

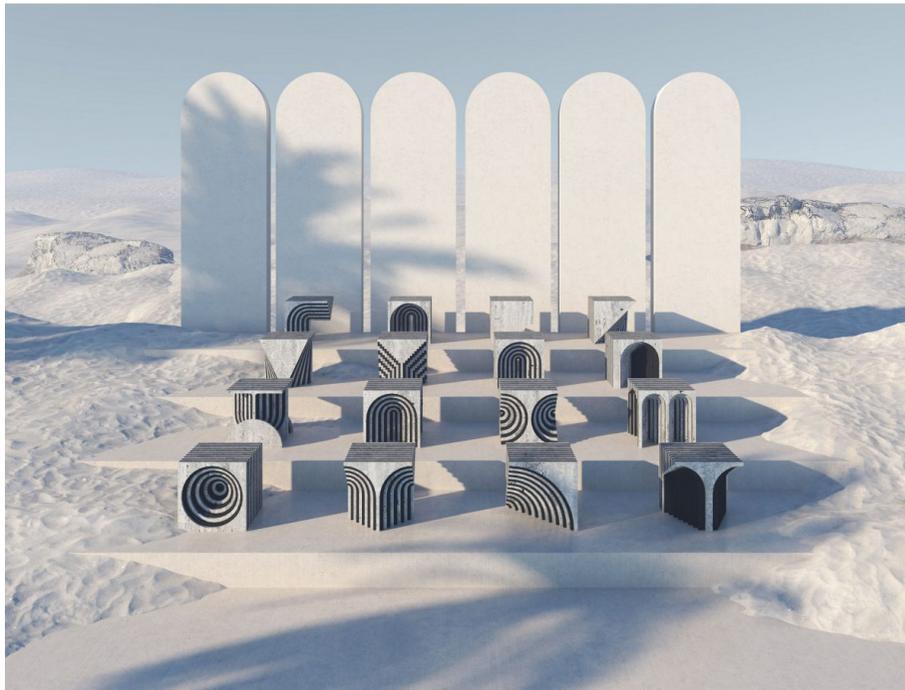
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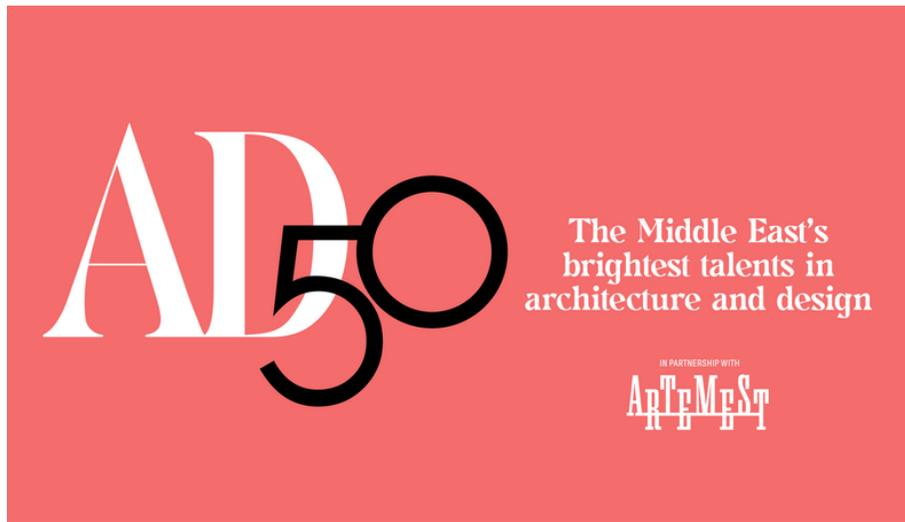
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# 2021 AD50 Revealed

Ingenious, resilient and expertly balancing modernity with the Middle East's multi-cultural landscape, meet the designers on our annual AD50 list!

by Amy Bradford, Kieron Marchese and Pratyush Sarup. Banner image: *Flowing Fragments* by AD50 designer Richard Yasmine





A celebration of the diverse voices that make the Middle East one of the most exciting design destinations, AD50 is the only list of architecture and design talent that matters. These are the names to know now.

