

YOUTH GROWN UP

You may know these people. The creatives of post-war Lebanon. If you don't, now you will. They are the ones who did, for whom no is not an option. They are singular, one of a kind. What unites them is a refusal to be confined, a perspective on life as a permit to go anywhere and explore anything. To invent. To open up what politer society and manners repress. To stage a kind of upthrust of that which is normally kept under control. To reach for a kind of sublime. To attempt to understand that which is beyond common understanding. To have a spirit of daring. To endeavour to see things differently and, in their work, to express those differences. They are distinct. And we respect them for it. We love them for it. We opened this, our relaunch issue of A Mag, with the new creatives. We close it with the established ones, heroes worth aspiring to as they playfully reflect on childhood, past memories and their beloved Beirut photographed in studio by rising star Tarek Moukaddem.

RABIH KAYROUZ

Lebanese-born fashion designer Rabih Kayrouz has divided his time between Beirut and Paris. At 16, he migrated to the French capital to study at the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. He returned to the booming energy of Beirut to establish his fashion house Maison Rabih Kayrouz (maisonrabihkayrouz.com) in 1998, making his name creating gowns for the nation's most discerning women. A decade later he returned to Paris to open his design studio, Boulevard Raspail, on site of the old Petit Theatre de Babylone. In 2013, Kayrouz was nominated Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French government and this year he takes up a teaching post imparting his expertise and knowledge to the next generation at ALBA's Ecole de Mode.

Earliest Beirut memory...

In 1992, I returned from Paris for the summer holidays to discover Beirut City Center in Martyrs' Square completely destroyed. It was a very romantic scene: trees growing in the buildings, abandoned cars and dogs everywhere.

First thing you do upon returning to Beirut after a time away...

I thank God the country is still alive.

If you could buy any building in Lebanon which would it be...

I still haven't made my choice. I change my mind every season, like in fashion. For next winter I would love the Habroyan factory in Bourj Hammoud.

Did you collect anything a child? What do you collect now?

Nothing. I get bored after collections.

Best piece of advice you've been given...

Be yourself.

What advice would you give your younger self...

Enjoy. Let go.



EMILIE KAREH

Beirut-born stylist Emilie Kareh (clmus.com/styling/emilie-kareh) grew up in Paris and London before studying costume and set design at Central Saint Martins. She joined Vogue Paris straight out of school staying four years, first assisting fashion editors Ludivine Poiblan and later editor-at-large Julia von Boehm in NYC. Since moving to the U.S. her work's been published in Pop, I.D, Purple, Double, Dazed & Confused, Intermission, Interview Germany, Interview U.S and Vogue along with campaigns for Edun, Lucky Brand, Topshop and CK Calvin Klein Accessories and kids. This issue she styled our Beirut streetcast shoot (see page 178).

Earliest Beirut memory...

I have so many... electricity cutoff times, playing hide and seek with my brother and my dad in his big apartment. We'd get really scared and excited.

First thing you do upon returning to Beirut after a time away...

Go to to ATCL (Automobile et Touring Club du Liban) [to swim], do my laps, tan and have tabbouleh.

If you could buy any building in Lebanon which would it be...

Probably the restaurant Jammal.

Best piece of advice you have been given...

Never leave someone without saying goodbye. You never know when you will see them next.

What advice would you give your younger self...

Be honest.



BERNARD KHOURY

Bernard Khoury (bernardkhoury.com) is a Lebanese architect of world renown. He started an independent practice in 1993 after his graduate studies at Rhode Island School of Design and Harvard University. Over the past 15 years, his office has developed an international reputation and a significant diverse portfolio of projects both locally and abroad. He first came to critical attention with the completion of BO18 music club and continued with projects such as the Centrale bar and restaurant, the BLC Bank, the Black Box and Yabani. He is the co-founder of the Arab Centre for Architecture. He describes himself as an aeronautic engineer, a ship-building mechanic, an electrician of pleasure.

Earliest Beirut memory...

My first spectacular accident behind the wheel of my red pedal car formula 1 rolling down Emir Omar street in Beirut. In an unreasonable attempt to convert the busy street into a racetrack, my older brother had stopped the vehicular traffic for a few minutes. The neighbours and the passers-by were terrified. Cab drivers and other busy motorists were pissed off. It ended in a crash, my pedal car Ferrari replica was destroyed. I got out of it alright. It was my fifth birthday. The date was August 19, 1973.

First thing you do upon returning to Beirut after a time away...

I never do the same thing.

