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ON THE COVER: THE INTERWEAVE LIGHTING SYSTEM BY PALLAVI DEAN FOR ARTEMIDE.

AAU ANASTAS

Architecture, Design
BETHLEHEM & PARIS

The Studio:
Palestine-based, family-run architecture and design practice AAU Anastas works across scales and disciplines - architecture, furniture making and research.

The Principles:
Supporting local craftsman, artisans and materials is central to the studio's work. An example is the studio's establishment of Local Industries, which offers functional furniture crafted by a network of Palestinian artisans to international clientele.

The Pipeline:
AAU Anastas has a number of upcoming projects, including the renovation and design of a new building in Amman, the reconfiguring of Bethlehem's Manger Square, and a mixed-use building in Bethlehem.

AAUANASTAS.COM



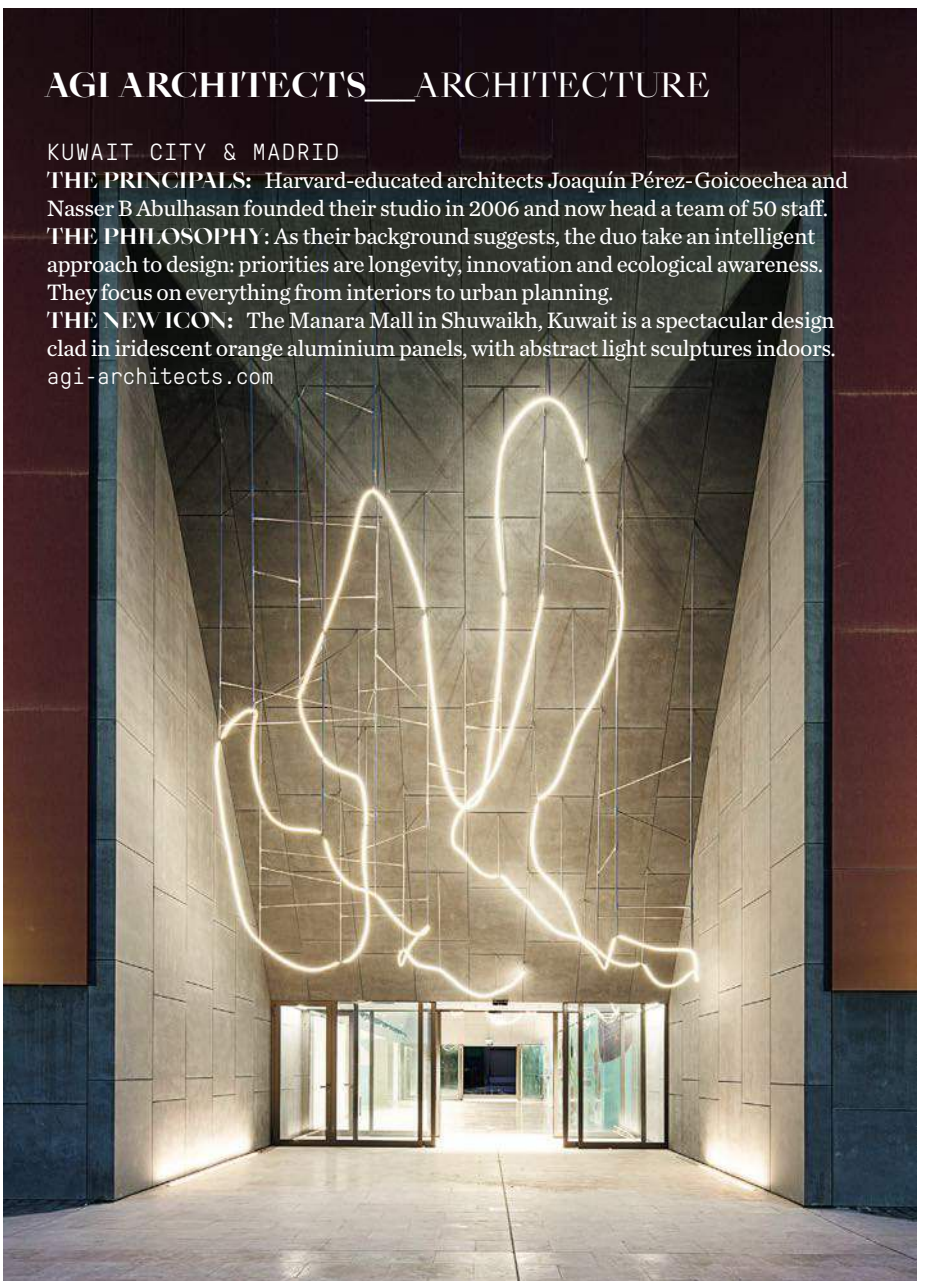


AAC INTERIORS___ INTERIOR DESIGN

DUBAI
The Principal: Anne Cantacuzene studied art history in Florence before embarking on her 30-year career. She specialises in 'thoughtful design', and is currently working on villas in Bali and apartments in Dubai's 1/JBR building.
The Work: Cantacuzene is no mere stylist; she offers a complete interior architecture service, from structural planning to bespoke furniture.
The Landmarks: Dubai residents appreciate Cantacuzene's clean, contemporary style at The Lighthouse concept store and Chez Charles restaurant, both of which are loacted in Dubai Design District.
aac-interiors.com

AGI ARCHITECTS___ARCHITECTURE

KUWAIT CITY & MADRID
THE PRINCIPALS: Harvard-educated architects Joaquín Pérez-Goicoechea and Nasser B Abulhasan founded their studio in 2006 and now head a team of 50 staff.
THE PHILOSOPHY: As their background suggests, the duo take an intelligent approach to design: priorities are longevity, innovation and ecological awareness. They focus on everything from interiors to urban planning.
THE NEW ICON: The Manara Mall in Shuwaikh, Kuwait is a spectacular design clad in iridescent orange aluminium panels, with abstract light sculptures indoors.
agi-architects.com





