

WHEN THE CUPS ARE DOWN: AN ESPN SPECIAL ON LIFE INSIDE THE WORLD'S MOST WELL-APPOINTED JAIL

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A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

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Q&A

Kerem Alper, Engin Ayaz
Atolye Istanbul



our feedback to date has been positively overwhelming.

Atolye Istanbul is a shared workspace geared towards building a creative community in the city from the ground up. After a decade abroad, co-founders *Engin Ayaz* (pictured, left) and *Kerem Alper* returned to their hometown to open Atolye (Turkish for "workshop"), providing a workspace, auditorium and meeting rooms for local entrepreneurs. The hub has 25 permanent and 50 flexible members.

- Q What challenges have you faced so far?
- A **ENGİN AYAZ:** The big challenge here is staying independent because conglomerates dominate the market. Boutique, niche companies and hubs like ours are a new concept. Perhaps that's the bigger challenge: cultural adaptation. Atolye is creating a new way of working, collaborating and community-building.

- Q How do you see Istanbul's entrepreneurial scene?
- A **KEREM ALPER:** From our experiences of living in cities such as San Francisco, New York and London we know that an entire ecosystem is needed to establish the entrepreneurial identity of a city. In Istanbul this is still in the early stages of development but

- Q What's in store for Istanbul?
- A **KA:** Istanbul has the potential to be the next focal point for design, technology and entrepreneurship with its layered history and promising future. The city is currently going through a transformation with a developing economy and a rise in the supply and demand of new ideas. — ADK
atolyeistanbul.co

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