

Partners in craft,  
Kasia and Bob, Warsaw

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# OUR HANDMADE LIFE

## THE RECLAIMERS

'I think everything can find a new life, nothing is useless,' says Kasia, who lives in a 100-year-old house with husband Bob, their sons Tytus, Tymon and Leon and her mother, known to one and all as Baba Gaba. 'We hold onto all kinds of stuff – papers, ropes, fabrics. I make garlands like dreamcatchers but we call them joycatchers after Radosc, our neighbourhood – it means joy.'



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**'The wall hangings  
are rescued bicycle  
wheels wrapped in  
covers I sew with my  
mother. It reminds us  
of grandpa – building  
bikes was his hobby'**



#### THE FAMILY HANGOUT

In the open-plan ground floor of Kasia and Bob's home, their L-shaped sofa is the family's anchor. 'This is our common space, where we spend time together when we're all indoors. It's probably because we all love our corner sofa – it's big enough for all the family to pile on together. And while the boys still want to hang out with us, I'm happy to have them close.' • KIVIK Orrsta light grey [000-000-00] €xxx

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**A FLEXIBLE KITCHEN  
CREATES MORE CHEFS**

'Our house is designed so that the boys – in fact, everyone – can play an active role in it,' says Bob. 'That means putting heavy things on wheels, having footstools to reach kitchen surfaces and putting everyday ingredients in easily accessible cupboards.'

● **PRODUCT** xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx  
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**'Baba Gaba loves to cook with the boys. She even says to me: "I've never seen you cook. If I wasn't here, you'd die." She can be dramatic'**

