



## Dubai Design Week continues to grow, cementing Dubai as the design capital of the Middle East

- The region's largest creative festival returns this year from 12-17 November 2018
- The free-to-attend programme will comprise more than 230 events throughout Dubai Design District (d3) and across the city
- With +120 institutions participating, the 2018 edition will see a 20% growth since last year's event

Held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-Chairman of the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, and in partnership with Dubai Design District (d3) and supported by Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, Dubai Design Week will be returning for its fourth edition from 12-17 November, 2018.

Taking place at locations across the city, this year's programme will be the most comprehensive to date, with more than 120 companies participating and 230 events taking place, encompassing exhibitions, commissioned installations, awards and competitions, talks and workshops, tours and experiences for design enthusiasts and public visitors alike.

An accessible meeting point for the global design community, since its inauguration in 2015, Dubai Design Week has become a platform for growing and enabling the region's design scene, attracting **60,000 visitors** to the event at d3 alone throughout the 2017 edition.

Dubai Design Week will this year launch its first app, allowing visitors to create personalised schedules on the go based on preferences and interests and to be the first to get notified of must-attend launches and events.

d3's Chief Executive Officer, **Mohammad Saeed Al Shehhi**, says: "d3 is once again thrilled to be the strategic partner and host of the fourth edition of Dubai Design Week. For 2018, we are proud to add d3's 'UAE Design Stories' exhibition to the programme and highlight several projects under d3's 'Design for Good' initiative which supports and promotes social change within the UAE. It's always important for us to continue to support the growth of the design industry as a whole and it is events like this that celebrate design from across the region which truly cement Dubai, and d3, as a design destination."

Coinciding with the event, this November will see the official opening of the **Jameel Arts Centre**, Dubai's first contemporary arts museum, the inaugural **Fikra Graphic Design Biennial** in Sharjah, the first of its kind in the region, and a range of activities staged at **Alserkal Avenue**, reinforcing November as the annual focal point for design and creativity in Dubai.

## Key Exhibitions



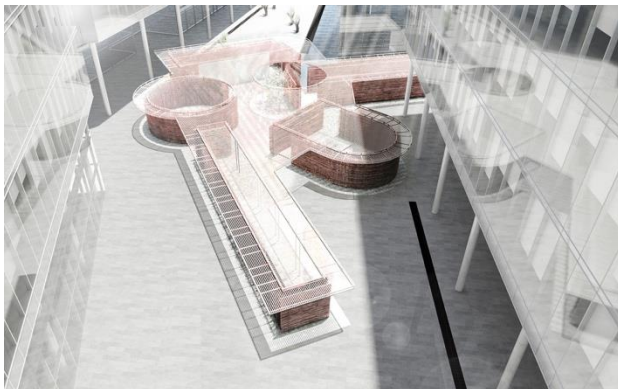
*Bomma x DECHEM studio, Dark and Bright Star*

The Middle East's leading design trade fair, **Downtown Design** returns from 13-16 November with +175 premium design brands from the region and across the world. The fair will present a new element titled **Downtown Editions**, a curated showcase dedicated to limited-edition and bespoke design, capsule collections and designer collaborations. Design weeks from the region, including **Amman, Beirut and Casablanca**, will unite within Downtown Editions, bringing co-curated showcases of some of the Middle East's brightest design talent. Under the theme of Livable Cities, this year's fair will feature an indoor garden space by landscape designers **desert INK**, creative pop-up concepts and installations by globally renowned designers, alongside industry talks by +25 leaders of the international design scene at **The Forum**.

An exhibition of **life changing inventions** designed by graduates from the world's best design and technology schools, **Global Grad Show** values **innovation** that transcends technology and exists independent of wealth; **equality** without hierarchy amongst universities, regions and designers; universal design open to all types of projects; and **impact** on the world at large through solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. With more than **1000 submissions**, double the number received last year, **Global Grad Show 2018** will showcase 150 selected projects from 100 of world's top universities and emerging programmes.



*AUX Synesthesia by Peter Soerries, Berlin Weissensee School of Art*



*Abwab 2018, designed by Architecture + Other Things*

Named after the Arabic word for 'doors', **Abwab** is an annually remodeled exhibition dedicated to design from the region. This year, Dubai Design Week will stage the fourth edition of Abwab within five dedicated pavilions designed by **Architecture + Other Things**, composed of natural materials including fallen twigs and timber coated in recycled newspaper pulp. Under the theme 'Between the Lines', commissioned designers from five communities, **Amman, Beirut, Dubai, Eastern Provinces of KSA**, together with Pavilion Partner **Ithra**, and **Kuwait City** will produce design experiences for cultural exchange.

