

Design

Middle East

Interiors and architecture
from the Gulf,
Levant and beyond



YOUNG & BUZZING

Khadije Hamad,
associate architect
at **Aedas**, lifted the
Young Talent of
the Year trophy at the
Design Middle East
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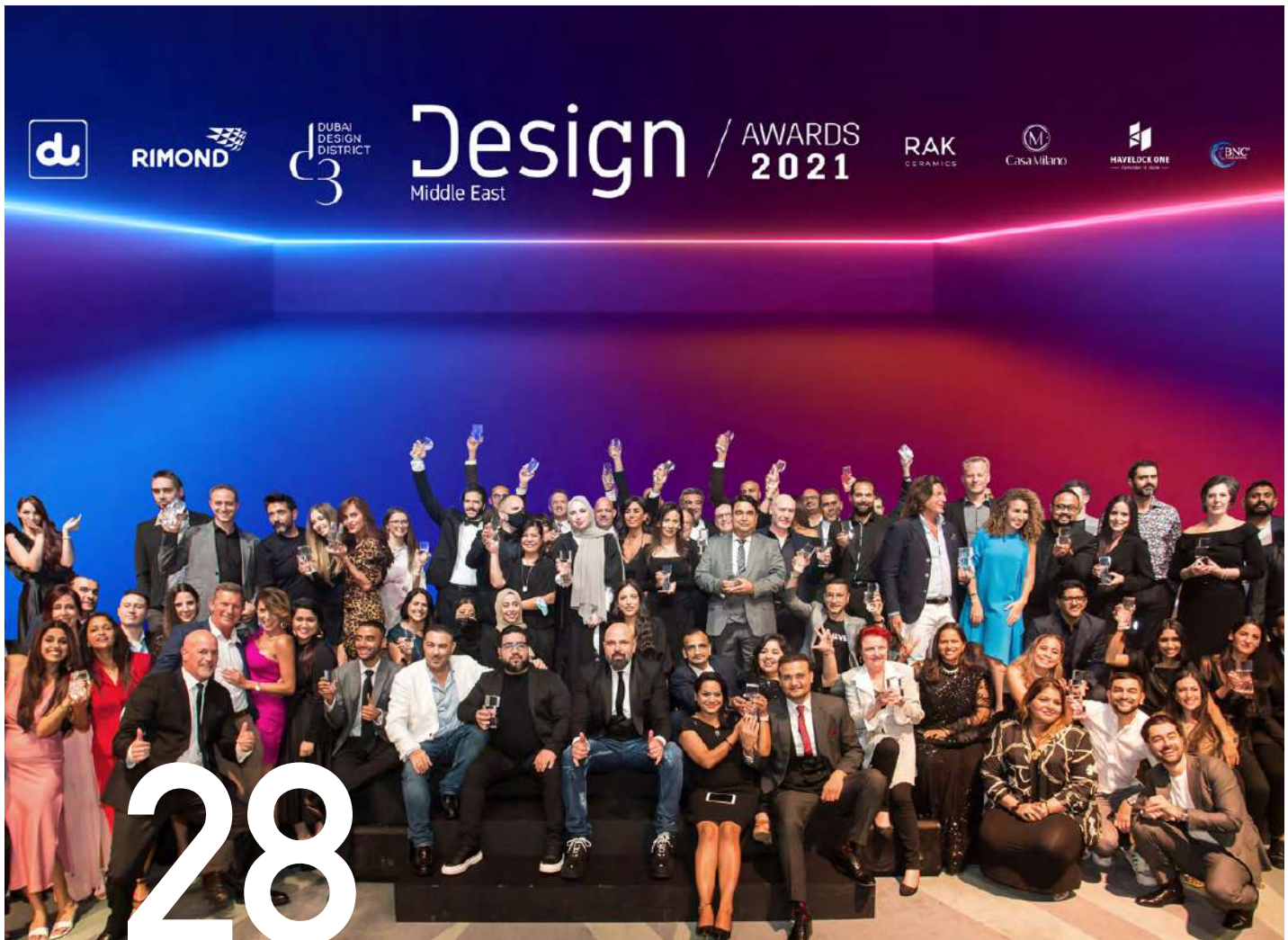


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Design / AWARDS Middle East 2021

THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL

GLIMPSSES OF A STARRY NIGHT WHEN EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVERS WERE AWARDED THE REGION'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE HONOURS.

It was a celebration unlike any other, with an audience unlike any other, and a party unlike any other! The *Design Middle East Awards 2021* honoured the finest and brightest in the region's design industry.

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OP-ED FIT SOLUTIONS

COVID-19 set the path for healthier, more eco-friendly fit-out solutions, says SHERIF NAGY, general manager of The FITOUT

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TALKING POINT HOW CAN A CITY BUILD A LASTING IDENTITY?

Michelle Saywood, vice president of North 25, discusses how Dubai may develop its own identity by combining elements of sustainability, wellness, and liveability

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EXPO 2020 REDEFINING ARCHITECTURE | EXPO 2020

Under the theme of *Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*, Expo 2020 Dubai is showcasing cutting-edge architecture to visitors around the world

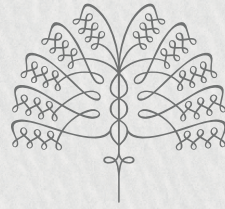
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PICK OF THE MONTH THE STAR HAS ARRIVED!

The iconic Camaleonda sofa by Mario Bellini is relaunched using sustainable materials.

HRH Princess Maria-Olympia of Greece & Denmark





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4 Editor's note

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

It was a wonderful evening, and all of the super stars of design and architecture had gathered to celebrate, cheer, and applaud the most creative minds! The Design Middle East Awards 2021 were hosted at the Sofitel Dubai The Palm on October 31, 2021, were perfect in every way: the enthusiasm, the amazing guests, and the industry spirit. When we started this adventure four years ago, I never imagined we'd reach this level of accomplishment, and it's all because to your unwavering support and love.

There's a lot that goes into putting on such a grand event, and there were times when hectic seemed like a small word, as we got nominations from new, distant regions, and loyal supporters. But all of our efforts were rewarded when we saw all of you cheering and rejoicing together during the ceremony.

We are receiving messages and emails full of appreciation and kind words; thank you once again; we have accomplished all of this together.

The November issue features highlights from the Design Middle East Awards 2021, as well as the full list of winners and highly commended, as well as images from our celebration.



The awards recognised the creative best and brightest in the region's design industry. This and more, do check out our November Awards edition! Happy Reading

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Jonathan Brown

Light Link appoints a new commercial director

Dubai-based lighting design and supply firm Light Link has appointed Jonathan Brown as its new commercial director. Jonathan has a long-standing career in the industry, having worked for several leading contractors and lighting design and supply companies across the region. He is a qualified quantity surveyor and also has broader commercial asset management experience.



The appointment strengthens Light Link’s senior management team as it enters the third year of business and expands its influence into other countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The company has completed 60 projects totalling 300,000 sq. ft, with the latest wins including Abu Dhabi’s Early Childhood Authority, Emirates REIT, AKA Restaurant, Microsoft, Accenture, RJ O’Brien, and IFF.

Light Link, founder Jaspal Bal commented: “Jonathan has believed in Light Link’s vision from the start, so we’re thrilled that he’s finally able to join us. His unique mix of commercial and construction experience is a real asset in a market where clients are looking for a more comprehensive level of support.”

Light Link, commercial director, Jonathan Brown added: “I’m delighted to join Light Link and help the business in its next stages of growth and development. The team has built a truly impressive portfolio of projects within two years and we’re all eager to maximise the many opportunities available in a cross-section of industries.”

As a result of growth, Light Link has recently moved into a dedicated two-storey premise in Al Quoz. The Light Garden – featuring a workshop and storage space on the ground floor – brings the design, project management, and logistics teams together in one location.

Founded in 2019, Light Link collaborates with end-users, design teams, contractors, MEP consultants, and project managers to create the perfect balance between art and engineering. Services include lighting design and supply, systems design and supply, WELL testing and commissioning, and full site support.

Glaze Granite & Marble appointed as official distributor of ARIOSTEA in the UAE

The UAE's largest marble importer, Glaze Granite & Marble, has been appointed as an official distributor of ARIOSTEA, one of the leading Italian brands in high-end technical ceramics (or in large format Porcelain Slab). ARIOSTEA was established in 1961 and it is part of the Iris Ceramica Group which is an example of excellence at an international level in the ceramics industry. The Group, based in Italy, has always had a strong innovative spirit often acting as a pioneer in the ceramic sector. Iris Ceramica Group still knows how to be unique in the sector: for example the creation of eco-active ceramic surfaces. Ariostea, at the same time, expresses the main values of the Group with its cutting-edge products and state-of-the-art quality, creativity, and aesthetics. ARIOSTEA is renowned today as an international leader in design and innovation in large format technical ceramic slabs.

All ARIOSTEA slabs are developed, produced, and processed exclusively in Italy, using the latest advanced manufacturing technologies to create superior innovative designs. The strength, durability, and high precision quality of its slabs have allowed ARIOSTEA to remain among the top-quality benchmark for brands around the world for the past six decades. The unparalleled designs & material quality of Ariostea is now available for UAE customers.

