

Style 20/20

August 2020



Practical & inexpensive ideas to improve your home

Less is more, or is it?

The older we get, the more we acquire. It's a natural process — more years equals more children, more pets, more activities, more investments, more paperwork, more gadgets, more holidays and more socialising. And we convince ourselves we need more things for each new venture (and sometimes we really do). However, if we don't make sense of all our things, we end up under-utilising very useful things and over-crowding our already very full lives and homes with not so useful things. Sometimes it is not so much about getting rid of things, but rather getting on top of things.

So this “less is more” edition of Style 20/20 is about making sense of all your things:

- Organising your home — sort out the things you use most often to save you time
- Cocooning — making your home cosy without necessarily adding more things
- A staycation — give your holiday things a dedicated place in your home

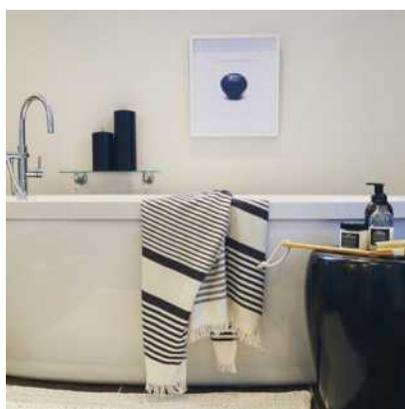
I'm of the opinion that signing up for new things is never a bad idea, be it a course, hobby or new exercise class. Yes, it might involve buying a few new things that you might not need in the future, but its also likely to yield new friendships, new memories, new perspectives and new insights. These are surely the things that really matter!

For help with a difficult space in your home, just reach out to me by email : info@style2020.co.za.

Enjoy your home and remember to follow me on Instagram for daily tips and ideas [@melis_style2020](https://www.instagram.com/melis_style2020).

Melissa Druce

My Instagram:



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Organising your home



Organising your home

I confess that I am a bit of a neat freak, but then you probably already guessed that. But I also totally understand that for you, there might be a gazillion more interesting things to do other than tidying and sorting out cupboards. And I'm cool with that because time is precious and you should all spend it doing whatever fuels your soul. But, there are a few small things you can do to better organise your home that might just make all the difference when you're running late and trying to remember a million things at once.

Kitchen & Pantry

Save time by not having to search for things

Easier said than done, but have a look at the ideas I've shared over the next few pages to get your kitchen and pantry functioning like a well-oiled machine.

Playroom

The difficulty with sorting out a playroom is how do you make it visually appealing and stimulating to your children without the room looking like an actual pre-school classroom? You probably also don't want to spend a fortune as your amazing sense of style will definitely be lost on your toddlers.

I've sourced a selection of storage baskets in really bright, fresh colours of coral, teal, sea blue and lime which are bright enough for kids and tame enough for grown ups. In terms of furniture for the playroom, I would steer away from custom-made kid's furniture that they'll soon outgrow (although its tempting to buy because there is some seriously cute stuff out there). When my children were little, I stacked most of their toys in a white TV cabinet (plasma unit). It might sound strange but it just seems to work. The height of a TV cabinet is low enough for little ones to be able to reach their toys by themselves. TV units are also generally quite inexpensive. Have a look at Page 9 for a better idea.

Mud room

After much research I'm still not sure what to call it, a mud room, boot room or utility room? All I know is that I've always wanted one of these (not that we as a family partake in any activities involving mud).

I personally call it a grab-and-go space or in-and-drop space depending on whether I'm leaving home or arriving home. What I do know is that its uses are many and varied and investing in this type of space will serve you well for many years to come. In our house, we only have a very small utility area between our garage and kitchen, and yet it can hold so much (featured on pages 10 and 11). I've learnt that to maximise the use of a utility space, you need many, many hooks. Best of all, the area and its uses will evolve with you as the children grow, sports activities change, and weather seasons turn.

Kitchen & pantry

1.

Keep the things you use everyday out. For example, create a coffee station next to your coffee machine, create a smoothie station next to your blender, and display the spices you use in almost every meal on a tray close to your hob. Cooking and prepping is a breeze when everything you need is right there.



