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Slouchy's

BY
MARYAM AL SELAICH



MASTHEAD



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EDITOR'S LETTER

"Travelling- it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller"- Ibn Battuta

Mohammad bin Abdullah Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Captain James Cook, Yuri Gagarin, Sir Richard Burton, Xuanzang, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, appear to be a random array of names, however, in each one of these a legacy and testament to the achievements and discoveries made through travel and to most of them we owe a debt. Each of the above was a pioneer of his time and travelled to different corners of the earth to allow us to gain priceless experiences and knowledge.

Mankind is a race that has been permitted a high degree of "free-will" to explore, discover and learn through travel, to experience new worlds.

In the last century travel has become very attainable through marvels as planes, trains, cars and bikes. It has allowed us to roam the earth faster, further and longer than ever before.

It is however, the oldest known form of transportation that has given us some of the biggest discoveries in history and it is such mode of transportation for which we give homage to most and the pioneers listed at the beginning. Ships have allowed great travellers such as Ibn Battuta to travel 44 countries, 120,000km in a span of 29 years, Marco Polo to venture through Asia for 24 years, Columbus to miscalculate his bearings and discover the Americas, another great traveller was Captain James Cook who circumnavigated the earth twice over and is accredited for the cure of scurvy!

Other great pioneers include Xuanzang the Chinese Buddhist Monk who went across all of China and India in search of Buddha, documenting his travel. However, it is Sir Richard Francis Burton who is probably the most inspiring of modern day travellers, spoke 30 languages and the modern day Tarzan, being able to communicate with monkeys. Sir Richard is also attributed as discovering the source of the River Nile and only the second European to ever visit Mecca!

The grandest of mankind's travel achievements however, is accredited to Russian Yuri Gagarin, the first man to venture into Space. Since then many more countless explorations have seen mankind capture and map new corners of the galaxy in which we live in, and notably opened the door to another marvel of travel, space tourism, which is being offered by Virgin Galactic and Aabar for a minor US\$250,000 a seat.

The final two explorers of travel listed above, are more infamous to due to the blood thirst they shared for achieving their goals of travel, albeit between the pair of them occupied the greatest empires known in history and combined, covered more than one-third of the world under their rule.

Travel has served as a means not only to bring us closer as a



race but to incorporate and infuse new and differing cultural traits from one another and this is none more evident than in the feature The city of Rhythmin which explores the migration of Arabs to Brazil a century ago and how they are now unequivocally Brazilian but equally proud of their Arab heritage with the Arab culture now a mainstay of Brazilian culture too. Just as fascinating is our feature Bean around the world. In this feature we examine the discovery of this amazing plant, coffee, which has travelled to every corner of the world and is now a central highlight in every country. Additionally how this simple bean is very much a medical marvel but equally its use in a multitude of other applications such as beauty products. Travel also helps elevate misgivings and navigates to the furthest corners in order to heal wounds as we discover in the articles A mural for hope from Syria. Such heartfelt accounts of how the country with their tales of war are using positive energy to send out the message of peace through their cultural heritage but just as important is their desire for the rest of the world to embrace their message.

In a time gone by, all travellers as a sign of good faith and prosperous good tidings when they arrived in a foreign land would bring gifts and trinkets from their land to present to their hosts. In addition of speaking the tales of their land and people, so that once they return home, they can speak of new found friendships and bonds formed.

As much of today we follow similar patterns when travelling to new lands and encountering new friends, but with today's technological advances we are able to speed up such experiences and tales and live them in real time.

"Travel brings power and love back into your life." – Rumi

Ayman Haddad
MANAGING EDITOR



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BEHIND THE MASK

AYMAN HADDAD



Ayman Haddad has been a part of the Masquerade team for the past four years and has recently took on the role of managing editor. Born and raised in the UK, he attained a BSC in Business Management. Originally from Syria, Ayman decided to move to the UAE in 2010. Having lived in the UK, Germany and Syria, Ayman has experienced a wealth of cultures and backgrounds, which has shaped his overall views.



ELISAR SASSO

The Lebanese journalist has always had a passion for writing since the early age of seven, when she had her short story published. Born and raised in the UK, she attained a BA in Journalism as well as the NCTJ Diploma from Brunel University London. Searching for a new challenge, she decided to venture to Dubai in 2013. Tackling every task with fervour, Elisar has gained valuable experience working for publications such as Gulf News, Forbes Middle East and Style News UK. Specialising in lifestyle and feature writing, she conquers each story with flair and enthusiasm, leaving no stone unturned when investigating various angles.



ZOEY COOMBE

Born in Bahrain, yet raised in the west London suburbs by a Filipino Mother and English father, Zoey Coombe has always been fascinated with her multi-cultural surroundings and upbringing. Obtaining a Bachelors Degree in Fashion Journalism at The University of The Creative Arts in the UK before relocating to Dubai to explore the Middle East, Zoey has since written for a plethora of UAE based magazines and her interests transcend from catwalk reporting to writing hard-hitting investigative features.

LAYNE REDMAN



Layne Redman is a British television presenter, MC and actor. He currently lives and works in Dubai and co-host the show Out & About on the English channel Dubai one. In addition to this in 2010 Layne was the Anchor of a new studio sports based magazine show World of Sports. Layne has also worked on international modelling assignments and promotional campaigns, appearing in numerous campaigns and TVCs for brands such as MTV, Sony Ericsson, Danone, Getty Images, Jumeirah and Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts.



NAHDA SULEIMAN

Nahda Suleiman has built her niche as an arts and culture editor, working for numerous titles in the Gulf region and beyond. Her work has been published in prestigious titles such as Wallpaper*, Brownbook, The National and Time out Malaysia.



ELIE CHEDID

Born and raised in Beirut, Elie joined Academie Libanaise des Beaux Art and graduated as an advertising art director. He has gained his advertising experience from agencies such as Leo Burnett, Impact BBDO and HAVAS worldwide, handling international brands including Saks Fifth Avenue, Mercedes-Benz, Davidoff, Kenzo, Swarovski, Haagen-Dazs, Sephora and many more. Additionally, Elie has gained experience in fashion photography production while working with Lebanese photographer Tarek Moukaddem, shooting various local and international designers, look books, bridal catalogues, editorials and advertising campaigns.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

BEHIND THE LENS

DEAR EDITOR,

It is eye opening to read about someone who has battled against dangerous environments and was given recognition to bring this front line story. I can relate to this as I am also British-Arab and my country is also suffering and although I never came up against these situations, I know they existed. Thanks to Sara and thanks to Masquerade for sharing this feature.

DEAR READER,

Thank you for your interest in this story. Sara's accomplishments are truly inspiring and have created a huge impact not only within Yemen, but also within this whole region. At Masquerade we aim to shed light on important issues and recognise the work of empowering individuals, who encourage others to pursue their passions in order to make a difference.



A TALE OF TRADITION

DEAR EDITOR,

Stumbling across this I have to say that I was very pleasantly surprised as most only know Dubai as the city with the largest tower in the world and full of other skyscrapers. In any country there is always history and it is great that Masquerade has chosen to unravel this. Dubai's Heritage Village is truly great and the feature was truly informative. I hope that others reading this feature go and visit.

DEAR READER,

At Masquerade, we feel heritage is such an integral part of society's past and for this particular issue, we wanted to highlight the lives of pearl divers and how the industry provided the gulf with a regular source of income as well as showcasing why pearl diving remains an important part of Middle Eastern culture.



A CULINARY JOURNEY OF SCENTS

DEAR EDITOR,

I have to say that this was fascinating and I wasn't aware that smell accounted for 95 per cent of what we perceived as taste when eating. With this in mind, I plan to be more alert when I have dinner next. Is this something that you noticed while at the scent dinner yourself?

DEAR READER,

With the help of Chandler Burr – a global authority in pairing fragrances with exquisite food - we discovered that smell can be a sensual experience. Our palates as well as our sense of smell were invigorated, as we were guided through the essences that make up the fragrance notes in our perfumes.



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FASHION DIRECTION *Elie Chedid*
MODEL *Renata at MMG Events*
MAKE-UP *Katie Cousins*
HAIR *Katie Cousins*
STYLIST *Masquerade*
WARDROBE *Saks Fifth Avenue*
SHOES *Level shoe district*

SOUK

LUXE LIST

MUST HAVE:

THE RIVIERA JEWELLERY SET BY CHOPARD
RALPH LAUREN HORSESHOE HANDLE TOTE

GOOD LUXE:

SUSTAINABLE LUXURY
FENDI'S NEW PEEKABOO

بازار

LUXE LIST

Our selection of inspiring items

By Elisar Sasso, Nahda Suleiman, Zoey Coombe



EUGENIA KIM HEADBAND

This daisy embellished gold-plated headband by Eugenia Kim is the perfect accessory to add some edge to your outfit. Blossoming daisies are adorned with white beads and glistening crystals, creating a feminine, angelic appearance. Whether you plan to wear your hair up or down, make sure you make a statement this season with this charming headband.

net-a-porter.com

ELIE SAAB POINCARE COLLECTION

Elie Saab has designed a range of five leather mono and tricolour handbags that are characterised by striking bold lines and boxy shapes. A must have is the trapeze-shaped, quilted leather bag, which features matte metal clasps. Whether you prefer large or smaller handbags, there is one to suit all in the Poincare collection.

eliesaab.com



MICHAEL ANGOVE HOME COLLECTION JO MALONE

Fine artist Michael Angove collaborates with Jo Malone to create a limited edition home collection, featuring the Blackberry and Bay and Orange Blossom most sought-after fragrances. Scented candles, incense diffusers and bath soaps are all wrapped in Angoves intricate work, which captures the enchantment of the British countryside.

jomalone.com



NATHALIE TRAD POLYGONIA CLUTCH

Inspired by the concepts of cubism and futurism, Lebanese designer Nathalie Trad created a collection of intricately-crafted shell clutches that draw on today's complex urban landscapes and sprawling cities. This bold geometric shape makes a great statement accessory and is also comfortable to carry around.

nathalietrad.com



PRADA TWIN BAG

Available in a vast array of vibrant colours such as letterbox red and canary yellow, the Prada Twin bag is undoubtedly the 'it' bag to parade around with this summer. Fun and flirty yet structured and organized, the tote is made from Saffiano Cuir leather and features a twin lock clasp for security and two separate compartments for easy access and extra storage.

prada.com

AMINAH ABDUL JILLIL BOW PUMPS

As a former professional dancer who performed with some of the biggest names in Hollywood, Aminah Abdul Jillil has taken inspiration from her surroundings to create a shoe line, that's taken the internet world by storm. Jazz up your little black dress with these 5-inch heel bow pumps, to stand out amongst the crowd.

aminahabduljillil.com



DINA KHALIFE LACES AND PETAL CUSHION

If you're staying in town this summer, this floral cushion cover featuring scenes from a magical fairytale, is the perfect antidote to transport you to a whimsical world that is cooler in every sense of the word.

dinakhalife.com



BULGARI PAZZI PER VENEZIA

Inspired by the traditional Venetian masked-ball carnivals, Bulgari releases the 'Pazzi Per Venezia', a collection of elegant sunglasses, for the woman who wants to enhance a mysterious and seductive look.
bulgari.com

CESARE CASADEI MARRAKECH COLLECTION

The recent Marrakech collection by Cesare Casadei merges the traditional Moroccan Berber culture with modern trends. The colour palette focuses on natural hues, such as white, sand, nude and gold. The ultra chic pair of pumps or flats are finished off with an elegant gold micro-chain.
casadei.com



KENZO BLUE HIGHWAY KALIFORNIA BAG

Brighten up your wardrobe with this easy-to-carry sky blue Kenzo clutch, which is an ideal accompaniment for your road trip this summer. With its bold zips, this biker inspired bag gives your feminine outfit an edge.
kenzo.com



MERCEDES-BENZ \$41K GOLDEN KEY

This German handcrafted treasure is made out of solid 18-carat gold and adorned with 300 cut diamonds, totalling 3.14 carats and valued at around \$41,000. It is available in rose, platinum, white and yellow gold, along with the option of personalisation. If you're planning on buying a Mercedes-Benz, a standard plastic car key just won't do.
selected-jewels.com



LITO KARAKOSTANOGLOU EYE PENDANT

Combing Nouveau vintage with modernity, Greek jewellery designer Lito creates mesmerising pieces that reflect her dedication to traditional craftsmanship and a flair for the unexpected. Fusing together ideas of nature and treasure, the designer's concepts are playful and delicate, whilst always remaining feminine. This enamel eye pendant and necklace from the SS14 Tu Es Partout collection is crafted from 14k pink gold and surrounded by green diamonds.
lito-jewelry.com



MAISON MARTIN MARGIELA GOLD AND SILVER STACKED ZIRCONIA RING

This set of stacked rings in tones of silver and gold brass can be worn individually or styled together, to give your outfit an added edge.
maisonmartinmargiela.com



SAHA WALEKERU ONE-PIECE SWIMSUIT

Designed by Monica Echeverri and Carlos Laverde with nature, meditation and romanticism in mind, the SAHA one-piece swimsuit balances style with comfort for swimwear that delivers on functionality and doesn't compromise on quality or style. The graphic print and plunging neckline suits the more intrepid woman but also offers enough coverage for those who want to keep it classy by the beach or at the pool.
available at maisonmaillot.com



HERMES SILK SCARF

Ideal and practical for your outfit this summer, this bright-coloured scarf can be worn in various ways, for a number of different occasions. Use it as a hair wrap or pair it up with a tank top, for a day out at the park or the beach.
hermes.com



PLUKKA CITRINE VEDETTE NECKLACE

This breathtaking jeweled collar boasts 220 carats of semi-precious stones, ranging from amethysts and tourmalines, to citrines and rhodolites. This rainbow of jewels will add a glamorous touch to your neck, ready to dazzle the crowd at any occasion.
plukka.com

MUST HAVE

THE RIVIERA JEWELLERY SET BY CHOPARD

By Elisar Sasso



The highlight of this year's Red Carpet Collection by Chopard is the ravishing Riviera diamond ring and matching earrings set. Inspired by the glamorous actresses who lit up Italian cinema in the 1950s, this radiant set was the star of the red carpet at this year's Cannes Film Festival. More than 1,000 hours of craftsmanship went into creating this masterpiece, totalling over 100 carats of rose-cut pear-shaped diamonds.



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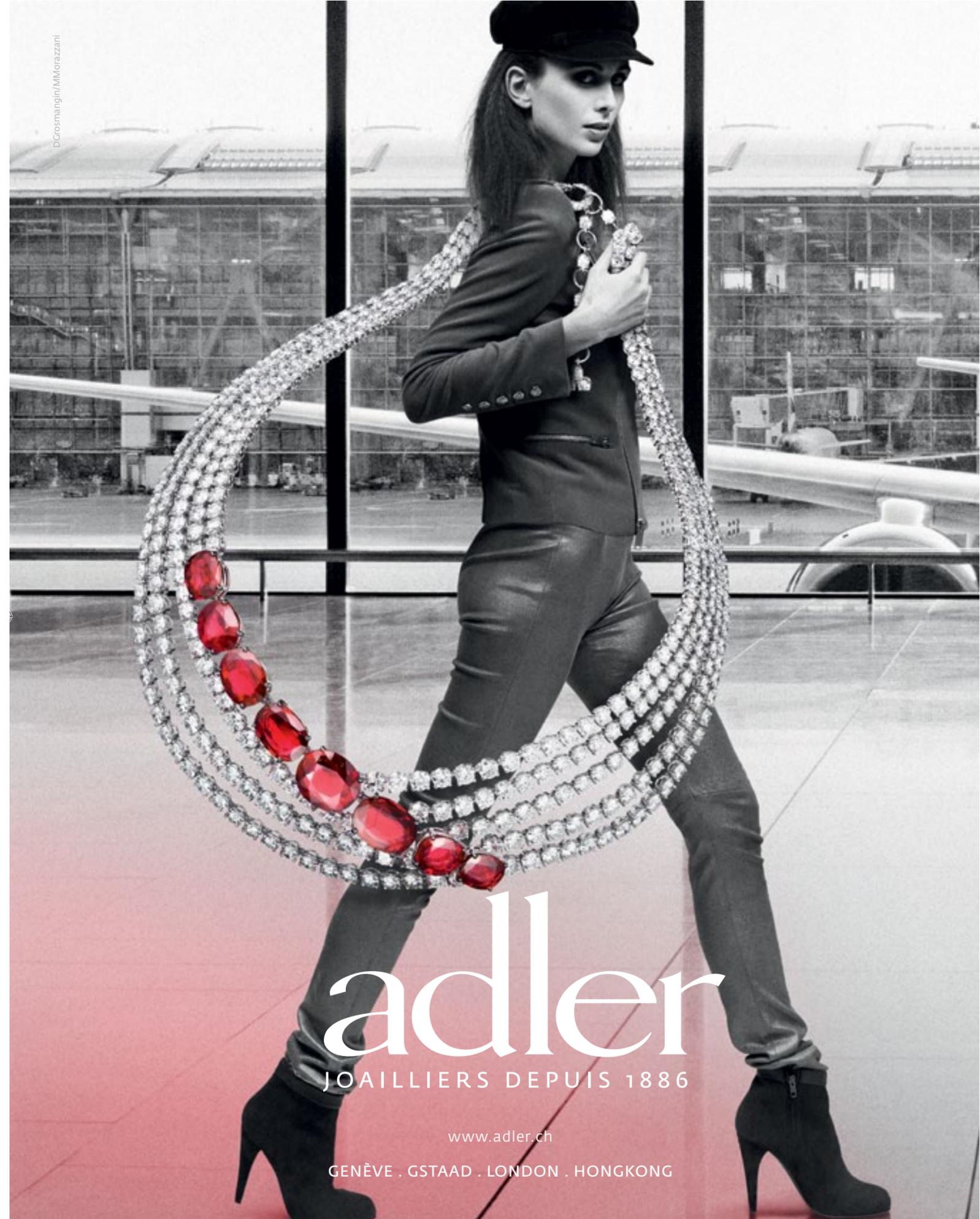
MUST HAVE

RALPH LAUREN HORSESHOE HANDLE TOTE EMBROIDERED IN LACE

By Nahda Suleiman



If you're looking for a signature bag to carry this summer, this Ralph Lauren Horseshoe Handle Tote Embroidered in Lace is one you should be coveting. Featuring a floral pattern and horseshoe shaped handles, it is perfect to take you from day to night. Its interior is lined with cotton canvas and two slip pockets at the front, as well as the back. The tote is so incredibly versatile, that it might leave you wanting to adorn it even after the summer season is over.



