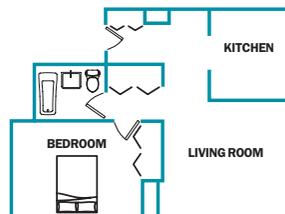


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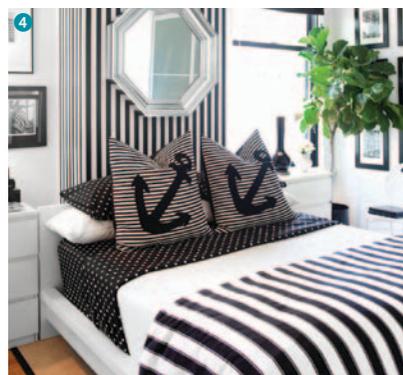
Think your pad is cooler than this one? If you have a well-designed or unusual pad, e-mail photos to style@timeoutny.com and you could be featured.



Apartment tour

1BR in the Financial District

A married couple mixes stripes and polka dots to put their uniquely chic spin on a nautically themed pad. By **Cristina Velocci**



1 Television personality Katrina Szish (katrinaszish.com) and her husband, Brant Stead, a software executive, have both been renters for as long as they've lived in Manhattan. But that's never stopped them from renovating kitchens, putting up wallpaper, installing lighting and otherwise making a place all their own. "We are serial redecorators," concedes Stead, who says that the 693-square-foot space they've lived in since March 2010 is "our fifth fully reconfigured apartment." Though the pair—who, according to Szish, "first bonded over our mutual love of industrial design"—have resided together in Williamsburg; the Lower East Side; Red Bank, New Jersey; and the South Street Seaport, no two pads of theirs have ever looked alike. "The themes have varied depending on what the view is and what the space says to us," notes Szish. "After seeing the boats go by on the Hudson River through that huge window, I wanted it to be black-and-white urban nautical, but with a twist." Taking inspiration from the razzle-dazzle camouflage painted on World War I ships, the couple decided to mix polka dots and stripes throughout their abode for graphic appeal.

Crystal Head vodka bottles (crystalheadvodka.com) as decanters. "I like things that are uniform," notes Szish. "Everything in the same bottle, everything in the same color."

like I think of shoes," says Szish. "It's worth spending the money on something that will be a great accent."

2 The couple loves skulls—they even have matching tattoos of craniums from New York Hardcore (127 Stanton St between Essex and Norfolk Sts; 212-979-0350, nyhctattoo.com)—and they've repurposed empty



3 "This was just from letting people know what we wanted," says Szish, referring to this painting of the New York Harbor. "In Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, there is one of the most amazing furniture shops I've ever seen called J. Conn Scott (jconnscott.com); you walk into the store and you're just so inspired," she enthuses. "We started talking to the owner and explained what we were going for here. One day, he sent us an e-mail letting us know he got this in, and it was just absolutely perfect. It's almost like having another window on that wall, and it really fills the space." Although most of the apartment was done on a budget, the nautical signal light from Restoration Hardware (935 Broadway at 22nd St; 212-260-9479, restorationhardware.com) was a splurge. "I think of lighting

4 Szish mixes a striped duvet cover from Sin in Linen (sininlinen.com) with polka-dot sheets scored at PB Teen (1451 Second Ave at 76th St; 212-879-2513, pbteen.com). The anchor pillows were a custom job executed by local designer Lana Tarpinian of Honey Pie Design (honeypiedesign.etsy.com). "I love working with mirrors because they add space and light," says Szish, who discovered the octagonal vintage style at Las Venus (163 Ludlow St between E Houston and Stanton Sts; 212-982-0608, lasvenus.com).

subjects who have autographed tomes). "We love collecting art pieces and books, but also having it personalized," adds Szish. "We don't necessarily set out to do it, but somehow we're lucky enough that our paths end up crossing with a lot of these people, so we're able to add more meaning to some of those items."

5 "Rules are meant to be broken in design," declares Szish, who mounted a trio of vertical Ikea shelving units sideways on the wall to create this display area for a curated collection of pop-culture-themed books. "We've got a good number of them signed," notes Stead (Oleg Cassini and Grace Coddington are among the

6 "We love to find little gems on our travels," says Szish, motioning to this pitcher that she discovered at a Paris flea market. She fills it with striped writing utensils that were sneakily acquired. "Every time we go to the Crosby Street Hotel (79 Crosby St between Prince and Spring Sts; 212-226-6400, crosbystreethotel.com), we steal those pencils," she admits. "To me, it's strength in numbers, so I like to have a big group. I tried to find a place to buy them, but I couldn't, so I just take them!"