

Autoban / Portrait

Founded by Seyhan Özdemir and Sefer Çağlar, the Istanbul-based design studio Autoban blends an interdisciplinary approach with an international profile. The Autoban signature is a seamless fusion of architecture, interior and product design expressing a cultivated and contemporary East-West aesthetic.

While once lauded by Wallpaper* in 2004 as "Best Young Designers", and by Blueprint Magazine in 2005 "Best Newcomer", Autoban today stands firmly amongst the established. In over a decade since their founding in 2003, they have touched a broad range of environments at home and abroad from London to Madrid, Hong Kong, Moscow, China and most recently, Azerbaijan – with giant wooden cocoons found inside the international terminal at Heydar Aliyev International Airport, for which they won the prestigious Red Dot Award in 2014.

Both strong personalities, Özdemir and Çağlar nevertheless comprise one vision. They have indelibly touched the Istanbul cityscape, adding warmth and sophistication to its environments. Autoban has actively developed projects with the House Café Group, Istanbul Doors Group and the Vakko fashion house working on restaurants, boutique hotels and shops including one of their more recent projects Nopa, a restaurant and bar in the heart of Istanbul's Nisantasi district. They turned to architecture in 2010 with Nef 163, again in Istanbul, and in the same year completed their first overseas project, of which now they count more than 300.

A contemporary aesthetic marries heritage with ultimate subtlety, through pattern and sheer history of place. With patterns, they describe, "we can deepen the perception of space, add richness to it. Patterns challenge the space. They create movement; they visually pull out and press in". And, of the spaces that they make anew: "We were always interested in layers; they are the living memories of an existing building. Any project starts with questioning existing layers and creating new ones. The combinations are infinite." And so Autoban moves ahead, and speedily, as their name suggests.

www.autoban212.com



Heydar Aliyev Airport, Baku



Istanbul

House Café Ortakoy, Istanbul



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