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GOOD LUXE:

SUSTAINABLE LUXURY

By Elisar Sasso

Chopard's philanthropic commitments continue to shine, with its most recent initiative aimed at bettering the lives of artisanal gold miners, through producing watches made from Fairmined gold. Elisar Sasso investigates how Chopard's journey to sustainable luxury is making a significant impact.



Sustainable luxury begins with Chopard and its multi-year programme, The Journey, which improves the lives of artisanal gold miners. The Swiss-based luxury watch and jewellery company has forged a philanthropic partnership with the South American NGO, the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM), resulting in Chopard to be the first watches and luxury jewellery company to support and enable mining communities to reach the Fairmined certification.

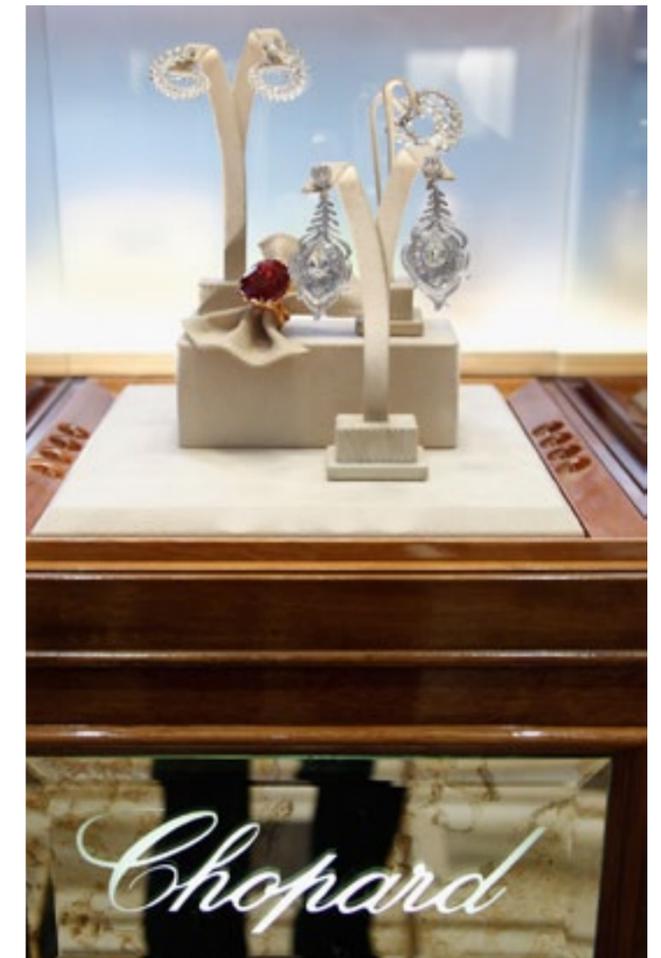


Primarily launched at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013, The Journey by Chopard has built an influential foundation, expanding the brand's commitment to responsible, ethical, social and environmental practices. Through the Fairmined certification, Chopard is able to provide social welfare, education and training, for gold miners in isolated South American community mines in Colombia. 'Over a thousand families will benefit through social, environmental and training provision to help them improve their productivity and practices and to thrive sustainably in a complex corner of the world,' explains Karl Friedrich Scheufele, co-president of Chopard.

Fairmined gold is ethical, firstly extracted by artisanal gold miners, which then goes through a scrutinising process to reach the Fairmined Standard for Gold and Associated Precious Metals. The standard has a strict criterion, to assess aspects such as environmental protection, labour conditions and legal mining operations. The watches and jewellery produced by Chopard are constructed purely of Fairmined gold sourced directly from the communities, in order to ensure responsible mining. 'It is a bold commitment, but one that we must pursue if we are to make a difference to the lives of people who make our business possible,' says Scheufele.

'Over a thousand families will benefit through social, environmental and training provision' - Karl Friedrich Scheufele

Chopard's Green Carpet collection, which was launched in May 2013 at the Cannes Film Festival, is the first collection to incorporate Fairmined gold. Created in accordance with the Green Carpet Challenge, Chopard primarily unveiled a delicate cuff bracelet with matching earrings, made purely from Fairmined gold and embellished with diamonds that were extracted from mines certified to the Responsible Jewellery Council code of conduct.



The most recent addition to the Green Carpet Collection was revealed at this year's edition of Baselworld, where Chopard launched the world's first watch created from Fairmined gold – the L.U.C Tourbillon QF Fairmined. The main parts of this watch (case-back, case and bezel) are made entirely of Fairmined gold, which guarantees that it was mined responsibly. 'Chopard, which is a frontrunner in this field, has led the way for the entire watch and jewellery industry by adopting Fairmined gold,' says Lina Villa, executive director at the Alliance for Responsible Mining. 'We are so proud to be developing such prestigious projects with Chopard to improve the quality of life in mining communities,' she continues.

In addition to the partnership with the ARM, Chopard has demonstrated its dedication to corporate responsibility in a number of ways. One in particular is its role on the Responsible Jewellery Council – a leading environmental, social and ethical standard setting organisation.

The Journey to Sustainable Luxury is not only a step towards bettering the lives of artisanal gold miners, but more importantly it provides a secure route to market and a fair deal for the miners when selling their gold. Purchasing a gold piece by Chopard is much more than an investment; it is a venture towards fair trade. 'It is not an easy journey, but it is the right one,' says Scheufele.

For more information visit chopard.com



FENDI'S NEW PEEKABOO

By Elisar Sasso

Fendi's classic Peekaboo bag has taken a new turn, with ten iconic women utilising their creative flair to produce ten customised Peekaboo bags. Aiming to raise money for a British charity, Fendi and its power women take on the role of a budding designer and prove that nothing is impossible.



An influential group of ten iconic women have joined forces with the Italian fashion house Fendi, to create a series of customised, exclusive Peekaboo bags. The Peekaboo Project aims to raise funds for the UK-based charity, Kids Company, through an online auction that ran last month, in collaboration with the multinational auction house, Sotheby's.

Working closely with the prestigious Silvia Venturini Fendi, collaborators include artist Tracey Emin; actresses Gwyneth Paltrow and Naomie Harris; models Cara Delevingne, Jerry Hall and her daughter Georgia-May Jagger; architect Zaha Hadid; fashion illustrator Tanya Ling; singer Adele and journalist Kate Adie. Each of these prominent women creatively reflects their divergent personalities within each of the Peekaboo bags, allowing each design to be distinct. Only two of each design has been created, one of which remains property of the celebrity and the other sold in the auction – making them highly coveted collector's accessories.

'Growing up in a family of strong and pioneering females, I am excited that such iconic women, leaders in their own fields, have been involved in this project, on this iconic Fendi bag,' says Silvia Venturini Fendi, head of Fendi accessories. 'This project will not only allow Fendi to work with these incredible women, but also to raise valuable funds for Kids Company and help support their important work.'

According to Fendi, the original Peekaboo bag has always been associated with strong iconic women. Each of the custom bags conveys a particular message, reflecting each woman's passion and style. For example, Naomie Harris' version features a silk-screened image of the map of Africa in black and white vertical stripes, representing the idea of equal human rights.

The initiative was launched in parallel to the opening of Fendi's new flagship store on New Bond Street, London, during the beginning of last month. The funds and awareness raised has significantly helped Kids Company continue to reach out to over 36,000 children and young people every year in London and Bristol, empowering children who have experienced certain challenges, to lead the fulfilling lives that they deserve.

'For most children, their mother's bag is a treasure trove full of good and fun things. For traumatised children who are being

'I am excited that such iconic women have been involved in this project, on this iconic Fendi bag' - Silvia Venturini Fendi

harmed, their mother's bag can be a source of horror and despair. It means a great deal to the staff and children of Kids Company to know that complete strangers care and want to help,' reflects Camila Batmanghelidjh, founder of Kids Company.

The Peekaboo bag, first created for the SS09 collection, continues to maintain its reputation as a chic and timeless classic that hasn't faded away from the fashion scene. The ten personalised Peekaboo bags each possess a secret interior design that contrasts with the outer body of the bag, reflecting its title, Peekaboo.

Ten creative women along with ten classic handbags is simply a recipe for success. This rewarding project not only raises funds for a deserving charity, but also symbolises Great Britain's creative spirit, by allowing some of the UK's most influential women to share their artistic flair with the world. The Peekaboo Project is a prime reflection of Fendi's motto that nothing is impossible.

For more information visit fendi.com

UNMASKED

GLOBAL CITIZEN
A STYLISH PROSPECT
THE FORGOTTEN EMIRATE
BAGGING SUCCESS

سُفَا فِئَة

GLOBAL CITIZEN

By Al Meem

Al Meem discusses the challenges of the cultural boundaries between the Middle-East and Europe, and learning to adapt in each of the varying environments.



42

I was fortunate from a young age that I saw much of the world as my father travelled regularly for his business and we accompanied him on many of his travels.

Being born to a cultural mix of Middle-Eastern and European parents and born in the UK, my parents were mindful of this and decided on a name that would be appropriate where ever the world took me. Having such a diverse ethnicity, meant not only did I have an affection for my adopted nation of Britain, but equally to my roots due to my parental ethnicity, as we travelled most summers to either, or at times, both continents of my parent's families.

This was certainly something that I never complained about and was always very exciting, but even with all this travelling and meeting people, learning about fascinating new cultures, it still didn't prepare me for what was to come at the age of 19.

Being diverse culturally with such a wonderful mix, I was probably allowed more luxuries and seemed to get away with a bit more than some of my other ethnic friends, and as such didn't really face difficulties or life choices at a young age. The first sign of such conundrums were to be presented in front of me around the age of 15, the all-crucial

crossroads when realising I would be moving from the young teen category to being recognised (by society, friends and family) as young adult and as such bestowed with all the responsibilities of such recognition.

Due to my cultural mix and more liberal upbringing, at times I was placed in awkward situations and found it difficult as I couldn't always find a way to explain the reasons to convince certain family members outside my direct family why I followed certain paths that I did, however, I never displayed rebellious traits in order to underline my position.

Growing up in Britain with this diverse ethnicity was hard enough, but for me at times it was difficult to truly get to grips with my identity, which of the 3 countries would I feel an affection for most, or all combined, or when I was asked about my family would I say I was Middle-Eastern or European, also mindful that quite a bit of prejudice and racism existed (and to some extent still to this day), so that I was accepted without any recourse.

Towards the end of my high-school years, I made one of most important decisions for myself, and looked to embrace my Middle-Eastern roots by wearing the headscarf. In

hindsight the magnitude of such a decision seemed daunting and one I had continually questioned myself on reversing, as I recalled no one of my age within my school wearing the headscarf. My first thoughts were what would be the reaction of my friends? Then how would everyone else react, teachers and peers?

I decided to stick by my decision and slowly wear it on my own terms, until I felt comfortable with this decision and by being so, also then everyone else who saw me with it, without fearing or allowing to be ridiculed. However, to my surprise many of my friends and peers were approving of my decision and all were very understanding when they did see me wear it. This made it a lot more comfortable wearing it through the next stage of my education at university where it was more widely accepted and common to see other girls sport the headscarf, often in varying shades of vibrant colours and designs, that would be a show of their expressiveness.

On the move again, and this time it's my turn to write my own journey log book as I get engaged at 19, a journey that I was not ever prepared for but one that would take me back to my father's home country, a place I'd travelled many a time in the years gone by, but this time was different,



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I was leaving my place of birth and the place that had defined and shaped me and this was no holiday but the next chapter of my life and no doubt just as I had previously been faced with life choices, again I would face similar challenges but in a completely different environment, with different social barriers to tackle and obstacles that were the flip side of those I previously faced in the UK. Now I was a European with a Middle-Eastern background going to live in the Arab world.

Some would argue I wasn't going to a place unfamiliar to me but one I knew well, with family there. For me however, it didn't feel like that.

Although I spoke Arabic and had friends and family, the first 2 years were the hardest for me. It was a cultural shock, what was conceived as A'ab, how to present and conduct myself, especially when around senior family members who understood my mixed background, but still expected me to uphold the Arab values in their entirety. Further to this, my initial struggles were compounded by

not having my family around me everyday, but having the support of my mother who would continuously visit and spend months each time helped me settle in a lot quicker and easier, and through this I eventually come to love and enjoy living there.

Needless to say 15 years on, happily married with children I didn't imagine having to leave yet again but this was the case nearly 2 years ago and now I find myself in another country and more obstacles to tackle, but this time I cannot claim of being bought up here, nor do I have parental heritage ties to this country and I am at odds with the language, cultural and place as I have no connection to this new land.

Much like myself, my children will no doubt face similar challenges and questions to ponder as I did in my younger and adolescent years, and I just hope that they embrace all elements of their heritage and their adopted nation and when the time arises that they do so responsibly with guided knowledge.

A STYLISH PROSPECT

By Zoey Coombe

Fashion designer, Khulood Thani, combines functional designs with innovative concepts to create stunning accessories for an international audience. Zoey Coombe speaks to the fashion devotee about her triumphs, including her successful brand Bint Thani as well as her recent participation in the Origin, Passion and Beliefs fair in Italy.



The Emirati born designer, Khulood Thani, is unquestionably a woman of many talents. Graduating from ESMOD University in France in 2010, she was the first UAE national to achieve a degree in fashion management and marketing. During her time in Paris, Thani also worked as a contributing editor for numerous fashion blogs. Founder of the extravagant accessory brand, Bint Thani, the creative has a hunger for new challenges and is proving she's a force to be reckoned with in the Middle Eastern fashion industry. 'I enjoy coming up with interesting concepts, using new materials and new techniques during production, it's a way of expressing my thoughts,' begins Thani.



Attracted to fashion forward concepts that embrace modernism, the designer's focus is revolutionary design, which has been reflected in her recent collections and recognised across the region. The Bint Thani headwear pieces, including the newly launched 7+ Styles Turban collection, adopts contemporary design using interesting fabrics and colours, hoping to encourage clients to be imaginative and diverse with their style. 'The design focuses on functionality; the same turban can create seven different looks or even more to add versatility to any woman's wardrobe,' says Thani. The designer's creative process begins with examining trend-forecasting reports for the upcoming season, before Thani discovers her own concepts. She then experiments with developing her designs and techniques, along with deciding on colour and fabric selections.

Recently, her triumphs included winning the ME Excellence Awards 2014 in the fashion and arts category, when the creative was selected on an international level by a platform for contemporary designers called NOT JUST A LABEL. Thani participated in the Origin, Passion and Beliefs fair in Italy in May, where her concept titled Between the Dunes, told a story inspired by Arabia and specifically the nomad desert lifestyle – a true reflection of Thani's roots as a UAE national. 'For the project, I took elements from my own background and took a contemporary, yet unpolished approach, in order to create a semi-couture dress and avant-garde accessory,' she reflects.

The designer created the semi-couture mini-dress through shaping desert dunes in different laser cut pieces and using golden to brown hues as an accurate reference for colour. The designer describes the piece as an 'unconventional accessory' as it's a neckpiece with an attached hood, deliberately shaped as a camel hump and crafted from local biodegradable camel leather.

NOT JUST A LABEL, the main supporter of the Origin, Passion and Beliefs fair, carefully selected 100 designers across five different continents, who specialise in the contemporary fashion designs that were featured in the fair, and has worked closely with Fiera de Vicenza in order to merge this unique pool of talents with 60 Italian craftsmanship and factories that possess great history in the Italian fashion production. 'By being part of this project, NOT JUST A LABEL has made me feel that I do belong to a bigger family,' explains Thani.

The highlight of her career so far is the international and regional recognition that Bint Thani has achieved. 'The amount of support I've received is sensational and I think it's important to look at any challenges I've faced as new opportunities to utilise,' she says.



'Between the Dunes told a story inspired by Arabia and specifically the nomad desert lifestyle, a true reflection of my roots as a UAE national.'

THE FORGOTTEN EMIRATE

By Elisar Sasso



If you are seeking to escape the bustling city life but don't want to travel far, then Sharjah is the place to visit. Only 45 minutes from Dubai, this hidden treasure of the Emirates is packed with undiscovered tourist attractions and will be sure to take you on an enlightening journey of Arabian culture and discovery. Visitors can spend their day roaming the traditional souks, exploring heritage sites and gaze upon the breathtaking architecture of Sharjah's grand mosques. The third largest of the seven Emirates, Sharjah's picturesque landscapes and endless cultural adventures are ideal for a family-oriented trip away.



The Blue Souk

This stunning piece of architecture consists of six buildings, all decorated in blue tiling. Boasting more than 600 shops, the Blue Souk is the primary shopping destination in Sharjah, which is segregated into two different parts – electrical products and home necessities and the other, jewellery. Once you have finished wandering the enticing corners of the souk, an alluring gallery awaits you, which displays story-telling artefacts such as magnificent Arabic carpets and mystical antique jewellery from Oman.



Arabian Wildlife Centre

Are you an animal fanatic but hate to see helpless animals living in unbearable conditions? If so, then head to Sharjah's Arabian Wildlife Centre – the only zoo in the region that preserves animals in a comfortable and spacious environment, similar to their natural habitats. Located in the Sharjah Desert Park, this indoor wildlife centre looks after over 100 species, ranging from reptiles and invertebrates, to birds and large carnivores. Additionally, the centre creates awareness of species that are becoming extinct, such as the endangered Arabian Leopard.



Khalid Lagoon

This breathtaking lagoon is a vision of beauty, especially during sunset. Take a stroll through nature and enjoy the scenic surroundings of greenery and glistening water. Stop for a bite to eat at one of the welcoming restaurants on Al Buheirah Corniche, or enjoy a picnic on the grass. Totalling to a stretch of 1,720,000 square hectares of water surface, the Khalid Lagoon is the perfect location for those who desire a peaceful afternoon outdoors, inhaling the fresh air while surrounded by natural beauty.



Sharjah Heritage Area

Take a leap back in time and discover the captivating history of Sharjah and the UAE. Consisting of two tiny neighbourhoods, Al Sheyukh and Al Maraija, the Sharjah Heritage Area is home to many museums and souks, waiting to be explored. This cultural district is what represents Sharjah's commitment to heritage and culture that was influential in earning it the UNESCO title of the Cultural Capital of the Arab World, in 1998.



Al Qasba

This is the heart of Sharjah, where cultural and leisure activities explore tourists in an engaging manner. This waterfront attraction stretched along the Qasba Canal, offers a range of enjoyable pursuits, all in sight of the Al Qasba Tornado – one of the first and largest creative fountains in the region. Other facilities include the Maraya Art Centre and the Etisalat Eye of the Emirates – the largest Ferris wheel in the Middle East.



