

surface

A black and white portrait of Kenya Hara, an older man with short, light-colored hair, wearing glasses and a dark jacket. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light color.

KENYA HARA

Brings His Design Pedigree to the Doghouse

PLUS: *The 2012 Portfolio of*
AMERICAN INFLUENCE



GREECE IS FOR LOVERS TURNS IDENTITY INSIDE OUT.

For Thanos Karampatsos and Christina Kotsilelou, the partners in Athens-based Greece is for Lovers, product design is the perfect vehicle for exploring their country's history and culture with elaborate, insider send-ups created as tongue-in-cheek merchandise. "We love to play around with stereotypes and misconceptions about our country and heritage," says Karampatsos, 39, adding that their creations typically involve "large doses of humor and sarcasm."

The pair's Atlantish decanter, for instance, is a precious terra-cotta interpretation of polystyrene water coolers popular in Greece, complete with macramé handle. The Atlantish silk scarf, from the same collection, is inspired by disposable paper tablecloths often used at seaside tavernas. And their Go Naked chair manages to transform the ubiquitous, and unsightly, white monobloc plastic seat into something desirable—with a layer of downy, reclaimed fox fur. The common objective with all of these pieces, says the 33-year-old Kotsilelou, is "the reintroduction of mundane objects and notions in a more sophisticated and luxurious context."

The partners met while studying product design at London's Central Saint Martins in 1998. Although they didn't see eye to eye on everything, they eventually founded their studio in 2006 after acknowledging they shared a common bond. "We are different in our tastes and preferences," Kotsilelou says, "but Greekness gives us a common ground on which to work."—T.M.



(TOP TO BOTTOM) Go Naked chair prototype clad in fox fur. Atlantish silk scarf (2012). (ABOVE) Atlantish decanter (2012).