Kitchen & pantry

2. Store the things you use for entertaining in a dedicated space so that when you're behind time and your guests are about to arrive (this is my life), you can quickly grab the placemats, serviettes, ice bucket and serving spoons.



Kitchen & pantry

3.

Once you've organised your kitchen like a pro, get stuck into your pantry or food cupboard. Storage jars are available from so many retailers and ideas on how to style them are everywhere on Instagram. So whether you are looking for storage baskets, beautiful glass jars, large glass cake domes, or very stylish ceramic and terrazzo canisters, you'll be spoilt for choice.



Playroom



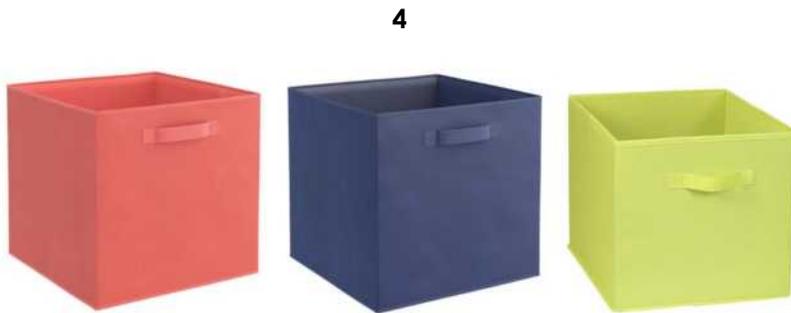
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5

1. Rainbow kids basket — Superbalist
2. Large plastic basket in teal — Superbalist
3. Large plastic basket in coral — Superbalist
4. Polyester storage baskets — Leroy Merlin
5. Red cotton rope conical basket—Design Store
6. Newport Plasma Unit — Mr Price Home