Sharjah Art Museum

This is the largest and most impressive art museum in the Gulf, displaying both temporary exhibitions and permanent collections throughout the year. With three floors dedicated to galleries, each piece of artwork created by both local and internationally renowned artists, illustrates Sharjah's history and culture. Housed in the Al Shuwaihiyyen area, creative pieces of historic Sharjah by Ali Darwish tend to be a popular attraction among visitors, as well as work done by the established UAE painter, Abdul Qader Al Rais.

BAGGING SUCCESS

Nahda Suleiman

One Lebanese label has built an international brand out of the skills of underprivileged women in her country. Nahda Suleiman speaks to Sarah Beydoun to discuss the social impact of her work and to find out what keeps her going



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As one of the region's leading social entrepreneurs, Sarah Beydoun's foray into the world of fashion was simply a matter of fate, and being in the right place and the right time. Launched in 2001, the Lebanese designer's socially responsible accessories line - Sarah's Bag - was born out of a desire to improve the lives of underprivileged women, by offering them a source of economic income and a chance to empower themselves. 'Sarah's Bag started out of my desire to create a business that would employ female prisoners and ex-prisoners; we basically started out as a social project. In 2000, I designed my first collection of hand bags heavy on handwork such as beading, embroidery, stitching and started going to Baabda Women's Prison three times a week to teach prisoners techniques and to follow up on their work. That first collection consisted of 12 bags. We participated in Souk Al Barghout - an arts, crafts and antique market in Downtown Beirut, and we sold all the bags the same day!'

Although Beydoun was always interested in fashion, she admits it was never her aspiration to work in the industry. 'I have always loved fashion though; to me fashion is art - as much as painting or photography or filmmaking is. However the beauty of fashion is that it's functional art: it's art that we actually wear and use it in our daily lives! I always knew I wanted to be creative in my work but I still didn't know what domain. That came about by chance or maybe I should say, fate?' she says with a smile.

An assortment of handbags, clutches, satchels, necklaces, scarves and evening purses, the premise behind Sarah's Bag is simple: all the collections are designed around the skills of artisans who work with Beydoun. These women are trained to sew, embroider and crochet the accessories, and as a result the brand has become synonymous with reinventing traditional techniques from Lebanon and the Middle East,

while marrying them with contemporary aesthetics. 'Exquisite craftsmanship is a core characteristic of Sarah's Bag because we specialise in all kinds of hand work: embroidery, crocheting, beading. It is the intricate meticulous work of our artisans that gives each piece a soul and set our bags apart and gives them a global appeal. We have never compromised on the two core elements of Sarah's Bag: the fashion aspect; which includes design, craftsmanship and quality; and the social aspect, of which our bags are made by underprivileged women and we design our collections around their skills.'

Speaking about her most recent collection titled Fast and Fabulous, Beydoun explains that it is a funky line of colourful clutches and printed bags inspired by pre-war Beirut, vintage toy cars of the same era. 12 years on since the launch of Sarah's Bag, Beydoun proudly says that her brand has evolved and expanded into European markets. While she's happy about the progress, she admits there are challenges of branching out, to cater to a global clientele. 'The challenges include designing something that would appeal to women from around the world, finding the right local partners to work with, and holding your own in international trade shows and exhibitions. Of course, operating in Lebanon, where over the past 14 years the political and economic situation has not been stable to say the least, tends to make one more flexible, adaptable and resilient.'

Beydoun seems to have her hands full at the moment, but she remains tight-lipped when asked about her future plans for Sarah's Bag. 'We are growing and expanding internationally at a steady pace. After 12 years in the business, we have more than 50 points of sale in 22 cities, including Collette in Paris and Matches in London. We have our own online store that ships around the globe and we are working on a new venture that will be based in Dubai. You'll have to watch this space,' the designer says cheekily.



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ONCE UPON A PEARL

By Elisar Sasso

Pearls have remained at the heart of the jewellery industry for decades, due to the miraculous breakthrough made by The Pearl King, Kokichi Mikimoto – the first to culture a pearl. Elisar Sasso discovers the technique behind the cultivation of pearls and finds out more about the flourishing Japanese brand, Mikimoto.

120 years ago, the first pearl was cultured, introducing a timeless classic to the jewellery industry. Kokichi Mikimoto, also known as The Pearl King, was the first to develop a technique for the cultivation of pearls – a method so unique it even amazed the celebrated inventor, Thomas Edison. This breakthrough in pearl history, which is still being used worldwide today, is what brought Japanese jewellery to the attention of the world.

Coming from a family of noodle shop owners, Mikimoto has graced the necks of women since 1893, with his world-renowned Japanese empire. With over 120 stores worldwide, ten of which are located in China, Mikimoto incorporates a variety of aesthetics, to attract various global markets. 'Our designs appeal to a broad spectrum therefore we don't have to design a particular collection for each region – it tends to crossover a great deal,' explains Jeremy Burbanks, wholesale director of Mikimoto.

It was Mikimoto's dedication to protect and raise stocks of Akoya pearl oysters, depleted at the time by over fishing that led him to his life-changing discovery. The first pearl was cultured on Ojima Island, now known as Mikimoto Pearl Island. 'The technique of cultivating pearls is quite relevant to the Middle East, because before the oil, natural pearls from the Gulf were a form of wealth,' says Burbanks. The cultivation process involves a nucleus, made of pig-toe shell, manually

being inserted into only the healthiest of oysters. This is the main factor that distinguishes a cultured pearl from a natural pearl. When the oysters are returned back into the sea, pearly layers of calcium carbonate called nacre, coats the nucleus, forming a cultured pearl.

In 1910, Mikimoto sent artisans to Europe to master the techniques of jewellery production and design. This skilful blending of European manufacturing along with traditional Japanese crafts such as decorative metalworking, are what causes Mikimoto to excel in the industry. 'Within the jewellery industry, we are the only Far Eastern company that comes from the East to the West. Everything we design is designed in a different way; it's done in that Japanese way and there is just no parallel between eastern culture and western culture,' says Burbanks proudly.

When it comes to quality, only the top five per cent of all cultured pearls harvested meet the meticulous grading requirements of Mikimoto. This involves over 2,500 employees scrutinising aspects such as quality of lustre, colouring, how spherical its shape is and surface perfection. 'It could really take anything from four to ten years to produce a Mikimoto piece,' says Burbanks. Pearls come in various shapes and colours, with perfectly round pearls being the rarest and most valuable. In terms of surface texture, tiny marks are natural, however the cleaner the pearl, the higher its value. Mikimoto pearls range from Japanese Akoya pearls, South Sea pearls from Australia and black pearls from Tahiti.



'Japanese pearls will one day
grace the necks of all women
throughout the world' –
Kokichi Mikimoto



In just six years, Mikimoto developed his cultivating technique into a commercial success, with his first pearl store opening in 1899 in Tokyo's Ginza District – Japan's first specialty pearl shop. Soon after, Mikimoto pearls were being shipped overseas, causing cultured pearls to be one of the first successful export products for Japan. In 1913, he opened a Mikimoto branch in London as his first overseas venture, and from 1927 to 1933, stores opened in New York, Paris, Bombay, Los Angeles and Chicago – a great accomplishment in just six years.

The Mikimoto brand ventures beyond the pearl and explores different materials and colour spectrums that complement the pearl elegantly. 'At the moment we are using unique gems like water opals from Australia and mint tourmalines,' says Burbanks. 'We are also using more colourful stones like emeralds, sapphires and tanzanites.' The spectrum of pearl colours is extensive, including cream, silver, pink, gold, green, blue and black. Shades of white and pink tend to be preferred within the pearl industry, as they flatter the widest range of skin tones.

The Middle East was one of the earlier markets Mikimoto started in during the 1960s, when there was nothing but a few department stores. 'What is unique about the Middle East is that you get access to high spend VIP individuals who are looking for something that the next person doesn't have,' explains Burbanks. Mikimoto is a popular choice here in the region, especially when it comes to weddings. The Angelique pearl is a new piece designed specifically for the Middle East. Other popular pieces include limited edition wedding dresses made from silk embroidery adorned with thousands of Mikimoto pearls.

The name Mikimoto is not only associated within the jewellery industry, but also within the tourism field. The Mikimoto Pearl Island in Japan is home to many attractions, all related to the celebrated Mikimoto. There are demonstrations of the original female pearl divers, as well as a recreation of Mikimoto's family noodle shop. There is also a museum, which displays valued Mikimoto pieces, including the necklace Marilyn Monroe wore from Joe DiMaggio in 1954 on their honeymoon to Tokyo.

According to Burbanks, 'pearls are unique as far as an emotional investment goes.' From generation to generation, pearls have been a symbol of romance, an honourable heirloom which has been passed down generations from mother to daughter, shared between families from husband to wife. A Mikimoto piece of jewellery is something to be treasured for a lifetime, with each necklace or pair of earrings illustrating a scintillating story. As the visionary Mikimoto once said, 'Japanese pearls will one day grace the necks of all women throughout the world.'

For more information visit mikimoto.co.uk



LAVISH AFFAIR WITH JEWELS

By Nahda Suleiman

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Parisian but originally from Tunisia, Shourouq Raheim has developed a celebrity cult following out of her accessories line. Here, she discusses her love affair with Swarovski crystals



For the last seven years, jewellery designer Shourouq Raheim has been dressing a legion of international celebrities such as the likes of Lady Gaga, Michelle Obama, Sarah Jessica Parker and Anna Della Russo. While many dream of achieving such a coup in their career, Shourouq Raheim considers her latest collaboration with Swarovski to be the highlight of her job.

This collaboration marks the first time Swarovski has partnered with a designer for the launch of one of its collections which was unveiled at this year's edition of Baselworld in Switzerland. It features a one-of-a-kind watch which Raheim says is designed to look like a lavishly jewelled bracelet. Consisting of a circular Swiss-made quartz watch face that comes with a wardrobe of three interchangeable straps and bezels, in vintage art-deco onyx and crystal designs, the watch can be taken from day to night.

Specialising in luxurious and decadent jewellery that blend a combination of stones, metals and Swarovski crystals, it is not hard to see why Raheim was particularly excited about this partnership. 'Despite their established reputation, I really appreciate that Swarovski keeps an open and curious mind when it comes to young designers. For this collection,



I worked with the creative director Nathalie Colin, whom I was very excited about because she's an explorer and is just as passionate about travels like me. This was the first time that Swarovski asked a designer to collaborate on a collection that would be available internationally. I liked this ambitious project, where I felt completely free in my creative decisions,' explains the soft-spoken Raheim.

Bright, bold and sparkly is Raheim's signature style when it comes to accessories (necklaces, chandelier earrings, cuffs, bejeweled clutch bags, baseball caps and jeweled trainers), and

what's refreshing about the designer is that she seems completely unapologetic about her preferences. 'I have to say that I love all that is "bling bling". Nothing is too over the top for me,' the charming Parisian designer laughs.

'Swarovski crystals are materials I cannot avoid using in my pieces. They are the main components of my designs, since my main inspiration is India and Swarovski crystals are the closest to recreating the opulence and flamboyance of the Rajput Maharandja jewels.'

Although Raheim is currently based in Paris, she still remains true to her Tunisian roots, an aspect that is recognisable in her design aesthetic. For an interesting and added twist to her pieces, she uses materials such as silk and satin, neon climbing rope, PVC and authentic wax fabric. The designer whose portfolio boasts work stints with renowned fashion brands such as Roberto Cavalli, John Galliano and Chloe, says much of her influences are drawn from her hometown of Nabeul, where she spent most of her childhood playing with her grandmother's decadent jewels. 'My hometown is famous for its knowledge in embroidery, and this is something I've aspired to incorporate in my designs.

Tunisian women like razzle-dazzle jewellery and bold outfits. I have no doubt that my roots have influenced my way of thinking. I absolutely love it when jewellery is chunky, shiny, with a lot of details in the embroidery to make them look precious and elegant,' explains Raheim.

While the designer's clientele is a mix of both Western and Middle Eastern customers, she says her most enduring clients come from this region. Raheim explains that women in this part of the world are not afraid to experiment with bold designs, as compared to in the West. So is there a particular way to wear jewellery or are there faux-pas when it comes to dressing jewels? Raheim is quick to counter my question by answering: 'Absolutely not!' 'Personally, I like to think outside of the box and not to be too obvious in my choices. For example, I think that a statement piece worn with an evening dress is quite nice but not that original. I'd rather wear a chunky necklace on a really casual outfit, it's more fun and unique. Jewellery gives you the opportunity to try so many things and it can twist and add the final touch to a look really easily. So just go for it!'



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TREATS TO TREASURE

By Zoey Coombe

Eid is a time for celebration, eternal gratefulness and to showcase the unconditional love shared between friends and family. Whether you choose to express your affection in words or through your actions, it's the perfect opportunity to demonstrate your appreciation and compassion for others, by treating the ones you adore. Zoey Coombe has scoured the gifting realms to source ageless accessories, stunning fine jewellery collections and exceptional timepieces, to help you with selecting precious sentiments that celebrate not just this special occasion, but many more to come.

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MULBERRY Silk Border Scarf

Made with 100% silk, a scarf from Mulberry is the ideal gift to wrap around someone you love. Featuring a delicate and seasonal graphic floral, it is trimmed with a harmonising border design. Choose from an understated and classic black hue or the neutral ballet pink.

Mulberry.com



DOLCE & GABBANA Bow Tie

Dolce and Gabbana bow ties are available in an assortment of classic colours, micro patterns and luxurious textures. They add a special touch to formal wear for important occasions and can be worn by the fashionable forward man who dresses distinctively on a regular basis.

Dolcegabbana.com



BOUCHERON Serpent Boheme Collection

The Serpent Boheme assortment by Boucheron was created with dedication in mind. Referencing the brand's emblematic snake, the collection represents eternity. The bracelet consists of a drop motif set with diamonds and bordered with gold beads. The corresponding ring has been engraved, raised and sculpted to mimic the scales of a serpent, symbolising protection.

Boucheron.com



BURBERRY Bloomsbury Bag

Inspired by the Bloomsbury set of British writers and artists, this structured tote bag reflects the group's artistic spirit. Decorated with individual, hand-painted artworks, rug motifs and an eclectic combination of textiles and embellishments, the 'it' bags form part of Burberry Prorsum's AW14 range and uses grainy nubuck, leather and alligator as canvases. Colourful without being garish and practical without being boring, the Bloomsbury is one bag that will be turning heads everywhere a woman goes.

Burberry.com

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VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Charms Watch

Described as both playful and elegant, the Mini-Charms watch is part of an iconic collection best suited to a woman who appreciates delicacy and fine artistry. Featuring a delicate Alhambra charm with an interchangeable satin strap, the timepiece promises to enhance femininity and remain a precious part of any woman's watch collection.

Vancleefarpels.com

RALPH LAUREN Classic Chronometer Watch

Part of the latest Sporting collection, this stainless steel timepiece features a manufacture movement, is self-winding and water resistant. With its patent black alligator strap and pin buckle, the chronometer watch incorporates a traditional yet refined aesthetic with superb watch making craftsmanship for the man who's fascinated by sophisticated technology and possesses a polished sense of style.

Ralphlauren.com



ROBERT WAN Pearls

Renowned as the world's largest producer of Tahitian pearls, Robert Wan truly understands what a woman looks for when searching for the perfect pearl. The Bridal Vega Set Necklace and matching earrings are a symbol of the designer's love affair with the Island of Marutea and where the beautiful pearls have been cultivated to sheer perfection. The colours are rich and represent the array of nature of where they came from and all possess flawless symmetry, which takes months and even years to create.

Robert Wan- Available at Harvey Nichols



GUCCI Bracelet

Ideal for the style-conscious man who is already accustomed to wearing leather on his wrist in the form of watches, this leather bracelet from Gucci is not only appealing but retains a sense of masculinity. Formal whilst at the same time roguish and rebellious, it's worn best as an accessory for a tailored board room look, or with a t-shirt and slim sitting jeans for a more edgy, rock 'n' roll style.

Gucci.com



VIKTOR & ROLF Brogues

Once the domain of the conventional country gent, brogues continue to carve the perfect path between the smart and casual divide. Tough heritage styling and renowned craftsmanship from Viktor & Rolf prove they continue to reign at elevating the souls of shoes. This patent black and contrasting white pair can be worn dressed up or casually for the man with a classic sense of style.

Available at Saks Fifth Avenue.



KANZI Earrings and Ring

Every single piece of jewellery by Kanzi can be described as not only articulate but also alluring works of art, aiming to please the vivacious woman who loves to adorn herself in expressive jewels. Part of the vintage collection, these 18 karat gold earrings and ring both feature iconic Geode rocks accompanied with stunning white diamonds. Reflecting its wearer's exquisite taste and love for jewellery this set is a flawless gift for the woman who wears it, dares to be different.

Available at Harvey Nichols.



DIOR HOMME Leather Briefcase

For the successful businessman in need of a briefcase update, Raf Simons introduces a dapper leather edition in complementary burgundy and navy shades. Embossed with the Christian Dior logo, the case features large zippers for easy access and separate compartments for paperwork, making the carryall desirable, practical and stylish all in one.

Available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

MOUAWAD Grand Ellipse Pen and Cufflinks

The Grand Ellipse accessories range from Mouawad features luxury writing instruments hand-crafted in carbon fiber, palladium rose gold and lacquer, and 18 karat white and rose gold cuff links which act as the perfect companions for the latest watch collection. Offering ultimate sophistication and coordination for stylish businessmen across the globe, Mouawad's impeccable focus on detail and distinctive designs once again sets the bar high for gifts that promise to please this Eid.

Mouawad.com



SAINT LAURENT Classic Monogram Satchel

Refined and traditional, this satchel is perfect for a woman with an unadulterated sense of style. Featuring contrasting dark magenta against jet black, a gold double gourmette chain, the signature YSL logo and textured matelassé leather, it's a classic statement accessory sure to be on every woman's wish list.

Ysl.com

EXPRESSION

CITY STYLE GUIDE
CHANEL MEETS ARABIA
QUINTESENTIALLY BRITISH
IN PURSUIT OF PRE-FALL
SISTER ACT
SMART DUBAI
UNRAVELLING HISTORY
MADE IN PALESTINE

عبر



CITY STYLE GUIDE

*By Elisar Sasso, Nahla Saleiman,
Zoey Coombe, Layne Redman*

ESCAPADES IN EUROPE

Europe is famous for its breathtaking landscapes and alluring tourist attractions, so what better way to spend your summer vacation than going city hopping in one of the most magnificent parts of the world. From Monte Carlo and Florence, to Budapest and Ibiza, we have the latest looks this summer for not only all of the stylish ladies, but also for the elegant gents.



