh. This lasts about one meal as we fall back into our routine which is very much about my daughter's school schedule that commences tomorrow and she is fully immersed in the school musical as a principal dancer; she has a fantastic tap dance solo.

Rule #130 ALWAYS USE BAR STOOLS AT YOUR ISLAND. IF YOU LOVE AN EXISTING CHAIR THAT IS TOO LOW, ADD CUSTOM LEGS ONTO THE BOTTOM TO REACH THE ISLAND.

"A stainless steel bottom cap is practical and durable plus it adds to the palette of the kitchen."

LIVING IN FEAR

Slain slumlord's biz partner: I could be next (New York Post)

"Where there is smoke there is fire."

This is the week that I need to get it all together for the NYSD photo shoot and believe me, I am so thankful that it is Tuesday and not today; I have no idea what I was thinking making this for January 7th and not the following week, I wanted the first possible day they offered to get my launch in New York skyrocketing early, on the other hand, my PR agent is all about slowly letting the pieces fall to keep her monthly retainer. Today is about getting the deliveries that were suppose to come last December during the snow storm but upon opening my priceless vase is smashed while my \$100 vases are in pristine condition; this is always the case. Break the really good stuff. Another insurance issue and these movers all are looking in the other direction. They give me the broken stuff while I give them more stuff to break on the route back up north.

I need to buy flowers, if I was in my home turf they would be part of the promo package, as well I am borrowing some stuff from Jonathan Adler that, of course I end up mostly buying. Anyway, I keep positive and I am excited; I just work through, not really thinking about it as I have been down this road many times and hung out to dry by the press. There are 4000 flights that are cancelled because pilots and airports need to re-group, NYC is stranded.

Rule #131 KEEP COUNTERS CLEAN. ENSURE THAT THERE ARE NO DISH RACKS IN SIGHT UNLESS THEY ARE IN USE. WHO LOVES A DIRTY DISH RACK?

"Beauty is beauty not forced and not dripping."

SPITZER SUCKS

Disgusting romp in resort tub (New York Post)

"Have some class and stay clean in public."

The photo shoot starts at noon and I am still tweaking as I have borrowed pieces from Weinrib Designs of ABC Carpet & Home and Kim Seybert table wares that are sold at Bergdorf Goodman's, both whom I met through the Professional Women group, such a talented list. I have re-staged and I am happy with the results, even doing my own flowers. I have a random chef here doing lunch, I really believe, for the benefit of my PR gal, chef is a new client but I seriously don't care, I need some good hair and make-up which I walk a block. I dress in black pants and a turtle neck, subtle yet with great shoes. I am really pressed for time; my Russian cleaning lady helps make the beds for final touches.

Place looks great, I am presentable and the crew shows up the three of them: the photographer, the writer and the editor. We all chat, the photographer drops and breaks his camera (first time ever) and he finishes with basically a phone; it all works but if he has to come back the borrowed pieces will not be here. In stride, the interview starts out of the gate, you are blond, attractive, an architect I am suppose to hate you but I don't, you are a woman's woman and it goes from there. Not remembering what I said but knowing I am capable of anything I will have to see when it comes out. It is a full afternoon and I have a late quick bite looking around knowing what has to go back, tonight I will relax but knowing me, probably not.

Rule #132 WE LOVE DISH TOWELS THAT ARE WHITE AND ACCENTED WITH A STRIPE OF COLOR. DISH RAGS MUST ALWAYS BE WHITE ON WHITE.

"Dish rags are meant to be tossed when fading."

SCREWED

Cops, firefighters can taxpayers in \$400M disability fraud (New York Post)

"Faking anything leads to the truth being found."

DEE DEE RULES: NYC

I now desperately understand why in NYC you want a building with a doorman, when you don't have one you need to be home for deliveries which sounds simple but when everything in this city is delivered, you can't leave the building. So today I am delivery sitting, awaiting the calls basically getting the traffic report and I can't complain as I am borrowing these items for my own benefit. The Jonathan Adler candles, dishes and throws I keep because of their weight and I can never have enough candles. Everything gone and my world back to normal, with my added pieces, I resume my life. Tonight is a playdate time with bad nails from the packing up, I first meet girlfriend wasp from UES to go downtown with my best guy friend to hot spot. We sit at the bar have a pure blast and he turns his phone off so he can have fun without his partner knowing. Basically, when you can't find someone you can't get mad.

Late night and calls with friends in other States; we all laugh as everyone is holding court miles apart. The NYC life I love is full days and my playdate time at night while my daughter does her homework. Then it is dog walking time followed by some emails saying goodnight then blissful sleep, some nights.

Rule #133 WEAR LONG SILVER OVEN MITTS SO THAT YOU DON'T BURN YOUR ARMS! REMEMBER, IF ONE MITT GETS DIRTY, YOU CAN ALWAYS BUY A NEW PAIR.

"Washing the mitts can work or can ruin be prepared to shop."

CHRIS IN A JAM

Jolted by bridge e-mail bombshell (New York Post)
"Playing dirty pool will backfire."

A friend is in town and he has invited me for lunch; I meet the group at The Mark Hotel and it is three girls against one male; we dominate the conversation for sure and I probably talk too much like usual. It is one of the girl's birthday and we celebrate with more conversation plus chocolate and champagne, a perfect girl day. I walk back to the apartment and it is home with my daughter tonight.

I continue to send out proposals and reach out to potential clients, constantly keeping my hand in the game and getting it out there that I am living in NYC, back and forth, completely open to work everywhere with dual phones so no one really knows where I am; I sometimes don't know where I am, except on a plane a lot. For me, now taking a flight is the equivalent to getting in a car with lots of people in it or really a bus but I must admit I haven't bused a lot. Being in NYC working in other locations is no different than being in Toronto working in other locations it is all perception and the willingness to expand business. I will travel, that is my mantra, some clients buy into it some don't but I am trying.

Rule #134 PAPER TOWELS ARE ACCEPTABLE ON THE COUNTER OR HANGING ON THE WALL! STAINLESS HOLDERS ARE THE METAL OF CHOICE!

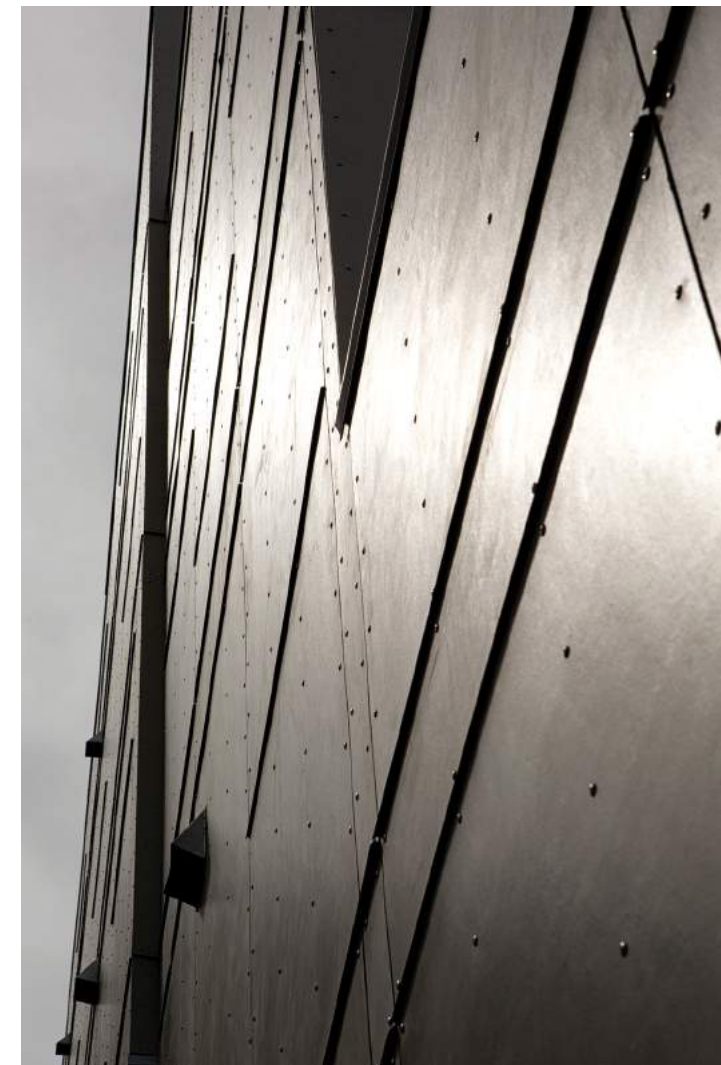
"Do not use the paper towels for napkins get out the cloth."

IGNORANCE IS CHRIS

Christie denies role in GWB jam scam, fires aide (New York Post)
"Beg forgiveness."

It has been a week since the photo shoot, hopefully going my way and proposals that didn't go my way, I remain positive and head out to see a friend I met on the plane: "Plane Friend" (similar for me meeting someone in a bar) to see their new place. This girlfriend I met in line at security and then behind us on the plane sharing stories and design tips. So today her newly purchased co-op with her girlfriend I visit to give some insight. It is a good building, in fact twin buildings, so the monthly charges are expensive but their unit good and well done previously with applied mouldings and superior paint finish, they are updating kitchen and dining area as well as the living room. A funny flow to bedroom from living room but essentially how much do we all entertain. I give my input and actually I am looking at the unit directly above just before lunch.

I have a little time before the real estate agent and I get my nails done, peruse Madison in fashion, jewelry and art, landing back at the building not impressed with the other unit lower ceiling and fake fireplace that pretty well sums it up. Lunch with two girlfriends at Bilboquet restaurant, one who drinks and doesn't stop talking: a New Yorker and the other the quite the opposite, both equally as entertaining. Next up is walk home and seriously contemplating staying in but in NYC you keep going. A night out with three other divorced or rather one soon to be divorced woman, plus two done deal, drinks at The Mark and an actual car ride to the Upper West Side for a party. I haven't driven with a person who actually owns a car in NYC yet, fascinated as we find parking on the street. Funny, this apartment will become one of the girl's ex-partner's new pad the real estate trade never letting go of a good crib.



Rule #135 TRAYS AND BOWLS ARE A KITCHEN'S BEST ACCESSORY! TRY
WHITE BOWLS AND SQUARE TRAYS IN ALL DIFFERENT SIZES.

"Make the food look even better."

COVERUP!

Christie's PA man ordered jam-scum silence (New York Post)

"Take the fifth."

I honestly can't remember when I stopped drinking for a full week and the drinkathon holiday season is finally caught up with me. Last night on the West Side, the chardonnay did not taste the same and I feel my skin looks redder, plus I seem to be getting mild hot flashes that may be due to the fact the brownstone stays at about 90 degrees all day long regardless of the radiators being turned off. I regulate the heat by opening and closing the windows which does not seem so energy efficient and conscious of the oil consumption. I have to recycle, separating my paper from glass, controlling the temperature through exterior air flow.

It is official, it has been 8 days since we left Ocala and I need more vacation time or maybe I am just hung over? My daughter is asleep and doesn't awake until I tickle her toes. Around 1pm I venture down Madison a couple of blocks for a shot of wheat grass and green juice from Juice Bar—being on the clean living diet, at the last second order a large latte but skinny. The morning was consumed with working on the computer at desk followed by afternoon on Iphone on sofa then just prior to reading in bed we are off to Exceed Gym for an interval class. That has certainly woken me up and I meet my best male friend for drinks and artichoke dips in the pouring rain, way downtown with no taxi to be had, the non-price car service which means he makes up a price deposits us at Freeman Alley 191 Chrystie St , truly down a graffiti alley.



Chapter 9: Mud Room Rules:

Rule #136 MUD ROOM RULES: ORGANIZE! THIS ROOM IS NOT FOR PEOPLE WITH O.C.D.! EVERYTHING NEEDS A PLACE INCLUDING SHOES, COATS, MITTENS, UMBRELLAS, ETC.

"I love to make everything look organized."

A-DIOS!

Yankees, fans cheer as Alex banished for season (New York Post)

"You are your own island."

My girlfriend is exploring all the Hot yoga classes in NYC and I am her sidekick. This Sunday we will go to the crazy uptight Bikram at 54th street where we join for a month never to go back. First for me it is an hour and a half, there is very little that I want to do for 1.5 hours especially yoga not being one of them. The instructor asks everyone's name and remembers it, there is no smiling or talking with world competitors in the room. Who knew, we were at the front of the class and happily going into my back bend when instructor girl yelled my name and told me "no back bend for you", so not the yogi vibe. Who am I to argue with a chick that just spent a year in India finding herself, balancing on her head.

No worries and fully sweated out, we head back uptown; I bathe, cleanse and rid myself of the communal sweat. Since it is 11am, it is legal to wake my daughter up and I do. I went grocery shopping and I do my famous Paris breakfast consisting of freshly squeezed OJ, warmed croissant, chai latte and various fruits plus love. We conquer two loads of laundry or I do, expertly now—with the perfect fold technique. I make her an amazing dinner; that is really taking pre-cooked items and salad, while redisplaying them on a plate. One of my best friend and her husband is in from out of town; they stop by for a bottle of champagne, followed by dinner at Crown where we have room temperature Chablis even though I am a colder than ice Chardonnay girl; I am fully aware that my wine recipe is not for real wine drinkers. Yes it is a Sunday and yes NYC is awake; you have to love this city. So much for pure abstinence as my father said, abstinence can be achieved but tolerance is hard; I am still working on tolerance.

Rule #137 A BENCH OR A CHAIR IS A MUST. HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSE TO CHANGE YOUR MANOLOS TO UGGS WHEN YOU'RE STANDING?

"Separate the dirty outdoor shoes from interior beauties."

JAM SESSION

Subpoenas for 'betrayers' in GWB scandal (New York Post)

"Explain how you made a bridge halt by force."

This boot camp fitness class down the street was barely full when I moved to NYC, now it has a cult following and I can barely get a spot since I never quite know my schedule. Certainly I can't book two weeks out, who can? The other day I got an invite for the summer; I have no idea what I am doing next week. This is a quick in and out of Florida week and I need maintenance prior to leaving. After fitness comes shower then mani, pedi, and waxing so I can meet my soon to be single girlfriend for coffee, hearing and really listening to all the players; it is complicated.

Today will not stop and phone calls go for about 6 hours with office in Toronto and real estate in NYC. I am looking in NYC for a place to buy, nothing seems to be of my liking and way too expensive. Why did everyone else get a deal on a place? The ice storm in Toronto has caused havoc in almost everyone's roof especially the neighbour I am attached to, who hasn't done any repairs in decades. We try to please everyone and reality is that this weather for construction has put us back at least a full month—at this point and does not look like it is getting better. Tonight in NYC, I will be serving a sliced lemon chicken on a bed of arugula, the grocery stores in NYC even make me look good.

Rule #138 MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL. IT'S HARD TO SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE WITHOUT A FULL-LENGTH MIRROR! EVERYONE NEEDS ONE LAST CHECK BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT THE DOOR!

"A full length one is preferred for the full picture."

TOO LATE

After 7 years principal finally on time...but met by probers (New York Post)

"You know when you need to perform."

It is discovered that the building next store has been leaking for years and this weather is prime to continue this action. Nothing to do with my construction but I pay for this report regardless. This consumes some more dollars and my time; I easily pull myself away to go get my hair cut. We all need this, a break from the stress and negative forces just to be pampered; I feel I am getting pampered once a week as I bought a blow-out package that requires you use it once a week to keep the lower rate (I am a blow out addict addict)—first step is admitting the issue. This is a whole new gig since I have moved to NYC, my hair I love to have it full and freshly coiffed; I have become friends with my salon, a smart way for a woman to fit in!

Today is a busy day with women charity groups: it starts downtown in a boardroom for The Women Initiative Entrepreneur Success Link that I have been asked to join to advise women starting their own businesses. After an intensive education course, I am jazzed and the women in the group are real rock stars. Next is the evening with the Committee of Professional Women, which is a bit of a contrast to the boardroom it is an UES town house near 5th with fully staffed butlers and the most beautiful table with each of us having individual flower vases. The dinner consisting of yummy caviar, lobster and

cheese soufflé. The night is magical and I am elated to be asked and the women are fabulous and accomplished; this is a whole new NYC level. I wander back up Madison Avenue, the 6 blocks back to my place, with one of the women chatting away and living the dream—well until my early flight in the am.

Rule #139 MAKE SURE YOU USE A NON-SLIP AND DURABLE STONE WHEN IT COMES TO FLOORING. BRING THE OUTDOORS IN: TRY A FLAGSTONE, NEVER WOOD.

"You need the transition from exterior to interior where feet can be messy and not fall."

SPY RADIO

NSA's bugs in 100,000 PCs (New York Post)

"Big brother alive and well."

Today is my ex's bday and I am sure that the text I sent goes a bit sideways, always brings back some crazy moments followed by a thank you. After such a magical night I am empowered to be a working woman except for this 8am flight that requires me leaving the apartment at 6am but waking at 5am to feed/walk dogs and lay out breakfast for my daughter. Accomplished all that and slightly asleep on route to LaGuardia as my driver stood me up again. I hail a taxi which is not easy at 6am in the wind on Park Avenue. I arrive in Fort Meyers and taxi it into Sanibel island to get right to work, well first, lunch at the Yacht Club get caught up, then to the house, room by room, tweaking and perfecting.

I commence with the outdoor space as you can't get around the ill placed furniture and even in my whites I move the furniture pieces myself with help of the client. I do manage to drop a glass table top on my head, over estimating my strength; the glass did not break but I got a nice bump on my head which is my second this week. I walked around with a frozen bottle of Vodka cooling my bump (love anyone who keeps there vodka in the freezer, I do). We actually have wine for dinner with some kind of food, not that the food was that important; we discuss the aspects of two working women and how the work style and life has changed—you need wine for that. We can't sleep at the new house so we wander back to the old house continuing our design issues and life issues. Best quote of the night when the glass fell on my head: "Glad you are not a prima donna." Funny, I thought I was.

Rule #140 SAY NO TO CARPETS. ONLY FLOOR MATS ARE ALLOWED IN THIS ROOM! KEEP IT STYLISH BUT ROUGH ENOUGH TO GET THE DIRT OFF THOSE SHOES! BORDER THE ROOM WITH WOOD, INLAY WITH STONE AND ADD A FLOOR MAT. DON'T FORGET A MAT FOR INSIDE AND OUT. NO ONE LIKES STEPPING IN PUDDLES!

"Those mats need cleaning and replacing, get extras from a stair runner and rotate them."

YES! School of NO gets BOOKS!

Post win for kids (New York Post)

"Expose issues and they can be dealt with."

A 9:16am flight to Orlando on Silver Airlines is like taking your life into your own hands on this small plane that parks at the end of the airport but it does the trick; I land in time for lunch with the radio people for the Willy Nelson concert. With only two kicks under the table, I have not interrupted that much. This is a quick visit, essentially on route back to New York to see how the farm is doing and I find it hard to be in the state of Florida without checking on projects in progress.

It is one of those magical days touring all the new projects that are going on and watching as Ocala becomes re-branded, laughing as no one has any concept of what and how much time this all takes. I have learned that even the radio companies see this market as growing and a pit stop from Gainesville to Miami. I am on this train and literally have one at the farm; I feel at home here. Tonight is sushi and track pants, lots of conversations especially as 6,000 people are needed in less than a month and weather is a pure issue for an outdoor old school concert.

Rule #141 BASKETS ON THE FLOOR ARE A PERFECT HIDEAWAY FOR YOUR SLIPPERS. TUCK THEM UNDER YOUR BENCH FOR AN EASY SWITCH BETWEEN DAY AND NIGHT OR NIGHT AND DAY DEPENDING ON HOW LATE THE PARTY WENT!

"A slipper with a good heel is ideal or Uggs if out all night."

IN DE MONEY

Bias B'klyn home soars to \$1.4M (New York Post)

"Previous mayor has added to this mayor's wealth."

Barely to bed and barely out of bed, it is time to leave the farm to catch a 7am flight to La Guardia, I have a 1pm lunch with another plane friend who is changing up his life as well. I mentioned Toronto and he turned around we locked eyes and that was it, another funnster. After lunch I walked through the Park as we were at 200W 70th Street at Luxembourg Café, it was a beautiful walk on a surprisingly warm day for January. I am missing my daughter, she is home after play practices and wants some more fun exercise so she takes herself down to Broadway Dance School for a boot camp class by Uber; my little girl is gone and is replaced with a New Yorker who can get around really anywhere.

I get re-organized in the apartment with the usual unpacking and getting the dogs back from whoever has them. Tonight I will dine at a lovely restaurant with friends from Toronto on Central Park South called Madera, it is fine dining and I have dover sole, yummy. The handsome male couple recently married have been together for 25 years and their rhythm is infectious with their 15 year difference in age. I gravitate to the younger while the older chooses the wine, unaffected by our tastes. A truly beautiful wine and night with little decision making, I taxi home to my waiting dogs and daughter—excited to be home in NYC at our fabulous address.

Rule #142 DESIGN FOR AGE APPROPRIATENESS. BACKPACKS OR PURSES? LET THAT DICTATE THE HOOK PLACEMENT, STORAGE AREA, ETC. DO YOU HAVE A BIRKIN OR A LUNCH PALE?

“Interesting some people want both, makes work for us.”

HER HONOR!
Mayor’s wife wants role at City Hall (New York Post)
“Was she elected too?”

The weather has deteriorated and will continue to do so all winter long. There is snow and rain which turns to ice and then floods. This cycle has basically shut down the construction in Toronto as we go under a freeze thaw routine for the next three months, well actually four as there is always one snow storm in April. The morning is my new routine where I head to Serafina for my shot of wheat grass followed by my latte that really doesn’t taste that great especially with the prior shot. The dogs are left outside and I bring my daughter home a vanilla latte and a fresh croissant. The dogs I bring them home as well, yet, sometimes I feel like leaving them as they really are a lot of work in New York. With no backyard I can’t even count how many times I have walked around the block. They won’t go the washroom in the rain, yes for snow, no for rain—someone help me.

It clears a bit, my daughter and I are having a Saturday night on the town in the meat packing district. We shop around the stores and essentially you can buy the same thing in each neighbourhood as we are both classic dressers and love our track pants. So what do we buy: a classic shirt and a pair of tracks that we both share. Dinner is a French Bistro Pastis and the French onion soup with a Caesar salad is one of our staples, plus my glass of Chardonnay. My daughter is really my best friend and has the best lines ever said with a complete straight face and roll of the eyes.

Rule #143 DON’T FORGET TO LIGHT IT UP! CHANDELIERS AND POT LIGHTS ARE KEY HERE. BEAUTY AND FUNCTION ARE A MUST!

“Chandeliers you will look better, pot lights you will find your gloves.”

IN THE LINE OF BOOTY
Cops ‘snuck into Hamptons cottage for sex’ (New York Post)
“Love the one you are with finding shelter.”

I have always dreamed to be in the NY Times Real Estate Section especially on a Sunday and today is my day, but in an article you may not want to be in: *Why Renters Renovate*. My quote sums it up after spending \$30,000 to renovate “I have my bed (which is actually my desk) sitting in the bay window and I feel like I’m having that ‘Sex in the City’ moment. I look at all the brownstones and the snow falling. It’s magical.” I really feel that way and it is amazing who reads this section; I hear from everyone and now I think it good to be there though they spelt my name correctly.

My girlfriend and I are doing this hot yoga trial everywhere in NYC; I place myself in the corner with the two windows not noticing that it has two heaters and I am sweating—just barely breathing. She doesn’t sweat anyway and wears an extra layer to help that while me on the other hand, am fully soaked and blushed in the face. Home by taxi, fully drenched, it is 74 blocks away. Home by 11am and daughter is still asleep, I bathe and shower feeling completely refreshed now time for the latte and dog walk. Having completed all these tasks, I decide it is time for some homemade meals so for brunch a fully sliced and well presented caprese salad with some prosciutto and couscous. Lemon water and thin slices of chocolate with mint for dessert; I am capable, just get bored easily and forget things while cooking. Tonight, a drink with some NYC girls that have young babies they are doing the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Sunday night spa thing away from children, I have a flash back to yester years of no sleep and little cute faces, but in New York with tight living; I get the hotel thing.

Rule #144 LIGHT UP THE CLOSETS! THERE IS NOTHING WORSE THEN SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING IN THE DARK. USE CLOSET DOOR SWITCHES SO THE LIGHT GOES ON WHEN YOU OPEN THE CLOSET DOOR AND USE UNDER LIGHTING IN THE SHELVING BEHIND THE DOOR THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND THAT RUNAWAY MITTEN.

“Lights are sexier than glasses.”

PUBLIC ENEMY #1
Man, 84, bloodied by cops - for JAYWALKING! (New York Post)
“Punishment should fit the crime.”



It is President's Day and there is no school but weirdly it is warm outside, soon to freeze again here comes the construction industry slowdown. This quick change in temperature has caused so many burst pipes and roof leaks it is hard to find a plumber or a roofer. We walk along Lexington for a Chai at Joe's and we purchase flowers at our place on the corner of 80th until we are re-born with the flower market at 28th Street. We do Chopped salads for lunch and discuss the school options as we need to let the schools know where we will be attending grade 10 (I feel I am still in High School). Do we look at other options where there will be more testing required or do we head south for warmer weather? Is this about my daughter or I? I know the correct answer will surface and we will get there.

Field some calls for work with accountant and the Gala CCAR organizer going through table invitees and proposed table sponsors. After having chatted through the strategy about tables for a full half an hour with the full back story where I went in and out of consciousness because the organizer is an over detailed loves her job person; my mind is mush. We have dropped our homemade meal plan very quickly today, tonight will be bagels and quiche from E.A.T. Truly a rip off, but across the street from our block, too convenient and extremely tasty.

Rule #145 USING A DECORATIVE MESH ON THE PANELING FOR AIR CIRCULATION. THIS WILL KEEP YOUR CLOSET BEAUTIFUL AND FUNCTIONAL AT THE SAME TIME! THINK OF IT AS CLOSET DEODORANT.

"Air flow good for the health and longevity."

VORTEX RETURNS

And this time, it's bringing a snowstorm (New York Post)

"The snow just keeps on flowing."

Yesterday was not a holiday in Canada it was business as usual, I have been promising myself that in the new year I will get responsible for my business and after 20 years of being a business partner with a nice waspy man, that I will fully evaluate the situation. There have been many instances where I get caught in the middle to ease the pain of the client. My business partner seems fed up, seriously. Some of these clients have seen too many HGTV shows, becoming experts while he has slowed down the production and running over budget, not a good combination. I need some year ends and a picture of 10,000 feet from the accountant.

In my getting responsible phase, I request all the income sheets versus staff time and this is a slow process as I educate my controller on numbers, not a perfect combination either. This is all about looking at the bottom line which in the USA has become a bit insane, but interesting as it has given me perspective: I can't afford myself which one man said "not even Bill Gates or Warren Buffet could afford you", that hurt. A snowy day, a perfect day for a visit to the Met to see the Jar exhibit with a girlfriend, 430 pieces of jewellery designed by a New Yorker who crafts in Paris, being very exclusive on who he will work for. I love this concept and dream of selecting my clientele truly I do so much work for myself I am partly there. Back to home cooked ideas, I make a stracciatella soup with a store bought chicken broth coupled with an arugula salad topped with lemon chicken strips, fabulously plated.

Rule #146 MAKE SURE YOUR MUDROOM IS ADJACENT TO THE KITCHEN AND/ OR GARAGE, WE DON'T WANT ANY MUDDY FOOTPRINTS Travelling THROUGH FORMAL SPACES OF THE HOME.

"Next of kin in rooms is paramount for great relationships."

SHAMBLES

Turmoil as Blas botches 'early' snow (New York Post)

"Job is new with old players they are not playing together."

This will be the winter to beat all winters, this being one of the days that will cripple NYC. New York is not equipped for snow, you barely see snow plows, especially in the UES with the new mayor, although he gets his own hood plow priority. My daughter has a snow day, as there is no school so we fall back to our weekend routine heading up Madison Avenue to Dean and DeLuca for our croissants and Chai. I am excited to take her to the public library around the corner for a tour, it is so beautiful dating back over a 100 years. We see the stacks and the reading room with the old school card filing system—hardly any computers in sight. I admit she is a little bored but I just love the feel of the rise and run of the stairs; it is so gracious.

Our snow day turns into a ladies lunch at Sant Ambrose, just the two of us lunching and getting caught up. She has homework and I am involved with my married girlfriend becoming single, meeting plus one of her many boyfriends for a drink and French fries at the newly renovated Regency on Park Avenue. I don't love this one but you need to break the ice somewhere; I like height, can't do short. Opposed to phone chatting and emailing, I prefer voice to voice with friends comparing crazy schedules wondering who I will see in 2014.

Rule #147 MAKE YOUR MUDROOM YOUR OWN PERSONAL FAMILY LOCKER ROOM: EACH CHILD THEIR OWN LOCKER. IF YOU HAVE A HOUSE OF GIRLS, TRY MAKING IT AN ELEGANT DRESSING ROOM. ALWAYS KEEP A

FRONT HALL CLOSET IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION FOR GUESTS.

"Don't mix sweaty tracks with cashmere top coats."

MAYOR CULPA!

De Blasio admits he blew the snow job (New York Post)

"Admittance is step one."

I have a lunch tomorrow and a site visit as I have not been back to Canada this year with the weather and the photo shoot in NYC, really the weather has been insane. So this morning is getting caught up with writing and being in that zone: "happy writer, happy reader", this writing gig is discipline and a daily dose. When I miss a day it just falls to the next. I have no idea what I am in store for tomorrow with the ice storms, a fabulous lunch at Joso's with a quick in and out, hoping for good weather. I need some Zen, I do a yoga class at Exhale and breathe.

The Canadians have really been battling weather and business is at a slow grind with this week being really my first week back. I see the writing on the wall when can I move into my new live/work space and where is new business coming from in this deep freeze. I so enjoyed the Regency last night that I met my favourite NYC guy at the bar for the usual; my Chardonnay to his beer and a round of fries. We are going to the Winter Antique Show at the Armory, which foreshadows things to come, as the Fall International Art & Antique Show will become my baby. We stay way too long and have too much to drink, meeting everyone, another perfect NYC night with my NYC guy.

Rule #148 PICK THE PERFECT BENCH FOR THE CENTRE OF THE ROOM. MAKE SURE TO USE A DURABLE FABRIC SUCH AS VINYL AND DRESS IT UP WITH NAIL HEADS OR LUCITE LEGS.

"Love the legs floating away."

THE LAST GOODFELLA

Busted in '78 Lufthansa heist (New York Post)

"They get you in the end."

No one wants to wake up at 4:15am for anything but sex, believe me, but today is a marathon day for me. I will go in and out of Canada to -30 degree Celsius weather wrapped in double fur coats. I trick the dogs into eating breakfast regardless of the early hour and set the table for my daughter's breakfast. I bring dogs outside for their morning constitution and even though I feel like leaving them outside; I don't. Driver is there waiting and I proceed to LaGuardia, my home away from home. Flight on time and I have the best conversation with the check-in attendant that opens up the lounge for me for my much needed latte after my date fed me too much conversation and wine last night; I was a willing participant.

My car delivered to me at the airport, I arrive at my Toronto office 9am. I can't help myself and despite the cold I walk the site of our new home in heels and love it, wow it is big and actually moving along. Meeting after meeting with a great lunch with future clients, hopefully, plus a Scotties Design Tissue Box PR session it is one last meeting before the airport and you have to laugh. I said to my divorced male client/friend I just want to live happily ever after and he said "Good Luck!!!". Home really the next day with weather and delays, in bed by 3am thinking what a life I lead or is this insane?

Rule #149 FOR BOOT STORAGE, PLACE BOOTS ON A PERFORATED TRAY WITH TRAY BELOW TO CATCH THE DIRT. GIVE YOUR TALL RIDING BOOTS ENOUGH STORAGE WITH HEIGHT SO THEY ARE NOT FALLING OVER. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THIGH-HIGH BOOTS ARE COMING BACK!

"Plan for an abundance of footwear!"

LUNAR-TICS

Blas, Viv eye school day off for Asian New Year (New York Post)

"Keep the kids in school adults need a break."

It is still cold in NYC though nothing like Canada; it is the wind here that adds to the chill factor. Sparkie needs her disposable condom booties on while wild Sassy, really anything goes, as his wire frame moves along the piled up garbage from the crazy weather. As my lower neighbour said: this is a dirty town, in more ways than one. It is lightly snowing; I feel like a weather person, my daughter is working on her photography essay and I writing various advice columns in between reading. We venture out for flower shopping: fresh orange tulips, blue hyacinth and speckled orchids. Some people might get firewood; I want beauty.

It is even too cold to take the dogs to Saint Ambrose to leave them outside and get a latte but at Serafina you can bring them in the 8' x 8' shop as they can't really see them over the high counters. So I order two lattes, one vanilla and two croissants. We are chilled for the day, slowly planning our individual evenings. One will be out at Phillippe on 60th with girlfriends and male model, where as I am with girls only at Kingside at 57th, something is wrong with this picture. I taxi back my daughter via Uber; I want to be her.

Rule #150 FOR SHOE STORAGE, TRY YOUR BEST TO USE ANGLED RACKS. REMEMBER SHOES ONLY NEED A SPACE THAT IS 1' IN DEPTH. CAN YOU INCORPORATE AN ACTUAL SHOE TOWER IN YOUR CLOSET?

"Panels behind the shoes with a reflection possibly a mirror looks like more shoes."

DEAD WAIT

Patient dies in ER, but hospital doesn't notice for HOURS (New York Post)

"You can only hope to be noticed before eight hours."

It is an early start on a cold day that begins with walking the dogs with little booties on to protect their paws from the salt and a taxi ride down to 8:30am Hot Yoga on 6th at 10th Street. Just lying there I feel better sweating and I take the hour class; I do not have the attention span for 90 minutes. Cleansed and now washed back in the apartment, my beauty wakes up and we have a late breakfast together; she never changed out of her jammies—a perfect Sunday.

We ordered groceries from Dean and DeLuca and lazily waited for them to come. Knowing that they will send the broken crackers, we perfectly place them in the cupboards and fridge. She has an exam tomorrow so she is in study mode and I head down to the Soho house with a couple of girls to chat about relationships, sex and shopping, pretty much what we talk about all the time. We are joined by a male friend from Canada and pretty much discuss the same things except the usual from the male; the marriage is sexless and I stop on a dime and ask: "Do you think it is sexy to cheat? My advice, get out now or stay faithful; the other path will lead to the same resultant." A good time is had by all, maybe some wanted a better time but life consequences get in the way and they should so, by 11pm on a Sunday we call it a night—it feels like 3am.

Rule #151 WE HAVE ALL SEEN A DIRTY BASKET WITH DIRTY SHOES. IF THIS IS YOUR ONLY OPTION THEN USE IT, JUST MAKE SURE YOUR BASKET IS CLEANED OFTEN TO REMOVE ANY EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF DIRT LEFT BEHIND.

"So now you will have a clean basket with dirty shoes."

MY PUP SICLE

Central Pk. Icy rescue (New York Post)

"Woman's best friend and she can swim."

This morning I am doing my NYC male friend a favour as his partner has invested in a glass company that sounds super cool and I can see different applications for sure. I am picked up in a Mercedes convertible with a small dog, licking lap dog, and the owner of the company. It is a long drive to Long Island and back plus the videos on the computer make for a long morning, however, I like the product but the main office/laboratory are not that impressive to allure more business. Maybe that is not the issue, the true sales are in the industry; I am confused—it doesn't add up. The ride back with dog named Doughnut licking away seems like forever.

The evening improves now, my daughter and I are at a special evening with two dancers and choreographer performing informally for the board of directors of the NYC Ballet, making up the dance in front of us. A private audience and a special insight with questions about the personality of what it is like to be a professional dancer, these are stolen moments with my daughter and unforgettable. This makes New York come alive for me; this performance is in the New York Ballet practise studios, reminiscent of a Parisian formal room with high ceilings and beautiful mouldings.

Rule #152 GLOVE STORAGE IS HARD TO FIND AT THE TOP OF A CLOSET! THE DAY OF THE SIMPLE SHELF AND ROD ARE LONG GONE. TRY INTEGRATED STORAGE UNITS TO HOUSE GLOVES, HATS, MITTENS, ETC.

"Need to store it make a home for it."

TAX STINK

Blas & gov face off over pre-K funding (New York Post)

"Read the rules."

I am so enthused with the ballet dancers from the previous night, I run, not walk, to my fitness class of squatting; I want that body that is leaned and defined. This is a hard circuit class that requires full concentration to get that balance of sweat and not throwing up. I am so glad when it is over—I am for sure a clock watcher. Knowing today I have lunch at a steak house I want the workout behind me. Lunch is with an ex-professional hockey player and a real estate agent, great combo, high in protein.

Everyone is actually nicer in New York and so willing to help, it is a trick to cash in on these promises with all these things to do and being so busy in both countries. I am busy living, like actually really living doing the day with meals, dogs, social commitments, work obligations and numerous phone calls/emails. At night I literally fall asleep in exhaustion. It feels fantastic, just give me more hours. The real estate game takes an enormous amount of time just travelling from place to place and you need to be in the zone to be able to understand the market to catch it. My brain is too scattered right

now, I am beginning to understand my hood and that I want a rental turn condo building: price range now has become the obstacle. There are always barriers.

Rule #153 FOR SCARVES, PERHAPS TRY A NEW RACK SYSTEM. YOU MAY OWN MORE HERMES SCARVES THAN YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH!

"Out of the closet and into the world."

SUPER MANN!

Modest Peyton on the brink of immortality (New York Post)

"Politeness gets you everything."

I have been so out there socially and for work, sending portfolios until my fingers hurt and talking, giving out the sound waves that I am in Toronto and New York not having run way from the either world. Funny how rumours get started when you leave a country. I think my time is coming for something; it is a numbers game. Last week I had lunch with a big developer in Toronto who, between 4 families, control the construction industry. Working on a proposal for a massive development north of Toronto, this is the perfect scale for my coming back to Canada or rather developing it as a New York designer. Either way, I want it and I know how much work is behind it.

After working on this proposal, I need a mind boost and I slip over for a soul cycle class which is the perfect cocktail. I sweat, spin and filled with that positive attitude that I can conquer the world. In fact, I just need to get that job, sounds like the Broadway show Chorus Line because I miss that connection to large scale and pace of project. You never dwell in the bliss when you are in it you just get the job done. My job has changed so much. I am everything now: from writing, building, designing to laundry and everything in between. Tonight is a quick cocktail that turns to a bottle each of wine for the four of us, with caviar so beautifully displayed as I made the chopped eggs, onions all on a bed of ice with non-metal utensils. My best guy friend and a fabulous Canadian couple, we laugh and eat the night away the morning is way too early. I am celebrating maybe a bit too early, but I am in the zone.



Chapter 10

Bedroom Rules:

In the Zone

“There is a time and place for everything and I am finding my feet on the ground so it is today that I will leave the New York Post for simply reading the headlines on the street and the paper on my iPhone. There will no longer be headlines in my daily posts.”

Rule #154 BEDDING SHOULD BE MADE OF QUALITY COTTON WITH A HEMSTITCH. ENSURE THAT THE FABRIC IS WASHABLE. KEEP THE DRY CLEANER AWAY!

“Princess and the Pea bedding.”

I have many things to do today as I will be away for the upcoming week and mom is coming to babysit even though the customs officials thinks at 78 years of age she is starting a professional babysitting ring. My mother has never worked a day in her life. I have a quick lunch at the Carlyle Hotel with someone that is older than my mother, who can open the doors of New York for me, and would love to have dinner where he will only sit at a table for four facing a certain way. You may ask why I agreed to lunch? We are neighbours and he kindly offered his driver to drop my daughter and I off one night when it was difficult to get a taxi at our 80th and Park corner. Actually, he saw me and my daughter, who were hidden at the time behind a lamp post from his vantage point. Anyway, lovely but lunch was enough; I will open my own doors, again.

Since I am travelling, I need maintenance and off I go to Valery Joseph; I am an addict to my blow dries and the waxing plus the mani, pedi. Really, when did I find the time to do this all before, in NYC it seems to require more time and more cash. I am meeting an old friend for dinner at Gari, the sushi place; she is now the fashion editor of the New York Post. I am so proud of all her accomplishments, my PR girl couldn't get to her but I can...why do I have a PR girl again? Not sure if this is working out with the PR girl, who keeps telling me no one knows me and scared away a TV producer whose son was nominated for an Oscar. It doesn't feel right, I need to circle back to LA TV girl. Now I have reconnected with NY post girl, we are sitting in my apartment and I have an early morning flight, so I say good night, but she is super cool and I have to stay connected: I need more time in NYC—less flying around please.

Rule #155 PILLOW SIZE AND QUANTITY DEPENDS ON THE BED SIZE. DON'T OVERLOAD WITH DECORATIVE PILLOWS, THEY ALWAYS END UP ON THE FLOOR!

DEE DEE RULES: NYC

“Eliminate decorative pillows go authentic.”

I am actually going away for a week, not two days, and at the end of the week my girlfriends are coming to stay with me in NYC. It is a big weekend coming up with the Willie Nelson concert at the state park and friends are going to come to the farm, a bit nervous what the turn out will be with only 1200 advance ticket sales. Today I fly to Orlando and am driven to Ocala to a room full of bar and motorcycle people that will help run this event in cash. Keeping in mind cash is not that easy to keep control of or count.

We are missing about 10 of the female bartenders that basically wear the most tip getting outfit, lots of T&A which is cool by me and with no after party at the farm; tomorrow I can get some sleep at a decent hour. You can learn life lessons anywhere, you just need to listen and I am learning this skill. There are women in this group that have given it all up for the almighty ride on the motorcycle, they love their Hog and prefer riding on the back; a tremendous sense of freedom. Funny, I think I would rather drive for control but maybe hold on for relaxation is the real answer—catching the ride and enjoying the journey.

Rule #156 IF USING A FITTED SHEET, IT MUST BE DEEP ENOUGH FOR THE MATTRESS YOU HAVE. IT IS BETTER TO USE HOSPITAL CORNERS: THOSE FITTED SHEETS ARE CRAZY TO FOLD AND STORE!

“The gathered corners look terrible in their storage state and stay wrinkled.”

This is the day we have been talking about for months and the guests are more business related than personal friends; it makes it easier if it all falls apart. I am the horse trail leader, taking a group out, which is comprised mainly of New Yorkers—it is full of talking and a bit of riding. Next we play tennis and it is big time competitive. I think my team wins or should have, not so sure of the counting but sometimes better to lose, really? We have lunch at the farm and it is a beautiful sunny day, the sun gods have smiled on us. We all head to Silver Springs around 5pm with smiles, sweaters and baskets of wine. We are doing an outdoor concert, country farm style. We have dropped off tickets to everyone we know, now it is game time.

We are at about 3,000 people at this point and the line-up for parking is steady, my New York friend wants to go see the roadies on the bus and I lead the way meeting a fellow Canadian. We are on the bus and I am being serenaded by two older gentleman who will sing with Willie Nelson. Love their line: “You are the only Ten I See (Tennessee)”. The crowd is building and so are the clouds, at about 6,000 people during the warm up act, the skies burst with rain ;we are still on the bus, no one seems to care and they crowds keep coming. I never really got wet with two more downpours we are in the front row sipping wine and we all dance to: “The only Girl I Loved Before”. This is heaven and we are bonded in spirit, rain and excitement with over 8,000 people in sight, but about 6,000 cash accounted for—it's Ocala and cash bar.

Rule #157 YOUR DUVET MUST BE LARGE ENOUGH TO HIT THE BED SKIRT. NO ONE WANTS TO SEE AN EXPOSED MATTRESS.

