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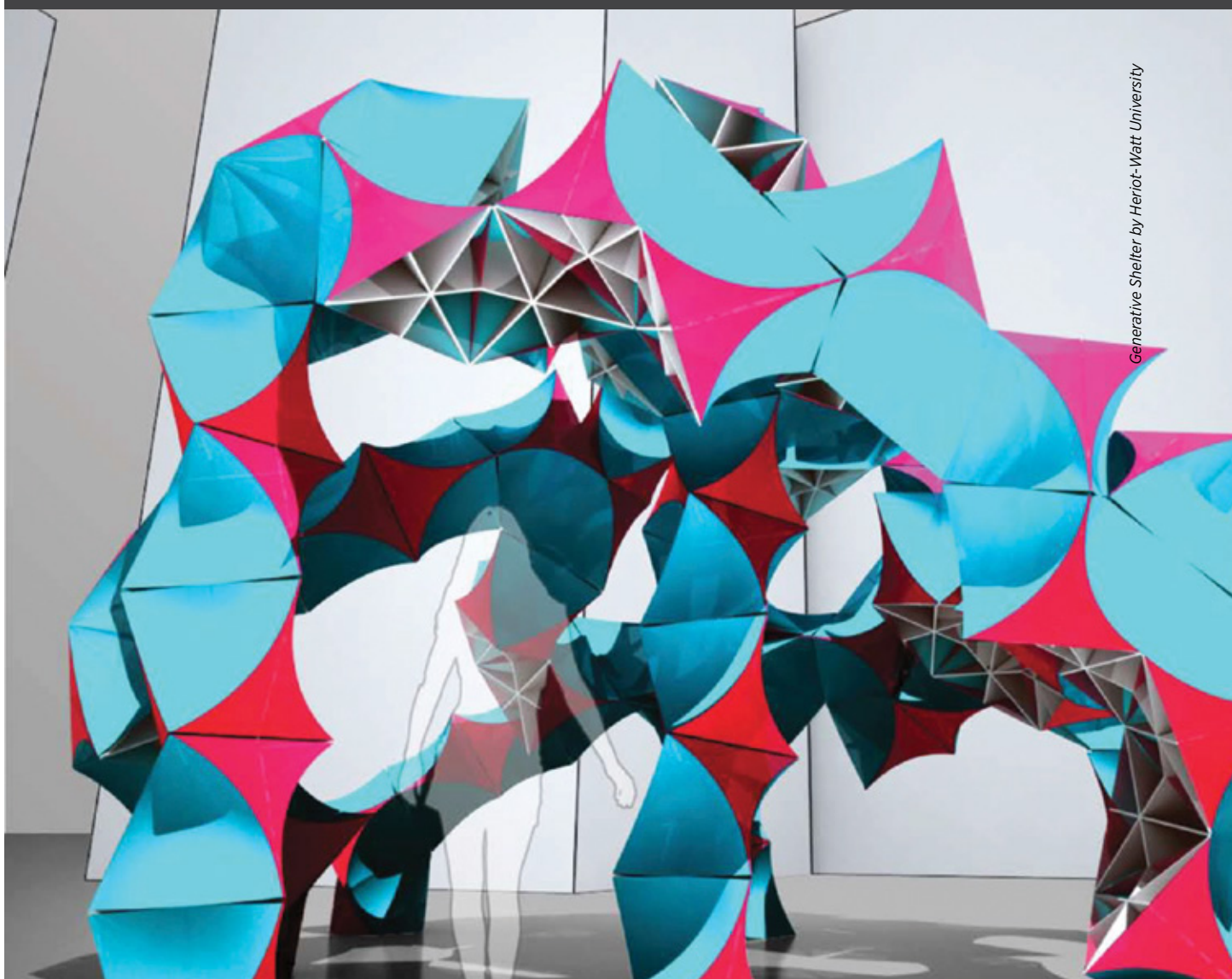
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Architecture, Design and Creativity
DUBAI DESIGN WEEK



by Bhavna Patel

DUBAI DESIGN WEEK



Generative Shelter by Heriot-Watt University

Dubai's skyline is distinctly unique. It is home to iconic structures such as its tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, and the Cayan Tower, with a remarkable 90 degrees' twist. Look around you, and you will see many wonders of modern architecture. Design is such a huge part of what makes Dubai spectacular, so it is no surprise to learn that the city also hosts the Middle East's biggest and most important design show.

Dubai Design Week was recently held in November 2017, and celebrated the best in architecture, design and creativity. Under the patronage of

Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the six-day event is now in its third edition, and continues to cement Dubai's reputation as a hub for vibrant design.