AHMED ABDULRAHMAN BUKHASH___ARCHITECTURE

DUBAI
The Founder: Emirati architect Ahmed Abdulrahman Bukhash founded Archidentity in 2009, and serves as its chief architect.
The Practice: Seeking to create a local residential typology, the studio has delivered several villas and a mosque design in the UAE.
The Approach: The firm's design process is based on fostering a distinct identity by infusing its projects with regional symbolism – a blend of post-modernism with Arabian Gulf vernacular.
archidentity.ae



ALINE ASMAR D'AMMAN___ ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN, FURNITURE

BEIRUT & PARIS
THE PRINCIPAL: Born in 1970s Lebanon, Asmar d'Amman sees architecture as a force for restoring beauty. She founded Culture in Architecture in 2011.
THE VISION: Asmar d'Amman's designs are inspired by art and fashion, and often contrast elements: raw and precious, past and present, east and west.
MAKING A MARK: The firm has recently worked on the renovation of the Hôtel de Crillon and the new interior of the Eiffel Tower's restaurant, Le Jules Verne.
cultureinarchitecture.com

ALJOUD LOOTAH

Product design
DUBAI



The Designer:
Aljoud Lootah studied graphic design in Dubai before opening her studio in 2015. Her work is dominated by dramatic geometric shapes.

The Craft:
Lootah examines Islamic craft traditions through a modern lens: her Tebr porcelain, for instance, borrows patterns from historic UAE buildings.

The Milestone:
In 2015, Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria acquired two of Lootah's Oru furniture pieces, making her the first Emirati designer to have work acquired by an international gallery.

ALJOUDLOOTAH.COM





AMMAR KHAMMASH___ ARCHITECTURE

AMMAN
THE ARCHITECT: Equipped with a deep knowledge of the Jordanian landscape, and through the study of earth sciences, Khammash uses locally sourced natural materials to produce architecture that serves as an extension of its site.
THE FIRM: Khammash Architects has worked on several notable institutional projects related to natural and cultural heritage including the Wild Jordan Center and the Royal Academy for Nature Conservation.
THE MILESTONE: Khammash was a laureate of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture in 2019.
khammash.com

ANARCHITECT__ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN

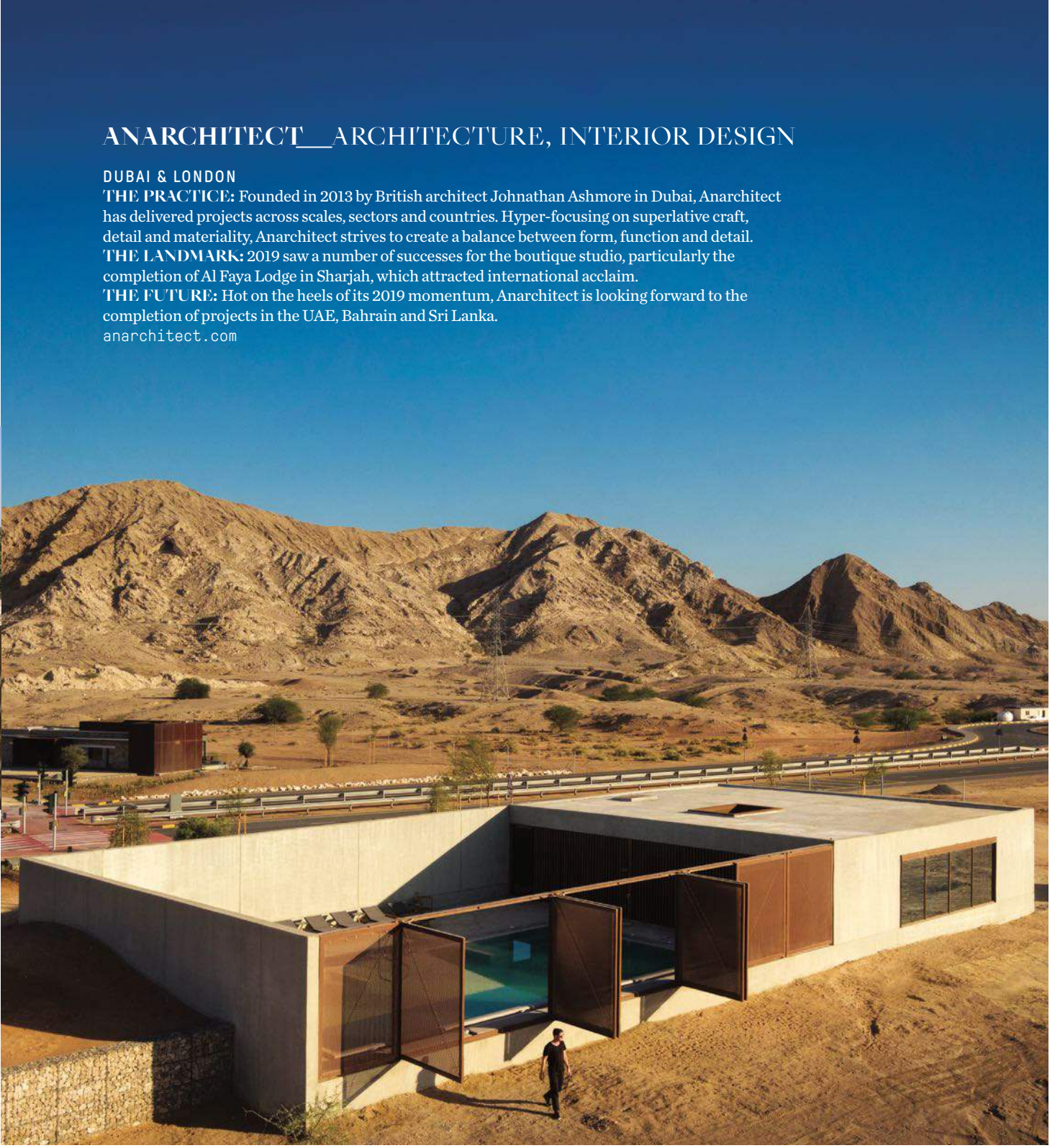
DUBAI & LONDON

THE PRACTICE: Founded in 2013 by British architect Johnathan Ashmore in Dubai, Anarchitect has delivered projects across scales, sectors and countries. Hyper-focusing on superlative craft, detail and materiality, Anarchitect strives to create a balance between form, function and detail.