**Agata Kurzela Studio**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Dubai*



This Poland-born designer launched her studio in summer 2020 and has over 20 projects on the go in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and France. These include hotels, restaurants and beach pavilions for a villa in Abu Dhabi. Kurzela champions craftsmanship, emerging technologies and computational design. The Shadow Box installation for Dubai Design Week 2020 showcased her keen eye for materials, lending a dynamic newness to familiar design elements. [kurzela.com](https://www.kurzela.com)

### **AGi Architects**

*Architecture*

*Kuwait City, Madrid*



Harvard-educated architects Joaquin Perez-Goicoechea and Nasser B Abulhasan established the studio in 2006. Innovation and environmental integrity are at the heart of this innovative practice, which undertakes everything from interiors to landscape design. Alongside private villas, malls and hybrid developments in Kuwait, the studio recently completed the transformation of 18 archaeological sites in Galicia, Spain, restoring lost native vegetation into a 'natural museum'. [agi-architects.com](https://www.agi-architects.com)

### **Aline Asmar d'Amman**

*Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture*

*Beirut, Paris*



The Beirut-born designer views architecture as a source of beauty, and is influenced by art and fashion. She founded her studio Culture in Architecture in 2011. Asmar d'Amman's designs focus on craftsmanship and connect the past with the present in a meaningful way. New projects include the Rosewood Venice hotel, opening in 2023 in the 15th-century Palazzo Dona Giovanelli. Asmar d'Amman is restoring its opulent interiors and adding a contemporary twist. [cultureinarchitecture.com](http://cultureinarchitecture.com)

### **Aljoud Lootah**

*Product Design*

*Dubai*

Trained in graphic design at Dubai Women's College, Lootah launched her studio in 2015. She's fascinated by geometric shapes, which dominate her origami-esque pieces. Lootah experiments with materials, including porcelain, stone and camel leather. Her Medkheneh scent diffuser, created by the famous Moser glassworks, is a masterpiece in crystal glass. Modern interpretations of Islamic heritage are a recurring theme for Lootah, as with her new Takya stools, based on traditional low seating. [ajoudlootah.com](http://ajoudlootah.com)

**AMA**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Dubai, Hong Kong*

Working predominantly on mixed-use projects and luxury villas, AMA has completed commissions across the Middle East and Europe. Innovation is a passion: the studio uses emerging technologies in its designs, including 3D-printed components. Its buildings often have a futuristic feel, featuring complex geometries. Dubai Harbour is set to be transformed by AMA's new Harbour Master building, whose soaring winged roof will be a crowning moment for Dubai's newest oceanic development. [ama.design](http://ama.design)

**Ammar Basheir**

*Interior Design*

*Bahrain*

Trained in London, Basheir is now a champion of Bahraini craftsmanship. He has worked extensively with Sheikha Mai, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities, on global event installations. A lover of fashion, Basheir's interiors exude flair when it comes to colours and materials. The Nuzul Al Salam Hotel in Muharraq is a historic villa that Basheir has restored with a colourful, contemporary look inspired by The Epic of Gilgamesh. [ammarbasheir.com](http://ammarbasheir.com)

**Anarchitect**

*Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture*

*Dubai, London*

British architect Jonathan Ashmore founded the studio in Dubai in 2013, and prioritises form, function and refined design details. Anarchitect's timeless style is on show at the Al Faya Desert Retreat and Spa in Sharjah, a re-imagination of a 1960s building. Anarchitect has two hotels under construction: the Harding Boutique Hotel in Ahangama, Sri Lanka (opening later this year) and the Heart of Sharjah (opening 2022). [anarchitect.com](http://anarchitect.com)