FLORENCE

A Romantic Escape



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Sunglasses MICHAEL KORS
Earrings NIKOS KOULIS
Bag, shoes, shorts and top VALENTINO

Shirt LACOSTE
Trousers LACOSTE
Shoes LACOSTE
Watch GLASHUTTE
Travel bag GUCCI

IBIZA

Sizzle on the Sand



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Wrap-top bikini
LISA MARIE FERNANDEZ MARIE LOUISE
Hat MELISSA ODABASH
Clutch NINA RICCI
Sandals PHILLIP LIM
Hoops Bracelet HERVEÛ VAN DER STRAETEN
Drop Earrings MARC BY MARC JACOBS

Sunglasses POLICE
T-Shirt LACOSTE
Shorts VILEBREQUIN
Shoes LACOSTE

LONDON

City Breeze



Top MULBERRY
Culottes MULBERRY
Handbag PHILIP LIM
Shoes MAX MARA

Shirt DIESEL
Trousers LACOSTE
Belt GUCCI
Bag LACOSTE
Shoes LACOSTE
Watch IWC

MADRID

La Dolce Vita Chic



Sandals CAROLINA HERRERA
Crop top ISOLDA
Statement ring NINA RICCI
Clutch NINA RICCI
Shorts MULBERRY

Hat LACOSTE
Shirt LACOSTE
Sunglasses ROBERTO CAVALLI
Watch GUCCI
Shorts VILEBREQUIN
Shoes LACOSTE

MONTE CARLO

Luxury Living



Sunglasses FERRAGAMO
 Dress NINA RICCI
 Bracelet and earrings R.J. GRAZIANO
 Shoes RUPERT SANDERSON
 Bag VALENTINO

Shirt DIESEL
 SCARF Gucci
 Trousers LACOSTE
 Belt GUCCI
 Shoes GUCCI
 Watch GLASHUTTE
 Jacket DIESEL

ZAGREB

A Zest For Zagreb



Dress CH CAROLINA HERRERA
 Tote SAINT LAURENT
 Sandals MAX MARA
 Ring SAINT LAURENT

Shirt LACOSTE
 Trousers LACOSTE
 Scarf LACOSTE
 Sunglasses GUCCI
 Sunglasses MOVADO
 Shoes LACOSTE

BUDAPEST

A Beguiling Adventure

AMSTERDAM

Gallivant in Style



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Maxi Dress VIONNET PARIS AT
SAKS FIFTH AVENUE
Handbag MIU MIU
Earrings GUCCI
Bangle SAINT LAURENT
Sandals MAX MARA

Polo LACOSTE
Jeans DIESEL
Watch MOVADO
Bag LACOSTE
Shoes LACOSTE

Pants CAROLINA HERRERA
Sandals DSQUARED
Blouse PHILLIP LIM
Zip Ring MARC BY MARC JACOBS
Enamel Disc Earrings MARC BY MARC JACOBS
Bag TANAH REAH

Polo LACOSTE
Trousers LACOSTE
Scarf LACOSTE
Bag LACOSTE
Shoes LACOSTE
Watch MOVADO

CHANEL MEETS ARABIA

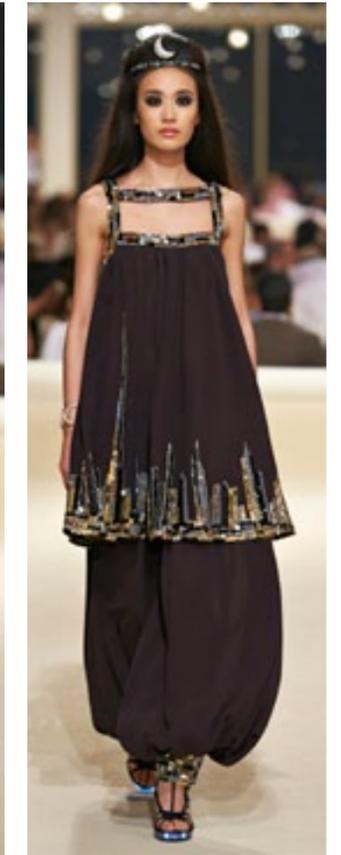
By Elisar Sasso

The king of fashion, Karl Lagerfeld, unveiled the much-anticipated Chanel Cruise collection recently in Dubai, revealing an Arabian twist to Chanel's classic style.



A mesmerising sunset, a picturesque skyline and numerous Chanel ambassadors; Karl Lagerfeld's Chanel Cruise show was certainly the highlight of this year's fashion agenda. Dubai, a city where east meets west, hosted a timeless journey depicting Lagerfeld's vision of an 'idealised east, an east that is for everybody.' Taking place on The Island in the bay of Dubai, red-canopied dhows transported 1,000 guests from the mainland to Chanel's mini Arabian fortress. The collection was unveiled in a purpose-built building that was created by the House of Chanel, decorated with emblematic interlocking double C's. Fashion icons including Freida Pinto and Tilda Swinton, made special appearances to witness this indelible event in Chanel's history.

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Revolving around patterns of oriental art and Eastern mosaics, the collection captures this region's fine culture, representing Chanel's global and versatile nature. From harem pants and mosaic skirts, to heavy kohl-lined eyes, Lagerfeld embraced the local culture and transformed the French luxury house into an Arabian treasure. Influenced by the paintings of Delacroix, as well as the 1914 creations of Paul Poiret, Chanel's oriental princesses elegantly walked down the Bedouin-themed tent, revealing ravishing outfits to guests who were sat on cushions around lantern-lit low tables.

Venturing away from the norm, Lagerfeld associates Chanel's signature palette of white, black and beige, with midnight blue, fuchsia and carmine red. The first outfit to grace the catwalk comprised of a bolero jacket with voluminous sleeves, delicately embroidered with neoprene camellias by the House of Lemarié. Following ensembles included a pleated blouse embellished with beads, a tunic hemmed with Lesage decorated in powdered sequins and a long black dress with flared sleeves embroidered by the Montex Atelier. Patterns of oriental art are seen within a geometric black and white kaftan tunic, which are complemented by bold floral prints. Variations of Eastern mosaics are present on long evening dresses adorned with sparkling embroidery, representing the magnificent Dubai skyline. Accessories such as the gold jerry can handbag, the pearl bag, crescent moon tiaras and oriental slippers, accompanied each outfit reflecting the beguiling theme of Arabian Nights. To end the spectacular show, guests enjoyed a private performance given by the sensational R&B soul musician, Janelle Monae.



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QUINTESENTIALLY BRITISH

By Naji Haddad

Naji Haddad travels to London on a typical British Summer's day to meet British designer, Jeremy Hackett, take in one of Britain's most vintage duals, and to talk about the appeal and secret behind his brand's success that distinguishes it from the rest.



Coco Chanel once quipped "Fashion fades, only style remains the same."

This is the foundation for all great architects and visionaries, and indeed of Jeremy "Mr. Classic" Hackett, the founder and chairman of the great traditional British brand, Hackett.

In today's society we are often looking for role models within the circles media figures to mould and shape how we walk, talk and indeed dress. Due to the plethora of choices that have recently become widely available up until the last decade we often shone what was deemed as aristocratic and preppy attire and opted for the more rebellious and less structured choice of clothing.

However, in the last decade we have seen a renaissance of a particular style that is the true embodiment of understated elegance and timeless attire, which will always prevail no matter what era or direction fashion is moving towards at that current point in time.

That style is, essentially British; classic, clean and elementary, yet revered the world over.

The first thoughts when visualising the essential gentleman is the painting, *The Son of Man* (also known as *The Faceless Businessman*), by the Belgian surrealist, René Magritte. He is portrayed as smart and elegant, yet very British with the trademark bowler hat.

Characters that spring to mind as being the frontrunners of the driving forces for such revival include Carlton Banks, from the popular TV show, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*; singer/songwriter André 3000; and actor Zachary Quinto from *Star Trek*. However, as characterised by Hackett's new campaign, *The Leading Man*, the shaken but not stirred, ultra suave Pierce Brosnan, is the ultimate figurehead to lead Hackett's drive into the next chapter of its illustrious heritage, and is befitting of Jeremy Hackett's ideology and vision of what embodies a true gentleman.

On a recent trip to London, I had the pleasure of meeting and being in the company of a true British icon, Jeremy Hackett. I was kindly invited, as a guest of Hackett's, to attend the annual Cambridge and Oxford boat race, which has become a worldwide spectacle and a must on the social calendar.

On the afternoon of the event, I proceeded to Hackett's flagship store on Regent's street – a grand three-story property, inclusive of a bar, barber and personal tailoring room, where I was to meet Jeremy Hackett. As I arrived, I was greeted by the marketing manager, Neil Bugler, as I waited for Hackett to finish his current interview. Soon after I was introduced to Hackett, who was softly spoken, yet a worldly gentleman, exuded charisma, warmth and presence.

Dressed entirely from the Hackett range, in a smart, yet comfortable mix of formal attire, finished off with a quintessentially typical

tweed jacket (suitable for the annual Oxford and Cambridge Thames River Dual, for which Hackett is a prime sponsor of along with BNY Mellon), he speaks very fondly of what he feels is the uniqueness of British flair and what its pulling power is that stretches from the far corners of North America, to the cultural wonder world of The Great Wall of China.

'It's all about the fine details of that personalised and tailored suit, to the personal care and attention of adhering to certain traditions of Savile Row, while infusing a complete level of comfort,' professes Hackett. These fine details are found within all of the Hackett collections, attracting many clients around the world and acting as a hallmark for their growing number of clients.

The clothing range ensures only the artisan ways, with intricate detailing in every piece, whether it's ready-to-wear or tailor-made; it must be comfortable but still equally suited to most occasions.

He conveys the upmost level of modesty attributed to the level of success achieved by the brand in just over a quarter of a century. Hackett has become synonymous with the majority of British sports such as tennis, rugby, motorsports, boat racing and not least it's most important association, polo. The British association is further expanded through a recent collaboration with another British titan, Aston Martin.

I proceed to inquire about the level of interest and success the Hackett brand has achieved within the Middle East and his response was a delightful, 'astonishingly successful.' It is hardly surprising, considering the association the British Empire has had within this region for over a century. The Gulf is undeniably in love (and will continue to be so) with the British essence, and Hackett certainly has no shortage of local customers flocking to its stores, eager to become loyal and steadfast clients of this unique British brand.

Hackett himself speaks with great admiration for the level of hospitality and warmth within this region, but equally the importance of heritage that is maintained, which is all the more reason why the Hackett brand has found a special place within the hearts here, as these are the same principles that are instilled within the brand. Such characteristics of identity are unmistakably critical for building and maintaining loyal and strong bonds with their clients.

In the midst of our talk, I was reminded by Bugler that we had to be on our way, which was a shame as I would have found myself speaking to Hackett for hours more. Not to despair, I found myself, along with a couple of more media representatives, sharing a car journey with Hackett to the race. Along the way, he gives us a very insightful history of Chelsea and its neighbouring boroughs, in addition to pointing out the very first Hackett shop, as Hackett recalls the bank manager at the time sought to clarify such ill-advised decision to open shop in this part of King's Road.

As we arrived at the London Rowing Club (LRC, the most successful and prestigious rowing club), there was a red Aston Martin suitably parked outside, branded with the Hackett logo. The weather was rather dreary, however, it was actually fitting for this event, which mirrored the two shades of blue that ran through the miles of this course and that of the many hundreds that came out in attendance as they do every year to cheer on their champions as they take on the growling 6.8km course (from

Putney Embankment to Chiswick Bridge). It takes eight men to push their combined weight and that of the boat, which can touch on one metric ton through 600 strokes from start to finish (each racer trains seven whole months in preparation for this race).

It is a tradition that has long existed for 160 years (since 1829), where two friends from the opposing universities – Charles Merrivale (Cambridge; rowing club est. 1828) and Charles Wordsworth (Oxford; rowing club est. 1829), challenged each other on sporting merit, which had seen Cambridge slightly ahead on the overall scoreboard with 81 wins to Oxford's 77 wins (up to 2013), despite Oxford winning the first ever dual quite easily.

We went up to one of the private rooms at the LRC, which was reserved for Hackett, (LRC is recognised as the most successful and prestigious rowing club and its patron is HRH Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. It is located at the start of the race course), to be greeted by the chairman of the LRC Ben Helm, who was kind enough to give us a guided tour and an insightful history of the races. He explained who manufacturers the boats, what the typical cost of such a boat would be and how long they typical use the boats before they are considered as training vessels that can no longer take on the rigours and demands of the races.

As the race began, I was proposed with a question that I hadn't actually given much thought to – who am I supporting? Which blue runs through my veins? I was almost perplexed at the question as I'd never followed the event prior, but as I dwelled on the answer, Helm had provided me with much needed help and indicated that usually people support the blue of their birth year. I immediately

rushed to my phone to ascertain the necessary information, and as I'd initially hoped, Oxford Blue were the winners of my birth year (and the colour more closely associated to Hackett). I recalled that they were the first winners of this prestigious event and I hoped, as this was my first race that the omens would be kind as they had been the previous year when Oxford were the victorious challengers of the event (Cambridge colours are light turquoise and blue, and Oxford colours are dark navy blue).

As an added bit of fun, we were asked to initiate in a friendly charitable cause, whereby we each donated £2, with the winner then choosing a nominated charity to give the proceeds to. Once again I opened the Internet browser on my phone to look over results in the previous years and noticed that the fastest winners were Cambridge in 1998, with a finish time of 16 minutes and 19 seconds. The previous year's winners, Oxford managed a result of 17 minutes and 28 seconds. I had a good feeling that Oxford would win this year and beat Cambridge's result of 1998, so I plucked for 16 minutes and ten seconds. The race began swiftly and the box was sealed.

Due to the location of the LRC, we could only see the race live for the first stretch and as the boats moved past Fulham FC and on to Crabtree Tavers towards Hammersmith Bridge, we were restricted to watch the remaining part of the race on a screen, which was placed in the private function room. As I watched the race, I also observed many visitors who were dressed elegantly and sophisticated for this event, as though it was the Grand National. This may not have been the Grand National but its significance is of a similar status and it is a highly attended event that receives worldwide coverage in the millions.



As the race came to an end, it was a triumph for Oxford with a win of 18 minutes and 36 seconds, albeit a complaint by the disgruntled Cambridge team about the oars crossing in the early part of the race, as well as one of the Cambridge crew losing his balance as a result and thus conceding ground to Oxford, which was eventually dismissed by the umpires as unfounded.

Cambridge 81, Oxford now 78, and I left the race with a vivid memory of this much-anticipated race, with a reason to be satisfied

that my chosen blue team were the victors in this dual. I will be eagerly watching next year's race with anticipation for another Oxford win.

It is quite simple really, the Hackett brand is not an all singing and dancing, gimmicky brand, but rather a good wholesome, authentic and honest British brand that has stuck to the principles of its foundation, delivering exactly what they preach – selling fine quality traditional British clothing. To many of its loyal clients, this is the

unique selling point and the reason for its growing numbers, but equally what must be recognised is the man himself, Jeremy Hackett. He is 'a simple man' as he puts it, yet this integrity and humbleness is an essential component of the brand's drive to ensure clients continue to return and remain loyal, and more acutely to start customers on the traditionalist's path from the earliest age, with a range dedicated to children. It is important to ensure that such great old-fashioned qualities are instilled, maintained and passed on for many generations to come.

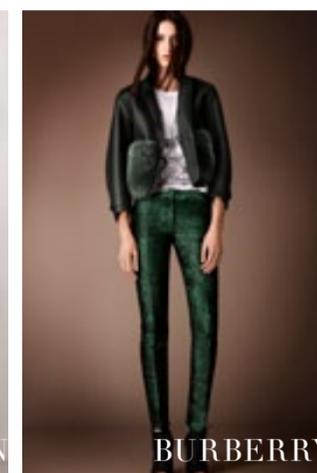


IN PURSUIT OF PRE-FALL

By Zoey Coombe

As the summer sun begins to fade away and chillier evenings creep in, designers across the four fashion capitals have crafted designs that aim to transform wardrobes worldwide. The pre-fall collections have communicated that comfort is key and whilst glamour still emerges in profusion, extravagance is reigned in significantly, as creatives focus on functionality and wearability.

From elaborate patterns and darker hues, to an abundance of fabrics and fascinating cuts, Zoey Coombe highlights our shortlist of favourite trends for the pre-fall season.



RELAXED BUSINESS

Backstage at Lanvin, designer Alber Elbaz made a powerful declaration, 'women are looking for more reality in their clothing', before he unveiled a charming collection that features slouchy business attire and offers alpha females around the globe an alternative from the structured, tailored and even generic separates. Even Raf Simons at Dior adopted this idea of professional comfort, renovating the classic bar jacket into a soft denim interpretation for women with a sophisticated sense of style, who also seek functionality appropriate to wear in the boardroom and beyond.

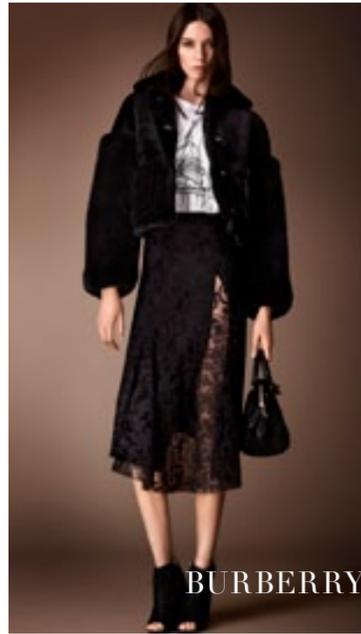
GREEN ENVY

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend but for pre-fall, nothing quite beats green galore. The jewel tone is the haute couture of hues for this season's palette and whether worn as head-to-toe lace adorned with a lashing of sparkle like Erdem, or as a tangible and fleecy shearling coat as created by Lanvin, be sure to invest in the seductive shade. From enchanting metallics to the deepest, most mysterious tones, emerald green promises to make any woman dazzle, at any given moment.



THIGH HIGH

Slits rise to the occasion this season, creeping a few inches shorter on provocative midi and maxi-length skirts at Nina Ricci and Burberry. To be worn modestly with long-sleeved cardigans and in neutral hues of jet-black, dove grey and camel, for those who dare to bare.