Commenting on the development, Umesh Punia, [CEO, Glaze] said, "In the last 25 years, we have focused on bringing the world's best brands to the UAE to bring luxury and glamour to the homes & offices of our clients. This agreement with ARIOSTEA is another step towards fulfilling our clients' expectations. Though, in the last 5-7 years, numerous brands of large format porcelain slabs have become available in the UAE, Ariostea stands definitively apart, due to its high precision print quality, especially in marble & onyx designs, thanks to the most advanced print technology developed by Ariostea through relentless research and development. Any homeowner or architect would love to specify these beautiful surfaces."

ARIOSTEA slabs can be used for interior and exterior design solutions, tables, kitchens, bathrooms, countertops, washbasins, swing doors and much more.

The Sales Manager at Ariostea, Alessandro Branzoni says: "We have always wanted to associate with a luxury marble company in the region, not only for sales & marketing, but also to gain insight and experience from the marble industry. Using the classical marble cutting and fixing techniques for large format technical ceramic slabs will bring a great transformation in the usage of large format ceramics from standard porcelain products. Overall, a natural stone look can never go out of style, and we are really excited about our new partnership with GLAZE and we would like to assure UAE's home owners, architects and designers that as a team, we will give you the best experience possible."

ARIOSTEA can be used conventionally for floors and walls, for all types of surface applications, and even for furniture and accessories.





The showroom offers AGL's patented walk-in closet designs that are set to raise the bar on customer experience as well as benchmarks of monogram style and comfort

Al Gurg Living launches luxury Dubai Experience Center

The Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group (ESAG) opens its experiential Al Gurg Living (AGL) showroom on Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai; expanding ease of access to its homegrown luxury and designer lifestyle concept for a growing customer base.

The doors of the over 4,000sqft experience center caters to the clients discovering a superior range of well-crafted bespoke furniture and kitchens designed for regional clientele who enjoy premium lifestyles.

"This experience center responds to increasing demand for curated and bespoke kitchens and wardrobes that redefine personalisation," said Easa F. Al Gurg, Group CEO of ESAG. "Many of our clients look beyond mass-produced products preferring designs that reflect their personalities and hallmark their signature lifestyles. The new showroom will enhance our client engagement and position Al Gurg Living as a major player in this niche market."

AGL's kitchens, entertainment systems, and wardrobes suit varying styles from classic to contemporary and demonstrate the exemplary workmanship of two of Germany's leading international lifestyle brands - SieMatic and Schmalenbach.

"Clients visiting the Sheikh Zayed Road experience center will have an exclusive preview of our new closets featuring unique design solutions and extraordinary craftsmanship," explained Matthias Hemeier, Business Manager, Al Gurg Living, "Our ethos of exceptional, limitless luxury drives our focus on craftsmanship and personalised service."

From premium luxury walk-in closets to kitchens, vanity solutions and living room ideas, AGL's aesthetically crafted solutions are a part of some of the region's most exclusive addresses.



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THE FITOUT'S list of prestigious clients and projects includes Ritz Carlton, Marriott, Green Community, Mall of the Emirates, Crowne Plaza, The Address Hotel, twofour54, Palazzo Versace, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Cleveland Clinic, Creek-side Residence, Nikki Beach Resort, Skynews, SLS Hotel, RIU Hotel, University of Wollongong, and many more.

FIT *Solutions*

COVID-19 SET THE PATH FOR HEALTHIER, MORE ECO-FRIENDLY FIT-OUT SOLUTIONS, SAYS **SHERIF NAGY**, **GENERAL MANAGER OF THE FITOUT**

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

The global pandemic affected us in various ways, and the fit-out sector is no exception. Floorplans, material choices, and how we furnish these settings will all be considered while keeping safety and health as top priorities. How we consciously design spaces has become crucial as we shift and navigate our lives in a post-pandemic world.

Could the growing fit-out sector adapt to the changes? While the forecasted number of fit-out markets in the UAE indicates a bright future, the impact of the pandemic is revolutionizing fit-out solutions for commercial spaces.

Today's challenge is how to design and maintain spaces that ensure sustainability, health, and safety. There is an increasingly positive response to this call; commercial and fit-out companies are now offering sustainable solutions with key consideration to what matters to employees and clients, such as health, safety, and climate change. One obvious fit-out trend these days is the shift from shared to separate spaces. With COVID-19 regulations and measures in place, workplaces, and even commercial spaces, are now designing and redesigning their floor plans and interior with safety in mind. Open floor plans and screened enclosures are added to avoid crowding and close contact.



Employees' health and well-being are also among the main priorities nowadays. Handwashing stations are available in most places, alongside the integration of biophilia, an approach in designs and architecture that connects people with nature. Cleaner air ventilation and larger areas for natural light are incorporated to give occupants a healthier environment experience.

In addition, to reduce the anxiety brought about by the pandemic and create a relaxing environment, calmer and brighter colours with natural and wood materials are incorporated in the interior design of workplaces. These efforts now become part of the company's agenda when it comes to efforts that contribute to the better mental health of employees.

Fit-out companies also need to think more broadly about the future of interior workspaces. Flexible spaces that can be easily modified and redesigned to accommodate more or lesser individuals will be a smart consideration. With the rise of remote working, the need for office space is being reconsidered.

Fit-out companies are now integrating sustainable solutions such as carbon footprint reduction, use of recycled and biodegradable materials in furniture, employing raw and clean materials, as well as energy-saving methods and technologies in the spaces.

THE FITOUT provided complete fit-out services to the landmark project - **SLS DUBAI HOTEL & RESIDENCES**. The hotel's more than 630 rooms were fitted out with the company's world-class interior solutions in six months. Considered as one of The FITOUT's high-profile undertakings in Dubai, the project has a total built-up area of around 180,000sqm.

Digitalisation and technological innovations are also on the rise, especially in ensuring contactless operations without compromising business continuity. Automated systems ranging from air conditioning systems to lighting and security are being practised avoiding contact with frequently used surfaces. Employers are becoming more interested in the installation of touchless sensor technology.

In cases where other members of the workforce continue to work from home, technological advances such as wireless access points, network login data, and sensors are becoming more popular. There is an increasing reliance on video conferences, so providing meeting rooms and spaces with efficient video conferencing facilities has become a must.

Another major fit-out trend this year is the preservation of resources. A survey conducted by Boston Consult-

ing Group shows that in the wake of the pandemic, more than 3,000 people across eight countries have become increasingly concerned about addressing environmental challenges.

Fit-out companies are now integrating sustainable solutions such as carbon footprint reduction, use of recycled and biodegradable materials in furniture, employing raw and clean materials, as well as energy-saving methods and technologies in the spaces. Green buildings and spaces reduce waste and energy consumption while increasing savings...

Every year, office design and fit-out trends vary and adapt in response to the requirement to balance aesthetics, sustainability, efficiency, safety, and health. While the pandemic caused enormous upheavals, it also prepared the path for good and long-term reforms in workplaces and commercial areas. •



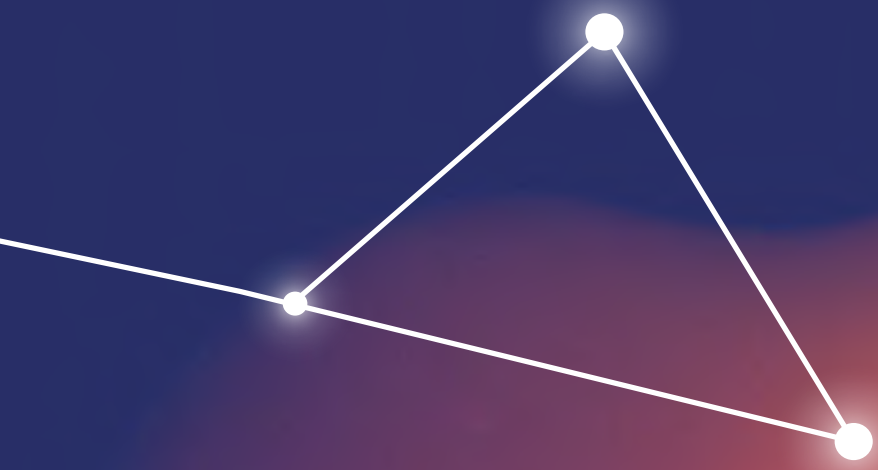
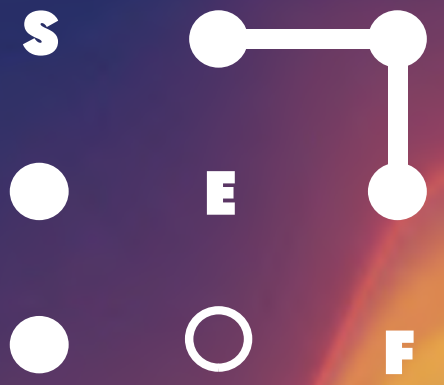
**GET
INSPIRED
RECONNECT.
GROW.**

The text is set against a dark blue background. The words 'GET', 'INSPIRED', 'RECONNECT.', and 'GROW.' are stacked vertically in a large, white, sans-serif font. Interspersed with the text are several stylized illustrations of people: a man in a yellow shirt and a woman in a pink top walking together; a man in a white thobe and a woman in a green abaya; a woman in a blue abaya and a woman in a grey top; and a man with a backpack walking. A white line with two circular nodes at the top and a single circular node at the bottom, resembling a network or path, connects the right side of the 'RECONNECT.' text to the 'GROW.' text.

22 - 23 NOV 2021

Expo Centre Sharjah

#WhenStarsCollide



North25 is a Dubai-based project management company that offers a range of services across the full project lifecycle from initiation to procurement, construction, and handover.

