

DONE



May is the fifth month of the year. Its star sign is Aries. This month it is time to turn the page and look over our shoulder to see if there is progress. If you resolved in the beginning of the year to lose weight this is a good time to review the before and after weight. If you resolve to keep your hair short, this might be a good time to recheck if you still feel powerful with short hair. Moreover it also is time to check if all clothes were picked up from the dry cleaners. All pets must be groomed and checked for ticks. Are school fees paid for those with children in private school. How is the savings account? Is there one? Can one be acquired. If loved ones were lost during the pandemic could this be the month that we visit their graves or perhaps have a ceremony of remembrance and celebrate them. Hair cuts if needed, dental appointments as needed, booster shots for COVID and Shingles for the all. Should this be the month that garage doors remain open, and clutter cleared. The promise to hold on to an old magazine which felt good to read in the 1980s, maybe now is the time to chuck it, empty the refrigerator and check if perhaps you want to try other brands. There are only four weeks left in this month. Make it happen.

Sincerely

Sambulo Kuneme garage doors remain open and nice I is time tome

Rooms

The concept of "room" is often introduced as a compromise. Traveling to conserve resources frequently necessitates sharing a dormitory with a stranger—an adventure many endure rather than desire. On a train, the shared cabin revives cinematic imagery of suspense: strangers who transition into adversaries, leaving a trail of quiet tragedy behind as they depart at the next station. Whether it is an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), a rented space with a private entrance, or a room within a landlord's home, the physical "room" is a baseline for survival and privacy.

Yet, for many, the word carries a sharper, more disciplined echo. "Go to your room" remains a foundational memory of childhood correction—a mandate for isolation and reflection. This transition from physical space to behavioral standard continues into the academic and professional spheres through the persistent phrase: *room for improvement*.

When an instructor notes a "belief in the room for improvement," they are not discussing square footage; they are identifying a gap between current evidence and potential excellence. It is a reminder of the invisible rooms we inhabit—the "room and board" provided by a college dorm, or the "room" found in a final resting place.

Even in the most crowded landscapes, the question remains: *Is there room at the inn?* This inquiry transcends hospitality. It asks if there is space for the unexpected, the new, or the weary in a world that is often fully booked. In May, as we audit our progress and our clutter, we must ask if we have cleared enough space, not just in our garages, but in our schedules and our minds, for what we claim to seek.



The House as a Witness

The house is more than a shelter; it is the silent observer of the human condition. It stands as the primary witness when one returns from a walk, unexpectedly drenched by stagnant water from a misaligned drainage system. It holds the space when a door is unlocked in the dark, fumbling for a light switch through the blur of a disappointing evening. In these moments of vulnerability, the architecture remains steady.

The house marks the arrival of new life, laying in wait for the extra human being returning from the hospital who was not there before. Conversely, it offers sanctuary to the child fleeing from bullies, providing known corners where one can remain unseen. It senses the hesitation of a car moving slowly up the driveway, gauging the presence of others within its walls.

Internally, the home reflects the chaos of the lived experience. It accepts the groceries carried through the garage, navigating a floor littered with the intellectual capital of books and cassettes. It counts the incessant rings of a missed telephone call and remembers the exact moment the rain first breached the roof. The house is the ledger of forgotten obligations—it knows why the electricity remains off after hours, standing in the dark until the mechanical systems of payment and restoration align on the next business day.

Domestic life is defined by these small, physical truths. There is the cautionary myth of the garbage disposal, the fear of lost fingers, only to realize the machine's powerlessness when it is non-functional. Yet, there is also radiance. When new furniture is delivered and the layout is reimagined, the house seems to glow. It is the one and only entity that holds the totality of a life's progress, from the leaking roof to the new delivery, proving that the home is the ultimate partner in the journey of "wonderment"



The Anatomy of Objects

Objects are the silent witnesses to our personal history. They begin as "objects of desire"—the intricacies and rituals we employ to attract, to signal status, or to bridge the gap between ourselves and others. Over time, these acquisitions diversify; they are gathered through travel, received as tokens of friendship, or salvaged from public spaces. Yet, there is a threshold where accumulation transitions into clutter. As volume increases, meaning often decreases, leaving a landscape of items that are functionally invisible.