THE LANDMARK: 2019 saw a number of successes for the boutique studio, particularly the completion of Al Faya Lodge in Sharjah, which attracted international acclaim.

THE FUTURE: Hot on the heels of its 2019 momentum, Anarchitect is looking forward to the completion of projects in the UAE, Bahrain and Sri Lanka.

anarchitect.com



AND. PARTNERS

Interior design

DUBAI



The Principal: Established in 2016 by Sam Farhang, And. Partners prides itself on reflecting clients' individual style and fostering a collaborative design process. Farhang works alongside fellow interior designer Parthiban Manohar.

The Future: The studio is converting a historic building in Jakarta, Indonesia into the One Indonesia hotel, due to launch in 2022. Next year, it will also unveil the Japanese-inspired Rowzan Residence, an apartment complex in Iran.

ANDPARTNERSINTERIORS.COM

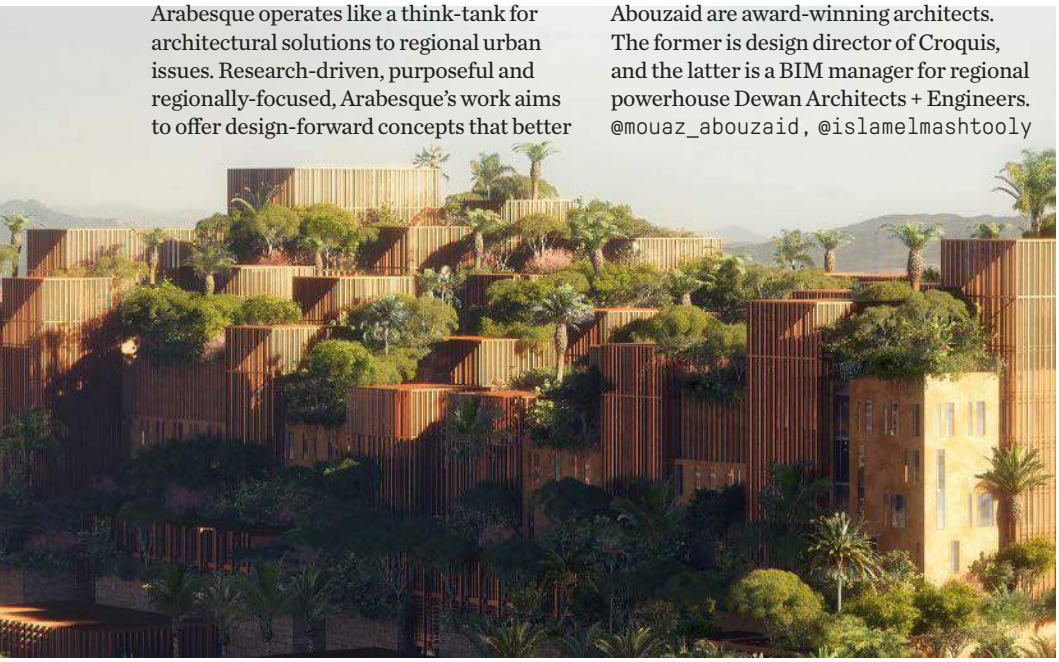
ARABESQUE___ARCHITECTURE

DUBAI

THE VISION: Recently founded by Dubai-based, Egyptian architects Islam El Mashtooly and Mouaz Abouzaid, Arabesque operates like a think-tank for architectural solutions to regional urban issues. Research-driven, purposeful and regionally-focused, Arabesque's work aims to offer design-forward concepts that better the built environment for different societies in the region.

THE FOUNDERS: Both El Mashtooly and Abouzaid are award-winning architects. The former is design director of Croquis, and the latter is a BIM manager for regional powerhouse Dewan Architects + Engineers.

@mouaz_abouzaid, @islamelmashtooly



B

BAD. BUILT BY ASSOCIATIVE DATA___ ARCHITECTURE

BEIRUT, BARCELONA & DUBLIN

THE PRACTICE: Founded by Lebanese architect Ali Basbous, BAD. Built by Associative Data is an international design and architectural practice with projects in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

THE COMMITMENT: While BAD. works on various types of projects (from private villas to ambitious masterplans), it also commits itself to social responsibility, and has teamed up with NGOs to design schools for orphans and gotten involved in welfare activities that spread DIY objectives across Asia and Africa.

builtbyassociativedata.com





BERNARD KHOURY___ ARCHITECTURE

BEIRUT

The Mastermind: Born in Beirut in 1968, well-known architect Bernard Khoury studied at the Rhode Island School of Design and Harvard University. In addition to his built work, he is a co-founder of the Arab Center for Architecture, and he has lectured and exhibited all over the world.

The Project: Launching his practice in 1993, his first project was Beirut's infamous underground bunker club B018, which opened its doors in 1998.

The Reach: Over the past 20 years, his office has developed an international reputation and a diverse portfolio of projects in Lebanon and 15 other countries, including Kuwait, the US and Germany.

bernardkhoury.com



C

CHAKIB RICHANI

Architecture, interiors, furniture design

BEIRUT



The Principal: Chakib Richani studied architecture at the American University of Beirut and has since won global acclaim for his serene, linear aesthetic.

The Creator: Complementing his buildings, Richani has his own furniture line, which reflects his love for timeless shapes and rich materials.

The Project: Richani is the man behind the perfectly understated elegance of fashion designer Elie Saab's boutiques, including those in Dubai and Paris.

RICHANI.COM



CLAUDE MISSIR__ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN

BEIRUT

The Principal: Interior architect Claude Missir founded his eponymous Beirut studio in 1997. He strives for a zen-like level of simplicity in his designs, influenced by 1930s French Modernism.