### **Azaz Architects**

*Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture*

*Riyadh, Madrid*

Architect Shahad Alazzaz founded her studio in 2017, and combines refined contemporary design with sustainability. The practice prides itself on its 360-degree approach, and takes on a diverse range of commissions, from modern villas to retail and public art projects. Recent successes include the Elixir Bunn coffee shop in Riyadh, a revival of a disused building featuring a modern twist on Islamic arches, clad in mud plaster. [azazarchitects.com](http://azazarchitects.com)

### **Binchy and Binchy**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Dubai, London*

Design director Jennie Binchy creates buildings that are in harmony with their environment. Trained at London's Bartlett School of Architecture, she opened her studio in 2015. Binchy's polished, contemporary style is evident at Dubai restaurant Trouville, with its French-Arabic-inspired, tile-and-copper interior. Coming up for the practice are a residential complex in Sharjah and new products in stone, a follow-up to the Sadu Totem object collection of 2020. [binchyandbinchy.com](http://binchyandbinchy.com)

**Bone**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Dubai*

Founded in 2018 by Achraf Mzily and Natalie Mahakian, up-and-coming studio Bone creates everything from coffee bars to homes and landscape designs. The duo seeks to 'eliminate excess', focusing instead on earthy materials, multipurpose spaces and simplicity. Following the success of La Petite, a nature-bound café in Abu Dhabi, Terra, their new project in Dubai, is reminiscent of a lush courtyard, with a hypoallergenic raw earth finish. The studio is also working on several new projects in hospitality, residential and industrial design. [bone.studio](http://bone.studio)

### **Brand Creative**

*Interior Design, Graphic Design*

*Dubai*

Led by creative director Carla Conte, this studio creates immersive experiences, from impactful interiors to striking brand identities. Brand Creative's portfolio includes fashion boutiques, cafes, spas and homes; it collaborates with artists and original thinkers. Dubai Mall houses a new store design for skincare brand Izil. Its white tadelakt interior is inspired by the homes of Morocco's Amazigh tribe. Conte is also developing her concept hotel, Morox, in Ifrane, Morocco. [brandcreative.net](http://brandcreative.net)

### **Carl Gerges Architects**

*Architecture*

*Beirut*

Already an accomplished musician, Carl Gerges is one of architecture's most exciting new names, opening his studio in 2020. Harmony is vital to Gerges, both with nature and with the past. His designs strive to be at one with their surroundings. Villa Chams in Baalbek, Lebanon, is a modern-day temple. The house's stone and concrete structure embraces its mountainous surroundings with minimal impact on the landscape. [carlgerges.com](http://carlgerges.com)

## **Cebra**

*Architecture*

*Abu Dhabi, Aarhus*

This multidisciplinary studio is led by four Danish architects: Mikkel Forst, Carsten Primdahl, Kolja Nielsen and Mikkel Schlesinger. Its HQ in Abu Dhabi opened in 2015. Cebra values 'people-friendly' architecture: projects with cultural impact such as libraries and parks. The Al Musallah prayer hall, adjacent to Abu Dhabi's historic Qasr Al Hosn Fort, is a cave-like structure surrounded by a contemporary park with jagged, rock-like forms. [cebraarchitecture.dk](http://cebraarchitecture.dk)

**David/Nicolas**

*Product Design, Interior Design*

*Beirut*

Beirut duo David Raffoul and Nicolas Moussallem opened their studio in 2011, after meeting as interior design students at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts. They've since worked with global brands including Moooi and CC-Tapis. The pair describe their style as 'retro-futuristic', combining influences from East and West. Recent projects include Verso, a hybrid seating/storage collection in velvet and oak for Pierre Frey; and Glyph, a graphic, hand-embroidered wallcovering for de Gournay. [davidandnicolas.com](http://davidandnicolas.com)