## Highlights of Dubai Design Week 2018 at d3

### Exhibitions and Pop-ups

For the first time, this year Dubai Design Week partners with social networking giant **Facebook** through a real-world activation set in within the heart of Dubai Design District (d3). Customized workshops and knowledge sharing activities have been specially devised to celebrate the Arab creative community. Facebook's 6-day physical presence will showcase how people can use the platform to connect and build communities in memorable, creative and responsible ways.

An exhibition highlighting eight of the brightest Emirati talents from across the country, **UAE Design Stories: The Next Generation from The Emirates** is a vehicle for generating awareness on the emerging creative profiles from the UAE. Supported by the **UAE Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development**, the exhibition is curated by Emirati product designer **Khalid Shafar**. Participating designers were invited to delve into historic photographic archives of the UAE surrounding the region's nomadic roots and to interpret pieces from the archives into modern day designs, taking their inspiration from their UAE ancestors.

Within the context of the Emirati-French Cultural Dialogue, the **Institut Français** in the UAE will take part in Dubai Design Week with an exhibition focused on contemporary French design and savoir-faire, titled "**Le French Design - How Innovation Creates History**" and curated by **Maud Louvrier-Clerc**.

Enabling UAE design since 2008, design-incubator **Tashkeel** will present '**Design+Making UAE**'; a destination for those curious about the local design ecosystem, exploring design practice in the UAE from concept to completion. The space will feature exhibition stations on **Make Works UAE** and the **Tanween** design programme, a retail pop-up of affordable products by UAE creatives, alongside a dynamic programme of workshops, talks and conversations with partners, **Khatt Foundation and Dubai Network for Art, Architecture & Technology**.

The roadshow exhibition '**Original Comes from Vitra**' consists of series of booths, each dedicated to telling the story of a **Vitra** original. Each booth will narrate the history of the product with drawings, sketches and photographs of prototypes. Examples include some of world's most iconic pieces of furniture; the Panton chair, the Standard chair by **Jean Prouve** and the Lounge Chair by **Charles & Ray Eames**.

DRAK, the design collective based in Dubai's Ras Al Khor community will be conducting a community initiative titled '**From RAK to DRAK**' where three designers, **Amal Haliq, Faissal El-Malak** and **Khalid Mezaina**, will focus on three commercial outlets from the neighbourhood. After extended research and observation based on the needs of the outlets, each practitioner will design a new and contemporary product. Photographer **Ola Allouz** will cover all three projects and more of Ras Al Khor industrial scenes in her cinematography project, displayed as part of the exhibition at d3.

**ProtoPieces** is an exhibition of furniture work designed by 12 students of the **College of Architecture Art and Design (CAAD)** at the **American University of Sharjah**. Each piece will explore a specific type of joint or detail and the exhibition will show the complete design process, including a number of sketches, prototypes and scale models.

## Installations

A site-specific installation by Dubai-based firm **ANARCHITECT**, 'Circadian Light Synthesis' is set out over two pavilions at one of the d3 entrance points; one with natural light and the other with artificial light provided by Delta Light, exploring the human circadian rhythm and our relationship with natural light - both from the sun and the moon.

**Abet Laminati** have teamed up with renowned Italian designer **Paola Navone**, creating a giant jigsaw puzzle made from laminate pieces decorated with graphic baroque motifs in bold and clashing colour patterns, inspired by oriental printing. When placed together, the puzzle reveals itself to be an oversized gate; something enjoyable and interactive for all visitors of Dubai Design Week.

Combining the beauty of sculpture and augmented reality, 'Parametric Surfaces' by **SUPERFUTUREDESIGN\*** will consist of multi-faceted surfaces made from sound-absorbing materials. The suspended interactive installation appears as a three-dimensional box frame serving creating a backdrop for visitors to experience a digitally enhanced virtual reality.

As part of the 'Design for Good' initiative, Dubai Design District (d3) have commissioned the social enterprise established to harness traditional Afghan skills, **Fatima Bint Mohamed Bin Zayed Initiative (FBMI)** and Emirati designer **Roudha Alshamsi** to create 'The Mesh'; a series of domed shelters inspired by the traditional yurts found in Afghanistan, incorporating patterns sourced from traditional motifs, handwoven by FBMI artisans.