HOW CAN A CITY **build a lasting** identity

Michelle Saywood, VICE PRESIDENT OF, **NORTH 25**, DISCUSSES HOW DUBAI MAY DEVELOP ITS OWN IDENTITY BY COMBINING ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY, WELLNESS, AND LIVEABILITY

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

As an architect and a Dubai resident for many years, I've often wondered what constitutes the DNA of Dubai, and defines its global identity? Do we have urban spaces in the city that stand the test of time - streets and neighbourhoods where families have lived together for generations, and feel a sense of belonging?

The older parts of Dubai, near the Creek and the Al Fahidi Neighbourhood, are more lived-in, with homes that still enjoy open courtyards, corner shops that sell all kinds of essentials and shaded alleys where tourists stop and engage with the surroundings.

But Dubai has grown to have different hearts - the old and the new, the urban and the suburban, and together they are still not cohesive enough to give the city its global identity.





Saywood worked on the prestigious Museum of the Future project in Dubai, where she was involved in the early stages of delivery and design.

Most global cities, such as Paris, San Francisco, London, Istanbul, and Sydney resonate beyond their national boundaries. They have a strong global recognition and conjure a powerful set of ideas as a place to visit, study, innovate, and do business. Their identities transcend beyond their geographical limits and become a unique, inherited collection of assets, history, traits, and culture.

For example, as I have walked down the streets of Barcelona, a city of leisure, its wide roads, museums, and history are forever etched in my mind. Istanbul, another historic and dynamic city is defined by its settlements along the Bosphorus that divides the European and Asian sides, teeming with generations who have made the city their home.

Neighbourhoods in other cities, such as Noting Hill in London, Castro in SF and Soho in New York have their colour and identity that make these cities so much more memorable.

Dubai is essentially a product of this brave new world and has grown from a regional business, financial and leisure hub into a global city.



Post the discovery of oil, the emirate grew at exponential speed along the creek or Khor Dubai, investing in concrete, glass and steel as towering skyscrapers, artificial islands and stand-alone gated communities rose from the sea and the sand.

In the last decade, Dubai has had international award-winning architects designing its numerous iconic landmarks, such as the Burj Khalifa, and more recently The Opus, the Dubai Opera, Ain Dubai and now The Museum of the Future, listed by The National Geographic as one of the 14 most beautiful museums in the world for its astounding architecture

and sophisticated technological innovations.

But while all these architectural wonders serve to catapult the young city into the global limelight, leading in innovation, design, and architecture, how can Dubai develop that unique identity that blends in elements of sustainability, wellness, and liveability?

Identity is different from building a city's brand and reputation and it is this belief that makes me say that Dubai's streets, buildings and communities need to reflect happy, creative and empowered residents who engage with its urban spaces.

Cities are for people and Dubai can forge its own special identity through good urban planning where spaces don't feel isolated or neglected. Dubai needs to stitch its urban spaces together, to connect them and encourage greater human interaction.

Saywood is also part of the Ain Dubai project. It is latest landmark to join Dubai's long list of world record-breaking attractions. Located on Bluewaters Island, the giant observation wheel stands at a staggering height of 250m making it the highest and largest of its kind in the world.



We need an inclusive and cohesive framework that makes a smart and sustainable city where generations can settle and work.

The Dubai 2040 Urban Masterplan is moving in that direction to make Dubai the "best city in the world to live in". It lays out a comprehensive future map for sustainable urban development and I am hopeful that this will enhance the quality of life of citizens, residents and visitors.

At Dubai Holding Real Estate, we are aligned to this vision of the next 50 years as we design and create residential master communities with liveability and connectedness at the core of what we do as a master developer.

Our destinations, neighbourhoods and attractions, such as City Walk, La Mer, Jumeirah Beach Residence have elevated Dubai's status as a global icon but each of these crea-

tions has also prioritised people's happiness as the ultimate success indicator.

Cities are for people and Dubai can forge its own special identity through good urban planning where spaces don't feel isolated or neglected. Dubai needs to stitch its urban spaces together, to connect them and encourage greater human interaction.

Things are already moving in that direction as we observe the work that has been done along the beachfront and the Dubai Creek. It is encouraging to find that developers are seeing the value of creating such public realms that will enhance social engagement, promote sustainable environmental practices, encourage physical activity in the community and create compelling spaces that attract more visitors. Dubai Holding Real Estate has developed this idea for its La Mer community, and the results have been more than encouraging.

In the latest addition to the emirate, the District 2020 neighbourhood, strengthens this DNA of Dubai as a smart and sustainable city centred on the needs of its urban community. In the next few months, I look forward to being a part of it. •





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The UK Pavilion's visitor experience takes you through the story of how the UK's role in AI and space is impacting humanity, with augmented reality experiences and an enriched digital journey. It also explores wider innovations and collaborations.

Before entering the immersive space, visitors are asked to donate a word to a collective message. As they step into the Choral Space, they're cocooned in a soundscape, with the music featuring voices and sounds from all over the world.

As visitors leave the UK Pavilion, they can look back at the facade and read the collective message that they've helped create.



Redefining architecture

Expo|2020

Under the theme of *Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*, the mega-event showcases cutting-edge architecture to visitors around the world

WORDS BY Odette Kahwagi and Chantal Sacre

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After eight long years in the making, Expo 2020- the first World Expo in the Middle East- kicked off last month in Dubai, attracting millions of visitors from around the world as the largest global gathering since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With a strong emphasis on sustainability and cross-cultural collaboration, Expo 2020 divides the space into three subthemes: the Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability districts, where more than 190 countries, organised into corresponding zones, get to showcase their cultures and innovations inside architecturally striking pavilions on the 4.38 square kilometres site.

From the world's biggest 360-degree projection surface to energy trees fitted with solar panels that rotate to face the sun, the US\$7 billion event unveils some of the world's most cutting-edge architecture in Expo history. Last issue, we took a closer look at some of the pavilions at Dubai Expo 2020 that are redefining the world's architectural agenda; read on for more of the best pavilions on display.

Innovating for a Shared Future

UK PAVILION

Inspired by one of Stephen Hawking's final projects, *Breakthrough Message*, the cross-laminated timber pavilion was created by British artist and designer Es Devlin, with the aim of celebrating cultural diversity and collaboration while highlighting the United Kingdom as a meeting place of cultures and ideas. Titled the *Poem Pavilion*, the structure uses different machine learning algorithms to transform the words of visitors into collective poems that turn the pavilion into the exhibit itself by illuminating its twenty-metre high facade, spelling out different words every minute.

Blue Sky Dreaming condenses the aspirations and achievements of a nation and harnesses the Australian spirit of optimism and ideas. It celebrates Australia's embracing openness where diversity, harmony, creativity, problem-solving and collaboration thrive.



Blue Sky Dreaming AUSTRALIA PAVILION

Designed by Brisbane-based architecture firm bureau^proberts, Australia's cloud-shaped pavilion captures the country's unique culture and atmosphere.

To maintain environmental impact and limit waste and unnecessary manufacturing, the firm used Australian-made composite laminated timbers and smart water saving technologies, enabling real-time tracking of water usage throughout the structure.

The pavilion's main attraction is the 360° planetarium, where visitors can witness the great transition the country has made from the Aboriginal tradition of stargazing to its modern-day discoveries and inventions.

A journey of discovery, the Australian Pavilion will highlight Australia's diversity, ingenuity and contribution through 60,000 years of innovation.

The pavilion's shape takes inspiration from the **cumulus cloud**, a feature of the diverse Australian landscape. bureau^proberts describes the cloud's structural elements as signifying the way in which Australia is home to multiple cultures that unify and enhance our nation.

The Australian Pavilion immerses visitors in the story of Australia's diversity, taking them on a journey of Australia's ingenuity and innovation through thousands of years.

Overlooking the forecourt, the pavilion's top floor hosts a strategic program of events and discussions aimed at strengthening networks, exploring trade and investment opportunities, and fostering collaboration around global challenges.



The **Swiss Pavilion** is based on the concept of a journey, and revolves around reflecting Switzerland's culture, natural beauty and innovations.

Reflections SWISS PAVILION

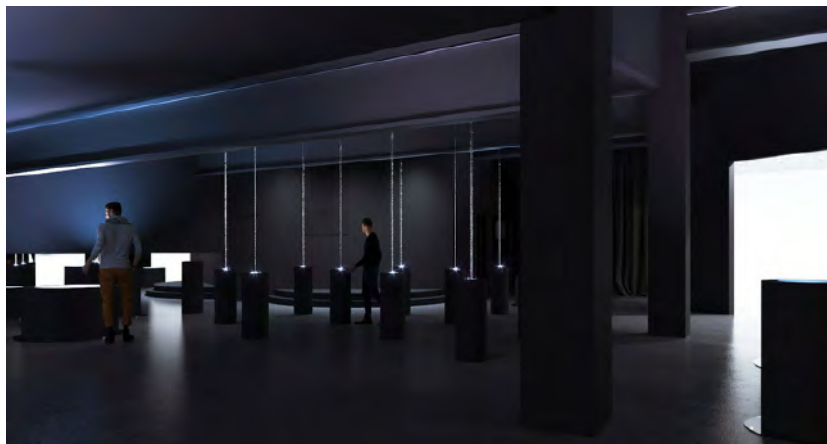
The Swiss Pavilion, designed by OOS in collaboration with scenography designer Bellprat Partner and landscape architect Lorenz Eugster, is a simple cube- a reference to temporary Bedouin tents. Shaped like a funnel, the structure is covered by a giant mirror and faces a large red carpet area for queuing, combining tradition and innovation.