**Dori Hitti Architects**

*Architecture, interior design*

*Beirut*

Trained as an interior designer in Florence, Hitti is known for his understated, contemporary style, characterised by clean lines and subtle colours. Hitti's studio takes on a wide range of commissions, from luxury villas to boutiques, hotels and yachts. As well as residences in Riyadh, Beirut and Paris, Hitti is creating a penthouse for Dubai's Platinum Tower; and architecture, interiors and landscapes for the Pearl Qatar, a new residential island in Doha. [dorihitti.com](http://dorihitti.com)

**F&R Partnership**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Cairo*

Husband-and-wife duo Ahmad Fayyad and Malak Rashad established their studio in 2010 and design both residential and commercial buildings, with a focus on wellness, positive energy and indoor-outdoor living. The couple describe their aesthetic as minimalist. Their Maadi Villa, an adaptation of a 1950s building, is as pure and serene as a Mondrian painting. Projects under construction include El Condos in Cairo, a high-quality affordable housing project and modern rendition of a mosque. [fipartnership.com](http://fipartnership.com)

### **Fadi Saredine**

*Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design*

*Dubai*

Founded in 2013, Fadi Saredine's multidisciplinary studio offers a new perspective on traditional Middle Eastern design via unexpected materials and technologies. He explores the links between architecture, art, interiors and product design. Inspired by local pearl-diving heritage, L'Ecole Van Cleef and Arpels jewellery school occupies Dubai's hai d3 container complex and features elegant linen canopies. In Dubai's Business Bay, Saredine has also created the modern-retro Bo Barbershop. [fadisaredine.com](http://fadisaredine.com)

### **Foster + Partners**

*Architecture*

*Abu Dhabi, Dubai, London*

One of the most regarded names in architecture, this studio has 14 international offices and is known for ground-breaking sustainable projects. The House of Wisdom in Sharjah, UAE, reimagines the library for the 21st century as a social and cultural hub. Its floating roof and bamboo screens flood the space with light. Foster + Partners is masterminding a brand new city south of Kuwait. South Sabah Al-Ahmad City will be home to 280,000 people when completed in 2040. [fosterandpartners.com](https://www.fosterandpartners.com)

**Gatserelia**

*Architecture, Interior Design, Landscape Design*

*Beirut, Milan*

Established in 1985 by Gregory Gatsrelia and his brother Alexander, this studio's projects boast refined materiality and unexpected details. Gatsrelia considers every aspect of design, from interiors to furniture and statement art. A recent highlight is the Dubai outpost of restaurant L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon (with two more to follow later this year, in Marrakech and Cyprus). It features an outdoor room with oversized chandeliers and a spectacular open kitchen. [gatsrelia.com](http://gatsrelia.com)

**Grimshaw**

*Architecture*

*Dubai, London, New York, Paris, Sydney*

Founded by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw in 1980, this firm focuses on sustainability and the beauty of construction. High-profile recent projects include the Sustainability Pavilion for Expo 2020 Dubai. Its complex structure draws inspiration from natural processes like photosynthesis, servicing the pavilion by capturing energy from sunlight and fresh water from humid air. Among other projects, the studio is working on the 420 hectares Oman Botanic Garden which will be one of the largest in the world. [grimshaw.global](http://grimshaw.global)

## **H2R Design**

*Interior Design*

*Dubai, London*

Hasan and Husain Roomi, UK-born brothers with Middle Eastern heritage, put their stamp on a wide range of commercial projects, including bars, restaurants and boutiques. Dubai's hip Rove at the Park hotel is the setting for their latest project which features a mosaic-tiled bar and themed lounge areas to encourage socialising. Dessert café Chunk in Riyadh is another recent project, with a modern, minimal design in black, white and neutrals. [h2rdesign.com](http://h2rdesign.com)

## **Hany Saad Innovations**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Cairo*

Egyptian architect and interior designer Hany Saad founded his studio in 2003 and is known for expressive, experimental designs featuring mixed materials and dynamic forms. Among Saad's 800-plus completed projects are luxury villas, malls and hotels. As part of New Cairo's regeneration, Saad is designing the Garden 8 Mall, a retail complex inspired by the sinuous infinity symbol. It also incorporates lush contemporary gardens. [hsi-eg.com](http://hsi-eg.com)

