

Shen-Tel & Elizabeth Lee: The two sisters behind the Bowerhaus brand are providing charities for the Greek community

We met them through their mother Mrs Betty Lee. She is the woman that inspired them and whom through her philanthropic work and donations helped over 37 organisations and associations across Australia. The majority of these organisations are Greek-Australian.

The daughters follow their mother's footsteps. They have inherited both her creativity and the social delicacy she possesses.

Sisters Shen-Tel and Elizabeth Lee are based in Borneo but were born and raised in Australia. They named their label Bowerhaus after the Australian Bowerbird. The most notable characteristic of bowerbirds is their unique courtship behaviour. The male bowerbird spends hours fanatically collecting shells, leaves, flowers, coins, and even discarded pieces of plastic or stones, to create a bower worthy of attracting a female mate. Likewise the Lee sisters are utterly obsessed with collecting beautiful trinkets from all over the world. One day they decided that it was time to make a mark with their obsession. Their collections are inspired by their father's vintage coins and their mother's pearls. The sisters design with materials that they source from all over the globe. Old world charm and understated confidence are the hallmarks of Bowerhaus.

The Bowerhaus label started simply from improvisation. The mother puts summarises it beautifully, "Improvisation is the mother of all invention." The daughters Shen-Tel and Elizabeth were fixated onto their creations that began from inside their household. When their mother complained about them not spending enough time with her, they used this opportunity to bond with her. Although the business began within a small perimeter - within a bedroom, soon the creations became so many that the entire house was filled with them. The place became what the mother called a "hardcore hoarder's refuge". The daughters' operation expanded from their home to a room above their father's medical clinic, until it successfully extended to Borneo. This is how the label came to be.