The interior path leads to three stations: Landscape, Innovation, and Technology, where visitors are invited to walk up a pathway through artificial fog that leads to a view of a mountain panorama, before descending into an exhibition hall showcasing Swiss innovation.

An additional event space is located on the roof of the building.

Visitors are invited to experience surprising facets of Switzerland by walking through the pavilion.

The journey ends with an **interpretation of Arab landscapes in the Wadi**, with alluvial hills and individual vegetation groups.



In terms of content and dramaturgy, **'Reflections'** is composed in three acts.

In the **first act**, the audience is invited, while waiting in line, to shape the facet 'typically Swiss' – interactively by means of reflection in a mirror.

The journey continues inside the pavilion for **the second act**. Here a unique experience of nature is staged. The audience strives towards the dramaturgical climax: they walk uphill through real fog. Destination unknown. When emerging from the fog comes the surprising view of an artistic interpretation of a mountain panorama. This authentic Swiss experience shakes all the senses and leaves a biographical note for the visitors.

The third act covers the facet of an urban, sustainable and creative environment, reflecting Switzerland's position as one of the most innovative and competitive countries in the world.



The Morocco Pavilion pushes the limits of Moroccan architecture to new heights by merging traditional design and construction techniques with contemporary urban development efforts.

A Kingdom of Inspiration MORROCO PAVILION

Designed by architectural firm OUALALOU+CHOI, the Morocco Pavilion pushes the limits of Moroccan architecture to new heights by merging traditional design and construction techniques with contemporary urban development efforts. Built from rammed earth (an ancient technique adopted by Moroccan villages), it offers a sustainable alternative to carbon-intensive steel or concrete used in modern architecture. Very few spaces in the pavilion are air conditioned since the structure is airy and the thickness of the walls helps keep the interior up to 15°C, far lower than Dubai's average temperatures.

Built like a Moroccan village, the pavilion consists of 22 houses stacked on top of each other and connected by a single winding street, and will be used as real housing after the Expo.

At a time when the whole world is exploring new, more sustainable construction techniques, particularly those using earth, this architectural concept is a reminder that one might find one of the most advanced historical examples of **earthen architecture in Morocco**, while also presenting innovative techniques.



Offering one of the **tallest views** at the Expo 2020 site, the Morocco Pavilion is a sustainable construction, entirely made of earth.

Through a ramped pathway from the 7th floor to the first floor, around a central patio, the pavilion and its various exhibition spaces offer visitors a unique immersive experience that is **educational, interactive and emotional**.



IMAGE © MARC GOODWIN

The theme of density acts as an enabler of opportunities and represents one of the kingdom's biggest strengths.

Density Weaves Opportunity KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN PAVILION

Located in the Opportunity District, the immersive and dense spatial experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain's Pavilion revolves around the act of weaving- from traditional looms weaving and embroidery, to innovative weaving technologies such as fibreglass and carbon fibre. The craft- long practised in the country- was used by Christian Kerez Zürich AG in the pavilion's architecture as a metaphor for density, Bahrain being the sixth densest country in the world.

The theme of density acts here as an enabler of opportunities and represents one of the kingdom's biggest strengths, since the country had to constantly reinvent itself through trade, entrepreneurship and innovation.

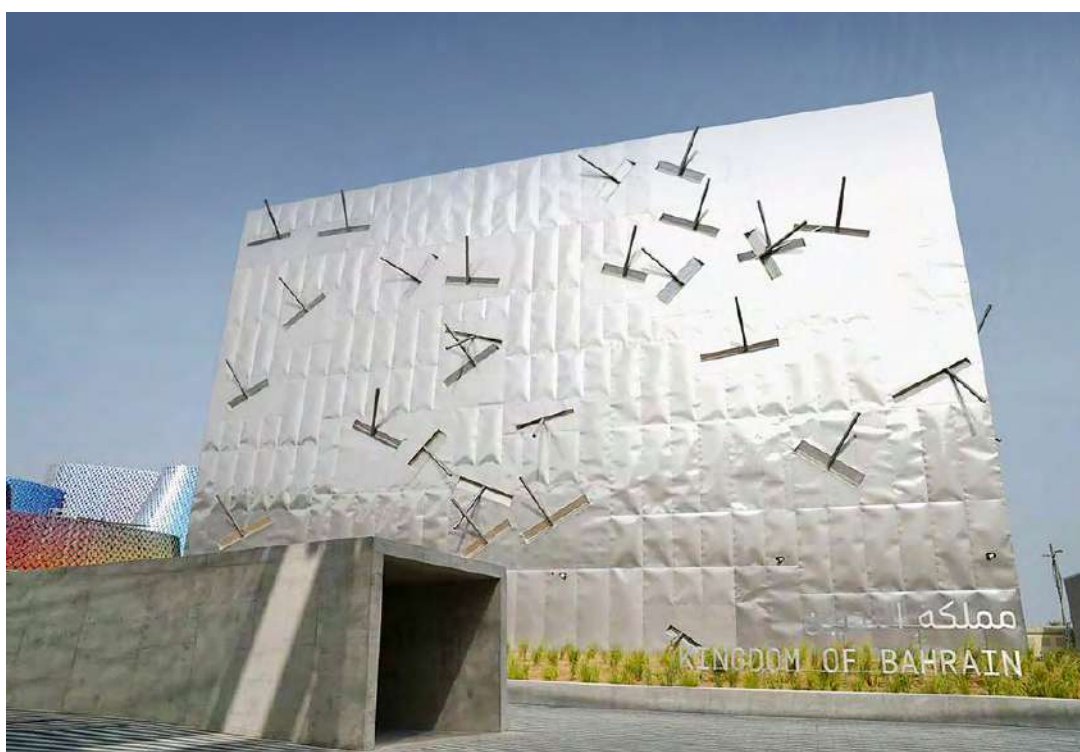
Showcasing one of Bahrain's largest exports, the outer facade is fully composed of aluminium, while the interior is made of 126 intersecting steel columns. After the Expo, the pavilion will be dismantled and fully rebuilt in Bahrain.



IMAGE © BROGAN GROUP

The pavilion is conceived as a **physical and spatial experience of density** and the future possibilities of building in an increasingly dense world.

Designed as an open plan space, the interior is accessed through a ramp that creates a transition between the outer and inner worlds of the pavilion.



The structure of the **central space** is made of 126 columns of 11cm in diameter and 24m in height that join each other at several points throughout the height of the space.

The columns support one another and support the roof, providing a poetic structure that demonstrates principles of connection and density in an exploration of the three-dimensional possibilities inspired by **geometric gypsum ornaments** of traditional Bahraini architecture.

Designed by **Yuko Nagayama and Associates**, the pavilion's gridded facade references the art of origami while combining Arabesque with the traditional Asa-No-Ha (hemp leaf) pattern

Where Ideas Meet **JAPAN PAVILION**

The pavilion's facade is made of an all-white soft layer exoskeleton inspired by Japanese traditional paper, showcasing three-dimensional patterns derived from Japanese origami shapes. The structure takes in traditional energy-saving systems from both cultures and can be seen as an example of sustainable architecture.

Visitors are invited to explore modern Japan and its future through a series of cute, elaborate miniatures (mitate) using day-to-day objects.

The Japan Pavilion unfolds an intricate three-dimensional facade inspired by the mutualities of traditional Japanese and Arabic patterns. Designed by Yuko Nagayama and Associates, the pavilion's gridded facade references the art of origami (the Japanese paper-folding technique) while combining Arabesque with the traditional Asa-No-Ha (hemp leaf) pattern, calling to mind Buckminster Fuller's iconic geodesic dome for the U.S. pavilion at Expo 1967 in Montreal.

