

# Feel connected

Get in touch with the people and the world around you

## Healing Message in a Bottle

Haeckels is a fragrance and skincare brand based in Margate, an English seaside town with chalk reefs and cliffs that nurture families of seaweed not found anywhere else in the world. Haeckels uses the healing, rejuvenating algae and local plants in its products. The brand's fragrances have GPS coordinates as their "names," and include details of the day and weather conditions of when the ingredients were picked. The concept behind this is that they provide "an aromatic snapshot" of the location. [Haeckels.co.uk](http://Haeckels.co.uk)



## Homemade Heater

This easy-to-make stove will keep a small room, caravan or garden shed warm for just a few cents a day. Rest a small clay plant pot, upside down, on two piles of four tiles, with four tea lights in the center. Cover the hole of the pot with aluminum foil to prevent the air from escaping. Next, place a larger clay pot over the smaller one, and keep the hole of that one open. Light the tea lights and after a while, the pots will heat up and release the hot air via the upper hole. For more complete details: [tinyhouselistings.com/a-diy-tiny-house-heater](http://tinyhouselistings.com/a-diy-tiny-house-heater).

## Papercut Chart

Julie Marabelle has transformed her delicate and detailed papercut maps of cities into a series of hand-screen-printed posters. Her online shop also includes other beautiful things to liven up your home, such as cushions, mugs and storage boxes, all featuring her lovely designs. The maps include Paris, New York, San Francisco and London, as well as ones of France and the World. Explore them all at [famillesummerbelle.com](http://famillesummerbelle.com).



## The Beauty of Books

E-readers may have made life easier when it comes to books, but there's one thing they'll never be able to beat when it comes to the good old paper tome: libraries. Here are some breathtaking ones: *Admont Abbey Library, Austria*: Built in 1776, this is the world's largest monastic library, with around 200,000 volumes dating back to the 8th Century, seven frescoes and ornately carved, gold-trimmed walls. *Trinity College Library, Ireland*: Aside from being absolutely gorgeous, the library is also home to the famous Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript created by Celtic monks around 800 A.D. *Strahov Monastery Library, Czech Republic*: Beautiful décor, more than 200,000 volumes and two secret passageways hidden by bookshelves that can be opened with fake books.

TEXT: JULIA GORODECKY, TESSEL STEFELS TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY VANDERWOLF IMAGES STRAHOV MONASTERY LIBRARY SERGI KORSHUN SNAIL MAIL CHRIS MIDDLETON TURN OVER A NEW LEAF ART-PHOTOGRAPHERS.CO.UK, SUSANNA BAUER, REBEKAH TAYLOR



## Turn Over a New Leaf

For those of us in the Northern hemisphere, autumn means Mother Nature packing her bags and leaving in a blaze of golds, oranges and reds. It also means heaps of fallen leaves to jump in, kick around and collect for crafty projects. UK-based artist Susanna Bauer uses these natural wonders—as well as found pieces of wood and stones—and combines them with crochet detailing to create intricate, mesmerizing artworks and sculptures that defy, well, nature. See her ethereal pieces and find out more at [susannabauer.com](http://susannabauer.com).

## Find Your Soul Mates

Social media supposedly connects us, but sometimes it's nice to make contact with humans in the real world, and for that, there are other ways to use the Internet. Using [meetup.com](http://meetup.com), for example, which organizes face-to-face events, in an attempt to "revitalize local community." There are more than 9,000 like-minded groups, from an urban hiking group in San Francisco to a Brazilian book club in the Netherlands, or improvisational workshops in Melbourne and philosophical chats at a Socrates Café gathering in Dublin. But you can also hook up with, for example, other mothers, triathletes or dog sitters in your neighborhood. Can't find the group you're looking for? Then, for a small monthly fee, you can start one up yourself.



## The Art of Mail

Melbourne-based designer and illustrator Michelle Mackintosh is a firm fan of handmade snail mail. In her book, *Snail Mail: Rediscovering the Art and Craft of Handmade Correspondence* (Hardie Grant Books, 2015), she introduces us to—or reminds us of—the delightful, charming world of handwritten correspondence. The book includes projects such as how to create your own stationery, customized envelopes and seals, as well as practical tips on how to improve your handwriting and fun advice on postal etiquette. You'll also find anecdotes on letter writing, examples of letters from historical figures, cut-out postcard designs, rubber stamp templates and stickers. All presented in a beautifully illustrated way. So irresistible that it'll have even the hardest of SMSers reaching for their pens. [Snailmailbook.tumblr.com](http://Snailmailbook.tumblr.com)