6



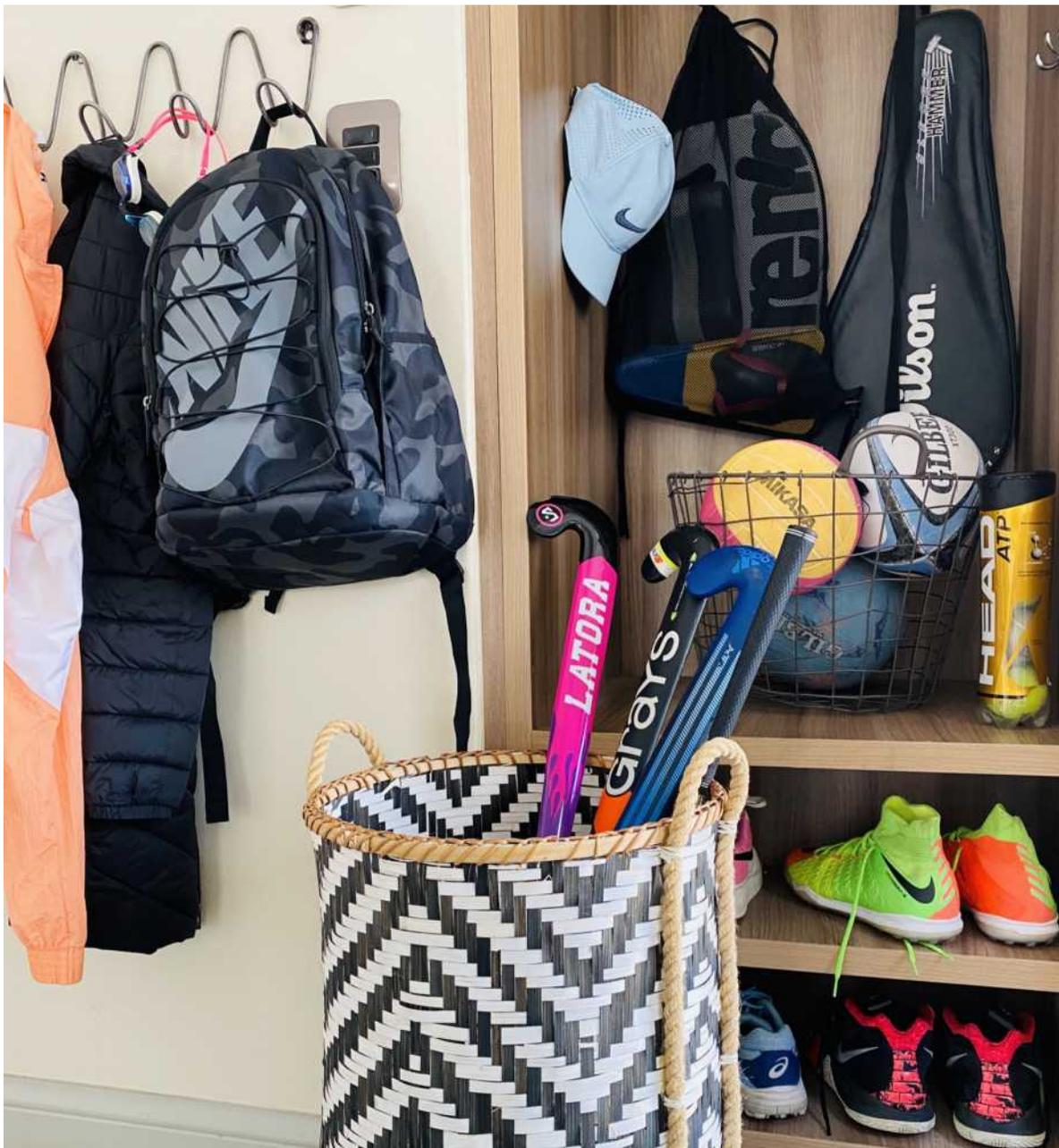
Mud room

If you don't have children, your utility area can be both practical and quite pretty and, it's amazing how many things you can squeeze into a relatively small area. I've included a hat, jacket, mask, buff, handbag, two shopping bags, a large weekend bag, cap, cycling helmet and shoes, a set of golf clubs, a gym mat, 3 pairs of trainers and a storage basket for scarves and beanies in this small space!



Mud room

This is most likely what your mud room will look like on a good day if you have children, and unfortunately will look nowhere near as organised on a bad day. But it's a great place for their sports equipment, which you just need to swop out as their sports seasons change so that you don't have absolutely all their sports equipment stored here at once. It's also a good space for blazers and ties, school bags and lunch bags.



Cocooning



A Winter snug

When visiting London in December a few years ago, we popped in to the restaurant on the roof garden of John Lewis, and what a creative wonderland we found. Aside from the mini ice rink and main restaurant with it's crackling fire, they had also put up little wooden garden sheds on the roof which could be booked for meals by small private groups. Each garden shed had been decorated as a beautiful, cosy snug (see photos below). What a stylish way to take a break from shopping, put your feet up and grab a bite?



A Winter snug

Take inspiration from the John Lewis restaurant, and convert your dining room into a super cosy snug for those chilly Winter nights. Grab a few blankets and cushions, lots of candles, a lantern, a reed diffuser or two, some fairy lights and, of course, the fire wood. Oh, and a reindeer print just for fun.



Cocooning in any weather

Cocooning is not just for Winter. I think it's as important to have a comfortable, cosy space for those lazy, contemplative Autumn, Spring or Summer days. Fancy any of these ideas?

How inviting would this Fatsak be on a cool Autumn afternoon?



A Summer patio chair is essential for a post-gardening nap!

Image credit : Fatsak (fatsak.co.za)

Imagine how rejuvenated you'd feel after a quick nap on this Spring-themed daybed!



A staycation



A staycation

It's maybe not our first choice, but for many of us a staycation is the only option right now. So how can we at least bring the feel of our favourite holiday destination into our home?

South Africans tend to opt for either the bush or the beach when planning a holiday, and I've therefore gone with these two looks and sourced gorgeous local products to inspire you to design a Safari or island-style room at home.

And what about keeping those past holiday memories alive? Lockdown has prompted so many people to sort through their old photos, so now is the time to do something with them. It was also wonderful to see people sharing their holiday photos on Facebook when signing up for the 10-day travel photo challenge. So now that you know where to find your most amazing holiday photos, how about finding an interesting way to get those photos off your phones and onto your walls?

