

# welcome back

DURING THE WORKING WEEK my home becomes a battle zone. Every morning, clothes are flung everywhere and anywhere, towels collect in huge piles and the dogs run in and out leaving a trail of hairy tumbleweed throughout the house. So when the weekend arrives I try to restore a sense of order to my home. I get the vacuum out, crank up the stereo (my neighbours love my music... I hope!) and use the cleaning session as my workout (I swear it keeps me fitter than any gym membership). By the end of a few hours I'm exhausted, begging for that first coffee, but so happy the house is organised. The reason for my rave about cleaning is that last weekend my Saturday

blitz got me so inspired it ended up being a mini revamp – and I didn't need to buy a thing! I rearranged all my furniture and accessories giving the place a whole new look and feel. With the economy in such a downturn I couldn't think of a more perfect time for **real living** to get you inspired with some very cool and super-easy revamps. We started with the cover as inspiration. By simply adding a pretty fabric to a traditional French sofa we instantly gave it a cute modern twist. (You'll never guess where the fabric is from – be surprised on page 40.) We also took some classic heirloom pieces and breathed new life into them. How? By pairing them with more contemporary finds (page 50). I won't give it all away here so keep your eyes out for the revamp stamps (see below) throughout this issue.

It doesn't stop there... Inspired with all the cleaning I thought we should give **real living** a little freshen-up, too. We've not only introduced a triple house treat each month (starting on page 58), but we've also managed to score our biggest magazine size for you EVER! You'll find a huge bonus section at the back of the mag that's packed with everything you need to know about renovating your kitchen and bathroom. The motto this month: everything old is new again. So get busy and REVAMP what you've already got. Enjoy the issue!

Furballs and fluff don't stand a chance with Deb's mean little machine.

Bissell Pet Hair Eraser Vac 2000W barrel, \$299. For stockists, see page 152.

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menu on a mirror = cool artwork!

I popped into Bambini Trust cafe for a quick coffee and came out with interior inspiration. Why not create a mirror artwork at home? Wine list on the wall – love it!

## things we love this month...

Proof that salads can be fun and funky!  
Joseph Joseph salad bowl and server set, \$99, Independence Studios.

We love bracelets with a little bling!

Pandora sterling silver bracelet, from \$81, and silver and glass beads, from \$30.

Super-clean countertops without using harsh chemicals. Brilliant!  
"Counter Intelligence" Food Safe Surface spray, \$12.50 (500ml), Murchison-Hume.

Gorgeous design, beautiful fabric – perfect excuse for a weekend away!

Atelier R Bernier Pompon D'Islande 100% cotton satin large travel bag, \$330, Lola Et Moi.

Hand-embroidered artworks on vintage French linen and pretty handprinted sheets – so divine!  
Selection of Castle embroidered artworks, from \$90, and cotton bedlinen, from \$39, castleandthings.com.au



Sew, screenprint, knit, collage or crochet with this cute craft book.  
"Meet Me At Mike's" by Pip Lincolne (Hardie Grant), \$45.

Who needs flowers? Brighten up your living space in an instant with these vibrant vases.  
Trumpet vase, \$19.95 for 24cm, \$14.95 for 18cm, Metro Style.



photography bi luu (deb; shot at bambini trust, sydney, nsw)