“Need box spring mattress sheets to cover the sides no labels to view please.”

It was a rocking success and the stories, too funny. Our friend from Ocala acted as security with a complete straight face making sure no one crossed up to the front of the stage; he was featured in the front page of the paper the next day, arms crossed in front of chest, stern, with us to the right dancing it up with no intruders. The farm staff manned the parking in the pouring rain, \$5 at a time, apparently the cars never stopped and the cash was never counted as it was stuck together anyway. Our New York business friends did the whole Brooklyn slang and I even joined in; I have the accent now: “How you doing?”.

The job done off to Miami by car a mere 4 hour drive away, happily there is a driver and I melt into the back seat. It is Super Bowl Sunday and I am hosting friends on the boat. We are doing sushi and wine, plus beers. It is a beautiful night and the game is brutal one team forget to come out to play. My friend from Miami comes and I so love him, witty, smart and never dull moment (but really bad dresser but you can't get it all). We ignore the game and get caught up on life. Wow time flies, tomorrow we are to visit the condo ship, The World.

Rule #158 PLACE A PITCHER AND GLASS BESIDE THE BED FOR WATER ON TOP OF A GLASS SURFACE. WATER RINGS ARE JUST NASTY, HOW OLD ARE THEY?!

“Is it similar to a tree where you count the rings for age?”

What a sleep and what a whirlwind today is, driving to Tampa; I wake to one of the trusted employees sitting on the back of the boat and we are going for a cruise. I love her, she is like a big sister to me we share war stories and we are both work horses just with different job descriptions. This is a day to spoil her and show her a bit of Miami plus she needs to take the car back to the farm. We review our roles and completion dates; we give our own stories all will get done; she is a General, yelling at even my staff. I massage, all will be well. We make the best decision of the day to blow off driving to Tampa and have a play day. Good bye to the General; it is a paddle board adventure.

Starting with two boards then to one, there is a 78 foot yacht following all of us in Miami Bay as we hand paddle, laugh and play for hours with this large toy behind us. I don't remember the last time I ingested so much salt water and

laughed that hard; we really are all children! A glorious day ending with dinner at Cipriani at the Viceroy, the perfect setting as I am designing nautical for my new Canadian Project—this gives me inspiration. Yummy and small chairs which is the theme for this chain; I obviously like the chain since I have been to most of them.

Rule #159 AVOID CLUTTER, HAVE PROPER STORAGE AND MAKE SURE THAT THE BEDROOM DOES NOT BECOME A DUMPING GROUND. AVOID BEING A HOARDER THAT WILL REQUIRE THERAPY.

“How can you relax amongst thrown clothes and stacks of stuff, I would need to clean before anything!”

It is not the amount of hours but the smartness of the hours for work I chose a different office location; I walk on the board walk in Miami fielding my business calls with my US phone for US calls and my Canadian phone for Canadian calls, which I constantly am turning on and off, roaming or dropping. This afternoon I am off to Toronto for a Boat Rally Cocktail Party which raises money for kids with Cancer. One day of rest, yesterday, while today is full gear making the world spin. It is my Mom’s birthday today and back in NYC my Dad has left to come home and is missing her bday, I seriously don’t get it—she only has so many more. I call her babysitting service and exchange best wishes my daughter is loving having her grandparents with her. I missed my mom’s bday as well, so I am just as bad. The Toronto arrival is late evening and head straight to Hogan’s Inn for dinner, that is close to the King City farm, for the regular cheeseburger no bun on a bed of arugula with a bottle of chilled Chardonnay.

A good groove is essential and not always knowing exactly what you want can complicate matters. Sometimes the dance is complicated, I am of the opinion that all will improve as it gets simpler but usually, it will get worse before it gets better. Tonight is all about the roaring fireplace and the falling snow; it is Canada’s magical winter land especially in farm land. I am re-doing this farm and moving the ducks in one direction—soon.

Rule #160 USE SCENTED CLEAN-BURNING CANDLES IN RELAXING FRAGRANCE. USE A LID TO AVOID UGLY BURN WICKS. NO HEADACHES IN THE BEDROOM!

“Stay away from sweet and go for pure.”

There is a snow storm, and I mean a snow storm with big fluffy flakes for hours. I have no choice, I must attend this meeting because I only am in Toronto so often my clients can’t feel that. So 2.5 hours later going barely 20 kilometres, I arrive at the meeting. My staff there as well, we work into the afternoon getting a bigger piece of this project. Lunch is served and their team is funny; they hated the last designers so much that so far we can do no wrong but trust me that will come to an end—it always does. I, now, must turn around and drive back to farm, snow a little less but still coming.

Back at the ranch, all parties cancelled with crazy weather and it is time to relax and enjoy the little snowflakes, taking the time to concentrate on my own life before taking another flight south to re-connect with NYC.

Rule #161 THE HEADBOARD MUST BE WIDE ENOUGH FOR BED WITHOUT HITTING THE FRAME. NO CONCUSSIONS PLEASE!

“Make padded portion not frame at least width of mattress.”

It is a leisurely morning and I head downtown to look at the live/work building with the contractor; I get a full tour and reasons why we are so behind and over budget. Now, with full picture off I go to my new project, double meeting for 3 hours selling the resort living dream. This project is ideal for me the sales centre is off to a great start and the concept is quite developed so the business partners seem happy and most of the discussion focuses on finishes. I have proposed astro turf versus carpet; we will discuss this for months with some pretty funny analogies. In the end the astro turf prevails. I go to the Soho House after meeting for drinks/dinner with friends; it has been a weather crazy loaded week with many issues floating around. Tonight is a quiet night, tomorrow taking friends both to New York and Florida.

Rule #162 CONCEAL DRAPERY AND MAKE SURE NO HARDWARE IS VISIBLE. SMOOTH OPERATOR!

“Who needs to know how it works.”

It is friend’s day to fly out together and meet at the private airport; we are all set to go—sort of. It is a funny contrast I have, my two girlfriends beautifully dressed for NYC with Hermes and Florida guests older man with shirt that is untucked due to size of stomach and two sisters in metallic shoes and mid drifts showing. Load on plane and off as mechanical issues, apparently mid drifts can go to Florida, Hermes has to take Air Canada—was it planned, hard to say. I am happy either way, we don’t miss a beat and are whisked off to another terminal. Pretty painless though we are in NYC a little late, ready for a Carlyle Hotel lunch then down Madison Avenue in search of the perfect bag. A classic black with gold hardware number that is timeless and versatile. This is a thorough search almost investigative. We start at Alexander McQueen and it is her preference but a little large, a bit heavy and very corporate. Next is Lanvin, which could double as a doctor’s bag which seems to be a constant theme this pre Spring purse. We actually walk as far as Bergdorf Goodman and there is a whole department; I am loving the Tom Ford version at an insane price. I am just really into getting the vibe and pulse of what is trending.

Today will not be purchase day, it is an educational lesson and it is time for dinner. After a day of travelling, I think it is important to walk to destinations even though I did display my taxi getting skills at prime off duty time on the way home. Dinner at The Mark, I love the Jean Georges it is always busy with a great buzz and tonight is no different. We chatter back and forth, get caught up thoroughly enjoying each other’s company there is something about knowing people for over 20 years that you just sink in where ever you left off. This is not the case for me in NYC, everyone I meet is new so I relish tonight. Walking back up Madison Avenue is beautiful and settling in to the brownstone vibe so suits my girlfriends, we are doing Sex in the City, just a later version.

Rule #163 FOOT FETISH? PLACE A SMALL CARPET AROUND 1’6” TO 2’6” SO THAT THERE IS JUST ENOUGH SPACE UNDER EACH BEDSIDE TABLE FOR YOUR SLIPPERS. IT’S LIKE A DREAM HOTEL ROOM.

“Place your slipper on a perfect golden section size mat.”

The girls sleep in my daughter’s room and I snuggle with her; the routine doesn’t change. I get up, feed and walk the dogs, go buy flowers and sometime 2 hours later, we all go for brunch at Saint Ambroeus. I haven’t spent time with my daughter, I let the girls do a little more shopping on their own as we all have different tastes and daughter/mother do the Saturday shop, which always consists of fruit, cereal, freshly squeezed OJ, milk, salads and nuts. We try buying other things that tend just to get thrown out a few days later because we are order-inners. Also, I order wine and it is delivered which is perfect, set up for another week in NYC. Am I here?

Tonight I am having a few other girls over for drinks prior to dinner at a Russian restaurant keeping in the spirit of the Olympics that are on now in Russia. I love where I live and I love entertaining; we all exchange our stories about living here in NYC, visiting here and the close proximity we all keep to our neighbourhoods that we are constantly going out here, yet my brownstone has become a pre-drink spot, for sure it is grand tall space easily accommodating many people. New Yorkers aren’t use to entertaining in their home; I am and do. We actually listen to the Russian anthem at the restaurant which may not be sung at the gold medal hockey game, in fact I bet it will be the Canadian but in NYC I say nothing.

Rule #164 BRING A HOTEL FEELING HOME WITH SLIPPERS, BATHROBE AND EVEN A CALL BUTTON FOR SERVICE. THREE WORDS: INTERNET BUTLER SERVICE!

“To be pampered or not to be that is an easy answer.”

My girlfriends do a bit of a sleep in and I am programmed to wake at 6am regardless of the amount of alcohol or Russian songs. It is one of my favourite days in NYC; it is Sunday and on Sundays this city has a calmness and ease about it, except if the President is in, then they remove all garbage cans and put up blockades. If it is the first Lady no one notices except maybe J. Crew. I take everyone down to the Soho House for brunch with all the newspapers. It is super cool here and being in the Meat Packing district gives a new view on the city. My one girlfriend has just got over the flu and weirdly I don’t feel 100 percent. That doesn’t stop us from shopping after at Jefferies and we lose one girlfriend to a Broadway show.

Happy to report the perfect black bag was purchased and it turned out to be a Fendi, reminding me of elegant yester years that perhaps one carried to the PTA yet, today it can go with jeans or I don’t know who wears a suit anymore, whatever you wear to work. My two visiting ladies both work (very rare in my crowd from Toronto) but in NYC they all seem to work. It has been a long stretch of “out to dinners” so tonight it is pjs and cereal with blueberries, more breakfast food and chocolate chip cookies for dinner with my daughter—perfect.

Rule #165 THE FLOOR COULD BE WALL TO WALL CARPET, BUT I PREFER HARDWOOD WITH AREA CARPETS. DON’T WASTE THE PRECIOUS STUFF UNDER THE BED. PLAN ACCORDINGLY AND SHOW YOUR BEST WOOL. HAVE AN AREA CARPET 3” IN FRONT OF BEDSIDE TABLES.

“Keep the size tight and the price/square foot can be lavish.”

I can’t believe it, I awake feeling so awful, achy, sweaty, this is not good and I have so much on today, I literally work from bed fielding calls horizontal with the dogs sleeping on the floor next to me. I even have to walk the dogs which I do essentially in a coma. Thank goodness when my daughter returns from school, I get her to play nurse and she gets me chicken soup which is this city’s medical miracle. It is funny how roles reverse as we get older our children becomes parents and vice versa.

I can’t deal with much today I leave my personal life on a shelf. My perspective is everyone should be happy. Tonight, more soup and more sleep.

Rule #166 CLEAN FEET IN A BEDROOM. YOU ARE FAR AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE SO MOST DIRT SHOULD BE GONE BY THEN! FLOORING CAN BE LIGHT IN COLOUR AND DELICATE IN MATERIAL.

“A warm white on white soft lush bedroom keeps positive dreams.”

I have really improved, I have moved from bed in pjs to sofa in pjs; I even walked dogs in pjs with fur coat. This will be my theme today avoiding any real dressing. I drag myself to the grocery store and plan a meal at home tonight with no real time to be under the weather as I have to travel this week to various destinations, Regina being one of them: don't ask and yes, it is in Canada.

My daughter is also going on a holiday to somewhere warm and luxurious, none which I am doing; she will be in Turks & Caicos Villa lounging while I will be in more beds than I can count. I still need to organize who is taking the dogs and where she is staying the extra day before I leave; she really is old enough to stay on her own and way more mature than most adults I know. The weather is crazy cold and the dog walking thing is really getting to me, wrapped in my fur coat pleading to them to do their thing. My thing would be to be in the apartment warm and cozy reading the New York Post on-line, especially the Titles and page 6.

Rule #167 WALLS SHOULD CALM THE SPACE WITH SOFT COLORS AND ABSORBENT FABRICS. I LOVE BENJAMIN MOORE CC910 (A SOFT BLUE GREY) COUPLED WITH A LINEN PADDED WALL. LISTEN TO THE SOUND FADE AWAY! IF THE WIDTH OF THE FABRIC IS NARROW, USE BATTENS TO HIDE THE SEAM!

"You either love the seam or hide the seam it is a personal call."

This winter is playing havoc with all of us today, they are calling for the mega storm which normally never really happens – except this winter it does. Regardless, all Thursday flights are cancelled and I have no choice but to leave on the last flight out tonight. I quickly re-arrange and extend my stay, re-jigging dog/child care, cram in as much as I can this morning, as I have a very important lunch at the Doubles Club today. Today I am meeting, for the first time, the President and Associate Director of The Society of Memorial Sloane-Kettering, in hope of being the Chair for their largest charity night The International Art & Antique Show at the Armory. I am on time as I need to be so organized with flight later this evening this club is in the basement of the Sherry Netherlands Hotel and is filled with women from all the right places, mostly UES.

This was set up by my male NYC friend who thought this was an avenue that will help with my New York experience and place me in the middle of this women's circle, who could eat you for breakfast, but with me working on the same side expanding their rolodex; it could be civil and nice. I dress with a knee length piece by Stella McCartney and listen intently, adding where I could make this event special. A perfect lunch, strictly ice tea, and really my second meal in a while I feel I gave it my all with two days prior being bed rest; I hope I don't spread any germs and I am off to get packed and catch a flight after dogs dropped off and my daughter packed one night early to her best friend's penthouse. Luckily I get out as nothing will be moving in the morning.

Rule #168 THE LIGHTING ON THE CEILING IS SO IMPORTANT BUT IT SHOULD BE SUBTLE. USE TWO READING POT LIGHTS RECESSED IN THE CEILING: THEY SHOULD BE SQUARE IN SHAPE. YOU SHOULD HAVE TWO TABLE LAMPS, A CEILING CHANDELIER AND TWO WALL SCONCES. THERE SHOULD BE LOTS OF PLUGS FOR ADDITIONAL LIGHTING. WE ALWAYS LOVE A DONGHIA GLASS FLOOR LAMP WITH A WHITE LINEN SHADE!

"Options of lighting is key for this multi-function room."

It is a crazy snow storm in NYC today and the city is really shut down. My daughter goes to school for an hour in the snow, snow then turns to rain and school is cancelled. They are super strict at The Hewitt School for attendance and all these students hung back leaving their departure day for Friday only to have a snow/rain day. I, on the other hand, am in King City in the magic north of Toronto in snow heaven, going to a 9:15am meeting for a new project. Much better today just snow on the ground not snowing, so the drive is bearable unlike last week. It is a marathon meeting day: next at 11am, 1pm, 4pm and 5:30pm then a gallery opening followed by a dinner with friends and my brother who is always good for laughs and company. Of course my brother brings two friends, drinks doubles and doesn't pay.

I am playing magical beds from the farm now to the Ritz (my brother's pad) and truly I am in a daze when I wake up. A brief visit with my girlfriends, who are so sweet and encourage me in my life of Carp Diem. We all laugh as I am wearing two fur coats in my preparation for the Regina weather—honestly this winter thing has reached new levels. This is all people talk about, the weather, and I can only focus on the fact that I will be in Regina for Valentine's day and that it was my idea. I really am affected by all this cold; my brain has frozen.

Rule #169 A TELEVISION IN THE BEDROOM IS A-OKAY! IT IS ESSENTIAL AS WE GET OLDER. COLLECTIVELY LET'S SAY "OH YEAH BABY!"

"Watch the show perhaps with no volume a soft glow of light."

The day starts on a fabulous note with a love text then a coffee bought by the Ritz's doorman, more sweet calls then a 8:30am site visit with actual decisions. Back to the office and up on the roof of our new home. It is a fabulous deck and the view is amazing. My office has a hum to it and the world seems a good place. I have a date with valet parking and



Air Canada. You can't make this up, when you fly into Regina it is flat, not just flat but really flat with the houses that have rows of trees similar to a courtyard. It is the tundra, lots of snow, no moisture but dry and cold, really cold, -40 degrees. I am picked up by Dave the limo driver who has spent far too long here and it is only a 10 minute ride to the hotel with no traffic. The streets are snow covered crisp and lots of four wheel drives and Eskimos, weirdly no fur coats. Our country was started on the Fur Trade.

Another hot bath, not that it helps, and I am in the lobby with my Valentine date, a fellow architect. We walk arm in arm, truly for body heat, towards The Diplomat Steak House Restaurant—the reason I am in Regina. This restaurant's owners saw the Harbour 60 restaurant that is Toronto's prime steakhouse that I designed/built and they are flying me in for a consult. It seems strange that I picked this particular day but with my children/friends committed, I am knocking off what I need to do, celebrating Vday on the weekend. Here I sit in a corner red velvet booth talking about wall construction, dew point, very romantic.

Rule #170 BEDSIDE TABLES WITH GLASS TOPS ARE IDEAL FOR A PITCHER AND GLASS (SO YOU DON'T LEAVE RINGS FROM GLASSES NOT JEWELLERY). YOU CAN GET A GLASS CUT FOR ANY BEDSIDE TABLE: ALL YOU NEED ARE THE MEASUREMENTS. USE 5MM POLISHED EDGES WITH A BEVEL.

"Just keep glasses away from edge so they stay on the table."

After a dinner of fabulous conversation, escargots, surf and turf, molten chocolate cake and Amaretto on the rocks (so old school), I am on my way to the consultation for a re-do of the restaurant. The father who has built this building and the business which is 35 years old, is passing the torch to his two sons, one which is extremely interested while the other is a work out buff. I sit down with the father and one son, going over every point and how to bring the windowless Prime Ministers portrait ridden décor up to date. I have a vision and a plan which jives with the owners, there is 10,000 sf, budget is unknown, and cost is at the million dollar range.

I sign my 8×10 glossy and I get to choose where I am to hang on the celebrity wall; I choose over Kid Rock which will make for a good story. Next, I get another steak before I head back to the hotel to change for a Regina yoga class followed by drinks, tour, airport and back to Toronto. I land back in Toronto to fetch my car at valet and head to the Ritz. My brother in bed, not alone, doesn't come out to greet me; I will see him in the flesh in the morning. On my mind: what clothes am I bringing to Florida, my fur coats and leather?

Rule #171 ON YOUR BEDSIDE TABLE, HAVE SHELVING FOR BOOKS AND MAGAZINES. LOVE IT!!! PLUS MAKES US LOOK SMART....WELL IT DEPENDS ON THE BOOKS.

"Do you remember the actual title of the book you are reading?"

I think I wake up early but my brother is even earlier, the girl is gone, apparently she has dogs to walk, which I really don't care; he is in workout gear and I am in shopping mode. First, it is Sunday and I am in Toronto, so not so easy before noon. We plan to work out, eat then I am free for a fast Florida shop with my girlfriend at Holts. I need at least some shoes as winter boots are not going to cut it.

Well let's just say we were late for everything and I still managed to get clothes, shoes, meet my jeweler and get waxed. Honestly, the day started when I went to my waxing appointment and they were an hour behind due to an emergency. I am not sure what the emergency was in the entire 6 person spa but who knows maybe the wax froze? If you can believe this, I have a flight to catch to Orlando, then limo to the farm in Ocala. The rendez-vous is similar to being like midnight owls, my official start of Valentines.

Rule #172 A SIMPLE FLOOR LAMP ADDS TO THE AMBIANCE OF THE ROOM AND IS GREAT FOR READING. KEEP IN-FLOOR PLUGS IN MIND TO AVOID DOUBLE DUTCH WITH WIRES.

"Tripping into the sofa not cool and can be electrifying."

There are two lovely couples from Vancouver that I have actually met both before, one in Paris and one in Vancouver. They have purchased the experience at a charity auction and I am playing Julie from the Love Boat. Immediately it is no work at all and all play—lots of play. We have my pilot friend here who wanted to become an architect, whereas I want him just to become me so I can hang. As usual things are overbooked, we have two lunches with two groups of people which we stagger then take our guests on a horse trail followed by our first Polo lesson. It is a hit and competitive, fully sweaty we redress for dinner.

The new chef a bit off and needs some healthy eating tips that will start tomorrow as we devour M&M's by the bonfire. A shooting star is the perfect sign to go to bed and fall in the deep sleep I lack. Finally some warmth and beautiful starry night, now back to the air conditioned house—funny world we live in. It is actually a holiday both in Canada and the United States today so the usual world of noise is quite quiet.

Rule #173 PLACE A BENCH AT THE FOOT OF THE BED OR A LOVE SEAT TO CHILL OUT ON. IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO PUT ON THOSE TIGHT BOOTS!

"Hope they are the thigh high ones, don't put cream on first."

The world is back from holiday mode and emails are flying all back to normal. Mine has gained pace as of lately, with new jobs and quick deadlines. Breakfast, bike trails, tennis, lunch, horseback riding, polo lessons and all with instructions. A couple of airline ticket changes all which is standard and dinner has a slower pace as we all settle in to a comfort ease. Tonight will end with the games room where adults can be children as we were all day.

My other world are my children, my daughter heading back on a private plane from a luxurious Villa retreat. My son is planning to come to NYC on Thursday as I book him from lunch at the Club and my two dogs getting extended care at the Dog Bark & Bath Spa. My other world is my business, which I constantly review as the day goes on keeping it away from the guests. Kids and dogs ok with guests, but must keep work at check, they are on play time—am I?

Rule #174 UNDER THE BENCH SOME SHELF STORAGE LOOKS GREAT: YOU CAN USE DECORATIVE BOXES. HIDE THE CLUTTER!

"Three Hermes boxes are perfect, large ones."

A bit of a sleepless night with lots of work issues surfacing up, as the day moves forward, the world seems a better place. A hike to the big old tree through the Horse Park then straight to the Polo Field for our first game. I believe we won as far as I remember; I came back with bruises and blisters. It was a blast and I can't help myself, I just need to hit that ball. Showered feeling human but sore everywhere, I fully participate in lunch but opt out for group activity as I must get ready for departure and meeting tomorrow. The chaos continues around me with more people coming for more meetings and tours while I ignore it all in my own world of phones, magazines and sun. I participate where needed and zone in on my world; I have set up all my meetings in the car in the next hour drive to the airport and will be on that phone until the plane takes off.

I am returning to NYC to my daughter and our brownstone. She sleeps with me tonight and we compare travel notes; I could not love someone more than I love my children. She reminds me so much of myself; she is really funny. Snuggled in with little breakfast food after cleaning up after our house sitter, a first year NYU student, we opt for a school breakfast in the morning. My daughter will give me the list of supplies required.

Rule #175 A BEDSKIRT WITH A MATCHING HEADBOARD GIVES A HOTEL FEEL TO THE BED. SPEND ON THE BEDSKIRT AND HEADBOARD: THE UNTOUCHABLES.

"Make the structure of the room classic then play with throws or accents on sheets."

We stretch around 7am and for sure school drop off might be a bit late as we decided on cereal, blueberries and tea. Walking her to school is such a dream for me as we wander down Park Avenue, pinch me—is this for real. We are greeted by Gala Committee Girls and I tell them the great auction item we are giving which now I have to organize before printing deadline. Too beautiful a day to fret, latte next followed by grocery shopping as my son is coming to town and I am going to ply him with food, feeding him every hour when he is awake. Flowers are next on my list while preparing for my 1pm conference meeting via telephone.

I do the call and the project is on track we have accomplished a lot in two weeks but I tell you this really tests your attention span. I have to stop listening to loud country music on my ear phones as clearly they are affecting my hearing. I actually got dressed up for my phone meeting so I could dash to a quick fashion presentation of Reem Acra on Fifth at 56th Street. Rushing back as my son has landed early and he is so tall and handsome. He needs to study, I need to work and dogs need picking up. Accomplished and a great dinner with all of us at a local Italian restaurant. Those two are my pure joy!

Rule #176 ALWAYS HAVE A VANITY WITH MIRROR. FOR GLAMOUR, ADD PERSONAL ACCESSORIES SUCH AS TRAYS, BRUSHES, HAND MIRRORS, ETC. YOU ARE SO VAIN! WHEN SEATED, CHAIR HEIGHT SHOULD BE 18" HIGH, ACTUAL MIRROR SURFACE 4" ABOVE TABLE AND THE MIDDLE OF MIRROR SHOULD BE 5'6" FROM FINISHED FLOOR. SO WHEN YOU ARE STANDING, YOU CAN SEE ALL OF YOU!

"Reflective surfaces show it all."

Learning last night that my son has a girlfriend and that he has strep throat is really fantastic—not! So now he is on the internet finding out what latest bacteria he has and I am trying to get a script from Canada. He can't join me on the circuit class I have booked and he even suggest going to the Frick museum; he must really be sick. I feed him and leave for class answering and deferring calls. We watch the Canada/USA Hockey game and embark on shopping for his 6'5" frame. Fairly successful at Uniqlo at 50th and 5th followed by Sushi somewhere on 55th. He goes to CityMD for meds, I go get my nails and hair done; we are both satisfied.

We don't play the NYC restaurant game very well, when we arrive at LAVO they can't find my name and the hostess says when I show her the reservation for 8:30pm in her world it is 9pm, so we are seated at the rear of the restaurant near the washrooms after a 30 minutes wait. We have the best time despite her ridiculous attitude. The manager asks me about it on the way out: I share; he gives me his card and how he can make it up to us. Happily, I am not going back, too loud and too much pick up scene. The three of us can sit anywhere as long as we are together. I am sure if a man came in with his kids, this would not happen—you have to just smile!!!

Rule #177 YOUR SHEETS SHOULD ALWAYS BE CLASSIC WHITE WITH EMBROIDERY ON THE TOP SHEET, PILLOW CASES AND DUVET. MIX SHAMS WITH CASES. PURE PERFECTION!

"I am a believer in the Euro pillow as the base."

My daughter has to be in the theatre all day to do the blocking for her upcoming musical, The Wiz. We take the dogs and walk the 14 blocks down Lexington on a perfect spring-like morning. The stores are unique and there is an air of elegance just waiting to be shopped, however, they are closed. I get a chai latte in a boutique café shop, the male barista asks me if I have a punch card; I don't but he gives me one and punches all the holes so my next latte is free. I am smiling ear to ear, dogs in one hand, chai in the other and NYC looking beautiful with fresh sunlight. I feel so recharged and ready to grab the world.

My son gets fed just prior to leaving for lunch with two of my friends, in the PR/writing world we discuss travelling, real estate and New York at Freeman's Alley, so cool at the lower east. He loves the antler relaxed cool vibe and the food is comfort with Devils on Horseback appetizers which are bacon wrapped stuffed dates, anything wrapped in bacon rocks. Bestie male, my son and I visit the New Museum on Bowery which has the weirdest exhibits and this one keeps its reputation with a drug induced sculpture. Another gallery, a pair of classic Stan Smith's and my son's visit is over too quickly. We say good bye and driver drives him away. I miss him already, but now I need to wash everything he touched so we don't get sick. Housekeeper—now that is me.

Rule #178 A HEMSTITCH IS SO CLASSIC. IT'S A FABULOUS TRANSITION POINT. ADD A DOUBLE HEMSTITCH TO GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY!

"The perfect subtle detail that will never age."

Well the washing didn't help, I got a cold, all worth it with that 6'5" hunk of a son visiting. Today is the birthday of many friends and my brother, in Olympic life it is the gold medal game with Canada in the finals. Up at 7am to watch alone then I get ready for a brunch after the game. Canada is ahead and solid, so I sneak out between periods to do my shop and tell the guys at Dean and DeLuca that I have to rush back; he asks what for? When the USA is not involved, it is not news. My high school girlfriend brings her son mixed with family and New Yorkers we all get caught up and exchange dog sitter stories, at least it is not the price of fruit.

Finally, I am at home for a moment and the fridge actually has food. My daughter and I bask in the light of not having to do anything. Yes, this is our home for now with all the delicacies and complexities; we fit right in. A New York Sunday it is the best in the world; reading The Sunday New York Times in NYC is basically orgasmic, tough to beat. The week ahead looks hectic, so for now I ignore it gathering a day of news including 60 Minutes where a football coach from a small town puts life in perspective: after witnessing four young boys die but being there holding their hands, he didn't want them to die alone. He said he just acted as a father, no training, just love. It made me think of that little cartoon—Love Is.

Rule #179 KING BED RULES: FIND A KING, OR A LEAST A PRINCE CHARMING! 3 EURO PILLOWS, 2 KING PILLOW SHAMS, 2 KING PILLOW CASES.

"The perfect fold of a sheet on top of the duvet to expose precise applied line, bed talk."

This is Play week, my daughter is in the theatre every night until 8:30pm with two performances Thursday and Friday night. I have a crazy busy week with work and travel, plus my parents are coming in to stay with us. Now with this cold which I am ignoring even though it is -20 degrees outside, I plow (no pun intended) through work to get a Thursday presentation ready, which I will do from Madison Avenue. Another bag packed this time for frigid temperatures in Toronto, cars lined up and meetings set.

A quick visit to the hair salon for blow out and maintenance on myself, reviewing my emails, nails wet or not, which just do not stop. I like the pace and I am so excited about the new flow of work in the office. My team has had a relaxing pace, that is all over now and we are in a groove. It is interesting as you get busy and have been paying your staff regardless of work load, now, they all want a raise, perhaps they could share in the loss the previous year with all the crazy expenses of moving and building a new office building. I take the high road which is only the one left open to me and it is also the road less travelled. I am going down with my boots on!

Rule #180 QUEEN BED RULES: FIND A QUEEN, OR AT LEAST A CINDERELLA PRINCESS THAT CAN BECOME A PRINCESS! 2 EURO PILLOWS, 2 QUEEN SHAMS, 2 QUEEN PILLOWS.

"Moving down the food chain."

I have booked this flight four times as plans change daily and I just can't get on that 6:30am today, leaving for the airport at 4:30 am. My first appointment is lunch at Harbour 60 with the owner and one of my great friends at 1pm, so landing at 12:15pm will do the trick. I re-did this restaurant 7 years ago and I would have bi-weekly lunches with the owner, never really discussing design but life lessons similar to the book *Tuesdays with Maury*, mine was Tuesdays with Ted & Company. This Tuesday was no different and we laughed, shared life tips and looked impeccable while having filet mignon with béarnaise sauce plus a special martini that I nurse. I have learned more from some of my clients than I ever did in school, clearly.

This day will never end as I have a 3pm office meeting that is followed by a client meeting at 4pm then a social engagement outside the city. I am there somewhat on time next it is the University of Toronto Architecture dinner that I am on the Board of which is downtown then back to the country. We need a helicopter or seriously better logistics. It is a hit with the architects and I am still standing. Tomorrow's first meeting is somewhere close by.

Rule #181 DOUBLE / TWIN BED RULES: THE PEASANTS ARE REVOLTING! 1 EURO PILLOW, 1 KING SHAM, 1 QUEEN PILLOW.

"Still perfection rules even a line to direct placement of throws."

After a cold country sleep with windows open in warm duvet, I feel farm refreshed. The car has been re-fuelled and latte is waiting, I feel like snow white with the elves—off to the meeting I go. It is absolutely freezing out and for the next 3 hours I am in millwork heaven/hell. Pulling out great details, from standard stock items is not an easy feat but we get there. This is my pre presentation day and after millwork we are dealing with furniture, designing a new line and getting it into production. In between all this I am dealing with my parents in NYC which I passed in the air yesterday and my NYC PR agent as this week NYSD is coming out with my apartment article on-line; I am looking for what her strategy is to leverage this piece; I want to see some increased income.

Well, my parents are settled after almost not coming as my father doesn't like to travel, now seems happy and excited about his free dinner on Thursday, courtesy of us. PR agent thinks we have accomplished so much, but really?? Hopefully after Friday we will see momentum as she says in this harsh game called work. I don't agree the city is mean, this city offers it all up, it is just connecting the dots and having an endless supply of balls to throw in the air, something has to get caught. Catch me!!! Toronto day has a newspaper interview, conference calls and one late client meeting. Now all I want is home and a warm bed. I head to the farm after another long day and yummy cereal dinner basically in bed. A fabulous night of sleep I crank open the overhead window just slightly as the snow pours on me during the night and at my age, bring it on.

Rule #182 MAKING A BED IS NOT EASY. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO BOUNCE A COIN OFF THE BOTTOM SHEET! USE A FLAT SHEET ON THE BOTTOM WITH HOSPITAL CORNERS, NOT ELASTIC FITTED SHEETS (THEY FOLD BETTER AND LOOK NICER WHEN IN A LINEN CLOSET). ONCE THE TOP SHEET IS FOLDED, ENSURE YOU CAN SEE THE ENTIRE DETAIL. DON'T HIDE THE BEAUTY!

"Need intel on sheets to cheat which is the top?"

My day starts very early and this is no exception catching the 9:15am plane to NYC. Up at 4am, don't ask and at the airport at 7:30am which is a 30 minute drive I breeze through with Nexus and have time in the lounge. With my new NYC attitude I meet a lovely woman who has my favourite Jimmy Choo wedge; we are instant shoe friends. Bumping into old friends boarding the plane we all laugh as I believe a joke at my expense but truly I am getting the last laugh because I am one that is really living the NYC experience—the rest still renovating. Typical, driver is nowhere to be found; it is taxi time. I honestly don't care taxis are easy but I try to be loyal. From now on: take taxi home, Uber to airport.

The day is fabulous, despite the car service. Arrive at apartment, Mom and I get our hair and nails done and we are off to a fabulous lunch at Nello's while I wander store to store doing a 1pm conference call for 30 minutes. No I didn't buy anything even though I was in Hermes, twice. I had to duck in restaurant once just to introduce my friends to my Mom, oh dear. Then it was from lunch with a quick apartment stop to change clothes to the Danny Kaye theatre at 68th Street between Park and Lex for 5pm where my daughter was a true star. She was a feature dancer in the Broadway School Production of *The Wiz* highlighted by a great Tap number. The musical with a full orchestra and was of such caliber that we were all blown away. We closed the night after a fabulous bouquet of flowers then dinner at Swifty's, an upper east stable at Lex and 74th Street with a prime window table reserved for celebs. She broke a leg and then some avec family at her side.



Rule #183 NO UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT: THE DUVET MUST COVER THE TOP MATTRESS AND HAVE AN EXTRA FLANGE WITH SEAMS SO THE DUVET SITS IN THE PERFECT SPOT. NO MORE PLAYING

“FIND THE DUVET”!
“In the cover it must stay put please.”

It started at 4:30am again, my wake up routine similar to military precision, I view the internet feed. I made an executive decision that after such a performance it was essential to miss the morning of school. There was a potential sale on a real estate property to a Rehab facility “rehab is for quitters”, love that line. I read the NYSD, that I was featured, in a coma. Thought it was okay, maybe a little too much information. Then after getting the 5:30 am okay I love it text, the perfect mix of humour and brains by favourite NYC guy I was feeling better about it—love gathering other people’s opinions to form your own. Now back to sleep and up at 8:30am, next I need to spoil my daughter, so grab dogs, get lattes and croissants for the star. I am full time on the phone getting the full scope of the presentation via conference call and really except for long haired astro turf, all is a go, subject to pricing—a line I abhor. Somewhere in between the astro turf I was officially asked to be the International Chairman of the International Art and Antique Show on October 16th, 2014 for the Society of Memorial Sloan Kettering, I have landed in NYC.

I think I have the day to get re-grouped but my son’s godfather calls and we end up for a three hour lunch at The Mark. I need a dry out period. My ex arrives and we are all going to our daughter’s play tonight. Last night my family at play, tonight my ex with my best friend at play and tomorrow some form of exercise for release. Only in NYC is a school play at a union house where your choreographer appeared in Cats and Chorus Line. It is even better tonight and awkwardly, my ex and I end up in a cab both not have had dinner, so I ask him if he would like to take me to dinner and he said he has to eat so I qualify. Our daughter joins us and all is well at Saint Ambroeus complete with Dover sole. A night to remember and I try not to compare the two nights. Sleep will come easily probably while walking the dogs.

Rule #184 ENSURE YOU HAVE UNDER BED STORAGE WITH WHEELS TO HIDE EXTRA PILLOWS WHEN SLEEPING. THEN THEY DON’T END UP ON THE FLOOR AND GET DIRTY. KEEP IT CLEAN!

“If pillows are on the floor the dogs will sleep on them for sure, just ask my son.”

Much needed exercise I need to put off until after brunch at the Soho House with ex and daughter. I get an early latte from Serafina walking the dogs and getting my star her favourite croissant and vanilla latte. She is in love with New York City, it really happened, all those changes, moving here and the new school; she sees the glamour that this city can give her. Her eyes last night were alive with that energy. My mother calls me and sums it up, the mother and the village behind the mother have given a life to us all so enriched—we did it.

Today, we simply bask in it and keep a positive vibe. Brunch is followed by them shopping and why she can’t find anything when she is with her Dad, I don’t get—with me she can buy the whole store. I am off to Soul Cycle where I ride for the energy of the room and feel that star power from everyone. I settle in to a green tea pedicure at Iris on Madison and 81st Street chatting away on the phone planning all this good fortune. It is a constant push and my energy is recharged with all the new possibilities. I grab a Caesar salad from E.A.T., no longer bothered by price, and head home. A night alone in candle light while I write away my memories, loving this time. I wasn’t invited to the Broadway show anyway, nothing changes.

Rule #185 ALWAYS HAVE A WASTE PAPER BASKET! NO DIRTY KLEENEXES ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE. YOU ALWAYS NEED TO THROW AWAY DRY CLEANING GARBAGE AND HANGERS. WIDE AND NARROW BASKETS BLEND AWAY AND ARE BEST FOR GARBAGE BINS IN BEDROOMS. WHAT HANGER FITS IN A CIRCLE?

“Think garbage of the room think size and shape.”

I need more energy and this comes with exercise for me. I do a 10am circuit class at Fhitting which is a killer, complete with burpees and now I am ready for the world. I did not know that my world included another two hours of tennis as my daughter is trying out for the tennis team tomorrow. So we do it on the roof as you do in NYC followed by a quick trip to Central Park zoo for a Snow Leopard visit to learn all we can and interview the zoo keeper. We actually hit the zoo at feeding time and we are enriched with information. We are going to get an A on this project, especially on the model building part.

Not to feel that the day is over, it is Oscar night that we will watch over a spread of sushi and will continue to email, read the newspaper and converse away. Perfect night for two girls—the super bowl of fashion. It is too long and not that funny with a lot of tight bad hair and nude dresses. Too many movies that are all serious and sad. I got a lot of multi-tasking completed.



Rule #186 TISSUE BOXES SHOULD BE RECTANGULAR. PERHAPS FABRIC TO MATCH OR BLEND WITH HEADBOARD. RECTANGULAR BOXES TAKE UP MORE ROOM, MORE BEAUTY. THE BEST BOXES ARE MY FASHION INSPIRED DESIGNER BOXES BY SCOTTIES.

“Those boxes did not need covers.”

I think the world of celebrities and accessibility is now too connected that they look just as bad as we all do in selfies. Mondays are to re-group, get groceries and do laundry, setting the tone for the work week. We are on a fast pace at the office with new jobs, I am moving them along, getting prices confirmed and placing orders. Mixed in are my workouts which today, after three hours on Sunday, is not happening. I meet girlfriend for lunch at Amaranth at 62nd Street planning what she is going to say tomorrow night, which she puts in her little notebook looking down saying “I should have a better pen and an Hermes notebook” in her New York fast talk. We get some notes down, none of which she says, but I get caught up on her dual situation of figuring out the marriage gig which I have become an expert, not. I leave that to my sister. In all honesty I just listen, try to reflect back on my own circumstances and say be true, whatever that means.

It is brisk out, I mean freezing, bundled up and cosmetic/wine shopping, I walk the 18 blocks and have items delivered. Tonight, I will make or rather plate a dinner for us in candle light, Mom and daughter will snuggle up by the fireplace that I am afraid to light due to the smoke issues. The music is playing, we dance around and laugh, the night passes too quickly. NYC is really in a deep freeze and the streets are not as busy people are nesting in, even the dogs don’t want to go out.

Rule #187 CANDLES SHOULD BE CLEAN AND FRESH. LILY OF THE VALLEY, GARDENIA OR LAVENDER CAN PROMOTE RELAXATION. DON’T HIDE THE MATCHES OR LIGHTER, YOU WILL NEVER FIND THEM. MAKE IT DECORATIVE.

“Love a good match box with matches.”

It will not warm up, crazy! It is a whirl wind of work doing a proposal for a noon deadline and getting ready for our Thursday client meeting. All is getting done while I am finalizing March Break plans as well as booking Toronto visits. Not to mention that I am doing a core fitness class at 1:30pm, hair blown after and then a 5pm dress pick up for the Women’s Initiative event that I am co-hosting. The dogs are getting groomed today and need to be picked up, all around 4pm. It is one of those days and even though I have on cashmere shorts with a leopard skin Escada jacket, it all comes together. We get about 60 women and after the brief but invigorating speeches (including mine) we settle in to great chats: fashion, charity and balance. My new friend Kelly Rutherford, who is in the NY show Gossip Girls, comes so they all seem happy.

I am thrilled to be in NY hosting an event and Escada is going to dress me for events. Goal achieved, need clothes as many events are coming my way. For a complete bonus, my sister comes and after connecting with potential investors wins the door prize, a beautiful watch and loves her goody bag! I grab sushi at Amber on the west side with another presenter we talk shop and the concept of one foot in. I need to get both feet in this NYC there is so much to take advantage of, even on the west side.

Rule #188 PICTURE FRAMES: STAR FIRE GLASS - NO GREEN PEOPLE!

"Print those photos get them out of iPhone."

My daughter has decided to try out for the tennis team, well actually I made her do a sport this term and she is one of two grade nines the rest are grade, 11/12. The other grade nine can hardly play and the grade 12 is ranked; everyone makes the team. The morning practices start at 6:30am and we taxi down; I am in my pjs with seriously bad hair and Uggs this is when you bump into someone you know. I walk back and then decide I need to taxi to my chai latte place. I arrive at 6:58am and need to wait the required 2 minutes to get my fix.

Today is ABA, all work baby and I am on the phone full time getting ready for Thursday's meeting. The sales centre is amazing and we are doing proposals for the next group of buildings. I wrap up the work day with a quick nap followed by a core fitness class with my daughter; we buy some dinner and wine, head home to my guest at our front door. Drinks here at the apartment because I am not even changed from class then the Core Club with my two girlfriends in tow. It is a brisk night wandering back as more friends arriving; we have a fabulous night as always, friends and daughter.

Rule #189 A THROW FOR YOUR BED: NO ITCHY SCRATCHINESS! TRY CASHMERE FOR LUXURIOUS FEEL. THE THROW SHOULD BE THE WIDTH OF THE BED AND PLACED ALONG THE BOTTOM WHILE FLOWING OVER THE EDGES.

"Keep the throw folded with 16" of coverage."

