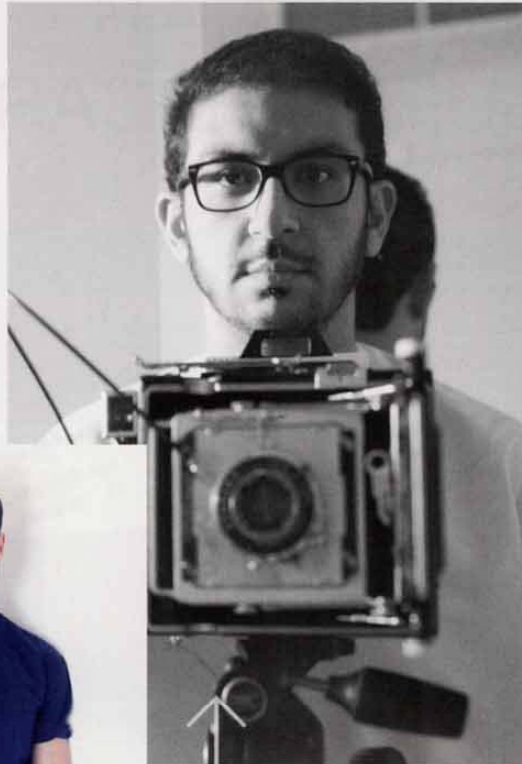


The trend-setters

THE MEN SHAPING THE REGION'S DESIGN CHARGE
BY MATTHEW BAXTER-PRIEST

The recent advent of design talent across the Middle East has made it one of the most interesting regions in the world for upcoming talent. With heavy emphasis of contemporary adaptations of classic Arab design, there is a wave of young and creative designers who are continuing to push boundaries. *Esquire* picks out the main contenders exhibiting in Dubai at this month's Downtown Design. **E**



KHALID SHAFAR INTERIOR DESIGNER

As one of the pioneers of modern UAE design, Shafar's work has really come to define what it means to view Arab heritage through a modern aesthetic. Having opened his design studio in 2011, the humour and obvious cultural references in his furniture design has made his style not only highly respected, but instantly recognisable. His recurring use of design inspired by the date palm has seen him have installations in both the UAE and in London, as well as collaborations with Italian design brand Kartell on special limited edition pieces. khalidshafar.com