A NEW SKIN

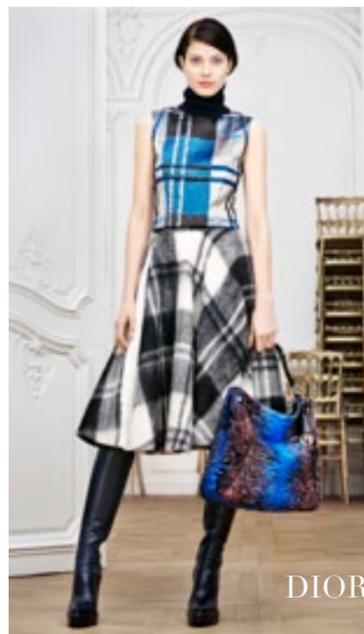
Miuccia experimented with a combination of colours and leather fabrics in her defiantly loud collection, creating easy-to-wear silhouettes and key head-to-toe looks for the season. Bold plum and aqua blue tones in fluid fabrics dominate the runway for pre-fall, verifying that head-to-toe leather is not only wearable, but also guarantees a style that screams effortless chic!

COZY UP

Designers have drawn inspiration from a winter necessity for outerwear that promises to protect from the harsh weather conditions to follow in the coming months. Blanket coats may not sound like the most flattering ensemble for fall, but by fusing traditional prints with modern cuts the revamps witnessed across several collections have granted its status as an admired trend, hailed for its comforting, oversized appeal. Christopher Bailey at Burberry adopted over-scale geometric patterns in dark hues for a modish interpretation, so whether it's short, soft silhouettes, or a sweeping and gallant design, the blanket layer is proving the perfect advocate for effortless seasonal style.

PLAID

Linier patterns in pulsating colours are the prints to own this season. Ranging from cacophony suit and shirt combinations at Kenzo, mid-length skirts at Dior and even culottes by TIBI, the common thread designers have focused on is a rich pop of colours, making for a standout aesthetic for the fall wardrobe. Wear singularly to spruce up an outfit, or clash prints and lines for a more dramatic take on the trend.



SISTER ACT

By Zoey Coombe



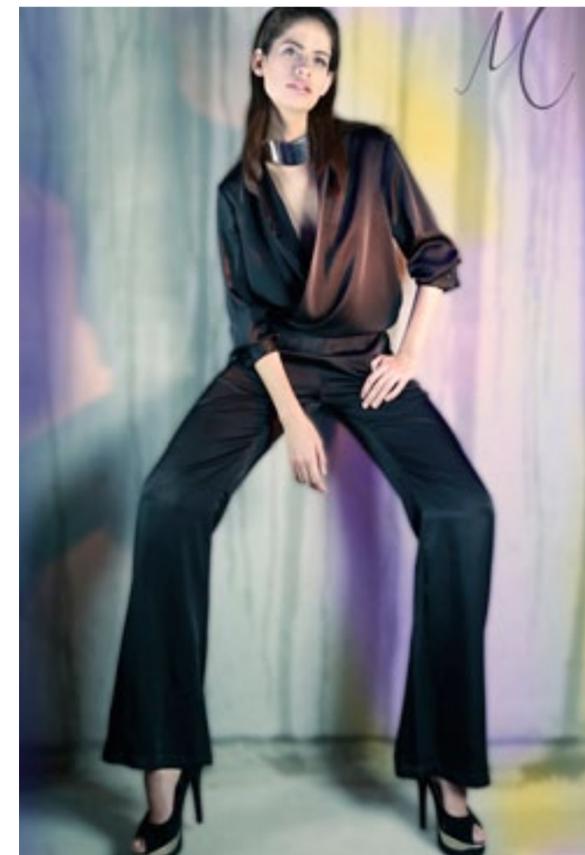
Brazilian-Kuwaiti sisters Bedour, Raihan and Dana Arrar have recently launched the fashion brand, Morenas, in the Middle East. Zoey Coombe speaks to the creative siblings about their journey so far and the influences that led to the brand's multi-cultural concept.



Translated from Portuguese as free-spirited brunettes, Morenas is a recently launched UAE based fashion brand, founded by the Arrar sisters Bedour, Raihan and Dana. Born to an Italian mother and Kuwaiti father, the siblings were raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil, before relocating to Kuwait in 1996 and then deciding to settle in Dubai 12 years ago.

The sisters have combined their Brazilian beach-life experiences with their nomadic desert roots and Italian heritage, to create the Morenas identity. Their journey into the design industry began when the sisters were just teenagers, when they sensed a penchant for creativity collectively. 'We've always loved being imaginative and inventive, not just necessarily with fashion but art too,' begins the eldest sister, Bedour. Adopting an open-minded approach to life, the Arrar sisters explain how they have learnt more about their background through developing the Morenas brand. 'By travelling and living across different continents, it has given us the opportunity to understand cultures. As we grew up in Brazil and were young, we didn't understand our father was Arab until we moved to Kuwait and learnt more about our family. If we stayed in Brazil we wouldn't be in touch with our identity,' explains Bedour.

The first collection by Morenas specifically showcases 13 high-end looks, including ensembles and separates that embody glamour and exquisite craftsmanship. Inspired by the sunny, easy-going Brazilian lifestyle the collection consists of easy-to-wear separates in a colour palette of soft pastels in tweed, lifted by neon coloured crepes and detailed with chiffons, along with brocades and jacquard for a triumphant combination for a contemporary women's fashion line that conveys individuality, confidence and style.



Drawing influences from nature and the tropics, the trio enjoy experimenting with different textures and bold colours and whilst they source their materials from Brazil, the designers find solace knowing that women feel empowered in their designs.

'We want people to feel carefree and free-spirited, it's important to feel comfortable in your clothes,' says Dana. Created with only the highest quality, luxury and longevity in mind, the label is not willing to compromise like other mass-produced brands. Each piece is replicated in a selected number of sizes and are exclusive, so consumers can be rest assured that not many others will have access to the same design.

Taking into consideration Dubai's humid climate, the sisters have used lightweight materials and combined each of their individual styles to cater for women in their early 20s, right up until their late 30s. 'Our idea of fashion is contemporary, interactive, fun, cool, funny, cute and young at heart, and the new collection knows no age boundaries. While it appeals to the younger generation, the collection can relate well to the woman who likes to keep a sparkle and an upbeat vibe in her style,' comments Raihan.

'Bedour's style is simplistic; she will look fabulous in a t-shirt and jeans, whilst Dana is an extrovert with accessories and will reinvent a look over again by changing her accessories. I love dressing up, so evening wear is close to my heart,' says Raihan. Whilst their individuality serves well as a cooperative success, the designers believe that their differing personalities also bring great attributes to the business table. Bedour describes herself as the fashion creator and works closely with Dana on designing and sourcing fabrics from Brazil, whereas Raihan has taken the administrative accounting and marketing role. 'Three heads are definitely better than one. We're family so naturally we have the best intentions at heart for one another, the trust is perfect and we know each other's personalities very well. It's a very constructive environment as we all have valid opinions,' says Dana.

In the near future, the Arrar sisters hope to incorporate accessories into their brand. 'At the moment, the best feeling is seeing our clothing in stores like O'Concept and people actually wearing them.

There'll be more exciting things to come from us in the coming months and years,' explains Bedour.

SMART DUBAI

By Elisar Sasso

By merging sustainability with architecture, the empowering young Emirati, Malak Ali Hassan, believes that Dubai will become the green metropolitan of the region. Elisar Sasso discovers more about her company 3dimension and what Hassan envisions for the future of her city.



'My quest is to transform this universal city we live in, into a smart green city' – Malak Ali Hassan



Living in a sustainable metropolis has always been a vision for the empowering entrepreneur, Malak Ali Hassan. Surrounded by carbon-guzzling skyscrapers, Hassan decided to leave her job in the government sector and solely launch her own sustainable architectural firm called 3dimension.

The 33-year-old Emirati is the first to introduce the green predesigned villas concept to the UAE market, which was unveiled at this year's Cityscape Abu Dhabi property show in April. 'I have always envisioned Dubai as the green city that will outpace its challenges and will lead sustainable development in the whole region,' explains Hassan with ambition.



Founded in 2013, 3dimension is a dynamic quantity surveying and project management firm that is inspired by three aspects – architectural innovation, environmental preservation and the needs of society. Hassan incorporates these factors through rigorous research in programs such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design); Estidama, a building design methodology based in Abu Dhabi; and the Green Building Guidelines.

Graduating from Ajman University of Science and Technology with a BA in architecture and engineering, Hassan then went on to attain a masters degree in urban planning from the American University of Sharjah. 'I have also accredited diplomas from the American Council in Quantity Surveying and Engineering Construction Management,' she beams.

The green predesigned villas concept are built from insulating blocks and include a garden on the roof that collects grey water, which is gathered from the sinks and showers. The five-bedroom option stretches to 8,446 square feet that includes garden areas, allowing families to enjoy the outdoors more often therefore reducing air conditioning usage. 'These villas exemplify innovative model homes that will offer efficiency, accessibility, security, convenience and comfort,' explains Hassan.

According to Hassan, the construction costs of a green villa can be the same as that of building a normal villa, but it is much better for the community. 'Previously, one could rarely find sustainable buildings in the UAE. We hope that now, a real revolution in thinking will take place and an implementation of an overall sustainable green economy will also take place,' she says.

3dimension has previously partnered with a number of reputable local and international entities including Ebony Village LLC and Masdar City, one of the world's most sustainable urban developments. Last year, the company signed deals with National Gulf Investment Group to design a labour camp.

Hassan is a strong believer of empowering women and encourages all women to embrace their passions and make a difference. 'Today the Emirati woman, supported by our government, has already achieved a forefront place in all fields. As an Emirati woman and engineer, I don't feel cornered or afraid to work and be innovative,' she says proudly.

Driven by her vision to transform Dubai into a more sustainable environment, Hassan plans on presenting her pillar project, Smart Green Villa, during Cityscape Global Dubai later this year, which will display modern technological innovations and sustainable energy efficient gadgets. 'My quest is to transform this universal city we live in, into a smart green city,' she says.

For more information visit 3dimension.4demo.in

UNRAVELLING HISTORY

By Nahda Suleiman

The first institution of its kind in Melbourne, the Islamic Museum of Australia aims to bridge cultural barriers between the East and West. Nahda Suleiman speaks to the founder to find out more



After five years of careful planning, detailed consultation, successful fundraising and development of public awareness, the Islamic museum in Melbourne (IMA) – the first of its kind in Australia – opened its doors this March.

A not for profit organization, the IMA aims to create a culture of awareness and understanding through innovative environments, programs and tools that help to bridge understanding between the East and the West.

The museum is the brainchild of two Australians – founder and director Moustafa Fahour and his wife Maysaa Fahour. The Fahours explain their motivation behind this massive initiative by saying: ‘One night in 2009, I was sitting with my wife and after watching the nightly news and noticed the misunderstanding of Islam, I thought we had to do something about this. I wanted to find a way to educate the wider community of the factual information of Islam and the contributions Muslims have made to civilisation, and more importantly Australia. We discussed a number of ideas and we thought the best way to do this is through the universal language of art. Art is universal and unites people and builds bridges across faiths, cultures, race, etc. So we decided to launch the Islamic Museum of Australia.’ The couple relocated to Dubai in 2012, but

did not give up their dream of building the IMA. Moustafa worked with the Dubai based designers North 55 to create the branding of the museum. Moustafa, who currently works as an executive in the construction sector, worked closely with his wife to supervise the project long distance.

The museum is a strikingly-beautiful custom designed building which blends Middle Eastern aesthetics along with Australian elements of architecture. Its outer structure is clad in Australian-made corten steel, rusting naturally and perforated with holes to reference indigenous dot paintings. On the building’s exterior are panels bearing Arabic calligraphy. Mustafa further elaborates on this: ‘The mission of the building is to create a culture of awareness and understanding through innovative environments, programs and tools that help people nurture their curiosity about Islam and build bridges of understanding between cultures.

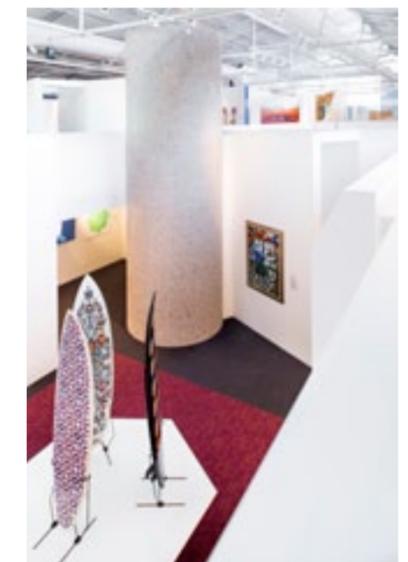
Two main ideas form the basis of the design of the museum; the first is the emphasis on its Australian Islamic context and resisting the temptation to orientalise the project.

The rusted Corten veil that leads the patron into the museum is unmistakably an Australian icon material. This veil is perforated with modernised art that tells the story of Muslim history in Australia

from first contact with the Makassans, the Cameleers, pre war and post war migration and contributions beyond settlement till the present day. The courtyard that separates the new administrative building and the existing warehouse space also entrenches the aspect of place.

The courtyard not only acts as a metaphoric link with the notion of billabong but also to assist with cooled natural ventilation through louvered openings in the glazed walls that surround it. The second is the way in which the Museum invites a visitor to enter, to discover, to “unravel” and to “decipher”. This is enunciated by the very verse that adorns the front part of the building.’

The IMA’s tagline is Art, Heritage and Discovery, implying that it wishes to not only be a museum, but also a cultural centre for people of various walks of life to learn about Middle Eastern heritage and Islamic culture. In terms of future projects, Moustafa seems to be very enthusiastic about what’s in the pipeline saying that since the museum has opened, they have received positive feedback from various institutions in the Middle East and beyond. He hopes to have a number of artists from the UAE visit the IMA as part of a travelling exhibition to showcase their works. ‘Our core focus has also been on the visiting exhibitions which rotate quarterly and we are so excited to be booking exhibitions for the next few years in advance.’



MADE IN PALESTINE

By Nahda Suleiman

A design label from Palestine is aiming to give Palestinian craftsmanship a contemporary twist.



In what is deemed to be the very first collection of Palestinian products created in the current time, a group of artisans and contemporary designers have joined hands to provide an alternative narrative of what is usually found on the high street market. From a dress made out of keffiyeh and olive leaves as earrings, to scarves depicting landscapes and embroidered car decorations, the design label aptly titled Disarming Design, presents functional Palestinian products that are modern, but yet pay homage to Palestine's heritage, by incorporating traditional techniques and materials.



Founded in 2012 and curated by a Dutch artist called Annelys de Vet, the project was initiated after the realisation by Vet that there were no locally-produced items that were available to an international audience. 'There are so many beautiful Palestinian products, but I've always wondered why they aren't for sale in Netherlands or other parts of Europe. I tried to think of a way these products could be spread out in the international market. Then I came up with the idea to set up Disarming Design, and create a context in which these products could exist. I approached Khalid Tourani, director of the art school in Ramallah, and asked him to develop this design label together,' explains de Vet.



The Dutch artist who has a personal relationship with Palestine - after performing a short stint-believes that design can truly help to improve the clichéd narrative of this land, by presenting a multifaceted picture of the Palestinian identity.



The overall objective of the project is to contribute to sustainable cultural and economic development in Palestine, through stimulating working relationships between artists, designers and manufacturers. The label also investigates the position contemporary designers can take in relation to situations of conflict. It makes use of art and design as powerful tools that allows Palestinians to have serious discussions within their about political, social and cultural realities.



De Vet affirms this by saying: 'Disarming Design is similar to a cultural design project that was created to deliver a meaningful contribution to the discourse on the narrative of life in Palestine.'

The goods are developed, designed and produced by contemporary designers, artists and students in collaboration with local artisans and producers. These designers then engage in an enriching design dialogue with small emerging businesses and international colleagues. The project aims to catalyse the development of design as a discourse in Palestine.

De Vet laments the lack of design initiatives in the Palestinian territories and says that it is important for artisans and contemporary designers to work together in creating functional products. 'Courses for artists in Palestine are very developed. But design courses do not really exist. There's a huge

history of contemporary art in Palestine, but somehow design is not a discourse yet. So Disarming Design is a way to develop a dialogue about what design means. In Palestine, the world of craft and contemporary art are two very distant worlds. In this project, we work to not only build bridges between disciplines but locations as well, in Palestine. We want to give Palestinians an opportunity to speak, without an agenda.'



Even though the project hasn't been fully launched yet, De Vet says the response to Disarming Design has been positive. Towards the end of the year, a website and an online store is set to be launched, which will be showcasing the prototypes of these designs. 'We will be exhibiting during the Qalandiya International art fair in November. It is an ambitious contemporary art event taking place in several Palestinian cities and villages.'

CREDITS

Photography: Céline Callens

Freedom Shoes

Leather shoes with 'Freedom' tote out of embroidery
Design: Abu Ameen & Hannes Bernard
Manufacturer: Rahala Shoes (Ramallah)

Birdplate

Plate with which the leftovers of the good can be given to the birds
Design: Maher Shaheen

Production: Hebron Glass & Ceramics Factory

Hourglass

Design: Majd Abdel Hamid
Production: Jaba Glass Factory

Old news from Palestine

Bowl made of papier-mâché of old Palestinian newspapers

Design & production: Ahmad Nassar

Made in Palestine

Keffiyeh pattern made out of copied logos from fashion brands

Design: Jaroslav Toussaint

Production: Al Arja Textile factory (Beit Jala)

1 The Hirbawi brothers talking with designer Annelys de Vet (NL) and artist Maher Shaheen from Hebron Photography: Joanna Rodrigues

FASHION

SHANGRI-LA KALEIDOSCOPE
MEMOIRS OF TRAVEL

موضة

SHANGRI-LA KALEIDOSCOPE

When travelling to Dubai one truly needs to arrive at this luxury hotel which was the first venture for Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts in the UAE. The lavish aura you capture makes it feel you have travelled to both the Middle-East and Oriental cities.



