

IN THE KNOW

Discover the latest launches, collaborations and happenings in the design world



LOVE ME

Master British sculptor Richard Hudson has left his heart in Downtown Dubai. The artist's three-dimensional, mirrored-steel LOVE ME heart sculpture, which first appeared in The Dubai Mall in February 2018, has been recreated on a much larger scale. The new LOVE ME heart, Emaar's latest piece in a growing community art portfolio, is so big that it had to be transported in pieces to its new permanent home and assembled onsite. At a height of five metres and equally wide, LOVE ME has a depth of 3.8 metres and weighs over 7,000 kg. Described by Hudson as 'all-encompassing in its symbolism of love and peace – and an icon image that crosses all boundaries,' this structure resonates with people from all walks of life. The impressive organic sculpture has been skilfully positioned in Downtown Dubai to reflect the sky-high Burj Khalifa on its mirrored steel surface and is sure to be an Instagram favourite.



KNOT HOME & HARF NOON DESIGN STUDIO

UAE-based interior designer Nisrine Moghraby has expanded her Dubai-based boutique studio to launch the Harf Noon Design Studio Collection, a selection of accessories, cushions and lighting exclusively for online retail brand Knot Home. The range features products in ochre yellows and blues embellished with accents of gold with luxurious finishes in a variety of sleek, stylish, modern designs suitable for home or office décor. Cushions in premium fabrics, sculptural elements in metal and marble, trinket boxes, modern bookends and hand-blown glass lighting are among the new collection's items.

● knothome.com



NEW DOTCOMS FOR DESIGN

Check out these new online portals for design lovers



MAIOLICA.AE

Maiolica is a newly launched e-commerce platform for handmade Mediterranean homeware featuring the style that dates back to the Renaissance period. The online store takes its name from Italian tin-glazed maiolica pottery, often decorated in colours on a white background, sometimes depicting historical and mythical scenes. Founded by Dubai-based Italian duo Marianna Piccolo and Arianna Posenato, Maiolica offers beautiful authentic products for the dining table from artisans in Italy and Portugal.

HELMII + HOUSE OF HAWKES

Helmii, the UAE's first online customised furniture store, has collaborated with interior designer Kathryn Hawkes, founder of House of Hawkes, to design and manufacture a stylish new bed with removable covers for the entire frame. Offering versatility in design from a traditional upholstered headboard, these easy to exchange washable and dry-cleanable covers offer great new options. The launch collection is in a limited edition range of colours. The soft, washable, textured linen and cotton blend covers are available in off-white, beige, grey and dark grey, while the polycotton dry-clean-only covers are available in cream, parchment, stone, grey, turquoise and sorbet pink. Founder of helmii Simon Moore said: 'We love the colours selected for the launch range and are already planning the next collection, which will offer a completely different mood and feel, incorporating some beautiful velvet options in deeper colours.'

● helmii.com/pages/design-your-own-bed



Clay bead chandeliers handmade by women in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa

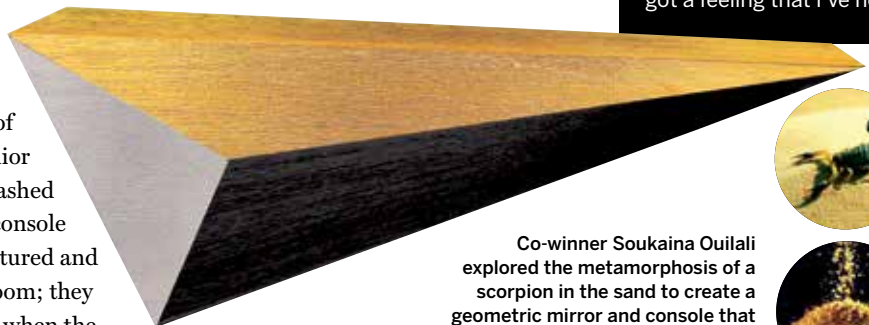
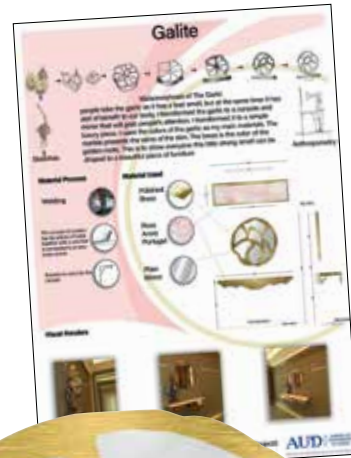
HAUTEBOHÉME.AE

Haute Bohème is a new online boutique with a curated collection of high-end bohemian and luxe island-style home décor sourced from crafters around the world.



WINNING DESIGN

Homegrown UAE luxury retailer Interiors launched an exciting opportunity for design students at the American University of Dubai (AUD), inviting them to create a piece of furniture for the retailer with a competition to inspire their creations. 'The competition arose because we wanted to encourage and motivate interior design students to design furniture that we could manufacture and promote in our showroom,' says Raed Dibs, general manager, Interiors. 'We were very happy with the submitted designs and felt most of them contained innovative ideas particularly because this competition was included as part of the curriculum at AUD, where the students had to present dimensional metamorphosis in design – a concept that starts with a specific shape and develops freely into a piece of furniture. We shortlisted 10 students who presented to a jury of AUD professors and Interiors' senior management.' Winners Zein Al Nashed and Soukaina Ouilali designed a console and a mirror that will be manufactured and showcased at the Interiors showroom; they will also receive 20% commission when the piece is sold. Runner-up Ayah Maklad designed a table and received an internship with Interiors.



CO-WINNER ZEIN AL NASHED

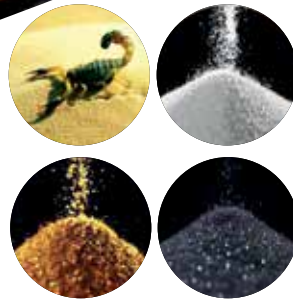
What does interior design mean to you? Interior design allows me to get creative in order to solve a problem. The idea that interior design is ever-changing makes it interesting.

What was your inspiration to design this product? The design itself was a transformation that was inspired by a section of garlic, which goes to show that you can find inspiration from the simplest of objects.

What did you enjoy most about the design process? I really enjoyed all of it, but the thing that was most amazing to me was the sketches that led me to many different designs, until I ended up with my final piece. This demonstrated to me the importance of each small detail around us.

How do you feel about the finished product and winning the competition? I'm so grateful and proud of myself. I was very happy with the final product, so to win the competition was an honour for me. I got a feeling that I've never had before.

Co-winner Soukaina Ouilali explored the metamorphosis of a scorpion in the sand to create a geometric mirror and console that embraces the black, silver and golden hues of the sand.



RUNNER-UP AYAH MAKLAD



What does interior design mean to you? I have always been passionate about creating interior spaces and furniture that people can benefit from and use efficiently. My aim is to transform spaces to create better working and living environments.

What was your inspiration to design this product? My inspiration was the star in a supernova state (explosion). The process of a star exploding is analogous to dancing. Referred to as a gravitational dance, gases swirl and collide, exploding the star into different entities. Similarly, dancing is the physical movement of two humans who swirl and collide with different emotions.

What did you enjoy most about the design process? I enjoyed sketching the transformation from a star in the universe to humans dancing, then to a furniture piece. It was interesting to see how creative I could be with the metamorphosis; in my case, from the vast universe to a coffee table!

How do you feel about the finished product? I put in so much effort in to every stage, so seeing the jury include my furniture piece in the top two made me feel proud and confident to take on future challenges. I'm grateful to Interiors for this competition and challenging us to think of design production. ■



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