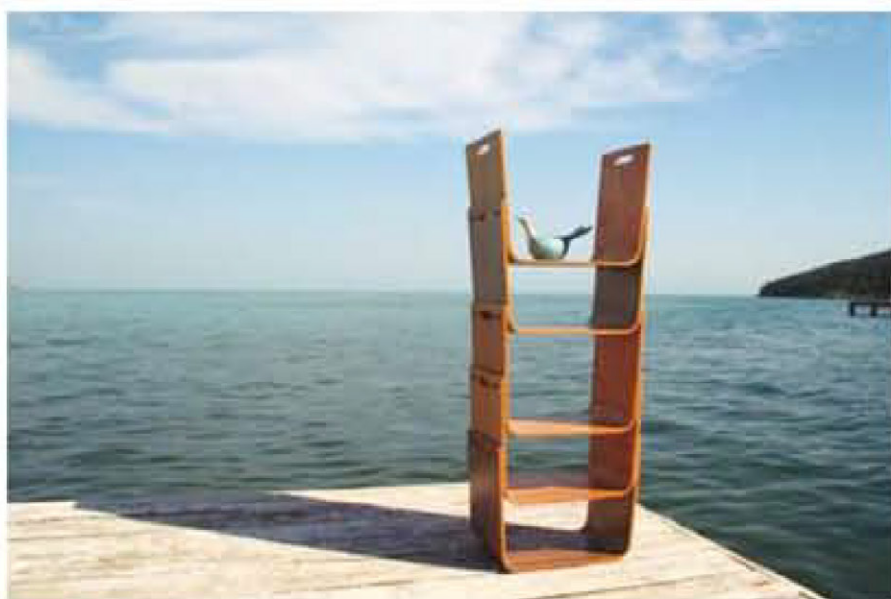




PRODUCT  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

# ilio

As Istanbul Design Week kicks off in September, we meet nature-centric Turkish design firm ilio



KAT KAT

This was one of the first designs that we established as a company. Katkat's form embodies a sense of sturdiness and timelessness. Its varied surface coatings complement each other aesthetically when stacked as a unit. The simple assembly allows each unit to be easily combined and so creates a sturdy shelving system. It can be used both upright or upside-down, singularly as a stool or combined wide enough to be a room divider. Each unit is stackable and thus easily stored away. 'Essentially, Katkat is a modular system solved through a simple bolt detail. This system can be used in as many numbers as the user wishes.



ilio emerged as the home division of Demirden Design, one of Istanbul's most celebrated design firms. Focusing on tableware, furniture and accessories, the brand has attracted designers with a keen sense of how to bring natural forms to their purest shape and integrate these into domestic environments. Here, the co-founders of the firm and designer Sule Koc talk about their work. [ilio.eu](http://ilio.eu)

**When you founded ilio as a home products arm of Demirden, in what direction did you want to take contemporary Turkish product design?**

We didn't have any intention of taking contemporary Turkish design to a different place but we understand your question because most of the Turkish designs are known as traditional crafts, even though they are made by new brands. We didn't want to lock ourselves into that corner.

ilio is just based on the way we feel and design: natural, not forced, have a meaning and a content with new ideas. We believe that we have a responsibility as designers in Turkey, besides being artists or craftsmans, we should open new channels and new ways of thinking.

**What's the most innovative piece of Turkish design you've seen this year?**

One of them is for sure 'Cube', a recent ilio product, which is designed by Sema Obuz. Cube comprises twelve serving dishes of two different depths stacked on top of one another to create a

distinctive sculptural form resembling a rocky landscape. The dishes are fully



CO-FOUNDER MEHTAP OBUZ

stackable to create a solid unit that is easily stored.

The other one is from Tanju Ozelgin, who is a Turkish interiors and product designer. It is a sofa called 'pay'. It is made of the repetition of pads with different volumes, on top of or next to each other.



TWIG

Childhood trips to Büyükada, and the reeds on its beaches, definitely impressed on me this vision for Twig. It's a stool interspersed with a chair and has a mature yet modest style to it, with a rich stylisation of the reeds that you find along the Turkish coast. The slightly inclined cylinder that rises from the back makes you consider the options of a stool in different ways, a hanger for a hat and a support to reach higher. The wood is long lasting and makes sustainable use of local resources.

VIS A VIS

Co-founder Demir Obuz: 'Vis a vis combines a single stool and coffee table, and the two are brought together as one extended surface. The central concept behind this is sharing, you can create bring two separate seats together and surface for games, coffee or both.'



CO-FOUNDER DEMIR OBUZ

You were one of the founders of ilio, can you talk about the original concept behind the brand?

ilio's motto is 'the story within'... The feeling, notion, and usage means that the designs carry become like stories within the products. The brand's focus is on products we use in our daily lives and each products reflects a novel approach to both design and the manufacturing process.

In our objects, we try to give you new suggestions for usage, something additional to a design's essential function.

In creating the brand ilio, our aim was to create modern classics.

Demir Obuz appears in the 40 Designers Under 40 exhibition as part of Istanbul Design Week



SULE KOC

Black Diamond and Diamond

Sule Koc: 'The form of this sofa came from an analysis of geometric forms. I analysed the postures of sitting and lying down, and wanted to bring these two postures together. To do that, it was necessary to find a geometric form that would allow for both. 'The Black Diamond looks very much like a rock that has been broken out

of a larger rock. It's actually very comfortable chair to sit in because of the attention to posture that is central to the piece. The upholstery is polyurethane and there's an aluminium construction inside. It was designed to make it as light as possible.'

Sule Koc is no longer an in-house designer for ilio and will exhibit her solo work in this year's Istanbul Design Week. [sulekoc.com](http://sulekoc.com)

