

ICONIC DESIGNERS

In an exclusive preview of Downtown Design, *dxbuzz* went behind the scenes to discover famous designers responsible for accentuating iconic structures all over Dubai

Design lovers are in for a treat at this year's Downtown Design that mixes Dubai's architectural prowess with the world-class designers who created them. Cristina Romelli Gervasoni, Fair Director of Downtown Design, plans to provide the Middle East with access to products well ahead of their time. Downtown Design takes place at the foot of the Burj Khalifa from October 28 to 31.

The Fair highlights names such as iconic designer Philippe Starck, who along with Hansgrohe Axor designed living spaces for **Burj Khalifa**. **Katsuya** restaurant at The Dubai Mall is a successful collaboration between Philippe Starck and chef Katsuya Uechi. Starck's unmistakable brand, known for being minimalistic yet full of colour and exuberance, is evident throughout the restaurant.

Associated with Versailles Palace in Paris is Czech-based company Preciosa – it is responsible for the Moorish influence at **One & Only The Palm** inspired by the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain.

Italian-based company Sici's renowned for its mosaics since the Byzantine era designed

stunning mosaics for **Burj Al Arab** and **Emirates Palace Hotel** in Abu Dhabi.

Dubai's International Airport is home to design treasures, like the Tandem seats from Swiss-based global design powerhouse Vitra. Designed by the famous Charles and Ray Eames, who are recognised as one of the most important figures of design over the last 80 years. Tandem Seating enables passengers a comfortable yet utterly refreshed experience seating in the public waiting areas of this award-winning airport.

If you use the ultra-modern **Dubai Metro** for your sight seeing tour of Dubai, you will also see fascinating crystal and glass light fixtures at two main stations (Burjuman and Al Rigga). These are designed by another Czech-based lighting leader, Lasvit, known for their edgy custom-made designs, which are also seen in many fine hotels around the world. Lasvit will be making its debut at Downtown Design this year with much anticipated innovative products.

Under the theme 'original design', this four-day event will host daily workshops, talks on everything related to the future of industrial and commercial design by global designers, architects and

thought leaders. Visitors can expect to learn about furniture, lighting, kitchens and bathrooms, flooring and carpets, accessories, new technologies and more.

We are seeing the rise of designer hotels, restaurants, residences and offices here in Dubai. This reflects the way people live, work and travel today as well as the growing number of design enthusiasts and professionals in the region. It is a trend that is not going away and will shape the evolution of interiors for many decades to come," added Cristina Romelli Gervasoni. "The Fair provides a platform for the Middle East to access these global brands in a setting that allows for meaningful exchanges and recognises Dubai's growing role as a global design destination."

Alongside innovations by global design masters stated above and others, Downtown Design will also include an exciting programme of talks, workshops and interactive spaces that encourage collaboration between developers, architects, designers and will capture the attention of design enthusiasts.

For more information, visit www.downtowndesign.com

By Melissa Randhawa



Chopard The Dubai Mall Boutique, flagship store for Chopard in the Middle East region, re-opened its doors on October 13 with the brand's new boutique design concept by renowned architect Thierry W. Despont.