Istanbul-based **Tabanlıoğlu Architects** will present 'houEmotion', an illuminated pavilion composed of white rods forming the shape of a universal symbol for a house, the embedded lights transform the structure into a glowing lantern at night.

## Competitions & Awards

The Middle East's leading design innovation competition, this year the **Audi Innovation Award** has challenged designers in the region to respond to the theme 'Connections'. With a panel of distinguished judges selecting the winning project amongst 450 registrations of interest, the winner will be announced on 13 November, during Dubai Design Week, and receive \$25,000 worth of investment in their design.

The winning project of **Urban Commissions 4.0**, be unveiled during Dubai Design Week on 13 November, where it will be installed permanently in Dubai Design District (d3). Selected amongst the three projects shortlisted from **over 100 submissions**, responding to this year's theme 'Water Feature'; The annual competition is an initiative by **Dubai Design Week, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (DCAA)** and **Dubai Design District (d3)**. Presenting an opportunity for designers living in the UAE to promote the use of local manufacturing and resources to produce one item of urban furniture with a budget of AED50,000, the winning design is to be unveiled during Dubai Design Week on 13 November, where it will be installed permanently in Dubai Design District (d3).

The open-call competition, **Design 100**, for designers from the UAE to create a piece of furniture or functional object for the chance of having 100 editions produced by Dubai Design District (d3) in partnership with **American Hardwood Export Council** will unveil its winner within **Downtown Editions**, where winning product will be sold to the fair's visitors and all proceeds will be allocated to Dubai Cares and their support for Syrian refugees.

## Talks & workshops

Dubai Design Week 2018 will host an extensive range of talks and panel discussions across a number of locations within d3. The Main Stage will see designers, creatives and opinion leaders addressing diverse subjects across sustainability, safeguarding culture, and what the future looks like. Highlights include international innovator **Daan Roosegaarde**, globally renowned Italian designer **Paola Navone** and Arab satirist **Karl Sharro**.

Global design experts including award-winning designers **Ini Archibong**, **Marc Ange**, **Matthew McCormick** and **Martyn Lawrence Bullard** will headline the programme of 'The Forum' at **Downtown Design**.

As part the year-round commitment to empowering design and innovation in the region, **Audi Middle East** will host a series of innovation-led discussions in the 'Audi Innovation Hub' at Dubai Design Week, open to the public and populated with international experts.

Together with Dubai Design Week for the second year consecutively, **UAE Modern** will present a sustainability conference named **People Planet Profits**; a sustainability-focused conference due to host various activations across Week, with a concentration a full-day of knowledge exchange by global experts including panel discussions and a keynote covering topics such as **Super Interaction**: interconnected transport and infrastructures, **Circular Economies**: adoption and adaptation, **Architectural Education from the Perspective of the Future** and our **Society in Motion**: Communities, Resilience, Place.

Workshops for professionals as well as public will take place across the Dubai Design Week programme, with **Re:Urban Studio** providing the setting for professional masterclasses, amongst them creative design studio **Ink**; transforming music into physical spaces, alongside global agency **MassiveMusic**, who are demonstrating the exercise of branding sound.

The extensive programme at the **Making Space**, located in a pop-up space in d3 for the duration of Dubai Design Week, provides visitors of all ages, experience and ability with the opportunity to engage with design process and creativity, and includes first-hand modeling, sculpting, weaving or sketching via practical workshops led by UAE based and international creatives.

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Director of Dubai Design Week, **William Knight**, says: "Dubai Design Week 2018 will build on the success of the previous editions of the event, with an outstanding array of installations, exhibitions and activations, and the diversity of talent represented is the strongest yet. Dubai's design community will take centre stage, alongside regional collaborations and preeminent international profiles."

The full schedule of Dubai Design Week will be announced in October 2018.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

Dubai Design Week is owned and managed by the Art Dubai Group and is held under the dedicated patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice Chairman, Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, staged in partnership with Dubai Design District (d3) and supported by Audi Middle East.

Follow Dubai Design Week's social media channels; [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

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## About Dubai Design District (d3)

Dubai Design District (d3), a member of TECOM Group, is a destination dedicated to design that reinforces Dubai's new status as a UNESCO Creative City of Design. Established to provide a platform for the region's growing number of designers, creative professionals and artists to unite, create and inspire, d3 has fast become a hub for inspiration and innovation. Located in the heart of Dubai, the thriving neighbourhood is home to emerging designers as well as international brands.

