

Radar *preview*

ALL EYES ON design

Downtown Design Fair Director Rue Kothari gives AD Middle East an exclusive sneak peek into the 2017 edition

Words **RUE KOTHARI**

*The Tulum collection
by L'Objet*



Caspaïou
Design &
Interiors

Sans Souci's
Symphony
light
installation

Kobi Sledge chair by Alias

CC Tapis present
handmade
contemporary rugs

The Christie floor lamp by Nahoor

Vondom's Adan
planter

In an emerging hub like Dubai, design is crucial. It's the mechanism that underpins the growth of the creative economy. It creates infrastructure and gives rise to energy-efficient liveable cities. It's also the spine of the Dubai Design District, the inspiration for the city's burgeoning Design Week, and the reason behind the demand for fairs like Downtown Design.

Celebrating five years this November, Downtown Design has tripled in size in the last three years alone—and welcomes an even greater depth and breadth of brands from 26 nations, including iconic international names (cue Moroso, Kettal, Lladro, Axor) right through to a host of emerging regional brands. The growth in the number of furniture, lighting and textile brands is a reflection of what the market is calling for. With over 70 new brands as part of the 150-strong exhibitor list, visitors can be the first to experience innovative collections from around the world—Baccarat, Marset, Santa Cole, Sans Souci, Saint Louis and Viso

Radar preview



ART INSPIRED
VONDOM'S AFRICA
ART STOOLS AND
CHAIR BY EUGENI
QUITLET

A CITY ALIVE WITH DESIGN

DUBAI'S DESIGN COMMUNITY SHOWCASES THE CITY'S CREATIVITY. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE JUMEIRAH CONCEPT STORE O' DE ROSE'S *DESIGN IN BLOOM* EXHIBITION, A COLLABORATION WITH DESIGN AND CRAFT COLLECTIVE FROM PAKISTAN, LÉL, AND, TRIBE IN AL QUOZ'S NEWEST FAIR-TRADE COLLECTION OF FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES SOURCED FROM MORE THAN THIRTY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.

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1. The Cesta lamp by Santa Cole
2. The Diana table lamp by Santa Cole
3. Santa Cole's geometric Blanco White table lamps



will all debut, some for the first time in the region. This year, eight regional designers will showcase their products, testing their mettle with the Middle East's tastemakers. Among the new generation of local design stars is Sheikha Hind Majid Al Qassimi, who will display her unparalleled porcelain designs under the brand 'Made by Hind', while Emirati product designer Roula Al Shamsi, will present her handmade *Acacia* series.

In addition to bagging the big names, part of evolving the fair to international standards has been to liaise with some of Dubai's leading architects and designers. LSD, helmed by Omar Ghafour and Farid Noufaily, reimagined the masterplan to create a whole new format for the fair. Interior design company AAC, who designed d3's hit F&B spot Lighthouse, have worked with the restaurant to create a unique expression of the café exclusively for this year's fair. Adding a unique element for this upcoming edition, Dubai-based landscape architects Desert Ink are creating a spectacular installation that visitors will explore before entering the fair, while in the Forum space, a dynamic curated public programme dedicated to design professionals will feed architects and designers with insights, trends and key contacts. The fair runs from 14-17 November. downtowndesign.com



'Made by Hind', an Emirati brand by Sheikha Hind Majid Al Qassimi

A CELEBRATION OF REGIONAL DESIGN

Abwab returns as a contemporary snapshot of regional products and designers, within a temporary pavilion designed by UAE-based FAHED + ARCHITECTS, fabricated from recycled waste provided by environmental waste management company, Bee'ah.