

Style 20/20

The no mess, no fuss redesign issue: July 2020



Practical & inexpensive ideas to improve your home

Rethink, redesign

I never thought my children would be giving me design and trend advice. I always imagined it being the other way around. But it's actually a wonderful thing to see your teens start finding their identities, sense of style, their look. It of course starts with fashion, but eventually transcends into pretty much everything with which they associate themselves. So, in putting together the **Teen Space** feature in this edition, I had to collaborate with some very switched on teenagers. The ideas I've shared are intended to steer you more or less in the right direction, but you'll definitely need to take detailed direction from your own teen.

Kitchen and bathroom updates — I love the idea of a quick room refresh, especially when there is little or no budget in the near future for a full renovation. If you've noticed your kitchen and bathrooms are looking a little dated, there are definitely some small but impactful things you can do. It's fun to start adding stylish touches while saving up for a complete renovation. Make a start by incorporating some of the Kitchen & Bathroom Hacks I've shared on pages 16 and 17.

Looking back on all my home renovations I've noticed there are some looks that have stayed with me, and I guess that has become my signature style - the things that keep showing up in my interior spaces. Interestingly, these are small collections. Collections of vessels and vases, and collections of framed prints (which I display on shelves as opposed to hanging on a wall). So I guess I'm a collector at heart. Go ahead and **showcase your collections** using the prompts on pages 18 to 24.

For help with a difficult space in your home, please reach out to me by email : info@style2020.co.za. I've included a Bio on the last page if you'd like to read more about my decorating journey.

It's certainly going to be a slower July. Usually such a busy month for local and international sporting and cultural events, what with Wimbledon, the Durban July, Mandela Day and the Turbine Art Fair normally filling up our diaries. This July, we'll just follow these events on their digital platforms from the comfort of our homes. I hope you keep warm, safe and inspired this July.

Enjoy your home.

Melissa Druce

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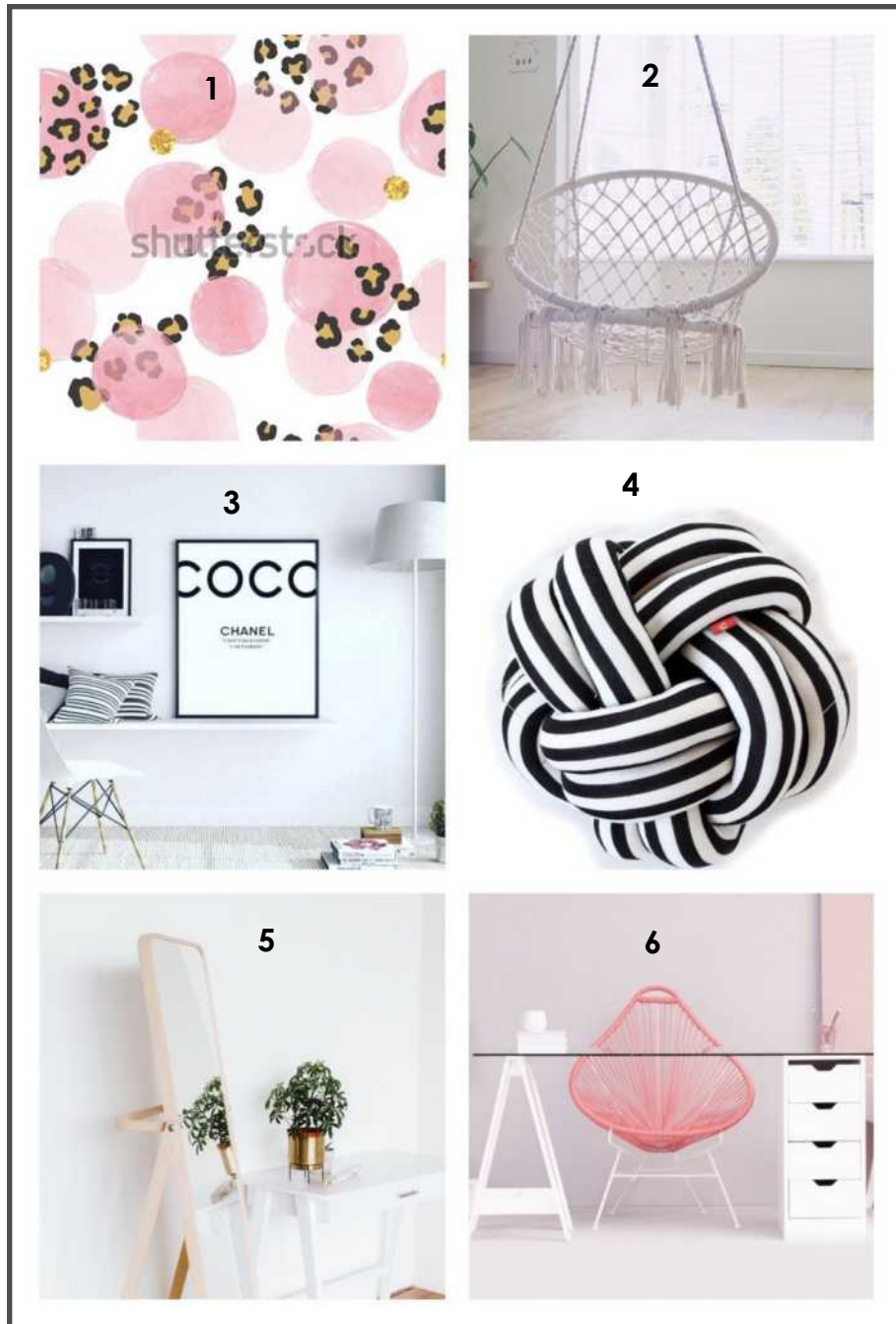