The days in New York are always magical. We conjure up the most fun. It is a walk to a 6:20am bus with my daughter for tennis practice, where they still don't have a coach and I mention I have played competitive tennis to her teacher and much to my daughter's horror, that I would be the coach; I get the stare. Dogs walked and fed I head back to the apartment armed with two lattes. It is a loungey morning doing business in bathrobe, fielding calls and emails to get to a noon lunch at San Pietro on 54th Street at Park. I have a conference call so I leave the table and take the call down the washroom corridor, not glamorous, but gets the job done. I get the approvals needed and next week it is a whirlwind in Toronto in for two separate days and then off to Aspen.

Back at the table guests are conquering their worlds now my world takes us to Escada for two outfits for this week and to pick the gala dress for April 30, 2014. All accomplished my world seems happy. Tonight is drinks with my NYC guy down in the west village with the fun banking set which are hard to find and then off to Guastavino's at 59th and York for the Hewitt Gala. Our auction prize does so well, an Ocala Farm experience for 3 nights, bringing in \$10,000 (the buyers are a fabulous female couple); we are bound to have a blast. Guests are leaving in the early morning and the night is the perfect amount of sleep deprivation.



Chapter II Closet Rules:

Rule #190 WHEN HANGING YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUTURE, A MINIMUM DEPTH OF 24" FOR HANGERS IS REQUIRED. YOU CAN ALWAYS LEAVE EXTRA ROOM IF YOU HAVE IT, ESPECIALLY IF SHOULDER PADS COME BACK IN!

"Don't jam the garb."

Another 6:20am tennis bus drop off via driver and a drop off by driver to my chai latte house. My world is quiet and I am tired, but I still need to deal with the office, dress for the luncheon, actually wash my hair for the luncheon and get there somewhat on time for security check. It is the UN Women for Peace, March in March at the UN at 43rd Street and 1st Avenue. I am wearing yellow Escada and black tights with boots for the march and feeling like a bumble bee in Mink. I arrive just as the celebrities come in: Naomi Campbell with assistants and body guard, basically flawless, Trudie Styler, all I can think about is Sting's sex life, the political bunch, Bush and McCain, all truly amazing women who support this cause.

I am here at the head table because my lovely BFF has asked me to come because the girls, as he calls them, are fantastic and I agree. I am seated beside the lead sponsor who is fascinating and so in-tuned with the global movement for peace and human development. It is a special day and I will march 3 blocks to the square for the rally that in the cameras eyes, look larger, every march in New York looks bigger in the media and if properly PR have an impact, at minimum great for social media. I see the women singers, give a peace sign up, feel the vibe, the press is on the proper risers and everyone is happy; I quietly exit as the speeches go on and as it is not my paying gig it is ok to leave.

Rule #191 TO DISPLAY YOUR SHOES ALLOW FOR SPACE FOR ONE SHOE DEPTH. PLACE SHOE SLOTS ON ANGLES FOR EASE OF USE AND VISUAL APPEAL.

"I am good with a flat shelf as well giving more height and more space to shoes."

Let's write about the parents that move countries and change lives for their kids while everyday investing in them as a growing company. This headlines meshes with my day as it begins a bit too early at the Carter Shelter on 74th Street and 1st Avenue, for Meals on Heels with the girls from Hewitt. We get the lecture that the UES also needs assistance after making Happy Spring cards. Armed with meals, drinks and books we head in a group to the doorman buildings, at first I feel this is a bit too swank, as we are visiting all older women in apartments that are over boxed, alone and some women can't leave the apartment. A beautiful 90 year old woman has recently returned home after she was mistakenly sent to a nursing home and only when her medicare ran out did they send her home. She was away for months. She thanked us and asked if any of us were brilliant lawyers and she said maybe one day. She brought tears to my eyes, lovely and her eyes sparkled.

It was Spring today with the temperature soaring I had a Toronto visitor with the checked in luggage that goes with that city it showed me that I have evolved and then some with carry on only luggage. Outside cafes and walking 50 blocks all around I admit that the balls of my feet hurt. We heard the funniest line straight from one New Yorker to the next "I will take a taxi if you can find one but I will not call Uber for two blocks" in his Brunello outfit. Everyone has their limit his was 5 dollars and principle. The remainder of the night yummy resting my feet and surfing TV with all programming bad and too inappropriate for our sensitive viewing. My daughter snuggles in with me and doggies at foot, we make the executive decision to turn off the terrible movie and I dream of Elton John concert tickets--no clue why.

Rule #192 COLOR CO-ORDINATE THE STACKING OF ALL T-SHIRTS DIVIDE SHELVES WITH PROPER SHELF DIVIDERS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE LEANING TOWER OF T-SHIRTS!

"Keep it all rigorous."

It is one of those days in NYC that is sunny, brisk and being a Sunday--slightly quiet. I pinch myself that I am here and walking to my café haunt down Madison Avenue Upper East, sometimes you just have to look around and have the moment of OMG. I am having an OMG moment; I make my usual morning calls and my world is waking up slowly or has already paddled board around an island. Like many people, my world consists of a diverse group; I get pictures from Palms Spring and Florida very different water side images: pool versus ocean.

It is a bit of a working morning for us with writing/homework in addition to planning our up and coming holiday. We have booked, or rather my daughter has set up a Soul Cycle account and we are spinning at 4pm, followed by dinner purchasing and grocery shopping--two different activities. The time has sprung ahead, so our clocks are a bit off and I have a 5am pick up in the morning, which really is 4am, I am not tired but I know I will be in the morning. This week is busy every day, enjoy it and knock it out. Maybe tonight in my dreams I will get actual concert tickets.

Rule #193 LIGHTING, LIGHTING, LIGHTING! ANYWHERE YOU CAN PUT IT, DO IT! YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MIDNIGHT BLUE AND BLACK. PUT LIGHTING ABOVE THE SHELVES, RACKS AND INSIDE OF CLOSET DOORS, EVERYWHERE!

"Install a dimmer."

There are days that go on forever and this was certainly one of them with a 6:20am flight to Toronto to start the day with a four hour meeting then a quickie meeting, site visit, office stint and farm visit in King City to retrieve skiing gear for Friday departure, back to airport and flight to LaGuardia. It is a list of items and amongst the list, are truly satisfying moments. Work seems steady with a new proposal on the horizon and personally, I am happy which makes the world a better place. I am a brand and this is being well received in Toronto, now I really need to get a real job in the USA. Today another piece of press from NYSD covering the Escada event; I don't really look at the pictures, it is really the band width of press.

As I carry the largest ski duffle bag off the conveyor belt, I go to the taxi line--cheaper and they actually show up. I am becoming way more New Yorker. Home with my daughter, we cover the day she is so independent and diligent with her studies; we plan a bit of a sleep in tomorrow as she has a field trip and a bit under the weather. I finally drop into bed around midnight and sleep comes slowly, it might have been the chai latte and tea I had today to stay awake. My latte cost me a hundred dollar ticket as I wasn't 3m from a fire hydrant, is 3m really 10 feet?

Rule #194 DON'T FORGET ELECTRICAL OUTLETS IN YOUR CLOSET. THIS IS A MUST HAVE FOR CHARGING YOUR PHONE OR IPAD. WE LIVE IN A DIGITAL WORLD THESE DAYS, SO GET WITH THE TIMES!

"Don't over plug but don't under: hire a professional."

Today is a day that I remember and mark it with a personal milestone. My daughter goes to school around 11am and I have been working away in my exercise clothes/running shoes, never really dressing. I meet my friend, who is one of my Girl's Club for lunch at the 3 Guys diner on Madison discussing all concerns thinking we need to be somewhere by 1pm, but it is actually a second café with someone else and I am still not changed as I have a 5pm circuit class. I am not a running shoe girl, so I excuse myself from the same relationship discussion and grab a bench on 77th and do my office calls outside as the battery dies, again.

Just prior to my class, I am called for a delivery; he remembered flowers which I love! The delivery man is having a fit as Obama is in town all streets are blocked off and garbage cans removed which apparently affect my delivery; I come downstairs to do the pass off and in the back of this van there is only one arrangement I want and I tell him so. Armed with flowers and a beautiful day, I knock out the circuit class even running around the block with group and doing countless burpees. The weather is yummy, my best NYC man and daughter decide to sit outside at Amaranth restaurant chatting about ballet, school, New York: it is a magical night with my loves, I need more highlights in hair and we put a speck of wine in my daughter's glass for good luck.

Rule #195 DECORATIVE BOXES ARE GREAT FOR STORING YOUR JEWELRY, CUFF LINKS, SPARE CHANGE OR ANY OTHER SMALL OBJECTS YOU HAVE LAYING AROUND YOUR CLOSET.

"Hide the jewellery or put in a safe."

It all starts at 5:45am, a sleep in compared to Monday and tomorrow. The tennis morning routine, getting to the bus by 6:20am and I am that dog walker/chaperone hitting my latte/wheat grass shot at about 6:30am. We play this game every



morning, where the dogs are not allowed in the store, depending on weather and clientele. It seems the colder it is the dogs are barred from the store; I just order, pay and wait for the handoff. Sometimes, if there are pet petting customers we all co-exist in the warmth.

Of course today is my full maintenance program at VJ, I will be there from 3pm to 7pm freshly polished, waxed and coiffed to leave in the rain with a borrowed umbrella that doesn't work. School today consisted of a half day, then a matinée sponsored by a parent that owns the theatre for the girls that participated in The Wiz, of course a parent owns the theatre—this is NYC. Now both home, we are packing tonight and having sushi filling up two large suitcases and a duffel bag. My girlfriends stop by for an evening glass of wine and catch up before the break. We are still talking about status of marriage, boyfriend, work and real estate, which we can cover in about 5 minutes.

Rule #196 MIRRORS ARE KEY IN A CLOSET. EVERYONE NEEDS A GLIMPSE OF THE WHOLE OUTFIT BEFORE STEPPING OUT ONTO THE TOWN! A 1" BEVELED FLOOR-LENGTH MIRROR SHOULD BE FIRST ON YOUR LIST IN CLOSET DESIGN!

"The vanity mirror cuts you in half."

I have watched this snow storm warning all night and yes, my flight is on, which I have mixed feelings about as I am tired but just need to knock this out prior to going on vacation. This winter has been completely brutal and LaGuardia shuts down in a heart-beat with wind or snow or really anything. It is going to be one of those days as I go outside to walk dogs at 4:30am and no sign of the driver who misses me more than he picks me up. It is taxi time for me on the cold windy 5am morning and this is no easy feat, somehow I get to the airport and the security lady actually recognizes me putting me as one of her regulars to the front of the line.

I still need to get my daughter up and to the tennis bus, both which has to be done via telephone. I get her up and talk her through her taxi ride to the tennis courts after missing the bus. I also have a friend call and make sure she is fine while I am in the air, it takes a big village and a good cellphone plan to raise a child. It is work day coupled with a photoshoot, I hit the office then Gee for make-up, followed by photo shoot and board room meeting. We present to the new partner to get the blessing which is the proper approach in the Italian dominated construction industry; we are anointed, we move forward. Now back to airport for an early flight, which turns into a typical cancel the flights and bulk them together resulting in a 5 hour ordeal and I miss my play that night, getting home the next day.

Rule #197 FOR DOUBLE HEIGHT HANGING, MAKE SURE YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE LENGTH OF YOUR GARMENTS. IF YOU ARE TALL, YOU MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO HAVE ONE HANGING RACK AND SOME ADDITIONAL SHELVING. YOU NEVER WANT YOUR PRECIOUS BOSS SUIT HITTING THE FLOOR!

"Be weary of a tall carpenter they will install your top shelf too high."

I am flying out before Mini Me, leaving the house at 6:00am to get my delayed flight to Denver, where I will meet friends for a week of skiing which in typical fashion will get modified. First the delayed flight due to the fact that the flight attendants are late is not going over well with the 31 passengers that have to make the over-sold Aspen connection. Would you want to be the counter rep in Denver dealing with 31 New Yorkers, who don't have a flight? Good luck to all and they over-come the lateness in the air and change gates to avoid that whole situation.

I, on the other hand, have sat on a chocolate. It is on light beige cords, not in a flattering position which I tackle with a baby wipe and a scarf wrapped around my waist for the next leg of the flight. Checking with my daughter, she has been picked up, dropped off, checked in and now on plane soon to be arrive at my sister's in LA. We arrive to Aspen it is sunny, glorious and the mountains are calling our names, actually it is a real estate agent that we are meeting this afternoon to start to re-look at where we left off two years ago. We are house guests of a Vancouver couple arriving after touring 1,600sf condos that are smaller than the guest suite. We all begin our Aspen night events of meals and deals. Tonight, we are the Caribou Club amongst the Russians: lovely wine and booth hopping to my seat over corduroy pants on a velvet seat, not a smooth slide.

Rule #198 DO YOU FOLD YOUR PANTS OR HANG THEM? THIS IS WHERE ERGONOMICS COMES INTO PLAY. MAKE SURE YOU ARE NOT REACHING TOO HIGH TO GRAB THE HANGER. IT SHOULD BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE ON FLAT FEET.

"Folded pants crease."

Being a house guest in a 14 million dollar home is quite fabulous and with a two hour time difference back home, our east coast clocks wake us up early and we have lots of leisure time for me to play café barista before breakfast. Aspen has become an extension of NYC as it is March break and there are New Yorkers everywhere. We valet park our car, get

the ski rentals at the concierge, wouldn't have it any other way. My jacket is adorned with fur, so Aspen. It is my first time skiing this year and I want to keep up with my fast track friend in many ways. All is good, our host's take a slower pace and we cut our way down to lunch at Little Nell's all behaving, waiting for dinner wine.

We are six skiing and will be four for tennis. First day I survive and start to feel the groove. On the way to our next activity I bump into one of my new friends in NYC; she just landed which is no easy feat from LaGuardia and she is in check-in hell. We will re-connect, now off to altitude high tennis. The four of us play and I am a serving machine in this thin air never quite winning but our team doesn't suck. It is a Marathon, we have a 8:30pm dinner reservation Aqualina, which is Italian loud and yummy, all of us slightly tired discuss alternative medicine a new topic as you age, it is all about health.

Rule #199 YOU DON'T SHOW YOUR UNDERGARMENTS IN PUBLIC, SO DON'T SHOW THEM IN YOUR CLOSET! YOUR BRAS, PANTIES, AND SOCKS SHOULD EACH HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL DRAWER BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

"I don't like looking at an abundance of socks from tennis to dress."

It is such a large home, after we have the café that I serve now with a muffin, we can't hear anyone else. We believe our hosts are still sleeping, so we quietly slip out the back Jack off to Highlands; I am in all white today but sadly forget my helmet which comes in the second shift. It is cold, but heading warmer and we are skiing with a Brooklyn New Yorker where I am yet to visit, the accent is a killer. Being from Brooklyn back in the day was a bit gangster, but today it is hot. We need to meet at noon for lunch outside at the top of the mountain, Cloud Nine. Within a 5 minute period weirdly my helmet and goggles are stolen and I am left with a random matt black large men's. Even after a two bottle wine lunch between 6 of us, no helmet is returned, obviously I am going to have to get my Brooklyn connection involved. We ski out the day hard and fast; I even lose the group for a run or two and then we regroup. Still no helmet, I am wearing the bigger one (not built for speed); we leave the hill for tennis now six of us hitting in this thin air. Tonight will be a crazy Australian hosted dinner party in a wine cellar, in another massive home by the same builder who is also in attendance. The wine is paired with yummy food in the cellar of fun. As dinner ends, the song books come out and we are in full regale. There is the classic New York New York; I feel it then a Tom Jones song is next, I try a new party trick unhook, remove, swing and toss my bra, oh dear maybe I am a bit too comfortable. I discover the next day after all of us banging our hands on the table, not just me, I have chipped my diamond ring. Party hazards—wine with jewellery.

Rule #200 ENSURE YOU HAVE TWO LAUNDRY HAMPERS: ONE FOR DRY CLEANING THE OTHER FOR LAUNDRY DONE IN THE HOME. MAKE IT EASY FOR YOURSELF. LIFE IS COMPLICATED ENOUGH!

"You can always decide if the laundry requires dry cleaning even if in wrong box."

I am Irish; I hear from my mom and Irish girlfriends at the top of the morning (it is St. Patrick's Day). The weather is not that fabulous with cloud cover and high winds; we all skip the day of skiing. It is shopping day for host's gifts, replacing my helmet and lunch with friends. It is also Monday so we gallery tour and shop. We know so many people, we are a having a cocktail party for our friends at our host house. Thank god we did the host gifts today. It has turned from 8 to 20 people and it is fabulous; our hosts are amazing it is the return of the Aspen New Yorkers are at their/our place. It seems that everyone at one time has lived in New York, some loving it and not, but all have a story and they love mine.

We literally kick guests out, and the four of us can have an intimate dinner at Cache Cache restaurant; we share stories of our upbringing and that life holds many challenges. Everyone has a story and I am trying to listen to really learn from others and be strong within my story. The problem is my life is in full adventure mode without a final address, some people would dream of that; I just don't know where I will be living or where I will be from week to week. I am strong and living in NYC, I can make it there and in Aspen apparently. Plans are changing coming up and for today I hear it is not a great day to be in NYC, anyway as all the policemen are drunk; they are Irish.

Rule #201 WHEN DECIDING ON SHELF HEIGHT DON'T FORGET TO ACCOUNT FOR HIGH BOOTS AND PURSES. THESE SHELVES WILL BE A DIFFERENT DIMENSION THEN THE ONES YOU USE FOR YOUR PUMPS!

"Buy a tape measure."

It is dinner party day at our house, I mean our hosts house, so the chef is coming, flowers to be delivered, table to be set and general planning. We, being fabulous guests, we leave and go skiing. Our hostess is a master at this and we really will only get in the way, having said that I did do the prep for the cocktail party yesterday. It is birthday day for a friend and we go back up to Cloud 9 restaurant at the top of the mountain for a full dance party complete with bunny ears. I dance on the chairs in ski boots and we all find our groove. Best line on learning to ski: do you ski as well as you dance? I leave them in the dust.

This Aspen/New York environment continues as our lunch guest all lived in NYC 20 years ago. All chat about studio 54 and their hang outs and their get outs of the city, all wanting to return but all have their stories for leaving. We stay far too long at lunch and miss our tennis game hoping not to be evicted from our lodgings. The dinner party is elegant and subdued in comparison to the Sunday night sing song. The table is large and really forces just conversation to each side; I am sandwiched between two Richards: a builder and a lawyer previously from NYC, now an art gallery owner. It seems if possible people keep a pied-de-terre in NYC and live elsewhere; you just can't let go. I feel the same way.

Rule #202 HANG YOUR BELTS WHEN YOU CAN. IF YOUR SPACE CAN'T ALLOW THAT, ROLL YOUR BELTS INTO SPIRALS AND STORE THEM NEATLY IN A DRAWER.

“Happy to role than hang.”

Today is our last day with our hosts and we have a beautiful lunch on the veranda of the Mountain Club with fellow Canadians, basking in the warm sun filled view. I get caught up on Toronto news, there is very little and I am asked why anyone would want to live in NYC: what is the big attraction? I can't get out the answers fast enough and what really captures this answer is really so simple: if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. It is one tough high talented type of city, challenging and difficult to navigate. Either you go in with a project or go in with making connections that lead to a project both ways take time.

The afternoon is group skiing and tonight's dinner will be five of us after packing us up for tomorrow. I pack and we start an ever continuing cocktail hour leading to dinner. I drop our NYC keys off at our ex-NYC dweller, to use our apartment while we are away; I wonder if he will have moved in upon our return or changed the locks? To bed we go and soon our suite will be ours no longer.

Rule #203 LUGGAGE STORAGE IS A PIECE WE OFTEN FORGET. IT IS MOST IDEAL TO HAVE A SPACE IN YOUR CLOSET FOR EASY ACCESS WHEN PACKING FOR A LAST MINUTE GETAWAY! WHEN PACKING, GO THROUGH YOUR CLOTHES BY EACH DAY OF VACATION. IT WILL HELP WITH OVER PACKING. NO ONE LIKES TO GO OVER THE SCALE, EVER!

“Worst case scenario go shopping on vacation, terrible.”

Two lattes and packing up the car we are on the move on route to Vail. Breathtakingly beautiful, we gain and lose cell reception weaving through the mountains. Good bye Aspen, hello Vail and goodbye New Yorkers now. I am back in the Toronto world with feedback from all corners stepping out of my vortex: I grab a little reality and then I will go back to my NYC existence, ignoring noise moving my world forward. For now, my go-getter girlfriend and I lose ourselves in conversation snowshoeing up the mountain, trying to catch my breath. The mountains are soothing and exposing, reminding me that come September, I will be back in Canada dealing with the noise; I will wait for the fall to play that game.

Trout and salad for lunch on top of the mountain, followed by hot tub soaking up the views and a night down at the base outdoors near a fireplace. How many senses can one arouse? I am aroused, for sure or too much wine/cafeine and this is the first night I don't sleep too many outside forces; I have grown and now looking forward much is clear and unknown, just the way I like it, I think. The sun is just rising, another mountain day ahead.

Rule #204 EDIT YOUR CLOSET! IF YOU HAVEN'T WORN IT IN THE PAST YEAR YOU PROBABLY WON'T! I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT TIME TO LET GO AND DONATE SOME PIECES TO A GREAT CHARITY!

“They do change the classics with a modern touch, timeless does exist but is rare and usually dear.”

The gang is coming in, the only way to fly: a Falcon 7X, basically dropping in from the sky, both in comfort and speed. Us girls are doing our morning ritual of hot water with lemon and lattes, fielding emails and whisking away the cobwebs from last night. We are given the sign, they are arriving so newly green smoothies are made by my hostess as she is promoting new health through greens; the other 5 enjoy this shot of health. I am the 7th wheel and it is a good place to be. We have a full half day of skiing, getting in our groove as a group, a little bit of ground hog day back to mountain top restaurant then over skiing as we miss the lift shut down and get into the dial-a-ride to return to newly purchased multi-million dollar home; I am getting good at this mansion hopping.

Quick change and spa time down at the base, consisting of grotto swimming, steam, cold plunge and hair salon, all good to re-convene at the bar to dial-a-ride back to gourmet meal. A fabulous day and my group of couples have been together long enough that I feel like my own couple by myself at the end of a long hall, I practically am in a different building. Learning lives of other people is my new project and not talking about myself, being a good listener really gives you a new insight into the doers of the world; I am with doers and feel inspired, Canadian but global citizens—truly a good address.

Rule #205 WHETHER YOU HAVE A WALK-IN CLOSET OR NOT, ALL OF THESE RULES APPLY TO EACH CLOSET IN YOUR HOME. ORGANIZATION IS KEY: MAKE SURE EVERYTHING HAS A SPOT!

“Plan it and own it.”

Today, I will bond our group as it is full side snow facial exfoliation; we lose two skiers to shopping and the 5 of us venture out only after world discussions and green smoothies. We are ready to conquer the snow world. It is a battle for surviving

until lunch which is not easy as the turns take a lot of energy and breath. Lunch lingers happily and after a couple of runs the snow gives way to sun, mbring on the ground hog day but this time snow angels in the snow followed by hot tub plunge with cocktails. Sitting in the crowded hot tub, I feel I will give my couples a break from me. Down my long corridor I have the best nap but I am awoken with a knock and 5 minutes to dress for dinner. Since the hair and lack of make-up will have to do, I wear my long fur coat with a train from Argentina.

This coat drags with flair and when my new girlfriend asked me if it was goat; I said “I hope not.” Dial-a-ride, dinner and dial-a-ride and the mountain awaits us for an early morning powder conquer ski. After the multiple liquors we have a fire place chat that most forget, tomorrow morning is a 8:30am date with the mountain.

Rule #206 SO I WANT TO LIVE IN A HOTEL JUST LIKE ELLOISE DOES. EVERY CLOSET SHOULD HAVE A LUGGAGE RACK, SHOE HORN, A SHOE SHINE CLOTH, A ROBE AND SLIPPERS. HOW FUN WOULD IT BE TO GO INTO YOUR CLOSET, PUT ON YOUR ROBE AND SLIPPERS AND PRETEND YOU ARE TRAVELLING?

“Room service daily.”

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese. This is a philosophy to live by and I prefer cheese over worms. Dressed and out in freshly fallen snow, sitting back slightly freedom about this is a slice of heaven. We rhythmically dance down the mountain and these are days that are not easily forgotten. Beaver Creek is a closed mountain community that has left the hipster NYC's back in Aspen and the conservative NYC's that stick close to home are here, they are invisible.

We have a sun filled patio lunch and we feel the glow now, it is time to pack up and head to Eagle private airport for the 7X flight home for guests and to commercial airport for car pick up of keys on the windshield. I have made all the hook ups and re packing; I wish I had a 7X with my flight schedule. Heading back to Aspen, my car heads to the private airport but sadly I must go one more exit to get my daughter. She is here and I am over the moon; she is so beautiful and has a new Celine bag and fake nails, oh boy my little NYC girl. Fitted for her skis and hugs, we go to our next villa, unpack and melt into our new surroundings.

No More Comments On The Rules.

Just Rules! The Rules speak for themselves and I am busy living.

Rule #207 FOR THE TRAVEL BUG, KEEP TRAVEL SIZE COSMETICS AND CREAM FOR EASY PACKING. NO MORE THAN 4OZ OR CHECK YOUR BAG! HOW MANY TIMES DOES YOUR LUGGAGE NOT MAKE IT WHEN YOU LAND? TOO MANY TO COUNT! THE WAY TO TRAVEL: CARRY ON BABY.

A beautiful Aspen day, I do the usual deal with my businesses prior to my daughter waking up which gives me a two hour head start. Teenagers do not wake up early and her 10 day LA trip has put her one hour even further behind so I run out of work or rather I want to go skiing before she even blinks an eye. We take her first day easy starting with mother/daughter day at Buttermilk. We are dressed alike and the day is delicious with our matching braids. A slight glitch we spend 20 minutes on a stopped chair lift but it just gives us gab time in the sun, 30 feet above the land. We graduate from blue to black hills and slide into Aspen village to soak the remainder of the day at the café.

I am seriously drying up in Colorado so every oil in sight is purchased at drug store visit. Bathed, oiled, massaged and dinner at home, we all share war stories of relationships and businesses so sleep is a bit restless that night. I am in contact with my office every day and with the new house/office building behind schedule with the insane winter weather in Toronto I start to plan my strategy at about 2am for my return to Canada in the fall and my NYC moments left to experience. I have a whole personal life to execute as well but that is another matter and requires time not bandwidth.

Rule #208 PLACE A BEAUTIFUL SILVER TRAY WHERE YOU PLACE GLASSES FOR WATER AND OTHER BATHROOM ACCESSORIES. THIS WILL PREVENT STAINING ON YOUR GORGEOUS COUNTERTOPS!

The sun is out and I have seen it bless the day getting up at 5:30am and dealing with Toronto construction and the east coast. NYC being quiet right now except for PR Gal, I assume Russian cleaning lady has our two dogs and still does. A friend of ours with his daughter is staying at our 55E apartment, transferring keys in Aspen which we will retrieve at pick up from driver in NYC—key toss. My girlfriend and I brace the morning together, armed with words of advice, welcome the new day—as many as they will give me. Today is all about the girls: girls ski day at Highlands and there are 6 of us. We boogie up and down the day fast, full and only a quick bite. Get the most of that mountain and then hit the town for touring followed by early dinner now 8 girls.

Acquolina Trattoria & Pizza on Main Street Aspen is our girl's choice (ages 5 to 50); we dine and plan sleep over picking up 2 more children on the way. It is a starry night with shooting stars, making wishes on the bean bag chairs and fur blankets outside near the fire pit. Looking up to the sky wishes wished then looking down to our children admiring the creations that are ours. We are lucky. Tonight all alarms off for tomorrow both Canadian/American phone I will wake when I wake, tonight deep sleep. No worries.

Rule #209 ADDICTED TO Q-TIPS? I AM. PLACE Q-TIPS, TWEEZERS AND OTHER SMALL ITEMS IN A COLLECTION OF BOXES. LOVE A GREAT SOAP DISH!

I awake when I awake and start the day with a business call which turns into many and the day is off but it seems not settled. We plan skiing, hiking and anything else that may come out of nowhere. We are in nowhere, fielding doctor's calls and a hospital visit. My girlfriend has a bad test result from her doctor; that is a phone call that changes the day and maybe life – game changer. We are on it as a team and we attack. We hike as a group getting some fresh air in a surreal state and that is the way the day goes.

I am in charge of the two teenagers as they really don't understand the daunting implications, so a light bite with really healthy food followed by a Creperie dinner with all the kid and with every food group. Lively, fun, light and with good wine; this day will end with tears and hopefully soon better news. Make the best of every moment, life is short and great friends are rare. NYC seems far away today.

Rule #210 TISSUE BOX COVERS SHOULD BE LONG IN SHAPE AND EITHER IN CHROME OR WHITE. NO BAD PAPER DECORATIVE BOXES FOR VIEWING.

Snow, snow and more snow! It is a winter wonderland in Aspen, cold and rainy in NYC I am fielding dates for galas and meetings planning this weekend with my father coming to NYC and getting the apartment cleaned with dogs back. It will all fall into place and I check emails on the gondola all day. It is about knowing someone who is chairing the gala and then as opposed to being invited as a guest you get to be a vice chair and buy a table; it is expensive being on committees in NYC! My big meeting in Toronto went fabulously and I feel good about life professionally – still questioning my personal whirlwind. Today it is much better to concentrate on skiing with all the powder and my daughter is rocking it out with caution—her style.

Real estate day I love, we are looking at an investment property on Red Mountain, cool real estate agent gives us the tour in Aspen garb big ski jacket, cool boots, tan and shades. Nice life as he has 42 properties under contract in this small town with price/square foot a fortune. We find a money maker, let's see if we get it. Girls make cookies back at home, big girls shop and dinner at Casa Tua which restaurant brings me way back: a romantic favourite for me. Tonight with my girlfriends I could hold their hands for romance and we do; we are all in this journey together.

Rule #211 I PREFER MARBLE ON A FLOOR I LOVE A GOOD POLISH WITH AN INLAY. THE INLAY SHOULD BE AN INCH AND A HALF, WHILE THE BORDER SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF 6".

It is our last ski day and the sky is clear, sunny and welcoming. My new friend has a store at the base of the mountain and we use it as our ski locker. Dressed and ready at 11am we valet park, hit the store and ride the gondola to the top. Our hostess who is an expert skier takes us on beautiful trails and giving tips; we are truly becoming better skiers in a few short runs. We are all a little anxious with one more doctor's appointment at 1pm to endure, in the meantime we live the now. We ski, lunch and then the text. Not great news we all begin to wind down the day making appointments at the top of the mountain with a doctor for a Monday 10am appointment in New York.

This is how life changes on a dime and you start to face the music, ours wound down with meeting a developer and visiting a site after some hostess gift purchases followed by an Easter egg hunt in the snow, Aspen style with some cold fabulous Monrchet. Girl power it is, we have entertained all our children, dealt with serious medical issues and enjoyed each other keeping the men at bay. I am with 2 weeks of Aspen under my belt experiencing it all now with new perspective and empathy plus a lot of luggage not baggage.

Chapter 12

Bathroom Rules:

**Rule #212 THE BATHROOM SHOWER FLOOR SHOULD BE 4 PIECES OF SLAB IN 4 TRIANGLES SLOPED TO DRAIN. PREFERABLY THE SHOWER SHOULD HAVE A STEP DOWN AND NOT A CURB. BETTER FOR WATER DRAINAGE AND IT HELPS PREVENT DRIPPING.
ALTERNATIVE: LOVE LINEAR DRAINS NO 45°**

It is the day that we need to make our way back to NYC and we are ready. We could fly privately tomorrow but with our luggage and getting in late with my father coming; we begin our journey. We will all regroup in NYC Sunday night with my girlfriend as she will start this new phase of her life; the husband will take over in the mountains and we girls will take care of her in the city. The altitude is not good for her condition and her dream place must wait for a while. We say our good byes which are really just a delayed hello and our travel day starts.

The car to be filled with gas after three heavy pieces of luggage are loaded in the car; we curbside check-in, do the tip and return rental car all to wait for a 2 hour delay in a seat-less packed airport. There is an abundance of designer luggage and re-done faces all meant to keep us amused as we play musical chairs. It is actually vet's day nation-wide and they load broken bone persons in the departure lounge and receive disabled vets to Aspen in the mountain which I find somewhat ironic. We make our Denver connection which is never easy, in fact, who said it was going to be easy?

Rule #213 THE BASEBOARD IN A BATHROOM SHOULD ALWAYS BE STONE, NOT WOOD! AS WOOD GETS NASTY AND MOLDY! BASEBOARD HEIGHT DEPENDS ON HEIGHT OF CEILING.

I keep unpacking now in NYC and it seems not to end until I find a leak in the closet, it seems construction follows me everywhere or at least construction issues. I call the super who doesn't even get a ladder to look at the damage reeking of stale cigarettes; he goes and looks upstairs and declares after putting on all taps that it is the roof but I am on the 3rd floor of a five storey brownstone; I smile and tell him that it is an isolated pipe with a leak as it is in a dropped area and you can access it from my apartment from underneath as it sits up against the joist. He stares back and will be back tomorrow. It is usually never that day, I tell him that my Dad is visiting and I will be away hoping it will be fixed when I return on Friday; he hopes as well, what does that mean. In addition, my 78 year old father does not have a phone so this is not looking promising.

My father is a foodie and really cheap so I arrange for my two NYC friends to come to dinner as he loves to flirt; I have one wasp and one Jewish, perfect combo who will keep him busy. We all go to Elio's on 2nd Avenue between 84th and 85th it is the quintessential Sunday night NYC buzz, even Paul McCartney is there, for real. The banter of my Dad and the two women is great visuals as they are learning life lessons by the minute maybe a bit too much info with too many profanities. We all say good night and of course I pay because my father who has checked with me earlier that we will split the bill ignores the l'addition. I am cool with that as he is babysitting all week. We all fade into the night and I really feel like a New Yorker. Why am I leaving tomorrow?

Rule #214 WALLS BEHIND TOILETS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BE WASHED DOWN UNLESS IT IS AN ALL FEMALE HOUSE! BACK PAINTED GLASS BEHIND A TOILET IN AN INSET PANEL SO FANTASTIC AND SO CLEAN!

Being away with a two hour time difference for the past two weeks does not make the 6:20am tennis practice easy to digest I crawl into her bed delaying the wake up. We decide that a taxi to the tennis bubble is the route to go for 6:30am versus catching the bus at 6:20am. Really it is all the same and she is late anyway. It is pouring rain and I need to get packed, nails done and hair blown out, it always rains when I need a good blow job. First, my shot of wheatgrass followed by a latte some emails answered and computer time I can tend to my 5 day pack in my carry-on. My father is in a great mood and goes off to breakfast happy, this is unusual.

We meet up at late morning to see a cool modern apartment from the 1930's with low ceilings but cool high doors, windows at the façade front to emphasize smooth facade and recessed lighting straight out of the Rockefeller era being one of the first buildings to promote social luxury living. Great location really wanted high ceilings that I could get at 81st Street but it is beside a funeral home. Back in the car and off to the airport, Palm Beach here I come. I get great news from my girlfriend she is cancer free now having to decide what to keep in the organ department. A beautiful night with my best Toronto girls we drink and laugh the night away.

Rule #215 KEEP TOWELS OFF THE FLOOR, 2 HOOKS PER DOOR. IF POSSIBLE THE SHOWER DOOR KNOB SHOULD BE A TOWEL BAR IN ADDITION TO OTHER TOWEL BARS IN THE WASHROOM. IF YOU HAVE TEENAGERS HEAT THE FLOOR, THE TOWELS MAY DRY!



This April Fool's day where usually I would do pranks and laugh at really someone else's expense but I am pool side this morning after setting my office up under the lanai happily fielding calls and viewing emails. Still slightly nervous about my Toronto building project and the nosey neighbours I am immersed in this dream state life hanging out at another 12,000sf mansion. Of course, like every dream I get the call they are shutting down the site, the building officials have been called in to re-measure the building and basically we have a stop work order. My bubble is burst and as I can't quite formulate the words then I think what day is it: I think to myself: April Fools. My contractor who has delivered this news starts back pedalling; he made me do it! After last's year prank I had refused to speak with that particular friend until noon this day. The hired gun, all I could utter is I will get that person! I sent a pic of an alligator in the pool and the response was: you sure it is not a shark, it is Palm Beach.

When the second phone call came in with my car being smashed when it was going to service I simply said call me tomorrow. Today melted into ladies lunch at the Brazilian Court and shopping very proper that would turn slightly sideways when we got home. Changed, comfy long flowing sun dresses we had dinner under the stars after we picked up the flat pizzas in the convertible. I have had many a wardrobe spill and this night would be no exception. Pizza with salad followed by popcorn and chocolate then light night walk made my stomach hurt with laughter as we wound our way around the block all in various outfits and house coats. Finding random items by iPhone flashlight determining the significance as we are CSI Investigators is not a profession to seek out.

Rule #216 HAND TOWELS: TOSS UP BETWEEN TOWELS ON VANITY TOP OR TOWELS ON TOWEL RING. YOU RUN THE RISK OF DIRTY HANDS ON THE WALLS WITH A TOWEL RING! MY PREFERENCE IS TOWELS ON THE VANITY TOP.

This is my kind of ground hog day: latte, pool, swim, some outdoor phone calls and a slow stretch to a courtyard lunch at a restaurant, today is Bice. We get to see all the over-done plastic surgery women wandering about Worth Avenue and I really wonder if people look younger when their faces don't move and their noses seem so disproportionately small. The six of us are in our groove; lunch just us as we banter, thoroughly enjoying each other. It is a slow jaunt to various stores and I nail the best pair of shoes tall, sexy, studded and comfortable, how can you go wrong? Back at the mansion we chill out in the shade by the pool warmed by the late afternoon heat.

I fall asleep and wake up to a NYC conference call for Woman's Initiative for the Council of Entrepreneurs; it is hard to concentrate. With a new addition, we are now seven of us celebrating my best friend's bday with a chef and hot waiter. All us girls make toasts, have giggles and the music starts. The girls dance into the wee hours of the morning. I basically do not get any sleep with a 7am flight in the morning.

Rule #217 ALL TOWELS SHOULD BE WHITE! THE BANDING CAN HAVE PATTERN, SUCH AS RIBBING AND YOU CAN ADD COLOR EMBROIDERY. REPEAT ALL TOWELS SHOULD BE WHITE!

Up at 4am is not good and dressing for a different climate is not easy with a carry on but it all comes together. I get my drop off as if I am attending school but it is all on my path back to NYC. I have a noon meeting at the Sales Centre site in Toronto so it is good bye Florida and hello grilled salmon and wine but I only opt for the salmon. Four hours later I am north of the city so there I stay and to the King farm for my next site visit and sleep over. Canada's winters are tough on buildings and the thaw season plays meanly. There is a little water in the basement but no real damage, the guest cabin is coming and I meet with the property manager of 25 years; she takes no prisoners—tough and loyal, love that.

Roaring fire and rural, with deer outside; it is easy to unwind. I change my flight back to NYC earlier in the day and I am still awaiting my ticket. Note to self: check that out in the morning. I set up my phone calls for tomorrow and my father tells me about his dinner tonight and he is planning a great one for Saturday. He is meal obsessed and he did not attend the Paris Opera Ballet recital I organized for him this afternoon; he is always a lot of work, probably better he did not go, could have been on bad behaviour. Sleep will be blissful tonight dark and quiet except for the wolves. I am told that the conservation authority came by to shoot them; I will not be going outside.

Rule #218 NOT ONLY SHOULD THE TOWELS BE WHITE, YOU NEED AN ARRAY OF TOWELS IN TERRY CLOTH! THEY NEED TO BE ABSORBENT!

- HAND TOWEL
- BATH TOWEL
- BATH SHEET
- FACE CLOTH

New York has everything that is opening with new plays and plant life while my daughter with my father is at Due for dinner on 3rd Avenue at 79th Street. The only thing that is opening in my world is the covers to crawl into. I am in rush mode as I get up early to leave for 7am with latte in hand, in the car delivered to me that is luxury. I have a 8am office meeting followed by the bank visit on a development site which I need an extension with the horrible Canadian winter and construction delays; I feel it went well. Bankers are tough to read.

Next, a 4 hour meeting on my latest project where we are the interior/architecture designers for 2,000 units 45 minutes north of the city in a harbour setting. Another served lunch this time, Greek salad with sandwiches, we banter curbs and deck construction on a budget. Actually, I like this type of conversation; I truly am a geek. With boarding pass on cel phone I race to airport, have my car picked up and catch the earlier flight which goes just slightly ahead of my scheduled later flight in true Air Canada style. I land, breath and I am back in NYC; in time for Chinese food and wine brought by girlfriends who catch me in the taxi; they are coming over for a de-brief.

Rule #219 LINEN TOWELS SHOULD BE USED IN POWDER ROOMS AND ON VANITY TOPS.

I wake up, speak with the necessary world and fall back asleep only to get up at 11am with my daughter waking me up. I missed her; we walk, arms around each other, in dueling white down vests getting breakfast and a few groceries. The sun is pouring down on the streets and we are a team; I feel the warmth of New York on our faces. We are reviewing our new home millwork and tile patterns on paper with our new influences from living in NYC—we are changed. A bit more daring and less complicated as space here is such a premium so we are making it simpler with the extra real estate in Toronto.

I get the call and I need out from my Dad's constant talking so I run (not walk) to meet my NYC guy at Bilboquet at 60th Street and Park. We sit beside each other and chat away about life that is going at a clip planning destination weddings, Palm Beach and charities. I love him and his energy is contagious as the rear of the restaurant is in full party mode, dancing on the tables. The last song of the afternoon comes on: New York, New York sung by Frank Sinatra and I dance with a real NYC Trump swinging, dipping and having the corner table clap us on—it is a true NYC moment. Then at 5pm I do the 20 block walk feeling fabulous off to old school UES dinner at Swifty's with my father. I am the youngest person in the restaurant and the piano player goes through his repertoire as I constantly say "Dad" so there is no confusion, keep it simple sweetie K.I.S.S.

Rule #220 TOWELS SHOULD BE FOLDED IN THREE! YOU ARE IN THE SUBURBS WHEN THEY ARE FOLDED IN HALF!

It is my Dad and I alone in the apartment on two different floors so I talk away with morning phone calls. I slowly let the morning drift by as my daughter is at a sleep over and if I lounge long enough my father will take the dogs out. Mission accomplished, my daughter is back home and my father vacates the building. There is some peace; we are off to a two hour tennis lesson and we wander down Madison to view potential closet designs for our new home. You really don't need any excuse to walk down Madison; it is a perfect street—shops et all.

Tonight there is an emergency meeting of the girl's club as a lot happened last night with texts of bubble baths and coffee for two in the morning. The only person in bed early was me; my Dad even stayed up later. The conclusion of the meeting is that one relationship is back on track, a relationship will be ending with many complications and a new one has been consummated heading for a fairy tale ending (we all hope). First we need a budget, actually the budget is not going to be enough better make the earnings, not easy in a new relationship. New boyfriends are bad for business, just saying.

Rule #221 WASTEPAPER BASKETS IN BATHROOMS, MUST HAVE A LID AND BE BEAUTIFUL! NO ONE WANTS TO SEE YOUR GARBAGE!

Monday morning and it feels early with so much to do could have been the last night girl's meeting which always includes wine. This is a busy week with an event every night plus day time work is jammed and social commitments galore. I have a meeting at 10am at the D&D Building with Gracie wallpaper to secure a Fall Market space to speak at their showroom. It feels like full circle as I started my New York Fall at the D&D Building, listening to other designers and getting signed copies of books and now I will do the same; I need a book. I meet with the owner and his assistant, choosing a paper I want to highlight and the deal is done, seems simple I think. I walk away and think I am the real deal.