**Hozan Zangana**

*Furniture, Product Design*

*Amsterdam*

Iraq-born Zangana studied at Amsterdam's Gerrit Rietveld Academie and Design Academy Eindhoven. His sculptural designs are shaped from intuition. Zangana's desert-inspired, socially distanced Fata Morgana installation graced Dubai Design Week last November. It consisted of public seating and seven pillars built from copper and rammed earth. His sculptural objects marry material exploration with languid forms. The designer's next exhibition, at Amsterdam's Tropen Museum, is inspired by Kurdistan's Sinjar mountains, which sheltered the Yazidi people escaping ISIS. [hozanzangana.com](http://hozanzangana.com)

## **Lrnce**

*Product Design, Interior Design*

*Marrakesh*

Belgian-born artist Laurence Leenaert is one of the design world's brightest stars. Her colourful ceramics, textiles and furniture are reminiscent of abstract art. Painterly ceramic vases and lighting are among Leenaert's latest products, and she's recently staged an exhibition of her paintings at the Cadogan Contemporary gallery in London. Leenaert's Marrakesh hotel, Soleil d'Amour, is set to open in 2022. She's designed the interiors and all the furnishings. [lrnce.com](http://lrnce.com)

## **LW Design**

*Architecture, interior design*

*Dubai, Denmark, Hong Kong, Sao Paulo*

Founded in 1999, LW Design's award-winning hotels, bars and restaurants span Asia, the Middle East, Africa, South America and Europe. Headquartered in Dubai, it has created some of the region's most highly-anticipated projects including the Dubai Edition, which is slated to open in late 2021. A mastery of finishes defines the studio's approach. In October, LW will also unveil Abu Dhabi's latest Indian restaurant Zeera, using light woods, vibrant textiles and a complementary mix of marbles and metallics. [lw.co](http://lw.co)

**Majed Harasani**

*Architecture, interior design*

*Jeddah*

Majed Harasani trained in London and New York, where he worked with high-profile practices, including Skidmore Owings & Merrill and Perkins & Will, before opening his own studio in Saudi Arabia. A boutique practice with an intimate approach, MHA mostly works on very exclusive private residential projects. But, Harasani's ambition is to design more public buildings and iconic structures that stand the test of time. Harasani brings a contemporary spirit to design inspired by his international experience. [majedharasani.com](http://majedharasani.com)

**Nabil Dada**

*Interior Design*

*Beirut*

Founder of Dada & Associates, Nabil Dada has earned a reputation for bringing together varying styles, periods and cultures. His latest, a family home with expansive views of Jounieh Bay in Beirut, illustrates his highly sought-after cross-cultural fluency, which has defined interiors in Europe, the Middle East and China. Whilst Dada has always designed unique pieces for his projects, he is looking forward to developing his first stand-alone furniture collection with son Tarek. [dada-associates.com](http://dada-associates.com)

**Nada Debs**

*Product design*

*Beirut, Dubai*

Born in Lebanon, raised in Japan and educated in the United States, Nada Debs' approach to interior and product design is as multi-cultural as the designer herself. Beyond nostalgic preservation, Debs translates tradition into something energetic and alive, as is the case in 'Transcendence', a collection of prayer carpets engaging female weavers in Afghanistan. Following the restoration of her Gemmayzeh gallery in Beirut, Debs has opened a Dubai outpost focusing on bespoke furniture with a modern twist. [nadadebs.com](http://nadadebs.com)

**Niu**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Dubai*

Founded in 2001 and formerly known as Studioati, NIU is headed by architects Giorgio Palermo and Elena Gregorutti. The studio aims to bring the principals of Italian craftsmanship to every aspect of their work. As well as an extensive portfolio of luxury villas featuring precious marbles and natural stone, NIU's recent projects include a tunnel-like cafe in Dubai, which attracted attention for its use of space, lighting and bold combination of Middle Eastern and Italian references. [theniustudio.com](http://theniustudio.com)