For her

It seems that teens (especially girls) are no longer happy to stick a few posters up above their beds. Young people today are style influencers and brand conscience from a very young age. So, give them a little freedom to design their own rooms BUT always within a pre-agreed budget. Teens can be fickle, and fashions change quickly so we need to be really careful about the big ticket items in a teen bedroom. They can however have lots of fun with the inexpensive decorative bits — a small plant, pretty work files, storage boxes, stationery etc. I've included some ideas for teen rooms over the next few pages. Of course there is a big difference between a 13-year old and an 18-year old and, on reflection, I realise some of the ideas are quite grown up. On the positive side, these ideas could work equally well for university students and for a younger look, just add cute cushions and younger art.



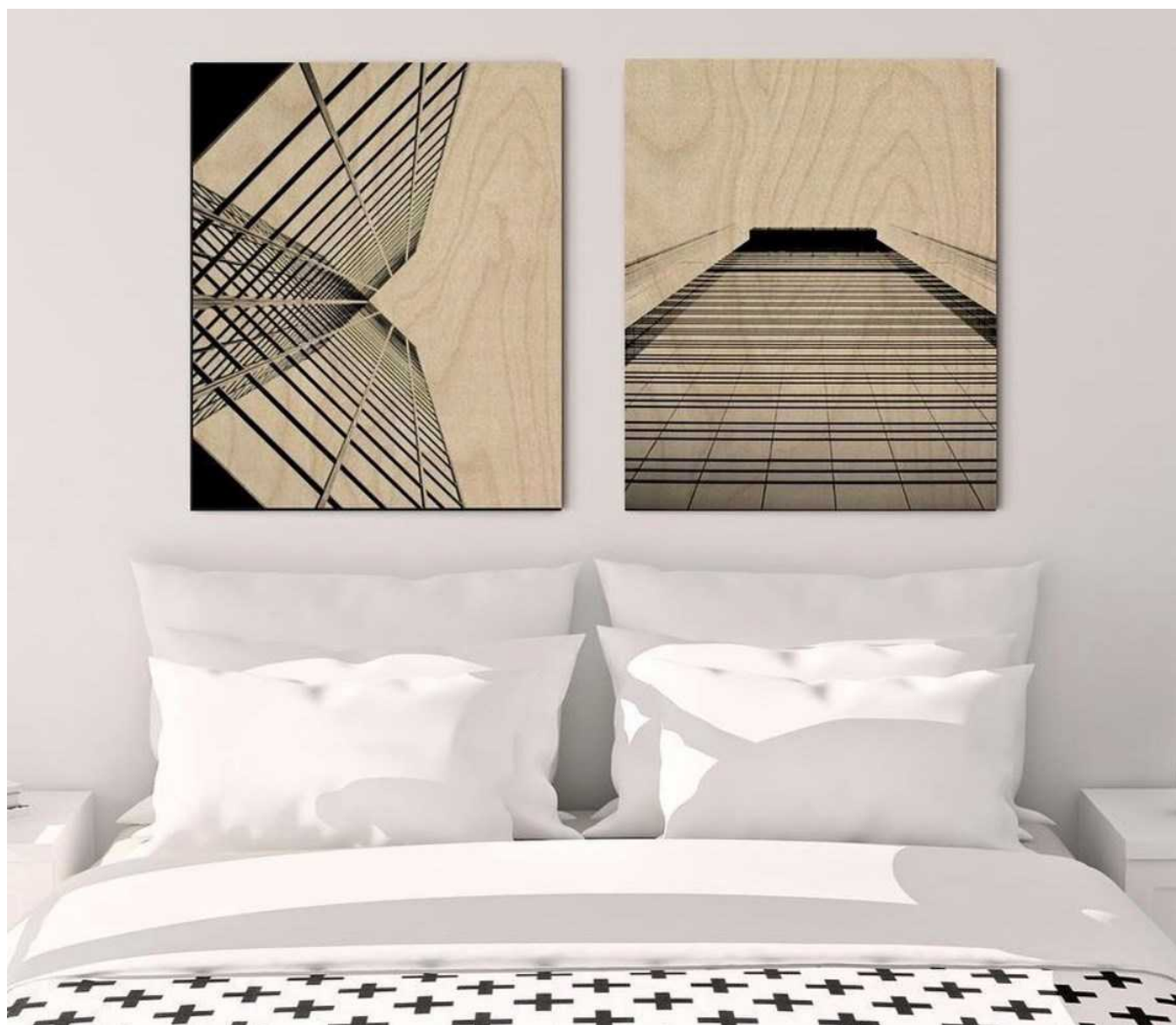
For her



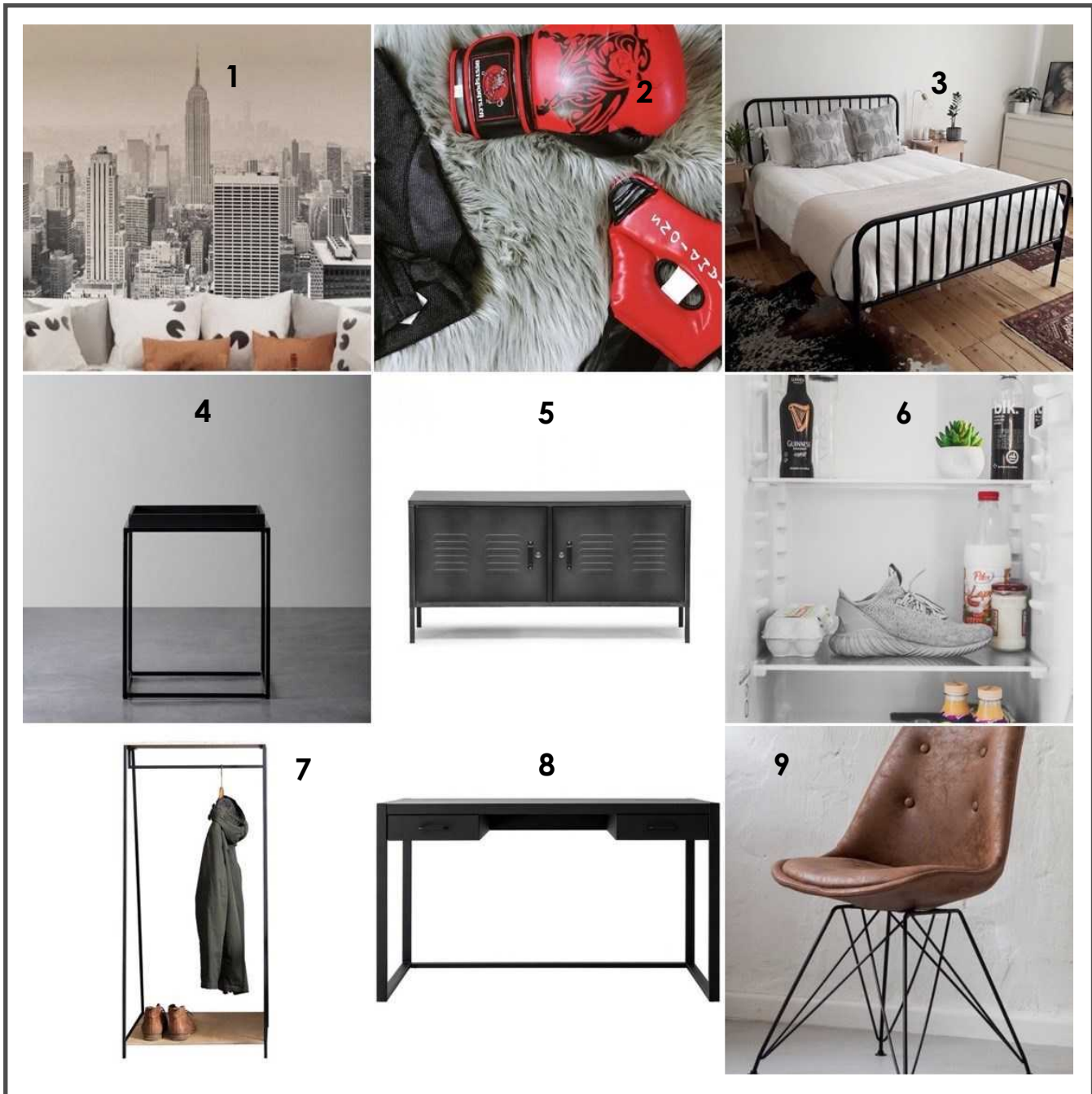
1. Shutterstock image to be printed onto wallpaper (service offered by Sasi Wallpaper)
2. Macrame Hanging Chair — Takealot
3. Coco Chanel art prints — Jasper & Jute
4. Knot cushion — Knus (also available in other gorgeous colours)
5. Tall standing mirror — find similar from Knus
6. White trestle desk — Trestle South Africa, replica Acapulco chair — find similar at Leroy Merlin

