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WITH
LUCY
BROOK

Port of call

Essentials Gifts & Homewares shut up shop in the Wintergarden late last year, but owner Angela Christodoulou has unveiled new digs (there's still an outlet in the Myer Centre) in the Emporium complex. In store now are Parisian-themed trunks (from \$35), a pretty alternative to storage boxes. Shop 10, 1000 Ann St, Fortitude Valley, ph: 3216 1900.



Changing rooms

Anyone who has ever felt they could actually live in an Ikea store is not alone. The Ikea "houses" – fully equipped, life-size living spaces within the store – have been a huge part of the chain's appeal since its inception. The Logan showroom has had the same house for five years, and despite receiving oodles of requests from shoppers for the room plans and decor, Ikea is shaking things up a little, with a new house underway. "We've revitalised the first house, but never changed it," says Danielle Dunsmore, a spokeswoman for Ikea. "Now we will gut it and completely start again. It's going to be amazing. They are built as if people live there." The designers and builders have been given a brief, but the house, which will focus on living with children in small spaces, won't open until June. www.ikea.com.au

Good sort

Made a New Year's resolution to get pages and pages of recipes organised? Kikki.K has a limited edition My Recipes Organiser (\$39.95) in red, and since it comes with handy divider tabs for sections such as finger food, vegetarian and dessert recipes, you'll never have to scrounge through drawers looking for your favourites again. From Kikki.K, city, ph: 3229 6205. www.kikki-k.com



A little bit Zen

JAB Design's cute new oriental collection, made with tough melamine, is perfect for serving Asian-inspired stir-fries and rice dishes. The lightweight range includes scratch-proof black and red bowls with matching dipping bowls, serving spoons and platters. From \$2.99 at homewares and kitchen stores, ph: (02) 8665 4675. www.tomkin.com.au



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