

Black & white and in color

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He considered the amount of time spent in the private rooms of a house, believing that "you can afford to be very stark there. The living is limited."

His master bedroom bears that out. The upper portion of the walls behind the bed is painted flat black and is separated from the white dado by a horizontal stretch of mirror. The furniture is white, the curtains and bedspread a wide black and white stripe. Only the art against the black wall picks up the pink of the first floor but in subdued shades.

Siegel saw a bedroom that he designed for "grandma," as an isolation for her from the sharper black and white rooms of the main floor. He used softer colors, replacing the hot pink with rose.

Siegel said he designed the condo, envisioning the owners to be "empty nesters with two kids off at college, who come home occasionally, and grandma."

"You have to be of a certain temperament to like (the black and white scheme)," Siegel said. "A person who is reserved or very unobtrusive couldn't like it. I picture the people who live here as 'up' and very interesting."

Siegel said that the color scheme "is something I do well because I like the contrast of black and white."

"I like the strength of dark and light, and strong color against white walls pleases me."

DID SIEGEL consider the practicality of using white in a model? "When I suggested white carpeting, they (the builders) winced because so many would be walking through. But they went along with it."

The carpeting had to endure the tracking of workers finishing the condo, but Siegel was pleased with the clean-up.

"Some say that off-white is more practical. But white is white. If it upsets you, don't get it. I can't say it's practical, but it's not as impractical as it seems."

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