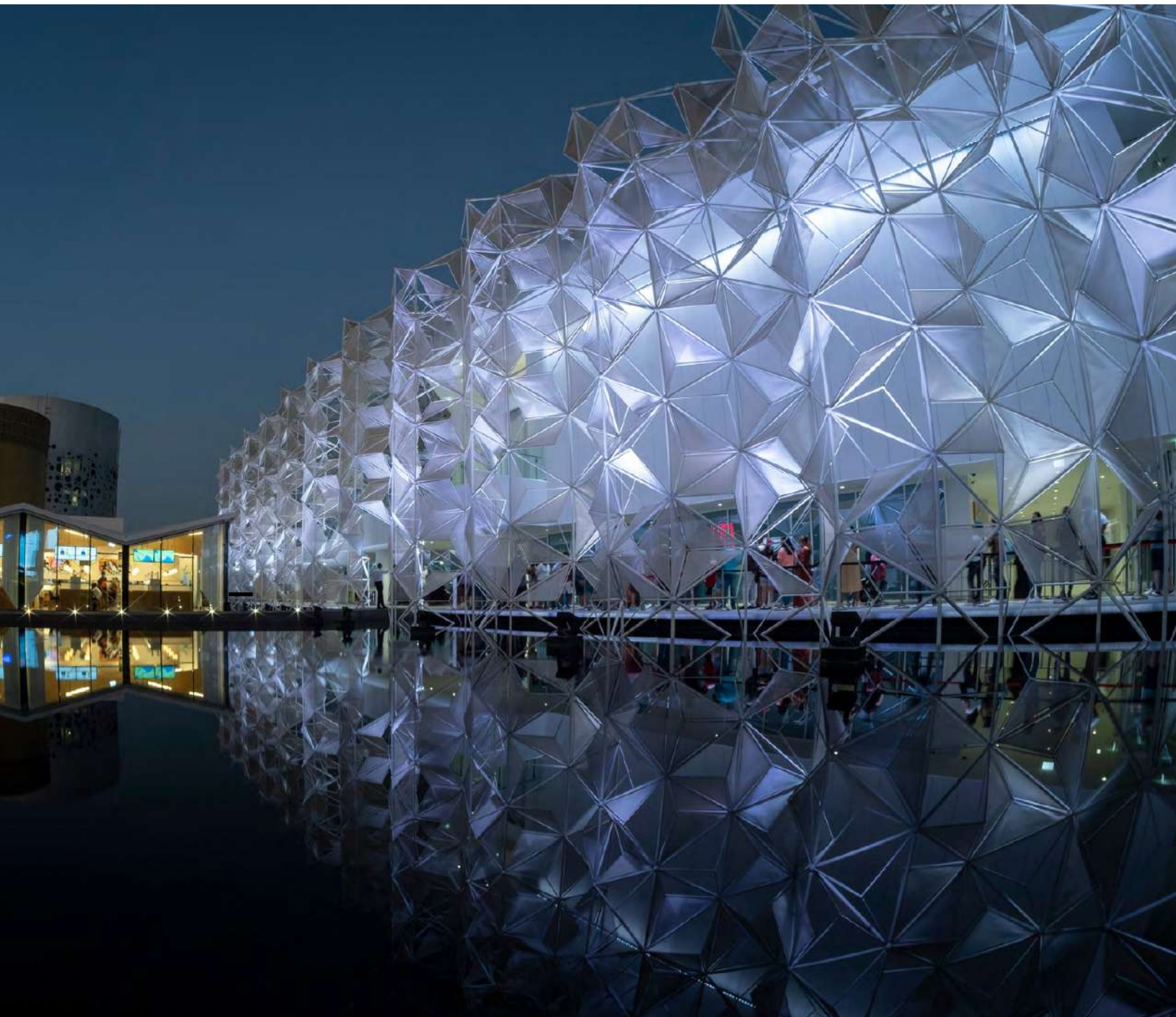
As Yuko Nagayama describes it: "In terms of the cultural connection, I took my starting point from the similarities we can see between Middle Eastern and Japanese geometric patterns, and explored this across a facade that is a new kind of geometrical 3D lattice serving as the structure and environmental filter."



Visitors will walk through an infinity mirror room which juxtaposes their own images with those depicting social and environmental challenges facing the world today.



Experience the first step in a 360-degree theater integrating cutting-edge data technology with real-time generated graphic art.



A diverse range of Japanese content is showcased with cutting-edge technologies. Visitors are invited to learn how new interactions of ideas lead to a better future, and are also encouraged to post their own ideas, paving the way for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. Video projections in a space filled with cool, ultra-fine mist help visualise three-dimensional art in an immersive experience.

The project represents a long history of connections and emphasizes cross-cultural references between Japan and the Middle East.



Design / AWARDS Middle East 2021

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021



PLATINUM PARTNERS



STRATEGIC PARTNER



GOLD PARTNER



SILVER PARTNERS



The winner takes it all

Glimpses of a starry night when exceptional achievers were awarded the region's most prestigious design and architecture honours

PHOTOGRAPHY FAROOQ SALIK

It was a celebration unlike any other, with an audience unlike any other, and a party unlike any other! The *Design Middle East Awards 2021* honoured the finest and brightest in the region's design industry. The awards honoured the top designers, architects, projects, and design-related businesses in the world. During the award ceremony, which comprised a range of categories, individual excellence, organisational strengths, and project completion were all

recognised. The awards ceremony was held at Sofitel Dubai The Palm on October 31, 2021.

Without your unconditional love and support, none of this would have been possible. Also, a special thanks to our partners: Strategic partner Dubai Design District, Platinum partners du and Rimond, Gold partner Rak Ceramics, Silver partner Casa Milano, and Category partner Havelock One Interiors.



Design / AWARDS 2021

Middle East



KEYNOTE SPEECH

Khadija Al Bastaki

Executive Director, Dubai Design District (d3)



The 4th edition of *Design Middle East Awards 2021* was kick-started by the keynote speech by Khadija Al Bastaki, executive director at Dubai Design District (d3). She discussed the design industry and future plans.

d3 is a space where the world of design, art and fashion co-exist, where you'll be inspired to discover new perspectives

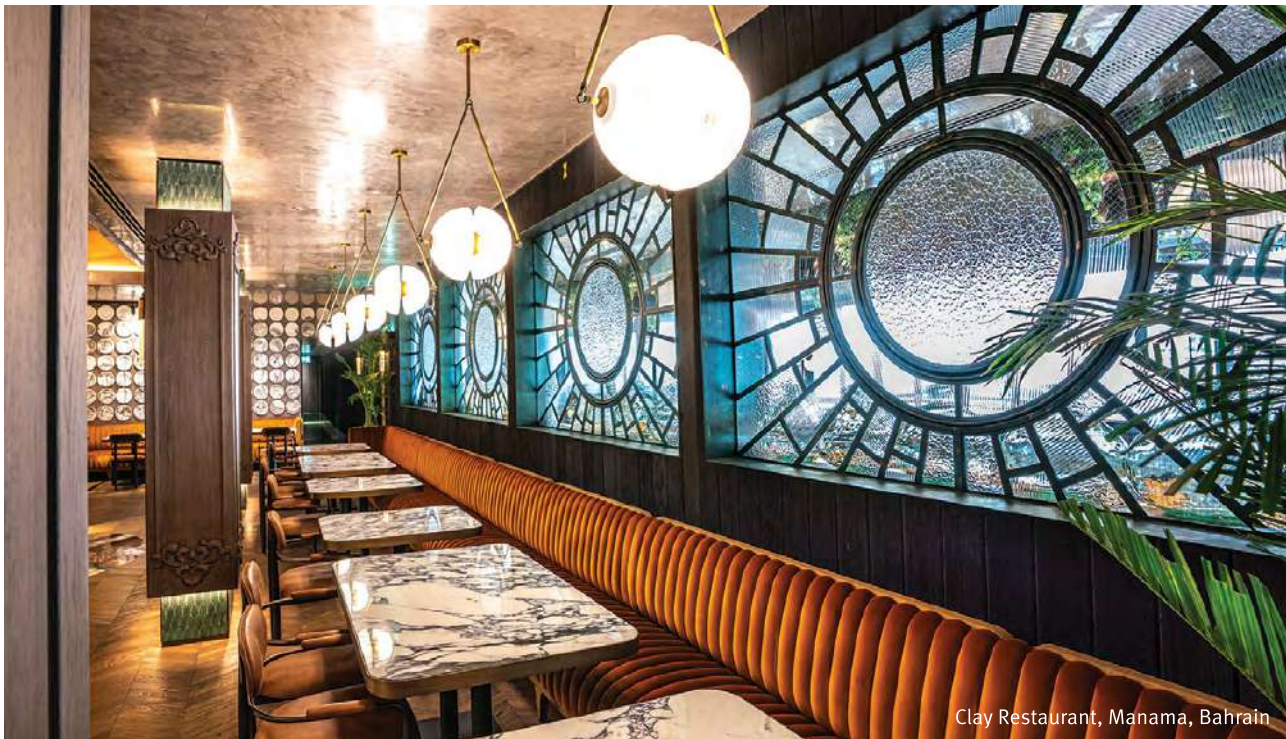
and change the ordinary to the extraordinary. It is the region's first and largest design district playing home to the biggest global, regional and local brands within the art, design, and fashion industries. d3 not only welcomes but enable disruptive thinking to create a world of endless possibilities through their beautifully designed spaces and unique community offerings.



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In times of volatility and uncertainty, you need a partner you can trust. A partner who has access to resources, is experienced, insightful, analytical and knows how to come up with solutions fast.

Having provided turnkey interior services for global, regional and local brands for more than two decades, we offer a wealth of expertise in fit-outs and manufacturing, access to a broad network of consultants, suppliers and sub-contractors as well as financial stability.

During the advent of the pandemic and throughout the last year, we have proven that we never stop to perform. At the same time, we have prioritised the health and wellbeing of our internal and external stakeholders.

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/ COMPANY AWARDS

Architecture Firm of the Year

KILLA DESIGN /

Killa Design bagged Architecture Firm of the Year award. The beginning of 2021, marked Killa Designs' sixth year in practice and we have been able to design and construct a significant number of projects that have made a real difference to the architectural landscape of the Middle East and wider region. Killa Design was recently appointed to design the overwater and inland villas on Sheybarah Island, part of The Red Sea Development in KSA.

Museum of the Future project by Killa design has also pushed the boundaries of design with being one of the most complex steel and facade projects to date. This complex building is more than a cultural icon it is a good example of the benefits of building with advanced composites where Killa Design engaged with global leaders in new building materials and techniques, for example, Boeing aviation for aerospace technology and incorporating this into the built environment.

NOVEMBER 2021
DESIGN MIDDLE EAST

/ COMPANY AWARDS

Interior Design Firm of the Year

OPAAL INTERIORS /

Opaal Interiors won the prestigious Interior Design Firm of the Year at the 4th edition of the Design Middle East Awards 2021. Opaal Interiors is the interior design arm of Ayana Holding. With a passion for timeless design, Opaal Interiors is one of the leading design firms within the region for its personalised approach, superstar team of designers, and luxurious aesthetic that sets

trends. The firm offers a full range of services including interior design consultancy, property staging and styling, design management, project management, site supervision, and more.