With over 450 creative partners, including architects, interior designers, photography studios, product and fashion designers, d3 also has more than 45 retail stores and eateries. The Design Quarter at d3 offers visitors the opportunity to discover a variety of design showrooms and art galleries, indulge in authentic dining experiences, and shop at homegrown lifestyle boutiques, fashion ateliers, and international design showrooms.

d3 is also a popular events space that attracts international artists and audiences to cultural exhibitions and gatherings such as Dubai Design Week, Fashion Forward and Sole DXB a regional lifestyle platform for footwear, fashion, culture, art and design. In addition, the destination regularly hosts a roster of industry talks, workshops and educational programming, accessible to people of all ages.

Now open to the d3 community and the district's visitors, The Block at d3 is a space to escape, relax, unwind and get fit. The recreational facility features a skate park, a basketball and volleyball court, climbing walls, an urban beach, as well as outdoor seating and entertainment areas.

For more information, please visit [www.dubaidesigndistrict.com](http://www.dubaidesigndistrict.com)  
[www.dubaidesigndistrict.com](http://www.dubaidesigndistrict.com)

## About Dubai Culture & Arts Authority

The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) was launched on March 8, 2008 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, in order to drive the growth of the city's artistic and cultural landscape. The Authority's vision is to establish Dubai as a global, creative, and sustainable city for culture, heritage, arts and literature, and to empower these sectors to bring happiness to Dubai's society.

As part of its mandate, Dubai Culture has several initiatives that are focused on strengthening both the historic and modern cultural fabric of Dubai, including Dubai Art Season - the city's premier umbrella arts initiative which kicks off with Emirates Airline Festival of Literature and encompasses Art Week including Art Dubai, and SIKKA Art Fair - an annual event aimed at promoting Emirati and local artists in the UAE and the wider GCC region, Dubai Festival for Youth Theatre - an annual festival that fosters the art of theatre in the UAE and that is celebrating its 12th anniversary in 2018, and Dubai Next - a dynamic platform that aims to showcase the Emirate's cultural ethos and its vibrant creative scene on the global stage.

The Authority's other key initiatives include Creatopia ([www.creatopia.ae](http://www.creatopia.ae)) - the nation's first government empowered virtual community that guides and nurtures the creative culture of the nation and provides a platform of information and opportunities that lead to exposure and personal growth.

Dubai Culture also plays a leading role in support of the UAE National Strategy for Reading 2026, in particular by undertaking a major refurbishment of all Dubai Public Libraries branches to transform them into state-of- art cultural and artistic hubs. Across all of its branches, Dubai Public Library also provides children and young adults with a range of educational and entertaining activities that encourage the use of its facilities. The 'Our Summer is Filled with

Culture & Arts Programme' is a Dubai Public Library initiative which complements the UAE National Reading Strategy, with its activities open to all age groups, and which revolve around four key themes: happiness, reading, family and the future.

The Authority also manages more than 16 heritage sites across the Emirate, and is a key government stakeholder in the development of the Dubai Historical District. As the custodian Authority of Dubai's museum sector, Dubai Culture officially launched Etihad Museum in December 2016. The museum provides platform to encourage cultural exchange and to connect Emirati youth with their culture and history. As part of the Authority mandate to support Dubai's vision of becoming the focal point of diverse cultural exchange (regionally & globally), the museums will play a catalyst role in preserving Emirati Heritage.

For more information on Dubai Culture, visit:

[www.dubaiculture.gov.ae](http://www.dubaiculture.gov.ae)

### **About Audi**

The Audi Group, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 16 locations in twelve countries. 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include Audi Sport GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2017, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.878 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,815 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 55,900 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2016 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €59.3 billion and an operating profit of €3.1 billion. At present, approximately 90,000 people work for the company all over the world, more than 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on sustainable products and technologies for the future of mobility.

AUDI AG's commitment to the region was confirmed through the foundation of its fully owned subsidiary in 2005. The current Middle East model range comprises the Audi A3 & S3, A4 and S4, the A5/S5 Coupe Sportback and Cabriolet and RS 5 Coupe and Sportback, the A6, A7, A8, A8 L, the Audi Q3, Q5 & SQ5, Q7 and Q8, the Audi R8 Coupe, R8 Coupe V10 plus as well as the R8 V10 Spyder.

[www.audi-me.com](http://www.audi-me.com)