For him

Teenage boys seem to love doing spontaneous gym workouts at random times of the day and night and, therefore, it might just be easier to get them some basic gym equipment for their rooms (a boxing bag, or a pull-up bar and/or a couple of weights). I'm also sold on the idea of a free-standing clothes and shoe rack. They're stylish, provide space for displaying expensive trainers and also provide a home for those clothes that never find their way into the cupboards. I've been told that a mini-fridge is also seriously cool in a teen boy's bedroom. Steel is a great choice for furniture, for it's strength and it's a bit edgy. For the walls, a mural of a big city skyline (I'm thinking New York) would work for a lot of teens. If you're looking for something a little different, consider these wooden art prints (pictured below) from Photoblox SA. By the way, they can custom-print almost anything onto these blocks and they come in various shapes and configurations. I would however say that less is more with a teenage boy's room so if you only incorporate some of these ideas, you've probably done enough.



For him



1. Wall mural — ohpopsi (available from Sasi Wallpaper)

2. Boxing gloves and bag — available from Sportsmans Warehouse

3. Steel bed — Design Store

4. Side table — Weylandts

5. Steel cabinet — Cielo

6. Mini fridge — available from your favourite appliance retailer

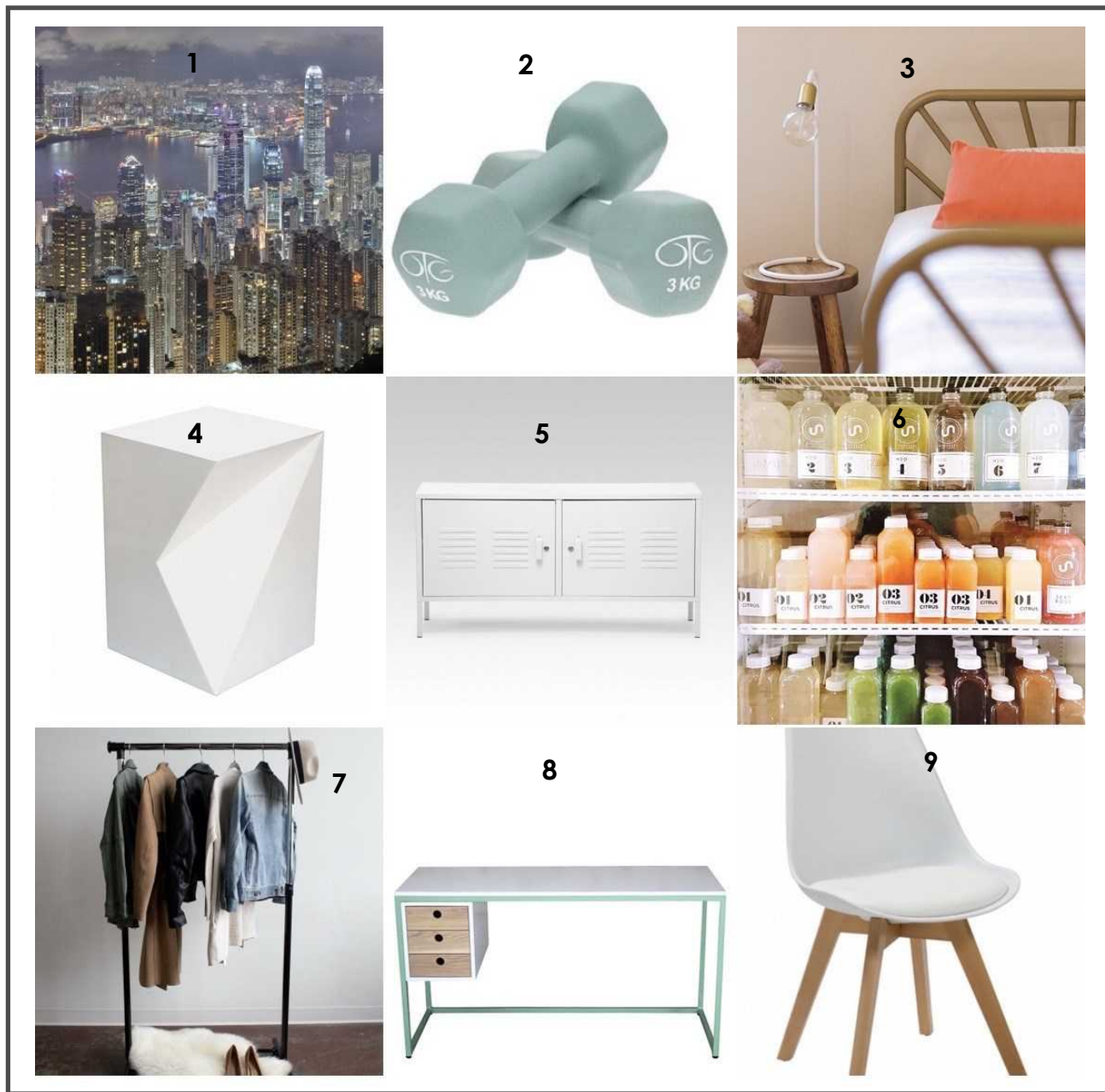
7. Free-standing clothes rail — Design Store

8. Powder-coated desk — Weylandts

9. Leather look chair — Cielo

Also for her

