



Signé

THE TIME MACHINE

IDENTIFYING ATTRIBUTES PARTICULAR TO RESPECTIVE PERSONALITY TRAITS, SIGNÉ SUGGESTS SOME INCLUSIVE JARIGER-LEGODLYRE TARGETS FOR THOSE WHOSE APPEARANCE DEFINES THEIR PERSONA

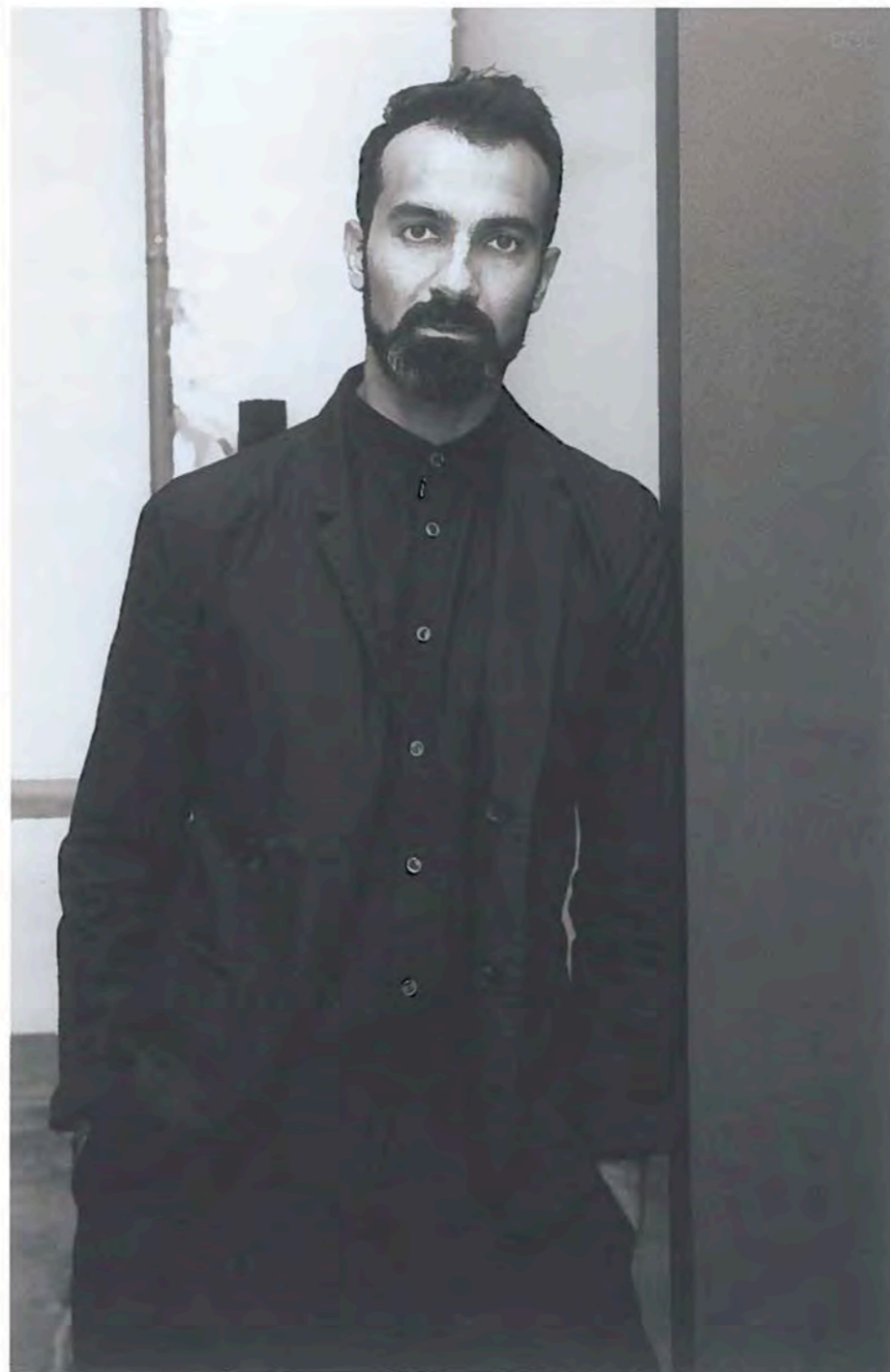
SPACE AND TIME

ACCOMMODATING ANSAS AND BREAKS THROUGH THEIR APPLICABLES HAS BEEN ONE WATCH-MAKING BRAND - GATERS, AND OTHERS TO GET THE MOST OF THE BUSINESS THE

LIVING
LEGEND

Giorgio Armani, a man whose visions transformed the way clothing is defined, in an exclusive interview with Signé, unveils his story, his ambitions and what the future looks like for Armani

Scholars



022

MAGESTIC MASTROIANNI

Creating charisma in both the reel and the real life is an art not many have mastered. Mastroianni, however, is a class apart

024

THE COMEBACK

Having started his career with Pal Zileri, Paolo Riviera re-enters the fashion brand, this time with expertise and quantifiable experience

028

SMOOTH SAILING

From dreams to visions to magnificent realities, Mr. Mohammed Hussein Al Shaali of Gulf Craft effortlessly sails through it all

030

TELL-TALE CREATIONS

A man having pioneered the art of craftsmanship, Khalid Shafar believes in taking it show. He takes Signé through his colorful journey



DUBAI: MALL OF THE EMIRATES +971 4 3411014 - THE DUBAI MALL +971 4 3308774
BAHRAIN: BAHRAIN CITY CENTRE +973 1 7178459

TELL-TALE CREATIONS

Playing with different shades is what our Signé Man enjoys doing, be it on the canvas of life or in the interiors of a luscious apartment. An Emirati by origin, Khalid Shafar, founder and designer of KHALID SHAFAR bespoke furniture brand, strives to create change through his exceptional creative insights

Diksha Vohra

While a polished combination of different patterns, showpieces, furniture items and wallpaper has its own aesthetic appeal for some, Shafar's style is of a different nature – he incorporates different elements of his creations into a setting, wherein a blend of different colours on a neutral background provide focal points for our attention. As the renowned designer explains, his works reflect both his passions and his outlook towards life.

