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INSIDE OUT

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Taste of Arabia

These bright and cheery handleless cups bring a Middle Eastern flavour to your morning tea break.

Arabic coffee cups, Silsai, Dh40 each



MURANO MAGIC

Made in Italy using ancient techniques perfected by the skilled glassmakers of Murano, the Hyades lamp is available in matte grey (pictured) or gold leaf.

Armani Casa Hyades lamp, Finasi, Dh12,183

With a Twist

If you're looking for a contemporary way to add interest to walls, this metallic sculptural wall decor is a real talking point.

Linear Curve wall decor, Al Huzaifa, Dh1,710



Deco Design

Hark back to the glamour of the 1920s with this fabulously retro brass side table.

Bowie side table, Zen Interiors, Dh9,555



SHARON PARSONS
Editor

'These trapezoid Nada Debs trays make even TV dinners a stylish occasion'

Vintage handmade trays, Cities, Dh535 (small), Dh738 (large)

TEXT BY CHARLOTTE BUTTERFIELD



A DECADE IN DESIGN
 THE RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE NADA DEBS' 10TH YEAR IN DESIGN WILL SHOWCASE BOTH HER ICONIC CREATIONS AND UNVEIL HER NEW LIMITED-EDITION PIECE, THE DJSTORT ARABESQUE CHAIR.

A LIFE IN DESIGN:



Nada Debs

The Lebanese furniture and accessories designer expresses her love of craft

You are celebrating a decade in design, how would you define this time?

Over the past 10 years, I feel I've been able to change the mindset of the people in the Middle East by taking their heritage and their craft and modernising it.

The Dubai design scene has evolved enormously in that period – how would you describe that evolution, and how has it felt to be part of it?

I think that with the awareness of art and design, people have become much more design savvy and knowledgeable.

Various exhibitions and events such as Design Days Dubai and Downtown Design have helped accentuate the importance of design to the public.

For me, showcasing and exhibiting in Dubai has been extremely important. Through craft, people have been able to feel the soul in my work.

You've experimented with mother-of-pearl inlays, wood and, more recently, cement in your V&A exhibit. What is your favourite material and what's next?

I love wood because it is a live material, and not one piece is the same as another. I like to play around with wood using treatments such as staining and acid treating.

I'd like to expand on the materials I've used in my designs by applying new craft and techniques, and adding materials such as brass, stone and terrazzo.

You are showing a new limited-edition piece at Design Days. Can you tell us about that?

It's called the Distort Arabesque Chair. It's a play on one of my iconic pieces that is stretched in an undulating form, making it into a lounge chair.

What kind of designs can we expect from you in the future?

I want to make people much more aware of the beauty of handmade products and highlight the importance of craft. I would like to push the boundaries and create more contemporary pieces that will be desirable. I truly believe we have a lot of beautiful craft that needs to be appreciated.



FIVE DESIGN DAYS HIGHLIGHTS

There's so much to see at this event. Here are a few of the best in show...

1 The sustainable designs of South African designer David Krynauw are a beautiful blend of contemporary styling with traditional craftsmanship. The eight-lamp chandelier, Haywire in Black Ash, is presented at the show by Southern Guild.

2 The organic sculptural forms of Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid are on display around the fair; London-based David Gill Gallery is showing her Liquid Table while a new series of vases will be presented by Wiener Silber Manufactur (see Final Edit, page 130).