The Projects: Missir's sophisticated style is in demand everywhere from France, where he's designed homes in the most prestigious districts, to Jordan, where he masterminded the light, airy Kempinski Hotel in Aqaba with views across the Red Sea. He has also exhibited product designs at Milan's cutting-edge Nilufar Gallery.

claudemissir.com



CREATIVE CLINIC__INTERIOR DESIGN

DUBAI

The Practice: 'Sophisticated yet playful' is the mantra for this Dubai studio, led by Ceebo Shah and Khaled Sharan, which works its magic on everything from hotels to restaurants and nightclubs.
Making a Mark: Recent high-profile projects include the 3BK restaurant at the Armani Hotel Dubai in the Burj Khalifa, a gleaming space featuring cream, grey and metallic finishes, and the Parkhuus restaurant at the Park Hyatt Zürich, a moodier space with dramatic modern lighting.
creativeclinic.ae

DAVID/NICOLAS__INTERIOR DESIGN, PRODUCT DESIGN

BEIRUT

THE BREAKOUT: David Raffoul and Nicolas Moussalem set up their Beirut studio in 2011, and a confident turn at Milan Design Week put them on the international design radar. That same year, they held their first solo show in Lebanon dubbed 'Loulou/Hoda'.
THE TRADEMARK: david/nicolas approaches each project with its signature 'retro-futuristic' design aesthetic, often incorporating elegant colour schemes and polished textures.
THE FUTURE: The duo is working on a special project for British wallpaper brand de Gournay, as well as the interiors of a vintage watch boutique in Beirut.
davidandnicolas.com



D

DANA ALAMRI

Architecture,
JEDDAH



The Rising Star:
Co-founder of Watad Studio, Saudi architect Dana AlAmri recently made waves by winning a rising star award for women in architecture. She runs her practice with fellow co-founder Yahya Kandil.

The Practice:
Based in Jeddah, Watad Studio seeks to deliver simple yet sustainable architecture and design across the Middle East and further afield, while also raising the architectural standard in the region.

The Project:
The practice is currently designing a cultural park in Jeddah, built using traditional techniques. Watad Studio is also working on a restaurant, multiple private residences in Riyadh and a 'top secret' project in London.

@WATADSTUDIO

DESERT INK___
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

DUBAI

THE PRACTICE: Since 2015, landscape architecture studio desert INK has worked to create imaginative public spaces in the UAE, with projects like The Block in Dubai Design District and Al Faya Lodge in Sharjah (designed by Anarchitect).

THE FOUNDER: Managing director Duncan Denley is a UK-chartered landscape architect with more than 18 years of work experience in the Middle East.

THE FUTURE: Among desert INK's exciting upcoming projects is the Sustainability Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, on which it's working with Grimshaw Architects, and Fly Dubai's headquarters.

desert-ink.com









DEWAN ARCHITECTS + ENGINEERS___
ARCHITECTURE

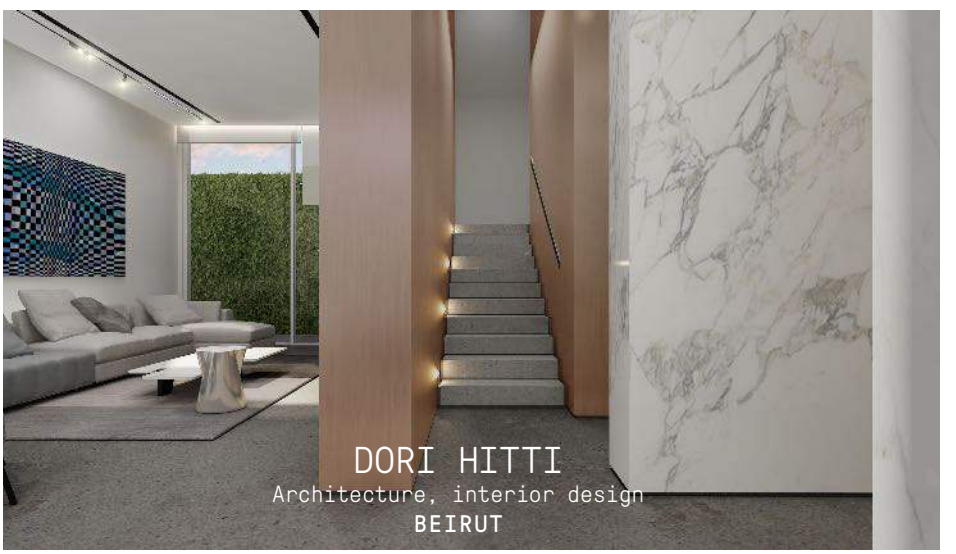
REGIONAL OFFICES: ABU DHABI, DUBAI, BAGHDAD & RIYADH

The Founder: Iraqi architect Mohamed Al Assam founded Dewan Architects + Engineers more than 30 years ago, and has grown the practice into a leading international architecture firm.

The Company: Dewan Architects + Engineers has offices across the region, as well as in Barcelona and Manila. With projects across scales and sectors, and a growing staff count, the firm continues to go from strength to strength.

The Foundation: In addition to creativity and "utilising the right people", a key to Dewan's success is its connection with the communities that it works in, and understanding the needs of the societies it designs for.