The Dubai Design Week (DXBDW) is comprised of a comprehensive set of exhibitions, talks, panels and installations. A diverse range of over 200 activities were staged in locations across Dubai, including the fifth edition of Downtown Design, the Middle East's leading design trade show. Downtown Design doubled its size for the 2017 DXBDW, with 150



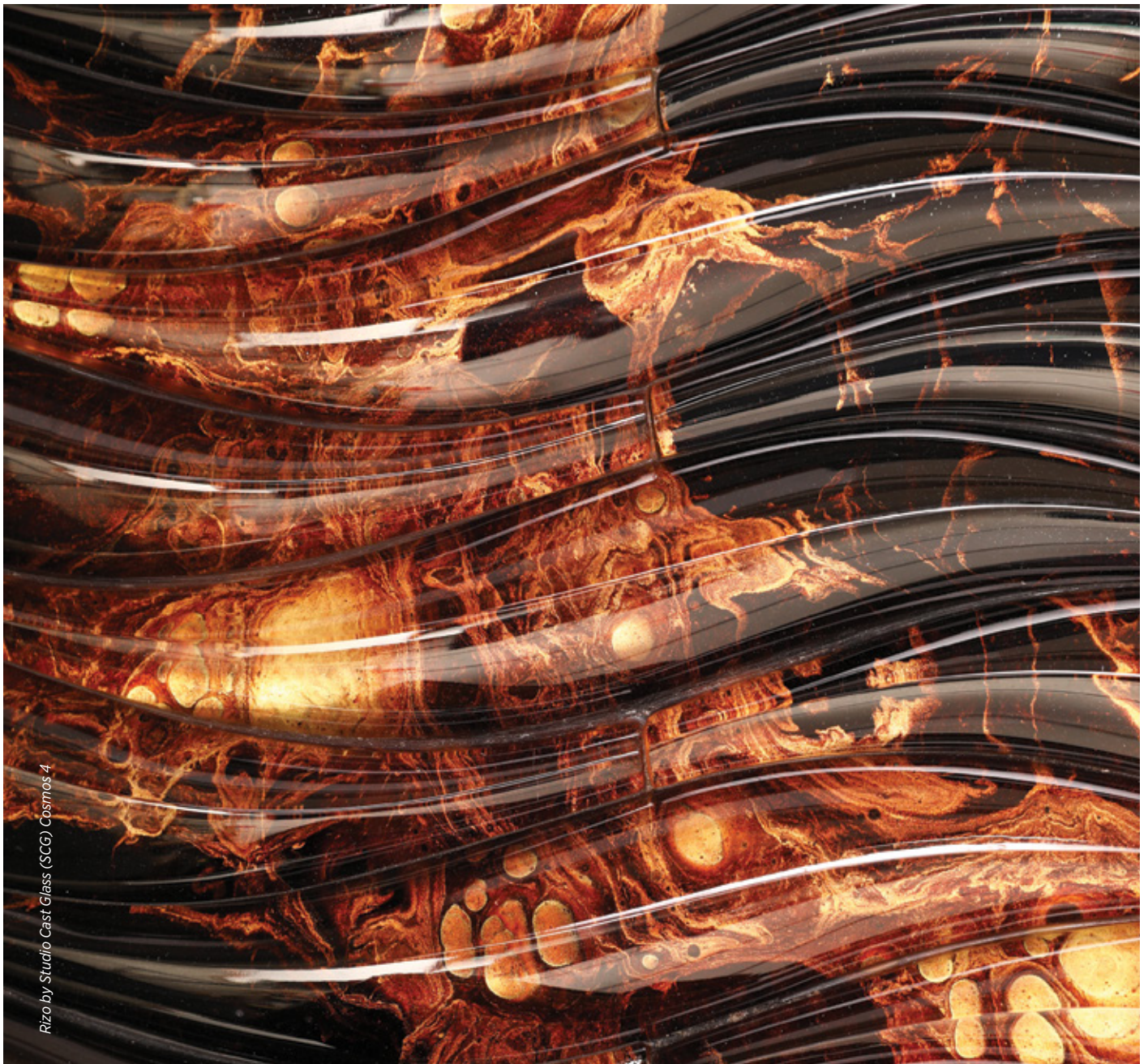
Design by Amrith Patel of Apical Reform

contemporary brands from 25 countries showing. Held at the new d3 waterfront event space, the 2017 edition showcased 70 new high-end international and regional brands, including the debut of eight emerging design brands from the UAE region. Live events at Downtown Design included an opening keynote from London-based avant-garde design duo Fredrikson Stallard and other talks and panel discussions from architecture studios and brand management companies.

New talent was also served up via the Global Grad Show, considered to be the “Oscars” of graduate design and technology. It is the world’s largest and most diverse meeting of design graduates, with 200 projects showcasing designs that look to the future of science and innovation. Graduates from 90 of the world’s top universities had their work featured at this show, and hail from world-renowned institutes such as The Royal

College of Art in London, Stanford University in California, and the RMIT in Melbourne. Work was also featured from graduates of emerging design centres in schools such as Pearl Academy in New Delhi and Makerere University in Kampala.

The Dubai Design District (d3) was also the location of several other exhibitions. Abwab is Dubai Design Week’s annual exhibition of regional design talent, all selected by a high-profile international editorial board including Joy Mardini, Max Fraser and Sheikha Lateefa bint Maktoum. Located in the heart of d3, the word Abwab literally translates as doors, an apt name for such an exhibition. Its third incarnation hosted 45 designs from 15 countries, which were selected through a process which requires creatives to nominate another designer upon submission, opening doors for them in a “design dominos” effect.



