



For some, it might look like a slab of golden honeycomb. Others could be reminded of a cluster of coral, ocean waves, or even clouds scudding across a twilight Dubai sky. Rising almost weightlessly from a street in the heart of Dubai Design District this November, Fahed + Architects' innovative structure will certainly turn heads. Not least because, on closer inspection, its golden pavilion for Dubai Design Week is – somewhat incredibly – made out of bedsprings rescued from a local waste management facility.

"I like the fact that such a mundane material can be the hero of this project," says its principle architect Fahed Majeed. "That's quite powerful, I think – it instils hope that we can connect the concept of recyclability to the masses. But I also hope it brings a sense of joy."

In fact, the Abwab pavilion is shorthand for the entire ethos of Dubai Design Week, which celebrates and explores the power of design in Dubai, the wider region and indeed the world. Inside the pavilion is a snapshot of designers' work from across MENASA, from Anjali Srinivasan's hot glass vessels fashioned in Dubai to Mahmoud El Dallas'

modern chairs inspired by ancient Egypt. Abwab means 'doors' in Arabic, and the whole point of both the exhibition and the wider festival is that it opens everybody's minds to inspirational design.

"We really want people to come into contact with design and designers during the week and not think they're somehow out of reach," explains Dubai Design Week's head of design William Knight. "Design has so many facets – it's about process, problem solving, how you make things work better, why you interact and come into contact with brands and buildings. It's important the week has multiple components."

Not least because it will reflect how Dubai has quickly become a vitally important city in a region that is increasingly design conscious, keen to pursue creative endeavours and also train its talent base. Majeed says his Dubai-based practice genuinely feels part of a community that is always challenging accepted norms and pushing boundaries.

So it'll be fascinating to see that burgeoning community of young talent rub shoulders with the world's best design schools in the Global Grad Show programme. It showcases everything from a stylish expanding and retracting day bag made with plastic

Clockwise from top left: Apical Reform, Ahmed Bazazo armchair, Sukun by Rana Hazim, Baccarat, Sir David Adjaye, Maysam Al Nasser





## WATCH YOURSELF

For all DDW's commitment to the futuristic, it also celebrates classic design. The humble wristwatch gets its rightful moment in the sun with Swiss watchmaker Rado's Portraits Of Design exhibition. Showcasing a collection of limited edition timepieces, the range of materials and concepts are fascinating: Sam Amoia's True Blaze is housed in plasma high-tech ceramic case, the watch hoping to "evoke a disco ball feeling on the wrist". Meanwhile, Kunihiko Morinaga's watch appears dark in sunlight yet somehow, in the absence of UV light, reveals the craftsmanship of its skeleton. Other highlights from the Rado range will also be on display.

*Ground Floor, Building 5, Dubai Design District, November 14 to 17, 10am to 10pm; November 18, 10am to 7pm*



waste at Nanyang Technological University to a remarkable, reptile-like electric vehicle for mountain sports, designed at L'École de Design Nantes Atlantique. "It's a unique coming together of some of the freshest design thinking across the world, in a very carefully curated exhibition," promises Knight.

Of course, the "Squammat" might never actually make it to mountain ranges - it's just a concept on a page right now. But there is a more commercial element to Dubai Design Week, too: Downtown Design is the connected trade show that brings a roster of established and emerging brands in fields such as furniture, lighting, textiles and kitchen design. It's a place to understand emerging trends for 2018 - quartz or rock crystal will start to make its way into furniture design, promises one exhibitor, Timothy Oulton - and also connect buyers and designers.

And with a huge range of workshops across the week and the largest programme of talks Dubai Design Week has ever undertaken - featuring the likes of hugely influential architect Sir David Adjaye and Pepsico's chief design officer Mauro Porcini - there's plenty for everyone to enjoy. Including the exciting - inspirational, even - Abwab pavilion. What does Fahed Majeed

hope his creation will achieve after Dubai Design Week is over?

"Well, the whole thing goes back to the junkyard," he laughs. "And honestly, that makes perfect sense. Architecture for me has gone beyond creating spaces - it's about engaging and interacting with people. And the beauty of this is that everything we use can be recycled." 