dewan-architects.com



DORI HITTI

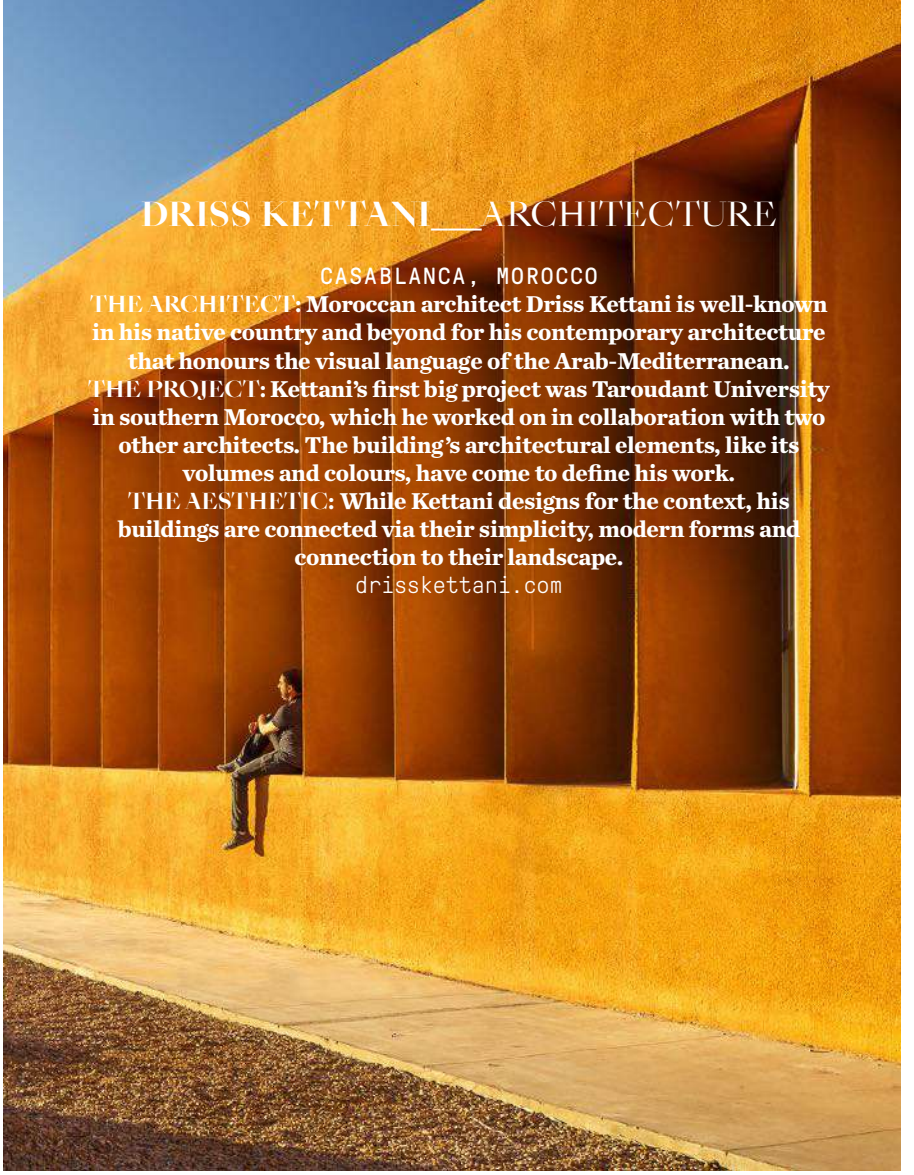
Architecture, interior design

BEIRUT

The Principal: Dori Hitti was born in Lebanon and studied design in Florence, Italy; he now does interiors projects around the world. His calm, contemporary style has graced everything from boutiques to hotels and yachts.

The Projects: Hitti's sophisticated look is showcased to dramatic effect in his design for Italian brand B&B Italia's Beirut store. His residential projects are distinct for their crisp, linear features.

DORIHITTI.COM



DRISS KETTANI___ARCHITECTURE

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

THE ARCHITECT: Moroccan architect Driss Kettani is well-known in his native country and beyond for his contemporary architecture that honours the visual language of the Arab-Mediterranean.
THE PROJECT: Kettani's first big project was Taroudant University in southern Morocco, which he worked on in collaboration with two other architects. The building's architectural elements, like its volumes and colours, have come to define his work.
THE AESTHETIC: While Kettani designs for the context, his buildings are connected via their simplicity, modern forms and connection to their landscape.

drisskettani.com

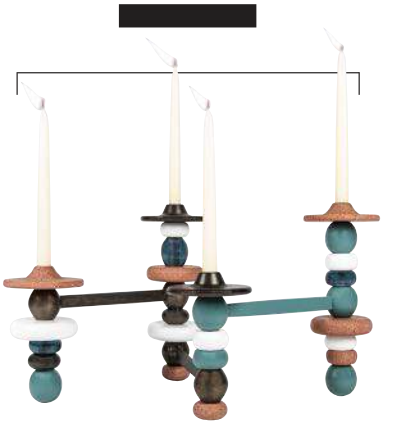


HAJIZADEH & ASSOCIATES___ ARCHITECTURE

TEHRAN

THE STUDIO: Iranian practice Hajizadeh & Associates was founded by Kourosh Hajizadeh in 2008, who was later joined by his brother Amir Hossein.
THE MISSION: The small but formidable studio addresses urban development issues across Iran, including architectural identity and lost human connections in the country's growing metropolises.
THE PROJECTS: The studio is currently working on houses in Aynevarzan and Tehran, a bookstore, and a five-star hotel in Mashhad.

hajizadehandassociates.com



FADI SARIEDDINE

Architecture, Design
DUBAI

The Designer:
Lebanese architect and designer Fadi Sarieddine founded his eponymous studio to discover "the intersections between art, architecture and design". Today, his work features bold and thoughtful designs.

The Studio:
The practice, established in 2013, delivers architecture, interiors, furniture and product design. Its multidisciplinary team of designers, carpenters and architects collaborate to create innovative designs.

FADISARIEDDINE.COM



JAFAR DAJANI___INTERIOR DESIGN

DUBAI

The Principal: Jordanian designer Jafar Dajani founded his studio in 2013, after studying architecture and interior design in the UK. His style is simple and timeless, but with playful touches that add personality.
The Vision: Dajani's love of art informs all of his designs – his combination of white walls with pops of colour echo a contemporary gallery aesthetic. He creates bespoke pieces for his interiors, giving each project a one-off feel.

jafardajani.ae



L.E.FT ARCHITECTS__ARCHITECTURE

BEIRUT

The Philosophy: L.E.FT Architects dedicates itself to exploring cultural and political dialogue through the built environment. The studio treats each project as a blank canvas, designed to respond to its unique set of challenges.