Opaal Interiors has a team of competent and passionate designers with more than 100 years of combined experience and a portfolio that delivered more than 250 projects.



/ COMPANY AWARDS

Fit-Out Firm of the Year

KHANSAHEB INTERIORS /

Khansaheb Interiors was awarded Fit-out Firm of the Year. Khansaheb Interiors - part of the Khansaheb Group established in 1935, is a leading fit-out contractor within the UAE with an enviable reputation for the extensive portfolio of high-quality fit-outs within all sectors. Renowned for delivery certainty, on time and within budget whilst exceeding the clients' expectations. Khansaheb Interiors, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, kept all projects and manufacturing facilities operational whilst implementing strict protocols, increased turnover by 35% and achieved

3.5 years (20mn manhours) without a lost-time accident. The firm successfully delivered several flagship projects including a state-of-the-art campus for Heriot-Watt University, the world's largest Sofitel Hotel, 16 screen Vox Cinemas and Magic Planet, Head Office fit-out for Bright Start and complex enabling works and demolition package at Burj Al Arab.

HIGHLY COMMENDED / AL SHAFAR INTERIORS

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

Design / 2021
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/ COMPANY AWARDS

Boutique Firm of the Year

ROAR /

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

Roar was awarded the Boutique Firm of the Year award. Roar is an architecture and interior design studio based in Dubai, founded in 2013, by architect Pallavi Dean. The firm has completed 160 projects across the region, including SensAsia Spa at The Kempinski Hotel Dubai, offices for McKinsey & Co., The Nursery of the Future, and a string of luxury private

residences. Roar's design philosophy is simple— 50% Wild, 50% Tame. The wild side is the artistic free spirit that gives a building its wow factor – literally letting the imagination run wild. The tame side is the scientific, evidence-based, data-driven design that makes a building work. The magic happens when these two worlds collide and Roar becomes the success that it is.

HIGHLY COMMENDED / DESIGNSMITH

/ COMPANY AWARDS

Specialised Manufacturer of the Year

RAK CERAMICS /

RAK Ceramics lifted the Specialised Manufacturer of the Year award. RAK Ceramics is one of the largest ceramics brands in the world. Specialising in ceramic and gres porcelain wall and floor tiles and sanitaryware we produce 123 million square metres of tiles and 5 million pieces of sanitaryware per year at our 22 state-of-the-art plants across the United Arab Emirates, India, and Bangladesh.

Headquartered in the UAE, the brand serves clients in more than 150 countries through our network of operational hubs in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Asia, North and South America and Australia. Across our global operations, they employ approximately 12,000 staff. It is a publically listed company on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange in the UAE and on the Dhaka Stock Exchange in Bangladesh and as a group have an annual turnover of approximately US\$1 billion.



/ COMPANY AWARDS

Best Lighting Company of the Year

LIGHT LINK /

Light Link won the Best Lighting Company of the Year award. Founded in 2019, by Jaspal Bal, Light Link has grown steadily to include expert talent in the areas of lighting design, operations, site support, and project management. Some of their successful projects include PWC Academy, KPMG office, AKA Restaurant, UBS Bank, Snap Inc, and more. Light Link's services

incorporate concept design, lighting calculations, layouts, control schematics, construction drawings, and detailed specifications. They supply the best products from high-quality manufacturers and manage the whole logistics process. They also provide testing and commissioning, working with project partners to develop streamlined solutions using the latest technology.



/ COMPANY AWARDS

Best Workplace of the Year

AYANA HOLDING /

Ayana Holding won the Best Workplace of the Year award. Ayana Holding is a Dubai-based conglomerate with a sustainable portfolio across multiple sectors around the globe. As one of the most talked-about headquarters

and employing over 55 nationalities, Ayana Holding's story so far is nothing short of inspiring. Its workspace also houses WrkBay by Ayana, an incubator and co-working space that supports entrepreneurs and thriving local and international businesses.



/ COMPANY AWARDS

Design Incubator of the Year

IN5 /

IN5 won the Design Incubator of the Year award. IN5 is an enabling platform for entrepreneurs and start-ups, offering five key benefits through its robust start-up framework, creative spaces and specialised industry centres, training and mentorship programmes, community-wide networking events and access to investors. IN5 nurtures ideas and businesses to their next phase of growth.



// PROJECT AWARDS

SUSTAINABLE PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Vida Beach Resort / H2R DESIGN



H2R Design's Vida Beach Resort was awarded Sustainable Project of the Year. Guided by H2R's founders Hasan and Husain Roomi, the award-winning team worked in tandem with Emaar Hospitality Group to craft a unique destination for guests looking for a peaceful and memorable getaway. The first five-star resort in Umm Al Quwain, Vida Beach Resort features 135 rooms and suites, eight two-bedroom chalets located directly on the beach, an all-day dining eatery, a social rooftop bar, and an abundance of leisure spaces including an infinity pool, spa, and ded-

icated pet-friendly areas. As the name suggests, Vida, meaning 'life' in Spanish, was the inspiration behind creating a stimulating atmosphere with socially responsible spaces throughout. In line with both their and Vida's shared ethos, the H2R team strived to use sustainable materials where possible such as reconstituted stone, tiles, and furnishings fashioned from recycled contents. In addition, non-toxic paints have been used to add a pop of colours to walls and ceilings, while solid timber and wood veneer used for joinery and ceiling slats are all FSC-certified timbers.

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST |



// PROJECT AWARDS

RETAIL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

IZIL / BRAND CREATIVE

IZIL by Brand Creative grabbed the Retail Project of the Year. The volume of the space is intentionally crafted to feel cavernous, replicating the earthy and grand dwelling, allowing the opportunity to inject “windows and skylights” that appear to welcome in the sun, as the tadelakt plastered walls bring a textural yet light quality throughout. Tadelakt is a natural, lime-based plaster indigenous to the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Both decorative and waterproof, it has a honed, smooth surface reminiscent of natural stone. The retail area houses the star feature – an organic shaped handwash counter, where staff are able to host customers whilst demonstrating products and washing hands in between trials. A custom oil station showcases herbs and oils with highlighted raw ingredients being personalised into bespoke product configurations. To complement the retail offering, a private experiential area located at the back is dedicated to trials and product demonstrations of hair masks and facial products purchased in store.



HIGHLY COMMENDED / MADE BY TWO, H2R DESIGN

// PROJECT AWARDS

COMMERCIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Miral HQ / GODWIN AUSTEN JOHNSON

Godwin Austen Johnson's Miral HQ bagged the Commercial Project of the Year. The new HQ explores a progressive work environment beyond the norm. Unconventional spaces that support new-age work systems interspersed with elements of fun form the crux of this design. It is essentially a space where work and fun converge and boundaries are erased. This is the office space of today – focussed on creating an inspiring and efficient environment where employees enjoy the space they are in

which in turn leads to greater productivity. Double height space with patterned skylights allow light to filter through for an eye-catching play of light and shadow further adding to the space dynamics. Light walls have been created with faux plants to introduce an element of nature within. Another dominant design feature is the open red staircase. This industrial looking staircase sits on a raised concrete plinth which also serves as informal seating and acts as a social connection between the two levels.



HIGHLY COMMENDED / AJMAN BANK, INNER SPACE INTERIOR DESIGN



// PROJECT AWARDS

RESIDENTIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

SLS Dubai Hotel & Residences

/ AEDAS

SLS Dubai Hotel & Residences by Aedas was crowned Residential Project of the Year. SLS Dubai Hotel and Residences is a wondrous and striking new landmark in the Downtown district. SLS is the home of the extraordinary experience, innovating and shaping the future of luxury lifestyle living. Offers 321 hotel apartments & 371 residences. The project with 75 floors is one of the tallest hotels and residences, while the overall style of the tower draws inspiration from mid-century classic architecture, the facade and its texture are given the shape of a "honeycomb" structure. Moreover, each of the residential units is rotated to 45 degrees on 4 different axis, thus providing more privacy and giving undiluted views of the surrounding areas.



// PROJECT AWARDS

HOSPITALITY PROJECT DESIGN (RESTAURANTS/BARS/CLUBS)

Carna Steakhouse / BISHOP DESIGN BY PAUL BISHOP

Carna Steakhouse won the Hospitality Project Design (Restaurants/bars/clubs) award. It's a spectacular project from Bishop Design by Paul Bishop. Located on the 74th floor SLS Hotel & Residences, Carna is a contemporary steakhouse and immersive meat experience. Once the lift doors open, guests find themselves within an intriguingly sensual moody entrance vestibule. A dynamically cast aluminium metal welcome desk lit up with spotlights from the floor awaits their reservation details before they penetrate

through the ornate wooden doors. The first thing that many will notice is the vastness of the environment in which they find themselves. Open ceilings decorated with leather knife sharpening belts in geometric seamless patterns contribute to the infinite depth of space, a thoughtfully considered design element that tackles magnitudinal challenges whilst simultaneously becoming a strong rendition of our story. A retail area is bursting with hand-cut delicacies and condiments, emphasizing the restaurant's entire narrative.



