



Barbouni's timber structure is coated in a sandy render selected to match the tone of the beach, and sits on an elevated platform in order to share the building's footprint with the local sea turtles. "I'm very happy to say the turtles have laid eggs right under the structure, which means they've welcomed it, hopefully," he says.

Karampatakis and his brother have always been close to architecture. "Our father is an architect and a developer, so I think he brainwashed both of us. We didn't stand a chance," he laughs. They grew up visiting their father's construction sites and both went on to study at The Bartlett School of Architecture in London.

It was while they were working at the practice of the Stirling Prize-winning Will Alsop—with no intention of returning to Athens—that the brothers received their first architectural commission at home from a friend looking to redo his house. That became the turning point for the duo to establish their own practice, which they did in 2002 when Karampatakis was 23. "We both realized that it would be a big risk to take, but we were willing to do it together," he says.

Another pivotal point for the studio came later in 2017 with a residence in Milos. "We very quickly saw that it was a very good opportunity to learn more about traditional architecture by renovating an existing structure from the 1800s," he says. With its deep white walls, stone floors, and small windows, the building falls within the lineage of the traditional architecture of the Cycladic Islands—a cluster of Greek Islands most commonly exemplified by picture postcard images of Santorini.

"It's fantastic to go to a place which has a lot of history, from materiality to construction techniques, and to try and bring that in as a palette and yet not feel bound by it," Karampatakis says. Bridging the house's historic atmosphere with the needs of modern life was the challenge. The home is filled with terracotta light fixtures, woven furniture, and linen textiles, all of which were selected by K-Studio. "Even the towels," adds Karampatakis. The window shutters are a cheerful shade of Greek Island blue.

Karampatakis and his brother have also always been close to the Greek Islands, especially Mykonos, where they spent their childhood summers. Since then, Mykonos has grown and grown. It's increasingly popular with tourists from



"We actively steered the studio into leisure architecture because we felt that, in a way, Greeks are leisure experts."

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This nineteenth-century house on the Greek Island of Milos was restored from the ground up. The client was a London-based family. The town's narrow streets meant the building materials had to be transported by hand from the nearest road.