

AD

MIDDLE EAST
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST • GENIUS DESIGNS • INSPIRING ART • LUXURIOUS HOMES

TRENDS 2016

CHIC,
BOLD,
Romantic

ART
WORLD
STARDOM
*The list of
who's who*

+

MASTER
COLOUR
LIKE A PRO
WITH PAINT,
WALLPAPER
AND TEXTILES

HIGH VOLTAGE

FUN-TASTIC HOMES IN SHARJAH, MEXICO AND PARIS



BIRDS *flying* HIGH

Five talented UAE based designers take charge to stop the obviation of the Ras Al Khor Industrial Area. Their unexpected muse? The flamingo

Words **RAQUEL MARTINS** Photography **RICHARD HALL**



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act: Dubai is all about innovation, welcoming the birth of new creative hubs that are orchestrated to embrace the ever-growing design industry. But sometimes, for the sake of progress, we end up neglecting the not so hyped-up areas that played a central role in Dubai's economy. Ras Al Khor Industrial area could be a lost cause if five leading UAE based talented creatives – Khalid Shafar (product), Khulood Thani (fashion), Nadine Kansa (jewellery), Tarik Al Zaharna (architecture), and David O'Brien (food design) - didn't hold hands to draw attention to the potential of this location.

Named Design Ras Al Khor (DRAK), the collective design initiative was one of hottest topics of Dubai Design Week, attracting to Kasa - Shafar's headquarters - journalists and design enthusiasts. "We presented five projects that respond to the annual topic DRAK puts under the spotlight", explains Khalid Shafar. "Our inaugural subject took an environmental path shedding light on a key element of Dubai's creek, the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary. Abundant with food and vegetation, it hosts many species, including the famous flamingo. This was a platform for research that has inspired projects from different areas, that share the same design language".

Applauded by the community, DRAK plans to grow annually by covering different areas of design involving more design practitioners, and becoming a movement that encourages research, innovation and material exploration, culminating in the crowning of Ras Al Khor as one of Dubai's creative districts.

MR. & MRS. FANTEER
BY KHALID SHAFAR

"This humorous side cabinet references the flamingo, known in the UAE as Fanteer. With a body made of American maple wood, the pieces feature an artistic flamingo eye, a catchy detail, hand painted by a commissioned artist, taken from a real picture of the bird's eye. The pieces stand alone as fun and functional objects that also work as decorative art pieces."



< DRAK MENU
BY DAVID O'BRIEN

"Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary is rich of food and vegetation for the many species that live there. We designed a menu with a strong focus on flavours and spices from The Middle East and we have drawn reference from the indigenous species and diet of the migrating flamingos and other significant birds. Dishes include a dry roasted prawn, with chilli and coconut on a birds nest slaw and grilled quail with pomegranate-orange BBQ sauce with quinoa and shredded kale tabouleh. The dessert included a Flamingo carrot cake with cucumber icing and a mouth-watering White chocolate-cardamom panna cotta with orange compote."



THE CITY & THE BIRDS >
BY NADINE KANSO

"As I had my first visit to the Wildlife Sanctuary back in June, the first thing that captured my attention was not only the birds, but the buildings in the background. The delicate flamingos were there as if they were dropped from the sky, in a serene but dramatic composition. My gold handmade cuff features pink and blue sapphires and it is just as beautiful worn as it is displayed as a piece of sculpture."



FEED ME. COLOUR ME
BY KHULOOD THANI

"This project is focused on the colouration cycle of the greater flamingo - which the sanctuary is famous for - in a semi-theatrical dress. Flamingos are white when they are little and their colour changes due to what they are fed on. The designed piece's construction is based on the flamingo's body shape with a fully embroidered face. The focus is on its back and its wings which have LED lights that will reflect shades of pinkish red representing the mentioned colouration process."



THE ATARAXIA
BY TARIK ZAHARNA
(T.ZED ARCHITECTS)

"My focus was the variety of experiences that the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary offers its users as well as its inhabitants. The built installation is an intensification of some of these elements, recreated and modified to be experienced on a more 'contained' scale. Layering of backgrounds and foregrounds, vistas, reflections and vegetation are the primary and determining factors of the pavilion. Users are persuaded through architectural moments and gestures to seek and explore."



Jan Hrysz, Aida Abbasova, Martin Fryzelka and Andreas Klug



Drak co-founder Nadine Kanso

Ana Lima and Michael Vandeurs



Flame-Ingo by Khalid Shafar

RSVP

AD cocktail celebrating Dubai Design Week and Drak design initiative

AD MIDDLE EAST DESIGN WEEK COCKTAIL

The celebrate the first Dubai Design Week, AD hosted an elegant cocktail at Cut by Wolfgang Puck, the new hot stop of the city's gourmand scene. Feasting with signature cocktails and canapes, guests also toasted to the success of Drak, a design initiative that aims to promote the Ras Al Khor region. Inspired by the wildlife of this traditional Dubai location, co-founders and leadings UAE artists Khalid Shafar, Nadine Kanso, Khulood Thani, and Tarik Al Zaharna created site-specific installations, with the support of Macrame. To finish in style, guests were offered AD's Royal issue and beautiful Amouage gifts.



Lolwa Alradwan

Karina Dobrotvorskaya



Michael and Lauren Arnold



Mr and Mrs Fanter by Khalid Shafar



The Ataraxia by Tarik Al Zaharna

Drak co-founder Tarik Al Zaharna

Right: The City and the Birds, by Nadine Kanso
Below: Feed Me, Color Me by Khulood Thani



Ambassador Jaime Leitao and Eduarda Monteiro Grilo



Manuel Arnaut



Pallavi and Yash Bhargava

Drak co-founder Khulood Thani



Ayman Fakoussa



PHOTOS: LESTERA PUNTA