When you hear the brand name 'Khalid Shafar', what is the first thought that comes to your mind?

Interestingly, it's not thoughts, but a surge of feelings that I experience. I feel a sense of sophistication, edginess and contemporariness. However, I do envision taking my brand to incomparable heights wherein I share these feelings with a greater audience. To me, the name has two identities – my brand and the real me. That is also precisely why I chose to name the brand after me because in my opinion, anything that touches my brand is about my creation and vision, and hence, touches me directly.

What made you take up furniture design as a career?

I actually have a degree in both business and interior design. Post-graduation, I chose to work in the field of marketing and communications. By 2005, I had finished my interior design degree, but did not use it until 2009. The shift, of course, didn't happen overnight but was influenced by a series of events. Firstly, I wanted to pursue my career in furniture and secondly, the financial crisis hit Dubai in 2008, which further instigated my decision. I was just about to enter the field of hospitality and then realised I had to nourish my inherent skills and talents. I then proceeded to New Zealand to study furniture design, which brings me to this point.

How does being a designer influence your purchase of cars, clothes, perfumes, watches and more?

I think when we follow a certain profession, particularly a creative one, we like to convey that message across through our style appeal. For example, whenever I visit





“ I think when we follow a certain profession, particularly a creative one, we like to convey that message across through our style appeal. ”

KHALID SHAFAR

a hair stylist, I make sure to get a designer hairstyle done. I am not very adventurous with my looks, so I tend to keep it artistic but classic at the same time in order to not overdo it. In terms of clothes, too, I like to wear clothes that are different from the norm but elegant. In terms of my cologne, I used to have lots of them but now I keep one for the mornings and another for the evenings. The idea behind it is to create scent recognition so that when people perceive it, they know it's me. As far as cars are concerned, I like the classics like Porsche and Range Rover.

In terms of your home, is there a particular theme that the interiors follow?

As I live with my family, I have done the interiors of the entire house, leaving some of their private spaces. I tend to have neutral surfaces on which I can play like a canvas. I like to create interiors that prompt people to walk in and have certain points to look at like wallpaper, a painting or a sculpture without having their eyes searching for what to look at. Additionally, I am not too fond of bright and striking colours. I have recently redone our family room with a neutral grey and white combination. I prefer to play around more with shades than with patterns.

Coming to your personal style, where in Dubai do you like to shop?

Where shopping is concerned, only two names come to my mind. The first would be Boutique 1 as they have some really good brands that we can't find elsewhere. The second would be Harvey Nichols.

For each of the below, tell us where in Dubai you would prefer to visit?

Breakfast

It has to be one of the three – Baker & Spice, Tom & Serg, or Circle.

Work conference

The Pavilion in Downtown Dubai is one of my favourites for business meetings and conferences.

High tea

I am not much of a high tea person, but when my friends do plan, I like the lounge in the Armani Hotel for spending a casual evening. I also like the tea offerings at Vivel Patisserie.

Midnight supper

I really like the food at Bateel or Tasha's for a midnight supper. They are both organic and healthy.

What would you choose, and why?

Bespoke vs. readymade?

I would pick bespoke because it is unique and very individualistic, but it's not always available. So I have to resort to readymade clothes sometimes.

Workshop vs. boutique?

I like the workshop atmosphere but only for leather products. To buy clothes, I would still go to boutiques as I enjoy their ambiance, especially concept stores.

Business leave vs. leisure?

I would love to take a leisure leave but I am too busy these days. Hence, during every business trip I take, I extend it a bit and do some leisure activities. That's the best I can do with the limited time I have.

Dubai vs. the West?

Dubai, any day! I do see myself travelling to different places and even staying there for some time but eventually, I have to come back to Dubai.

Five things you will not leave home without?

Those would be my watch, wallet, mobile phone, laptop and key chain with the keys to my home, office, workshop and safe.

What is your dream car and travel destination?

I've always wanted to own a vintage classic Porsche Carrera. In fact, I was very close to purchasing one but held myself back – even the colour combination I'd choose is crystal clear in my mind. In terms of my dream travel destination, Cape Town in South Africa and some places in Argentina would be good to explore.

A must-have to complete your day...

A soy latte from Starbucks is the one thing without which my day goes incomplete. I can have it at any time of the day, but once in a day is a must.

Lastly, if given an option to go back in time and change one furniture creation of yours, which would it be and why?

None actually. The reason is that when we make a design, that's definitely not what goes into the showroom. A lot of the designs are eliminated and then the best ones are pushed forward. Not everything I create is a finished product. So yes, if it is about going back and developing a bit further, I will do so but none of my pieces would be changed entirely. ■