A final thought — If you have both boy and girl teens, I quite like the idea of using the same furniture for their rooms but just changing the colours and styling slightly. This creates a more cohesive overall look in your home and less squabbling over how much you've spent on each one.



1. Hong Kong City wallpaper — Robin Sprong

2. Neoprene dumbbells — Sportsmans Warehouse

3. Gold steel bed — Design Store

4. White cuboid side table — Design Store

5. Steel cabinet — Cielo

6. Mini fridge—available from your favourite appliance retailer

7. Clothing rail — find similar at Design Store

8. White & mint green desk — Design Store

9. White desk chair — Rochester



Kitchens &
bathrooms

Bathrooms

Whenever I'm walking through bathroom showrooms looking at all the gorgeous new taps and mixers, I always think of that Michael McIntyre comedy skit where he demonstrates how nowadays one has to learn Tai Chi just to figure out how to get the endless variety of bathroom taps to work. Frantically swiping, swaying and swooshing his hands above, below and in front of the tap — but still no water comes out! It really was a lot simpler when a tap was just a tap. So when it comes to sanitaryware, I guess I'm saying that if it's not broken, don't change it (unless your sanitaryware is beyond redemption).

Re-painting your bathroom cupboards is another way to save and create a stunning effect with little effort. The bathroom cabinet pictured below was previously white and had started to yellow with age. Now in dramatic black, you really notice it.

Towel racks and hooks previously came in silver or stainless steel and that was pretty much it. There is now so much variety, from black to matt gold to copper. Re-placing your towel racks really is one of the most inexpensive ways to modernise your bathrooms.



