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NOVEMBER 2011

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20 **KHALID SHAFAR** ▲

Designer Khalid Shafar might split his time between his native UAE and New Zealand, but his work is firmly rooted in his Emirati background. 'My TellTale collection is inspired by the Gulf culture, and the designs are all interpretations of old local crafts and habits,' he says. His work includes everything from elegant room dividers to geometric chairs, but it was 'Dubai Journey' that caught our eye. A board featuring elaborate marketry encased in a solid teak frame, it's a fusion of the board game carrom and 'Emirati Tellatale', which, explains Shafar, is 'an ancient tale from the time when travellers would take days to cross the desert on camels to reach Dubai and the carrom was – and still is – part of that journey'.
www.khalidshafar.co.nz