I've featured 3 unusual ways to reference your holiday memories on pages 23 to 26. A little time-consuming maybe, but so worth it to create a lasting memory.

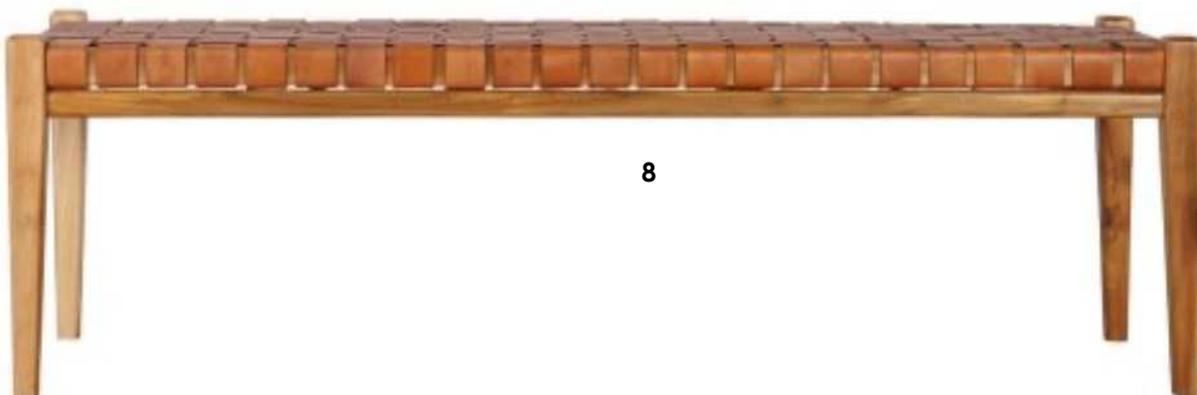
Bring that Safari home



The Rookhee chair (sometimes called the Roorkee chair) was originally designed as a British Army campaign chair. In 1899, the British Army faced an entirely new type of enemy. The Boer War in South Africa changed warfare forever. The enemy were tough, mounted guerrillas with exceptional shooting skills who outmatched the British at every turn. The over-designed campaign furniture of the Victorian Era was unpractical for the new hit-and-run tactics which demanded something lighter and more versatile. The Rookhee Campaign Chair fitted the bill perfectly. Light, practical and easy to disassemble for travel yet still robust enough to stand rough treatment. The design also had the advantage of allowing the chair to adjust to uneven ground. In 1933 Kaare Klint, considered by many to be the father of modern Danish design, came across the Rookhee chair while on safari in Africa. He re-invented the Rookhee campaign chair and called it the Safari Chair.