PHOTOGRAPHER *Belinda Muller*
FASHION DIRECTION *Elie Chedid*
MODEL *Irina at Bareface*
MAKE-UP REVLON *Basma Masri*
SKIN-CARE *La Prairie*
HAIR *Katie Cousins*
STYLIST *MASQUERADE*
WARDROBE *INGIE PARIS*
JEWELLERY *MOUAWAD*
SHOES *LEVEL SHOE DISTRICT*

Jacket Top and Skirt by *INGIE PARIS*
Jewellery by *MOUAWAD*



Dress by INCIE PARIS
Shoes by IVY KIRZHNER at Level Shoe District
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Jacket Top and Skirt by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Jacket and Skirt by INGIE PARIS
Shoes by 3.1 PHILIP LIM
at Level Shoe District
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Dress by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD





Dress by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Top and Skirt by INGIE PARIS
Shoes by AQUAZZURA at
Level Shoe District
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Top and Skirt by INGIE PARIS
Shoes by AQUAZZURA at
Level Shoe District
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Top and Skirt by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Top and Skirt by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD





Dress by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Top by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Dress by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD



Trench-coat by INGIE PARIS
Jewellery by MOUAWAD

MEMOIRS OF TRAVEL

As Summer is up on us and we discover this stunning location, we invite you to witness the beautiful garden centre with us. The photo shoots is as vibrant and mystical as ever, where we explore old worlds through the eyes of the new. We take you on a journey that merges both heritage and modern that transports you on the path of travel.



PHOTOGRAPHER *Oliver Duran*
FASHION DIRECTION *Elie Chedid*
MODEL *Renata at MMG Events*
MAKE-UP *Katie Cousins*
HAIR *Katie Cousins*
STYLIST *MASQUERADE*
WARDROBE *SAKS FIFTH AVENUE*
SHOES *LEVEL SHOE DISTRICT*





Dress by HALSTON HERITAGE
at Saks Fifth Avenue
Shoes by JASON WU at
Level Shoe District



Dress by HALSTON HERITAGE
at Saks Fifth Avenue
Shoes by JASON WU at
Level Shoe District



Dress by DAVID MEISTER
at Saks Fifth Avenue



Dress by TADASHI SHOJI at Saks Fifth Avenue



Dress by ELIE TAHARI
at Saks Fifth Avenue



Shirt-dress by ESKANDAR at Saks Fifth Avenue
Shoes by APERLAJ at Level Shoe District
Necklace by LENA ZEITOUNI at Saks Fifth Avenue





Shirt-dress by NOONBYNOOR
at Saks Fifth Avenue



Kaftan blouse by ESKANDAR at Saks Fifth Avenue
Denim shorts by Elisabetta Franchi at Saks Fifth Avenue
Shoes by AENNIS EUNIS at Level Shoe District
Spiked turban by JENNIFER BEHR at Saks Fifth Avenue



Kaftan blouse by ESKANDAR at Saks Fifth Avenue
Denim shorts by Elisabetta Franchi at Saks Fifth Avenue
Shoes by AENNIS EUNIS at Level Shoe District
Spiked turban by JENNIFER BEHR at Saks Fifth Avenue



Top by DOLCE & GABBANA at Saks Fifth Avenue
Shorts by ELIE TAHARI at Saks Fifth Avenue
Shoes by SCHUTZ at Level Shoe District



Dress by ELIE TAHARI
at Saks Fifth Avenue

SURRENDER

THE SALT ROOM
BEAUTY BAZAAR
SUMMER SCENTS
GET THE GLOW

خفوه

THE SALT ROOM

By Nahda Suleiman

The latest spa trend to hit Dubai is a unique concept that claims to offer health benefits as well as cure medical ailments. Nahda Suleiman visits The First Salt Room and puts this one-of-a-kind treatment to the test



Ever since the early 19th century, in parts of Eastern Europe, people visited old salt mines to experience the healing effects of salt therapy - also known as halotherapy. Rich in minerals such as iodine, potassium and bromide, medical research has indicated that inhaling the particles of salt - in its purest form - helps to treat ailments such as eczema, acne, asthma and several other respiratory conditions. Now, one spa in the UAE has brought those therapeutic effects to our doorstep. Based in the heart of Dubai's Jumeirah Lake Towers, the First Salt Room (FSR) claims to be able to reproduce the atmosphere of a salt cave in a monitored therapeutic climate.

'Salt rooms are such a huge success in Europe, especially in Eastern Europe, but lately they have been cropping up in other parts of the continent, as well as the States and Asia. Knowing that the air condition here is polluted and we're breathing in so much filthy matter, I thought this would be a perfect place to set up a salt room,' explains Ahmad Al Balawi, one of the founders of the FSR, which claims to be the first of its kind in the Middle East.

In a typical salt room or halotherapy chamber, the walls and ceilings of each room are covered with natural non-iodised Himalayan salt, and grains are often scattered a few inches deep

on the floor. With each session lasting about 40 to 45 minutes, clients relax in these salt-coated rooms, and the piece de resistance hides in a small hole in the chamber - it is a generator that spews out half a cup of salt for every session. As customers sit back and take deep breaths, they are inhaling and coming into contact with this form of pure therapeutic salt, which contains 84 various types of minerals. While experts claim that at least six sessions are required in order to notice a definitive change, Balawi asserts that in certain cases, depending on the gravity of the condition, clients are able to see a difference in just one sitting.

Taking Balawi's words as gospel, my companion and I set out to FSR, to experience the healing effects of salt therapy for ourselves. As we enter the window-less chamber, we are provided with a pair of blue plastic shoe covers to protect the salt as well as our shoes. The FSR consists of three salt rooms - two for adults and one for children. Brightly coloured shovels, buckets and toy trucks litter the salt-strewn floor of the children's room, while adults have the option to talk to other clients in the rooms or dim the blue-hued lights and sleep.

The cave-like room is dimly lit, and the soft meditative lights immediately put us at ease, as we sit back and relax on the recliners. We

are encouraged to take deep breaths, as the salt particles float through the air, so as to soak up its disinfectant qualities. After 20 minutes inside the chamber, a sense of calm starts to descend upon us. Towards the latter part of our session, my companion and I begin to feel the tingling sensation of the salt in our systems. It's hard not to drift in and out of sleep, when we are left to our own devices, with the LED laser lights specifically activated, to affect our endorphin levels, and release enzymes that help us to feel positive.

Although relatively new in the region, Balawi believes that this form of alternative therapy is here to stay. 'The salt goes inside the respiratory system and helps clear out the particles. Our lungs are all full of mucus, I mean look at the weather - it's full of sand particles and we're inhaling them on a daily basis. People with serious respiratory conditions can notice a difference immediately, but healthier people might notice a change after two or three sessions. With completely healthy people, what you may notice after one session is that the person's immunity becomes stronger, you may sleep much easier.'

I certainly leave the spa feeling relaxed, and when I wake up feeling well-rested, I am certain it has something to do with the fact that I spent an hour at the salt spa.



BEAUTY BAZAAR

By Elisar Sasso, Nahda Suleiman, Zoey Coombe



Our selection of items to inspire your beauty routine this summer



SHISEIDO SHIMMERING CREAM EYE COLOUR

With 23 flattering colours to choose from, this lightweight cream maintains a just-applied fresh look that lasts up to 16 hours, without those irritating smudges or creases. Composed of super hydro-wrap vitalising DE, this shimmering eye cream is easy to apply and provides quality pigmentation. shiseido.com



BOBBI BROWN NECTAR AND NUDES COLLECTION

For the perfect transition from the beach to an evening filled with glamour, Bobbi Brown introduces the new nectar shades collection featuring a limited edition eye palette, nail varnishes, an apricot shimmer brick and high shimmer lip gloss. The customized hues include taute browns, soft pinks and subtle peaches to suit all skin tones and complexions for a radiant summer appearance. bobbibrowncosmetics.com



GUERLAIN AQUA ALLEGORIA LIMON VERDE

Following 31 Aqua Allegoria fragrances, Thierry Wasser has introduced one more special addition to the market that transports you on a scented journey. Composed of fruity delicacies such as pamplelune, herba fresca and mandarine basilic, this concoction of aromatic citruses will leave you smelling like a cheerful spring breeze. guerlain.com

LAURA MERCIER OIL-FREE TINTED MOISTURIZER

Ideal for women with combination or acne-prone skin, the Laura Mercier Oil-Free Tinted Moisturizer eliminates any excess shine and offers a sun protection of SPF20, to give you a radiant and healthy glow this summer season. lauramercier.com



OPI BRAZIL COLLECTION

Add a splash of colour to your life with the new Brazil collection by OPI introducing 12 rich nail lacquer shades. Featuring a palette ranging from bright red, pink and coral, to tones of taupe, mocha and jungle green – get ready to be transported to a tropical rainforest. Brazil by OPI is available in both nail lacquer and GelColour formulas. opi.com

KIEHL'S CRÈME DE CORPS SOY MILK & HONEY BODY POLISH

This superb body polish will leave you glowing from head to toe, caressing your skin with pure honey and soy milk protein. Composed of rich natural butters, sweet almond oil and ground luffa fruit, this creamy formula will exfoliate your skin, revealing a velvety surface of perfection. kiehls.com



REVLON COLORSTAY CONCEALER

If you're looking to conceal your dark circles and cover scars left by those nasty zits, Revlon's Colorstay Concealer works to give you a fresh and bright-eyed look that lasts for 24 hours. Its doe-foot applicator is ideal for a more precise application, and you can carry the concealer around in your handbag for instant touchups. revlon.com



TOM FORD LIP SHIMMER

Featuring the iconic ivory and gold packaging, Tom Ford releases a Summer make-up range available from July in the Middle-East. The Lip Shimmer in Moonlight and Solar Gold can either be effortlessly applied onto bare lips for a twinkling effect or added to a spectrum of colours to add shimmer. The product has been infused with vitamins C and E, along with Shea butter promising to protect and fortify the lips. tomford.com



AMOUAGE HONOUR BODY LOTION

Pamper and nourish your skin with this luxurious body lotion that perfumes the skin, with the floral scent of Amouage's Honour fragrance. amouage.com



MAC MALEFICENT PREP AND PRIME HIGHLIGHTER

MAC collaborates with Disney to deliver a limited edition collection based on the newest release Maleficent. This highlighting pen works wonders on dull skin desperate for a natural looking, radiant glow. Offering precise and a light application with its pen-like design, it's the perfect contouring product for women who wish to enhance their bone structure. maccosmetics.com



DIOR ONE ESSENTIAL SERUM

Re-energize, purify and add sparkle to your skin this summer with Dior's One Essential Serum, described as a skin-saving product especially developed for women who seek to re-boost their skins energy and luminosity. After 20 years of development, the pioneering serum is ready and promises to detoxify the mitochondria, the skin cell's 'lungs' via its action on the Lon protease, which cleanses and reactivates the skin deep down. dior.com



GUERLAIN TERRA TROPICA

If you're looking to achieve a flawless sun-kissed look, Guerlain's Terra Tropica will help achieve your summer wish. Engraved with a design comprising of the sun, this limited edition bronzer is made to emulate the effects of sunrise and sunset on the skin. guerlain.com



SEPHORA SLIM AND FIRM

With summer around the corner, it's time to bid farewell to those excess winter pounds. The Slim and Firm oil by Sephora targets three susceptible areas – the legs, buttocks and stomach. It contains green tea and pink peppercorn extracts to firm the skin and reduce the look of cellulite, as well as avocado oil for ultra-soft skin. sephora.com



MAC X PROENZA SCHOULER LIPSTICK IN PINKFRINGE

Housed in a metallic, square tube, this MAC x Proenza Schouler Lipstick in Pinkfringe is a brightened light- medium pink with subtle neutral to warm undertones, and a soft frosted soft finish. Perfect for the summer season, we reckon! maccosmetics.com

MAC X PROENZA SCHOULER NAIL VARNISH IN BOUGAINVILLEA

This bright-orange coral nail colour is the ultimate summer hue for your nails, with its powerful, warm red undertones and creamy finish. maccosmetics.com



DIOR TAN PRIME AND BRONZER PROGRESSIVE SELF- TANNING HEALTHY GLOW

This subtly tinted primer evens out and smoothes your complexion to create a healthy glow - from the very first application. After a week of application, the progressive effect of this weightless gel formula bathes your skin with a natural-looking tan. dior.com



UNE 3 IN 1 MASCARA

Maximise your lashes' potential with UNE's revolutionary new mascara that promises to give you volume, length, curl and a clump-free finish. Its cigar shaped brush works as a precision tool to give volume to the outer corner of your eyes. Additionally, with the mascara's deep black pigmentation, you no longer need to worry about double coating your lashes. unebeauty.com



ESTÉE LAUDER ADVANCED NIGHT REPAIR SERUM INFUSION

Achieve younger-looking eyes with this super-potent and fast-penetrating serum. Formulated with technologies equipped to reduce the first signs of ageing around your eyes, while keeping your skin hydrated, this wonder product is a must in your beauty regimen. esteelauder.com

SUMMER SCENTS

By Elisar Sasso, Nahda Suleiman

A new season means a flurry of new fragrance and with summer season upon us, it brings an array of scents from Bottega Veneta, Dolce, Chopard, Carolina Herrera, Marc Jacobs amongst many others. Fans of floral sweet scents or mild pink pepper with fresh Jasmine fragrances will love the selection that is a must for this summer.



CHOPARD ROSE MALAKI

The Malaki collection adds its latest fragrance Chopard Rose Malaki to its portfolio. Its composition was created by perfumer Amandine Clerc-Marie and it provides an oriental-spicy composition in which rose plays the main role.

GUESS GUESS GIRL

This summer fragrance is feminine yet alluring, and combines juicy citrus notes with blooming floral accents. For those who are keen to show off their playful and fun side, this fragrance is perfect to reflect that free spirit and audacious personality. It is uplifting yet reeks of summer freshness.



MARC JACOBS DAISY

This fresh and feminine fragrance captivates the luscious aromas of wild strawberry, gardenia and jasmine, along with slightly more intense hints of birch and cedarwood. The creative bottle design alone is appealing, with playful daisies blooming from the rounded gold cap.



ROJA AOD COLLECTION

This oriental spicy fragrance is ideal for both men and women who like to be noticed. The distinct scent is a concoction of rare oud swathed in rose, jasmine and ylang ylang, and finished off with the warmth of cedarwood, sandalwood, nutmeg and saffron.

DOLCE IN BLOOM

Inspired by the Mediterranean island of Sicily, Dolce and Gabbana have created a soft and refreshing fragrance, aimed at lovers of sensual, floral scents. With traces of neroli, papaya flower, amaryllis and white daffodil, the finishing touch includes an anchoring note of musk, giving a lasting impression that doesn't shift attention away from the sweet, floral essence.



212 VIP ROSE

This floral fruity fragrance is your ideal summer scent, as it is refreshing, exotic and alluring all at the same time. Presented in the classic capsule shaped container of the 212 Perfume Collection, this limited edition is available in pastel pink and metallic hues.



BOTTEGA VENETA ESSENCE AROMATIQUE

This leathery fragrance composed by Michel Almairac certainly differs to the usual floral favourites for women. It's composed of blended notes of Italian bergamot, Brazilian pink pepper, Indian Sambac jasmine, oak moss and has a distinct hint of leather. The perfume bottle is made of delicate Murano glass, decorated with a black metal cap and an elegant leather bow.

GET THE GLOW

By Katie Cousins

With the scorching summer heat around the corner, applying makeup that lasts long can be a great struggle. Beauty and makeup specialist, Katie Cousins, reveals her tips on maintaining that summer glow, without needing layers of makeup.



Additionally, it is crucial to boost the skin's health by taking supplements. I personally find that it makes a huge difference. I have recently discovered an amazing product called Celergen, which is the only Swiss marine cell therapy supplement in the world. Cell therapy is a potent transformative treatment that triggers the stimulation, rejuvenation and renewal of our skin cells. Using this product has resulted in astonishing improvements in the skin, hair, nails, a boost in energy and also a stronger immune system.

Living in the UAE causes our skin to be exposed to the harsh sun on a daily basis, therefore it is vital to protect our skin against the sun's harmful rays, by using an effective SPF everyday. I've discovered a great moisturiser from Eminence called Bright Skin Moisturiser Broad Spectrum SPF 30 Sunscreen, which hydrates the skin while also protecting it against the sun.

The best way in my professional opinion to maintain naturally radiant skin without needing a lot of makeup is to stick to mineral-based products. Mineral-based products are essential for the hot summer months, as they are long lasting, don't come off when you sweat and they allow the skin to breathe. A particular product I can't live without is the Organic Skincare Sun Defense by Eminence. It comes with an easy-to-apply brush and all you need to do is buff the mineral powder around the whole face and neck. This will give you an even light coverage, resulting in radiant and flawless skin. The mineral powder also has an SPF 30 factor, so it protects your skin against the sun at the same time.

We all suffer from shiny skin during the hot summer months, which can be extremely irritating. I have discovered a brilliant new shine control powder from Benefit called The POREfessional Agent Zero Shine that instantly minimises shine and helps smooth the look of pores. This product works perfectly and I always have it in my makeup kit.

The best way to ensure that your makeup has a long lasting effect in this heat is to use a good primer. I use primers under every makeup look that I do for magazine shoots, celebrities and also at fashion events. My two favorite primers for the face and neck are both from Benefit. I use the Stay Flawless 15-hour Primer, which is an instant pro-long primer that acts like a magnet to lock on your foundation for 15 flawless hours. My other favourite is the Stay Don't Stray Eye Primer from Benefit, specifically for the eyelids and under the eyes, to act as a base for concealers and eye shadows. Applying this primer on your eyelids allows the eye shadow to stay vibrant and fresh, with no lid creasing.

Finally, after all of the makeup has been applied, I then finish the look with the Fix + by MAC. The Fix + spray is an aqua-spritz of vitamin and minerals, infused with a calm-the-skin blend of green tea, chamomile and cucumber, topped off with the energising scent of Sugi. This product holds your makeup perfectly together, similar to a hair spray for the face, while also adding extra radiance to your skin.

For more tips visit katiecousins.com



Absolute femininity.



