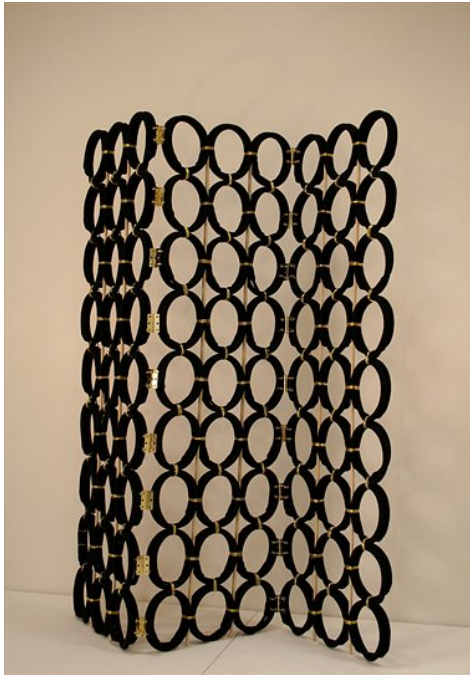


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DUBAI

KHALID SHAFAR

about 2 weeks ago

The Emirati designer spearheading local furniture design

Text by Simone Sebastian

While Dubai continues to be a healthy consumer of high-end design, the city can still only claim a few homegrown designers of its own. Leading the pack (and the relatively young scene) is the Emirati object and furniture designer, **Khalid Shafar**. *Satellite Voices* caught up with the Dubai/New Zealand-based designer to dissect his process.

Satellite Voices: How would you describe your design aesthetic?

Khalid Shafar: Simple lines mixed with rich details and fine materials are the hallmarks of a Khalid Shafar object. It's a revival of the 50s, 60s, and 70s avant-garde sleek styling re-interpreted with today's furnishing trends.

SV: Your Middle-Eastern roots are apparent in many of your designs, and we're especially intrigued by 'Edam', a wooden table built with a small leather pouch. Is there some traditional use for this piece?

Khalid Shafar: 'Edam' is a hall table with a typical use. Yet the inspiration was a unique concept to be developed in a furniture making. Inspired by cheese as you may read the tale of Edam on the website, I had replaced the drawer which is usually a typical component of a hall table by the leather pouch so it transforms the function of the drawer to a multifunctional compartment that you can keep keys, chains, newspapers, or a bottle of a welcome drink..

SV: Do you have a favourite piece from your portfolio of objects?

Khalid Shafar: The 'Dubai Journey' Game board is my favourite with no competition. I am emotionally attached to this piece as it's a game I used to play in my childhood. I made this piece in the first three months after I moved to New Zealand from Dubai. I was very homesick being my first move out of my country and the making of this piece was a tribute to my hometown. It's a one-off designer's piece.

SV: Where does most of your manufacturing take place?

Khalid Shafar: My current collection was manufactured in New Zealand. However, I'm preparing to release the new collection around November with all prototypes made in Dubai. Final production is not decided yet and depends on the retailers' origins, but upon my recent visit to Milan Design Fair last April, I can see my objects being manufactured between Dubai, New Zealand and Italy.

SV: If you weren't a designer, how else would you spend your days?

Khalid Shafar: Painting and making art.

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