The Future: L.E.FT Architects is currently working on a range of projects from Oman to Saudi Arabia, including an artists' loft (KSA), a waterfront business park (Lebanon), and a private home (Lebanon).

leftish.net



LIGHT SPACE DESIGN__
ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN

DUBAI & LINHAI

The Practice: Headed by London-born architect Omar Abdelghafour, this multidisciplinary studio aims to bring light and space to every project – as its name suggests.

The Vision: There's a real sense of energy to Abdelghafour's work – he believes design is integral to every aspect of life, whether it be products, interiors, transport or urban landscapes.

The Project: The huge penthouse at Dubai's 23 Marina tower allows ample scope for creativity: it's furnished in homage to Surrealist artist René Magritte.

lightspacedesign.ae





LWK + PARTNERS

Architecture

DUBAI

The Practice:
Originating in Hong Kong, LWK + PARTNERS is a leading design and architecture practice with over 1,000 creatives collaborating across a network of 11 global offices.

The Directors:
The Dubai office is run by Kerem Cengiz, managing director for the MENA region, and Kourosh Salehi, design director. Together, they've worked on a range of projects across the GCC.

The Landmark:
The firm revealed its design for six urban realm projects in the UAE in 2019, including Dubai's Hanging Garden Bridge.

LWKP.COM

LW DESIGN___ ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN

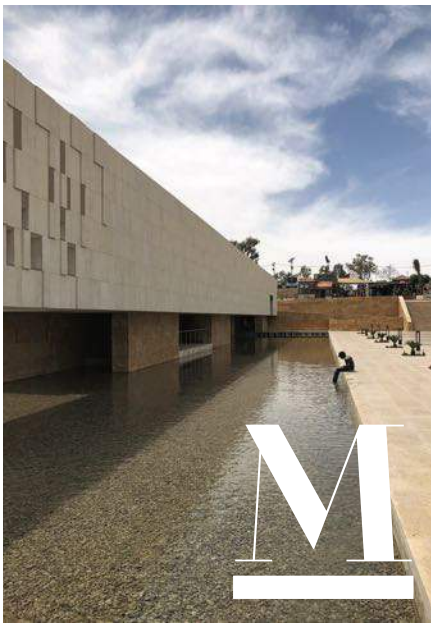
DUBAI, HONG KONG & SÃO PAULO

The Practice: Founded in 1999, this studio creates hotels, bars and restaurants that are "unforgettable experiences". Its diverse team of architects, designers and engineers work together to deliver a comprehensive service.

The Signature: Sophisticated neutrals, clean lines and opulent finishes are recurrent features of LW Design's projects.

The Landmarks: In 2018, the studio revamped Dubai's leading South American restaurant Toro Toro, using dark woods, leather and patterned textiles for a sense of exotic glamour.

lw.co



MEISA BATAYNEH___ ARCHITECTURE

AMMAN & ABU DHABI

The Founder: Founder and principal architect at maisam architects & engineers, Meisa Batayneh has led projects in architecture, planning, urban design and place branding. In 2019, she was named Architect of the Year at the Jordan Business Award.

The Concept: At the core of the company is The Design Lab, the firm's creative edge, staffed by dynamic architects who strive to produce original products for clients. Operating across the Middle East, the company also has a multi-disciplinary team of architects, engineers, urban planners, project managers, landscape designers and branding experts.

maisam.com.jo



N

NADA DEBS__ MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGN

BEIRUT

THE VISIONARY: Nada Debs' style is a reflection of her Lebanese heritage and multicultural background, which includes Japan and the US. Her work spans interior and product design, offering everything from luxe limited-edition pieces to fashion collaborations.

THE CRAFT: Debs is hands on, and brings passion to process by combining ideas and artisinal techniques from around the world.

THE PRACTICE: The designer opened her first showroom in Beirut in 2003. Today, her Gemmayzeh gallery displays her latest work alongside her collections.

nadadebs.com

NIU__ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN

DUBAI

The Principal: NIU (formerly Studioati) is headed by Italian architect Giorgio Palermo, who opened his studio in 2001.

The Philosophy: Rather than having a signature style, the studio takes an organic, multi-pronged approach. It focuses on lighting, Italian craftsmanship and industrial design.

The Projects: While private villas around the Middle East are central to the business, it also produces its own lighting range.

theniustudio.com





O

OAOA__ ARCHITECTURE

LONDON

The Practice: Founded by Jordanian architect Omar Al Omari, OAOA is an award-winning multidisciplinary practice that's designed a range of projects across the Middle East.

The Portfolio: OAOA's architectural output appears bottomless, as the firm turns out design after design. In the past year, it's delivered large and small-scale projects in Bahrain, the UAE and Jordan.

oaoa.co



P

PALLAVI DEAN

Interior design

DUBAI

The Principal:

Pallavi Dean is a real Renaissance woman: interior design professor at the American University of Sharjah, architect and founder of her own practice, Roar.

The Vision:

Roar is all about feel-good design, from its projects to its office culture, which pioneers a modern, flexitime working concept.

The Landmarks:

Roar's flagship projects include the Delano Dubai Hotel, while Dean herself creates products for Artemide and Stellar Works.

DESIGNBYROAR.COM



PAUL KALOUSTIAN__ARCHITECTURE

BEIRUT

The Principal: Harvard-trained Paul Kaloustian honed his craft at Herzog & de Meuron in Basel, Switzerland before establishing his architecture practice in Beirut in 2002.

The Design: Kaloustian's recent projects include a mountain resort in Lori, Armenia, which consists of 20 pavilion-style suites that snake through the forest.

The Legacy: Currently under construction in Beirut's Badaro district is the stepped Midori residential tower, whose vertical gardens reflect the architect's intention to fuse indoor and outdoor spaces.

paulkaloustian.com



RABIH GEHA__ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN

BEIRUT

THE FOUNDER: Lebanese-Croatian architect Rabih Geha launched his design firm in 2006, after returning to Lebanon. He also mentors emerging architects through a workshop he holds at l'Academie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts.