In the professional sphere, objects serve as tools of the trade. Often acquired in bundles, these "toolkits" inevitably create a surplus of secondary objects that remain unused—intellectual and physical capital that sits dormant. This pattern of neglect mirrors the larger environment, where "unsightly" objects are littered across natural landscapes, unclaimed and misaligned with their surroundings.

The most intimate encounter with objects often occurs in the transition of seasons. Reaching into the pocket of a long-unworn coat frequently reveals a collection of unidentified artifacts: a stray pill, a forgotten key, a dusting of grass, or a pair of nail clippers. These discoveries prompt a fundamental question of origin, a wonder as to how and when these items claimed residency in such private spaces.

Modern commerce further complicates this relationship. Online shopping frequently introduces "bonus" objects of mysterious intent. A new handbag arrives containing a small sachet of silica salts and a leather keychain, meaningless charms that are often discarded without a second thought. As the mid-year audit begins, the challenge is to distinguish between the object that serves a purpose and the object that merely occupies space. To achieve true alignment, one must decide which objects are tools for the future and which are simply debris from the past.



The Mid-Year Audit: A Protocol for Domestic Rituals

The alignment of a living space is achieved through the disciplined execution of domestic rituals. These tasks, whether tackled over a single weekend or distributed across a week, represent a systematic reclamation of the home. The process begins with the immediate: making the bed as a primary act of order, followed by the consistent management of laundry and the essential rule of maintaining a clear kitchen sink.

The Nutritional & Mechanical Audit

A functional home requires a regular census of its resources. This involves:

- **Refrigeration Management:** Sorting through groceries and discarded "doggie bags" to decide what remains viable and what must be purged.
- **Pet Care:** Beyond the daily walk, rituals include the deep cleaning of aquatic environments and the grooming of domestic animals.
- **Safety Protocols:** A critical mechanical check involves replacing batteries in all essential devices, specifically smoke detectors, to ensure the structural integrity of the home's safety systems.

Curation & Privacy

Maintenance extends to the "skin" of the house, washing windows and deep-cleaning carpets to restore clarity and hygiene. Internally, the process becomes more granular: fluffing pillows and sorting closets into a rigorous "keep, discard, or donate" hierarchy. As cupboards are cleared and bookshelves are dusted, the audit occasionally unearths artifacts of the past.

Professionalism within the home dictates that a discovered diary, letter, or cash that does not belong to the auditor must remain unread and untouched. To do otherwise is to invite a misalignment of trust that far outweighs the value of the discovery.

External & Professional Systems

The ritual concludes with the maintenance of the home's exterior and hidden systems. This includes testing the sprinkler alignment and proactively engaging an exterminator, a preventative measure that holds value even in the absence of a visible problem. Finally, the bathroom should be cleaned with the precision that only the primary resident can provide.

Once the physical labor is complete, the transition from "work" to "living" is marked by an olfactory shift. Utilizing an essential oil diffuser to inspire the space serves as the final mechanical step in transforming a house back into a sanctuary.

A "Lively" Lifestyle Note

Your advice on the **unopened diary** is a perfect "character" study for the magazine, it emphasizes that integrity is what you do when no one is looking, even during a spring cleaning.

CLOUD SED GARAGE

Pet Station

The Neighborhood



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- **Editorial Insights:** Exclusive monthly letters from Editor-in-Chief Sambulo Kuneme.

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- **The DONE Handbook:** A digital compilation of our most essential domestic rituals and character studies.
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Subject: Welcome to DONE: Your Audit Begins Now

Dear Member,

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Whether you are here to refine your domestic space, audit your professional trajectory, or simply explore the "witness" of the architecture around you, we are honored to have you as part of our community.

What to do next:

1. **Access the May Issue:** Log in to the website to read our latest features on the "Architecture of Room" and the "Anatomy of Objects."
2. **Download Your Checklist:** Start your own Mid-Year Audit with our protocol for domestic maintenance.
3. **Stay Connected:** Look for our editorial updates in your inbox on the first of every month.

As we look over our shoulders to measure our progress, let us ensure that the pages we turn are filled with intent.

Make it happen.

Sincerely,

Sambulo Kuneme

Editor-in-Chief, DONE

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Effective Date: May 1, 2026

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