

Athens

Design-conscious young Athenian entrepreneurs are reigniting their city, while Berlin is bringing its past to life with a retrospective of 1970s art and a vintage-clothing shop.

Writers — Daphne Karnezis, Carlo Silberschmidt and Sandra Winkler



DAILY BREAD KORA

Journalist Maria Alafouzou and medicine student-turned-pastry chef Ianthi Michalaki have brought sourdough to Athens at Kora. The chocolate sourdough, pastries, brioche, croissants and pain au chocolat are all made on site. “We aim for quality over quantity,” says Michalaki.

korabakery.com



DELI BELLY Wild Souls

The shopfront of Wild Souls deli is as eye-catching as the jars of nut butter, honey and jam that line its shelves. The deli's high ceilings, terracotta walls and cacti-filled interior were designed by Athens-based designers Studio Materiality, while the brand's identity was handed over to the Howdy Design Family. “I wanted the word ‘wild’ to reflect our ingredients, which we keep as close to their natural state, as unprocessed, as possible,” says 32-year-old founder Areti Kiriotou, whose passion for making her own nut butter became the Wild Souls brand in late 2019. Cashew, peanut, almond, hazelnut and sesame (tahini) butter are now among her most popular products (the jars can be refilled), as is the range of salads and sandwiches. “All our recipes and ingredients are Greek and made in Greece,” she says.

wildsouls.gr

TALKING SHOP

MIRINA TSANTILI

This multi-brand shop stocks fashion, accessories and objects selected by founder Mirina Tsantili. A modern, industrial interior allows the clothes to take centre stage. “I like Scandinavian brands,” says Tsantili, who studied fashion business in Milan and Paris before returning to Athens. “They tend to be minimal and oversized but always top quality.” Expect Malene Birger, Cathrine Hammel, and homeware.

mirinatsantili.com



CONTEMPORARY ART

Gagosian

Gagosian has had a gallery in Athens for more than a decade but its new, expanded space is not to be missed. The listed art deco building was renovated by Athens-based architect Stelios Koïs, who has retained its art deco features.

gagosian.com

FIT FOR BUSINESS Working Title

Designer Antonia Goy and architect Björn Kubeja – partners in business and life – founded Working Title in 2018 on the principle that sustainability had to become the guiding principle in their work.

They set out to create plastic-free collections: no plastic zips, no glue and no polyester. Everything is biodegradable, much is made-to-order and very little is wasted. And that's not all. “If the client does not wear a piece any more, they can bring it back to us,” says Goy.

Goy and Kubeja are committed to scaling the business by having customers assess the true worth of made-to-measure clothing. The duo also believes that they're well prepared to weather the fashion industry's battle to become environmentally friendly. “It all starts with customers' needs,” says Goy. “Many companies have forgotten that.”

workingtitlestudios.com



ALADDIN'S CAVE

MIMI

Mimi Grese's 20-year-old vintage-clothing shop is the insider destination that costume designers for films and shows such as *Babylon Berlin*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *IngLOURIOUS BASTERDS* don't want you to know about. But go in, rifle through the dainty cupboards, run your hands over lace peignoirs, silk kimonos and hand-crocheted curtains and try on top hats, velvet gloves and silk-clad shoes – the likes of which you might wear to a tea dance –and you'll be transported. At the back of the shop you'll find racks of the most incredible vintage dresses, men's jackets and suits in perfect condition. But keep it to yourself.

mimi.berlin



EXHIBITION

Claudia Skoda

In late-1970s West Berlin, the spectacular avant garde fashion shows by knitwear designer Claudia Skoda became cool underground meeting places, with an audience including Iggy Pop, Gudrun Gut and David Bowie.

For her unique knits, Skoda used new techniques as well as Lurex and elastane yarns or even raffia, straws and cassette tape. Her “fabrik” studio in Berlin Kreuzberg was compared to Andy Warhol's Factory and she was called the Queen of Texture. Encouraged by Bowie, she set up a shop in New York in 1982. But when the Wall came down she returned to Berlin to open her first German branch on Kurfürstendamm.

She is now the subject of an exhibition at the Kulturforum. In *Claudia Skoda: Dressed to Thrill*, 200 pieces by Skoda and the artists she worked with – such as Ulrike Ottinger, Jim Rakete and Kraftwerk – recreate the spirit of Berlin before reunification, when “art, music, fashion and film flowed together, and works were created through friendships,” as curators Britta Bommert and Marie Arleth Skov put it. “Skoda had an integrative power.”

smb.museum



Berlin

NEW GROUND St Torstrasse

St Oberholz on Berlin's Rosenhalter Platz, one of the first “working cafés” in Germany, is regarded as the birthplace of the so-called “digital bohème” of bloggers, intellectuals and authors. Now, 15 years later, its founders have opened another space on Torstrasse.

“We are always looking for special spaces for our locations,” says co-founder and CEO Ansgar Oberholz, who says that the cafe's handcrafted furnishings are made from sustainable materials such as wood and slate. “The façade of St Torstrasse might look dreary at first but at its core it is a great building from the Bauhaus era.”

sanktoberholz.de