No time to ponder, on to the next which is Escada to pull 5 outfits for the week of events. Meeting with their publicist, he is perfectly casted with the large scarf and big laugh; we really pick all the size 32 they have and my stylist is on to get smaller sizes; she needs to land herself a paying gig—she needs it. Clothes in hand out for lunch with Toronto girl, following in my footsteps, she is moving to NYC for only 9 months not a year. Shocked by apartment prices and banking, her only real demand is they provide a TV. You know in NYC the landlords are in the driver's seat, maybe a TV guide. I get to view the Metropolitan Club where our Gala event will be held and meet the space co-ordinator who seems less than stellar as she points to the walls with no historical reference at all in the McKim, Mead & White building. Our sidekick points out the Canadian flag you can see from the window, I am sure the event will get better than this.

Rule #222 IN YOUR BATHROOM VANITY DRAWERS YOU SHOULD HIDE YOUR PRODUCTS. CLEAN YOUR DRAWERS, THERE IS NOTHING MORE DISGUSTING THEN A DRAWER COVERED IN TOOTHPASTE.

After a night meeting a board member of CCAR (Canadian Council of American Relations) or better yet bored member at the Plaza Hotel, attending the Tribeca Ball and doing a night cap at Firebird Russian restaurant on the west side with

the Russian ballet judges, I could of used an extra hour sleep and less horse radish vodka. I have so much to do and to think I have just learnt that friends are coming in a day earlier and I need some maintenance, I have an appointment downtown to view a fashion line then somehow get myself to Queen's to see my daughter play on the tennis team by taxi and back to Manhattan by school bus. Just breathe but seriously I could skip the new waxing scheduled 10amer. Spring is earlier in NYC—need good clean legs.

The noon fashion clothes are a bust; the style and colours not my taste—purple and grey green with untrimmed fur is hard to digest. Interesting business investment opportunity with ends of lines competing with Guilt website but not sure of the exclusivity of the products for real returns but better than the fashion line. For a time killer and lunch my stylist friend and I go to the Sex Museum and café; I have actually been there before when the debut of Linda Lovelace Deep Throat documentary. Store sells most items and café surprisingly good green organic farm to table whom would of thought. I actually do it all today, including a Hampton Cocktail party at Tao then dinner at Biblioteque, at the best table with two UES to have candle lit apartment when friends arrive. Wow a superwoman day.

Rule #223 SOAPS: SIZE MATTERS AND IN THIS CASE SMALLER IS BETTER. IN A POWDER ROOM USE A SMALL DELICATE SOAP THAT IS CHANGED AFTER AN EVENT. HAVE YOU SEEN A BEAUTIFUL SOAP PUMP YET?

My aunt (the nun) and my best friend's bday today, phone calls and flowers sent they make my life fuller, both quite the contrast but actually both angels. It is sunny dog walking day and the four of us hit central park with lattes in hand. It is glorious and my daughter knocks it out of the park with her teacher conference with 100 to 120 percent in maths and science; it is a Nello patio lunch day. A spring day with the flowers blooming walking up Madison after lunch and jewellery viewing; is my idea of heaven.

A blow dry and a new Escada dress for the YAGP, Youth American Grand Prix of ballet my daughter and I go watch the top junior dancers in the world; they are fantastic. We do an hour with a looming math test and girl's night out. Quick change to jeans we are at the Writing Room on 2nd and 88th with 5 divorced women plus 1 getting separated with a new boyfriend and the gang. It is a lively night of discussion and the only man at the table picks up the bill, so much for women's liberation. We stroll back and NYC is beaming even with garbage day tomorrow.

Rule #224 THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX FOR SOAP DISHES, TRY A TEACUP PLATE OR CANDY DISH!

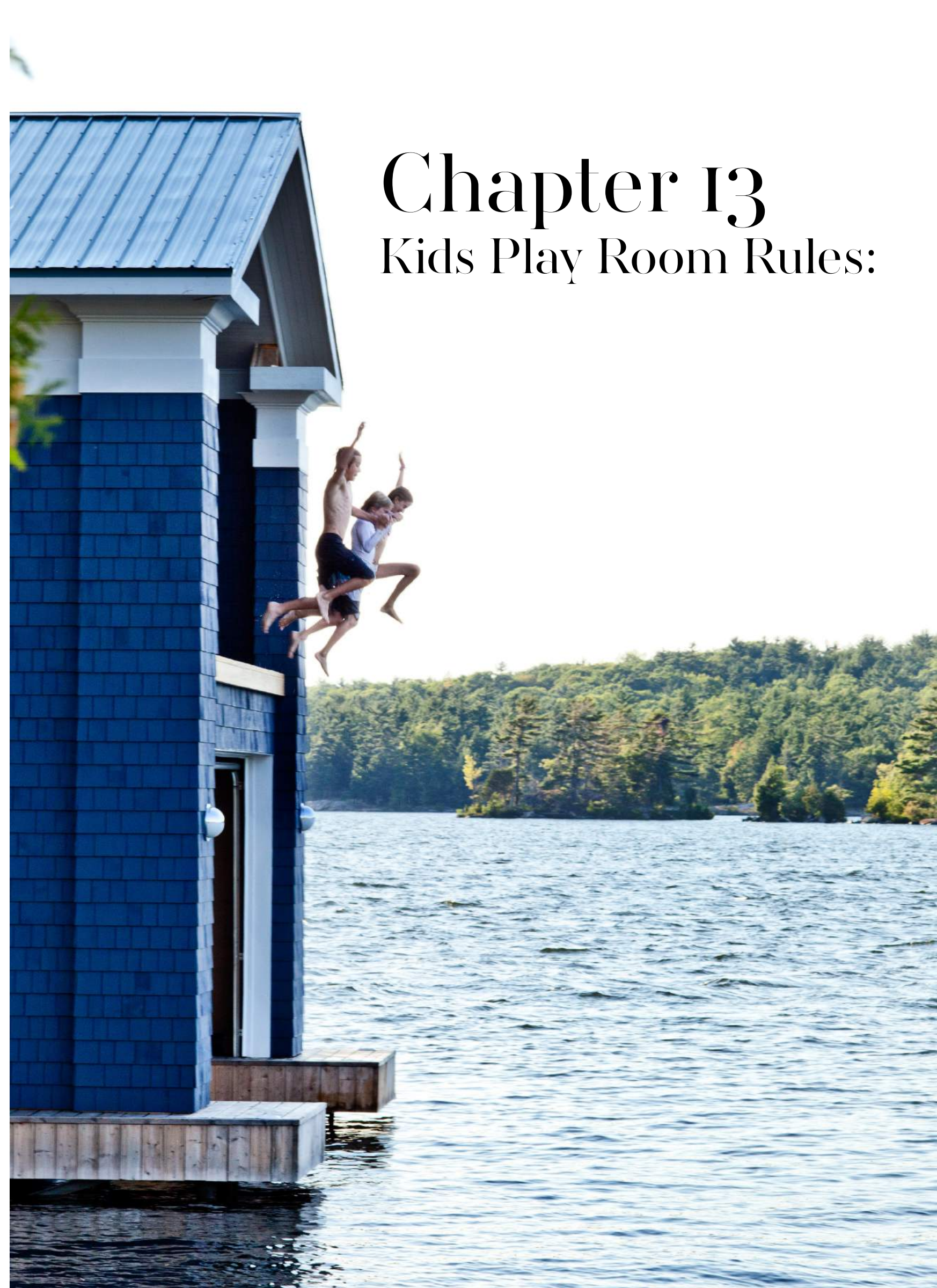
Today is my little sister's bday and we invite her for lunch 5 times; her perfect day is a cold pressed juice and a spin class. We meet near the juice bar get a little protein carpaccio after our mile walk around the reservoir and give her a bday card with a couple of benjamins. We need to head downtown and have a discussion with our driver to get him into a more profitable business mode but after a half an hour talking, a missed pick up appointment today and tomorrow it does not seem realistic as he has been giving business to other drivers with zero return. I have a headache from all the "You knows...".

We leave the SUV and go to a taxi head to Soho House roof. It is glorious hot and happening. The pool is going to open Monday, we set up our away offices on a sofa with a beer and chardonnay; this is the life. My sister circles back for a glass of wine. We meet a charming south Florida hottie in the hotel business, my PR agent in black melts on the roof she has never seen sun ever and the boys from Escada require signing in as I have passed my guest limit. I am dressed by Escada and we are planning a move forward strategy. Slightly sweaty and in need of a rinse off before gala, one more stop to Nobu at 57th for separated girlfriend new boyfriend drink, not easy chemistry—this is a tough call. No time to ponder, back to brownstone we arrive a perfect two hours late to gala catching some ballet, photographs and a dinner that has more people leaving than coming. It is a long gala night a 3 hour performance prior to drinks and dinner! We sit with a New York real estate family, we are the only ones not related and not sharing in their rental incomes but the best dressed.

Rule #225 WHEN USING BEAUTIFUL WALLPAPER ON THE WALLS MAKE SURE YOU INSTALL A PIECE OF GLASS BEHIND THE TOWEL BAR. THIS WILL HELP TO AVOID WEAR AND TEAR OF THE WALLPAPER.

I have not laughed so hard in a long time and last night I was fully entertained with the company at the table and big fun energy. This morning a bit groggy from the bad wine at the dinner, we have a breakfast with a great Toronto friend and a new NYC friend who is involved with the MSK hospital. With so many charities and events in play we all plan how to have fun and raise funds; I am the poster child for the October event happily.

I am walking on Park Avenue in yet another Escada Spring dress in pastels feeling ultra pretty women as the skirt is pleated and flirty plus slightly see through. I Uber to the Paris Opera Ballet lunch at the Cosmopolitan Club at 66th Street and Lexington where we are seated on the 10th floor garden room, it is elegant and beautiful. This intimate lunch consists of chilled asparagus, fillet of sole, pecan crumble and pink champagne. The two tables of eight discuss culture, freedom and the world stage. I am invigorated, the streets are sun filled and I feel blessed that we can express what we want where we want. I change for a central park phone call walk; I love this outdoor office. It never stops, next a lecture at the Lincoln Centre by famous Russian choreographer with translator, my ADD kicks in I break out and speak with my executive coach girlfriend date about roles and responsibilities. I still have to complete laundry, pack and business calls before tomorrow's 6am pick up. We leave at intermission even though the post lecture performances are stellar.



Chapter 13

Kids Play Room Rules:

Rule #226 USE PANELS FOR FRAMING IN CORK BOARDS, HANGING AND DISPLAYING ART. WHITE BOARDS LEAVE AT THE OFFICE, TOO MESSY!

My daughter and I are heading to Nassau this weekend as it is Passover next week and the Hewitt School has given a random Tuesday off so I think Monday should be optional as they are not giving Easter Monday off. These American schools take going to school very seriously so every time we need an extra day off we have an appointment.

We take a reasonable 9am flight and land pool side by about 1pm after being picked up by the two ladies who oversee the town house but they don't do luggage—don't ask. One is German and the other is Bahamian which is stranger. Awaiting our Captain's call that the boat has arrived we venture over only occurs when I call him which is par for the course he wasn't sure when I was coming even though he drove the boat nine hours to get me. I don't get phased any more nothing surprising me including not stocking the boat with food. It will all happen. We are in bliss long travel day and after a major walk/run. We have cereal, blueberries and chocolate for dinner and fall asleep to movies in bed.

Rule #227 HAVE FUN WITH PAINT COLOR AS IT CAN ALWAYS BE CHANGED! HAVE YOUR CHILDREN PAINT THE ROOM AT A LOW HOURLY RATE.

We sleep in watching more movies in the morning, love Legally Blonde; I so relate with the wardrobe. The weather is iffy but I decide it is boat cruise time despite the waves we ride them out and never really finding a calm area but seeing the coast line and a little rain. The sunniest place is where we left from so upon our return we paddle board, pool time, ocean swim and my daughter decides we are going golf cart investigating and somehow she beacons to the doors of the spa. We line up a couple's massage and get oiled from head to toe with a bit too much time on the toes; I am good with hard reflexology but don't just pull my toes. Having my daughter next to me is always entertaining as she wants a little more pressure here a little less there and we constant gab—our type of relaxation.

Time seems to escape us and we golf cart back in the spa robes for a quick change to dine at Lyford Cay. My Swiss friend who is beyond charming and on time, collects us in his orange convertible no top to the car or doors. We dine with two other 15 year olds at the Yacht Club adjacent to the fire place on a starry full moon night. The older girls are at boarding school in London and seemed years older than my daughter. That one extra year and living abroad is a game changer, mine is still sweet and innocent; I must cherish her youth. After a night cap at the house we exchange stories meet one of the many house guests and catch a glimpse of waspy yester years. Back to Albany where the only rule is: there are no rules.

Rule #228 UTILIZE BUILT-IN STORAGE, ENSURE THEY ARE NEUTRAL AND ABLE TO GROW WITH YOUR CHILDREN. DO NOT OVER KID DECORATE UNLESS YOU PLAN TO CHANGE YEARLY.

The air conditioning went off suddenly last night and awake/hot is not a good combination in the middle of the night. With restless sleep we over sleep for our 9:30am tennis match but with a Starbuck's latte waiting, my daughter and I head for Lyford with outfits on hand. I am the only person in a black tennis outfit in this whites only club. I have brought a simple carry on so with it Jimmy Choo wedges, needless to say I don't play. The four teenagers play and coached on by former 007's son. I am cheerleader on the side lines and have great fun chatting away/cheering. Next activity after meeting Sean Connery himself, beyond gentlemanly handsome, we go sailing on the ocean dragging the 5 teenagers behind the boat. Our host is a master sailor and life is fantastic, clad in white bikini perched on the starboard side.

Lunch at the Shack at Lyford, love that name as it is elegant and so old world. We sip rosé and exchange first love stories, actually I listen laughing in the 33 Celsius heat now in white shorts and Harbour Island gauze top. We have the adventure of driving to Paradise Island to check on the damage at the townhouse concrete chipping and rusted re-bar. Driving up and down the coastal ocean road things could be a lot worse; we return safely to Albany and the concrete will go into fix mode as soon as our rental guests move out from the apartment we rented them, never easy. Tonight a lunar eclipse and pizza with arugula at the back of the boat, pretty perfect with my mini me beside me.

Rule #229 FOR SEATING USE A SECTIONAL, MAKE SURE IT IS DEEP ENOUGH SO THE KIDS CAN LIE DOWN! PERFECT PLACE FOR A GIANT SLEEP OVER OR PILLOW FIGHT!

Thinking about life back in NYC and Toronto loving our life on the boat. I am up at 7am before the crew and daughter awakes and I am on the computer. Can I ever be a woman of leisure? Emails done slowly over the wifi with two lattes down I wake my cutie pie and we hit the gym at the crack of 11am. Snow in Toronto, rain in NYC, sun in Nassau and flight is delayed to evening. Back at pool for lunch where Tiger Woods with muscular leg girlfriend and kids are hanging; he is actually hot with a good build you would never know in his golf duds. We sadly have our bags packed and head or rather are driven to the airport when asked a Bahamian for directions he says that is his job being helpful to tourists go that way and when you hit the round-about head towards the planes: fabulous.

We arrive in LaGuardia, in blowing winds and sideways rain, to our driver who is never available by car but by phone which is odd; I actually was just going to take a taxi forgetting I gave him my itinerary but he texted me: have I landed? Assuming he came in person was my mistake instead I got Maria in a black car, well it took some time to find her through his phone. Nevertheless, home and only partially wet I throw out the flowers, separate laundry and put away suitcase routine.

Rule #230 WALL TO WALL CARPET IS A MUST IN THIS ROOM. ENSURE IT IS COMFORTABLE AND PLUSHY SINCE IT WILL BE USED AS A PLACE FOR EXTRA SEATING. WHY DO ALL CHILDREN LIKE TO SIT ON THE FLOOR WHEN WE PROVIDE THEM WITH FURNITURE!

Without real food in the house and dogs still with cleaning lady, I awake early to fetch lattes and croissants. It is a dusting of snow on the ground with the trees in blossom. This must be the last of winter perhaps the last day to wear fur and I dawn a fox vest over my Prada sweater. Jamming in all my calls early to arrive at a potential New York City client I go to the wrong address off by 60 but I get there. It is a decent square footage with a budget plus the sophistication level is present with contemporary art. Could this be the day I actually land a NYC real job versus getting on charity boards and meeting endless people? I leave with plans in hand and need to get back with a proposal for Monday. The truth I am so busy in Canada being the NYC designer is all great! Us Canadians must leave to come back for the gold.

I have a luncheon in midtown and I need to pick up my left behind tennis shoes in Aspen at the St. Regis Hotel, now plans and shoes in hand I head back uptown to more calls and emails. After speaking with my daughter's school in Canada her transition back has begun; I want to keep all this in the moment and not start our minds moving out so I view all this as a process in her educational journey. Bonus she can skip French and stick with Spanish; I knew there was a reason we moved to New York—our family's inability to learn French. I can't seem to shake this pain behind my eyes and I don't even have a drink when I meet one of my charity's head at The Mark bar. Note to self: go to bed early after we fill out the course selection for next year, give me strength not to mention work or travel.

Rule #231 CUSTOM MILLWORK IS GREAT FOR STORING THE TELEVISION AND ITS COUNTERPARTS. RUN ANY WIRES BEHIND THE MILLWORK SO THEY ARE NOT VISIBLE FROM DEVICE TO DEVICE. WHEN DESIGNING LEAVE ROOM FOR PLUGS, YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH OUTLETS!

It is official I am a New Yorker, two things happen today back in Toronto my car got returned after its 3 year lease so I am carless and in NYC I was asked by a tourist where York Street was and I knew. My days have such contrast as breakfast is filling out course selection for Toronto school and dinner is planning feeding the homeless tomorrow for the Hewitt School on Good Friday. Being the good Catholic girl, I was inquiring at my Italian grocer if he has a cooked ham with pineapple to serve 20 he calls me close and says lady we haven't been asked for anything pork in a long time asking the cook: "Hey Harry can you cook a ham?". I decide on quiche and will go to London's catering tomorrow.

Today after another potential client interview for a project in Toronto but the interview takes place in New York, believe me I am getting confused. My daughter and I go Easter shopping for the essentials: chocolates, flowers and wine. If you can grasp this: the wine store has a 30 percent sale on, this would never happen in a wasp/catholic neighbourhood. It is capturing a very captive audience. Dogs in hand we get our chopped salads and head home in newly purchased matching pyjamas to watch Wolf of Wall Street, a completely inappropriate movie for a 14 year old girl and her mother. This movie coupled with Blue Jasmine is seriously mind provoking. Late night phone calls and walk dogs: done.

Rule #232 WHEN DESIGNING MILLWORK, ENSURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH SPACES FOR DVD PLAYER, CABLE BOX, GAMING SYSTEM ETC. NOTHING IS WORSE THEN HAVING ELECTRONICS ALL OVER THE FLOOR.

It starts as it finishes, I get up early to walk dogs so that we can go up to 109th and Fifth to serve breakfast to the underprivileged with 5 other girls from Hewitt. It is a great morning, in my hair net and gloves I pour coffee and juice while being instructed not to give out seconds to keep the fairness rules; I don't get that one but I abide. Meanwhile, my daughter is on the front line handing out trays to over 200 people who require a ticket for a meal but she waves them in giving advice on social workers and shelters. We wrap up and head to 85th for our breakfast at Dean & Deluca discussing the morning living the juxtaposition. We both loved it and painful when the children came in with their mother among 95% male population. One of the Hewitt girls commented why there wasn't more women as they are so disadvantaged compared to men.

The day just got more enriched as we wandered down to 65th street to place our catering order for Easter Brunch with a 50% population that will be Jewish, lots of lamb and croissants. Then store hopping like a bunny rabbit to keep warm up to 80th street. The afternoon relaxing and I preparing for the Opera, tonight I will attend with my girlfriend La Boheme with the famous sets of Franco Zeffirelli first having a drink at the Opera Club then another at the Grand Tier sitting in



middle seats orchestra hair blown out with fabulous jewellery in a grey suit with bodice and high strappy shoes. The best is the curtain calls as the Divas grab their bosoms fall to the floor with thanks and cry waving praise, the bass-baritone came out arms in the air fell to ground hand over his heart and wept. I am exhausted with emotion and dogs still need walking.

Rule #233 DON'T STUFF THE ROOM WITH MORE THAN IT CAN HOLD. EVERYTHING MUST HAVE A SPOT IF THERE IS TOO MUCH STUFF AND NOT A SPOT FOR IT, LOSE IT!

My favourite line from the Opera last night was "My soul is a millionaire", today it might be a billionaire but the notion of this wealth of heart resonates with me; I love it. Today is a perfect NYC day. It starts with a latte not a café au lait from Sant Ambrose which is perfection followed by two croissants from Serafina, slightly heated. It is time for some writing at the dining table as we start our Easter decor throughout the house. The 6 baskets are set in place with fluff while eggs moved to fridge as they were slightly melting and a plan to head west. My daughter and I walk across the park amongst music and baseball we hit an organic juice bar cleansing our systems and as my riding boots build in discomfort on my feet I switch for a wedge Nike that is so ghetto.

Our mission is more Easter eggs for the hunt and on the west side Fairfields is the place to be it is large and happening; we find watercress for garnish plus eggs. We bump into our girlfriend's ex that doesn't know he is an ex quite yet even though we are meeting new boyfriend tomorrow. Again it gets complicated: great movie. After a quick bite at a local farm restaurant we head back to caterer at our door and trying to explain our return time—he doesn't speak English. We get there the food is heavy in price but light in quantity so as I go to exercise class my daughter fills in the gap with salmon and chicken fingers from Eli's; she really is the adult in this housekeeper relationship.

Rule #234 THROW CUSHIONS AND BLANKETS SHOULD BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE. STORE THEM IN AN OTTOMAN OR BENCH AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PLENTY! IN THIS ROOM THE BLANKETS ALWAYS END UP ON THE FLOOR.

Today is the day for our Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch for 14 adults and 6 kids. The table looks professionally set and designed to perfection with each plate garnished with watercress placed on a charger below. The flowers are in three bunches of hyacinths on the main table, branches on the dining room sideboard, tulips on the fire place mantle, peonies on the foyer demi-lune and Easter lilies on the living room coffee table. My girlfriend's guests arrive before she does and we only begin the hunt when the kids are all assembled; it is a whirlwind of little heads running everywhere and hopefully the dogs won't find un-hunted chocolate eggs. Skewers first of tuna, lamb, chicken and shrimp followed by the mains then an Easter cake to put any icing master to task with decorated cupcakes.

A fabulous late morning turned into late afternoon, the champagne flowing. Truly a great party with friends pitching in to pour, clean and load dish washer there is always one who likes to take charge on this and I welcome the help. I admit I am the holiday event person making every occasion over the top and my mini me is the perfect partner.

Rule #235 COMPUTER AREAS ARE KEY WHEN YOU HAVE KIDS IN SCHOOL AT ANY AGE. THE TREND IS THE COMPUTERS ARE OUT OF THE BEDROOMS AND IN ONE CENTRAL AREA. WE ALL WANT THEM TO BE THE NEXT ALBERT EINSTEIN, ONLY UNDER OUR WATCH!

After one of those slow afternoons of putting away and throwing out getting apartment back in order, I admit I am tired and the New York overload of Easter I could use a sleep in that so is not happening. My daughter off to school, emails start it feels even earlier and I am double phone calling up to lunch time. Friends coming to NYC, daughter has a tennis match I go watch, book signing at Omar's downtown and girlfriends need an emergency de-brief meeting over Sushi dinner at my place. As today is not the day for smooth sailing friends diverted by work commitments, daughter loses not winning a game against two seniors who are fully developed both in tennis and body, traffic insane going down and up 70 blocks for an evening quick cocktail: 140 in total and sensitive tough girlfriend really doesn't want advice but a quick divorce and a ring to re-marry really anyone: raise the bar.

Dogs mess my daughter's bed it needs laundry at 10pm and I chat on phone until 1am playing laundry mat but I can't seem to get the bubbles from seeping out of the washer and the actual duvet is getting wetter not drier; I am going to bed to wake at 5:45am for my daughter to catch tennis bus at 6:20am which actually pulls away when we are 5 cars behind it. Tomorrow will only get better and you have to believe that.

Rule #236 POOL TABLE, AIR HOCKEY TABLE, PING PONG TABLE, LOVE THE USE OF MULTI-PURPOSE GAME TABLES. THREE GAMES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE, HOW COULD YOU GO WRONG?

Last night I went to a book signing at Omar's for a woman who does it all book, followed by an emergency girl's club meeting to discuss latest boyfriend update. After giving advice and a drugged up post-surgery event the night ended how my day began: skipping a beat. This discourse will play out as the surgery heals and business builds. I think the constant activity in NYC is finally catching up with me and I need a night at home with my daughter after I have my first meeting with a midtown PR Company that has handled the International Art & Antique Fair for years and many presidents. I am going to be the International Chairman for the International Art & Antique Fair in the Armoury on October 16, 2014 with the Design Chairman Michael Boodro Editor-in-chief of Elle Décor magazine.

The meeting was extremely interesting and they presented an approach with the press that will cover this event which is all top drawer; my PR gal attended and is a different approach and style more dark vader than upper east which I struggle with coupled with her analysis of Canada thinking that Chatelaine is the top magazine which it is mid-range not glamorous. I am rethinking so many avenues and this will be one. Today a fabulous day and the weather perfect I walk back and forth on Madison a total of 60 blocks in my riding boots not heels feeling fantastic. Wow New York here I come. Okay I get one blister walking this distance that I will admit to.

Rule #237 INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH WE START WITH THE KIDS PLAY ROOM, SOON TO FOLLOW THE GAMES ROOM AND THEN THE "KIDS COME HOME FROM UNIVERSITY DUMPING STORAGE ROOM." LETS BE HONEST, IT'S A ROOM TO ESCAPE THE EYES OF THE ADULTS. MAKE IT A FOOD AND DRINK FREE ZONE, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

It is a walk to school and a kiss goodbye to my daughter: my brother flies in as I leave, to stay with my daughter (his god-daughter) for a couple of days. I have the dogs scheduled for walks between dog walker and cleaning lady, hoping this all works out. I find out later my dog walker who is 60 plus would like a younger guy perhaps my brother; I can't even tell him that. This morning is all maintenance as I look in the mirror with far too many roots and commitments awaiting me in Toronto with a photo shoot next week—emergency hair fix required. On the phone during colour job is not easy but I get it done: friends, business and charities.

Need to walk dogs and give key to walker plus organize groceries and today is the day my daughter decides to lose her phone and one of the dogs get diarrhea just before I need to board the plane. Hire walker for an extra walk and phone is found in school bag; I can get on the 3:30pm flight to Toronto with a clear conscience and begin the thought process for the next few days. Tonight is landing, texting the appropriate ones where I am, and then picked up to head north to farm. My Toronto city time seems limited; I miss it but love the tranquil of the farm.

Rule #238 A BILLIARDS TABLE, WHETHER 4'X8' OR 5'X9' REQUIRES 5' OF SPACE BETWEEN ALL EDGES AND THE WALL TO ACCOMMODATE CUE LENGTH.

It is peaceful and magical not having to be anywhere until 11am; the morning evaporates too quickly and I am dropped off at the new Sales Centre after a quick inspection picking out the one fault that we are all worried about and obvious question why the added inlay detail. No inlay and the plain material doesn't work, simple but need to explain: celebrate the sequence and experience while highlighting, aka inlay, the visuals. They get it and for many reasons I am happy with the trust I have been given.

Back to business, we all review the new sales center and new town houses; our owner drops in and I am glowing about the astro turf versus carpet in my high heels. He states mine are not hooker heels and they should be for real testing he may have some in the car; we all laugh and I can tell turf was good call.

The afternoon meeting is with wine, grappa and cigars of which I partake except the cigars; this project is as fantastic as the partners involved. We have the principals that basically own Canada in construction. In any case, be prepared for a lesson in life and a good trade. The grappa and a sense of humour are fully required.

Rule #239 TABLE FELT NO LONGER HAS TO BE GREEN, CHOOSE A COLOR TO ENHANCE YOUR SPACE. IF YOU WANT YOU CAN EVEN HAVE A PURPLE FELT AND CALL IT THE ROYAL TABLE! PLAY WITH ALL COLORS, BLUE IS A GREAT ALTERNATIVE FOR THE TRADITIONAL GREEN FELT.

Interviewed a potential chef last night, I was checking today's agenda and my office has me driving more than I will be meeting so I re-arrange my route and happily meet with potential millworkers even though I own a millwork studio but that is another story; my partner has no concept of time according to a long-time client. I am covering all my bases. Driving in the farm hand's car which is small with no Bluetooth or navigation so my life addictions are missing, I visit a client's site and meet with one of the partner's from yesterday and his wife. We bounce from project to project they are decision makers; I am so happy we solve a roof issue and a furniture order. This is how business should be done!

I can't make my last meeting as I am running late for my flight and it is raining so traffic will be twice as bad. I have to cancel on visiting with my mom and I chat with her through speaker of the phone, a complete no no in Ontario while I am driving. I meet a son of the farm's manager dropping the car to him before the airport parking Marshall makes me leave the curbside my blondeness definitely is not his hair colour and he does not relate to me. I am exhausted I miss the earlier flight by 5 minutes and I am back on the UES by 9:30pm after being bumped to business.

Rule #240 IF USING A BILLIARDS TABLE THAT DOUBLES AS A PING PONG TABLE, MAKE SURE TO AVOID DROP LIGHTING. YOU ARE JUST ASKING FOR A DISASTER!

It is amazing to be home with my daughter and the dogs I am ok with but still mad at their last poo accident just prior to me leaving on Wednesday, not to mention the duvet I had to clean and in doing so during the drying period stained the sofa which the cleaners fixed. Today is spectacular and it was an early rise as last night the upstairs toilet was plugged and kept running so it came through the kitchen light my daughter using Kleenex not toilet paper as that was downstairs; we had a situation that was stopped last night and laundered this morning.

Today is Chelsea visit so in baseball caps and lulus plus my white wedge ghetto running shoes we start at the Chelsea Food Market for perusal of food and a healthy brunch as my daughter has been schooled how bad meat and cheese can be for you which I need to discuss with the school needless to say she has a grilled cheese and we grab lattes and wander up to flower mart. On route we go to Fashion Institute of Technology museum which is a good bathroom break and quick glimpse of the progress of fashion including today's superstars. Next we hit the forest literally on 28th Street between 6th and 7th which is lined with trees and bunches of flowers galore. Armed with branches, floating lily pads, orchids and flowers we barely fit in a taxi. Wow, for what you can get on the upper east you get three times the amount on 28th street. Soul cycle, girls go shopping for groceries and school projects, a drink with a friend at The Mark and some Greek food at home: it is raining, the dogs get a short breath outside; this will not fare well tomorrow morning.

Rule #241 NO CARPET! THE FLOOR NEEDS TO BE LEVEL AND FLAT. EVEN THOUGH THE TABLES COME WITH LEVELING DEVICES, TRY A POLISHED MARBLE TO MAKE THE ROOM SHINE!

After yesterday with street fairs on the flower hunt and selling condos by phone to relatives and friends including myself I am awoken by my daughter to remove a bee from her room: a buzzing thing. I remove it and think a warm cup of tea, well the dogs have to go and literally did on the floor not a pretty smell or picture to wake to. Anyway, cleaned up, candles lit and dogs fed/walked I have a cup of tea, finally. My friends come to visit at the apartment after I was spotted last night at The Mark my previous partner said wow that looks like Dee Dee, wait it is Dee Dee! A quick catch up and my daughter

Chapter 14 Billiard Room Rules:

and I are off to brunch we think to Harlem but our guest reports not a cool place or rather too cool a place. We taxi up for the Sunday sight-seeing tour to 117th Street pick up friend and head to the upper west landing bar side with Mimosas and great eggs benedict.

My friend is the new 40, after a few bad relationships he is looking for the right male partner; we decide time to move out of the suburbs as he has lost 40 pounds and his ex is miserable which is ideal. We all wander to our various destinations and I think we are in for the night in the UES region. A plane who we know the owner is flying right by us to go to Toronto for a charity breakfast and at last moment my daughter says: "Let's go". I go from lying in my bathrobe post bath and start cancelling dinner plans, arranging driver who misses Teterboro by a half an hour. Let us not forget last minute dog sitting.

Rule #242 MAKE THE WALLS FUNCTIONAL, INSET ALL STORAGE AREAS FOR POOL CUES, BALL STORAGE, ETC. INCORPORATE A TELEVISION RECESSED INTO THE WALL, JUST IN CASE YOU ARE NOT GOOD AT BILLIARDS AT LEAST YOU CAN WATCH SOMEONE ON TELEVISION WHO IS!

Wake up in Toronto in the Thompson Hotel after sushi wine infused flight up. My daughter is doing a photo essay so she has documented the trip with images of myself from car to plane to construction site and her Dad working, or rather he is in a suit drinking coffee. When I say wake up it is early 5:30am and the charity breakfast is at 7am, it is for Kids with Cancer so there are no excuses. Since we are New Yorkers now we walk 15 blocks up to the new home, well the home is going to be new when completed—it is still under construction. It is a surprise visit for my office staff and it is great to see that everyone is working away, now they will never know when I will show up. After running through projects and making some calls it is time for actual site visit. Rough in is getting there as well there is a roof on but windows lagging behind even though they were ordered a year ago.

Site visit continues with my parents and daughter they see it for the first time both are shocked at the scope of the project and complexity of the construction; my daughter just blown away by the size of her walk-in closet and just fine with her brother's smaller space. We have a commercial flight back to a NYC that will pour not rain but actually comes in sideways. It has been a great photo shoot, site visit and various meetings plus I met with my new assistant writer, my mother we had lunch seriously for 30 minutes and discussed the assignment. Back now in NYC Italian food ordered in avec some wine and we discuss our summer plans, there are no conclusions.

Rule #243 SHORT ON ROOMS? DOUBLE UP YOUR BILLIARDS TABLE AS A DINING ROOM TABLE WITH A REMOVABLE COVER ON TOP. JUST THINK A GAME OF BILLIARDS AND THEN A GAME OF THRONE'S FEAST.

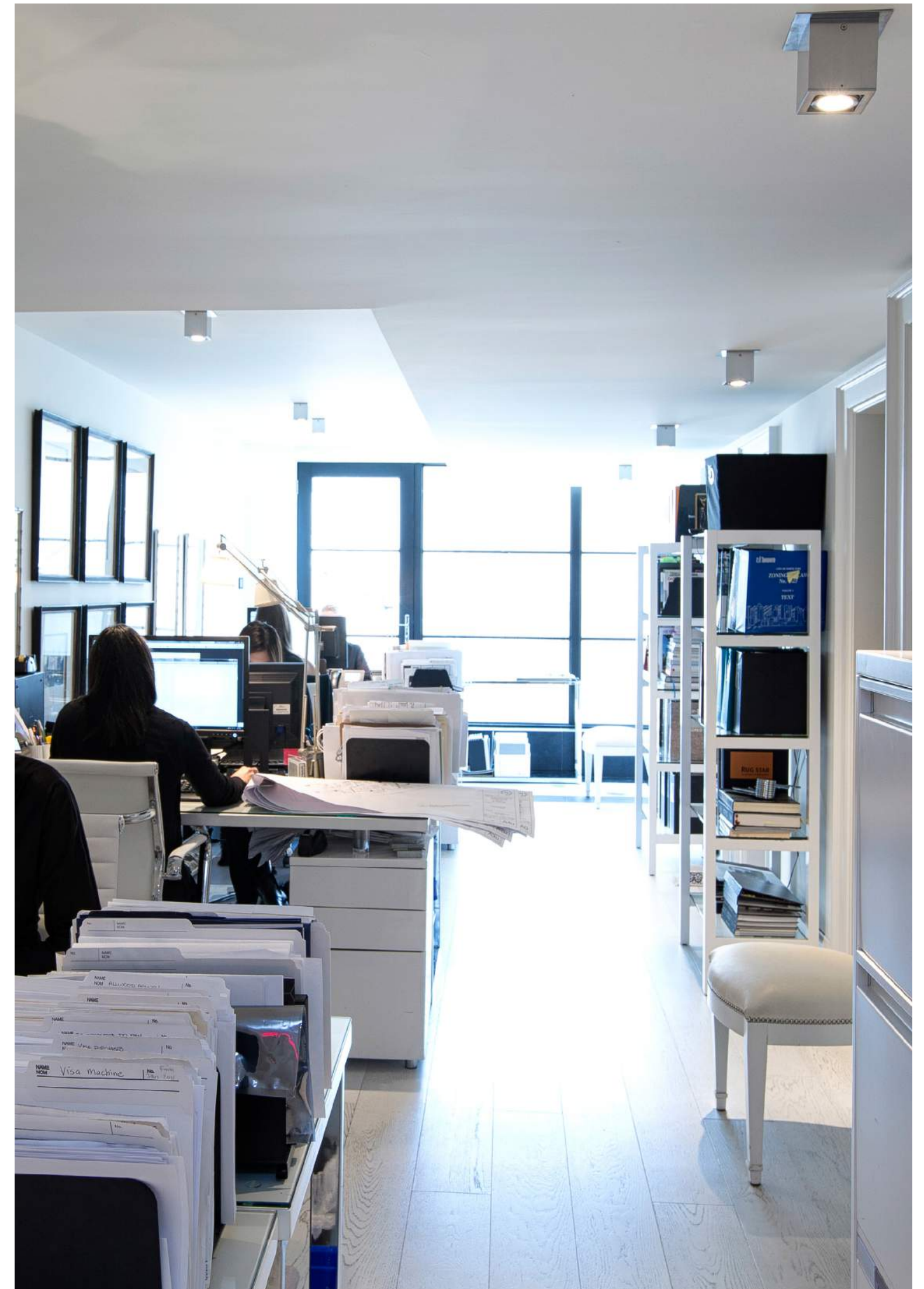
No tennis practice this morning but a game after school with this weather moving around, New York is going to be a nightmare. I have to get my dresses at Escada for this week and the taxi ride 25 blocks just takes time and that is the way it goes. I work with the office in Toronto, getting the big push for the move in of the upcoming sales centre, we are getting there with numerous corrections and tweaking. Next in this deluge is getting my hair blown out which is a bit futile but nevertheless I am in the gala zone.

Tonight is the reception at the Consul General of Canada with more Ambassadors than you can shake a stick at. My guests for the gala have arrived via my girlfriend's plane and they are all in attendance except the couple that actually live in New York, don't ask you can send an invite only so many times. They mention my name during the speeches and I am proud to be part of this inner sanctum with all these dignitaries. It looks good on me having being in NYC for only 8 months and I am a vice chair which really means we gave or I collected money for the charity. Uber out of there to Cipriani's in Soho it is packed fun and Bellini ridden; we all have a blast hosting them all. My best guy shows up at the end and I always giggle when he is close. In my purple dress we discuss the evening, his best line "Certain people have reached a level of pure insincerity": a summation of the charity gala world.

Rule #244 THE HEIGHT OF THE BACK OF THE SEAT SHOULD BE LOW SO THE CUE CAN GO ACROSS THE TOP OF THE SEAT IF NEEDED. CAUTION: DO NOT POKE ANYONE IN THE EYE!

It is funny when a day finally comes around after you have looked at it for so long; I have been a vice chair since October for this event and today is the day. Now the rain is almost bouncing off the sidewalk and a few Bellinis too many and for sure the amaretto didn't help. Lounging away in my house coat fielding calls after putting my daughter in a taxi for the 6:20am tennis practice not wanting or actually not capable of walking the 5 blocks in this crazy rain; I get the invite for lunch. The dogs will not go the bathroom in the rain so I get fully soaked as I stand begging them to do their thing.

The lunch is at BG for FIT Couture Council it is fancy and celeb ridden; I bring my girlfriend and wear my same purple dress just a different pair of shoes. From super model Paulina to Martha Stewart, they came out in droves in the name of fashion. The rain can't stop it takes hours to drive around and my guy buddy wants to know if I slept in my dress? Driver comes and gets us back for makeup and hair in this deluge. It all comes together and we arrive at the Metropolitan Club



the McKim, Mead and White building now loaded with ex-Prime Ministers for the CCAR Gala 40th Anniversary. I am basically in a Canadian flag and the dress is fantastic. The evening magical and we lounge at the Pierre for after drinks. A NYC studded night candlelit surrounded by new and old friends: breath taking.

Rule #245 SURROUND THE AREA WITH BAR HEIGHT TABLES TO AVOID YOUR GUESTS FROM LEANING THEIR DRINKS ON THE TABLE EDGE. NO ONE LIKES A STAINED TABLE, ESPECIALLY IF IT'S WHITE. NO DRINK, NO FOOD, NO DAMAGE! A LOUNGE SPACE IS A MUST NEAR THE BILLIARDS TABLE. MAKE IT THE ADJACENT ROOM FOR EASY FLOW BETWEEN THE TWO SPACES.

No rest for the weary after getting in at 2am I can't remember if my daughter has tennis practice or not I check-in with her at 5:45am happily going back to sleep to re-awake at 7am. I grab a latte with the dogs—it has stopped raining. Back to bed knowing that I have to re-pack and catch a 4pm flight to Montreal for a photo shoot with a magazine. Ran out of time after breakfast with friends, laundry, packing, business and actually travel in my new high tops in lulus which is really not my style at all; I am happy. Of course I bump into girls I know from Toronto at the airport, whatever.

Staying at the boutique hotel in Old Montreal in the black suite very chic very tall ceilings then down to a fabulous restaurant which at first I think is too loud and not quite my thing but I begin chatting and the night flies by enjoying myself. Really enjoying strolling back to the hotel it is a little brisker here than New York but the fresh air is lovely and so is the evening. It is my eldest sister bday I text her and will get in trouble later for not calling; I meant to call, send flowers, something but I am truly exhausted and content all in one, maybe I still am pissed at her for not making an effort to come to my 50th?

Rule #246 STORAGE IS KEY! INTEGRATE CUE STORAGE INTO THE WALL AND LOSE THE RACK THAT STANDS ALONE, NO SPILT CUES.

It is not like the old days when I had a photo shoot no drinking for days prior I split a bottle of red last night and waking up to construction noise that I seem to never get away from despite where I go; it sounds like a band of Indians beating a drum outside the 10th floor suite. Laughing about many things one being that Toronto is main news everywhere as the crack smoking mayor finally is busted by a video by his own drug dealer. What is the world coming to: this is news and this actually happened. Lounging then more office calls and weeding through all the changes to the Harbour project I need a lie down before the shoot.

I head with shoes in suitcase to the loft district. I have done many photo shoots but this one is really a coming of age story for me; I have dresses pulled from Escada all too corporate; I am no longer that woman. I am in love, sexy and celebrating that I am 50 years old. I dress in the photographer's fashion line and my eyes are dark my hair goes from tame to wild and I play. Teasing with the Marilyn Munroe dress I strike the pose and smile like a young girl; I am in the zone. I dance upstairs on the top floor while the co-owner of the magazine sings her throaty jazzy voice and life is captured forever. This new association with this company feels right. Early dinner of oysters and pates with chardonnay and some nightly entertainment the day which is perfect comes to slow end. Five hours later will be in taxi en route to the airport.

Rule #247 FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR GUESTS, MEDIUM TO EASY CORNERS PLEASE! NOT ALL OF US ARE POOL SHARKS!