**Omar Nakkash**

*Interior Design*

*Dubai*

Omar Nakkash cut his teeth at his family's acclaimed design gallery in Dubai, before moving to Milan to study interior design at the Scuola Politecnica di Design. In 2015, he founded his own multidisciplinary practice, Nakkash Design Studio. Nakkash is currently working on several projects that illustrate the studio's human-centred approach, including: the Amzan Café & Bookstore in Sharjah and two residential projects in Dubai's prestigious Al Khawaneej neighbourhood. [nakkashdesignstudio.com](http://nakkashdesignstudio.com)

**Pace Kuwait**

*Architecture*

*Kuwait*

Founded in 1968, Pace Kuwait is one of the region's leading design practices with a 700-strong team united by a vision to make the world a better place. Its growth goes hand-in-hand with the development of Kuwait City as the studio continues to work on ground-breaking architecture and urban projects in the Gulf nation and around the GCC. When complete, Kuwait's new Palace of Justice will be one of the largest judicial developments in the Middle East. [pace-mc.com](http://pace-mc.com)

**Paul Bishop**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Dubai*

Paul Bishop is a seasoned interior designer with a philosophy rooted in creating cutting-edge interiors and championed by his multi-award winning eponymous studio. The studio's eclectic style is in demand everywhere from the Bahamas to Dubai, where it recently completed SLS' first hotel in the region. Among Bishop's upcoming projects are several hospitality ventures in Saudi Arabia and an airport lounge at Dubai International Airport, on which the studio is working with Jumeirah hotels. [wearebishopdesign.com](http://wearebishopdesign.com)

### **Qeblawi Brooks**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Dubai*

Across the UAE, India and Nigeria, Fouad Qeblawi and Daniel Brooks create unique and exceptional residential and commercial projects. Founded in 2015, their studio blurs boundaries between architecture, interiors and landscaping, a vision for well-being that was reaffirmed by the global pandemic. Now, more than ever, they are focused on creating spaces that offer both emotional and physical sustenance. The studio's latest villa in Dubai is a sleek, contemporary structure filled with natural light and appointed with fine, natural materials. [qeblawibrooks.com](http://qeblawibrooks.com)

### **Rabih Geha**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Beirut*

Alongside simultaneously mentoring the region's next generation of talent at l'Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts, Rabih Geha founded his multi-award winning Beirut studio in 2006. Reflecting on new experiments, the global pandemic has emphasised the importance of flexible schemes and what Geha describes as 'the survival of the most adaptable.' Celebrating the famed industrial aesthetic of Beirut's iconic bunker-style club, B018, Geha is currently working on launching its new Dubai outpost. [rabihgeha.com](http://rabihgeha.com)

**Richard Yasmine**

*Product Design, Interior Design*

*Beirut*

Lebanese designer Richard Yasmine celebrates his country's artisanal heritage combining it with a soupçon of surrealism. Collaborating with artisans and embracing new technologies, his work often addresses social issues. Yasmine's Flowing Fragments collection upcycles offcuts of sedimentary and basaltic stone to create furniture inspired by classic architectural elements. Equally striking is After Ego, a series of hybrid objects made from foam, lightweight concrete plaster, acrylic and clay. [richardyasmine.com](http://richardyasmine.com)

**Roar**

*Interior Design, Product Design*

*Dubai*

2020 saw a number of successes for ROAR studio. Its founder, Pallavi Dean was named 'Designer of the Year' at the inaugural AD Design Awards and the studio's white papers exploring design's changing landscape garnered international interest. An early advocate of biophilic design, many of its projects borrow from nature: the SensAsia spa, for instance, draws colour and texture from an earthy palette. The studio is working on an innovative prefab hotel in Abu Dhabi, as well as adding to Sharjah's well-considered restoration projects. [designbyroar.com](http://designbyroar.com)

