

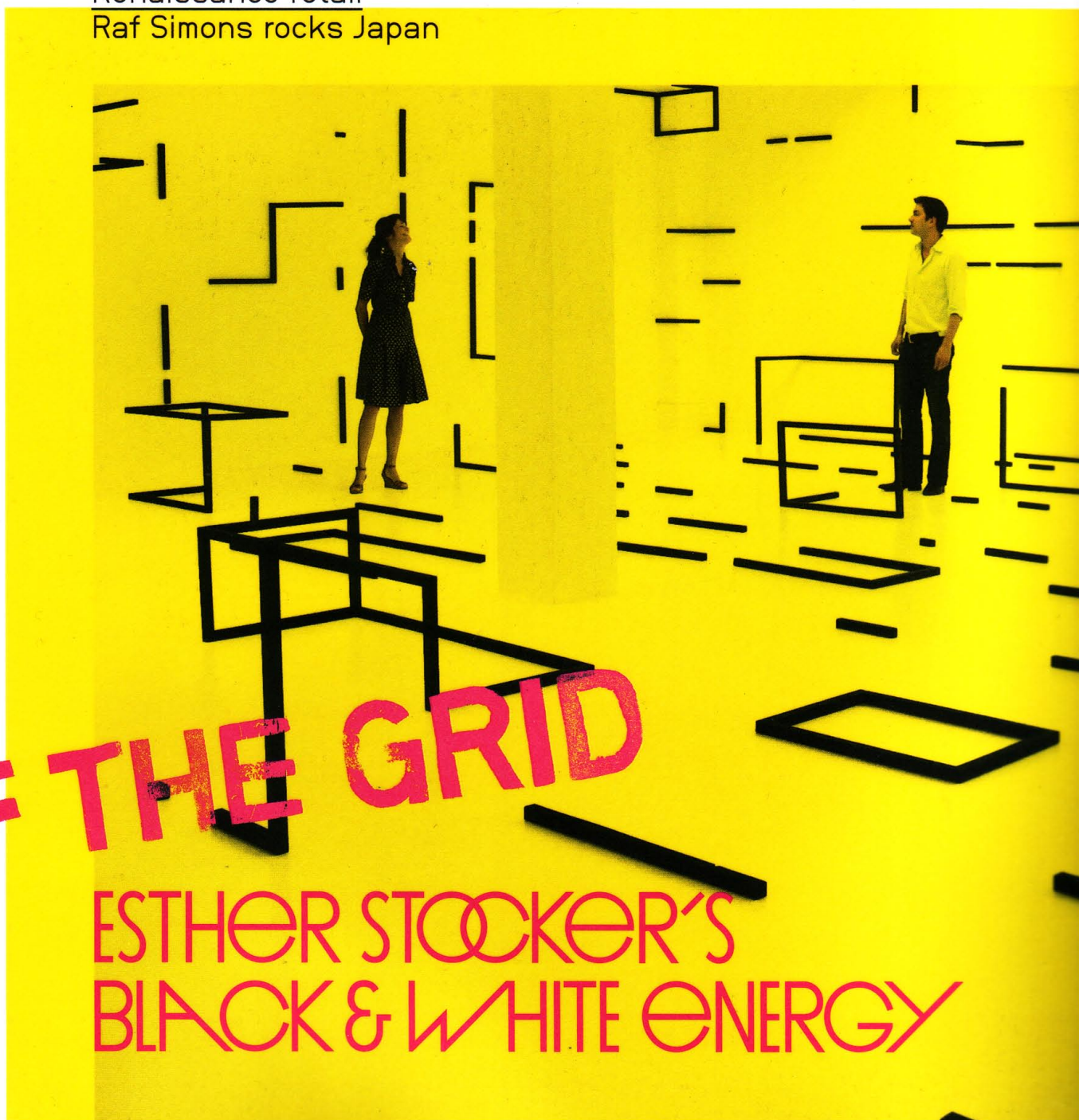


# FRAME

THE GREAT INDOORS Mar/Apr 2009

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## 30/36 Long Island City Loft by Steve Blatz

For Olivier Renaud-Clément, a private art dealer, visual overload is an occupational hazard. So his loft apartment, in the former factory of the Eagle Electric Company in a still-gritty area of Long Island City, is serenely white from floor to ceiling. 'Painting the floors high-gloss white gives the space a sense of peacefulness and helps to bring reflected light throughout the loft,' says architect Steve Blatz, who worked closely with Renaud-Clément on the apartment. The extensive use of mirrors—sometimes veiled by transparent curtains—emphasizes the effect. The immaculate, glowing-white space forms a gallery-like backdrop for its owner's spectacular collection of Italian design from the 1960s and 1970s, including furniture and lighting by Joe Colombo, Cini Boeri, Gae Aulenti, Angelo Mangiarotti and Mario Bellini. The sculptural presence of these space-age classics is complemented by contemporary art by Net Vital, Hedi Slimane and Michael Phelan, with pride of place going to Yuichi

Higashionna's fluorescent-light sculpture, a private commission for Renaud-Clément. Although 'the flat was bought as finished, which is usual now, we redid the interior entirely,' says the owner. 'We brought back one of the factory columns, moved the kitchen, reduced the number of bathrooms and opened up the bedroom.' Undoing the developer's work moved the loft towards its industrial roots and gave it an eccentric individualism (the bathroom is walled in glass, covered only by transparent curtain). The effect, as Blatz says, 'is like stepping into another world'. [www.blatzarc.com](http://www.blatzarc.com)

Words [Jane Szita](#)

Photos [Nikolas Koenig / GMAimages.com](#)



A whiter-than-white interior frames Yuichi Higashionna's fluorescent-light sculpture. Joe Colombo's 1953 Elda chair and Hedi Slimane's *Fragmentation*.