**Photo and description above supplied by African Touch.
Order from them at: theafricantouch.co.za.**

Bring that Safari home

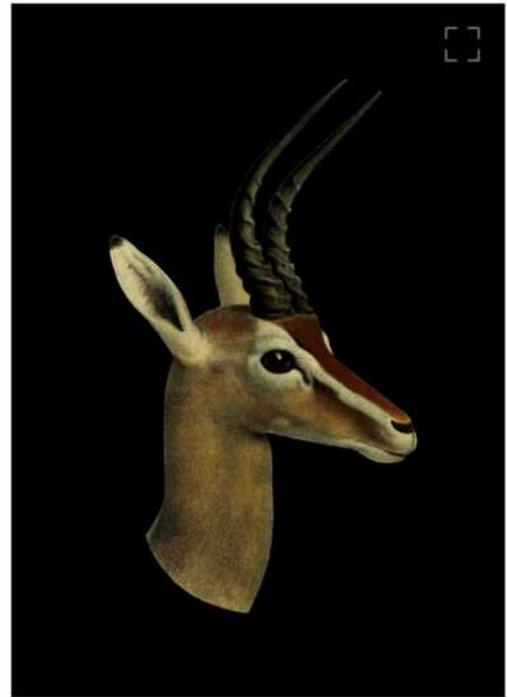


Bring that Safari home

9



10

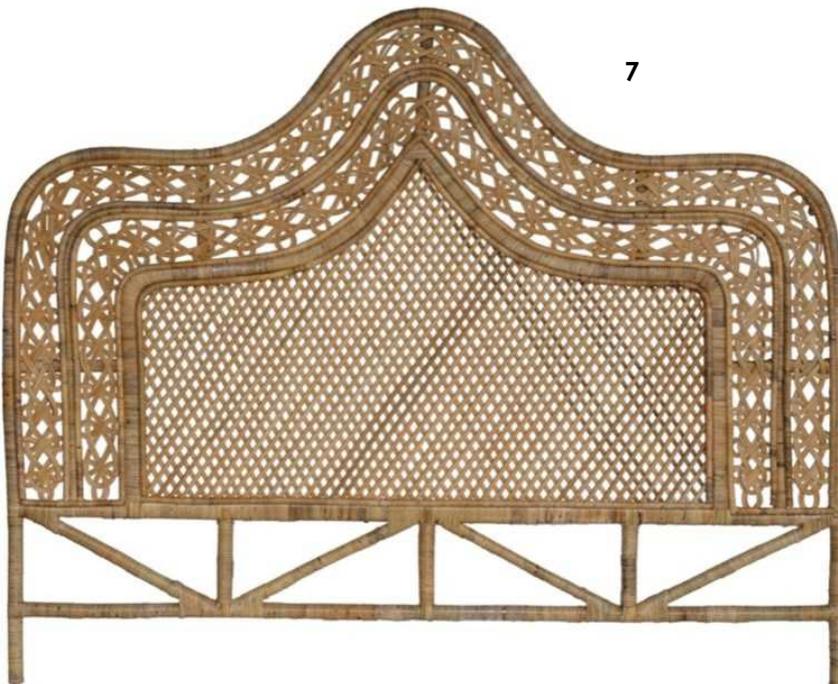
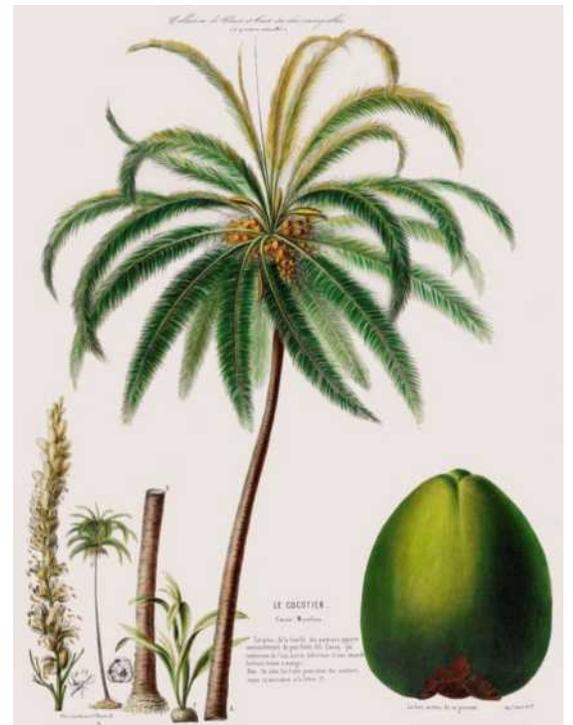
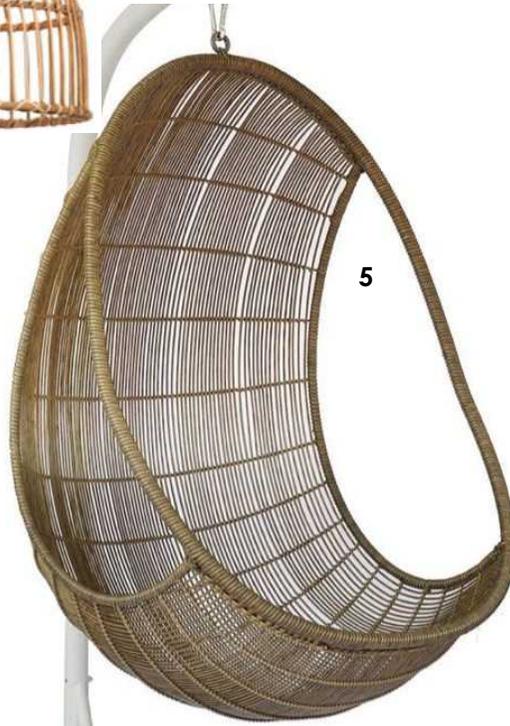