Towel rail and hooks from Leroy Merlin

Bathrooms

This bathroom was certainly not a disaster, it was just a bit bland and the large mirrors kind of dominated. By adding a bold wallpaper and smaller, more fashionable mirrors, it now looks more like a boutique hotel bathroom. This is what I call a clean renovation — no building mess, dust or noise. That's got to be first prize.

Remember to only use wallpaper in a well-ventilated bathroom to avoid peeling.

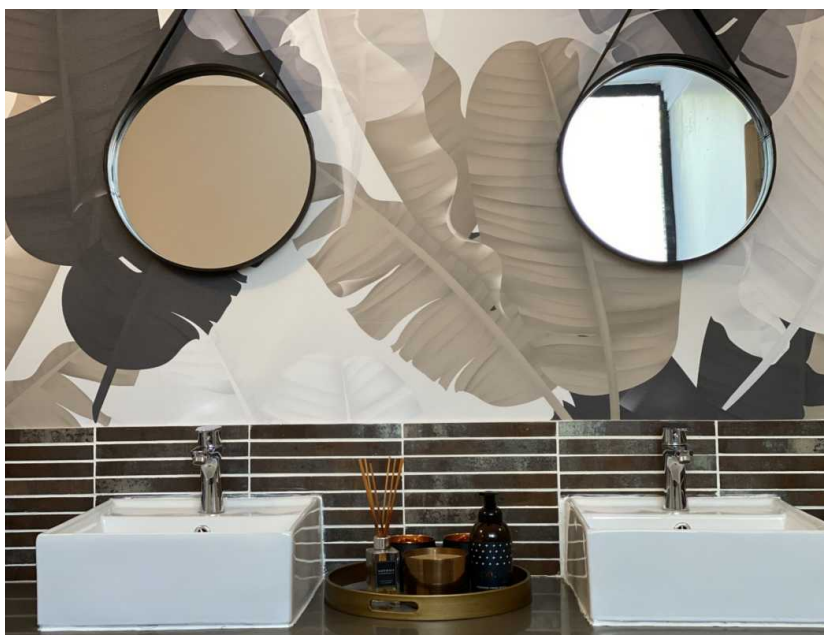
Before



After



After



Wall mural printed by Sasi Wallpaper and the mirrors are from H & M Home.

Kitchens



Kitchens

It usually costs a small fortune to completely redo a kitchen, so why not tackle it in phases? Initially to open up the space in the kitchen below, the wall cupboards on either side of the extractor were removed and a strong feature wall was created by re-tiling and adding some updated accessories. The classic metro (also called subway) tiles were an obvious choice. Aside from their very favourable price point, they look clean and modern and provide a great backdrop to all different types of interior styles. Removing the cupboards resulted in a loss of some cupboard space, but after a quick spring-clean revealed fondue sets and milk frothers that hadn't been used since the 90's, the additional cupboard space required quickly became available. Other areas of the kitchen still need attention, but one's eye is now drawn towards the new feature wall making other parts of the kitchen less noticeable.

Before



Kitchens



After



Kitchen & Bathroom Hacks

You'll notice that basins and baths are no longer white (not necessarily). They're now a deep slate grey, matt black, gold or copper.

Think about re-spraying or powder-coating your baths and basins if you notice they're looking damaged or outdated.



For an instant no-mess solution, these Vinyl tile decals by TileVera simply stick directly onto your wall or onto existing tiles.



This splashback is covered in a seriously inexpensive Vinyl wall sticker from Builder's Warehouse.

Kitchen & Bathroom Hacks

1

Add a free-standing butcher's block (this one is from chefsblock.co.za)



2

Hang pots, utensils and chopping boards on a stylish shelf or rack



5

Modernise your small appliances (these are from Mellerware)



5 ways to improve your kitchen without changing cupboards and counter tops

3

Decant dry goods into large glass jars (these are from Mr Price Home)



4

Update pendant lighting, stools and cupboard handles



Showcase your collections



Showcase your collections

It was at the Saxon Hotel that I first noticed and appreciated the arresting effect of repetition in design. Displaying objects in groupings and symmetrical linear patterns is both striking and comforting. The interior design of the Saxon Hotel was of course undertaken by South African design legend, Stephen Falcke.