It is an early start with a 5am wake up call for 8 am flight I make my destination city and the games begin. I land good to go my brother and his three boys are at our place and my daughter is not amused at the early wakeup call she receives via iPhone regardless all six of us venture to breakfast and a full day walk in the park down to the Apple Store and then back up to 80th Street. A beautiful day with what happens in NYC on a warm spring day. From country singers, bubble blowers, celebs, every nationality in every form of dress and undress, even clowns it is a full feast for the eyes. My nephew has a genius mind and is fully focused today on the impregnation of flowers and we all benefit from his knowledge as he dissects various flowers on our way acting as a bee making seeds.

After my daughter and I do a spinning class, we lose one boy back to school the apartment is in full break down mode with clothes and running shoes everywhere; I breathe and chill actually we leave for sushi down at 3rd it is really crowded and we eat at the bar sandwiching in the three kids. After a massive order which the bartender says we should cut back all is devoured. Those boys can really eat; we Uber back 4 blocks in what was pouring rain to a ridiculous rate didn't notice the 2.5x extra surge on. For next time I will be aware, how to argue you get the receipt later. It is New York.

Rule #248 DRAMA, DRAMA, DRAMA! NOTHING SCREAMS DRAMA MORE THAN A MAHOGANY TABLE WITH MAHOGANY PANELED WALLS AND DARK ACCENT PIECES. INCORPORATE A LOW FLOOD LIGHT AND PUMP SOME CIGAR SMOKE IN HERE. EVEN THE MOST INTERESTING MAN IN THE

WORLD WILL SOAK UP THIS SPACE.

Exhausted I state I am sleeping in for celebrations of life and good friends; I am in my daughter's bed until my brother leaves. At least this morning the sofa cushions are back on the sofa which is a vast improvement from an empty frame that is a long way down. My brother has disappeared to work out leaving his two young boys battling their phones and raising their voices so it is better to get up joining them. Again, my daughter not amused but awake we start our day. After the boys leave for a real rugby game that at least won't take place in our apartment anymore my daughter and I head up Madison for a fabulous latte and croissant discussing our days ahead.

We are planners and I love the sanity of her wanting to know it all; I love that too. I have been dealing with getting my son a summer job which he apparently forgot to do. In fact, he will be working for me on the construction site in Toronto three days a week and setting up the cottage the others probably squeezing in some golf as well. Hopefully, this will all go well. Back in NYC we are doing dance class today, zumba followed by yoga and meditation; we blow off the meditation as we both don't have that gene. I love the dance class and tried so hard to keep the beat and remember the steps: not easy. We walked home 35 blocks and east to get caught in a crazy downpour that just led us straight to warm baths. Dinner and snuggled in my brother leaves in the am while I begin the laundry, there is always more to do.

Rule #249 TAKE A WALK ON THE LIGHTER SIDE AND TRY A STAINLESS TABLE, WHITE WALL AND BLUE COLORED FELT FOR A VERY MIAMI LOOK!

Today started really early with a 6am walk to the tennis bus with the dogs and the good news is that my daughter got on but Sant Ambrose doesn't open until 7am, Serafina café pales in comparison. A beautiful sunny day was dawning apartment re-fix under way I met my two friends for lunch on the patio of Orsay we were invaded by a drinking and story-telling butler that made the afternoon interesting but we wanted our own time back. Still a good laugh and I had to excuse myself for business calls followed by a magazine interview then letter signing at the Society for the fall charity event. A quick stop at a gallery opening with a blister on my foot that led to a taxi parking lot ride home.

Tonight is the Met Ball a few blocks away and the streets are packed with black limos awaiting the \$25,000/person event as I walk the dogs you are reminded of the insane levels in New York and how people will pay to be separate, there is a new hierarchy and it is money not stature. We live in interesting times where the theme of the Met Ball is a throw-back to elegant ball gowns with elbow length gloves which is directly in contrast to the craziness of the world; this is still a Frank Sinatra town.

Rule #250 THE PERFECT HEIGHT FOR BAR STOOLS ARE 30" WITH A BAR COUNTER HEIGHT OF 42" OR HIGHER. NOTHING LIKE THE PERFECT POST UP AFTER A FEW COCKTAILS!

Dealing with my office today we have a big move in for the sales centre on Wednesday and already everyone wants changes. You need to stay the course, get items set up, and stop judging before things are complete. We have a sales centre and an opening party; two very different events. You want to feel crowded at the opening as it is a long drive from Toronto so we need people and when they get there not to feel alone. Now they want to move the seating area to the front space, stay the course let us set up try to manage the client for their benefit.

I get a call from a potential client whose husband literally just uttered okay we can renovate and she called me within minutes one of the funniest lines I have heard: "He has diarrhea if I move a chair but if you do probably not a problem". I know we will get along and now I know after that call I am in a great mood even though I will be a half an hour late for lunch 76 blocks away. Back at Cipriani's in Soho we have a girl's lunch deep inside when the patio is sun drenched I know I will regret my skin later in life but I love the warmth. Now heading back up for a 4pm telephone call I am so calm and the buzz of NYC now just sits peacefully beside me. My daughter and I cozy in over soup from E.A.T. where in my tracks and hi-tops I bump into Mr. Designer from Canada and I don't care how I am dressed I live in a brownstone in NYC that makes up for my attire.

Rule #251 BACK OR NO BACK ON BAR STOOLS? BACKS OFFER MUCH MORE COMFORT AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, ADD A FOOT REST! DANGLING LEGS ARE FOR CHILDREN, BUT BE WARY OF THE BAR STOOL ARM: ALWAYS IN THE WAY AND USUALLY UGLY!

It will be one of those days it just has to be with so many things to do. I wake at 6:30am write a bit prepare breakfast for my daughter and the dogs throw in some laundry and do a newspaper interview all by 10am. Now I need to get ready for the 32nd Annual Frederick Law Olmstead Conservancy Central Park Ladies Hat Lunch so hair done, hat pinned in and make up I walk home in lulu's with the hat and make up. I am overly dressed today and you have to laugh I can't sit in the car seat in the limo I have to sit on the floor because my hat hits the roof. I am escorted by a butler in white jacket down the stairs to champagne, so Hott. It is breathless with 1200 women in hats so stunning the flowers are over the moon. Mayor Bloomberg showed up and this is his crowd no one knows what he said but they love him.

Back for a quick change and removal of hat to attend tea at the Colony Club with the International Art & Antique owners from London with their son and PR girl. The president of the society is with me so with tea in cups pinky out we are

exchanging ideas, love that the Londoner really doesn't like tea they are really right out of the royal family very Downton Abbey. This is going to be fabulous exposure and really good fun with this sideways humour. I am expected at the Couture Council private dinner for Ralph Rucci at 26th Street but unless I can find a helicopter there is no way I will make it already missed the lecture. Executive decision and an apology phone call my professional make-up and hair head back uptown. Not to waste a perfect blow-out I take my daughter to E.A.T. for the \$25 Caesar salad; we sit in the window by candlelight. I gather my strength to pack up again for my 7:30am flight in the am.

Rule #252 USE A LACQUERED BOX OR DECORATIVE BOX FOR CHALK. YOU DON'T WANT BLUE CHALK EVERYWHERE! THIS IS NOT A GYMNASTICS COMPETITION!

It always starts early for an international morning flight but I have booked the one just later so I land at 9am missing the morning crush at LaGuardia and I really do I actually ask the security people where is everyone. Not to worry when I land in Toronto the traffic is brutal and I get to the Ritz at 11am quick change and off to lunch at the Arcadian Room. It is a Ladies Lunch fashion show featuring Erdem. I see woman I haven't seen in a while and they are shocked when I say I have moved to NYC they can't put together that I can write a column in Toronto and live somewhere else or this working at all or remote is lost. I love the lunch sitting beside the celebs from LA I know that there is part of me still in NYC; I am dual and I will not be one of those people ever to put Toronto down I am just more enriched and lucky I have both worlds.

In my luncheon dress and pink suede work boots I do a site visit after hailing a taxi while my Toronto girlfriends laugh uttering "Go girl!". Another quick change in shoes and dress limo up to get my son and go to Gala north of city. This is my Mother's Day date with my son and it is so fabulous he is funny, entertaining and personable a true joy to be with. Of course he loved the lingere fashion show choosing his favourite pointing out he doesn't like the flat model look, good to know; I have yet to meet his girlfriend. End of night and I am at the condo dorm of my brother's he is out and I have an early morning he advises me to sleep in his room and lock the door; I do.



Chapter 15
Wine Cellar Rules:

Rule #253 ALL DRINKABLE WINE SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE. THAT IS A NO BRAINER! PLACE WINES THAT NEED TO MATURE NOT WITHIN ARMS REACH. YOU MAY BE TEMPTED TO DRINK SOME OR YOUR FRIENDS WILL DRINK THEM BY ACCIDENT, SURE.

Early morning wake up and my brother never came home I do see his business partner who lets me know that sharing space with my brother is not ideal as a married man with two children; I tend to agree. I still don't have a car it went back mid-April as the lease is over on my 550S even though the last 8 months the farm help drove it more than I but I think Uber is the way, I think. So I Uber up to the midtown Starbucks and meet my team from the office when it comes back to me that the girl who has worked for me for the past 15 years does not drive on the highway. So an hour later for a 20 minute drive we arrive at the Sales Centre which is same destination as last night I could of slept in the parking lot. For the next four hours we plow through the 4,000 sf and fluff making it spectacular with nautical resort living.

They have changed the photo shoot on us to Monday morning at 9am and we are geared to our Wednesday opening party. All partners are on site throughout the day and consensus is great, let's keep it that way. A chauffeured driven ride in a Bentley to the airport brings back memories of my childhood as I was picked up the first time I flew alone at age 10 in the same situation except the driver had a cap on, full circle the Bentley nor the driver are mine. Back in NYC an hour earlier catching the prior flight I arrive to my daughter we order, chill out and watch TV I can't admit this my ex-brother in law's reality show: with his new wife, oh boy that is trouble.

Rule #254 PLACE EACH BOTTLE HORIZONTALLY, BE CONSISTENT AND BUY YOUR WINE IN BULK SO THAT EACH BOTTLE TYPE IS HOUSED TOGETHER AND REEKS OF PERFECTION.

You never know what the day brings and how life changes on a dime. This week I spoke with a dear friend that will commence chemo shortly and in contrast I have friends worried on gift selections for ex partners this needs very little bandwidth. Later in the day at East Pole restaurant on 65th Street after biblical rain that the doorman on Park Avenue said he really is not allowed to let people in the building or he will lose his job while my other soaked girlfriend finally hailed a taxi; I remained in almost jobless doorman's lobby until taxi came from 5 blocks north; I got opinions on my issues. Keep all exes happy as they can make your life miserable that I agree; I am an ex-wife I encourage any and all relationships for my ex.

My daughter and I ventured to a new grocery shop getting filet mignon and heirloom tomatoes amongst the usual fruit and yogurt we were planning a burrata tomato salad on arugula with slices of steak; my new cooking method is called plating—I am good at it. I met today with a potential new PR agent but really a woman who is elegant in the design field inner circle and my elk; she is a recommendation from my NYC go to guy so I am all ears. I love meeting with her and she gets that what I am really looking for; I want to be in the USA press and be presence in NYC not Dubai meet one on one with the editors getting my work to the USA public not me my work. Prior to bed I am given my Mother's Day Room Service Menu where I need to check the appropriate boxes for service: Service Choices, Breakfast Choices and Beverage Choices; my daughter is me and I am in love.

Rule #255 USE AN INTERESTING OPTION FOR FLOORING IN THE WINE CELLAR. IT SHOULD BE GOOD ON IMPACT IN CASE A BOTTLE DROPS, USE A TINY PEBBLE STONE 5"-6" DEEP. IT MAY BE TOUGH ON YOUR HEELS BUT IT WILL SAVE YOUR WINE!

I wake up early with the dogs in my room and it is Mother's Day, My daughter sleeps in a little I start some writing awaiting my tangerine juice. I get so spoiled starting around 10am. First juice, then newspaper followed by latte and breakfast in bed. This is a wonderful day and it keeps going fielding some calls with girls, sisters and my mother. My son calls and makes my day perfect wishing me a Happy Mother's Day and planning his stay at the cottage a bit oblivious to that it is my day. On the other hand, my daughter keeps asking me what I would like to do we have a blissful morning run then off to the Frieze Art show on Randall's Island.

Teaching her life lessons as the show is completely sold out for the day we get two tickets from a leaving patron, the show itself is slightly weird and very avant-garde nothing I would hang in my house but graphically a cool representation of what is going on in that world. We discuss how New York has made us different people in the time we have been here over sushi at Amber; she has really knocked it out wanting to be the best and willing to work for it; I love what I hear from her. Back at the apartment our brownstone with the dogs I watch a sappy movie and think about the crazy week ahead.

Rule #256 USE A STAINLESS STEEL RACK TO DISPLAY YOUR WINE COLLECTION. BEHIND THE RACKING, MIRRORING THE WALLS THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE EFFECT THAT THEY GO ON FOR INFINITY. WHO DOESN'T WANT A NEVER ENDING WINE SUPPLY??

It is a fast start for a Monday morning with a 6:20am tennis practice we are all up including the dogs so the work begins on chores including ordering flowers for the week wholesale that include 7 feet branches that are not easy to deal with and leave petals everywhere. The manager comes over for the list of issues that includes a leak in the closet that almost got to my Birkins that would be a sin and after a massive petal clean up I go to the hairdresser for maintenance. I need to get down to business this will be one of the days where I need to vent with all the indecision in my world I need some solid plans; I get them but it is like pulling teeth.

Tonight it is the Harlem Opera Company in a church on 155th street followed by a Tennessee Band that has re-enacted Jerry Lee Lewis complete with feet on piano. Dancing, laughing, singing and taking in the moment. A personal night relaxing out on the town in NYC, well in Harlem that is.

Rule #257 TILT YOUR BOTTLES SO THE SIZE AND LABEL ARE CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE. IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DRINKING BOTH VISUALLY AND FOR YOUR TASTE BUDS.

Another 6:20am tennis practice and I am on the go returning with latte in hand after walking my daughter with the dogs to the bus. My favourite place does not open until 7am so this latte will have to do. This is a crazy week with Opera done, opening of Sales Centre tomorrow in Toronto, new businesses in Ocala on Friday and a Panama wedding this weekend. For now dealing with loose ends for the opening tomorrow and arranging photo shoot for Wednesday in Sales Centre. The day is glorious in NYC, Central Park is the place to be in exercise gear and phones; I keep two. Hiking, talking and emails landing at Bar Italia for more calls, Carpaccio, pasta and a glass of white wine or two.

It really is a beautiful Spring day and tonight will be an outdoor patio with my daughter and my best male friend; he brings her a copy of Breakfast at Tiffany as he states: "He can't walk by a book store without purchasing some literature, so New York." I am packing for a whirlwind in carry-on luggage from ball gown to shorts with restricted shoe wear I think I have it but we will see; I am for sure light in shoes three pairs of heels not that smart. Sleep comes early a truly great day dogs organized and my daughter's ticket booked she is a little hesitant what she is going to do in Ocala; she is 14 and we have a world class English soccer player and his family coming to stay; we are in the guest cottage and working this is probably what is toying with her: we are not the main event: I get it.

Rule #258 HAVE A SOLID GRASP ON YOUR INVENTORY LEVELS FOR DESIGNING YOUR WINE CELLAR. AN EMPTY WINE CELLAR IS NEVER A GOOD LOOK. QUITE FRANKLY IT IS JUST SAD. DO YOU NEED ONE THOUSAND BOTTLE STORAGE OR ONE HUNDRED BOTTLE STORAGE. YOU NEED TO PLAN AHEAD.

Daughter off to school and today a good latte, dogs walked and scheduled for the day. My daughter is so grown up she stays by herself now and is fully capable. It is a 9:40am flight to Toronto and running late but make it leaving some articles in security which are retrieved and on the 3rd latte board the plane. Touch down and the games begin, I get a little Fiat I am off and running northbound to meetings and final prep of Sales Centre. This is so exciting for me with 2,000 units that my scope of work includes suite layouts, furniture design, architecture and marketing. With over 400 people coming tonight I am doing it all including driving this rental car over a 20 pound turtle in the middle of the road.

Now seriously back at the farm after traffic blockages and meeting with my ex-business partner on a millwork package. I need to get ready complete with make-up for my photo shoot and pre-party prep making sure the Sales Centre looks fantastic. I am dropped off and tonight will be biblical both in rain and sales. While you are in the zone you don't necessarily think about, it is after the fact you look back wanting that to happen again. Tonight, I bask, laugh, enjoy all the people and there are many, tomorrow I will think about the exposure and possibilities ahead. Tonight a bit of Toronto silliness some old friendenemies are in attendance, kill them with kindness lead by example and sell them an unit.

Rule #259 AN EMPTY WINE CELLAR IS NEVER A GOOD LOOK, SIMILAR TO A LIVING ROOM. PLAN HOW MANY BOTTLES AND YOUR DESIGN WILL FOLLOW SUIT. ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOUR YEARLY CONSUMPTION OF WINE IS. THAT COULD GET SCARY!

Another day, another flight but first a string of meetings and more rain without the proper foot wear with my carry-on luggage approach. I have extra shoes in hand and stuff them in my briefcase, looks impressive. The drive down is long and longer in the Fiat with check engine light on I arrive at a newly completed house that is on the market for 5.5 million. It is white and vast with modern details this is a long time client that has recently swapped lawyering for real estate. He takes a picture of me in the Fiat for future rubbing, my next stop is the site I do a quick tour always hoping to see more complete then a potential new client meeting nearby. This house is in Rosedale and she is in the middle of her friend dying her demeanor is how it should be under these circumstances: "I need a new bathroom but this is all gravy."

The next stop is Starbucks even though I had one at 7am the rain is getting me sleepy and my hair, well at some point you just have to forget about it. A meeting with a client that is never happy and drives everyone crazy is my next dose so I



limit my time exposure and flip downtown to meet a branding company; I am on the road again now up to Woodbridge for a double potential client meeting for interiors with two architects I know. Both projects are vast and I leave the last site with building plastic not to protect the forgotten hair but now just trying to keep dry. Two more stops back at the farm collecting luggage and passport it is back to the airport to head to Ocala. My daughter is flying from NYC we all meet in Orlando arriving at the farm by 2am. Today is a wrap.

Rule #260 KEEP A LOG BOOK OR IPAD HANDY FOR KEEPING TRACK OF INVENTORY. YOU DON'T WANT TO RUN OUT OF CHARDONNAY!

I have been instructed by daughter not to wake her and I don't. I lay around in bed doing my thing with emails and phone calls. My Mother's Day present is parked outside and it is truly beautiful a cream with chestnut brown detailing Bentley Convertible. I am so anxious to drive it but my first meeting is at 11am on site I try but daughter will not get up. This meeting is a renovation of a building that is 65,000 sf of pure entertaining bar/club. Meeting with contractor and

business manager then a random lady shows up who does dinner theatres it is always a three ring circus perhaps a circus would work. After another visit to a cowboy bar always interesting ventures in the deep Republican south.

Finally I am allowed to get my daughter she has woken up and ready to go, it is 1pm. We are on a mission as we are at the farm because we have our celebrity client a Captain from Chelsea soccer team in England and his family. This is a gift from a brochure that happened to land in their laps; we have fully staffed up and preparing the house. My daughter and I are on candle duty we fully deliver. The Captain and his wife arrive from private airport we greet them with a tour and a glass of champagne. Adorable her and hot him we give them their space rejoining for dinner. This could be the ticket to ride for the properties as friends such as the Beckman would make it all a little easier on the eyes and pocket book.

Rule #261 BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR LIGHTING, YOU DON'T WANT TO SPOIL YOUR WINE! HIRE A WINE CONSULTANT FOR THE NITTY GRITTY.

This is an early one versus a late one we arise at 5am to catch an 8am flight to Panama: our theme song "We are going to Panama", sung in We are going to Memphis tune. We actually get in car with a little extra time it is mani/pedi at express spa at airport for my daughter and I have to sit with as she is a minor sipping my latte while inhaling the fumes. The state of Florida is very strict very Republican I do not argue. We are scattered in random seats between two rows we all sleep and attend to our computers. Panama is hot, humid and is being built as fast as one can, cranes everywhere this is a country under development with still staggering poverty. It still has a slowness of the islands, in fact winning the gold medal in this area nothing happens quickly. We hang at pool lunching and it is lunching it all takes time leaving no time for hair at all. In strapless black tie we are driven by bus to the Old Town to an ancient Catholic church for a two hour ceremony absolute beautiful acoustics and absolute most uncomfortable pews. It closes with confetti throwing and newly married couple being whisked away in vintage Rolls Royce.

As the entire service was in Spanish and the groom limited vocabulary he actually mis-said wife for foam so maybe on a technicality this didn't happen. After the service back to the Trump Hotel for reception we first returned to the rooms for a little dress change and rejuvenating we have two separate rooms, all is good downstairs for a Prussian feast and dance. The men dance feminine and the women dance in groups all in a twisting circle of celebration. My daughter and I are loving the dance floor turning our hands in the air similar to screwing in a light bulb we are instructed. After many songs and eating we all retire to bed a very long beautiful celebratory day: we will be up at 4am tomorrow.

Rule #262 CLIMATE CONTROL IS SO IMPORTANT, WE DON'T WANT ANY MOISTURE IN THE WINE. NOTHING WORSE THAN WATCHING YOUR FAVORITE BOTTLE OF WINE BEING POURED DOWN THE SINK.

I sleep not seeing the light until 9am when I call room service for detox green drink and a latte. It is the rainy season in Panama and on schedule the skies open and pour at noon sideways going black with thunder. My daughter and I enjoy the humidity watching literally our hair grow in volume having breakfast in bed at noon. It is warm out and after a gym workout we join some friends for lunch under the shelter of the pool bar laughing about the wedding crasher yesterday who came fully gowned to dance in an unassuming orange number with matching lipstick.

It is our day of rest in Panama and we head out to the airport for a 5 hour flight home. We must do a secondary inspection because we are flying to the USA and what good it did as one of the passengers of this packed flight has brought a full dinner with a drink somehow when they checked me, my face wash was over 4 ounces and taken. Landed at JFK Airport to a packed house luckily we have Global entry but taxi line outside insane; at 1am we take an illegal taxi service with another passenger that says \$35, then \$75 and when he sees where we live. It is \$100 watching that his speedometer never worked. I told my daughter that was not cool to do but we survived. While away leak in hallway making its way to other closet and bathtub upstairs re-glazed. It smells moist in our apartment and plastic with white dust everywhere we get to bed sometime before 3am.

Rule #263 GLASS ETIQUETTE: EVERY WINE HAS A DIFFERENT SHAPED GLASS, PICK UP A COUPLE RIDELS TO ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION! THIS THEORY COULD BE APPLIED TO EVERYDAY ACCESSORIES SUCH AS FLOWER VASES. LOOK AT THE SHAPE OF A ROSE, WHAT VASE SHOULD YOU HAVE.

Not much sleep and up at 7am for school day here but a holiday in Canada so office is closed so I can't contact anyone but I can email away while doing laundry getting only responses State side. It is full clean up and dump all dead flower/branch day. Last week I went over-board on branches that this week are shedding their petals similar to us we have our moments of glory but today would not be one of them. My daughter home right after school we embark on walks around the neighbourhood ending up at some stores on Lexington really finding nothing to buy except spa products and food for dinner.

We have explored so many neighbourhoods and today is 2nd Avenue for a good restaurant for my daughter and her friend from Toronto to dine at tonight. Between 77th and 78th street it is white table cloth and cafes spilling on the street

seem a perfect place for the girls. A restaurant serving meatballs only has the best line on the door: "We make balls!"

Rule #264 ALWAYS HAVE A CORK STOPPER ON HAND SO YOU CAN SEAL THE BOTTLE AND LAY IT ON ITS SIDE. WHAT IS SO CRAZY TODAY IS THAT SOME GREAT WINES COME WITH SCREW TOPS, ITS STARTING TO PUT THE CORK STOPPER PEOPLE OUT OF BUSINESS!

I am determined not to go down any negative road I am being dragged so early up walk daughter/dogs to school get my favourite latte start on proposals and get to morning fitness kill my butt class. Today is trade day at the apartment attempting to fix leak, switch out vanity and put in air conditioners; I am in a construction zone with at least 4 switching workers, what else is new. I am meeting my upper east girlfriend for lunch at Orsay at 76th and Lex on the outside patio exchanging boyfriend stories where she is a firm believer that you always keep one or two handy; she being involved in a few and a few court cases she gives me the best gossip of people I have no clue about but have met making their perfect lives seem just as complicated as mine.

I get a call that I need to go back home to deal with a plumber who happens to be built like a linebacker and can barely fit in my daughter's bathroom to install the new vanity; we have to leave him in the apartment as we need to go to a Hewitt Art Show to view my daughter's photography where including hers are great pieces and being New York I hear a gentleman talking to one of the girls that he is an art dealer stressing her talent level: a star is born? We not consulted by dealer we head out shopping for summer classic clothes for my star pupil. It is dinner, reading proposals and supplying references I land a huge new job arranging client to fly in Thursday on the company jet with husband to do our first consult. That is fabulous and not so fabulous being picked up at 4:30am for a 6:30am flight in and out of Sanibel. Still crazy with weekend plans ahead that I am trying to nail down.

Rule #265 ACCESSORIZE YOUR WINE CELLAR MUCH LIKE ANY OTHER ENTERTAINING AREA. HAVE BEAUTIFUL SILVER TRAYS TO DISPLAY GLASSES OR THE PERFECT FOOD PARINGS FOR YOUR WINE. YOU WILL FOREVER BE THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS!

It is way too early to get up at 4am especially without too much sleep this week one hundred years after the purchase of the family cottage it goes on the market. I speak with my parents who are calm but emotional, who wouldn't be; I am so calm I even chat with real estate agent throwing in my island as not listed but available, good to be available. Six hours later I am on Sanibel Island staring at the ocean starting my workday. It is room by room massage tweaking furniture and filling in the gaps. It is the final touches on this 10,000 sf home my client and I banter as we work fielding some calls as she does as well breaking for a fast lunch and glass of wine but never really stopping just triple multi-tasking. We both compare notes on relationships agreeing that they all are a lot of work, married or not. The more wine the more the relationship seems not ideal. Mine is an epic, hers too we both have full lives so we can concentrate on the work side a great detractor.

I have a 5:30pm pick up to go to the airport and chat on the phone for the hour drive with my parents and clients. After each phone call the driver asks me questions pertaining to my call and location of where I am speaking to, very weird but we are sitting three feet apart. Back in my apartment by 11pm in NYC that is a really full day. My weekend plans have been cancelled and I am trying to seem positive best really just want to go to sleep. Plans will change again tomorrow and the day after that. Sleep is the right call new client arriving at Teterboro at 8am tomorrow morning.

Rule #266 ENSURE THERE IS A TASTING AREA/LOUNGE NEAR THE WINE CELLAR. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE CHILLY WHEN SIPPING ON YOUR FAVORITE CABERNET SAUVIGNON.

A year ago today my divorce was finalized and personal life weaving ahead. Forget all that I am so excited today I have a client in NYC I have had my office map out showrooms to visit we start with coffee at the Regency on Park Avenue. It is interesting I will be the Interior Designer for an architect I know who will learn next week of my involvement I am sure he won't be thrilled he considers himself an architect/interior designer as well but in a 15,000 sf house there is room for more than one; I am good at sharing. We hit the showrooms seeing everything from fabric to lighting and everything in between; she is excited as we hotel hop while sourcing/viewing the latest designs. This is where NYC shines they really have it all and you can see the latest vibe in a second; it has been and still is the mix of mid-century modern with lacquered walls and good art; I can't do Swedish modern and anything that appears dirty.

The new client and I are on the same page this client has great depth in terms of extended family with their own businesses which could be continued work, for now we are meeting the husband at another hotel that is brand new the Nomad at 28th Street but the emails get crossed he ends up at my office so we meet in the middle at the St Regis at 55th Street. A few more drinks and lots of discussions this dream home will be fabulous, unique and on time for an August 2015 Wedding, well maybe: here we go. Home by 11pm, walk dogs and fall into bed, not travelling this weekend, yeah.

Chapter 16

Theater Room Rules:



Rule #267 PLACE THE MOVIE SCREEN ON THE LONG END OF THE ROOM AND CONCEAL ALL EQUIPMENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION. ONE REMOTE AND LOTS OF INFRA-RED! HIDE SPEAKERS BEHIND paneled WALLS TO MAXIMIZE THE PERFECT AESTHETIC.

After doing my morning ground hog day I need to grab a taxi down to 18th Street to the Ralph Pucci Showroom meeting my client she has until 1pm today before hitting the private airport in long weekend traffic; we need to see some pieces that are out of the ordinary, show stoppers. This showroom is a good start they have signed limited pieces some fabulous and some just not my style. We find two or three pieces that would work and meander down 10th Avenue for one of kind antiques finding a fabulous light and sometimes that is all you need to build a room around. Back uptown to really break down the lighting theme we look at 5 different showrooms with completely different approaches we are beginning to find a groove. Next the powder room and the wow factor we are looking at semi-precious stones we zone in on tiger's eye visiting Sheryl Wagner contemporary collection. Prior to our last stop the must see is the Gracie Wallpaper where I am getting a strike-off for my house and I want to expose this traditional glamorous finish that we need to use somewhere; it is a positive and we leave with samples in hand, heads spinning with cherry blossoms.

This has been a jammed packed work week and personal avoidance week; I send out a signal to my best guy and I am whisked away in a taxi straight back to La Cirque at 59th Street for my second day in a row lunch this time with many cold glasses of Chardonnay; we sit side by each spilling out the week, sharing, planning he is going to become a minister and marry me, need to settle on a groom. Tuna tartar and snow pea risotto followed by goat cheese he insists we go to Staten Island to see the Statue of Liberty on route. We sing Barbara Streisand "Don't Rain on my Parade" in the taxi on route to this free ferry service. There is a horde of people and we stick out like a sore thumb, that does not diminish our smiles. Landed we go straight to the bar and I even drink pinot grigio, we are in trouble, laughing with the locals and hearing all their issues sharing a salt & vinegar bag of chips. Glorious sun on the trip back, sitting outside on the deck, getting the exact timing to leave by viewing the people getting off the ferry, then waiting 2 minutes and heading to embark. Home, my daughter just leaving for dinner with friends, finally alone my impossible personal life in a roller coaster; I do what I do best dig deep and move forward only emotional behind closed doors.

Rule #268 TERRACE SEATING IS KEY, NOBODY LIKES STARING AT THE BACK OF SOMEONES HEAD. MAKE SURE TALL GUESTS SIT IN THE BACK!

Cucumbers on my eyes and moisture mask on my face gets me through my first latte not a beautiful sight. My daughter sleeps away the morning I get caught up on emails. My younger sister drops by ever since we moved to NYC she moved to New Jersey we rarely see each other her new thing is meditation empowering her inner goals and clarity; I still lost with her in her company; wish she had more clarity back then.

The weather is a bit funky today and we are busy with a Broadway play booked this evening we head out to see art galleries. Who knew on memorial weekend that most galleries are closed; I reached out to a Toronto dealer for suggestions and got back the NYC galleries are very competitive try 57th Street that is like saying in golf: "Keep your head down." Galleries turned into shopping and shopping turned into a candle lit quick dinner at E.A.T. even though it was still light out. If/Then musical is new on Broadway and it is perfection depicting how life goes in different directions depending which way you turn. The best song: "I love him, I hate him"; I so relate. The end of the musical with tears streaming down my face the entire audience leaps to their feet. A 34 block walk home on now a beautiful warm night my daughter and I keep repeating how much we loved it! NYC has the moments of stardom you just want to be part of.

Rule #269 LIGHTING IS IMPORTANT, USE RECESSED CEILING LIGHTING, WALL SCONCES AND AVOID THE USE OF LAMPS AS THEY TEND TO BLOCK PEOPLES VIEWS. STAGE UP! BE CAREFUL WITH LIGHTING, KEEP IT SOFT AND DIM-ABLE. USE STAIR LIGHTS TO LIGHT THE PATHWAY IN AND OUT OF THE ROOM.

The most glorious warm day in NYC we put on our lulus and head out the door to the Upper West side for farm to table food on 79th Street walking past yet another street fair/ garden fair and really everything New Yorkers can sell we see on this hot day even fur coats for sale at the flea market. I have a crazy schedule next week and tomorrow is not a holiday in Canada so I arrange my daughter to hang with my sister in New Jersey holiday Monday and I leave on the last flight to Toronto this evening. Dogs booked and taken to the doggie care with Vet appointments tomorrow for their updated shots and my bag packed for yet another flight. The airport is like my second home. I first drop off my daughter in Montclair and they are all having a BBQ my daughter joins in.

I make my flight land in Toronto and make my way to King City farm and my world seems settled a bit with many issues in my mind. I need some sleep and on the farm with the frogs chirping I get it awaking in the middle of the night with family and business on my brain. I am in constant contact with everyone and I will get these jobs under control and get back to NYC. It takes a village and my sister is part of that village.

Rule #270 LOSE THE THEATER CHAIRS! GET COMFY WITH SOFAS AND OTTOMANS, NO ONE LIKES THEATER SEATING ANYWAYS! ESPECIALLY IF THEY HAVE GUM STUCK ON THEM! ANGLE OF REPOSE, SO IMPORTANT!! DARE TO DO A LAZY BOY?

Oh Monday morning I have so many projects to get moving but first checking in on my daughter and reviewing what needs to be completed at the farm; I don't know how many times I have asked for lamp shades but they are still not here. I will pick them up myself on the way to the city to get my 1957 Porshe convertible. How do I get to the city? How else except with my driver in the back of a Honda, whatever I get the lamp shades, go to the office, visit two sites one of which my son is working on, have lunch with a girlfriend and finally my driver deposits me down at the Ritz Hotel to get my beautiful car a birthday present last year, my bday seems to bring cars.

I give myself two hours to get north of the city for my 5pm site visit with new client and I need every minute. Stopping for gas fully exhausted from shifting gears without AC and certainly no phone calling I found myself circling the car on the phone looking for the gas hole. It is under the hood! That was hard to find. Gassed up and after a two and a half hour meeting I head back to the farm top down as it is the only way to drive this car. The rain comes just as I called ahead to pull into the garage with the door pre-opened and gravel a little scattered as I skid in slightly throwing it into reverse I am safely home. Bathed, relaxed, cooking or rather chopping dinner; I am anxious to get back home to New York, or am I home here?

Rule #271 FLOORING BORDER IN WOOD AND INLAY WITH CARPET. BORDER STAIRS WITH WOOD NOSING TO AVOID WEAR AND TEAR, CARPET TENDS TO GET DIRTY ON THE EDGE. NOT A FAN OF WALL TO WALL CARPET. JUST SAY NO!

My morning meeting starts at 10am, I get two lattes which is a bonus and keeps me wide awake. I can't take the convertible due to the weather and travelling all over the city ending downtown I get the Honda Truck wow I have moved up in the world. This new set of wheels is the third car my new client has seen I have to keep this up it is fun. Freshly baked croissants and pizza are part of our 3.5 hour meeting that is continued further west with more decisions and revisions keeping the project elegant and timeless, my mantra. I have a potential new client meeting even further west and the Honda keeps on going. Interesting project a massive renovation with high quality finishes but outdated after 14 years, it happens.

On route to charity function; I want to go back to NYC but I have a client out of town that I need to visit the site tomorrow with issues rising, one more night an early start at 6am and a 2:15pm flight back to NYC after 5 hours of driving. My daughter seems fine but as her mother I am freaking out just wishing I never worked another day in my life and just raised my kids. Texting and speaking with work/family world I am stressed out. One more sleepless night with probably many more ahead complete with hot flashes.

Rule #272 STRATIFY THE WALL, BY USING A STRONG BASEBOARD AND LARGE WALL PANELS WITH ACOUSTIC TREATMENT. USE FABRIC INSIDE THE PANELS TO CONTROL THE SOUNDS. THIS ROOM IS ABOUT SOUND MANAGEMENT NOT SOUND ANGER.



I wake up at 5:00am really out of bed at 5:45am and on the road again this time up to Stoney Lake not to my cottage but a client who does not know how to make a bed so I, with one of my staff re-make them all, tweak the overall setting, add lamps and do a complete check list with various pieces working and some not giving the busy bachelor a list of suggestions to his butler who met us at the docks to take us across to the island. We buzz through our list this is common practice as all these projects need a final walk through and edit, this is this project's day. We wrap it up and have a 2 hour drive back to the airport while I dictate letters and proposals fielding some speaker calls.

An earlier flight and back in NYC by 4pm to get dogs with my daughter. The day ends with a Cartier bracelet promise and a dinner at Orsay tonight at 75th Street and Lex having pepper steak.

Rule #273 LET THE CEILING FLOAT AWAY WITH COFFERED PANELS, FLAT WHITE PAINT AND COVE LIGHTING FOR DRAMA. DON'T COMPETE WITH THE DRAMA IN THE SCREEN.

It is mental exhaustion that I really didn't want to speak to many people last night I simply turned my phone off. Today a new day starting breakfast off with peanut butter on an English muffin and oat meal with brown sugar/milk. Walking daughter and dogs to school getting my latte beginning the day with emails and more emails then calls and more calls bouncing from countries and projects while workman fixes closet and I finally get my 11:30am exercise class; I am re-born seriously and smelly. Now off to Whole Foods to do the aisles and get a great dinner. Only in NYC you shop then Uber in your black limo home actually now you can do that anywhere but in NYC they are available in 3 minutes. It is rare but Whole Foods was really my outing today swamped with work and life.

I am on it all and we have a hour and half dinner of lemon basil chicken, old style mac and cheese and kale/pear salad. I field some more calls and now I need some down time. Planning tomorrow's lunch looking out to the weekend ahead and feeling the security of being loved; we are loved.

Rule #274 DOWN IN FRONT! MAKE SURE THE SEAT HIGHT OF THE SOFA IS 17" OR LOWER. THE OTTOMAN SHOULD BE 16" OR LOWER FOR ANY ANGLE!

I am slightly frazzled wanting the freshest breakfast I am up early to E.A.T. to get fresh cream cheese for bagel and a carrot cake muffin for a treat later. Dogs come with me and we are in the store at 7am, well they are tied up on the street looking to be patted barking their morning hellos: "Scratch me". Back making breakfast still with dogs in hand I toast the bagel and spread crunchy peanut butter completely forgetting the newly bought cream cheese; I just start again. My daughter has a long day ahead with junior school play she is the make-up artist and I am working away. I do what I do best; I am on the telephone. During my entire manicure I crank my head depending which hand is up, nails done neck sore off to lunch with Texan and 2 New Yorkers one of which ex showed up on the NY Post cover after painting yellow penises on his artist girlfriend's canvas and will eventually be charged with murder.

The world outside is always trying to help even though sometimes you think it is a bit too much. A friend of mine in town sweet man who recently has had his share of issues walks dogs with me and hangs out with me helping me with my errands. Ready for tomorrow we share some war stories over a glass of wine and parmesan, my daughter comes home we have ice cream in bed chatting.

Rule #275 USE A TABLE IN BETWEEN EACH LOVE SEAT OR CHAIR TO HOLD YOUR ACCESSORIES AND POPCORN. LOVE OLD STYLE DRIVE IN MOVIE TRAYS AND THEATER PACKAGING FOR POPCORN AND CANDY. EVERYONE USE THEIR SIPPY CUPS, NO SPILLING IN THE THEATER ROOM PLEASE!

Sleep was not great and I am up at 5am waiting for 8am. I sit alone at my desk after I hang up looking across at the French mirror my dear NYC man friend calls starting to solve my problems. At any rate, we now have a plan in place so it is just a day by day exercise of doing the math and solving the issue daily.

My solution Carlyle Hotel for lunch with French fries; I modify my schedule over the next month, we are full circle: her and I against the world not that I will tell her that. A beautiful evening we visit the exhibition at the Met on James Charles with a male friend who has his own issues, all of us end at E.A.T. café, maybe this should be called A Magical Year of Drinking.

Rule #276 DON'T FORGET TO ACCESSORIZE YOUR ROOM WITH THROW PILLOWS AND BLANKETS. KEEP THEM STORED AWAY IN YOUR OTTOMAN OR A CUSTOM BENCH FOR ADDITIONAL SEATING. REMEMBER BACK IN THE DAY WHAT HAPPENED UNDER A BLANKET...

It is Sunday and I am taking the day off from everything New York Times in hand with a latte and a croissant, we will blur through the day.

Rule #277 AV EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE HOUSED IN A 20" DEEP CABINET WITH PULL OUT DRAWERS FOR EASY ACCESS. NO ONE LIKES CLIMBING AROUND IN THE BACK OF A CUPBOARD!

It was a long weekend in emotions not holiday; I am tired and I need some love. I walk with my girlfriend after dropping my daughter off at school hitting juice bars, and more grocery stores. Ironically, the same homeless man is sleeping in the vestibule as yesterday and I wonder what he is thinking he seems quite happy with sun beaming on his face. When you have an issue you start to look at the world in a different way. New client questions and conference calls we are off to the races with new work which is a good thing.

I will take my daughter's spin class tonight after I drop off goodies at her school for the after school snack; I am recharged with the spinning instructor's dance moves I make a vodka cream sauce on a 4 cheese tortellini with buratta cheese tomato salad then ice cream run at 9pm after a client phone call; I am so full, one more dog walk on this warm summer night and to bed rubbing my tummy.

Rule #278 KEEP A LOG OF WHO HAS VISITED YOUR THEATER IN A COOL JOURNAL OR LOG BOOK. ALWAYS GREAT TO LOOK BACK ON MEMORIES OVER THE YEARS! DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE DAY, MOVIE WATCHED AND PEOPLE VISITED. IT WILL JOG YOUR MEMORIES FOR YEARS TO COME.

Tonight is the Modernist Salon at the school and there is no coming home first so I go get macarons and madeleines from Laduree on Madison with a protein drink pressed by hand on Park Avenue to my daughter. This morning starts off with meeting a young woman that is 24 years old and has a company that uses food to draw people in for socializing, for example; "Power Couple Brunch", the company Food Before Love; I am intrigued by this concept. I am here to mentor her and help make her a success, all I want is happiness spread like wildfire. I listen and give advice; she clearly needs a plan where she produces income and works smart and hard; she seems all over the map but the name of the company is a good. I give her the task of making lists on what her company name means and a one pager about her business: let's see how long this takes.

Then it is fix hair and nail time writing away on my computer. It is a glorious afternoon and the text comes in from best male friend Roof Top at Peninsula Hotel 5th and 55th drinks? It is adult time before school production and a yes we watch together as the black clouds roll closer so I will need a town car to school; I get one as 4 males watch me climb in, it is a good hair day. After the Modernist Salon that I hang with my daughter we get a Caesar Salad at Sera Fina at 79th her second dinner that night.

Rule #279 LET THE PAINT DRY, PLACE LINOLEUM ON THE FLOORS SO AS THE PAINT DRIPS YOU CAN EASILY CLEAN IT UP. ANOTHER OPTION WOULD BE TO TAPE A CANVAS ON THE FLOOR AND LET YOUR PAINT FALL, THE FLOOR WILL BE YOUR MASTERPIECE!

My parents 54th wedding anniversary, someone had to do it, the only hope in amongst my siblings is my baby sister as the other three of us are divorced or in the process. They were not the ideal role models but stuck it out not sure why as they had a two year break in there while my father had some exercise instructor, anyway I text them and at end of day log in a call, why bring up the negative, they have each other daily. Today is another beautiful sunny day I meet my same girlfriend for the two hour walk around the park. We go over the same things we talk about all the time: relationships, life beyond Toronto and children it still engages us and we literally walk in circles which I feel is my course these days. I am going to slow in down take this beautiful day visit galleries and get a beauty treatment amongst Lexington Avenue Upper East.