HIGHLY COMMENDED / THE ARTS CLUB DUBAI, ALLEN ARCHITECTURE INTERIORS DESIGN

// PROJECT AWARDS

HOSPITALITY PROJECT DESIGN (HOTELS)

Premier Inn Hotel / JT+PARTNERS



DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021



Premier Inn Hotel by JT+Partners was awarded Hospitality Project Design (Hotels). The planned development is a 3-star Premier Inn Hotel located in TECOM, Al Thanyah First and allows the guests to enjoy a hassle-free stay with brilliant facilities. The building has been studied to offer maximum comfort to both leisure and business travellers. The massing comprises two main elements, the podium and the tower. The lower levels host the Lobby, Costa coffee shop, F&B areas, and Back of House spaces. The tower includes all the guestrooms along with the gym and pool deck on the roof.

HIGHLY COMMENDED / ROVE LA MER, MMAC DESIGN ASSOCIATES

// PROJECT AWARDS

LANDSCAPE PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Dubai Expo 2020 Public Realm / **AECOM**

Dubai Expo 2020 Public Realm by Aecom was awarded Landscape Project of the Year. The Expo is quite simply the biggest Landscape Project in the country. As a landscape, it is a complex Public Realm intended to be visited by 25 million people during the event and eventually become a home to tens of thousands of residents, workers, and visitors. The project was completed in August 2021. On the 440 hectare site, Aecom and its collaborators played multiple roles in the project. The public realm design area includes the Drop Off and Arrival Zones, Bridges and Portals, Arrival Complexes, Concourses and Streetscapes around the Expo site.





// PROJECT AWARDS

HEALTHCARE PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Valiant Clinic / AMG DESIGN CONSULTANTS

Valiant Clinic by AMG Design Consultants won the Healthcare Project of the Year. While reinvigorating the new VIP in-patient rooms and facilities at Valiant Clinic & Hospital, AMG Design Consultants placed great concentration on the experience of patients. This has been achieved by creating an environment that communicates care, reception, and altruism through the language of hospitality design. The result consists of in-patient rooms equipped with the many attractive luxury comforts and amenities one would find at their favourite premium hotel, as well as the newest innovations of the healthcare industry. From a warm and soothing colour to the high-tech hospital beds, the breath-taking views and the fine wood panelling, the new VIP in-patient rooms are a seamless and revolutionary way of combining comfort and care.

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021



// PROJECT AWARDS

LIGHTING PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Ain Dubai Plaza Bluewaters / **NEOALPHA GLOBAL**

Ain Dubai Plaza Bluewaters by Neoalpha Global won the Lighting Project of the Year. Ain Dubai Plaza lighting design represents the apogee of the vibrant lifestyle destination which Bluewaters Island is known for.

Complimenting the fun and colourful lighting principles of the Bluewaters retail strip, the plaza lighting comprises traditional architectural landscape lighting principles as well as dynamic lighting elements. The plaza features seventeen 16m high lighting totems which compliments the aesthetics of the existing streetlights along the Bluewaters retail promenade.



// PROJECT AWARDS

INTERIOR FIT-OUT PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Google HQ / AL TAYER STOCKS



DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021



Google HQ by Al Tayer Stocks was awarded Interior Fit-Out Project of the Year. Google's office fit-out was an exciting 4500m² project on levels four and five of Innovation Hub in Dubai Internet City. The driving concept for the space was to integrate the past, present, and future while subtly linking these themes to the context of Dubai and the transience of the city. Areas were divided spatially & functionally, providing a sense of place and unique experiences for the end-users, with agile working at its heart and of course technology. Neighbourhoods with amenities, collaborative lounges, and refresh spaces were carefully positioned across the floor plate. A thematic bridge was developed between natural & man-made materiality and concepts. Hard angles and organic shapes were merged across the spaces to create dramatic interactions.

HIGHLY COMMENDED / HERIOT-WATT, KHANSAHEB INTERIORS

// PROJECT AWARDS

REFURBISHMENT PROJECT OF THE YEAR

DGDA HQ / HAVELOCK ONE INTERIORS

The Refurbishment Project of the Year was awarded to DGDA HQ, by Havelock One Interiors. The Diriyah Gate Development Authority (DGDA) was established in 2017, with a mandate to preserve and celebrate the historic Diriyah and its UNESCO World Heritage Site At-Turaif, the birthplace of the Kingdom. The first Saudi capital is known for mud-brick structures in the Najdi architectural style. Similarly, the DGDA HQ renovation reflects this rich heritage and identity. Therefore, Havelock One

was tasked to partially work with authentic materials and finishes, such as wood species, woven fabrics and carpets, artworks, as well as woodworking methods that are reminiscent of the past, yet have none of the operational complexities of that era. For example, using the latest machinery including CNC, all joinery and F&E produced still incorporate traditional wood craftsmanship. Furthermore, all the hardware, whether concealed hinges or sliding tracks for screens, is seamlessly integrated into the rustic wooden door and screens.



HIGHLY COMMENDED / CAPITAL CLUB-DIFC, PINNACLE INTERIORS

// PROJECT AWARDS

DESIGN & BUILD PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Australia Pavilion / **AL SHAFAR INTERIORS**

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021



Australia Pavilion by Al Shafar Interiors (ASI) was declared Design & Build Project of the Year. The Australian Pavilion showcases key trade, economic, export, and education opportunities while celebrating the nation's highly unique natural and cultural attractions. A key element of the design of the Australian Pavilion is its roof, a gleaming white canopy inspired by the large fluffy white cumulus clouds that make up Australia's iconic big blue skylines. With 28 years of experience, ASI is a fit-out and joinery solutions contractor. The company's primary objective is to provide sophisticated finishes and custom-made products for different project sectors. As part of the ASGC group, ASI has grown over the past decade into a noteworthy fit-out contractor in the UAE marketplace.

// PROJECT AWARDS

MASTER PLAN OF THE YEAR

IWD Islamic World District /

DAR AL OMRAN ENGINEERING | DLR GROUP



IWD Islamic World District by Dar Al Omran Engineering & DLR Group was announced Master Plan of the Year. The Islamic World District is located on the Eastern side of the Knowledge Economic City in Medina and is parallel to the Haramain train station on the Eastern side, thus forming the gateway to Medina for the visitors coming through the international airport or the train station. The project seeks to achieve urban and cultural goals consistent with the goals of Vision 2030 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to continue developing Medina as a destination for visitors, pilgrims, designing a place that attracts the residents as well. The project provides all required hospitality services in terms of the number and types of hotel rooms and other related services such as health, transportation and retail offers.



// PROJECT AWARDS

MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YEAR

YAS Creative Hub / **MZ ARCHITECTS**

YAS Creative Hub by MZ Architects was announced Mixed-Use Development of the Year. The Yas Creative Hub is considered as the cornerstone of the Yas Bay

Development, as it is the first industry-specific build for the creative sector in the GCC, the Yas Creative Hub Phase 1 is designed by MZ Architects, the creators of Aldar's HQ, the development is planned to become the leading destination for international media, entertainment and creative community. Rooted from the history of Emirati architecture, the project design was inspired by the ancient forts of the UAE, where the raised podium allows for protection from the sun and the towers create a remarkable landmark overlooking the surroundings, allowing for an overall architectural design stemming from the Emirati culture.

// PROJECT AWARDS

BEST FUTURE PROJECT

Thakher Gardens / RMJM

The Thakher Gardens project by architectural firm RMJM was awarded the Best Future Project. RMJM is a design and master planning specialist with 65+ years in the industry. They have 27 studios around the world and over 1000 projects built. One of their projects is the Thakher Gardens (Phase 2 Thaker Development) – is being designed by our Dubai studio. As a gateway site to new Thakher City, integration of the mixed-use development into a single cohesive and efficient approach enables the opportunity to create a new urban quarter that is a destination for living, hospitality, events, shopping, leisure, and civic use. Vision is to deliver an exemplary world-class development that will be commercially sustainable, vibrant and connected and that will through its architectural expression deliver a gateway destination for Makkah and Thakher City. Conceived as an urban garden community in the heart of Thakher City, this high-density development interweaves city living and the public realm with key city connections to the surrounding neighbourhoods.



HIGHLY COMMENDED / QANAWAT HQ, VERFORM DESIGN STUDIO

// PROJECT AWARDS

INNOVATION IN DESIGN

Rex Bar Dubai Peroni Nastro Azzurro

/ INTERCONTINENTAL DUBAI MARINA



DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021



Rex Bar Dubai Peroni Nastro Azzurro, Intercontinental Dubai Marina won the Innovation in Design award. The inaugural Rex Bar Dubai is the collective work of Peroni Nastro Azzurro and Andrea Morgante from Shiro Studio. Designed by Italian Architect, Andrea Morgante, the Rex Bar sits on the rooftop of the InterContinental Dubai Marina building and will challenge the stereotypical bar setting by offering an elegant, stylish multi-sensorial environment inspired by the brand's legendary Blue Ribbon. It seeks to establish an experiential temporary installation that brings alive Peroni Nastro Azzurro's rich heritage through a contemporary design statement.

