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B O H O

A GUIDE TO THE MIDDLE EAST'S
MOST SOPHISTICATED CITY

BY SHIRINE SAAD

B E I R U T

For Narda,
 Thank you for
 keeping Beirut
 inspired!
 Love ♡
 Shirine

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NADA DEBS
A NEW DESIGN AESTHETIC

Nada Debs grew up in Japan, attended the Rhode Island School of Design, then moved to London, where she worked as a designer for several years. When she moved back to Lebanon in 2000 she realized the design scene needed more creativity. She combined the practicality of the Japanese zen aesthetic, the American “form follows function” and the British love for craftsmanship for her line East and East. Working with local craftsmen and traditions, she created a new Middle Eastern design aesthetic, inspiring several emerging designers to follow her lead. Her now world-famous creations combine ornamental Arabic patterns and colors with Zen or modernist forms. Precious wood tables are subtly inlaid with mother of pearl cherry blossom designs; Arabesque patterns are hand carved into the wood of armchairs; brightly hued stools are inspired by the shape of the oriental drum. For those who prefer sleeker designs, Debs’ Contemporary collection is pure minimalism – the Pebble, a series of steel oval coffee tables in different sizes and tones, have become cult classics. Debs continues to travel to design fairs, where she mentors the new generation of Arab designers, helping them develop and promote their work. Debs has showrooms in Saifi Village and a boutique in Zaitunay Bay. Moukhalisieh Street, Saifi Village. Tel. 01-999 002, nadadebs.com

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Jac Karamant

Ac/D