11



1. Lantern style lamp — The Lighting Warehouse
2. Animal print trays — Eleven Past
3. Cape Island candles and diffusers — Cape Island
4. African Safari scatter cushion — Esque
5. The Fever Tree — African artwork
6. Log carrier — Vendange Online
7. Animal print rug — HAUS by Hertex
8. Teak & leather bench — Block & Chisel
9. Kalahari Campaign Desk — African Touch
10. Springbok art print — Soil&Co
11. Tan leather Director's chair — Weylandts

Bring on the beach



Bring on the beach

9



10



11

1. Pescatore pendant light — The Lighting Warehouse
2. Lemongrass candles — Knus
3. Water hyacinth bowl — Woolworths
4. Pineapple jar — Eleven Past
5. Hanging pod chair — Esque
6. Art print — Jasper & Jute
7. Peacock headboard — Eight Degrees South
8. Rattan side table — Mr Price Home
9. St. Verde scatter cushion — Deco SA
10. Chindi rug — Block & Chisel
11. Normandy shutters — AMERICAN shutters (americanshutters.co.za)

Bring your photos to life



A shelf display — when I think of Portugal, my mind goes immediately to food and drink. It's just such a large part of Mediterranean culture. So for me, the obvious place to capture my Portugal holiday memories was on my kitchen shelves.

You'll notice my photos have been printed onto canvas blocks and I've included Portuguese products to really enhance the theme, olive oil, crockery, coffee pods etc. The copper jug was included as it really offsets the blue packaging (old copper pots would be even better).

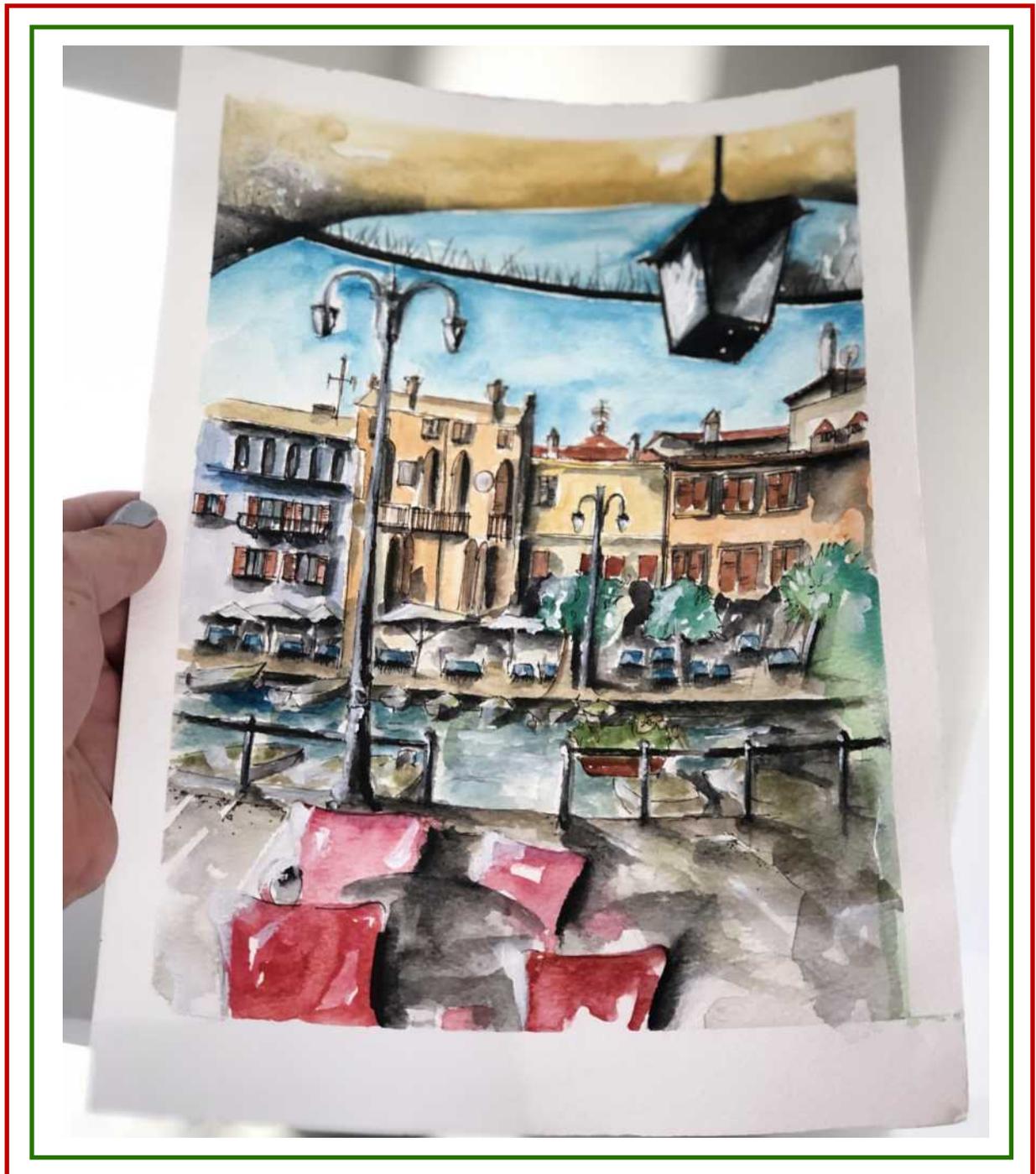
You could do something similar with your photos and memories from maybe Italy or Greece?