### **Saccal Design House**

*Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design*

*Beirut, Kuwait*

Sister duo Nour and Maysa Saccal set up their Beirut studio in 2014, starting with product design before quickly mastering interiors and architecture of both residential and commercial buildings. Inspired by memories of place, smell and texture, their philosophy is simple; design should engender action, reaction, and above all, emotion. As well as adding pieces to its nostalgia-induced objects collection, Saccal Design House is working on projects in Kuwait, Lebanon and Syria. [saccaldesignhouse.com](http://saccaldesignhouse.com)

### **Sahel Al Hiyari**

*Architecture*

*Amman*

Sahel Al Hiyari is an urban theorist, painter, architect and founder of his award-winning Amman-based practice, SHA. He has long contributed to architecture through design and academia; his accolades interdisciplinary and his aesthetic bold and vital. SHA aims to produce architecture of excellence regardless of scale, budget or location. The studio recently completed the Barghouti House in Amman's Dabouq district, a brutalist structure embedded in the local topography. [sahelalhiyari.com](http://sahelalhiyari.com)

**Sayar & Garibeh**

*Interior Design, Product Design*

*Beirut*

Stephanie Sayar and Charbel Garibeh set up their studio in 2015. Following a successful run of design fairs, the duo fast gained international interest with their happy, anthropomorphic objects. Staying true to their experimental nature, as well as rebuilding in the aftermath of the Beirut explosion, the pandemic and a resource shortage, Sayar and Garibeh work with local artisans to create new work. The duo is working on an interior project in the Lebanese capital filled with bespoke pieces tailor-made to their environment. [sayargaribeh.com](http://sayargaribeh.com)

**Shaikha Al-Sulaiti**

*Interior Design*

*Doha*

With a decade-strong experience working on high-end projects, in 2018, Al-Sulaiti founded Designer Studio, a Doha-based creative practice specialising in luxury residential and hospitality interiors. Alongside steering her practice, Al-Sulaiti also serves as Senior Interior Design Manager at Msheireb Properties, overseeing the realisation of Doha Design District; a purpose-built creative hub in the heart of Qatar's capital that aims to accelerate the country's creative economy. [designer-studio.com](http://designer-studio.com)

**Shaun Killa**

*Architecture, Urban Design, Master Planning*

*Dubai*

As design director of Killa Design, the architect guides the studio towards delivering environmentally sustainable and contextually inspired solutions. Challenging form, function and tech, the practice is committed to designing eco-conscious buildings that will positively impact communities. In addition to developing a new resort by the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia, the studio's most anticipated work, the Museum of The Future, which is slated to open this year is already a global landmark. [killadesign.com](http://killadesign.com)

**Sibyl Design Studio**

**Architecture, Interior Design, Graphic Design**

**Riyadh, Jeddah**

Founded in 2016 by two Saudi female architects, Meaad Hanafi and Rahaf Al-Muzaini, the multi-disciplinary studio is driven by their passion for challenging the status quo – both cultural and urban – with a carefully considered, humane approach to design. The duo offers holistic solutions – from architecture and interior design to brand identity – elevating the user experience. The studio is currently working on an array of retail, wellness and private residential projects in KSA. [sibyl.design.co](http://sibyl.design.co)

**Studio Toggle**

*Architecture*

*Kuwait, Porto*

Established in 2012 by architects Hend Almatrouk and Gijo Paul George – they met at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna – the practice views architecture as a tool for problem-solving, both for the individual as well as the community. With a multi-cultural studio, the practice is committed to celebrating differences – cultural, linguistic, religious or philosophical. The result is a robust, contemporary portfolio enriched by diverse perspectives and projects that, whilst conceived in Kuwait, apply to a broader landscape. [studiotoggle.com](http://studiotoggle.com)