THE VISION: The work process between Geha and his team emphasises internal critique and dialogue in order to achieve inspiring and award-winning projects from health clubs and retail outlets to residences.

rabihgeha.com



RAMY BOUTROS__ INTERIOR DESIGN



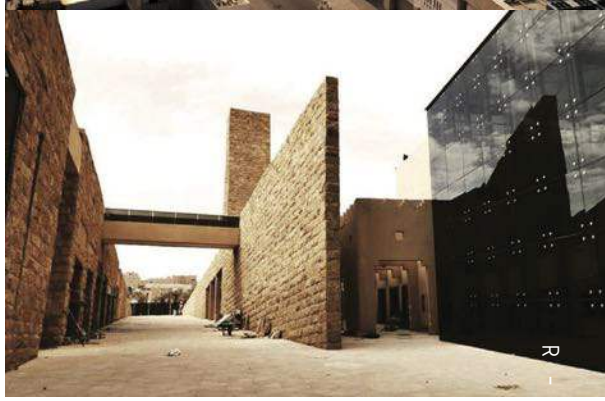
BEIRUT

THE PRINCIPAL: **Elegant, art-loving and wildly creative, Ramy Boutros is an architect of dreams. His designs reflect 'every client's soul' and always embrace a luxurious aesthetic, no matter what the style is.**

MAKING A MARK: **Visit the Em Sherif restaurants in Beirut or Dubai to get a sense of the beautiful opulence that characterises Boutros' aesthetic. The designer recently worked on a landmark hotel in Lebanon in association with Jean Nouvel, as well as a yacht interior in collaboration with Benetti.**
ramyboutros.com







RASEM BADRAN

Architecture,
AMMAN, RIYADH, ABU DHABI

The Legend:
Rasem Badran is a world-renowned architect whose work has come to define contemporary Islamic architecture. Founder of Dar Al Omran, which has built over 400 projects, Badran is a role model for younger generations of architects emerging from Muslim societies.

The Vision:
Badran's work focuses on creating a positive urban environment that encourages connection among communities. Through his designs, lectures and generous commitment to social endeavours, his value of the human experience radiates.

The Project:
Although he has won many awards across his decades-long career, perhaps his most iconic project is the Great Mosque of Riyadh, built in 1995, for which he was awarded an Aga Khan Award.

DARALOMRAN.COM

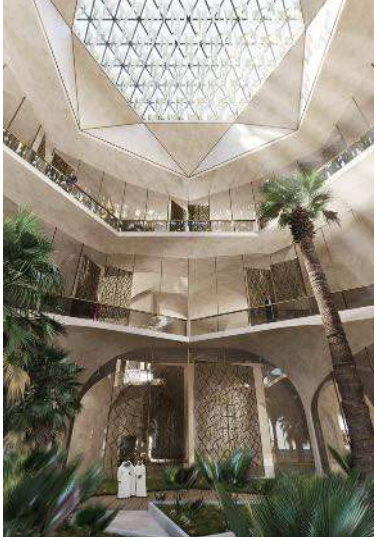
RIYAD JOUCKA___ ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN

DUBAI

The Architect: Riyad Joucka has worked in New York and Hong Kong, and lectured at several architecture schools and design events around the globe.

The Studio: MEAN*, or Middle East Architectural Network, incorporates cutting-edge technology into its process to elevate its architectural solutions. Its projects include the Audi Innovation Hub for Dubai Design Week 2018 and a ferry terminal in South Korea.

m-e-a-n.design



STUDIO TOGGLE___ARCHITECTURE

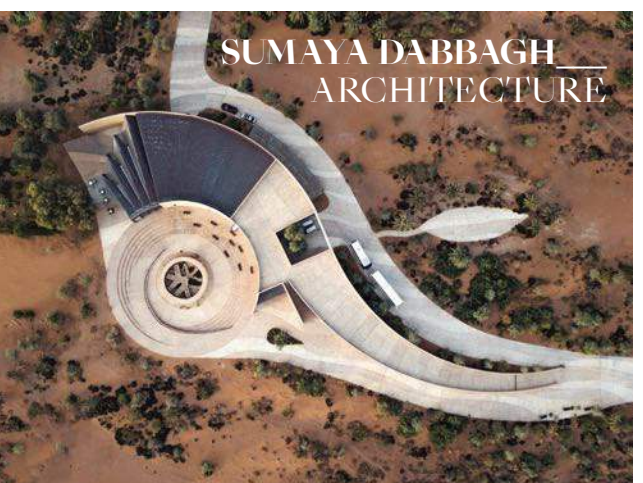
KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT AND PORTO, PORTUGAL

THE FOUNDERS: Hend Almatrouk and Gijo Paul George met while studying at Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna. Since launching Studio Toggle in 2012, they have overseen the growth of their experimental practice from two to 12. Spanning the fields of architecture and urban design, the duo advocates an architecture that combines context, technology and sustainability.

THE OUTPUT: Recent highlights include a contemporary courtyard house in Mishref, a chocolate bar in Salmiya and a temporary installation built from construction waste.

studiotoggle.com





SUMAYA DABBAGH___ ARCHITECTURE

DUBAI

The Principal: UAE-based Saudi architect Sumaya Dabbagh established Dabbagh Architects, more than a decade ago and is also chair of the RIBA Gulf Chapter.

The Project: Sharjah's Mleiha Archaeological Centre, completed in 2016, was a landmark project for Dabbagh Architects that shot the boutique studio to fame.

The Future: Dabbagh Architects is working on an upcoming museum in Al Ain, as well as projects in Saudi Arabia.

dabbagharchitects.com

S



SHAHIRA FAHMY

Architecture

CAIRO & LONDON

The Creative:

Egyptian architect Shahira Fahmy launched her eponymous studio 21 years ago. Since then, she's delivered impressively eclectic projects, while lecturing at universities around the world. Fahmy is also an actress and her creative passions often influence one another.