Relaxed and more beautiful I head home with a fabulous meal which I will plate that I picked up earlier except I had to go back to get the actual spare ribs which I thought for \$60 the spinach, vegetables and mac/cheese included the ribs, no another \$30, anyway I heated it all and dinner was served in the dining room. Then doorbell so with guest who I thought stood me up yesterday arrived. The Greek photographer 1 hour and I thought a day late I ate on sofa while my daughter ate at table. Have to be straight forward with the Greeks we need to get to school for Athletic Assembly and you need to leave, that sort of worked he wanted to go over work as I switched from his PR gal. The conclusion we will have a Greek dinner in a week keep in touch he wants business, never mentioned any for me. We say good bye, my daughter and I off to Athletic Assembly. Summary, my daughter win's Coach's Award for Varsity Tennis. It is heaven I will dwell on this all night. I love her so much.

Rule #280 ACCESSORIZE WALLS WITH FRAMED BLACKBOARDS, WHITEBOARDS AND CORK BOARDS. THIS WILL ALSO PREVENT CREATIVE HANDS FROM DRAWING ON THE WALLS AS WELL AS HELP O.C.D ARTISTS ORGANIZE THEIR LIVES.

I post her win on Instagram showing her big smile and trophy; she got the tennis assistant job at the cottage as well just having to play with pro upon her arrival. She is my rock star, she tells her Dad that she has a real job and not one that is on the family pay role; she makes me laugh and cry. Today is my second last day walking her to school and it is bitter sweet; I mention this to her and we both agree I have really done this walk almost every day and loved it. I ask her about next year she says she will take the subway; I hug her shoulders and walk embraced, no way I will drive you and I will. I have guests at the apartment this morning my favourite male guy and a female TV producer whose passion is gardening and her job doing the real deal in both TV and movies; we hit it off chatting about possibilities on PBS serving up authenticity her being past royalty and I have superfluous knowledge.

Phone calls turn into more phone calls chatting with my guy branding from Montreal we connect in energy he following my book and wanting more; I want to give more I need to dig up the energy from somewhere deep down; I actually dread a lunch today but turns to be okay with not too much high level banter I enjoy myself just in a calm state; I gave at the door in my morning meeting. We part making tentative plans for the summer I have no idea if I can keep, walking back home I need a quick fix at the hairdresser not a blow dry but a trim fix from haircut two days previous but really my cashmere scarf I left a month ago which they have discarded, only in NYC lost and found lasts for only two weeks then bagged and tossed. Home finally my daughter back from school we plan a dinner that I will get from Fish Tail and Juice press. Dressed for a quick drink at the Four Seasons Hotel with an old boyfriend always an ego booster followed by man following me inquiring about my shoes. Fun sport this street banter he is 6'4" my heels 5" I ask if he wants a pair; he doesn't but possibly his gay brother. It all makes me smile; I dine with my daughter and after a load of whites I am set for my 5am driver to airport tomorrow. Sleep not wanting to play with me tonight I daze in and out.

Rule #281 STORAGE GALORE!! FROM WRAPPING PAPER TO PUSH PINS EVERYTHING NEEDS ITS OWN PLACE. CUSTOM MILLWORK IS A MUST IN THE ROOM! TO MEET YOUR NEEDS MAKE A LIST OF WHAT YOU USE AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

I am up at 4:30am no dogs to walk I am ready for driver at 5am that I have confirmed but he doesn't show up which is so typical Mr. Happy but forgetful I can't even bother to call him; I go get a taxi in NYC they are always floating around and really half the cost it so doesn't matter and I don't have to chat. Once you live in NYC you really don't need a driver between Uber and taxi's waving your hand or pushing your App you can get anything with a credit card and an iPhone. It is crazy day for me; I am in my own world these days.

I arrive in Toronto missing NYC so much today knowing I am coming back to Toronto soon feeling part visitor in a city I grew up in. This time I won't even hit downtown I am in what they call the 905 area code north of the city first at a major project with a proposal for a large junk of work that I will complete next week, then my new client who is so fabulous with

Chapter 17

Craft Room Rules:

home-made lasagna, cake, wine and espresso followed by a driver back to the airport. I feel good about it all checking in with my daughter throughout the day. Arrived back in NYC, giving the UES nod for my taxi instructions I am home, for now. My daughter out with friends, dogs in boarding and I join an old friend for a group dinner at Cipriani's at 59th Street. A fabulous group with so many laughs today's 4:30am wake up isn't registering, in fact I call one of the guys potential dates from Toronto just to say how easy it is to make the flight and I made two today. At 11:30pm I turn into a pumpkin, it hits.

Rule #282 INCORPORATE A TABLE INTO THE MILLWORK DESIGN, FOLD DOWN TABLES AND ARTICULATING TABLES ARE FLEXIBLE AND WILL ALLOW THE TABLE TO GROW WITH YOUR CHILD. ERGONOMICS ARE KEY!

A morning walk comes really early today, actually too early as Sant Ambrose doesn't open until 8am. I have promised a friend to walk with a latte as he has a 9am meeting. The Sant Ambrose at 78th has same opening time as the one at 61st so walking from 80th gets me to 61st with a few minutes to wait. We get our caffeine fix, laugh about last night with his group of guys who literally sing as they leave the restaurant; I even get to see the pics. We stroll through the park such a great guy he is going through the Divorce Season, this has become a common theme; I listen give advice so thankful I am done but flustered how I really walked away these woman that never worked getting a big payday. I have my freedom enough said. Listening to music and getting a good blow out makes my mood fabulous, it is Hampton weekend for my daughter and I, we catch the 11:30 am bus to Watermill. Apparently everyone does it! It is a bit of a milk run with numerous drop offs but we land literally at a bus stop. My hostess and her son are a wee bit late they arrive in a red pepper rental as her Divorce Season includes her ex stealing all five of their cars and 2 Picassos. This will become a bit of the weekend theme in her sprawling home perched in a setting straight from the south of France.

We hit the grocery stores bantering about the number of guests who is straight or not and getting Wi-Fi various places as the Wi-Fi and most services were shut off by the ex in the chateau so we merry band of four settle in to prepare for the dinner party without a connection, even the pool is still not opened and the grass cut but badly. Think Mad Hatter's Tea Party fabulous food and wine amongst exquisite antiques with the locks being removed from doors and sprinkler system booby trapped with wires cuts. This doesn't faze us we are 12 to 15 strong engaged in conversation and hockey, the Rangers lose again. Ironically, shoe admirer is at dinner party the UES and Hamptons are a very small world despite the ticks carrying Lyme disease.

Rule #283 LACQUER SOME OLD STOOLS OR CHAIRS AND RECOVER THE SEATS IN AN EASY TO CLEAN VINYL. HAVE FUN WITH THESE PIECES AND ADD SOME COLOR! VINYL TODAY LOOKS LIKE LEATHER, NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE!

We rest and sleep in slightly I start my day in the formal living room with my long lounging dress with a cashmere sweater draped on my shoulders catching up with friends exchanging stories and starting to get our week in order. For some reason I am requested to detour to Fort Lauderdale when I arrive tomorrow in Ocala; we will see I have travelled a bit too much lately. The house is slowly waking, my hostess is to be found letting the two dogs out as I in my wellies, well her exes wellies that are stuffed with apples, don't ask I go through the uneven cut grass to the guest house to fetch 10 bottles of water to make the much needed lattes. I, of course wake one of the guests who springs to life thinking it is walk time, in fact it is perfect as he re-appears at the main house going into full breakfast mode.

Steak and eggs with buratta cheese flanked by various breads we dine amongst the antique china on the rear portico surrounded by pea gravel and French urns. We are in Europe today, next we will go on a walk that winds down through the polo fields feeling very much like Tuscany to arrive in the afternoon at Shelter Island at Sunset Beach having a vibe of Ibiza. We are six joined by 8 more it is a great afternoon of shopping, eating, drinking and swimming in that order. The drive home will be long filled of stories some of her ex that happens to be dating a South American prostitute as her 19 year old son does the accents full of ridiculous situations, the four of us laugh, myself crying as I am laughing so hard; with two large dogs in the back seat with us we head back to Manhattan in the rental.

Rule #284 FOR COUNTERTOPS USE A PLASTIC LAMINATE. KEEP IT BRIGHT AND SIMPLE WITH MITERED EDGES. IF THE BUDGET ALLOWS USE A QUARTZ TOP TO INCREASE THE GLAM FACTOR AND DURABILITY! ITS ALWAYS FABULOUS TO LOOK GREAT, FEEL GREAT, AND BE UNTOUCHABLE!

It is my daughter's moving up ceremony to grade 10 at the church on Madison Avenue between 73th and 74th as the school can't accommodate the whole upper school. We are full on today followed by a flight to Orlando tonight. Now it is my last walk to school with my sweet princess we hold hands and we reflect on this great year seeing the same Dick Van Dyke Jaguar parked at 79th and Park we have seen all year never to be moved loaded with parking tickets, at 88 years of age they give you a break or maybe he just forgot it. She has a breakfast this morning with her classmates and all her handwritten notes need to go into the teacher's boxes first I can't even express how much I love her.

My ground hog day but without the dogs I get my latte at Sant Ambrose it is pouring rain and I get on the phone/email game back at home. After her breakfast we both have hair appointments and for me some maintenance issues. All done and at the church albeit a little rushed my little sister joins us and we get a glimpse as my princess moves up one more year; she is still my little girl we walk up Madison stopping for a few purchases a man stops us to tell us that our holding hands reminds him of his dream that never happened with his wife having a girl, mind you he seemed he had been drinking and had a black eye. We soldier on finally landing at LaGuardia my home away from home. Six hours later we arrive at the farm in Ocala; I am fried and have to be on an 8am flight to go to Fort Lauderdale. Why do I have to go?

Rule #285 KEEP THE CABINET HARDWARE FUN IN THIS ROOM! PLAY UP GREAT SHAPES AND COLOURS, EVEN THINK OF USING DIFFERENT KNOBS PER DOOR. LIKE I ALWAYS SAY "HARDWARE IS YOUR BLING!"

I am up at 6:30am with 4 hours of non-sleep in me but I know something must be up and I am trying to do what does not come naturally to me: just let it happen. It is happening all right I am in a cool little plane, a Diamond with bubble glass thinking I have a 40 minute flight but when asked he says 2 hours I think I say the "f" word. Once in flight I am good I even steer the plane as the cauliflower clouds gather up with big storms to the west lightning et al. We land in Lauderdale and in the heat we slide into my new Bentley going to some new building but as I look up we are at a ship yard the guard directs us to a yacht, did he say yacht. My mind is spinning we have talked about a house versus a yacht for the last three years; I really have become weary of what is really next. Is this true? Yes it is out of the water sitting in front of me; I get more dazed.

We are on the 154 foot yacht with project manager stating everything that is required pulling up images on his phone waving them around and my brain is taking it all in: what is this a home, a new business, why am I here, is this for us? All of it is business with a pleasure aspect, okay I will take the fun/work part: hand in hand. It has some great bones and very sophisticated. Next stop, his restaurant which is really fabulous then an office building where I meet with another partner picking colours going over layout. I need to relax and let it happen, I am trying. It is fun all work and not so much play at the same time.

Rule #286 USE GLASS DRAWER FRONTS IN YOUR MILLWORK TO SHOW OFF SCRAP PAPER, BUTTONS AND OTHER COLORFUL GEMS YOU HAVE HIDING AWAY. LET THESE PIECES INSPIRE YOU FOR YOUR NEW PROJECT. YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH INSPIRATIONS!

I wake up in a better place with a full night sleep and bath after entertaining our 2 women and 4 children house guests. This is the result of my daughter's school auction they will be with us for three nights. Confused where actual daughter came from this woman partnership which we will learn later is going to court and a messy financial battle, 11 year old daughter completely unaware. We are Inn keepers and are on host mode I settle back just enjoying the meals, tennis with my daughter and the various lightning storms weaving around us.

We are all going to a cowboy bar for line dancing lessons our instructor is accompanied by 2 other cowgirls in cowboy boots and hats with jean butt shorts. It is actually a blast we all add our own wiggle from ballet to Brazilian. Only in Ocala the next store is a re-hab facility that reads no smoking, no food, no guns, no weapons; I can't make that up. A birthday party for the daughter of our guests which is in July we celebrate now and one of her mother's give life lessons constantly which I kinda like; I found it endearing, I like her; she is bi-sexual that is other information that is offered up.

Rule #287 ANYTHING CAN BE A PICASSO! FRAME HOMEMADE ARTWORK AND MAKE A GALLERY WALL OF YOUR LATEST ART PIECES!

My daughter's friends got in very late last night they missed our 19 year old male all round helper play guitar for the girls; he waited up for them and watched movies with my daughter. It is good having someone but me run some interference. I have my breakfast with the new posse of three and plan our day and meals. First a tour of the property on golf cart followed by horseback riding in the covered arena even doing some stick and ball on our polo ponies. The girls went for a detour movie run that doesn't happen as they get lost with the other 7 people at any rate they are home for a late lunch while I have a lunch in the office on the sofa with wine as I type the To Do list for the yacht, romance and business.

We all have a fabulous day with The World Cup starting our guests are entertained, my girls are re-bonding being girls doing the trampoline and I am laughing just enjoying. The world is good right now we have our 11 person dinner outside under the stars or actually left over rain clouds. It is BBQ night and many stories are shared and probably too much information.

Rule #288 CREATE AN INSPIRATION BOARD FILLED WITH IMAGES THAT INSPIRE YOU OR YOUR LITTLE ONES! USE A BEAUTIFUL FRAME AND SOME CORK BOARD TO MAKE IT FLOW WITH THE REST OF YOUR CUSTOM DESIGNED MILLWORK. IT CAN BE YOUR REAL LIFE PINTEREST BOARD!



I don't think about the date until late afternoon. This morning is early and lovely riding first thing is my favourite start to the day. We take the horses on a trail ride myself, over cautious mother, two other children and two instructors; we all survive I sneak a cantor or two in. To raise a child it takes a village and an umbrella here as the rain is relentless but so is the lightning. We take the three girls on a tour of the latest acquisitions including waterpark, night club, office and saloon truly keeping the economy in Ocala moving. We meet entertainment centre partner the one who crashed our yacht surprise the other day for sushi with the girls; I am still reviewing proposals late afternoon even though my Toronto office closes at 12:30pm on a Friday to get out to clients to wrap up the Toronto day.

My girls love Target and they are over the moon to go; I leave them there for two hours as I go to more projects in Ocala and private airport. I get my girls they have a full grocery cart of stuff that I edit as we check out. Literally back to the ranch stopping at the Country Club for smoothies it is humid almost steamy out. I feel really relaxed after many days of activities it is the start of summer. They saddle up for a trail ride I saddle up to hang on the sectional. A beautiful night sun setting there will be a full moon and full dinner of Caesar salad, carbonara pasta and chocolate cake with ice cream. My evening winds down, walking hand in hand with my daughter around the path that circles the train the other girls have just ridden it so all the concrete animals are still making sounds. We talk, incredibly loving she leans her head on my shoulder; I have her attention the world seems a better place.

Rule #289 WHEN DESIGNING YOUR MILLWORK KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN MIND: TRAY DIVIDERS, PULL OUT DRAWERS, CUTLERY DIVISIONS FOR BRUSHES, SCISSORS, ETC. LARGE COMPARTMENTS FOR PAPER ROLLS AND RODS TO HANG RIBBONS. ORGANIZATION IS A CRAFTERS BEST FRIEND!

Today is the girls and I hanging in Ocala we have this supper club where we discuss the world amongst our meals; I am up early working on the computer awaiting my posy for a 10am breakfast from the chef that has really pulled it together after hiring him a month ago on a rainy night in King City. I did the interview and with his experience at a club I was previously a member he seemed to know what to do plus he obviously likes his food with his stature, don't trust a skinny chef. We decide on tennis after breakfast in the 100 degree Fahrenheit heat we start with the four of us then to three of us then just my daughter and I she can really hit now and it is a blast.

New York only a day away I feel the pace picking up we have the dogs, my work, my daughter's internship and the sites still to see. It is a hot one here lunch by the pool on a horse farm there is always flies I don't know why but there is and amongst the Caesar salad with chicken not appetizing. My daughter's friends are obsessed with the golf cart my daughter and I obsessed with sleeping in the shade after a walk around the property. Two hours goes by and we slide into cocktail hour watching World Cup soccer and Miss USA. Tonight will be easy with dessert around the campfire singing songs with guitar accompanied and smores roasting in the fire. We watch Endless Love the movie and it reminds me of my relationship, a love so big it is worth fighting for, now it needs to settle.

Rule #290 GENERAL OBSERVATION IS TO LIGHT THE ROOM. FOR FINE DETAIL WORK YOU WILL REQUIRE SOME TASK LIGHTING. AS YOU GET OLDER YOU WILL ALL REQUIRE MORE AND MORE AND MORE TASK LIGHTING.

My daughter's two friends have a 4am pick up for a 7am flight; they text when they land, well sort of, I get a thank you some time mid-morning. I had the chef waking them up at 3:30am to give them a quick breakfast but he slept through, shades of things to come, I did the double check at 8:30am that they were gone and they were: a good sign. Waking up texting fathers I know for Father's Day. I meet our new stable girl; we take two horses on the trails to the polo field for an early morning romp to sweat up the horses; I love it so much I feel really comfortable on a horse now letting my hips roll in the saddle. We chat about the possibilities of the Ocala Farm on a slow trot back to the barn. I walk on foot back to the main house in my riding boots and chaps feeling empowered ready for NYC and breakfast with my daughter ahead of me, both wonderful things to look forward to.

My beauty is up and more beautiful everyday. We lounge and eat having some quiet time in the sun and a swim before the plane ride back to NYC. First a drive to Orlando airport we don't settle in our apartment until 6:30pm that evening; we plan an outdoor terrace night with my guy friend. We choose Da Silvano on 6th Avenue where the internship starts tomorrow. The food is yummy: cauliflower steaks, white asparagus, fiddleheads and pasta with chocolate dessert discussing the upcoming Giselle Ballet and books. A beautiful evening we stroll along the one open store for real is where my friend buys chipped glassware; I love him more for that I spot him \$20. We head back to the Upper East this will become our new destination of travel.



Chapter 18

Laundry Room Rules:

Rule #291 IF YOU CAN PLACE YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM ON THE LOWER LEVEL, THIS IS IDEAL. LAUNDRY ROOMS ON THE SECOND FLOOR ARE BOTHERSOME, LOUD, AND SMELL. PLUS THEY TAKE UP PRIME REAL ESTATE.

Up early and out the door for bread, fruit and juice then back for my daughter's first internship day. We choose her outfit lunch top with jewels and an aline skirt with converse—she has a good vibe going. The taxi not so bad as NYC seems a little less congested we both arrive at friends live/work place it is just two other staff and seems a good slow pace. This is a friend of mine who has worked for Donna Karan for 20 years then breaking out doing her own line selling at Barney's and having a store in Aspen. Her daughter is also around and is a year younger, this feels right and I leave walking the 80 blocks plus back to the Upper East manning two phones as I go.

The West side highway is good and bad just like NYC there is beauty with art contrasted to homeless washing out their clothes; it all seems to fit together. My day is wide open and I hit the upper west after many, many phone calls for an early lunch and some flowers for delivery ordering juice press as well. I have an afternoon full of work then to meet my daughter at the Surrey hotel for an outdoor summer meal. Tonight we see the shoe guy again in the most random places this city like any is very small; we all say hello and hope to see you soon. Tonight we have dessert in the restaurant and we cozy in together for a good night sleep reviewing her first day of real work, well sort of real work. Long day 9:30am to 6:30pm; she is my daughter.

Rule #292 KEEP WALLS PRISTINE, USE A SUBWAY TILE THROUGHOUT THE ROOM WHICH WILL PREVENT PAINT CHIPPING AND PEELING FROM THE HUMIDITY. TOUGH TO CLEAN CLOTHES IN A PEELING STAINED ROOM.

This morning it is bagel and cream cheese from E.A.T. which I get fresh and I have the protein shakes that were delivered yesterday, a longer sleep in day she needs to be at work by 11am. Dogs and I include her in our morning walk, well today late morning ritual of lattes at Sant Ambrose. Today is my first hang out with my new PR woman our first stop is the Hearst Building on 58th Street housing the three major magazines: House Beautiful, Elle Décor and Verandah we meet with the Design Editor and she is interested we end up sending a possible two projects that she will review. This is a positive start and we continue up town to my brownstone for a conference call with the charity that I am International Chair for in the fall then a book publisher meeting; I really like this elegant no nonsense woman who puts me as architect first; I need to take this approach myself, multi personality sometimes can be confusing; I have many.

The late afternoon is a facial with electrical current which is my way of avoiding botox and I think I look great except when I go into the washroom of Cipriani Soho and realize that the gel has spread my eye make-up everywhere but my eye. At any rate working girl daughter and I have a magical evening sitting outside on Broadway at Cipriani, meeting our neighbouring table who is very cool. We are invited to a premiere on Monday night then two tables down I hear my name and it is a Toronto tennis import from the men's tennis house league. Daughter and I hold hands walking to where we can get a taxi as the President is in town and the city is a mess with closed streets and many police, as my friend said "I would vote for any president that would never come to NYC", if I could vote here I agree. Dogs are back, we get ice cream over at 1st and York—it is a hot ice cream dog walking night.

Rule #293 HAPPY ORGANIZATION, HAPPY LAUNDRY ROOM, HAPPY HOUSEHOLD!

Today is going to be funny and super hot. I walk the dogs everywhere doing my phone calls in the Park after walking my daughter over to Fifth Avenue for her business day which doesn't really start until 10:30am in Soho. I have a noon lunch with a girl who really doesn't eat. A bit late I push everything a little back including my interview with the New York Post to go to Sant Ambrose at 61st where there is one 2 blocks away from me. After a hot taxi ride this girl who was the director of the charity I was involved in April, pay your money get your name on invite has us outside in 100 degree weather opposite construction at a coffee bar; I am speechless this is lunch, anyway she plays with a petite sandwich I have a salad in a plastic container longing to leave.

I could go on but instead I smile call my friend after for a de-brief then taxi back to my air conditioned apartment where I have a 2 hour fun filled interview with the writer for the New York Post; he is fabulous. He is Canadian and has the best sense of humour about the whole International City Toronto; I am still laughing. Next is the stylist where we walk around looking at what I need, will find that out sometime before shoot on Tuesday; I know I need freshly pressed sheets that is a request that is not that easy as cleaning lady is in on Thursday. Note to self, deal with this later. Tonight a bit of a trek, uptown drinks at The Mark, down to Soho for cocktails, back uptown for Greek dinner and all in traffic; we select on foot to get late night ice cream: my feet hurt in my high heels but the ice cream is natural whatever that means.

Rule #294 COUNTER HEIGHT VARIES IN THIS ROOM. ALWAYS USE FRONT LOAD MACHINES FOR AMPLE COUNTER STORAGE ON TOP. NOTE SOME OF THE MACHINES TEND BE HIGHER SO COUNTERTOPS MAY BE HIGHER IN THIS ROOM. NOTHING LIKE DOING LAUNDRY IN YOUR MANOLOS!

It is one of those days of going in and out of Toronto on the same day: the 6:30am flight in, the 7:30pm flight back and today that is what I did despite being at the airport for 5:00 pm. It is a wonder that Air Canada keeps customers with this trick I have had played on me twice; they cancel an earlier flight then bring a new big plane for the next flight to clear the backlog while having to change crew at that precise moment. I am home by 9:30pm tired but happy having completed a full site meeting with client followed by office/home site visit; we are getting there—I can see it. Dry walled I do a walk through with contractor: why is there no one there when I go including my son who is working for me?

I am not dazed I meet with an old trade I have worked with for years for plaster embellishments, then a real old trade who has made mistakes, now wants extras I escort him out will deal with him later. I do some designs before heading in Toronto traffic to the airport to sit for a couple of hours; I have dinner and answer emails with the world cup screaming around me. My guy friend and I are planning whale watching tomorrow apparently at the foot of Wall Street hoping to see some fat Enrons as well as a picnic in the Park on Saturday old fashion style Hermes picnic baskets, blankets, catered, magnums of champagne, stemware and silver. We need to plan the guest list and most importantly the chic understated effortless look while hiding the magnums in paper bags. My daughter and I snuggle in bed the apartment is clean we both fall asleep knowing we are sleeping in tomorrow both going to play hooky, well deserved on both sides.

Rule #295 HAVE FUN WITH MACHINE COLORS! DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE A BRIGHT BLUE, ORANGE OR RED. SOME OF THESE MACHINES COME WITH DRY CLEANING CAPABILITIES, YOU COULD RUN A SMALL LAUNDRY BUSINESS OUT OF YOUR HOME!

Watched a recent episode of Suits staying up late being woken up by buzzer of ConEdison lady reading meter in basement, for real I can't make this up. Slowly getting out of bed my daughter will follow I am on the phone and doing emails dealing with the Project Manager of the new yacht and my own site as well as clients. My daughter and I are planning our day we decide on a walk to Soho a mere 100 blocks away via the High Line it is a hidden treasure but we do cheat for about 30 blocks by taxi the pavement is hard and hot. We settle on the patio at the Standard Hotel having a late afternoon lunch planning my daughter's next shopping moves. From there we walk along Bleeker to Soho; I get a fabulous tee shirt from my favourite designer Brunello in Chelsea, love that strip really all the same stores as Upper East; I could live here.

After the quiet elegance of Chelsea we hit the hard core packed stores of Soho getting my daughter some ghetto clothes and my feet some much needed Havana flip flops, it is here that I hear our family cottage of 100 years might have sold. It is 7:30pm we have been out all day we need to head up after an almost moment where I made a purchase at the Top Shop, get me back to my environs. I make a fabulous dinner of pasta and later ice cream with brownies. We are in for the night feet completely sore and over stimulated by people we don't even turn on the TV. A New York brownstone quiet moment, very rare indeed; I receive a couple of texts from picnic collaborator requesting glassware not stemware and some paper bags to hide the champagne while it is being poured. Tasks noted will be done in morning. The cottage sell will linger over the next few days with phone calls galore.

Rule #296 CUSTOM MILLWORK IS IDEAL IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM. FLOATING SHELVES WITH UNDER MOUNT LIGHTING LIGHTS UP YOUR WORK AREA FOR EASY STAIN REMOVAL! ON YOUR SHELF LAUNDRY BASKETS, IN YOUR CUPBOARDS HIDE YOUR DETERGENT!

A perfect summer day for a picnic but first a dog walk while being interviewed by Allure Magazine on the topic of Fear of Aging. I need to go back inside as the connection has a buzz. I have learned that, yes I colour my hair and will continue to do so keeping an age appropriate look looking rested but not freaky; I will attempt this over the years ahead. We discuss women that have done fix ups but not severe my analogy is: if the roof leaked I would repair and not replace as long as you can; the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright was told by a client that the roof was leaking, his answer: "The buckets should be red", meaning I am ego and in control loving myself. Whatever you are comfortable with just do the research.

Interview done, breakfast muffins and lattes purchased plus cake picked up—it is picnic time. My daughter and I have 4 glasses of freshly squeezed OJ/Pellegrino with the cake then we taxi to William Poole our caterer for the event to get partner in crime, food and server. Re-load taxi we are dropped off at 72nd street for the transfer to the biker taxi to get close to our selected sacred ground. Five blankets, all Hermes with matching napkins, beautiful china, silver and glorious food; we set for the feast. Our picnic crowd consist of angelic children, famous actress, ambassador's wife, rock star's wife, boy toy, business women, horse woman, a date met on-line and us. All got along with fabulous conversations lounging for five hours in NYC Central Park, Olmstead would be proud. Today was real avoidance of most issues just to enjoy.

Rule #297 ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SPACE FOR FOLDING AND HANGING GARMENTS. A TELEVISION IS KEY TO PASS THE TIME. YOU COULD BE THERE FOR HOURS, YOU MAY AS WELL CATCH UP ON YOUR BOX SET OF GAME OF THRONES!

My morning routine starts with the usual dog walking with so few Sant Ambrose lattes left as we are now leaving on Thursday after two days of a New York Post Newspaper shoot we will be in Canada, clothes moved with daughter and dogs. For now with daughter still asleep the phone calls start with siblings going over the scenarios of the cottage sell;

it seems unreal and there is a vendor take back mortgage with their island needing to sell, sounds complicated. I am discussing with two of my three siblings as no one is talking with the eldest, nothing changes. My life made easier by good logistics: plane and pilots are sent; I am loved.

Today is explore the upper east eating at Gina Café on 91st street with dogs at our sides; we are loving it and it is similar to being in Europe quiet great fresh food spilling on the street. We continue wandering purchasing here and there ending at the nail salon after dropping off the dogs at home. We are super chilled and ready for Burger night; we research best burger on the upper east ending up at The Mark Hotel in the back patio by candle light, it is magical just the two of us perfectly in harmony sipping fresh peppermint tea with molten chocolate cake.

Rule #298 WHITE AND GREY ARE THE OPTIMAL CHOICES FOR WALL COLOR IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM, TOUGH TO CLEAN CLOTHES IN A BLACK ROOM. ACCENT WITH STONE COUNTER TOPS AND YOU WILL NEVER WANT TO LEAVE!

The sleep thing is funny, my mind wants to but my body won't let it; I think I am living both time zones right now in NYC and out west. My upper east side ground hog day I love I always chat with someone at the café bar then get muffins up the street and if it is croissants a different spot, every place has a speciality there is even a glass paper weight store up the street: that is all they sell. I am always meeting more people chatting about something, the other day a random woman walked by and called me Miss Toronto. Finally, I say good morning to the neighbouring doorman ending at my brownstone; I am going to miss all this and shortly.

This morning is going to fly by with conference calls starting at 9:30am through noon, getting flowers in between for photo shoot tomorrow then meeting a girlfriend for lunch at noon at the Met's Member's Lounge—I am the member. We have a fabulous real chat about all the difficulties of being a mom, a parent and a protector; it feels good we really listen and connect we have these moments of really this is happening and then there is humour when I asked my neighbour to borrow an iron; she asked me if I knew how to use it, do I? Tonight we are suppose to go down to Soho for a documentary at the Crosby Hotel but once you live in a hood you really want to stay in it, my working girl gets home from Soho can't go back down mentally; we throw on tracks and off to the West side we go in search of duffel bags; we are going home to Canada in a few days. First sushi at Haro at the bar which helps when we get to the Mountain Co-op store as this type of shopping doesn't interest my daughter nor I.

Rule #299 OPEN SHELVING WITH BASKETS FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OF THE FAMILY ALLOWS FOR EASY TRANSITION FROM DIRTY TO CLEAN. OR YOU COULD ALWAYS INSTALL A DUMBWAITER TO TRANSPORT YOUR LAUNDRY, OR EVEN BETTER HIRE A DUMB WAITER TO DO YOUR LAUNDRY!

I awake so early and start to press my sheets for the photo shoot today for the New York Post, the problem is that I can only do a job one way, perfectly, so an hour later my bed is done and I feel like a Chinese sweat factory self-employed. I now need my daughter up to do hers thank god she only sleeps on one side and her cotton seems less wrinkled; she is dressed and off for last day of internship and I welcome the photographer and stylist. We are a team of three women and I beg them to start upstairs so I don't have to press again or sleep on the sofas. The day goes well and we knock off the second floor partial main floor. The shoot has a summer vibe and relaxed with peonies flowing open after a quick exchange of unopened product from the Japanese flower lady at 80th and Lex, at those prices they should dance on demand.

It is a wrap with the portraits tomorrow and tonight a patio dinner at D'Orsay at 75th and Lex with two of my dear friends, the non-stopping talking fashion designer and my guy PR Man. We enjoy the night and then a peanut butter banana sandwich for midnight snack. Tomorrow: hair, make up and a great selection of dresses to pose with. Tonight sleeping in pressed sheets, divine.

Rule #300 LAUNDRY CHUTES ARE FANTASTIC!! BE SURE TO LINE THEM SO YOUR DELICATES CAN EASE THROUGH THE CHUTE. YOU DON'T WANT YOUR DELICATES GETTING STUCK ON THE METAL PIPE!

I admit I am stressed with going back still not packed will end up with 5 duffel bags, 2 dog bags, 2 bags of crystal and a random tennis racket which goes missing. For today it is looking glamorous without a care in the world: good luck. It is off to my addiction centre Valery Joseph Hair Salon with muffin and croissant in hand; we get fancy lots of hair and lots of humidity curls don't stay we ball gown it. The dresses are chiffon and perfect we lounge around looking Grecian really a different look for the Post. It is my daughter and I then just me trying to keep stress free as the air conditioning keeps blowing with the lights of the camera; I get through it and in the 500 pics there will hopefully one that I have my eyes open.

Now with make-up loaded on I head to my facial which is electrical current promoting collagen probes in ultrasound gel



at this point I would try anything to reduce the more than little lines, most of make-up gone I keep my eyes done I wander back up 25 blocks to my daughter starting to decipher what comes home. I have a drink with a friend at 6pm so fully soaked with sweat as it is 100 degrees out I change again and head out. We have drinks at Crown Restaurant at 81st and Madison. Back at the brownstone we get in full pack mode and tonight we dance the stairs at the Met at 10pm saying not good-bye but see you soon again. Ice cream cones at Sant Ambrose, a perfect night.

Rule #301 HAVE YOUR LAUNDRY CHUTE ENTER RIGHT INTO A CUPBOARD. NO ONE LIKES PILES OF CLOTHES SHOOTING ALL OVER THE ROOM.

It is another early start we have wheels up at 9am at Teterboro, New Jersey for a 10:45am meeting in Toronto so to do that we need to leave by 7:30am with a stop at Sant Ambrose for lattes with all our luggage and dogs we arrive at the FOB, sharing with 3 other staff passengers coming back from Ocala bound for Muskoka. We arrive to one playing the baby grand singing, fully entertaining the employees at the airport. It is a calm day and we will get there when we arrive not pushing the time keeping it easy my meeting seems to drift away it is a group charity board; I will catch the tour. In flight we sing the anthems both South African and Canadian as we fly over Niagara Falls, not sure why but as we leave USA air space it seems fitting. My daughter and I cleared at customs along with the dogs such warm/friendly service it is so unusual but it is a cute male, makes sense. My men are at other side of the glass there is a god.

We get duffel bags in appropriate cars the kids and dogs off to our island cottage while we head to a downtown hotel but on route drop off heavy crystal to best friends for party tonight I need to make an appearance at the board meeting completely missing the meeting now but can do the building tour. I am dropped off with hugs and kisses to my fellow board members: I announce that I just landed, literally and my colleague looks around and asks where's the plane? We all laugh and the tour is full of suggestions with lots of developers and architects in the crowd, poor Dean of Architecture leading the tour. A Soho House lunch, a Hazelton Hotel stay, an Izzy Gallery cocktail party and a Forest Hill dinner party my first day back in Canada. Easy to fit back in or is it?

Rule #302 PUT YOUR CLEANING SUPPLIES AWAY. MAKE A DESIGNATED CUPBOARD AND PUT THEM IN THE UPPER CABINETS.WE DON'T WANT ANY LITTLE ONES TRYING SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS!

I am hung over lying in bed in the Hazelton Hotel I need to be at a meeting in 15 minutes which is 30 minutes away and I am not moving. I actually put on the exact outfit as last night I look like I haven't slept or better I slept in my clothes. Last night surrounded by best friends that is the real litmus test we all don't really remember saying goodnight and we all wake up with a huge headaches trying to piece the night together. We now just dine boys at one end, girls at the other and someone bridging the gap. This is home regardless of the city—it is the people, very few but more than enough: two girls to be exact.

I make the drive in the rental car no idea on how to set up Bluetooth trying to do the meeting by phone but that is not happening; I arrive to business partner and accountant fantastic when you are hung over with one latte in your system. As expected with two major projects that I have built for myself my income is down but I have accumulated assets so with a plan to wrap all this up when my balding but sweet partner is 55 years of age; we have 4 years to go. All I can think of is a burger as I head back for lunch, seriously was thinking of a glass of wine to even this out when I asked the waiter if he thought it would help he replied: "Only if you are a high functioning alcoholic". I was thinking how high functioning? Packed up and off to northern lake country this is a long road.

Rule #303 ALWAYS USE LAUNDRY HAMPERS THAT ARE TRANSFERABLE WITH LINEN LINERS FOR EASY CLEANING. DON'T FORGET THE HAMPER GETS DIRTY AS WELL! IF YOU PUT DIRTY IN DIRTY IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE OF DIRT!

We arrived yesterday late afternoon at the mainland lake cottage which after 100 years of being in our family has sold closing in the fall, the last summer literally. Our family is complex and the siblings divided with my eldest sister being the center of not getting along with anyone but my mother; I just pretend all is good I have no head space to deal when issues come up I ignore I am protected and so loved. We have a much needed drink and head to our island after shopping at the liquor store, drug store and food store, complete with red cowboy hats and Canadian flags for the upcoming Canada Day. I am happy and ready to set up for the summer slowly. My son elects to stay with his grandparents on mainland. For now I just love and employ him.

The three of us breakfast/lunch then take to the water for boat cleaning and swimming some fun in the sun with no stress. Money never really sleeps. We are good together and my daughter elects to stay at the island we do a quick drink visit not really staying for dinner. There is a lot of chaos at the mainland and right now I just need some space, which I won't get until Tuesday after the ex leaves. Friends leave in morning and ex arrives in afternoon. Tonight the stars are out in full force with the pollen, both kids and friends feel it, me I am too busy unpacking, cleaning and throwing down some meals.

Rule #304 AN ESSENTIAL ITEM TO HAVE FOR YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM: A LAY AREA FLAT TO DRY RACK (SINCE EVERYTHING YOUR TEENAGER BUYS IS LAY FLAT TO DRY).

We drive to the private airport after a mainland lake side latte. Everyone looks exhausted; we say good-bye to my parents and in the rental we go back to another private airport this time Peterborough, Ontario not Teterboro, NY. In the Toyota flashing lights et al we drive to the plane I pass friends over to the pilots. I am in a remote so called city with 100,00 people and I actually find a Starbucks with a Walmart which I abhor; I need a toaster and I catch up with siblings I speak with via cell two out of three of them is not that bad.

Back at the lake with toaster, glasses and flowers I bring the mainland crew back with me, it is amazing to have my elder sister at my cottage and we do the non-speak. I have been bantering back and forth with NYC guy about spokesperson work while burgers are being made for lunch I talk too long and no burger for me. It is a constant walk about getting unpacked, food in cupboards and every little detail looked at as it is my first days here this season, all in all a good weather through one of the most brutal winters on record; I still can't get a NYC Sant Ambrose fix. I am home at my island and yet, my brownstone sits alone with the count down to its end in sight I am conflicted where I want to be; I know this is where I am needed, who else would triple task at a minimum between chef, molly maid and business woman? My summer vacation, my ex arrived I went on overdrive offering bread and breakfast with everything in between. We all behaved my son moved to island playing BBQ grill guy we dined, we chatted and we politely signed off.

Rule #305 NEVER USE A FLUORESCENT LIGHT, LET'S FACE IT THEY DON'T LOOK GOOD ANYWHERE AND YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD UNDER THEM! TRY USING 3 SQUARE SURFACE CEILING FIXTURES WITH INCANDESCENT LIGHTS.

This is when government rides over logic, tomorrow is a national holiday, Canada Day and they give the actual day off. The truth is most people are taking both today and tomorrow off plus with the 4th of July being on Friday this week it is a bit of a write-off especially in the financial sector. The scenario is as following: I am up early making breakfast for my daughter who is off to a job interview at 8:30am, my construction site is working they have questions, office closed I am open and the two boys: father/son wake up at 11am; I wonder what that is like. My daughter gets the job and she is actually on someone else's pay roll.

My ex is his own island taking care of himself; I tried for 24 years and not starting that again. My son has grown into a lovely young man and now living with his father for the summer he sees his world. My son organizes the day me with him and his father hangs with daughter. I play tennis and swim being competitive nearly being permanently injured at the net as my son drills them; I am more than fine I can handle this—I love it. My daughter gets a visit and lunch at her island tennis hut from her father the day seems good. We will have a family dinner that is as smooth as any modern family. Sleep and own room welcomed.

Rule #306 THE ONLY WAY TO ADD GLAMOUR TO YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM IS TO GET RID OF IT COMPLETELY!

I am pondering the comment from my daughter on how do you get healthy with eating fattening food, I do what I know that is full attack, I go to the organic store on the mainland getting smoothie ingredients, health bars, organic muffins, energy balls which I lose one somewhere to find it in the boat 2 days later still intact, dinner food and discuss with the owner various menus. My daughter is thrilled, next I pick up cleaning lady at mainland my ex felt he needed his sleep in so this is in my, yet, another task. My son has already left for golf. The morning is good I feel somewhat in control and thunder rolls in giving my daughter and I a girls day with her work cancelled while the boys leave for the city taking cleaning lady back to mainland; I will find the key in the wrong position battery dead in a few days.

We are back to the two of us we do a circuit course after a yummy lunch I am fielding questions from the writer at the New York Post for the article on July 3rd also my office is open and the emails are a steady stream. We play great music and collect sticks on the property for our fire pit the island is alive with budding blueberries. Tonight we make dinner together watching the big view out to the lake spreading love to each other; she is my daughter and so much like me I completely get her.

Rule #307 AT A MINIMUM, FLOORING CAN BE ANYTHING FROM PORCELAIN TO STONE. USE THE SAME FLOORING MATERIAL AS YOUR BASEBOARD. FOR THE COUNTER AND KICK UP USE STONE. TO ADD EVEN MORE PIZZAZ USE A TILE BLACK SPLASH AND WALLS, IF YOU ARE INSANE YOU CAN EVEN TILE THE CEILING. REMEMBER A LOT OF WATER AND A LOT OF STEAM IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.

The world is back in motion for a few more days before Friday July 4th which is an US holiday. I am up early trying to get a head start on the day getting my morning delivered paper on the island near the hot tub I peruse with a latte in the screened in porch in my cashmere bathrobe as the temperature has dropped. Reading, writing and feeling the power of the lake surrounding me I have a morning visit from an old boyfriend to catch up on the year. We do this every summer and have done for years, not necessarily in my bathrobe. His youngest son had some serious issues; they moved with him to Bali for special school: husband, wife and child a hard year but with seeing the light at the end of the tunnel he has found communities within he lives and thrives. It stuck with me the concept of community and how important those relationships are; we are not islands. Being on one it is easy not to engage.

I feel better for his visit my daughter is now up, we all participate in the morning smoothies with all its anti-oxidants and goodness. He has a golf game at 11am, I have a conference call at 11am regarding a potential TV program, yet, again but this time a more knowledge based approach on a real channel PBS and my daughter tennis office job at noon. I have to be on the road shortly thereafter to visit son who had wisdom teeth out this morning and two meetings at 3pm and 5pm. I bathe, change, pack and boat all to get to mainland rental car. The big boat is at mainland from ex and son departure yesterday my daughter is my chauffeur in her Boston whaler. I don't know how to get the Bluetooth working I cheat with using speaker phone as I drive trying to connect with people even with bad cell reception. In fact, my US cell gets better reception than my Canadian cell, that is insane since I am in Canada. Two hour drive and meetings both done, I visit my son in my ex's apartment I have never seen before; I feel a little sad as parts of our old life are there; he still has our initial sheets but they can just be his middle name so I just smile and love my son. I arrive at the King City farm announcing I am here for my car collection as my 1957 Porsche speedster in also in the garage; I am loved and long in cars.