HIGHLY COMMENDED / HH PAVILION, ORANGE DESIGN GROUP

// PROJECT AWARDS

DESIGN EDUCATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Zayed University & Entrepreneurship Centre / **DESIGN INFINITY**

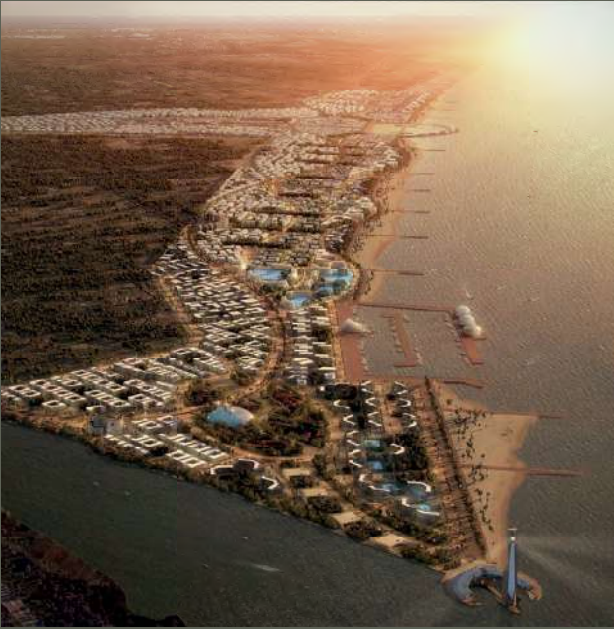


DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

Zayed University & Entrepreneurship Centre by Design Infinity won the Design Education Project of the Year. The main objective of this project was to align with the UAE vision for the future to bring forth culture and an environment that fosters the aspect of Innovation and Development. In essence, HOK was tasked to provide a human-centric type of environment that is conducive to learning, sharing knowledge and collaboration in order to cultivate a sense of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University. The environment is a thriving one that is dependent on smart cutting-edge IT and flexible spaces that can be configured to suit the needs of the users, groups who need to collaborate in group sessions as well individuals who look for quiet and focussed time.



HIGHLY COMMENDED / AL MIZHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, MIMAR GROUP



Dorsch Gruppe Middle East

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Tel: +971 2 672 1923 | Fax: +971 2 672 0809



/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Architect of the Year

MICHAEL MAGILL / RSP

Michael Magill from RSP lifted the Architect of the Year trophy. A well-versed professional expert in the field, bringing many years of architectural design across the world to the UAE, Magill has pioneered the establishment of RSP's Branch (a well-established Singaporean-based architectural firm that is well known in Asia with over 65+ years of experience in 2500+ projects) in the Middle East. Over the last decade, Magill has led and designed a multitude of exciting and iconic projects, successfully showcasing and growing RSP's skill and talents to its current growth and reputation in the MENA region. A personal brainchild of his is the newly opened tourist hotspot of the Palm Jumeirah – The Palm Tower.



HIGHLY COMMENDED /
ISLAM EL MASHTOOLY, OBMI

/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Interior Designer of the Year

PAUL BISHOP / BISHOP DESIGN BY PAUL BISHOP

Paul Bishop won the Interior Designer of the Year trophy. He has become an unstoppable force both within and beyond the industry, not solely for his impeccable design skill, but also his charming wit and loveable character that has a positive influence on everyone who crosses his path, whether that be a client, aspiring student or colleague. Throughout 2020, there was a huge focus for Bishop and his team surrounding international expansion. In 2021 this has led to the largest change Bishop has faced in his career. As his firm head towards Miami as part of their expansion strategy, Bishop will be driving the move there with an established presence.

Taking on an unprecedented challenge by heading up a completely new market, he is spreading his creative influence on a wider geographical scale.

(ACCEPTED ON HIS BEHALF)



DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

 HIGHLY COMMENDED / ZOE VICTORIA ALLEN, SWISS BUREAU INTERIOR DESIGN & BUILD

/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Young Talent of the Year

KHADIJE HAMAD / AEDAS

Young Talent of the Year award was given to talented Khadije Hamad from Aedas. A Brazilian Lebanese, Hamad was born in the UAE in 1993. She studied architecture at the University of Sharjah (UOS) in the UAE from 2010 and was awarded a bachelor's in architectural engineering in 2015. She gained a master's degree in 2015, at the British University in Dubai and started her first job at Aedas as an architectural

assistant in 2016. After proving her commitment and eagerness to learn and grow as a female architect, she was promoted several times. She is on a rewarding journey at Aedas, utilising her leadership and management skills in challenging conceptual projects around the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Hamad then became an associate at Aedas, leading large-scale exclusive projects in Saudi Arabia competing against international large architectural firms.

DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021

Design / AWARDS
Middle East 2021

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#Design



HIGHLY COMMENDED / MARYAM HOSNY, KILLA DESIGN

/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

CEO of the Year

HAMID KERAYECHIAN / AYANA HOLDING

Hamid Kerayechian from Ayana Holding was crowned CEO of the Year. Kerayechian is the CEO and founding partner of Ayana Holding. He has built a solid reputation for incubating new business models and has an eye for opportunity,

connecting people and businesses around the globe. Within Ayana's portfolio is over 20 different entities operating in over 50 countries, including design and master planning, investment, fit-out, technology, asset management, and leisure and entertainment concepts.



/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Project Manager of the Year

FAHAD MOHAMED / KEO INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

Fahad Mohamed from KEO International Consultants was announced Project Manager of the Year. Mohamed joined KEO in 2018, and currently holds the position of Senior Project Manager within KEO's design team. He is a qualified architect with a bachelor's degree in Architecture in 2001, and a master's degree in Business Administration from the Melbourne Business School in Australia in

2008. His interest and passion for Project Management led him to complete the Stanford Advanced Project Management program in 2016, as part of his quest for continued professional development. He is an associate member of both the American Institute of Architects and the Australian Institute of Project Management as well as being PMP certified. He is also a Registered Architect with the Council of Architecture in New Delhi, India.



 HIGHLY COMMENDED / NATASHA ABBAS, NORTH 51 CONSULTING

/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Design Principal of the Year

ABDELKADER SAADI / JT+PARTNERS

Abdelkader Saadi won the Design Principal of the Year award. Saadi is an award-winning architect with over 20 years of experience leading international design teams in the UK, Asia, and the Middle East. His experience ranges from boutique residential and hospitality projects to large-scale developments

such as commercial, retail, high rise, mixed-use and master plans. His passion for design with a focus on contextuality and connectivity continues to explore and push the boundaries of conventional typologies. As a LEED member, Saadi continues to explore green strategies throughout the design development process for a sustainable green future.



/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Visionary Leader of the Year

JOE TABET

/ JT+PARTNERS

Joe Tabet won the Visionary Leader of the Year award. Tabet is the founder and managing director of JT+Partners. He is an exceptional multi-award-winning architect with over 20 years of extensive experience in worldwide architecture, master-planning/urban design, and the construction industry.

Since establishing JT+Partners in 2015, with offices in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Beirut, Tabet continuously manages JT+Partners to sustain recognition as a world-renowned consultant, delivering iconic, environmental/socially sustainable projects all over the world, from Morocco to Seychelles, Lebanon, India, Sri Lanka, Angola, Cameroon, Zanzibar, Egypt, Portugal, Greece, KSA, UAE, spanning hospitality, residential, commercial, mixed-use, and master plan developments. Additionally, retaining impressive clientele, including Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court, Al Hamra Real Estate, Jumeirah Group, Marriott Group, Hilton Worldwide, Ritz Carlton, Premiere Inn, EMAAR, Aldar, Pennyroyal, amongst others. Proactive in full commitments to CSR, Tabet is passionate about raising awareness on sociable/sustainable communities, maintaining his staff's safety/well-being, fostering future generations, conducting business ethically/fairly, supporting worthy causes. He also actively participates in panel discussions, attends international industry-related exhibits, gives lectures and interviews, sharing his knowledge, experiences, and viewpoints.



/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Consultant of the Year VX STUDIO

VX Studio was awarded Consultant of the Year. VX Studio is the architectural design and master planning arm of Ayana Holding, specialising in mixed-use, hospitality, commercial, and residential developments. Today VX Studio has active projects in a variety of markets including North America, West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and CIS countries.



/ INDIVIDUAL AWARDS /

Lifetime Achievement Award

PIA LAKSHMI SEN / LW

Pia Lakshmi Sen won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Sen has been an intrinsic component in re-shaping the ever-changing skyline of Dubai. She first arrived in the UAE in 1987, after completing her studies at the Institute of Interior Design in Copenhagen. Sen arrived in Dubai at the start of the Emirates journey of transformation. The last three decades have seen the city grow into a globally recognised community boasting some of the world's most impressive designs.

Sen is renowned for her distinctively inviting and captivating energy that not only makes her a much loved and revered member

of the Dubai design community, but it transfers effortlessly into a recognisable ambience that appears in each of her designs. Her extensive portfolio includes award-winning hotels, bars and restaurants throughout the Middle East as well as abroad. Just over two decades ago, Jesper Godsk and his partners launched LW Design and Sen joined them. Her favourite projects include Grosvenor House's Buddha Bar and B'Attitude Spa. Each brand has recognised them as their flagship outlets, and they are considered the finest examples in the world. Sen recently moved to Denmark to be with her friends and family.

(ACCEPTED ON HER BEHALF)



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DESIGN MIDDLE EAST | NOVEMBER 2021



THE *Star* HAS ARRIVED!

The iconic Camaleonda is now available at B&B Italia showroom in Jumeirah. The iconic Camaleonda sofa by Mario Bellini is relaunched using sustainable materials. The system designed in 1970, makes its comeback 50 years later, speaking a contemporary language, between structural solutions and sustainable choices. The history: 50 years that have not gone by Presented to the public in 1970, Camaleonda has passed through 5

decades of design history as a true icon. The sofa has defined the aesthetics of an entire era of interior design, thanks to its great success both in terms of the public and critics. An object that is loved by design aficionados, antique dealers and interior decorators alike is finally back in production after a careful design process that involved the close collaboration between the B&B Italia's Research & Development Centre and Mario Bellini.

Availability: B&B Italia, Jumeirah, Dubai





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