**Tariq Khayat Design Partners**

*Architecture, Urban Planning*

*Dubai*

With over 20 years of international experience, including a stint at Zaha Hadid Architects where he led several of ZHA's seminal projects, in 2019 Tariq Khayyat founded his practice in Dubai. Combining research with pioneering innovation, the studio delivers architectural solutions that add value to the built environment and uplift communities at large. Khayyat recently broke ground for a project that will offer a new model of mixed-use development in the UAE. Also in the works is a 1.2 million-square-meter master plan in the heart of Shenzhen, China. [tkdp.one](#)

**T Sakhi**

*Architecture, Product Design*

*Beirut, Venice*

Lebanese-Polish sisters Tessa and Tara Sakhi seek to marry occidental-oriental inspiration with the human condition to deliver emotionally resonant experiences and objects. The duo collaborates with creatives and artists from diverse cultures, provoking innovation and greater understanding. Combining Venetian Murano glass with recycled metal threads and powder, their latest collection of tableware celebrates the cultural similarities between two Mediterranean regions: Lebanon and Italy. [tsakhi.com](http://tsakhi.com)

**Vera Dieckmann**

*Interior Design, Product Design*

*Dubai, Hong Kong*

Having worked at renowned international firms and global hospitality groups, Dieckmann established XO Atelier in 2018 to combine her passion for interior design with art and product creation. Her product development projects include collaborations with leading makers such as Preciosa, Nemo and TecnoSpa, for whom she has designed an adaptive workspace solution. Dieckmann's ability to marry interiors with artistic gestures is evident at Dubai's latest hotspot, The Grey café, where a namesake ombré palette is injected with rippling gold and silver. [xo-atelier.net](http://xo-atelier.net)

**Walid Sfeir & Associates**

*Architecture, Interior Design*

*Beirut*

Sfeir established his design studio in 1995 and in 2006 his sister Gina joined him, bringing with her a wealth of experience in antiques and furniture. The studio is known for creating luxurious spaces with unique furnishings, artworks and fine details that effortlessly bridge cultures and time. The duo is currently working on a Parisian residence; looking out to the Jardin des Champs-Élysées, the project is a nuanced mix of contemporary and French classical influences. [walidsfeir.com](http://walidsfeir.com)

## **XArchitects**

*Architecture*

*Dubai*

Ahmed Al-Ali and Farid Esmaeil, both strong proponents of Arab Culture and its translation into contemporary design, founded X Architects in 2003. Since then, the studio has amassed a diverse portfolio ranging from social housing to cultural projects. As part of the ongoing conservation of Dubai's historic creek side, the studio is working on a 'Welcome Pavilion' in Shindagha district. Situated between traditional mud houses, the pavilion is designed as an open plaza with shifting walls and architectural elements inspired by dhows. [x-architects.com](http://x-architects.com)

**Yasmina Makram**

*Interior Design, Product Design*

*Cairo*

Makram launched her eponymous studio in Cairo in 2016, and over the years has successfully established a thriving atelier working on interiors and products inspired by Egypt's rich heritage. With an eye for interpreting traditions and cultures for contemporary living, her refined artistic expression carries hints of mid-century modern sensibilities. Decked in white, Makram's latest, a summer home in the Egyptian seaside enclave of Deyfa, offers a fresh update on the artisanal design codes of Mediterranean architecture. [yasminamakram.com](http://yasminamakram.com)

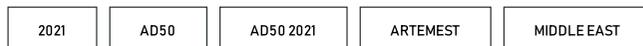
**ZAV Architects**

*Architecture*

*Tehran*

Founded in 2006, the studio strives to redefine the role of an architectural practice beyond pre-defined limits of functional or aesthetic influence, to having socio-political and economic-cultural agency. ZAV's method involves eviscerating the underlying principles of western modernity and contextualising them to one's own cultural circumstances. In this process, materials and construction techniques are re-invented, recycled or up-cycled. 'Presence in Hormuz', the multi-coloured colony of earthen domes off the west coast of Iran is a bright and bold manifestation of ZAV Architects' unique brand of design activism. [zavarchitects.com](http://zavarchitects.com)

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