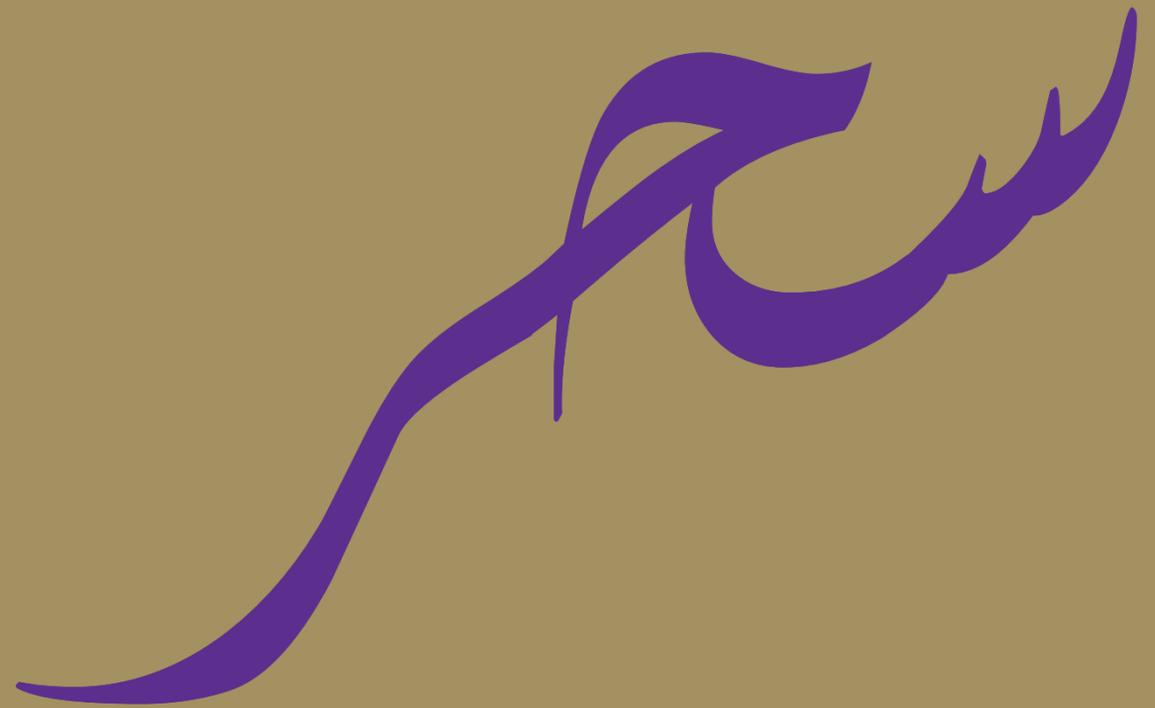
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Switzerland

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www.noletti.ch

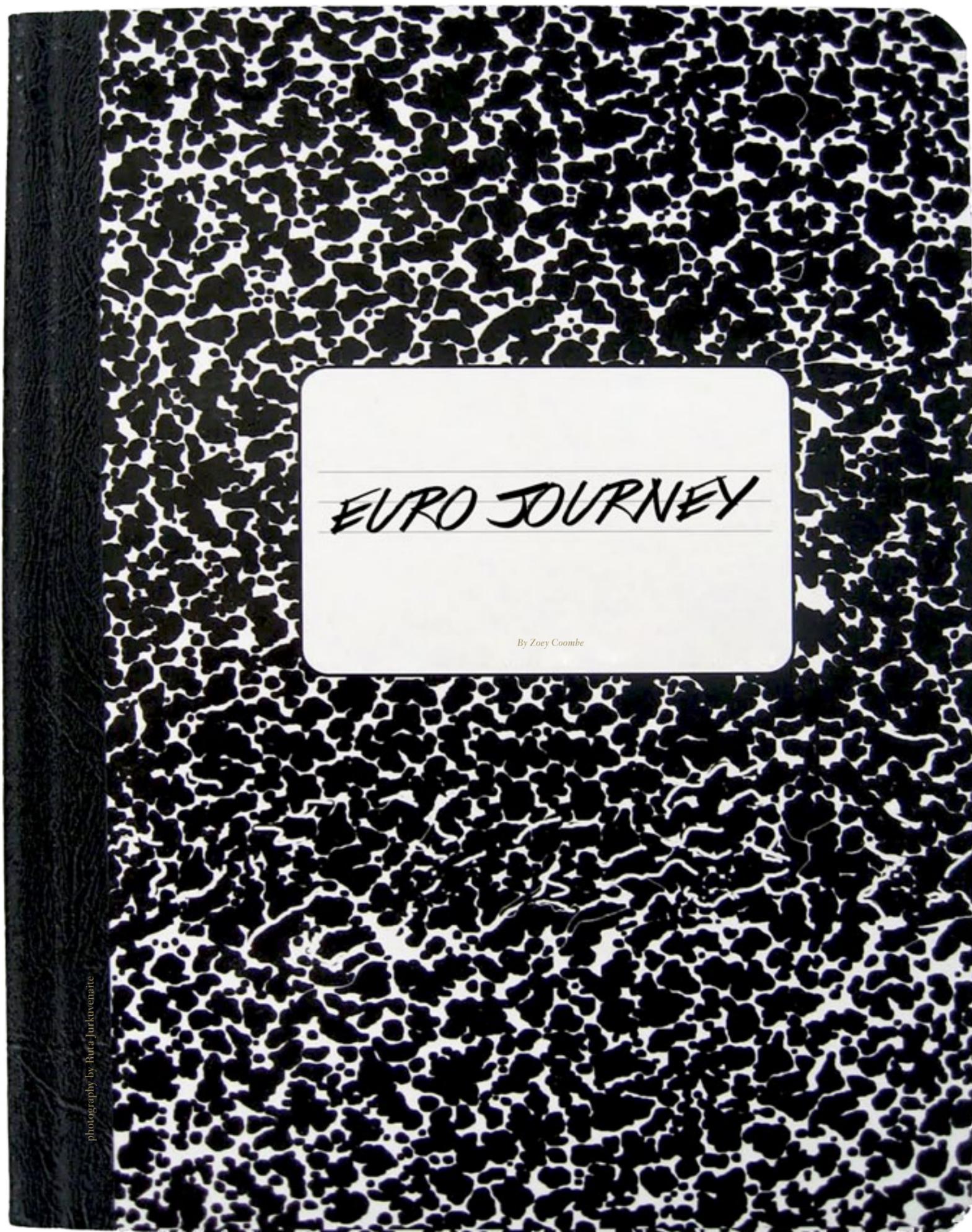
ENCHANTMENT

EURO JOURNEY



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Composed of over 47 countries, Europe is a continent rich in captivating history, picturesque destinations and diverse cultures, accompanied by a plethora of languages. Zoey Coombe explores Rome and Florence, celebrated for its architecture, historical roots and cuisines, provides insight into the undiscovered Provinces in the South of France and walks to the beat of the energetic city-life drum in Frankfurt.



photography by Ruda Jurkovenaitė

FRANCE

PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D'AZUR

VERNEGUES

Situated in the serene countryside of Bouches-du-Rhone, the tiny village of Vernegues is known for its hilly contours; its beauty is unquestionable and legendary artist Vincent Van Gogh was heavily inspired by the exquisite landscape of the Bouches-du-Rhone region. Surrounded by fields of wheat and graced with carpets of wild flowers, the town is swept by the refreshing blast of the Mistral wind and recognised as a rich heritage site; you immediately notice the ruins that remain from the Provence's previous life. Once known as Vieux Vernegues, the ancient town suffered from a devastating earthquake in 1909, which destroyed its existence, leaving behind a distinctive habitation and intriguing location simply waiting to be explored.

As you wander across the uneven footpaths, the aromatic wild flowers and radiant beauty of Vernegues will awaken your inner explorer.

CHATEAUX BAS

A popular landmark in Vernegues, the wines of the Provence derive from Chateaux Bas, whose story dates back to the Roman times. Exuding rustic appeal, its territory boasts enchanting woods and small valleys, for the perfect vineyard venture.



MARSEILLE

The pulsating port city of Marseille plays host as France's oldest and second largest city and is well balanced between both tradition and modernity. Possessing its own inspirational panache, Marseille's multi-cultural and exuberant spirit leaves tourists completely mesmerized by its vibrancy and allure.

Standing 162 levels above sea level on Marseilles tallest hill, Basilica Notre Dame-de-la-Garde is a colossal landmark that can be seen from almost anywhere in Marseille. Nicknamed 'the good mothe', the part lighthouse, part fortress is devoted to sailors of the past and is rumoured to radiate a protective aura, guarding its city. Praised for its charming design and created by architect Jacques Henri, Basilica boasts beautiful carvings from a byzantine era. The panoramic views visible from its location will steal your breath away in an instant.

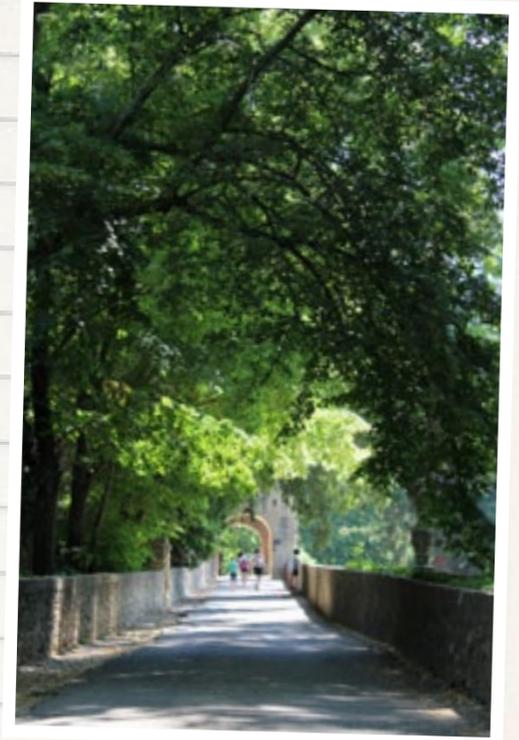


LES BAUX DE PROVENCE

Located in the heart of the Apilles, the cliff top village is officially classified as one of the most picturesque, medieval exteriors in France. With 22 architectural treasures described as historical monuments, along with ancient houses that have been restored with beautiful renaissance facades, Avignon is a living museum crowded with residents and visitors seeking a truly magical experience.

CHATEAUX LA BARBEN

Termed as one of the most beautiful castles in the region, the Chateaux of La Barben is located in a lavish setting and surrounded by overhanging greenery, which has cultivated due to the nearby waters of the Vallon de Maurel and La Touloubre rivers. Famous painter Marius Granet, who was born in neighbouring Aix-en-Provence, would often visit the fortress and described it as the quaintest destination in the Provence, making La Barben well worth a visit.



AVIGNON

With its ancient cobbled streets, inviting boutiques and famous medieval sites, Avignon is a city filled with culture. Every summer, The Theatres Art Week takes place. Originally spurred on by Jean Vilar and his troupe in 1947, it took to transform Avignon and the main courtyard of the Popes' Palace into one of the biggest platforms for the performing arts scene and with an international dimension. The Cour d'Honneur, a mythical and impressive venue, invites 2000 spectators to share the adoration for theatre, sometimes all the way from nightfall until dawn. The moments when artists and spectators applaud in unison are magical and during the period of the Theatres Art Week, Avignon oozes exuberance as enactments can be seen across the town in restaurants, bars and cafes through out the day.

ITALY



FLORENCE

Florence's charismatic museums, majestic palace, and principal churches play host to some of the greatest artistic treasures in the world. The most prevalent and important spots in Florence include the Basilica of Santa Croce, the Uffizi Gallery and Basilica di San Lorenzo, a magnificent exhibition of Michelangelo's architectural genius.

Another popular attraction is Italy's oldest bridge, Ponte Vecchio, affixed with thousands of padlocks by tourists who wish to sanctify their love in the quixotic city by tossing the key into the depths of the Arno River.

The traditional, wooden window shutters in Florence and Tuscany unite each house to one another, complementing Italian architecture and adding flair to the houses character.



ROME

Celebrated as one of the world's most photogenic cities, the capital of Italy is the perfect destination for romance, or a place where many submerge themselves deep in Roman history. The most popular sights include the impressive Colosseum, The Vatican, the butterfly fashioned Spanish Steps and the ornate Trevi Fountain.



BOLOGNA

In Italy, food is taken seriously, but in Northern Bologna, this sincerity has been taken to another level. Head to Northern Bologna for endless authentic Italian cuisin, and spoil you self with the commune's Bolognese sauce, known to its locals as Ragu all Bolognese. Nicknamed 'La Grassa' meaning the fat on', the city's best restaurants to visit are often hidden down alleyways and run by familiey, who promise to deliver generations of unique and personal recipes. Copious patisseries mean that your sweet tooth with be easily satisfied and ensures Bologna defends its title as an over indulgent destination.

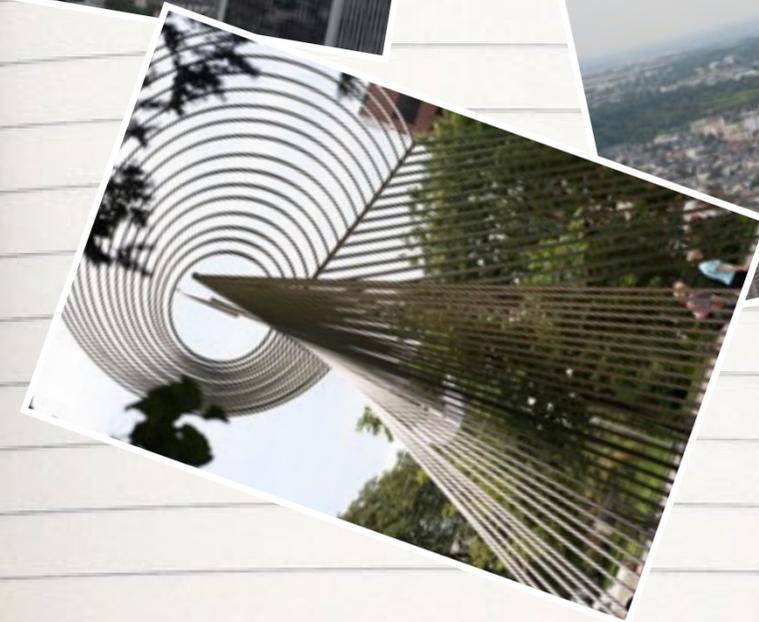


GERMANY



FRANKFURT

Celebrated as the largest financial municipal in continental Europe, Frankfurt is occupied with a mix of gothic architecture including the 14th Century Dom and Romer City Hall, along with avant-garde skyscrapers such as the ecological friendly Commerzbank Tower and the Messeturm building nicknamed the pencil building due to its resemblance. Frankfurt plays host to businessmen and creatives alike and is often dubbed the city of contrasts.



Spanning nine centuries of art, the magnificent Stadel Institute of Art with the Municipal Gallery is one of the cities wonders to behold, situated along the museum bankment. Creating a name for itself as a leading exhibition house, the Schirn Kunsthalle Gallery has an excellent reputation whether it's renaissance or baroque, or even classical modern the important works showcased discuss integral topics in society. The transportation system plays a crucial role in Frankfurt's lifestyle, over 650,000 people commute every day using Germany's major autobahns and rails that intersect. Immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of a pulsating metropolis, with deep past and many sights to see.

SERENDIPITY

A MURAL FOR HOPE
BEAN AROUND THE WORLD
THE CITY OF RHYTHM
UNIQUELY JORDANIAN

استلقاء

A MURAL FOR HOPE

By Elisar Sasso

A Syrian artist has taken the sufferings of his war-torn country and transformed them into a vivid mural on the streets of Damascus – breaking a Guinness World Records title. Elisar Sasso speaks to the creative and learns more about his achievement and how it has benefited the people of Syria.



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Isolated within a war-ravaged country, Syrian artist Moaffak Makhoul embraces his passion for art and creates a Guinness World Records title for the largest mural from recycled material.

During January this year, the 56-year-old along with five other artists, completed a vibrant piece of artwork in Syria's capital, Damascus, composed solely from recycled scrap – broken mirrors, ceramic pieces, soft-drink cans, pipes, cooking utensils, bicycle wheels and car parts.

'What prompted me to do this mural is my love for life, for human beings and beauty. I wanted to implant hope in people, especially children who are living in the horrific circumstances of the war,' says Makhoul with passion.

The 720-square-metre mural runs along a primary motorway through the centre of Damascus, in the neighbourhood of Al Mazzeh. Rather than be surrounded with dreary walls and war-torn buildings, the people of Damascus can now look upon vivid splashes of colour and life. 'The message I

wanted to portray to the world is that the Syrian people are civilised. They love life and are able to find beauty in the most difficult circumstances,' explains Makhoul.

Makhoul and his team began working on the mural in October 2013, bringing together a large community of people who wanted to help. Local housewives donated items that they no longer needed and many contributed their house keys, after their houses got destroyed during the Syrian war – a war that has killed 146,000 people and forced millions to flee their homes. The key idea behind this mural was to not only brighten up the streets of Damascus, but to also relieve some of the pressures of daily life. 'I am happy that the world is speaking about Syrian fine art and creativity, far away from the death and destruction,' reflects Makhoul.

Born in Damascus, Makhoul has always possessed a passion for art and the environment. Graduating in 1982 from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Damascus, Makhoul went on to become a

lecturer in the subject areas of architecture engineering and the arts. 'I discovered that silence through the language of art has to be considered as the real communication language between people,' he elaborates.

According to Makhoul, there are many artists and creators in Syria, however the art scene has still not made a significant impact within the country yet. 'You wouldn't find art publicly displayed in the squares and streets, it is confined only in the houses of the rich,' explains Makhoul with disappointment.

Makhoul had a vision – a hope that he could change the rest of the world's perception of his country through the means of creativity. Makhoul's inspiring actions has encouraged more and more fine artists to produce art on the streets of Syria to express their sufferings in a way that can be appreciated and heard. 'Art and beauty are more powerful than weapons and destruction,' says Makhoul.

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'I discovered that silence through the language of art has to be considered as the real communication language between people' – Moaffak Makhoul



BEAN AROUND THE WORLD

By Zoey Coombe

The Raw Coffee Company offers coffee aficionados in the region a quirky hang out filled with an extensive selection of high-quality brew and most importantly an educational hub for those keen to learn more about the farming industry. Zoey Coombe speaks to the managing director, Kim Thompson, and director, Matt Toogood, about the specialty coffee market, the agriculturalists who nurture our favourite beverage and exactly what it takes to make the perfect cup.



When you think of coffee, what exactly springs to mind? Is it the aromatic and robust taste that stimulates your palate, or the boost of energy that you can't wait to evoke upon your body and mind habitually? According to Matt Toogood at the Raw Coffee Company in Al Quoz Dubai, there are in fact three key reasons why we worship the beverage as a nation. 'The pungent taste and energising effects are both addictive and delectable, and we're social creatures so we naturally enjoy conversing in cafés while drinking coffee; it's a huge part of our lifestyles,' explains Toogood. In fact, for many, it would be difficult to imagine a life without coffee, considering its foolproof, billion-dollar position in the world's economy.