Rule #308 ENSURE EASY ACCESSIBILITY OF YOUR IRONING BOARD. THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH ROOM TO HAVE IT SET UP WHILE STILL BEING ABLE TO COMPLETE OTHER TASKS IN THE ROOM. IF TIGHT ON SPACE, USE ONE THAT COMES OUT OF THE WALL.

The latter part of the evening was spent reading the article from the New York post that just came out on line first at about 6pm, I read first to peers then started sending out. My PR lady in New York thrilled and the writer who I have been working on answers over the last few days I am incredibly thankful as he send me the link but I had read in car while driving 30 minutes previously dreading the possible carnage, no carnage all really good. That is a first. The evening became the morning with the actual paper out, calls, texts and emails but the real deal is the meat of the article we can use for further business.

Today is a whirlwind exciting with me everywhere in my new Bentley which is out of gas but I dare not complain; I laugh and car needs food. I am an hour late for my first meeting just nervous driving trying to get used to the gadgets; I had two previous Bentleys back in the day which I hardly ever drove, long story. After the 5 hour meeting with my team and client at site I head back to the city first stop Bentley Fine Cars to find out how to set up phone. Great guy set me up I am legal to call I have my old life back dial a friend taking that community concept seriously. My live/work place needs me for paint choice and my son requires pudding which I locate at a speciality store. I am dirty, I require a shower and a change of clothes before dinner. With my duffle bag in the trunk I go on my ex's name to the Four Season spa in his building, a lot accomplished in a few days from never seeing where he lives to using the spa at his hotel residence. Wow, this feels good and I look better heading to Harbour 60, the restaurant I designed and built, dinner tonight is a crowd of 7 consisting of three former classmates from Architecture School and the writer with his partner of the New York Post article. We have the best table and amazing service; we all feel no pain.

Rule #309 WHEN DECIDING WHERE TO STORE YOUR LAUNDRY SUPPLIES ALWAYS MAKE SURE THE WASHING MACHINE PRODUCTS ARE ABOVE THE WASHING MACHINE AND DRYER PRODUCTS ABOVE THE DRYER. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE PLAYING HIDE AND GO SEEK WITH YOUR CLEANING SUPPLIES!

The pain comes in the morning in the form of a headache which seems to be my common ailment on Friday mornings; I sleep or at least try until the lattes arrive via farm manager from Starbucks. We are told there is a luncheon at the property being in the group of Signature Properties available for lease my thoughts of lying by the pool vanish. Out the door by 11am in the Bentley on route to island where a dead battery boat awaits me since my ex left key in the on position. I devour the country music station on this 4th of July listening to their top ten picks that have played many Republican conventions, of course I get a phone call at the number 1 top pick and have no idea how it ended.

I am slowly re-connecting with phone calls to my Toronto friends and the reality of coming back is in my view; I want to go to NYC and have my hair done, go to Sant Ambrose and hang with my friends lounging in my brownstone but the week ahead they are starting coming to me. I arrive to the mainland with some laughs with friends then to the ridiculous situation of the Marina which there is only one on our lake has taken the wrong boat my parents wooden boat. Both parents at cottage they did not notice at all. All I can do is smile and await mechanic to come to switch batteries for mine and he does leaving an extra bolt lying on floor whatever that is for I am sure to find out. My daughter arrives after hitting with pro and we fall in each other's routine; she organizes the cupboard as I make dinner after a cat nap. It is an early night for both of us, I decline a cocktail party invite as I need to re-group. A card game with my daughter in her bed with some Benadryl medicine for all, good night Irene.

Rule #310 DON'T BE AFRAID TO BRING IN SOME PLANTS OR FRESH FLOWERS. ANYTHING TO BRIGHTEN UP THE SPACE AND MAKE IT FEEL COMFORTABLE.

We wake up a long way from 80th and Madison with the wind blowing directly on the front face of the main cottage keeping the windows on that side closed all day, letting the leeward side make the breezes. My ground hog days have begun but will be short lived with the firing of the new tennis pro later on tonight. Wake up, latte, newspaper, hit with tennis pro, hot tub, swim and breakfast. My angel is up when I get back so we do it all but not necessarily in that order, we slide into lunch and the wind keeps us on the island. With a slight break in the weather we go to mainland to pick up the crew of 5 kids and 2 more adults--mostly related. I hear some dribbles from NYC and Toronto but summer time is mainly family time for me.

I am needed here for both my children and family, son just recuperating from dental surgery and daughter with chest infection. It is ping pong, swimming and baking brownies, which is quite the combo platter. My son arrived safely over at mainland while my daughter and I hit some tennis before family dinner at mainland. It goes like this: one cousin boy floods the upstairs toilet, my mother with gloves on stops to mop up after a bottle of wine, older boy cousin slips on toilet water at foot of stairs and my older sister is complaining of her hair loss bringing out examples during cocktail hour while my daughter calls the whole event play by play. Dinner is served with not enough food for 13 people and my mother glove-free smiling saying this is what family is all about, I guess. I de-brief later noting their world needs some order; my world needs living.

Rule #311 MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PROPER UTILITY SINK. ALWAYS STAINLESS WITH A RETRACTABLE HEAD FOR EASY CLEANING, A GOOD SPRAY IS A MUST.

It is the men's final at Wimbledon I have been watching in bed and my daughter is up a bit later to have our strawberries, smoothies and breakfast. The match is incredible going over 4 hours we don't even see the end as we have a 1pm court where we play our own Wimbledon with our Chanel tennis balls. It is a lazy Sunday and we head back to the mainland for the crew that comes over to the island in a wave of 5 kids and 3 adults with food being consumed, doors slammed, paddles broken, boat broken and general chaos. It is all too much for me right now; I need some calm. I take them all back and my elder sister comes over with her kids and mine; we have a civilized dinner watching some hilarious television.

I feel the exhaustion I need to do a city visit, my son's partial job description is cottage watch as he is going to stay up at the cottage to take care of the dogs and attending to the window cleaners coming Tuesday morning. I have elected to do the early morning drive to steal one more night at the island with a sleep of a soft wind and the play of the water. I know tomorrow is not going to be easy; I will take whatever I need to my ego is so gone. We have had a great year, I am here to pick up the pieces and make changes for the future.

Rule #312 SPRAY SHEETS WITH LAVENDER WATER AFTER WASHING AND BEFORE YOU PUT THEM IN THE DRYER. THEY WILL SMELL LIKE A FRESH GARDEN AND YOUR GUESTS WILL LOVE THEM! AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE!

It is an early morning but not that early an ease into a breakfast and a boat ride to get to the city. We leave the island with the rest of the people and dogs sleeping; the morning drive is filled with the best hits songs, my daughter's favourite tunes which give me a slight headache. We have packed for a few days and first we go to my office to see our live/work place site and I review all I can before heading to our appointment. My daughter and her childhood nanny have lunch consisting of a burger and fries, we are off. The appointment goes pretty much as expected.

We have a new reality and many words of criticism to follow. My ex leaves directly after the appointment and I pick up the pieces with my daughter. We build our team while we both have dentist's appointments floating in and out of reality. We head back to the farm; I attempt a bad dinner of pasta and the bowl of ice cream is our good night.

Rule #313 YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO REPURPOSE YOUR HOME GYM, SO KEEP THE FLOORS THE SAME AS THE REST OF THE HOUSE AND ADD RUBBER MATS.

I wake in a daze and just start what I know to do after an amazing pep talk; I can't listen to the nay sayers I just need to get the job done. Lead by example. The weather is brutal for the week and we need to take a break from the lake until her chest infection is gone to alert her job of this scenario; she does I take her for lunch and we need to have some fun.

We hit the mall and do some shopping I spied Target, her favourite place, and she starts to find her groove after making some purchases. The afternoon feels brighter the rain has stopped and we head to the city for another appointment and my son will join us. It is a home run and the three of us listen and contribute with a clearer understanding of what we need to do and that we have been doing the right approach. I continue to listen with an open mind; I am up for any approach. It is like the world has lifted and shifted. We have sushi waiting at the farm for us and we have a fabulous dinner we are both happier and getting to understand the drill; we both like drills.

Rule #314 MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL WHO'S THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL, BE CREATIVE WITH YOUR GYM MIRRORS, FRAME THEM IN LACQUER PANELS.

The weather has turned it is cooler and really end of summer weather but it is not the case, we are in our routine while I answer emails and calls we head to the city for the afternoon with both having evening plans. Our first stop is our old hair haunt which is nice not fancy, not busy and not over-priced. It is ok; I see people we know and my best friend shows up now parked outside we have matching cars, you have to laugh. Another Toronto lady comments on how great I look; I just smile moving along. We need to stop by the office to look at some grout samples from a potential business spoke person possibility.

Nail place we go with our boxes still saved and again it is nice not glamorous nor does it have the constant pull for a tip; I tip anyway and always have. My ex is a few blocks away apparently boxed in by celebrities at his Four Season residence, poor him but all it means is that my daughter will walk to him. I head to dinner with friends of 25 years it is great to see them we all slip into our banter that has been standard for years; we all play a role, mine is the adventurer but also complicated I am a moving target. The restaurant is a buzz and I see so many people I know, where did the year go? My girlfriends walk me to my car and we all take a pic in front of my bday present. We had a 5:30pm reservation calling ourselves the blue rinse set, at least all done by 8:30am I can head back to the farm with my daughter after I get her from her Dad's Four Season bachelor pad.

Rule #315 YOU MUST LOOK GOOD IN YOUR GYM, FORGET THE FLUORESCENT LIGHTING (TYPICAL OF HOME GYMS) AND INCORPORATE SOME RECESSED LIGHTING. TRY SOMETHING UNIQUE LIKE A SPLIT LINE RECESSED FIXTURE WHILE INCORPORATING WALL SCONCES.

It is a beautiful day! I wake early to start some work, my beautiful daughter sleeping in to meet me later for lunch at a client's site. I type away the farm manager brings me my latte and we chat forgetting the time. My 8:30am meeting arrives I am still in my pj's which is my staff/family to go over some work prior to today's 10am site visit. I look at drawings with one girl who has been with me for 15 years and the other we review the outstanding items at this farm, she has been with me for 4 years. I have mostly woman who work with me and they stay with me for a while; I am lucky. I also have one male Asian right now that evens out both gender and ethnicity. We all meet at site 30 minutes away at a 15,000 sf house; we are the interior designers for this project sitting in front of the contractor and client we are 4 women, we have the expertise amongst us and we have done this many times before our team is suited to this scale of projects; I am happy as I look about knowing we add value and beauty.

You can't believe this but at noon both my daughter and my client's Dad arrives, one with food and the other with an appetite. We dine on a table cloth at a picnic bench homemade pesto rapini fusilli piping hot with fresh fruit for dessert, we all have seconds, it truly is a beautiful day. After showing my daughter the house we head back to the farm and then we head up to my cottage for a celebratory weekend. We all fit in the convertible, we are off and the drive is a two hour no traffic dream, yet arriving to a cottage that has been left open for three days but at this point I am with people I love I really could care less. The cleaning lady will be here tomorrow, I put music on make some dinner and find a great groove; I am at peace.

Rule #316 IF YOU HAVE A WEIGHT SECTION PUT SOME STAINLESS STEEL ON THE WALLS TO AVOID WEAR AND TEAR.

I am up north with friends/daughter/dogs I am in heaven my girl Friday comes another long time helper and my world is getting back together. I do lattes breakfast we have internet and clean sheets, today is a good one. I have my family over while I am in between phone calls and sun bathing it is a good one! A day of lunch on the deck in the sun with cheeseburgers and Caesar salad; we hold off on the wine until the gin rummy tournament that the youngest 9 year old

Chapter 19 Gym Rules:

won maybe it was the adult wine consumption. An amazing day we slide into dinner at the local resort that has very specific food such as guinea fowl that my nephew calls road kill.

We switch to the main dining room and we have a more normal meal with many laughs about my sister's dating which is really hilarious with her perfection of the South African accent depicting the latest victim. All in all a fabulous full day we drop all off by boat and it is a magical memory with family filled with love, food and spirits. We are in a good place with tomorrow being my birthday. We have a bowl of ice cream before bed we slide into a deep sleep, well I am happily awoken at 4am for my first birthday wish of the day. Tomorrow is a full moon and with a full moon comes big emotions, mine are checked at the door I am not up for review right now but love and support I need as I am a little emotionally raw, quite the week.

Rule #317 PLAN FOR A STORAGE AREA WHERE YOU CAN STORE YOUR WATER BOTTLES, TOWELS AND YOGA ACCESSORIES. JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE RULES EVERYTHING NEEDS A SPOT. THERE'S NOTHING SADDER THEN SEEING A YOGA MAT STUFFED IN THE BACK OF A LONELY CLOSET.

I am happy to see the sun rise with a new vision of what lies ahead I see my priorities and my circle of love. It will be and is a fabulous day. I hear from many friends and some will dribble in or not, I don't care anymore about the crowd just the ones I can reach out and touch. It is chill day after a busy day yesterday we are having a cocktail party at 5pm and I am trying to organize some wine without having to go in town. My son is heading up for my bday so if I can get him moving he will have wine dockside in time, the secret is to get him out of bed and in the car. We play games and have lunch on the deck really with very little agenda. I need to make a store stop to get some appetizers all pretty close to when guests arrive. We have about 20 people mainly gay men, some tennis friends, family and we all play bartender. They drink us dry in white wine the island is no longer my drinking fountain.

Time for dinner at the Golf Club we head over with sparkles and lanterns to light after dinner; we are a group of 9 with 4 grandchildren: three generations it is magical. We are later joined by the club owner who hangs with us as we light the fire lanterns and make wishes that go far into the sky. It always starts well and then after a couple of drinks too many some family member slips or falls but not tonight even with a few good down and get back-ups we are all good with many memories of laughing. Home before it rains a full storm will consume the sky hiding our full moon. The full moon hidden but magical I am a moon girl and no clouds can hide the night of shared love.

Rule #318 TELEVISION IS A MUST HAVE FOR PASSING TIME AT THE GYM. A WALL MOUNT WITH A SWIVEL IS ESSENTIAL SO YOU CAN SEE THE SCREEN FROM ALL AREAS OF THE ROOM. EVEN THOUGH THE TELEVISION MAY BE ON YOU CAN STILL HAVE THE ROCK AND ROLL MUSIC BLASTING IN YOUR EARS. IF YOU CAN'T INSTALL A SPEAKER SYSTEM, A LOUD IPOD DOCK SHOULD DO THE TRICK! ROCK OUT!!

The morning after is always putting the pieces back together, an absolute brutal weather day with winds and rain. I am with my daughter her mood reflects the weather and we move through the day getting happier as the sun comes out mid-afternoon. We decide on an in town lunch with grocery shopping for a dinner with both my kids tonight at our island. It is the World Cup Finals and I get a full hour sleep during regulation time, my son loves sport and he is captivated. I find it a very big field to watch with little men from a far away perspective.

We all join in making dinner, my son will have his second dinner at the mainland and back for some TV and ping pong. It is one of those days that is a struggle but the night seems easier and spirits a bit lifted as we all listen to music in the boathouse being schooled by my son in ping pong; I am happy to lose and I am just happy we are all together, smiles on my daughter is a gift. I will sleep with her tonight to around 5am it makes me feel better that I can listen to her breathing and monitor her coughing it brings me back to when she was a young child with asthma I would do the same; I can hear her really from anywhere it is called Mother's hearing, it is me that needs the comfort.

Rule #319 WHEN DECIDING WHICH ROOM WILL BECOME YOUR GYM ACCOUNT FOR THE HEIGHT OF THE CEILING. YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO SKIP ROPE, DO SOME JUMPING JACKS AND LIFT WEIGHTS ABOVE YOUR HEAD WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT TAKING OUT A LIGHT FIXTURE!

It is definitely cooler weather, NYC seems a life time ago I miss it terribly but it will always be a place where I lived and made a home. Coming back to Stoney Lake is coming home and having the world out there is our adventures we all need a base, this is my base. I click my heels and breathe a sigh of release: "there is no place like home". My ground hog day is definitely slower this year I am less apt to pack in 100 things but slowly enjoy what is in front of me. I hit with the tennis pro with a little less pace and my girlfriend makes me muffins for me when I only inquired about a recipe next time I will ask about Beef Wellington; I rarely ask for anything but the right people just seem to know when to step in, I am lucky with

love. A perfect example of my fewer activities I was going to do the bike but old boyfriend stopped by usually I would talk while on the bike but I took the time to just chat/listen and he has experienced many aspects of life; I cherish that honesty. The day wittles away with son at bay chillin watching TV and swimming; we just co-exist—it is so wonderful. We go over to mainland to hang with cousins and my daughter is back from work with a big smile, ready for some evening tennis. This day just feels better and I respond to work questions wrapping up by 4pm. Dinner is just the two of us as my son is heading back to work for me on our construction site, table time we do the meal is great and the evening snack. Tonight I sleep in my own bed, like a log.

Rule #320 BASE YOUR EQUIPMENT ON THE SIZE OF YOUR ROOM. IF THE ROOM IS SMALL: CHOOSE KEY PIECES TO HAVE OR MACHINES ON A SMALLER SCALE.

No tennis this morning it is catch up day with the cottage and phone call day with clients/charity connections. I need gas for the boat and my trim is broken so that is a full visit at the Marina, my first phone call happens in the boat as I was delayed at the Marina I cruise slowly organizing my site visit and fee. I have the job but it is my time they want not staff which tends to complicate matters as I have only so much time. That call behind me, my next is with a needed connection to the Montreal scene for a charity event in the fall looking for a local host that is interested in Ballet and Opera I reach out to the head of the Governor General's Award director with much hope I am getting closer to a possible venue. Followed by PR woman who is gracious and organizing key meetings.

The day flies by with call to big client that requested a new building typology for the development in Canada not getting the technical side of the work is better but was a good chunk of change; we are not set up to compete with the sweat shops so we stick to our knitting. Finally I get to go on the bike even though a nasty client who cries wolf all the time is insisting on speaking with me; I can't do it. I have a senior designer handling the job I will control this relationship get answers first and when I have them in hand, deal. Rain and more rain our tennis is off again. My daughter and I make a fabulous lemon cream pasta with snow peas and tomatoes after my nap where I completely passed out; I am tired. Arranging both internet and satellite fixes for the morning I feel I can go to bed unencumbered.

Rule #321 PLACEMENT OF MACHINES IS KEY, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO EASILY WALK AROUND THE MACHINE AND HAVE ROOM TO ACCESS OTHER EQUIPMENT OR FREE WEIGHTS WITH PROPER ERGONOMICS! YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HUNCHED OVER WITH YOUR WEIGHTS!

I am a taxi service today for the non-working technology at the island. First, I get the satellite guy who hates his job and company then the internet guy who is awesome this is his second visit and at the end of all it tells me to switch companies. Well that is the day I am one ahead I can watch high definition and the other still not connected trying to view drawings on my phone. My daughter and I are hitting tennis at the island club and we get into a good rhythm it feels balanced.

Tonight we are off to an old friend on the other side of the lake; she is usually a great cook and the best conversation. Tonight the conversation was great really all about her which I am so fine with these days and the food way too garlicky; I was up all night. It was sisters and daughter with running commentary our host wanted to discuss Israel my sister would not; I wanted to I like a good slanted view. A car ride and a boat ride we settle back on our island for a rocky sleep with visions of fences in our head; our host's neighbour built an illegal fence between the cottages: call it our full dinner conversation.

Rule #322 USE A BENCH THAT CAN BE ADJUSTABLE TO SUIT EACH EXERCISE. TRY TO AVOID MULTIPLE BENCHES, AS THIS IS NOT A SEATING AREA IT IS A WORKOUT AREA.

This whirl wind with my friend from NYC starts today; he lands in Toronto and is brought up to the mainland by driver and we begin our day, well actually our day started early with me hitting with tennis pro and a big shop in town for copious amounts of food. We all meet at mainland first bumping into my parents in town where my father buys his usual 1 tomato and a sausage as he likes to go to the stores every day for his daily dose of people and stories as well he never serves enough food it is a wasp thing. I am so happy to have a little New York arrive on my door step and he does; we, well, the driver loads our groceries into the boat we are off to the island then the golf club for an intellectual lunch with my father.

My father dominates the conversation and we all listen getting some key words in; my father glows with new people they are polite and attentive at first a new audience is a good thing. We carry on from club to friend's cottage for a glass of champagne and the giggles start that will last all the way to Monday. Tonight I host my sister and mother sharing my New Yorker with both of them; we dine by candle light and the conversation is almost as good as my perfect ribs. We all sleep well in this star lit sky tomorrow promising beauty with the incredible sunset this evening. It is good to get New York out of New York to me, special delivery.



**Rule #323 DESIGNATE YOUR MAT AREA FOR YOGA AND AB WORKOUTS!
IF YOUR SPACE IS SMALL YOUR MAT SHOULD BE REMOVABLE. KEEP ALL
YOGA ACCESSORIES TOGETHER. THIS INCLUDES YOUR MAT, BLOCK,
TOWEL AND OF COURSE OUR FAVORITE ... YOGA PILLOW!**

It is a tennis morning with my daughter we hit to our favourite music it is a great way to wake up; I am going on a road trip after and my daughter will stay with my parents one night then her brother comes up. We have been inseparable for the last few months and I feel the pull from her. She needs to become more independent; she retreats a little from me and this is a good thing. My mom and sister are on this I can go feeling confident she is in good hands especially her own; we have a routine now and we both like that. In white dress shirt and capris with straw brimmed visor my New Yorker and I head in the Bentley convertible to another lake for a fund raiser extraordinaire. We listen to fabulous music concentrating on country and 70's talking all the way while both car and iphone give directions, both giving conflicting right/left turns.

A new boat with my initials and it is mine we go for a spin and it is beyond fantastic. This is a Boat Rally weekend to raise money for kids with cancer and tonight is the kick off cocktail party. We have a couple with us from Florida, young new hot shots we will all bond, they stay at the nicer resort as cottage is leased out we are at the resort that is hosting. We all are in a loft situation, it is funny. Tonight is special I am with friends from past and present everyone flittering around. We all go to bed and New Yorker finds a wooden statute of a bunny to sleep with quite stiff at 3 feet tall and flat.

**Rule #324 COLOR THE WALLS!! FIND A BRIGHT BOLD COLOR THAT GETS
YOUR ENERGY GOING, RED IS A GREAT CHOICE! KEEP IT BRIGHT AND
CLEAN. CREATE ENERGY IN THE ROOM, WHETHER IT'S A COLOR, IMAGE,
OR PLAYLIST MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ENERGY LEVELS HIGH FOR THE
ULTIMATE WORK OUT!**

It is an early morning that holds a day of promised fun and we are up for it. Early morning prep meeting, of course, New Yorker and I can't locate the actual restaurant that serves lattes so we wander finally bumping into friends we all descend on the breakfast tent where I coerce a waiter to fetch me steamed milk; I make our own lattes. We are all excited for the competition scavenger hunt, we have a great team extremely laid back and with good hair. I can't believe I will have to do the in water activities. Our celeb girl is amazing and we are off to 6 stations and various activities. I am instrumental in the cliff jumping and song writing stick to your knitting: jump, write and don't sing.

Done with the day portion after many laughs and partially losing my voice my friend is keen to win. The night we settle into a party starting with wine dockside chardonnay is always my drink of choice. Our team places 3rd and with our group that was a good thing as competitive spirit was evident but not the main ingredient except maybe at the soccer game where we had points deducted for being too aggressive. Live auction, I tried to buy a watch my friend overbid me twice and even on the trip we donated I bid to get it going luckily not winning that bid. An amazing night we attempt a skinny dip and a hot tub plunge to be busted by girl with flashlight. My New Yorker got the full monty shining light on his exit from the hot tub.

**Rule #325 IF YOUR ROOM IS SMALL TRY HORIZONTAL STRIPES TO MAKE IT
FEEL LARGER. MIRRORS ON THE WALLS WILL ALSO HELP YOU WITH THIS
AS WELL AS KEEP YOU WORKING.**

It is a done deal with over \$800,000 raised and we can all finally breathe. I wake up slowly to the world and we glow over the previous day. There is a slight rain and there is no rest for the weary we have a BBQ with my client in the city we start the venture down. There is traffic, an accident, teenage staff forgets to fill up the car, added new scratch to new car and a fire so we get there late with extra guests everyone goes in full entertaining mode. My New York friend who really has found his groove barefoot et all at the lunch turn dinner table looks at the sky around his flight time and states I take it I am going home tomorrow. I laugh so hard and have more wine as my group is with me for another night. We do a site visit of the job I am doing which is awesome and everyone has an opinion on the design direction.

I keep my head down and give the full tour the client is happy and proud of the project, my friends have done so many projects that they are basically redesigning everything. My group now all 5 of us gives the straight goods on the two projects extremely black and white no shades of grey here. We have been going non-stop since Thursday it is exhausting having this much fun. We all land at the King City farm a quiet reprieve we now are all giggles at the point of collapsing. Good night and hurry.

**Rule #326 VENTILATION IS KEY, NO ONE LIKES THE SMELL OF SWEAT,
ESPECIALLY BOYS SWEAT. A CEILING FAN IS GREAT FOR AIR MOVEMENT
AND THE REAL HOPE IS A WINDOW TO CRACK!**

I am the second one up and out that morning at 7am, New York left at 6am the rest still asleep awaiting breakfast and the jet. What is wrong with that picture? My day is a crazy one starting with an 8am and a 10am client visit for new jobs followed by a half day with potential spokesperson work with a grout company. It is 90 degrees in the city I am trying to understand why this summer I have most of my cottage days cooler and rainy. I am doing what I do best; I am solving problems the only way I know how, 100 percent commitment and alone.

After the meeting it is a burger and French fry dinner then a drive to the farm I admit at this point I am exhausted but I just keep on going and driving. I discover today something has dropped on my new car and the staff that moved it said they remember seeing it before which I don't believe but whatever it is a car and it will get fixed. Tonight I need to sleep I have an early morning and my daughter is going to an amusement park and trampoline place for the day with the farm manager's sons girlfriend, it takes a village so maybe I am not so alone at this.

**Rule #327 THE ULTIMATE LUXURY, HAVE A SLIDING WALL OF DOORS SO
IN THE SUMMER MONTHS YOU FEEL AS THOUGH YOU ARE OUTSIDE.
THIS IS ALSO GREAT IN BOAT HOUSES OR GARAGES THAT HAVE GARAGE
DOORS. EVERYONE LOVES A ROOM WITH A VIEW!**

Meetings, pick-ups, lunch meetings and more meetings then finally drive to cottage with my daughter as we have guests from NYC tomorrow coming up for a few days. I hang with my older sister and her daughter the night is peaceful. The day consisted of dealing with new and existing clients amongst getting our new place ready to move in. It is a full day and a good one knowing that my daughter is just being a kid.

My sister and her daughter sleep over; I am in a bit of work mode feeling that I just need to catch up and I start the wheels in play. I answer all emails and keep the ball moving in the right direction amongst my gin rummy and driving. In the car my daughter plays my secretary answering texts and emails while picking radio stations. I feel a little overwhelmed but really loved. The happiest people to see us were the dogs plus the cleaning lady came today so the cottage is spic and span; I am one happy woman.

**Rule #328 DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR LIGHTING DIM-ABLE. THIS IS
PERFECT FOR THE YOGA OR MEDITATION JUNKIE. YOUR GYM CAN BE
BOTH A PUMP UP ROOM OR A RELAXATION ZONE. WHY HAVE JUST ONE
WHEN YOU CAN HAVE BOTH?**

The New Yorkers are coming and we are excited as we know the food will be good with lots of talking basically a Ralph Lauren clothing ad. This is exactly what happens they arrive fully stocked with fancy groceries and duffel bags plus one Tumi—not so easy to boat across. We get to the island and the eating begins with a BBQ lunch and some wine we slide right through into the night with a steak feast with more wine with my mother and sister. Today was windy so we toured around visited stores and filled in blanks with more food. I forgot what it is like to have younger kids that eat earlier and at a separate table it is similar to running a 24 hour restaurant.

We have consumed pounds of everything and it is cooked then set up then served it is never really hot, different than my style but I am thrilled not to have to do it; I just sit back and give my friends the reins for a couple of days. I am the boat driver and the tour person that they keep fed and pour wine ice chilled for, love that. An early night my friend has brought her new boyfriend of three months that they have already blended families and are getting married in December which I can't compute as my 4 year old relationship is a bit different to say the least; we don't play the Brady Bunch. Her boyfriend gets her attention when kids go to sleep; I will hang alone I get it she is in early days. She will wake up and smell the roses.

Rule #329 OH WOW POOR CONCRETE FLOOR, GET GLOSSY-USE A HIGH GLOSS LACQUER EPOXY TREATMENT TRY A BRIGHT HERMES ORANGE!

I wake to a rocking tennis lesson gaining a new forehand, I am on fire. Feels great the latte in the morning I bring to the tennis court and on my return my house guests are playing family making breakfast and planning the day. My daughter wakes up grumpy doesn't really talk until noon and at that time she goes to work for her 4 hours so I am with the New Yorkers getting ready for another meal. The weather is warm and we boat for more supplies but the boat is stopping and starting, no gas, we cruise into the Marina on fumes. My girlfriend's boyfriend is actually from New Jersey and loves baseball meeting my father they have a secret language that is only interesting to them. We arrange to go back for cocktails for more baseball chatter and 5pm hors d'oeuvres, my family serve food like pure wasps, very little.

Today is New Jersey entertaining New York children; they love him and I love him as I get a full break but girlfriend is fully occupied managing not engaging. I just let it all happen and viewing the scene. I get cocktail pre-hour in the hot tub with New Jersey and he is entertaining while New York mother showers children despite the lake. I am content heading over to the mainland for cocktails knowing dinner will be made, the children fed and general clean up. Actually they are dream guests, way better than family. The tennis pros come for dinner late due to full brawl on the tennis court involving 11 year olds that is scary but not as scary as their ride home with a pen flashlight. A little ping pong with pros while my girlfriend over exhausted escapes to the cabin with her boyfriend; I have all the kids in the main cottage, well at least I didn't have to cook dinner.

Rule #330 KICK IT UP! USE WALL TILES UP THE SIDES OF THE WALLS TO AT LEAST A HEIGHT OF 3'6." THIS ALLOWS YOU TO WASH CARS WITH EASE AND NOT TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR WALL FINISH PEELING. NOTHING WORSE THAN PEELING WALLS AND CHIPPED NAILS!

It is early morning tennis and with my new forehand I bring my daughter to the lesson to show it to her but unfortunately I left it behind; I am truly frustrated I seriously can't hit the ball. Really, after 40 years of tennis I need to switch to golf with this low starting stroke? I get more and more frustrated, finally it is just my daughter and I, she helps me hit. I work out some of the kinks; I feel a bit better. Back at 11am to the cottage the new family has done it all for the kids and they are ready for their last activities before lunch and departure. Finally, at lunch I get to hang with my girlfriend as her boyfriend has been instructed to check her family soon to be his or maybe not, in on-line. We chat quickly and I get the just she will be divorced by December, married by December and moved to new place by December with new husband. I have to hand it to her she has a plan.

We say our good byes and I am now exhausted with many towels to wash; I am not convinced of her plan but I don't regret my journey as a single woman with a travelling life that is complicated. I would never trade my love for anything but I do seek some normalcy, careful for what you wish for. I have found strength and can stand on my own two feet and that is who I am; I can go to any relationship and be a full participant. I have watched the pain and I am empathetic for all of this. I am a better person. It was not easy and I don't expect it to be ever easy but I am calm, happy and in love.

Rule #331 SHY AWAY FROM FLUORESCENT LIGHTING, WE ARE TAKING THE GARAGE TO A NEW LEVEL. MAKE THE SPACE INVITING BY ADDING CHANDELIERS OR PENDANT LIGHTS. WATCH OUT FOR GARAGE DOORS.

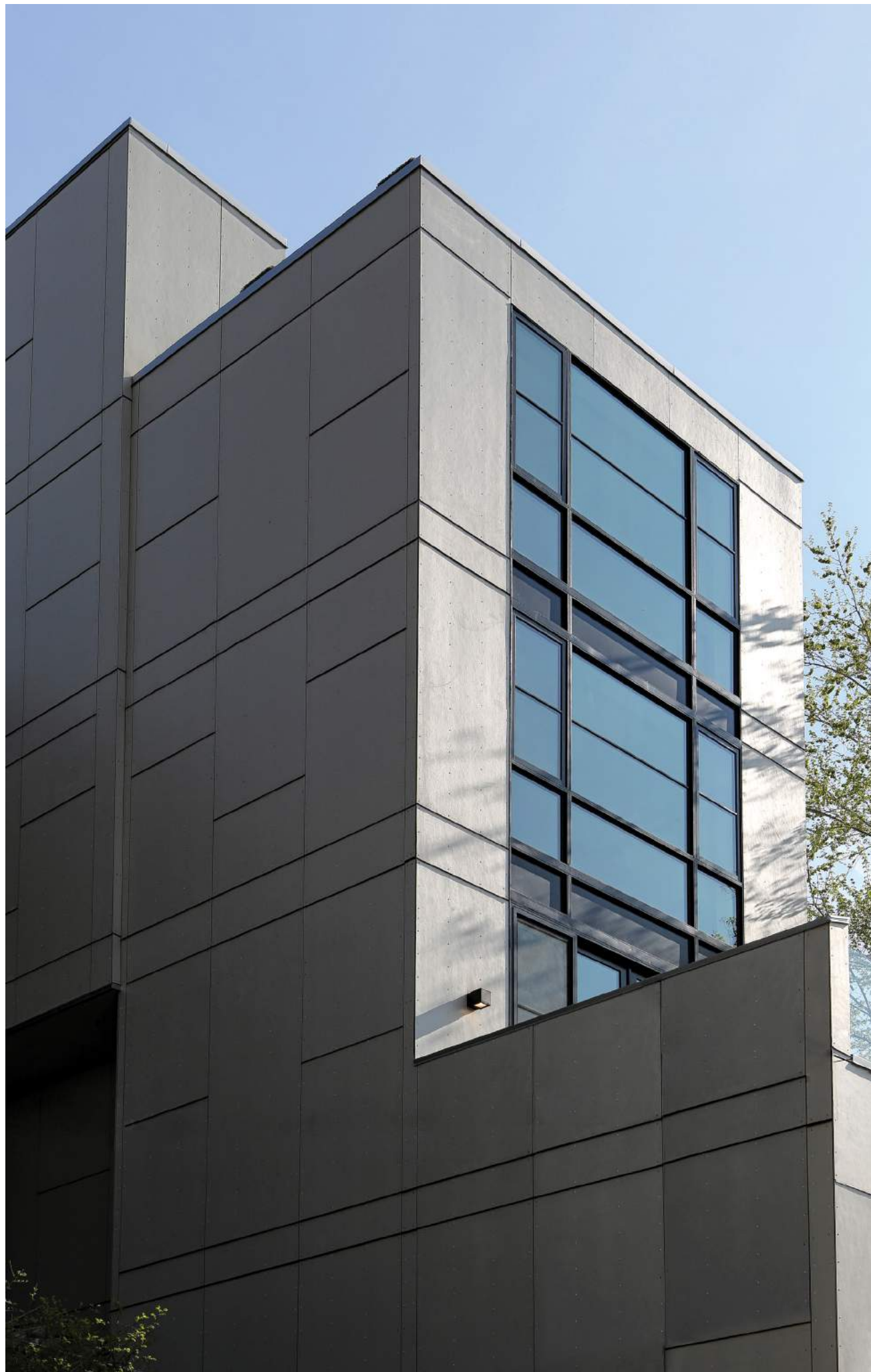
The forehand is back and I am beyond happy; we hit with the pro, my daughter and I. They are laughing making fun of me. A fabulous start to the day in these grey clouds; we will head out later for a walk in the fields with my older sister discussing the ridiculousness of people. She is not in the best place, a little angry with a lot on her plate; I feel for her. It is just the girls and the dogs against the world. After tennis, the walk, breakfast and lunch we both need naps. We awake at 6pm completely missing cocktails at my parents needing to be dressed and ready for the evening dinner. My daughter goes to the mainland while my sister and I off to an old friends where we will be the only women, my sister is loved by gay men while they like my clothes, I think.

The night is entertaining with fabulous food and many different smells of cologne discussing the world at large and how we met 35 years ago. All smiles and even my foot wear with wooden heels survived the island terrain. Now it is in the pitch dark to go back to mainland, get my daughter and then navigate to the island for a thunder storm filled sleep. This island I love and it keeps me real listening to the water softly lapping on the rock. Tonight the boy dog is right beside me he can't deal with storms; I almost step on him twice while the girl dog just sleeps alone and happy, similarities in life. Men can't be alone; who will make them breakfast?

Rule #332 ALWAYS MEASURE TWICE WHEN DESIGNING THE SIZE OF YOUR GARAGE DOOR WIDTH. MAKE SURE YOU CAN EASILY GET IN AND OUT OF THE GARAGE WITHOUT TAKING YOUR MIRRORS OFF, NOTE TO SELF: MAKE SURE YOU CAN OPEN THE CAR DOOR WHEN YOU ARE IN THE GARAGE!

Chapter 20 Garage Rules:





I am lounging in my bed, rain all about, the tennis cancelled for the morning I think but a get a call from a girlfriend with 11 minutes to get ready to be a partner in a tournament; I get dressed, get latte and get dogs/daughter fed. I am off in the rain delayed tournament losing in the second round happy to go back for lunch with daughter on island. This cottage tournament is slippery and a little trash talking but all in good spirits I substitute for a girl who has been up all night with a sick dog and for sure broke some by-laws in the tennis tournament world thank goodness we lost.

The day rolls on with a cocktail party at other end of lake, I bring my mother and niece promising to return for tennis with daughter and older sister that has taken on a new turn for attitude, I try to ignore. I take the high road. We decide to stay up for the night having dinner for two at the island bar and booking our New York trip; we are happy and knowing we have a 5:30am start we try to go to bed early; it doesn't work out that way the night always beautiful from the bed on the island drapes pulled and storms rolling in, again.

Rule #333 WATCH THE HEIGHT OF YOUR GARAGE DOORS, AND DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR ROOF RACKS IN YOUR MEASUREMENT!

Funny the number "3" is my favourite. Rule 333 is closing in on my year of magical living and I will let it stand alone as a marker I am in the final days getting ready for the rest of my LIFE, LOVE and DESIGN.

Rule #334 MAKE SURE THE LENGTH OF THE PARKING SPOT IS LONG ENOUGH SO YOU DON'T BUMP THE FRONT OF YOUR CAR! USE THE DIMENSIONS OF 10' X 20' TO PLAN YOUR SPOT. THIS WILL ENSURE A 2 FOOT SPACE FOR STORAGE IN THE FRONT. THE CAR FANATIC IN YOU WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY! STORE AWAY!

On the road again could be my theme song this summer first starting with a boat ride after top up and rain gear on while daughter is wrapped in towels. We do the 6am drive stopping at Tim Horton's getting to the city for my 8:30am. From here it is a whirl wind: site visit, 11am appointment 12:45pm client, 1:30pm site, 5:15 site with client, dinner with client and a 8:30pm telephone call with client. This pace is two days in one which affords me to go to New York City for a few days. Back at the farm my daughter and I bathe enjoying the beautiful scenery and flowers. It is re-building time after the hectic pace of the day. Sweet dreams.

Rule #335 RAN OUT OF ROOM? USE A CAR LIFT FOR ADDITIONAL STORAGE PERFECT FOR YOUR FUTURE SPORTS CAR! IF YOU WANT TO GET EXTRA FANCY, INSTALL A GARAGE ELEVATOR THAT IS SIMILAR TO HAVING A BAT CAVE!

I have a team behind me and I need it. We review all our projects with lattes that magically arrive from farm manager then we are off to the airport to go back to NYC for the first time since June. I am not sure how I will feel as we left in a bit of a fog but as soon as I see the skyline I feel excited that I am going back to a place that I have called home. The taxi ride in is the same experience I have done dozen times before with the speed, stopping/starting and air flow really only from opening the window. We race up Park Avenue only to heavily brake as our apartment requires a turn along 79th Street and back up Madison to hit 80th Street. Finally, inside I fall back in love with this city the apartment clean and fresh with the faint scent of the vanilla candles.

This is no day to sit around as we close the door the new PR Lady buzzes up for the start of our line ups of meetings. I need to at least brush my teeth and find some dry shampoo as I am to be interviewed and photographed for this high end blog site. I stay in my Jackie O look of white crop pants and black tee shirt with good jewellery. We wrap that up with photos and smiles off to meet the editor-in-chief of Elle Décor as we are co-chairing the event in October; he the Design Chair and myself the International Chair both will require a lot of hand shaking. Two more meetings both at a coffee shop, both inspirational and then a quick uptown spritz up and dinner at Amaranth at 8:30pm with male best friend. The day and now the night so NYC; I love it.

Rule #336 SUPER TIGHT ON SPACE? DON'T LIKE BACKING UP? USE A TURNTABLE! EXPENSIVE BUT A GIRL CAN DREAM AND AVOID HITTING NEIGHBORS/WALLS WHILE BACKING OUT!

Last night at dinner was a cast of characters including us: mom and daughter upper east siders, fabulous brilliant man with connections galore, a South Hampton generational with limited time and personality, always a real estate agent and a party girl. You can't cast this better and we all laugh, a lot. This morning not so laughing with a slight headache it is lulu lemons and running shoes, my daughter and I hit the streets. First muffin, then latte and then high calorie protein shake all in before noon. We have a play tonight and I have business emails to catch up on so I am texting and calling, the norm while I am buying Jimmy Choo wedges. It feels normal.

We are still in tracks and we need to change to go out for lunch/early dinner so back up to the 80's then the 90's for jewellery party in 6 bay wide 4 storey townhouse probably the most beautiful house I have seen in NYC, complete with a graffiti basketball court, the graffiti by famous artist of course. Stunning are the girls, jewellery beautiful and our celebrity friend who invited us happy that we supported her. We still need early dinner so we bounce around a bit landing at Bar Italia where we are joined by our New York cottage guest. We talk all about her this is a good subject for her; I enjoy her today and I am chilled requiring a late day latte to get to Broadway. One more change of clothes and we are at the Lion King; I have packed too much in and we feel it. I need to recognise this and alter, remedy: a 11pm chicken soup and bed. Tomorrow will revise.

Rule #337 HEAT THE GARAGE AND GET RID OF THE CARS! A GREAT SECOND PARTY ROOM, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE MESSY TEENAGERS! HAVE THEM PULL OUT THE LAWN FURNITURE AND PARTY AT HOME. I'M SURE WE CAN ALL ADMIT TO ATTENDING AT LEAST ONE GREAT GARAGE PARTY.

We have an early start with a full breakfast of eggs and bagels at E.A.T. the 70 dollar breakfast, does it taste better? The weather is beautiful and today is girl's day with maintenance of nails, hair and waxing. Feeling fabulous now as I was living on dry shampoo the last two days I feel like a new person. We dress and we walk the hot summer streets to lunch, shopping and Sprinkles where we both have a cup cake sundae, omg that is an experience that is only counter balanced by a visit to Cartier. I have given my daughter a watch and bracelet to be resized we argue on the size the entire time leaving it to be done and re-confirmed at a later date, give me strength.