Bring your photos to life

Commission an artist — I cannot think of a better way to capture and retain your holiday memories, than to request a local artist to create an artwork for you. Find that one photo that immediately transports you to your special holiday place and then find an artist whose style and technique really speaks to you. The depth, texture, richness of colour and character of an original piece of art is what will bring that holiday scene to life.

The art scene below was painted by local artist, Teres Truda (Instagram @teresatruda). It's painted from a photo she took of one of her favourite little cafés in Dezenzano del Garda, on Lake Garda, Italy.



Bring your photos to life

Print onto block canvasses — A great idea for beach photos is to break the photo into three (either horizontally or vertically) and then have the three individual photos printed onto large canvasses. Hang them close to each other to re-create the original image. It works well if the image you've captured is more or less evenly distributed over the photo (as illustrated with the Mauritius and Plettenberg Bay photos). If the image on which you've focused is not evenly captured, break the photo in deliberate uneven sections as illustrated with the Thailand photo on page 26.

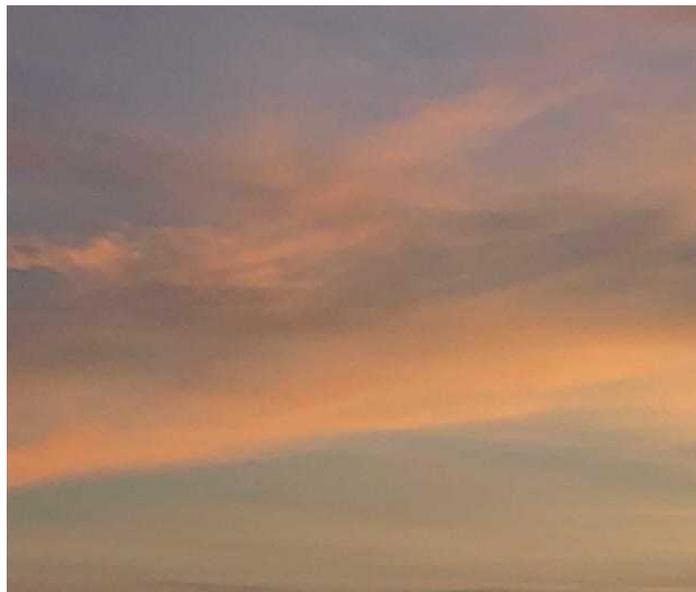
Original photo



Mauritius

Bring your photos to life

Plettenberg Bay on a cloudy day



Thailand

In my next issue



Where to start
when first buying
original art

How to
downsize in
style for
micro living



How to update
your lighting for
maximum impact

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