Toogood's personal adoration for the beverage began during the rise of the vast coffee culture in New Zealand, when specialty cafés began tailoring to the range of acquired coffee tastes in the country. Per capital, natives drink more coffee in this region than anywhere else in the world. 'I grew up drinking plunger coffee and

espresso. We had a style of roasting that was different to the rest of the world,' he says. The journey of the Raw Coffee Company began in July 2007, when Toogood struggled to buy high quality produce that he was accustomed to in New Zealand, as it was too darkly roasted, which led to his friends transporting it to the UAE whenever they would visit. 'The quality of the coffee is being let down due to the fact that it's not fresh - it's mainly shipped in large quantities and stored in warehouses,' says Kim Thompson, managing director. Word of mouth spread and demand for high quality produce grew rapidly; therefore Toogood and Thompson began importing larger quantities and decided to open the unique roastery, sourcing beans from sixteen different countries within Central America, South America, Africa and Asia.

So, what factors affect the quality of coffee? Quite simply, the outcome is dependent on many different influences including the process during the farming stages; rainfall; the altitude the trees grow at; the amount of

sunshine; and the minerals in the soil. Also, as coffee is a cherry, there are many fruity flavours that are achievable, depending on how the beans are treated and where they're from, along with how they are handled during both the roasting and brewing process. From floral notes including lemongrass and jasmine, to citrus zests such as mandarin and lemon, the strength of each can be enhanced through how lightly or dark the beans are roasted. 'People really enjoy the chocolate essences but you always need citrus notes to balance out the sweetness,' says Thompson. Although we all have preferences in how we like to have our coffee - black or with milk, sugar-free or sugar plenty - the duo believe that many of us are missing the experience of consuming great coffee, due to a lack of understanding of how many different flavours can be attained. A good brewed coffee without milk and sugar tastes delicious without the extra calories, 'We have a cold brew that can be mixed with ginger ale and almond milk, and you can make mocktails by mixing coffee with different drinks,' Thompson elaborates.



photography by Ruta Jurkaviciute

'People from all over the fitness industry are reaping in the benefits from adding coffee to their protein shakes as it helps to burn fat and increase energy levels,' she explains.

Coffee is in fact organic by fault, as many can't afford the water irrigation systems. The Raw Coffee Company now consider it their responsibility to act as an educator, as they believe it's important for people to understand the hardships the farmers face every single day. 'It's a political and rather corrupt industry and the fair trade element is the most important side of the entire market for us. Once you visit the farms and you witness how it works and your exposed to it, there's no way that you could want to buy it in another way,' explains Thompson.

For Toogood and Thompson, it's more than just buying coffee or running a successful business - it's about supporting the farmers. 'I would say I'm a farmers advocate. I'm not a tree hugger but I'm green in the sense that I think it's important to look after your environment, but it's definitely more important to look after the people,' says Toogood. The average wage a farmer earns to grow coffee for the year is a mere 735 dirhams, and as the farmers work from sunrise to sunset, it would be an

understatement to say they lead very tough lifestyles. Their crops require daily attention with the average farmer having between 300-600 coffee trees to prune, clear and create compost for, along with the manual watering of trees too, as they don't have irrigation systems. 'You can't call it the poverty line because it doesn't exist. They don't have electricity or running water, everything is cooked on a fire and from the age they can walk, the children are given a water bottle and walk a few kilometres down to the well everyday to collect water,' explains Toogood. The farmers also need to grow their own food to eat, maize or corn, as well as grow fruits and vegetables. They face the challenge of not owning a refrigerator so they need to eat what is available at the time.

Using a methodology where the international systems of fair trade are involved, The Raw Coffee Company makes commitments to their farmers well in advance. 'We let them know one to two years in advance what our requirements may be and pay them 25 per cent of the value of the order we place upfront, meaning they have money to provide for their families. We agree on a price, purchase the coffee from them after receiving the samples. If the market price changes then we actually

pay a differential, basically meaning if the price of coffee suddenly rockets, we're happy to pay the amount,' explains Toogood.

The farmers only receive a shocking total of two to three per cent -3% from the overall profit, so Toogood and Thompson pay a fair trade social dividend to the farmers, meaning they pay the initial deposit to begin with, followed by a payment when the farmers take the coffee cherries to the processing plant. They also receive a payment based on the performance and taste of the coffee that year, providing their community with 50 cents per kilo, which aids community funding to either build schools, roads or provide power sources for the villages. Ethiopia is a prime example where both Toogood and Thompson have witnessed significant development upon each occasion they have visited. 'We've been fortunate enough to visit the same village a few times and observe the growth of schools due to the programme. An additional classroom has been created each year; five or six years ago they were only teaching up to grade five and now they are teaching up to grade 12. Unfortunately it's still not enough; children are still standing outside holding onto the bars wanting to get an education but it's too full,' says Toogood.



Thompson and her daughter visited a farm in Ethiopia, in the middle of nowhere but close to the dangerous Somali border, to document the lifestyles of the agriculturalists living there. As well as existing in an uncivilised environment, most of the villagers suffered from serious respiratory problems, due to them burning diesel in their homes as a light source. Yousef Mohammed is the head of the village and cooperative for all 834 farms, whilst the women complete most of the coffee work. They own one small generator that is shared between them, although this particular habitation is known as providing the best coffee for the last ten years.

The Raw Coffee Company has recently been embarking on philanthropic ventures, in hope to raise awareness of poverty and aim to raise funds to buy a hulling machine for the women in Ethiopia. The workers don't have enough water to effectively complete wash processing – a process that consists of stripping the coffee back, washing it and then drying it. A woman will work for ten hours a day, smashing the coffee open using a large tree stump that has been carved out as the base and a stick to pound it with, similar to a large pestle and mortar. The workers actually break 5% more than they need to and two women in ten hours produce seven kilos of coffee. The hulling machine will save 100,000 labour hours per year. 'There's so much more that we need to do as a nation of coffee lovers, we can never help enough and I hope many will contribute to charitable work in the near future,' enlightens Thompson.



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THE CITY OF RHYTHM

By Cecil Ricardo



photo by thetravelattache.com

Embark on a journey through the bustling streets of São Paulo, where you will discover an endless array of cultures, history and the hypnotising Samba. Cecil Ricardo shares his escapades and reflects on what makes São Paulo one of the most captivating cities in the world.



True enrichment is that of the soul and it is said nothing transcends to the soul faster than the sound of music. This is the beating heart of South America and more to the point, of Brazil.

Brazil is a cauldron that infuses a multitude of cultures and religions, invigorates the mind and stimulates the 5 senses of the human psyche.

Samba, carnival, green, gold, blue, Copacabana beach, Churrascaria (long skewers of meat assortments cooked over raging barbecue charcoal fires),

Capoeira (Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and dance combined), Christ the Redeemer, Estádio do Maracanã, the Amazon are among the visions of Brazil that ran through my mind. Of course these are all common visions I'd seen growing up and not memories I'd lived through as I'd never lived or been to Brazil previously, but I could hardly hide my joy as the plane kissed the tarmac on Guarulhos Airport, São Paulo. A list of places I had marked in my journal and eager to rush off to and experience. São Paulo, the smoggy, bustling metropolis with an estimated

population of 20 million inhabitants, makes it the third largest on earth, but what is far more interesting is this is a rich melting pot of the various ethnic groups making São Paulo a colourful and fascinating city. It includes the largest communities of Japanese and Italians outside Japan and Italy respectively, in addition to huge communities that make the Arab and eastern European numbers all an integral part of Sampa (the name colloquially referred to by its inhabitants).

São Paulo gives homage to Saint Paul of Tarsus for its birth name and is one of the most important cities both in Brazil and South America, it certainly emphasises this through the city's Latin Motto "Non ducor, duco", literal translation "I am not led, I lead". With an abundance of world-class facilities such as 150 museums/cultural centres, 420 experimental theatres and cinemas, 15,000 bars and 12,500 restaurants that are rated among the best in the world, all lend to enforce the city's motto in arms.

From the earliest days when Brazil was originally recognised as the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil & the Algarves from 1815 and then the Empire of Brazil under Dom Pedro I from 1822, travellers came from every corner, and has become home to many, none more so than Arab immigrants. The impact of the Arab integration is visible in every corner from gastronomy, culture/language, media, medicine, sport, business & politics, so much so that well, it just seems Brazilian.



Photo by Caio Pimenta

Brazil has been a haven for the travellers of the Levant region, accounting for 7% of its 190 million population.

Assimilation and integration is so bonded that the lines have blurred as to ascertain who is actually of Arab decent. Although Arab-Brazilians have not lost the heritage and culture after many generations, today only a minor number of them are still able to speak their ancestral language. Notable personalities such as current vice-president of Brazil Michael Temer, football stars such as Branco and Mario Zagallo (who was the first ever player, and then manager of the 1970 phenomenal winning World Cup team) and Carlos Ghosn (CEO of Renault and Nissan) are very much Brazilian as they are Arab.

On the car journey from the airport, I couldn't help notice the contrasting mix of rich heritage of colonial structures, amongst and around the notorious favelas for which are the highest numbers in Brazil. Despite not advocating to take a leisurely stroll down one of the favelas, it is hard not to be attracted to their individuality, with their many colours, and irregular structures that are plotted everywhere, through an artistic prospective adds charm to the city, contrasting the more uniform and lavish structures that



Photo by Artictropical

can be seen down Avenida Paulista (Sampa's main financial district).

Arriving at my hotel, which overlooked Parque Ibirapuera, again contrasting to other areas of São Paulo. The park is truly a sight with wonderful and fascinating structures in amongst one of the largest green spaces in Latin America.

I was eager to start my discovery of the city, but the city is so very vast and surely it would take me many weeks to explore thoroughly, so I plucked for the less touristic options as I wanted to discover the city from the eyes of a resident. No start would be proper without visiting Ipiranga. Built in 1895, housing over 400 years of Brazilian history and heritage. Its showcase is the impressive Neo-Classic palace surrounded by glorious European-style gardens that would certainly benefit the most regal of individuals.

The next journey of the day took me to the aptly named "Batman's Alley" or Beco do Batman, on Villa Madalena. If the gardens of Ipiranga and Ibirapuera were a sight for sore eyes, then Batman's alley was certain one to invigorate the mind and a veritable feast for the eyes. No two visits to this amazing unique display of expressive art is ever the same. Each and every piece is a visual journey into the minds and emotions of the artist in the hope that each visitor will capture their significance.

The next morning I went down to Rue 25 de Marco in São Paulo, the main shopping district is a shopper's delight, the long winding road that can attract up to a million visitors a day, with each shopper trying to skilfully unleash their negotiating tactics to come away with a range of electronic and apparel goodies. The street itself was home to the vast Arab contingent from the early 1900's, and still is today, but they share the neighbourhood today with the Asian and Jewish contingents. I found myself heading back to Villa Madalena

again but this time to Bar Samba, for "Samba Saturday", what better way to enjoy a real taste of Sampa. This bar is extremely popular with Paulistanos. Live Samba, traditional food and drink, a complete antidote for the week's trials and tribulations. Be ready to dance, no one is exempt, all those who enter Bar Samba will find the rhythm dancing into their soul.

Benedito Calixto is also extremely popular on Saturdays, the all day antiques and handcrafts market. Great authentic, one-off pieces all inspired by Brazilian culture and would add character to any household.

On my final day in São Paulo I headed to Praça da Republica Market (Sunday market). One of the best markets in São Paulo that is located within the surrounding of one of the city's most charming buildings. Artisans, wonderful selection of food and drinks from the various vendors, all freshly made and displaying the treats from the North-eastern region of Brazil.

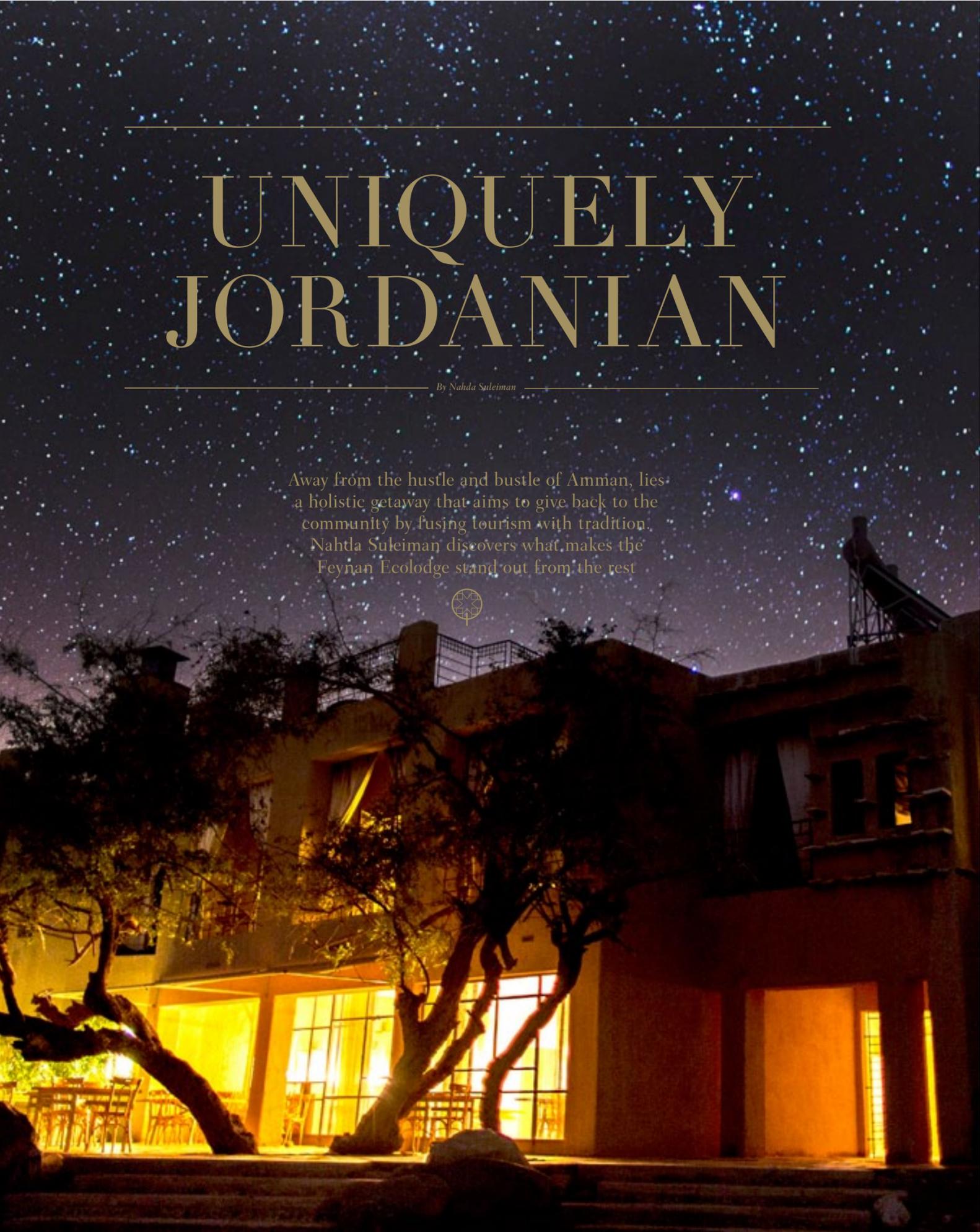
São Paulo is at the centre of pretty much most of Brazil's activities, with the main financial institutes being based there, including the stock exchange. Much of Brazil's heritage can be traced here with a rich display of imperial architecture and thanks no less to Dom Pedro I, who proclaimed the independence of Brazil in São Paulo and thereafter named São Paulo as the imperial city.

After such an experience within one of the most beautifully creative and visually stunning cities in the world, I needed to seek forgiveness for all the fun I've had, at the spectacle, Cristo Redentor, but next I headed to unwind and gather myself on the wonderful golden beaches of Copacabana before any new adventures took place.

UNIQUELY JORDANIAN

By Nahda Suleiman

Away from the hustle and bustle of Amman, lies a holistic getaway that aims to give back to the community by fusing tourism with tradition. Nahda Suleiman discovers what makes the Feynan Ecolodge stand out from the rest



Dubbed as Jordan's greatest escape, the Feynan Ecolodge located in Wadi Feynan upholds an environmental ethos that sits lightly on the land and offers a travel experience that is out of the ordinary in the Middle East. It is not surprising, considering the ecolodge is rated as one of the top fifty holistic retreats by the National Geographic Adventure Magazine, and one of the 10 ecolodges located in deserts, jungles, mountains and savannas. This remote lodge manages to fuse tradition and tourism, thanks to a non-governmental organisation (the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature RSCN) dedicated to conserving the area's resources. Founded in 2005, the concept for the Feynan EcoLodge was designed to be like a monastery in the harsh environment of the desert.

Almost three hours away from Amman, a four-wheel drive is needed to transport you through the rugged roads leading to the lodge, which are driven by the Bedouin drivers. As you pass by the Bedouin tents, you will notice that a whole community lives around the area occupied by the lodge. This is essentially one of the hallmarks of Feynan; it takes pride in hiring staff from the village, in a successful attempt to give back to the community.

Creating a source of income for local people that doesn't conflict with their traditional way of life is one of the primary aims of the RSCN. Bedouins who have lived in the area for centuries are employed from managerial level down, taxi-ing guests by 4x4 from the main road several miles away, working as guides and staffing the hotel. Unusually for Jordan, which is a predominantly patriarchal society, this includes women.

To create a quintessential Arabesque atmosphere, the rooms have a distinctive design. The hotel is completely solar-powered, with electricity only available in the bathrooms. The RSCN have installed solar panels on the roof for hot water which is available on demand. To encourage guests to stay for a few days, the ecolodge has developed adventure sports activities, including rappelling down waterfalls and rock climbing in nearby wadis. To enjoy stunning views of the area, the sunset and sunrise hikes are the best way for guests to take in the scenery. Food and other supplies are predominantly purchased locally from nearby communities to support them. The bread that is served to guests is baked by a local Bedouin woman and served fresh daily.



Last but not least, those who are intrigued by the Jordanian Bedouin culture, can pick out various activities from learning how to apply Beouin Kohl, to watching the way wool is being weaved and made into fabric for their tents. A lesson in roasting and making authentic Jordanian coffee and herbal tea is a nice touch too. According to Nabil Tarazi, the manager of the Feynan EcoLodge, he says that there is no danger of tourism corrupting the way of life. 'We don't care about money, because inside we are rich already. Tourism will never change us.'



ON TRAVEL

“THE WORLD IS A BOOK AND
THOSE WHO DO NOT TRAVEL
READ ONLY ONE PAGE.” Saint Augustine



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