AMMAR AL ATTAR PHOTOGRAPHER

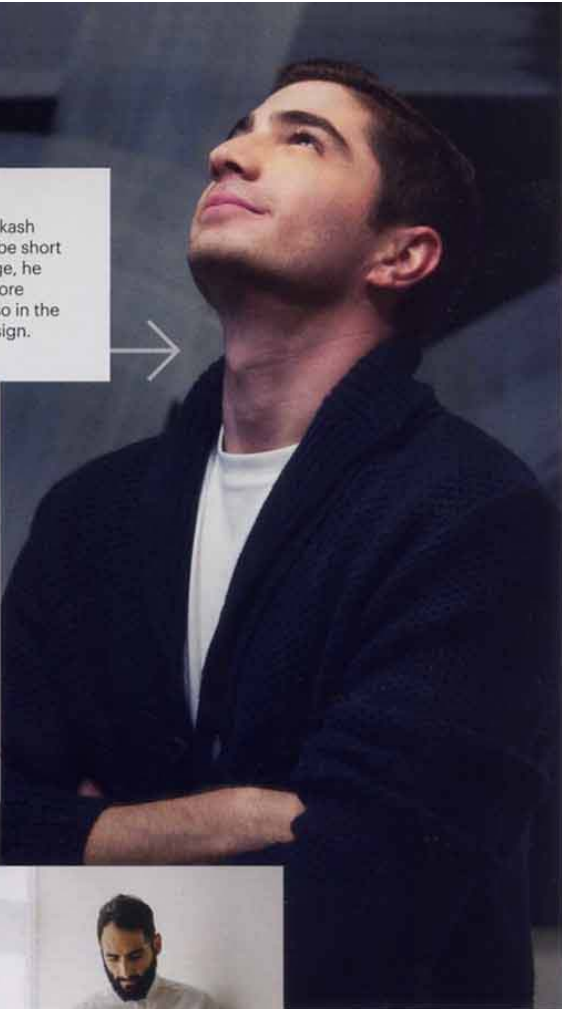
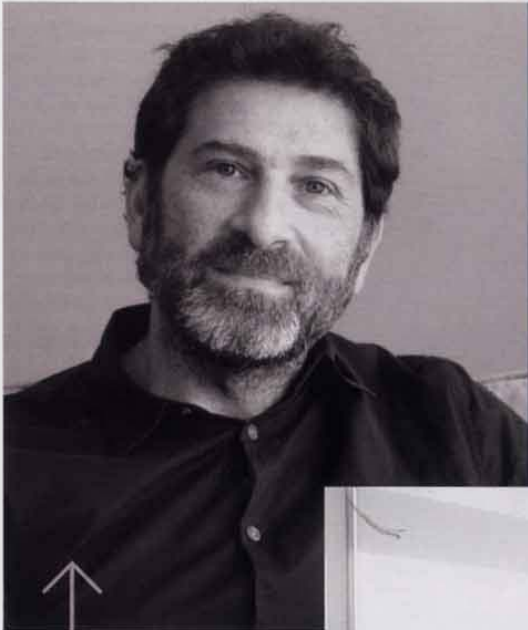
A photographer and mixed media artist, the Ajman-based Al Attar prides himself on being completely self-taught. Choosing to focus on his Emirati culture, Al Attar's work attempts to document and translate aspects of Emirati ritual, material culture, and geographic orientation that are increasingly illusive in a globalised society. His work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions within the UAE and Gulf; has been recognized with an A.i.R residency and various prizes; and is held in prestigious public and private collections throughout the Middle East. ammaraattar.com

AHMAD BAZAZO ARCHITECT

Growing up as part of the post-war generation that watched Beirut boom, the war-scarred streets heavily influenced Bazazo's work to convert dilapidated buildings into creative projects. The Lebanese architect, recently set up "Studio A" by Ahmad Bazazo, as a multidisciplinary design practice which focuses on creating unique spaces and pieces that are inspired by that tricky east-meets-west notion. Bazazo tries to challenge traditional design by applying modern materials and techniques, and creating bespoke pieces that reject fast-paced design, by focusing instead on the spaces that they encompass. ahmadbazazo.com

OMAR NAKKASH
INTERIOR DESIGNER

With his father, Wajih, having founded the regionally influential Nakkash Gallery, it's fair to say that Nakkash the younger was never likely to be short of design inspiration growing up. An art enthusiast from an early age, he would go on to study at both Parsons in New York and in Milan, before combining his skills with his father's experience, and his sister's (also in the field) creativity to essentially become the region's first family of design.
nakkashgallery.com



FADI SARIEDDINE
ARCHITECT

If there was any evidence that a person's environment shapes who they are, it is in the work of Fadi Sareddine. The Lebanese architect lived through the war, where he witnessed a football stadium become a refugee camp, a chair used to reserve parking a spot and a tire defying its original purpose to become a road block. Now, his personal history, coupled with knowledge of design dictates a transformative and multi-purpose aspect to many of his products, while always remaining practical.
fadisareddine.com



Downtown Design,
November 14 to 17,
Dubai Design District, Dubai.
Part of Dubai Design Week
downtowndesign.com



TARIK AL ZAHARNA
ARCHITECT

Having a clear design philosophy is all part of an architect's calling card. For Al Zaharna of T.Zed Architects, that calling card is to create spaces and products that have a focus on sustainability, local culture, ecology, and personal wellbeing. His latest project KOA, in Dubai's sustainable Al Barari area, is a shining example of the city's future development.
tzed-architects.com