

Wallpaper*
City Guide

ATHENS

PHAIDON

INSIDERS' GUIDE

GREECE IS FOR LOVERS, PRODUCT DESIGNERS

Vasso Damkou, Thanos Karamatsos and Christina Kotsilelou, or Greece Is For Lovers (13a Karyatidon, T 210 924 5064) as they're collectively known, are three designers who comment on Greek habits and customs. Their ceramic ashtray-pot, for example, is inspired by the fact that smokers extinguish their cigarettes in flowerpots. The trio have added traditional dance-step motifs to curtains and created a bikini wine cooler, ideal for the beach.

When not playing with materials and ideas, they'll visit Varsos in Kifissia (5 Kassaveti, T 210 801 2472) to enjoy some milk or rice pudding in a 1950s setting, or order espressos in the minimalist Danesi Caffé (37 Skoufa, T 210 361 3823). They like cocktails at the Polynesian Kona Kai Restaurant in the Ledra Marriott Hotel (115 Syngrou, T 210 930 0074) and eat sushi as they view the Acropolis from the roof at Kyoto (5 Garivaldi, T 210 924 1406). The darkish, old-fashioned Vrettos (41 Kydathinaion) or Au Revoir (136 Patision, T 210 822 3966) are favourite haunts for drinks.

When it comes to shops, they head to Parthenis (20 Dimokritou/Tsakalof, T 210 363 3158) for its simple lines, and ED Alexandrakis (27 Ermou, T 210 323 3262) for Pringle and John Smedley. For one-off pieces, Greece Is For Lovers recommends Mohnblumchen (Dexamenis Square, T 210 723 6960) and the striking art-jewellery at Andronikos Sagiannos (3 Makrigianni, T 210 924 7323).

For full addresses, see Resources.

