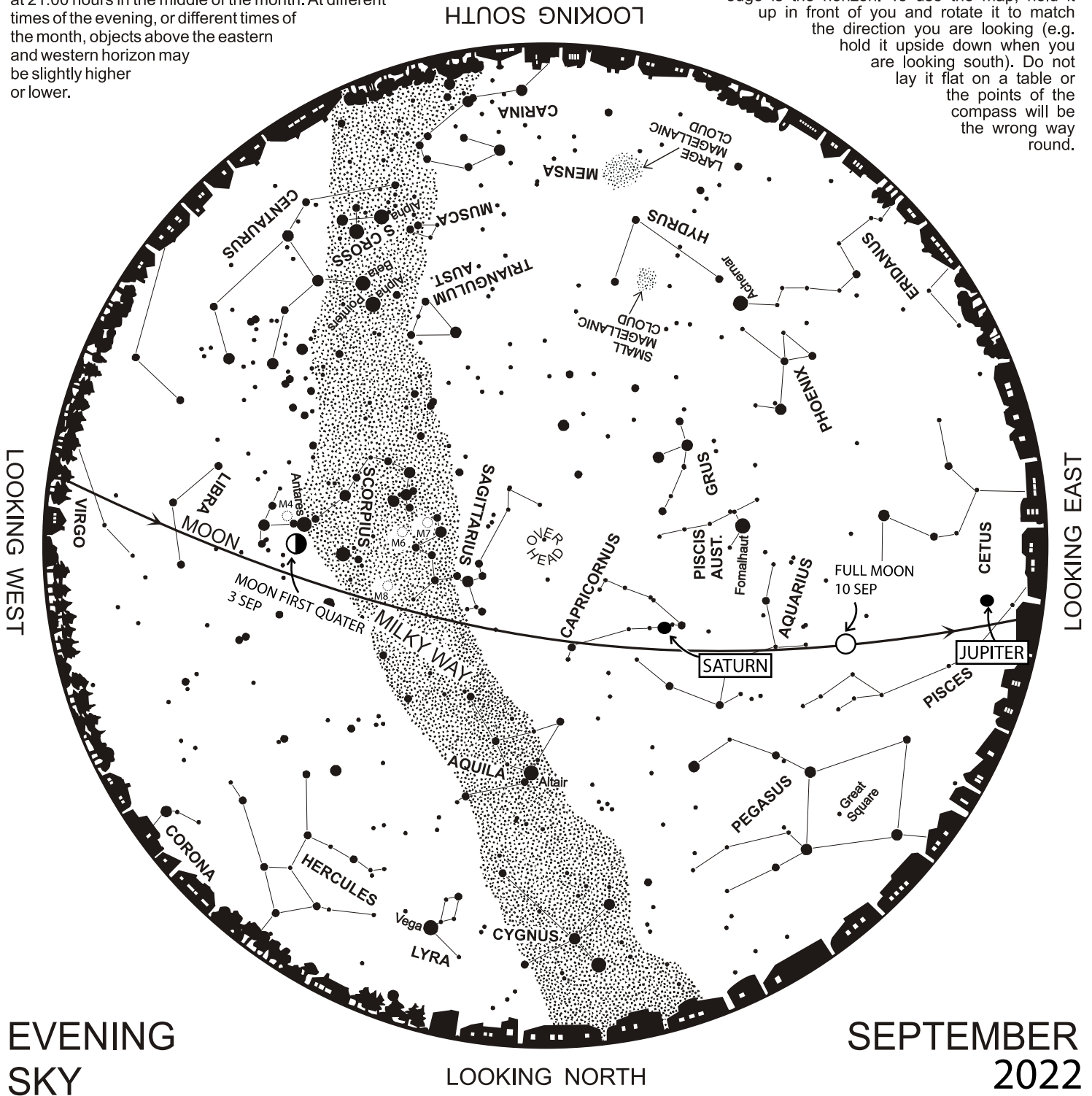


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

The map shows the night sky visible above the Cape at 21:00 hours in the middle of the month. At different times of the evening, or different times of the month, objects above the eastern and western horizon may be slightly higher or lower.

The centre of the map is the overhead point, the edge is the horizon. To use the map, hold it up in front of you and rotate it to match the direction you are looking (e.g. hold it upside down when you are looking south). Do not lay it flat on a table or the points of the compass will be the wrong way round.



EVENING SKY

SEPTEMBER 2022

Spring returns to South Africa with Spring Equinox on 23 September (where night and day have roughly equal length). In the southern evening sky, we can find both the closest star system to the Sun (including the bright star Alpha Centauri, around 4.4 light years from Earth) and some of the furthest celestial objects observable to the naked eye: the Small and Large Magellanic Clouds (neighbouring irregular-type galaxies around 200 000 and 160 000 light years away from us respectively). Moving eastwards, Capricornus (sea goat), Aquarius (water bearer), and Pisces (fishes) consist of relatively faint stars, making them challenging to identify.

Together with the other Zodiac constellations, they lie along the Ecliptic, an imaginary line which follows the apparent path of the Sun as Earth makes its annual orbit. As the Sun-Earth plane approximately aligns with that of the Solar System, the planets can also be found along the Ecliptic. Saturn (in Capricornus) and Jupiter (close to Pisces) can be seen for most of the night throughout the month. The moon will be in the evening sky until 14 September with New Moon on 25 September. Full Moon, otherwise known as the 'Spring Moon' in South Africa (see cfah.org.za/fullmoon/ to find out more) will be on 10 September.