African grass bowls, fertility dolls, horns and scatter cushions were masterfully curated and displayed on every surface (not to mention the artworks). But you don't need to be an icon of design to create and display your own collections. It's fun to start collecting something that really interests you — here are some ideas if you haven't started yet:

- Hats
- Craft Gin
- White crockery
- Corks
- Candles
- African Artefacts
- Magazines
- Books
- Glass Apothecary jars

Over the next few pages, I've shared some ideas on how to display magazines, African artefacts and Apothecary jars— three of my weaknesses. I also included hats because we all already have them, and they add a quirky touch to your interior space.

Hats



Décor trends are often inspired by fashion, what we see on the catwalks very quickly makes its way into homeware stores. So I love the idea of creating a collection of Felt Fedora hats, which by the way are everywhere at the moment. I've seen them in beautiful colours at Cotton On (soft cream and tan), Identity (dirty pink) and Foschini (olive green). If you're after less of a gangster look and more of a Safari vibe, then have a look at Melville & Moon for some seriously stylish hats.

Hang them in a grid as above, on a coat rack, or create a simple display by hanging 3 hats in a row above your headboard.

Magazines



Magazines will surely become proper collector's items as we move at a rapid pace into a digital world, so hang onto those you have. These sleek black shelves from Weylandts and round African pots are perfect for keeping your favourite magazines close by. I love that the magazine covers bring so much colour to the room.

African Artefacts



What better way to bring a touch of local design into your home? You don't need to go overboard, just a small collection is all you need. Include African beads, wire baskets, small pots, masks and bowls. To find beautiful African craft products, look no further than Amatuli Artefacts and Weylands.

Apothecary jars



Apothecary jars



For many years I've found the Apothecary look to be extremely cool, then David (from Schitt's Creek) opened his Apothecary shop, and I was completely sold. To create your own Apothecary look at home, have a look at what Essentially Natural has to offer on their online store. You'll find glass bottles, science beakers and flasks, dried botanicals and recipes to make your own natural perfumes, candles and bath bombs. Refillery and Consol also sell amber and clear glass bottles and Africology, Skin Creamery and Aesop sell beautifully packaged products that are perfect for this look. You could also recycle your empty craft Gin bottles.

If you can find an antique cabinet to display your bottles, that's going to give you an authentic look. Alternatively, display your bottles on a windowsill and let the light dapple through them, or present them on an antique tray.



A little about me

My love for renovating started in Parkhurst. My husband and I came across a very decrepit (or very artistic — depending how you looked at it) house and I knew instantly I'd be kept busy until infinity trying to bring it back to life. It was a Spanish design so I knew a Moroccan look would work with the architecture. I painted over the kitchen tiles, hung bunches of lavender from the kitchen ceiling, and bought many ceramic jars. I painted the outdoor fountain surround a deep cobalt blue. I sourced beautiful Moroccan lanterns from Hadedra and started collecting African pots and vessels. Loads of Living had just opened and I spent every spare cent I had on anything stylish I could find there. I learnt how to use a Hilti so I could hang and re-hang pictures on a whim. I followed every local décor trend like it was a religion and also started buying international décor magazines. Each time we travelled to the UK (my husband is British) I'd head straight to all the home décor shops and galleries in London, searching for something unique to add to my home.

We did our time in Parkhurst taking on another two major renovations, and then built our own home in a golf estate. We decided on a Georgian architectural style for our new home, which required more precision and less of the carefree, experimental style we'd been used to with our Parkhurst projects. So, I immersed myself in episode after episode of the TV series *Grand Designs* to enhance my building knowledge. After traffic got the better of us, we found ourselves back in the suburbs renovating an 80's Miami Vice style house (our current home). Then came my brief venture into property flipping with a large old flat in Illovo, which I gutted and modernised (in an industrial loft-apartment style). Unfortunately, the economy took a downturn and that put that idea to rest. At some point in this journey I did an interior decorating course, had my own small interiors business, and also designed kitchens for my dad's construction business. But, for the most part, I was actually working in a corporate job while keeping my side-line passion for decorating alive.

Fast forward to today, and I still spend every spare minute and every spare cent I have on styling, decorating, renovating and finding ways to improve homes.



In my next issue:

- **Organising your home to save you time**
- **Cocooning, no matter the weather**
- **The staycation — bring that holiday feel into your home**

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