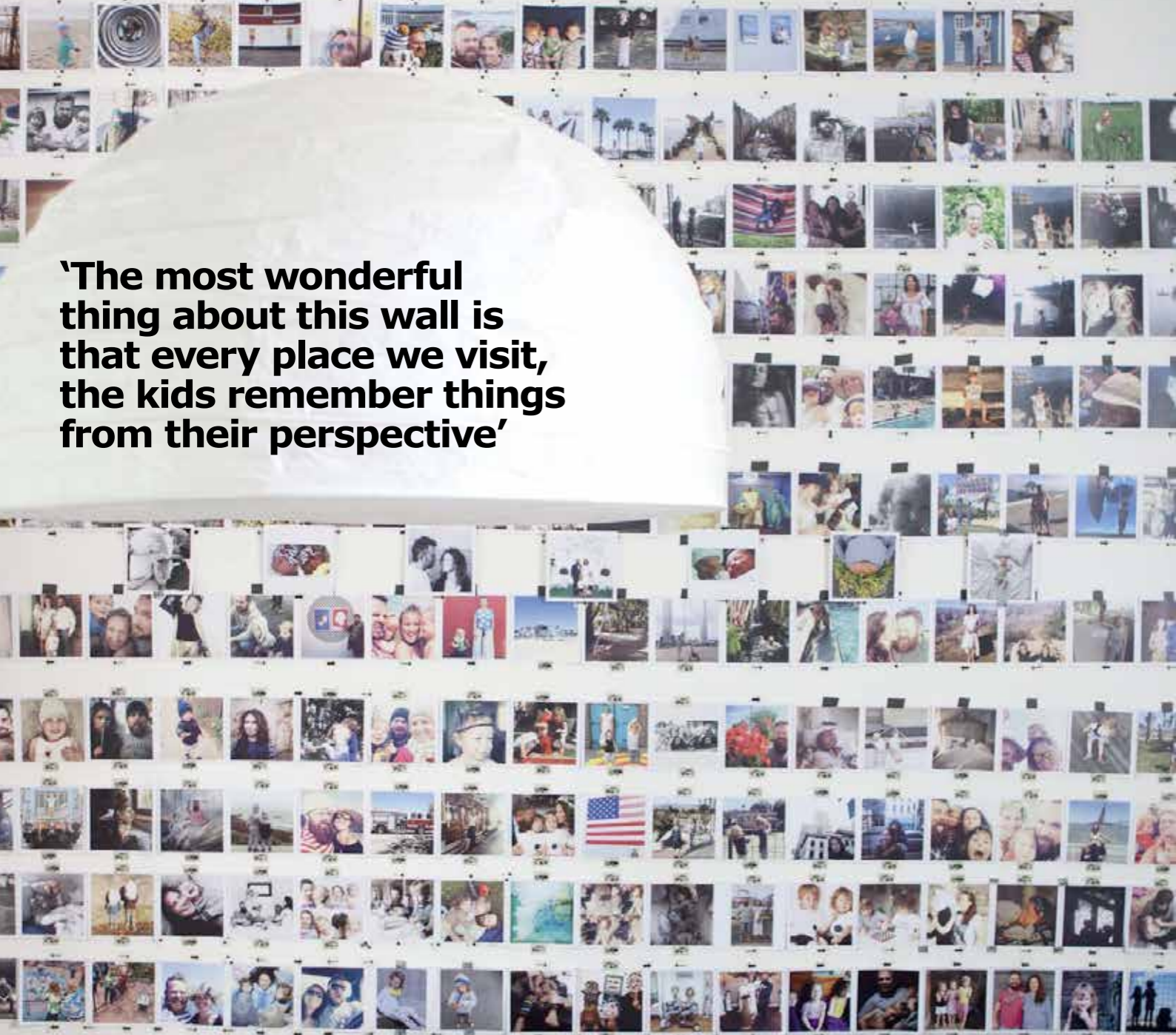
**MAKE EVERY DAY SPECIAL**

'The other day, I calculated that I was serving Tymon his 1,600th breakfast,' says Bob. 'I said, "Hey, it's a special day, it's your 1,600th birthday. How about you make me breakfast for a change?" We made a cake that evening to celebrate, but I didn't get my breakfast!'

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**'The most wonderful thing about this wall is that every place we visit, the kids remember things from their perspective'**



Bob first met Kasia when she slipped into the seat opposite his desk at work. 'It was love at first sight,' he says. 'Yes, he told me I had to quit because he couldn't work when he saw me!' says Kasia. Eight years later the couple live in a house where the dress Kasia wore to their Vegas wedding hangs on an upstairs wall. And Kasia's mum, who 'came for a few weeks' to help when their first child, Leon, was born, has the spare room and is beloved playmate to Leon, 7, and his brothers Tymon, 3, and Tytus, 9 months. It wasn't planned, but this family finds joy in the surprises life throws its way. Here's how...

**We're democratic** 'Having a live-in grandparent is special. It only works by being very democratic. Everyone in this house has opinions – Leon often reminds us it's his life! For us it's important to show the boys how they can be involved – they can be part of the making, as well as the playing after. That will give them satisfaction and good memories.'

**We hold onto our roots.** 'My grandma is the key,' says Kasia. She taught me to sew. It wasn't formal, we just spent time together. That's the best way to learn. Four years ago, I wanted a garland of stars to hang but couldn't find one so I asked Bob to draw a star – I can't draw – and I asked Mum to bring the old sewing machine over. I sewed a garland, then letters and now I have a business – I'm a mother who sews in the other room!

**We work with what we have** 'Big success isn't our dream. If it all went tomorrow, I know we'd be OK. We have many hands and lots of ideas – we can do anything we want...'



**ALL SIZES MATTER**

'It's easy to think either in terms of big statement items or lots of tiny bits and pieces,' says Kasia. 'I think rooms work best when you mix the sizes, so striking shapes draw you into a room, but then little details catch your eye.'

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**AT HOME OUTDOORS**

'As soon as spring arrives, I like the boys to play outside as much as possible,' says Kasia. 'We encourage this by bringing chairs and soft fabrics out on to the terrace.' The family's garden has lots of low seating that everyone can reach easily, with cushions and throws for extra comfort and to wrap up against the chill of early spring.

• **PRODUCT** xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx  
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**'Moving here from the city was important for me. I wanted to teach the boys to love plants and understand how they feed us'**