I point out to her that this is a big deal for me and that I worked for both pieces they don't fall from the skies. We both smile after I ask her if she wants to get a job; we head back uptown to change clothes, make phone calls and show the apartment for sale. An inner group wants to buy it and I forward info to my contacts. Just another money number and project which both seem endless, of course I am intrigued. Our last night in NYC we meet fabulous man for a cabaret of sorts with Russian food and throaty music. My daughter and I are completely over dressed and we relax into the scene amongst the pumpernickel bread. We are now way downtown we taxi back up with packing to be done and a 10:30am flight in the morning.

Rule #338 WHEN INSTALLING STORAGE UNITS ENSURE THAT LOWER CABINETS AND UPPER CABINETS ARE DEEPER TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENT UTILITIES. WE AREN'T STORING DISHES IN THESE CABINETS! THE MATERIALITY OF THESE CABINETS SHOULD BE IN STAINLESS STEEL, WE ARE NOT COOKING IN HERE EITHER!

It is not that crazy morning flight but does require an alarm clock for sure. I get all bags downstairs and we Uber to the airport. It is a beautiful day and I can't comprehend that our New York life is coming to an end on the UES. We have a few more visits the days ahead in Toronto which look fun and the month full of promise. We land at noon in Toronto the Bentley is delivered to us, my daughter and I head into the city for lunch as her Dad is taking her north to my cottage. I on the other hand have a sleep over date with a fabulous male friend who just finished his house and with his new partner I am the first house guest. I arrive to champagne and nibbles for the full tour.

While back on the other side, I have my ex who gave me 150 dollars to get my own wine for the cottage. Seriously, I need to haul the bottles in the car and across the lake. It just makes you laugh some things never change I will get my own stuff; I always do. We have a great dinner out solving the world after way too much wine, the Toronto restaurant is packed even for a Friday long weekend. The new lighting system in my friend's house has a wonky kill switch so I need to be safely on the third floor below he shuts it down. I can't even find the right switch for the fan so I sleep with the music of the on and off of the air conditioner, in a high end residential real estate area.

Rule #339 ADD A HOSE BIB LOCATION SO THAT YOU HAVE RUNNING WATER. MAKE SURE THE FLOORS SLOPE TO DRAIN SO YOU ARE NOT TIP TOEING IN WATER ALL DAY LONG AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR YOUR HIGH HEELED HUNTER RUBBER BOOTS, BUT YOU COULD IF YOU WANTED TOO!

I wake up to the shared driveway neighbour knocking actually banging on the door and it is so loud as I hear it from the third floor. I open the door and she starts; I mean all 70 plus of age goes into full gear so I simply introduce myself and she can't pronounce my name but she has a lovely white hair clip that reminds me of a 10 year old girl so I just smile and move the car. I keep it simple and my friend who owns the house gives me the full back story the woman is filthy rich old money who could well afford her own driveway. This car politics is so Toronto I didn't have my car in NYC which simplifies many aspects of life really a luxury not to have to park.

It is a morning walk and lattes visiting my new home with the Saturday crew there very slim but present. We gossip through the site and breakfast it is a slow start for all three of us. I have to start my trek to northern Toronto where tonight we are guests at an engagement party of one of my clients; we must attend on this long weekend we make the best of it. The party lovely the convertible drive home through farm country stopping on a dirt road to dance to Frank Sinatra by moonlight was magical.

Rule #340 ENSURE THERE IS A STEP DOWN INTO THE GARAGE TO KEEP WATER OUT! NO ONE WANTS A FLOOD IN THE HOUSE!

An early morning start my drive is long and scenery induced, I stop at the local grocery shops for supplies. I arrive to a scene of many kids and siblings galore plus dogs. My first vision is my ex which is the negative approach for life this gets me in a mood that I shouldn't be in. I get my stuff to the boat with some help and I need some time with my kids alone amongst this chaos. I am not good with a huge crowd right now, it is not really me. I had such a fantastic time the last 24 hours and now all this is daunting for me. There is a family dinner we will go to and the pure crush of everyone suffocates me. There is no order or leadership; I am not so sure why it bothers me so much but I try to sit back and relax.

A mix day of weather and a dark boat ride home my daughter, son and I play some cards. We relax and enjoy it is our time. Tomorrow is the regatta at our end of the lake and my kids really don't enjoy it at all even though we have the perfect cedar strip canoe that is a racer but tippy from old boyfriend specifications who is a canoe aficionado; we really don't paddle which is a problem, this is stiff competition that we will avoid and play some family tennis. Tonight a beautiful sleep on the island with a soft breeze and quiet; I need this to decompress.

Rule #341 LIVE NEAR OR ON A GOLF COURSE? DON'T FORGET TO ADD A BAY FOR YOUR GOLF CART. YOU CAN STORE ALL OF YOUR GOLF ACCESSORIES HERE AND KEEP THEM CLEAR OF THE HOUSE.

My daughter and I start the day with tennis and a breakfast out for a re-stock of groceries. We all have a great breakfast and chill to be followed with two hours of doubles with the older sister with a great backhand, weird fore hand and brother in law with perfect strokes. We are all rotating in with a number of five the day is absolutely perfect we are playing to many rap songs and even those don't ruin my day. I make a glorious plate of ribs for dinner we are all in a good spot. My son is looking forward to going back to University and we have cleared the air about his mixed opinions on my life. I wish I was 19 years old and an expert on life; he is learning and is a caring young man.

My daughter is thriving. I can feel things are stirring everywhere and that is normal with a hundred year old cottage being sold and parents who wrote the chapter on dysfunctional. The three of us visit the mainland for another glance at the craziness that I float around but really not a part of. I really need to play some cards, go to bed and use tomorrow to blow a gasket.

Rule #342 DESIGNATE CERTAIN STORAGE LOCKERS FOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT. THESE DAYS YOU HAVE SKIS, SNOWBOARDS, GOLF CLUBS, HOCKEY STICKS AND THE LIST GOES ON! GIVE EACH CHILD THEIR OWN LOCKER SO THERE IS NO CONFUSION OR LOST SKATES!

It started well with a good game of tennis and two lattes, then downhill from there. The whole sale of the mainland cottage and the secretive approach to the closing and funds dispersed comes to a head and apparently today is the day. My daughter and I walk in to the parents and sisters having a fire side chat around the breakfast table. We say hello my father whispers something and I ask what is this a private conversation? Oh no it is details about the sale; I inquire about the details and is there a disbursement breakdown. Well, long and short of it after many unkind words in raised tones the details are not split equally nor pay back what is contractually written. Typical fashion: lack of fairness or sense of reality in our gene pool. My sisters and I retire to the bedroom not laughing.

I leave the mainland happy/sad that this cottage is going and so very tired of all of it. Even in this closure of 100 years of history there is a messed up exchange. I spend the rest of the day with my children we have lunch, play tennis and relax. There is crazy rain and my son needs to get back to work tomorrow for me on the construction site; I get in my rain gear and get him to the mainland just dropping off. I will not further engage for some time I need to get some clarity. Tonight a beautiful dinner with my daughter we watched a great movie; it is a day to put to bed.

Chapter 21

Outdoor Living Rules:



Rule #343 JUST BECAUSE IT'S OUTSIDE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT PART OF YOUR HOME! YOU CAN EVEN DESIGN A FURNITURE LAYOUT FOR YOUR OUTDOOR SPACES.

This morning it all seems a bit unreal, I need to go to the city for a party tonight and then a work day tomorrow. It is a beautiful day my daughter and I start off with tennis with pro and hitting with each other. She practices her serve while I field business calls doing my life/work thing everywhere I go. I can really work from anywhere and I do. The weather is glorious and I don't want to leave finally I get in a car around 3pm doing the drive across to the King City farm. I arrive to a chaotic setting.

The cocktail party is 30 minutes away and we are late trying to squeeze in some personal time; we entertain all the party in our normal fashion and it is a lovely mosquito infested evening. We really only have tonight and tomorrow morning to re-group I have to get back to up north. Things are solid it is the world that is in pieces; the night is entertaining and only gets better.

Rule #344 THE FLOORING OUTSIDE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS INSIDE THE HOME. PICK A MATERIAL THAT WILL ACCENT THE HOUSE AS WELL AS EASY MAINTENANCE FOR YEARS TO COME. OLD MAN WINTER CAN BE PRETTY NASTY, ESPECIALLY HIS FRIEND SALT!

It is an early start to an early day starting with phone calls, emails, drive back to cottage and meetings. I have my first meeting which is close by which I start 30 minutes late after missing my exit. I don't know the Vaughan area and that 400 highway; I am a city girl not use to the car thing as in NYC I mainly walked. The four hour meeting comes with homemade lunch, fabulous design and clients. It flies by and I am on to the next with a stop by to site early to avoid the client who is so negative it can ruin any day. Next my own site with issues and does not seem ready for the move in only 20 days away.

I stay positive there are so many balls in the air it is a day to day thing right now. I bring my best friend through the site and she loves it making me feel great she thinks it can be done; she states you need a move in date and I have one. The trucks are coming from NYC with that move in date in mind. I wrap up my work week or really day and head back up to the cottage to be with my daughter. I arrive just in time for dinner; I am avoiding the mainland right now I have no idea what to say to my parents. Time will heal.

Rule #345 DON'T FORGET ABOUT LIGHTING, THE SUN IS GREAT DURING THE DAY BUT YOU WANT TO KEEP THE PARTY GOING AT NIGHT. IN GROUND LIGHTS ARE A MUST, BUT DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE LANTERNS FOR SOFT LIGHT! LIGHT UP TREES TO TURN UP THE WOW FACTOR OF YOUR EXTERIOR ROOM.

The day starts with a client texting so I text back: let me get the plans and a latte. This is all at about 7am the emails have begun. We are also looking at the NYC apartment as an investment to purchase which is not good timing to take on any more; we need a vacation. This pace is crazy. This morning I play businesswoman until about 9am when I get my daughter up to head into town for girl's shopping morning with breakfast. It starts with some driving by daughter in convertible for smoothies followed by good music and wind in our hair that is in baseball hats.

We get all we need and more to be back on the island by noon, a complete chill out day with the afternoon with gin rummy and a nap. Tonight is one of our dinner extravaganzas that we have planned for the weekend: white fish with lemon, Caesar salad, grilled asparagus and peaches with ice cream but none of this can be served until I finish my Skype call with Vancouver for a potential celebrity design judge for W station. This is my first Skype call ever; I do it only after my daughter gets it all set up; she really is my assistant. Call great, dinner better and tonight I literally fall asleep when my head hits the pillow. I only wake for a 4 o'clock orange moon, who wouldn't??

Rule #346 CANDLES, CANDLES, CANDLES! SET THE MOOD AND ADD A LITTLE ROMANCE! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MAKE SURE THEY ARE BATTERY POWERED FOR EASY USE. EVERYONE LOOKS BETTER WITH A LIGHT GLOW!

Today is a beautiful day with our morning hit of tennis; we can play longer as it is tournament this weekend the court is free. It is a summer day with sun and no rain, so strange. My daughter and I are into gin rummy games and we do so at lunch of burgers and runs of three; I am so losing with very little points. I don't care we are in a great space you need to know when to lose. Later today we venture over to friends for some good gossip and water skiing. My daughter rocks she is good even goes so far as to drop a ski without notice whereas I do one good ski and for the life of me I can't get up again actually hitting my knee on the ski. Bruised ego and knee I am determined to come back for more at a later time.

Tonight is another good home cooked meal with more cards and hang out time. It is good to just chill out and relax slowly planning the following week in my head of Toronto and New York. This is the season for full moons they keep me up I am so a moon girl. My son is in Toronto with his friend bonding/drinking with his new house mates so it is the dogs, my daughter and I in quiet clean bliss. It is a beautiful evening: good night moon.

Rule #347 YOUR OUTDOOR SCALE IS ALWAYS LARGER THAN YOUR INDOOR SCALE. HOW DO YOU FEEL INTIMATE IN AN OUTDOOR SPACE?

Another round of tennis and a gas up at the marina we are good for the day. We have the papers and magazines we do crosswords and sudokus it is a Sunday at the lake literacy style. We will do paddle boarding and ping pong settling into our lounge chairs. This is one of those days that summer is made of where you get deeper and deeper into your lounge cushion. I have to get us ready for our NYC fly in and fly out, meaning I need to do laundry, find passports and pack. I do it all over the course of the day and it seems quite painless deciding to join water ski friends for dinner and some redemption.

The dinner invite where we are fully dressed turns into a wetsuit without bathing suit as the water calms calling my name. I take no chances I am getting up on two skis to drop one so really it is all about the glory of the cut. I do my ski not even getting the top of my hair wet. I have earned dinner we all settle into surf and turf discussing how life experiences come into our lives in all different ways and junctures. My daughter's time in NYC gives her a bank of experiences to draw upon for the rest of her life. The experiences are mixed they will find homes in her journey. We boat back in the dark with the full moon as our friend.

Rule #348 OUTDOOR STAIRS ARE DIFFERENT THAN INDOOR STAIRS. NO MORE THAN 6" IN HEIGHT FOR RISERS AND MORE THAN 12" FOR THE TREAD OF THE STEP. THESE STEPS ARE MORE GRACIOUS AND ELEGANT THAN YOUR INDOOR COUNTERPARTS.

Our tennis pro is becoming our dog sitter and crib watcher. I awake this morning to one dog upstairs and the little one in the main level with a weirdly smashed exterior glass of a door. It just doesn't make sense how this window broke one foot above the frame in an enclosed stair. I just go with it and call my carpenter guy adding one more to do on his list. My daughter and I hit the ball with tennis pro who is as funny and as he is talented; I mean funny and smart keeps us laughing getting better. It is pack up time for noon to be at a 4:30pm meeting in the city with a new client dropping my daughter off at her friend's house for a sleep over. It is strange as we are always together I really miss her tonight.

My meeting goes well while my son is exhausted from his construction not wanting to have an early dinner. I have a surprise phone call I leave a path of candles from the front door to the bed.

Rule #349 TO MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF SNOW SHOVELING, AN OPTION IS TO HEAT THE OUTDOOR FLOOR MATERIAL, SO WHEN IT SNOWS IT JUST MELTS.

It is an early morning with meeting at the new house including millwork, contractor, stair railings, bankers and staff. I squeezed in meeting at the office to review work then grab my daughter; she is amazingly strong and determined: we are together again.

Now it is flooring investigation—that is how our life rolls. I need to meet a client and look at some floor samples so my daughter/assistant comes with me. We all have our opinions and hers is very helpful. We are discussing how many times this wood needs to be smoked to get really grey our sales guy keeps this going far longer than needs be but we all decide on three. We are out the door to regroup at the private company's landing strip to fly to NYC. We are going in for one night and one night only on the company's private jet. Husband and associate to work, daughter for a sleep over and myself with wife to house shop. First after a fabulous dinner on the Falcon 2000 we meet my favourite man in NYC for drinks at the Carlyle Hotel which seems to end by a man throwing up on route to rest room; it was a blur or was the table next to us looking for a free meal?

Rule #350 YOU NEED TO TRANSITION FROM INTERIOR TO EXTERIOR: FULLY INSIDE, OUTSIDE WHILE COVERED AND FULLY OUTSIDE. DESIGN THE TRANSITION FOR CELEBRATION.

I need a latte I am up at 7am and head straight to Sant Ambrose which is deserted as it is summer time on the UES. My clients were a bit shocked what you get for \$15,000/month walking up the old semi-circular interior stair in my brownstone. It had even added drama with a light bulb out on the landing. We breakfast at the Carlyle as it has some life to it with the mass exit of NYC Upper East. It is raining so a perfect day to spend the entire day in the D&D building which we do on the search for carpets and lighting, both we find plenty of so many choices but really with our discerning eyes it does get limited. I can quickly find what I love in a sea of plenty. We need more time and that is running out as we have wheels up at 6pm. The husband joins for a few presentations and he gets the cost mixed in with performance, a business case.

We leave the building and luckily score a taxi. To the hotel, to the brownstone, daughter from movie to brownstone and to Teterboro private airport for flight home all in a matter of hours we land back at the private company hangar to much cooler weather. There goes summer, we had five nice days: maybe. There is a whole other story developing where we will arrive to King City farm with a new visitor from Nassau that has broken his wrist and needs to get home; he is 12 years old and with a morning flight and flying as an unaccompanied minor I will be up at 5:30am tomorrow. For now my daughter joins in the Monopoly game sweeping up and I keep anti-inflammatories in my new patient/project. This got all arranged while shopping for furniture in NYC: the drop off (famous celebrity whose cottage accident happened at) the driver, the receiver and the babysitter.

Rule #351 CREATE AN OUTDOOR ROOM WITH CLOSE ACCESS TO THE HOUSE BY USING MATERIALS SUCH AS STONE OR WOOD THEN PERGOLAS TO DEFINE THE SPACE. THE ROOM CAN WORK AS A THREE SEASON ROOM ... PERFECT FOR THE TRANSITIONAL SEASONS!

It is a 5:30am wake up for a drive to the airport with a friend's child that needs to get home after breaking his wrist at a famous Canadian singer's, who is apparently too busy to make sure the child gets home safely. I am that person who would do anything for someone that asks even if it puts me in a situation where I am put out; I meet a woman with her child going back to the same destination and flight but her self-consumed world is full. It is required to have a full 48 hours before flying with a cast we bend that rule as I detect that concept from the airlines doctor. We are cleared, he is off and I am off to a client's site, yes I have brushed my teeth but not my hair.

It is a funny weather day and I finally find some time to put out the accessories at the farm it is quick lunch with kids at one table and adults at other actually separate rooms. It is not ideal but there is no rule book for this one. To the city Toronto my daughter and I go; her to shop, me to work. Back to King City we do sushi tonight and sleep comes easily.

Rule #352 KEEP THE FURNITURE LIGHT IN COLOR WITH A WHITE FRAME. DARK CUSHIONS ARE A MUST WITH WHITE TRIM PIPING. CLASSIC, CLEAN AND YOU CAN'T SEE THE DIRT!

We worked late yesterday and this morning it is going to maintenance day: nails and hair especially since I am short listed for this design judge for W station. We head into the city again early starting with latte and muffins from the farm and off grocery shopping which we get a bad cart that can't be steered we bump into my first cousin who went back to her ex after 5 years; I am never doing that. This grocery shopping thing is getting better we spend a fortune, prices similar to NYC but not even close to NYC's food porn.

I have one of my bestie gay men coming up to the cottage with his boyfriend, it is a drinking and eating extravaganza with both my children; we all have the best time. We have been left beautiful flowers and a chocolate shoe from our dog sitting tennis pro. My son is adorable, cooking the steaks to perfection and the steamed artichokes are perfect for the vegetarian boyfriend, my daughter cooks the vegetables and sets the table. My friend and I gossip laughing all the night with my tentative schedule. Apparently, I am to write it all down it will help my brain from spinning which I could except the next 15 days are so complicated with many unknowns I have nothing to write so I elect to leave it in my iPhone.

Rule #353 OUTDOOR CARPETS CAN HELP DEFINE THE CONVERSATION ZONE, MUCH LIKE THE INTERIOR RULES. MAKE SURE THE CARPET MATERIAL CAN STAY OUTDOORS YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NEIGHBORS TO SEE YOU LUGGING YOUR CARPET INSIDE OR OUT.

I wake up early again it seems to be a theme, my son needs a wake up push at 7:15am for his golf tournament. It could not be raining harder or colder. This continues all day we have the fire roaring and only late afternoon do we get a reprieve. My guests are gone to their family; I am not hanging with mine and I have my kids to myself in a rain delay. We play monopoly, scrabble and gin rummy basically eating all day. My daughter is amazing; we just strive through it keeping our eyes on the big picture.

I get in a much needed work out that I haven't done in months, I turn up the music and just ride my spinning bike sweating: loving it. I need this time and I will slowly fall back in to this routine. You need to practice what you preach and exercise only with full meals is the deal. I am joined at the hip to my daughter, she is me but soon she will have to do it on her own as school is starting in two weeks. I know she can do whatever she needs to do to be a success our habits are 35 years apart my needs are different; we have gained mutual respect. I handle one more late night call from irate neighbours at one of the properties, it is growing pains with new staff we are all trying to get the job done with multiple personalities.



Rule #354 STORAGE CONTAINERS! PLAIN AND SIMPLE YOU NEED A PLACE TO STORE YOUR OUTDOOR ACCESSORIES WHEN NOT IN USE. DOUBLE UP A BENCH THAT HAS STORAGE INSIDE OR A GREAT COFFEE TABLE THAT DOUBLES AS BOTH. GET CREATIVE WITH STORAGE, RUBBERMAID'S AREN'T THE ONLY WAY TO GO.

The man child is wild and rude who is working up north and power tripping; I ignore but all I want to do is call him and blast him; I will wait letting it go which is not my style but I will let it go. Meantime it is finally a no rain day my son off to golf tournament while my daughter and I play tennis to our favourite tunes. The lake is calming down and emptying out as school approaches. The temperature of the lake is way down and the level way up with all the rain. I look out over the lake thinking how the summer, what summer has flown by. We have had 10 days of sun. I now just relish in time with my kids we hang in the hot tub. My daughter and I have an endless game of gin rummy.

This day has been one of scheduling and some conflict; I am tired wanting peace in my life; I won't have that until I am settled in our new home or if I get this design judge job I will be travelling for a bit to the west coast making it all about work as I always do putting off enviable decisions. Regardless I am good with it all I am so use to running solo there will be little change if I actually was single really just the actual heart ache. I go to sleep after some really bad television, poetry and design books. Sleep is something my mind doesn't agree with as it turns with feelings and schedule.

Rule #355 FIRE PITS ARE A GREAT OUTDOOR ACCESSORY THEY CAN BE MODERN OR TRADITIONAL IN NATURE AND GIVE OFF SOME GREAT HEAT! MAKE SURE YOU GET A PROFESSIONAL TO INSTALL YOUR GAS LINE. GAS LINES ARE GREAT BUT DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!

It is an actual beautiful morning again to wake up with blue skies and no rain we elect to sleep in and play tennis at our leisure which is actually at noon with a full business morning on the phone. I work while my daughter streams a movie having to make my phone calls far enough way not to disturb the dialogue. In addition I get calls and emails from siblings wanting deeper therapy moments on selling the cottage, unfortunately I just don't go that deep. I reach out to my mother to do the hug thing and move on; she doesn't call me back so maybe tomorrow.

This afternoon is my first time playing golf in two years which my practice shots and the first hole are stunning going downhill from there. I am to play in the pro-am in a week and really need to be able to hit the ball; I am determined and competitive so it is frustrating at most. I get into a groove and just enjoy the quiet beautiful space and the occasional straight ball. Tonight is home at the cottage with cooking and going to bed at a decent time with no drinking prepping for the screen test Wednesday. Another ground hog day tomorrow, dog days of summer bring them on all 10 of them.



Rule #356 OUTDOOR FIREPLACES CAN BE A FANTASTIC WAY TO MAKE A STATEMENT! THEY ARE A GREAT WALL FEATURE THAT IS FABULOUS TO CREATE A SEATING ARRANGEMENT AROUND, AN INSTANT OUTDOOR ROOM! CALL THE PROFESSIONALS AND MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE RIGHT PERMITS BEFORE BUILDING!

Fog oh fog you can't see the lake so it is fog delay for tennis with the pro so we hit the mainland café for lattes, scones and replenish supplies of milk. We have a lesson at 10am and it is a divine day: good music/good hitting. Such a beautiful day to have to get into a car and head back to the city but we do with luggage packed and a full itinerary. I drop my daughter at her father's and I head to a visitation for a friend's father who passed away. I am going with my brother who lets me drive; I have already been driving for 2.5 hours but he can't really see: does he not have glasses? He is taking looking younger a bit too dangerously seriously. Anyway on my new being overly nice kick, what is another hour of driving?

We do the visitation and see some old friends we are of the age with our parents getting older and older. It feels good to make the effort for a friend and I am on a driving kick anyway. Heading back to the city my brother's partner does the driving and I am in the rear small seat soaking up the country music. We all have a dinner at the outside patio of the Ritz Hotel where we discuss life, relationships and the fall's social scene. All good with lots to plan for I head back to the King City farm; I really am on an endless highway.

Rule #357 OUTDOOR PIZZA OVENS ... NEED I SAY MORE? THEY ARE A GREAT ACCESSORY TO YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE AS WELL AS A FANTASTIC CONVERSATION PIECE! ALWAYS WOOD BURNING AND NEAR THE KITCHEN FOR EASY TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS. BONUS FEATURE, FANTASTIC ITALIAN PIZZAS FROM YOUR GARDEN!

It is my start of the world wind publicist tour of my New York lady; my fabulous male friend has suggested she comes to Canada to see me in my native Country: who I really am in my island setting. First I have a couple of items to attend to starting with a 7am blow out at my client's kitchen table where the tattoo girl's arms blows the breaker. I am coiffed and at site by 8am to attend to business. Full meeting with clients, contractor and my office staff we do what we need to this time without a chef's lunch; it is referred to as whatever day with Dee Dee: Wednesday with Dee Dee day goes well until I go back to the car in my pink work boots I have put my purse with the keys in the trunk taking the valet key with me and two phones. I will remain in my work boots wallet-less until I can get to the dealership to have the trunk popped.

Next a client site and then car dealership where there are a couple of blonde jokes but I get in my trunk to my world of shoes, cash and clothes for my screen test. The PR New Yorker is here and we begin with the new home on Davenport, then screen test, restaurant Harbour 60, development Friday Harbour, Toronto neighbourhoods with a site visit to a recent job completion and finally the King City farm where we get a breather before dinner of the best sushi. It is my daughter, PR lady and I hanging out at the end of the day. I get informed on important news events that somehow with my travel schedule I have missed, no surprise the days seem too full to key into world events or even North American events, personally I only like good news.

Rule #358 HOT TUBS ARE A WONDERFUL ADDITION TO YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE ENSURE IT IS AS CLOSE TO IN GROUND AS POSSIBLE SO IT ALMOST DISAPPEARS INTO THE LANDSCAPE. ALSO NOTE: EASY TO CLIMB IN AND OUT OF WHEN POOL HOPPING!

All seems good with the world not even necessary to check the news. We fall back to a good vibe me leaving at 10am to head back to my cottage for a full site visit and for PR New Yorker to feel a boat inspired island cottage, boat house and sleeping cabin. My daughter, her friend, chef and dock boy head to friend's cottage of fun and activities whereas we have a great drive on country roads doing business calls to my island sanctuary. PR lady loves the island and we bust my dog sitting tennis pro with a girl, what did I expect? Dogs seem happy, what do I care?

Tour complete of lake and island we have a 3 hour drive to friend's cottage we load up on smoothies and energy organic balls; we are good to go. Another three hours in the car we continue chats and planning out some strategies for my future: it keeps my attention. Finally after numerous 1970's songs we arrive to glasses of wine waiting with boys who greet our car at the end of a very bumpy driveway. I have done it in two days we are still on schedule; I feel I can chill a bit. A beautiful dinner cooked by the chef we have a fierce game of cards where I lose happily; I am loved.

Rule #359 I'VE SAID IT BEFORE WHITE TOWELS ARE A MUST! SINCE THEY ARE OUTDOOR TOWELS ADD SOME FUN COLORFUL BORDERS OR PATTERN, BUT ALWAYS MAKE SURE THE BASE IS WHITE.



Rule #360 OUTDOOR FABRICS SHOULD ALWAYS BE TREATED SO THEY CAN STAY OUTDOORS RAIN OR SHINE. MAKE SURE YOU PROPERLY CLEAN THE FABRICS BEFORE PUTTING THEM AWAY FOR WINTER STORAGE THIS WILL ENSURE YOUR FABRICS MAKE IT THROUGH ONE MORE SEASON.

We have a full house and the weather is not playing nice; I take the girls: my daughter and her friend to the water park where I visit with friends I keep meeting at the local bakery it is like a mini Toronto. High school buddies who like to drink at 10am on a lake tour to see the Rambler Boat and they take it out to play on. It is one of those play days with adult toys. We are brought lunch on the boat via another boat with chef and boat boy. Life is good: daughter laughing, friends smiling, dogs being fed steak on another lake and my son partying somewhere; I miss him. We attempt taking the girls water skiing between me hitting my head on most things and boats not starting with my bad driving we elect for hot tub after wake surfing, safer.

We steal a moment alone and take the 1930 wooden racer Miss Canada III out on the lake complete with sunglasses, baseball hat and jacket we hit 92 miles an hour. Being alone is magical especially in his elk; I love it. We do a dock stop catching up with old friends it feels good to be back in a familiar place where the faces are not all new. I am relaxed and the evening slides into a calm injury free pace with some other friends added for dinner and the conversation diverse, really diverse. An early morning ahead after dinner we leave guests to play.

Rule #361 UMBRELLAS SHOULD ALWAYS BE SQUARE NEVER ROUND. ALSO STAY AWAY FROM SCALLOPED EDGES, NO GOOD.

The next day is planned for an 11am brunch I try to sneak awake in the cottage getting some alone time as friends departed at 5am after a lovely evening. There is no such thing up here with random guests wandering through and staff lurking around; I am not really a loner but a quiet morning I appreciate with time to write and read neither really happens so I just fall into the routine chatting away. After a brunch with the guests and girls our routine breaks away. The girls and I try walking the road where I admit the bugs are nuts and I get a blister probably bumping into something to be followed by swimming, trampoline, tubing and water skiing. I am really clumsy these days I need to get back to a solid exercise routine and more sleep.

The afternoon is filled with hanging at the dock playing gin rummy and Yahtzee with my daughter and her friend; we have a blast in a relaxed way. There will be a 3 hour drive after a dinner by the chef to land back at the King City farm. I can finally get at a computer so I check us in on-line for tomorrow's flight while checking construction budget and schedule at new house. It is two moves ahead/one back and a house to finish that I will do mainly alone with a cheerleader in the background; I have to figure out if that is what I like to be: cheered on or to have a partner beside me. That is still out on jury; I think I want a partner beside me but really I am more than capable than most and I like things done a certain way, no deviation. Tonight bed by midnight to be up at 6:30am for a 7:30am, latte order placed the night prior; I get to go back to NYC tomorrow to pack up; I am confused with feelings, not my style.

Rule #362 OUTDOOR BBQ'S ARE A MUST FOR GREAT ENTERTAINING OUTDOORS. BE SURE TO INCLUDE WARMING DRAWERS, BAR FRIDGE AND SINK IN YOUR OUTDOOR KITCHEN ALL STAINLESS FOR EASY WIPE DOWN.

This is going to be one of those days, for sure; I have my daughter and her friend fast asleep at the other end of the farm I need to be on site by 7:30am and to the office as fast as possible. Tomorrow is both moving day at the office in Toronto and apartment in New York City. I really just need to get through all this and really unwind. First the site meeting and I don't lock the keys in the trunk. Now with traffic on to the city and find parking going over the run-away construction budget with my assistant and finding an end to all of this. Many items hanging such as floor install and cabinets; I remain calm until I reach the third floor the air conditioning not working which is adding to the floor humidity. Breathe more, I go back to my office and deal with my desk packing.

Time run out I take my daughter and housekeeper of 20 years we head to an appointment on route to the airport. My daughter is happy we have reached a milestone. Now at the airport we are fully checked in, my New York City is about to leave me. To continue the day's pace I will not get upset we arrive to our apartment that the real estate agent has bolted the locks. So luggage in lobby we all take a stroll in Central Park; I am laughing sort of and happy to have our last dinner in the apartment in bathrobes. Order in from Serafina we eat watching the Emmy Awards candle lit, all very civilized.

Rule #363 ACCESSORIZING YOUR OUTDOOR KITCHEN IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS ACCESSORIZING YOUR INDOOR KITCHEN. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A COLLECTION OF SQUARE PLATTERS IN EVERY SIZE IMAGINABLE, PRESENTATION IS EVERYTHING! OH AND YES PLEASE GET SOME EXTERIOR UTENSILS!

The morning is grey skies but that does not deter us for morning activities which after a full breakfast after a full dinner we are good to go. Starting with a boat ride to the boathouse of the Rambler Boat, a 1894 Paulsen Steamship which I have worked on for two years it is time to see and take out for a ride giving my NY Publicist the full show. It is fantastic with the new grey tones and the furniture works in the modern tone contrasted against the high gloss quarter cut white oak walls. The smoke stack and the flags soar we take this beautiful boat dancing on the water. I have made mental notes of what needs to be changed for photo shoot in the fall. We head to a local resort for a lunch.

We are seriously eating again after breakfast was a short time ago. I am used to this drill this summer: bring on the cheeseburger. Good to keep to routine and commitments, keeps life moving. It is time to say good bye to the NY Publicist and hello to my friend's high school friends and 2 lesbians with two big dogs. Dinner we all gather and have some good laughs everyone just feeling which topics are cool, apparently there are no barriers. The younger girls and I play Twister which is a fabulous stretch this marks the end to a whirlwind couple of days.

This morning I am in my New York City I walk down to Sant Ambrose for latte. I am feeling being the solo act as both of us are stretched and really no down time. The summer has been hard and yet the year magical while exhausting. I am so lucky and so thankful but heightened to needing to be the person I just re-found. I will get there and feel I am ready to launch. First logistics: my NY move consists of my housekeeper supervising packers while my daughter and I walk/shop. The next part of our move with lunch with my best friend on a patio of D'Orsay after two glasses of wine and a love in we embark to Max Mara where I meet the stylist for my three outfits for all the September/October parties.

My daughter and I are in our elk returning to the apartment around 6pm to see the progress; I have been fielding electrician calls and Toronto calls with the office move. I go through it all getting everyone to the right spot. The painters are not happy I have one of my girls take them for coffee and a cigarette, the electrician wants more money I walk through the hourly getting him extra help reducing his scope, the millwork guy is grumpy I send all the girls for pizza giving him space, the moving company wants me to sign away my life we compromise, laugh and I give out tips. Working in a coma helps I refuse to get stressed and in fact the day has a pleasant surprise where I meet the most famous interior designer who at 80 will be retiring he says. I sit in his lobby finally getting his book signed which I have three copies of not one of them signed because the lineup always too long as his book signings. My dear friend has arranged this final farewell to NYC, Mario Buatta wrote "I am a brave soul". Maybe I am, actually I have become fearless. Dinner on 2nd Avenue café so perfect the US Open Tennis on TV we have a perfect corner table in the bar area that spills to the street; it is time to say good night and soon good bye.

Rule #364 YOU CAN BREAK THE RULES WHEN IT COMES TO OUTDOOR DINING AREAS. DON'T FEEL AS THOUGH EVERYONE MUST SIT AT ONE LARGE TABLE, A FEW SMALL TABLES WITH DIFFERENT SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IS A GREAT ALTERNATIVE!

The moving trucks arrive at 9am first I need my morning ritual at Sant Ambrose and I will chat on phone as I walk in Central Park. My ex can't stop making fun of me for being the only woman team in the 160 field in the Pro Am PGA golf tournament up north. I have had my nails and hair done skipping the practice round I should be fine or at least coiffed. I on the other am ready to do it all and I am doing it. At my addiction centre Valery Joseph, the do-it-all maintenance I get it all done hair to toes; my girlfriend stops by for a quick gossip catch-up and next my daughter arrives we go for a stroll.

It is time to say good-bye to NYC; I sign away my life to the moving company not making them responsible for my antique mirrors even though I have insurance to cover this with all my contents I can't argue as I have a flight to catch and they need to load a truck. Why did I buy insurance? I heavily tip the packers, text Uber and hope for the best. We have a 3:30 pm flight that we are early for and we all breathe still a 2 hour drive ahead after the flight and a boat ride to the island which a party awaits me. I do it all arriving to a cottage a little less than perfect after our 25 year old tennis pro dog sitter partied a lot and watched the dogs a little. The actual party I am to attend will have to wait as I have a 7:22 am tee off time with the pros. It has been a long day from New York City to Stoney Lake island catching the takeout food at lakeside as the restaurant was basically closing; we are not in NYC anymore. I feel like I was at a party anyway at our cottage losing one carpet and one towel to our house sitter, time to literally fall/crash into bed.

Rule #365 PLASTIC DISHES AND CUPS ONLY! YOU CAN FIND SOME GREAT PIECES TODAY THAT DO NOT LOOK LIKE YOUR TYPICAL PLASTIC OUTDOOR DINING WEAR. NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL YOU ARE SOMEONE WILL ALWAYS BREAK A GLASS OR DROP A PLATE! NO ONE LIKES WALKING ON BROKEN GLASS!

To actually be at a 7:22am tee off time you need to first get dressed in golf attire that will bear the winds and cool weather, get clubs in boat, boat to Club, clubs to caddy, warm up slightly and get ready for walking 18 holes in serious play. My tee off time will be my 11th hole of the year in this 160 person field, they announce our names and we are off. It is freezing I am in a skirt not sure why but I would be the only one wearing one as there are only 2 women in this competition and my partner isn't wearing one. First day we do fine and we realize this is really for real money for these pros which is a tough slug. They need to make the cut which reduces field in half this being the only competition on the PGA Tour where the scores are kept while playing with amateurs. Our 6 hour round we finally get lunch and some warmth with bad wine.

I take advantage of both and retire back to our cottage for a nap, refresh for dinner with my golfing partner and guests. It actually feels great to be on the golf course amongst real perfection and competition wishing I actually could play. Tomorrow is another day. Dinner is fabulous and my daughter and I boat cruise back to the island as this is some of our last nights on the island this season we sleep in my room watching television and chatting. My son is at his new/gross digs at University with 6 roommates. At least tomorrow we have a 1:41pm tee off time, today scoring 69 with my pro I like the number and I am good to carry on.

Rule #366 WITH TODAY'S WORLD, NEW INTERPRETATIONS OF SPACES IN THE HOME WILL RESULT IN NEW ROOMS TO COME. WITH NEW ROOMS,

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE NEW RULES AND THE RULES WILL ALWAYS BE BASED ON HISTORY.

This morning is my daughter and I visiting the local grocery store for our breakfast snacks; she is great and is beginning her thought process/packing for the year ahead. So many things to discuss having a year that is magical, yet in magic there is always complications both good and bad. It is part of the process and circle of life. It is ironic that our last play in NYC was The Lion King that clearly shows growth, love, pain and home. I built the island property for my children that gave them a home while we all venture through life experiencing all life has to offer. This year was part of the progress of our lives. When faced with issues we dealt with them day by day with the bigger picture in mind and will continue this approach for years to come.

Back to the PGA Pro-Am, today we have a new set of pros and caddies. I have gone out early to practice I am taking this seriously capturing who I am; the woman that comes to the table with a set of skills to find the solution. Again, they announce our names and we are off. By the 6th hole I am in a groove getting the odd par and my swing is fluid and the ball is straight with my handicap; we are scoring well. If my pro had scored better I could have been in contention which would make this field of men freak. I am patient and the best is yet to come, on the 15th hole 120 yards par 3 my caddie instructs me to use my 9 iron as I am crushing the ball. I listen and the perfect high arc bounces on the green twice and goes in the hole. I yell, I mean I really yell the Hot pro hugs me, the other comes back to high five me; I am shaking speechless and score an albatrose for the hole with my handicap I get a zero. I don't really play the last holes; we score a 28 on the back 9 while I get a standing ovation as I approach the 18th hole I am presented with a glass of champagne on the green. This is magic unexpected but somehow all part of the plan; I felt it was going to happen and for the last two days I kept asking the pros how many holes in one they have had in their careers. I wanted one and wanted one in this venue; it was a willed event. Prizes and congratulations were part of the package but the real deal was the goal achieved. A late evening with my daughter at the island basking in our own growth quietly composed. We together are ready to re-launch.

No Rule August 30th

Last year this very date we arrived in New York City after leaving our island home. Today my daughter and I sleep in lazily have our breakfast and plan a day that is very slow pace. My son's godfather comes to visit the island we get caught up, an amazing generous man, reminds me of my ex's father. I am dealing with the highs of sports celebrating life. My son happy and back at university, he is a lovely young man. My immediate family: mother, father and sisters crazed dealing with selling the family cottage in their own way, my brother and I exempt from the process. My style I take the high road and I don't engage; I am there to help not participate in the negative. I reach out to check via email getting negative energy back; I will not play that game ever.

I spoil my daughter we plan a beautiful dinner and we will close our chapter at the 100 year old mainland cottage in our way and in our own time. My brother he is done with all this and I reach out just to check in with him needing a voice to confirm my own. I feel at peace with a year behind me of finding who I am, how I now respond to others throwing daggers which reflect people's own insecurities. I look ahead to the magic that lies in my path knowing that path will be sparkled with life; life is what I thirst for. It is not what city can do for you but what you can do for that city; we walk alone amongst the crowd.



Dee Dee Taylor Eustace is an architect and interior designer practicing both in Canada and the United States with offices in Toronto and New York. She graduated with honours from University of Toronto School of Architecture and is a member of the Ontario Association of Architects and the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada. Her full-service firm Taylor Hannah Architect Inc. specializes in the residential/hospitality sectors in a timeless elegant style both in architecture and interior design. With over hundreds of residential and commercial projects, Dee Dee and her team work on premier addresses.

Dee Dee's timeless work has been seen in many cities from Toronto to New York City to Miami and beyond. She has participated in events such as Holiday House NYC Designer Showhouse and designed featured exhibits for the Interior Design Show where Dee Dee designed a complete living space within 485 sq. ft. sponsored by Sub-Zero and Wolf. Taylor Hannah Architect Inc. has participated in the Designer Show Houses for The Junior League of Toronto as well as The Gardiner Museum's Twelve Trees of Christmas. Dee Dee was also chosen to speak at the Delicious Food Show, The Toronto Designer's Showcase, The University of Toronto Faculty of Architecture as well as the Women of Influence lecture series.

Dee Dee has been a guest judge in season one and two in a new series called Game of Homes, was one of the designers in HGTV's series The Real Designer Women, been part of the Lexus Style Maker Commercial in 2015, has had three visits to The Oprah Winfrey Show, a regular on CBC Steven & Chris Show, and appearances on The Global Morning Show, The Marilyn Dennis Show the Canadian HGTV Designer's Christmas Special and hosted HGTV's Love by Design, a home makeover series that air both in Canada and the U.S.A.

Her writing credits include a column for the National Post newspaper entitled "Constructive Criticism," as well as a weekly columnist for the Globe & Mail, Canada's premier newspaper, Style Section as Canada's Design Expert in a column titled "Design: Ask Dee Dee Taylor Eustace", Ask a Design Expert: answers to reader's design questions plus numerous features in the Globe & Mail. Dee Dee is also the spokesperson for Bostik speaking at events such as the American Institute of Architecture Convention in Philadelphia and the Chair of the Silver Dinner of Healthy Minds Canada.

Dee Dee's work has been published in several of the top magazines in both Canada and the U.S. such as Style at Home, Beautiful Kitchens, Better Homes and Gardens, Canadian Design and Architecture, Canadian House and Home, Luxury Homes Canada, Traditional Home, City Guide and KA Magazine as well as editor-at-large at KA Magazine. She has an E-book entitled Dee Dee's Rules and a new hardcover coming in 2016 titled Dee Dee Rules: N.Y.C.

Charity is a large part of Dee Dee's life as she sits on several Boards and Committees. Highlights of her charitable contributions include: Curator for the Gardiner Museum's 12 Trees of Christmas, Chair of Cook for the Cure for Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, International Chair for the International Arts and Antiques Show NYC, CO-Chair for the Canadian Council of American Relations NYC, President of Out of the Cold Foundation, Committee Member of the Governor General's Performing Arts, Property Development Task Force of Bishop Strachan School in Toronto, Board of Governors North York General Hospital, Chair of the Gala in the Garden for the Toronto Botanical Gardens, and Committee Member of the University of Toronto Boundless Campaign for the Faculty of Architecture.