The Portfolio:

Fahmy's architectural work is an interesting mix of large-scale projects, cultural establishments, social responsibility initiatives and residences. In addition to winning third place in the masterplanning competition for Andermatt, Switzerland, she's also delivered the expansion for the Delfina Foundation in the UK.

SFAHMY.COM



T SAKHI__ARCHITECTURE

BEIRUT & MILAN

The Principals: Polish-Lebanese sisters Tessa and Tara Sakhi have turned their hands to everything from architecture to product design and thought-provoking installations since launching T Sakhi in 2016.

The Philosophy: The Sakhis are inspired by the emotional experience of space and have a trans-global perspective, working with craftspeople from around the world.

The Landmark: Adar, a Mediterranean restaurant in Paris, captures the duo's chic, streamlined style, with unfussy décor that reflects the raw palette of the Levantine landscape.

tsakhi.com



T.ZED ARCHITECTS___ ARCHITECTURE

DUBAI
The Studio: T.ZED Architects focuses on delivering niche, high-end architecture and interiors projects across the region and beyond.
The Founder: Tarik Al Zaharna has long worked to advance and contemporise regional architecture, and emphasises quality craftsmanship and materiality in his work. He designs projects that are informed by both a place's architectural heritage and a resolutely forward-looking vision. It invariably makes for impressive results.
tzed-architects.com



TABANLIOGLU ARCHITECTS___ ARCHITECTURE

ISTANBUL, DUBAI & NEW YORK
The Practice: The Istanbul-based, award-winning firm Tabanlioglu Architects' history spans six decades, with several iconic projects across Turkey marking its timeline. The firm is known for high profile cultural buildings, galleries, luxury hotels, mixed-use complexes, masterplans and renovation projects.
The Directors: While Tabanlioglu Architects was unofficially established by Hayati Tabanlioglu in the 1950s, it's now run by his son Murat Tabanlioglu and fellow architect Melkan Gursel.
The Vision: In addition to crafting sculptural yet functional masterpieces, Tabanlioglu Architects stays on the pulse of modern demands, and designs buildings that consider current social needs and environmental impact.
tabanlioglu.com



TALIN HAZBAR

Art, Design, Architecture
SHARJAH

The Creative: Talin Hazbar's work, which spans architecture, art and research, is deeply connected to the landscape and its materiality. Accentuating the importance of working within natural systems, her creations experiment with materials, challenging their properties and recalling natural built structures.

The Exhibition: Hazbar's latest work *Structures of Impermanence* explores a water feature found in Syrian courtyard homes, highlighting their forms and our attachment to architectural objects.
TALIN-HAZBAR.COM





WALEED ARAFA___ ARCHITECTURE

CAIRO & LONDON

The Visionary: Egyptian architect Waleed Arafa combines design with research, with the aim to understand the essence of Islamic architecture and inspire new design approaches.

The Approach: Arafa's practice focuses on finding and establishing continuity between the past and present, particularly for areas that have a long legacy of Islamic architecture.

The Landmark: His latest project, Basuna Mosque in Egypt, attracted international attention for its contextual design that respects the needs of the local community, while also incorporating elements of regional vernacular architecture.

dararafa.com



WALID SFEIR & ASSOCIATES___
INTERIOR DESIGN

BEIRUT, LEBANON

The Principals: Walid Sfeir opened his studio in 1995 and now works with his sister Gina, an antiques and textiles expert. Together, they create bespoke spaces with unique furnishings and artworks.

The Vision: The studio's style alternates between classical, modern and oriental, with ornate villas in Lebanon and Kuwait and minimal, neutral apartments in Downtown Beirut.

walidsfeir.com

WOODS BAGOT___
ARCHITECTURE

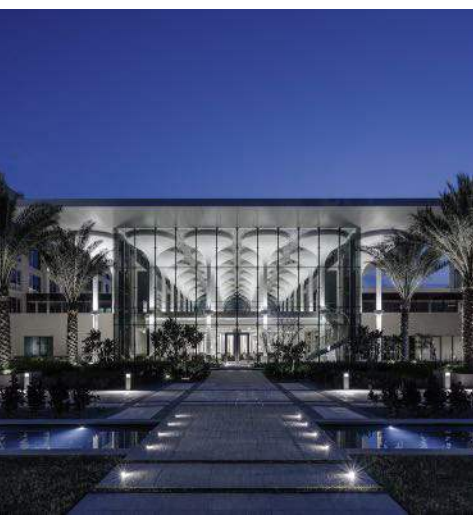
REGIONAL OFFICES: ABU DHABI & DUBAI

THE PRACTICE: A major presence in the Middle East since 2001, Woods Bagot has a global reach, with high-profile public projects like Riyadh's King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre and the Hotel Kempinski Muscat.

THE VISION: Its buildings are notable for their strong silhouettes, which often make a statement in their contexts.

THE FUTURE: At over 430 metres high, the new Chongqing Tower will transform the city's skyline. Slated for completion in 2020, it boasts a five-star hotel, apartments and offices.

woodsbagot.com





X-ARCHITECTS
Architecture
DUBAI

The Founders:
Principal architects Ahmed Al-Ali and Farid Esmaeil founded their award-winning architectural studio in 2003. Proponents of Arab culture and its translation into contemporary design, the duo are committed to bettering the region's built environment.

The Project:
X-Architects have recently received an Aga Khan Award for their Al Wasit Visitor Centre in Sharjah.

X-ARCHITECTS.COM



ZAHA HADID ARCHITECTS___
ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN, PRODUCT DESIGN

LONDON

The Visionary: The late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid's architectural vision and creativity was so unique and inspired that her firm operates more as a school of architectural thought. Drawing from the artworks of early modernism, Hadid's designs redefined what buildings could offer – and what architecture could mean.

The Company: The 400-strong Zaha Hadid Architects works across scales and sectors, creating transformative cultural, corporate, residential and other spaces.

The Trademark: 'Curvaceous' and 'sinuous' are commonly used adjectives for the UK-company's signature style, which can also be futuristic and fluid.

zaha-hadid.com