

Sheikha Latifa's braided sofa, presented by Tashkeel.

# DESIGN RULES DUBAI

## *the 2014 roundup*

*With more than 12,000 visitors across five days, the best international galleries showcasing the biggest names in design, world exclusives and a huge party to top it off, this year's event was a hit. BAZAAR Interiors looks back on everything from the outrageous to the timeless.*

Words by PRATYUSH SARUP



10/100/1000 design booth. Below: Raneem's final piece for 10/100/1000.



**FOCUS ON THE UAE** In addition to Tashkeel presenting the works of three emerging Emirati designers, with Sheikha Latifa and her braided sofa in electric yellow stealing the show (see opposite page), FN Designs, the brainchild of Sheikha Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum presented 10/100/1000. "Our objective is to promote art in the Middle East making it accessible to all by creating a more design-centric social community through innovative and collaborative events. What connects artists is a passionate need to transcend

the limitations of their lives to express their ideas," said the Sheikha.

Under the programme, ten regional designers created one original design piece each – in a limited edition run of 10 pieces each with every piece being sold at \$1000 at Bloomingdale's Home Dubai.



**ALL THAT GLITTERS** From the stunning matte-gold lily-shaped candle stands by Beirut-based Art Factum Gallery to a burnished gold cutlery set by Italy's Erastudio Apartment-Gallery, the precious metal left an indelible mark at the 2014 show, boldly reflecting the buoyant global mood. The Corian topped coffee table with a calligraphy-inspired metal inlay, presented by Naqsh Design House from Jordan presented a muted expression of the luxe trend while Tokyo-based Clear Edition & Gallery went all out to wow Dubai with its dramatic gold tableware, encrusted with pearls and semi-precious stones.



A collection of mirrors.

**THE FRENCH CONNECTION** Introducing a new section, Design Days Dubai in association with the Institut Français in the UAE presented four new French galleries to the international design community. Ymer&Malta, Galerie Gosserez, NextLevel Galerie and Galerie S. Bensimon presented fresh and upcoming designers from the world's design capital. While Galerie S. Bensimon's split level tables by Ilia Potemine were much loved for their minimal approach, Gallery Gosserez presented the individual showcases in blown glass and carrara marble. Think curios shop-style quirk re-defined for 2014.



Bensimon pixel tables, by Lila Potemine

**LIFE ACCORDING TO INDIA** BAZAAR Interiors Editor in Chief, Rue Kothari, introduced the Paris-based designer and architect India Mahdavi as part of the Public Programme. Her talk, 'My Life In Design' gave design lovers a rare peek into India's creative world – one full of vibrant colours and rich textures. "I feel that the role of a designer is to question things. A good designer questions space, programmes, function – and it can be at any scale or level. Once he questions, a designer answers from his or her own personal viewpoint. At least that is what I do." We could not agree more.

**THE CHERRY ORCHARD** *We knew Tom Price's Cherry Tree installation would be a hit, but we didn't expect it to light up social media platforms the way it did. Visitors were bowled over by its sheer beauty and spent considerable time being photographed under the faux branches. Realising this stunning beauty was composed of the humble polypropylene pipe left everyone awe-struck. If there were one definitive image of this year's show, it would be Tom Price's plastic wonderland.*



Tom Price's Cherry Orchard Tree installation, that lit up the entire space



Left: Pierre Leron Lesur's "Sylvistructure" coffee table, by Victor Hunt. Below: A take on contemporary VS classic at the Carpenters Workshop Gallery. RIGHT: Love seat inspired chair, by London & Paris for Carpenters Workshop Gallery.



**UPSCALED LUXE** After they blew us away with their beautifully synchronised Time Dubai clock installation last year, Brussels-based Victor Hunt Design Art Dealers did a 360-degree turn presenting Pierre's Leron Lesur's lyrical exploration into 'Sylvistructure'. A coffee table designed to reveal the natural beauty of old pieces of wood found on country paths held its own against the gallery's better known, technology driven masterpieces. The French gallery Ymer&Malta paid ode to the fallen tree with a glass topped table, designed to spark the debate on deforestation.

**TAKE A SEAT** Chairs were the stellar choice this year. Industry Gallery stayed true to its name, presenting a collection of the Meltdown Chairs by Tom Price. Dubai based J+A Gallery's black mirror-work chair was stunning in its stripped-down refinement just as Carpenter's Workshop Gallery shocked with its bandaged love seat. A playful lounge inspired by a spinning top, presented by designers from the international Algerian Agency for Culture Outreach shone new light on their traditional weaving technique.



**ECO-SENSIBILITY** Almost as an emotional response to the state of our planet, there was stress on eco-sensitive design at DDD2014 as Elaine Ng Yan Ling, a graduate of London's Central Saint Martin's, and founder of Fabrick Lab in Hong Kong, presented the installation Climatology: Respired Wooden Skin. Through their live performance, Flow Stone, Chen Chen & Kai Williams created vessels with their ingenious dripping cement technique: one vessel a day, each one 36 inches tall, in an attempt to highlight the process of natural recycling.



Chen Chan and Kai Williams, Flow Stone.

Right: Guests at the event celebrating the success of our own Design Week in Dubai



The Carpenters Workshop Gallery booth.

**CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY** At the heart of this year's show, the standout in its gilded suite, was Carpenter's Workshop Gallery showcasing works by design legends Studio Job, Maarten Baas, Frederik Molenschot and of course Rick Owens who was on hand to present his alabaster pieces. Studio Drift presented a new interpretation of their much-in-demand lighting installation, Fragile Future, as classical furniture was juxtaposed against the most contemporary pieces. Given the collective wattage of its designers, it is easy to forget the gallery started its life in 2005, in a former carpenter's workshop, an old industrial space amid Chelsea Gas Works. Parisian entrepreneurs and art devotees Loic Le Gaillard and Julien Lombraill opened a second gallery in Mayfair in 2008, bringing bold and iconic collectors pieces to the historic area. Straddling the lines of design and art, the

founders' instinct for the next big design movement quickly garnered a reputation for the gallery in the hallowed corridors of design-art investment. Demand for their growing prowess led to a new outpost in the 4th Arrondissement of Paris in 2011. Both Loic and Julien are known for their uncompromising vision and a flair for recognising and nurturing talent. They have created a portfolio of artists with diverse backgrounds and practices, each bringing something unique to the creative table. The Gallery aims to empower their artists to create freely – and in that, it remains true to its founding principles, not compromising taste or quality in favour of immediate commercial success. A veteran at Design Days Dubai, Carpenters Workshop Gallery has created a loyal following amongst the regions' discerning design class, each year presenting a richer, more diverse show with their ironic take on some well-loved classics.

Demakersvan's Cinderella Table



**AND THEN WE PARTY** *With the world's hottest design talents in the house, BAZAAR Interiors, in association with The Qode, Dubai Design District and Carpenters Workshop Gallery celebrated at The Meydan Hotel's super slick rooftop club, White Dubai. Guests literally danced until dawn while everyone got a glimpse into the future as the D3 development lit up the horizon. What a way to end an incredible week!*