If you could buy any building in Lebanon which would it be...

A building that was taken away from us [my family], the Interdesign Showroom building designed and conceived by my father to showcase the furniture he produced.

What did you collect as a child? What do you collect now...

I collected Matchbox cars. Now I collect real ones.

Best piece of advice you have been given...

I try not to remember the advice I have been given.

What advice would you give your younger self...

It's a good thing my younger self did not get any advice from my older self. Sometimes I wonder if I knew better back then.



NADA DEBS

Nada Debs was brought up in Japan though she is of Lebanese origin. She studied Interior Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design and started her own design company (nadadebs.com) in the UK. Returning to her roots in Lebanon after an absence of 40 years, Nada Debs found designs for modern Middle Eastern furniture almost non-existent. This made her determined to use her multi-cultural background to create furniture that would appeal to a global market. In 2000, Nada created her company 'East and East' which concentrates on designing, manufacturing and selling her furniture and home accessory lines, with retail outlets throughout Beirut. Globally, Nada Debs is represented in New York, Dubai, Geneva, Cairo and Amman. Her work is a celebration of contemporary Eastern craft – the hand-made and the heart-made.

Earliest Beirut memory...

My grandmother's home.

First thing you do upon returning to Beirut after a time away...

I go to the sea to look at the horizon.

If you could buy any building in Lebanon which would it be...

The Interdesign building in Hamra designed by Khalil Houry.

What did you collect as a child? What do you collect now?

I used to collect colour pens, colour pencils, colour paints, everything to do with colouring. Now I collect objects that inspire me from wherever I travel. Usually they are handcrafted objects but with a twist – Japanese ceramics, carved or turned wood, vintage pieces, resin vases, straw bowls, furniture made of experimental material, even tiny handmade felt baby slippers.

Best piece of advice you have been given...

Follow your passion.

What advice would you give your younger self...

Don't worry... everything will be all right. Even pain is a blessing in disguise.

ZIAD ANTAR



*Born in Saida, Lebanon, Ziad Antar (selmaferiani.com/artists/ziad-antar) is a Lebanese video artist and photographer. He studied Agricultural Engineering at the American University of Beirut before turning to video and arts, with a residency at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris and received a post-diploma from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts. Antar's work is held by several public collections, including the Centre George Pompidou in France, the British Museum in the United Kingdom and the LVMH collection. Most recently he collaborated with Hans Ulrich Obrist for his show, *After Images*, at the Beirut Exhibition Centre.*

Earliest Beirut memory...

I remember the garage under our building in Afif Al Tibi – it was the common space where we used to spend our afternoons after school.

First thing you do upon returning to Beirut after a time away...

I head to see the untouchable sea.

If you could buy any building in Lebanon which would it be...

The Murr Tower.

What did you collect as a child? What do you collect now?

As a child I can't remember what I collected but, as a teenager, it was video cameras... Now it's photography cameras.

Best piece of advice you have been given...

Advice doesn't work. I don't give an impression that I should be advised.

What advice would you give your younger self...

Nothing. I'm still learning.



MARIA HIBRI AND HUDA BAROUDI

Maria Hibri and Huda Baroudi call themselves curators of chaos. The successful duo behind the globally renowned Beirut design lab, Bokja (bokjadesign.com), opened their studio in 2000 in Beirut utilizing textiles to create tactile and personable objects, from furniture items to installations. Bokja pieces appear in art spaces the world over, including the IMA in Paris, and the pair's innovative approach offers an expansive dialogue on how craft and decorative art practices can be translated into endless new possibilities.

Earliest Beirut memory...

Maria: The slide at the longbeach, the smell of coppertone sunscreen and watching *khalli balak min zouzou* in Rivoli. *Huda:* Hamra street, especially near the Piccadilly Theater with Ziad Rahbani.

First thing you do upon returning to Beirut after a time away...

Huda: In spring I look for the smell of the blossom orange. Autumn, I love the mountains. Winter is the Corniche. *Maria:* Eat *zaatar* and thank the heavens.

If you could buy any building in Lebanon which would it be...

Huda: The vintage 1939 apartment I live in. *Maria:* A splendid Ottoman/Art Deco jewel in Basta. It lies there sadly waiting for its fate to be sealed.

Best piece of advice you have been given...

Maria: Look ahead and keep walking. *Huda:* You are what you do

What advice would you give your younger self...

Huda: Give time to time and remember how important nature is. *Maria:* Look around you from time to time, smell the roses. It's ok to wonder off the track.