



Nadine Labaki

Conquers Cannes

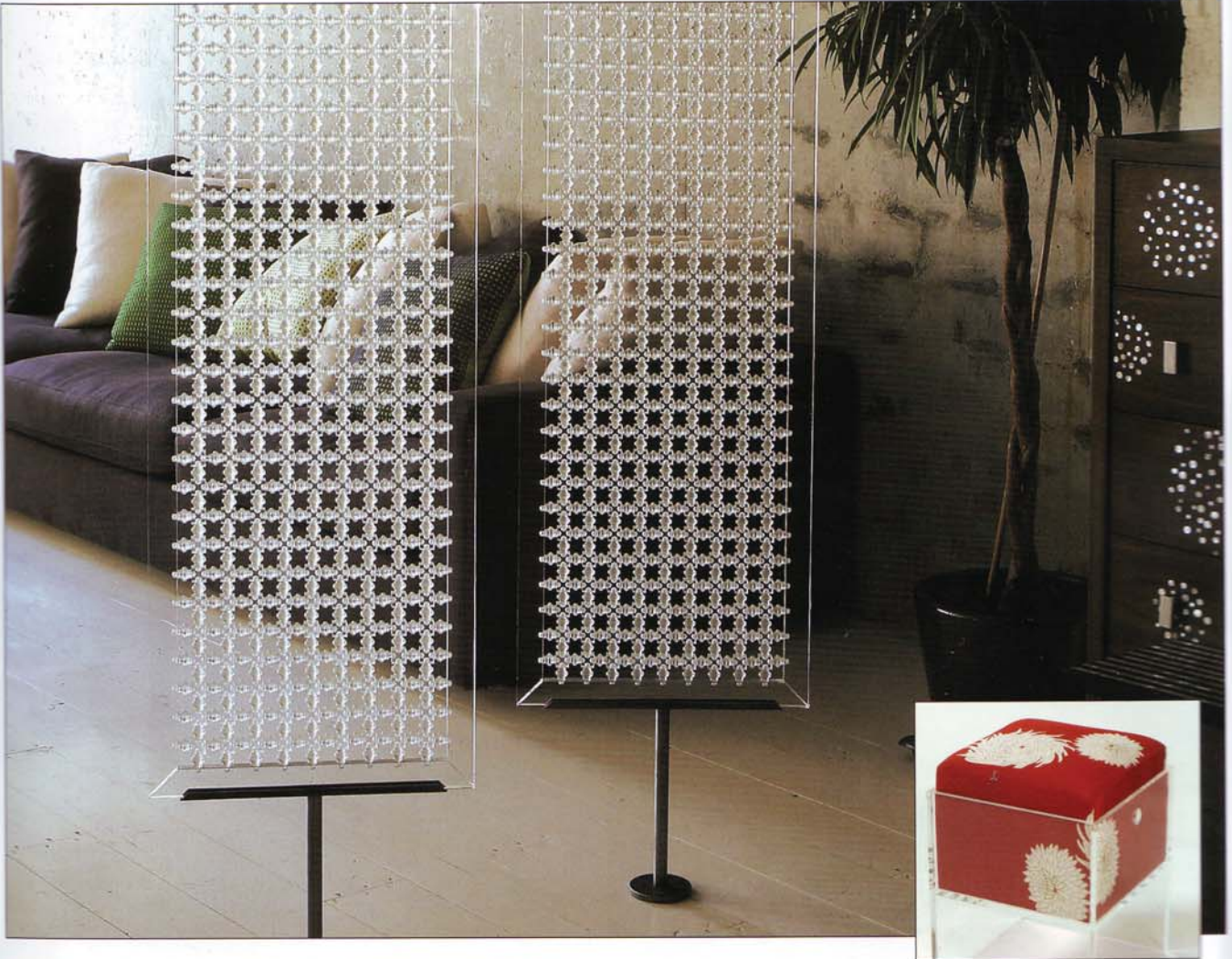
Cut and run

Is plastic surgery too easy?

Body Amr

Fashion on the offensive

**PLASTIC
FANTASTIC**



Nada Debs Lifestyle: Where the Far East meets the Middle East



Describe your designs in a few lines

I'm a furniture designer based in Beirut, I take the crafts of the Middle East and readapt them to a more contemporary style.

How long have you been around?

I started five years ago. I was brought up in Japan, studied in the USA, worked in the UK and then came to Beirut. I opened a showroom in downtown Beirut three years ago. I am now opening a new showroom for interior design. The first showroom will become more for home accessories.

What inspires you?

People and their needs inspire me, I start by thinking of how I can adapt my designs to meet their requirements. This is my biggest challenge, and the more difficult the client, the bigger the challenge!

Why is design so important in today's world?

Design is important to me because we associate it with many things... social, environmental and psychological. For me, especially in the Arab world, we have forgotten how beautiful our craftsmanship is.

What's your favourite material to work with and why?

I use a lot of mother of pearl in wood. But as I have become introduced to new materials, I have started to using mother of pearl in plexi-glass, concrete and more technically modern materials.

Who do you cater your designs to?

My market is generally the new generation of well-travelled Arabs. But my main aim is to eventually reach the masses.

What's your favourite piece and why?

Although I design a lot of pieces, I have several pieces which I consider my better ones, such as the Coffee Bean Table, Floating Stools and my Plexi-Glass Mousharrabiyeh.

What are your plans in terms of design?

I plan to brand my products and create a line of furniture using my concept of East & East – a fusion of Middle Eastern crafts with the minimalism of the Far East.

What advice do you give young designers today?

Believe in yourself and your culture. Look at what we are made of, our history. We have a lot to offer to our children and the world but I feel that we have been neglecting our positive points, let's concentrate on them. Let's look at what we need, not what we want, and you will find that you can design a lot of interesting pieces...

Can you imagine what the next big design item will be?

I would like to collaborate with different manufacturers in the Middle East – such as glass, ceramic tiles, porcelain and office furniture – we have an industrial world which is not being looked at from a design point of view. My next big design item would be floor tiles in concrete and mother of pearl! You'll see it in my new Nada Debs LifeStyle showroom.

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