Rizo by Studio Cast Glass (SCG) Cosmos 4

Abwab was held in a structure designed by Dubai-based Fahed + Architects, which was created using repurposed bed springs sourced from waste management company Bee'ah.

Other exhibitions include Iconic City, which is an annual spotlight on a particular region. 2017's Iconic City was Casablanca, and was explored in an exhibition named "Loading... Casa". Curated by Salma Lahlou, she commissioned new works from a sound artist, graphic designer, photographer and interior architect to capture the city she lives in.



Anjali Srinivasan - Quiver Vessel



Champa Nesting Tables by Lei-at-O'de-rose



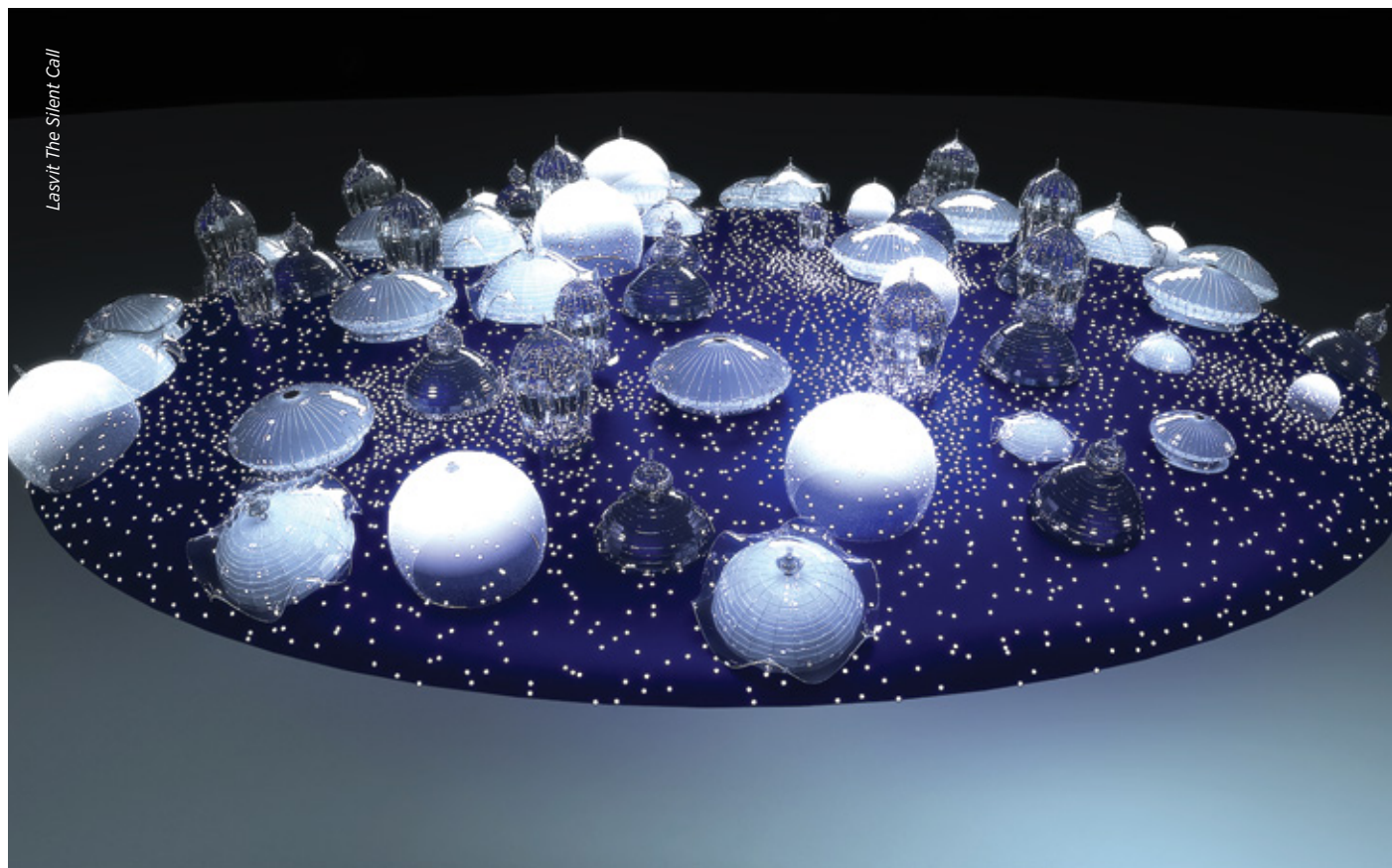
Vase D' Avril by Tsé & Tsé

GraphicsRCA: 50 Years and Beyond, was also showing at d3, and explored the beginnings and possible future direction of graphic design. Looking at some of the best graphic design concepts from the last half-century, the exhibition featured original and rarely seen works from the Royal College of Arts archive.

It also included designs made at the College by RCA alumni. Unsurprisingly, given that the RCA is one of the world's leading post-graduate design schools, these alumni members have gone on to become industry leaders and innovators.

Returning to the UAE and surrounding region, Once Upon DESIGN: New Routes for Arabian Heritage is a curated collection and celebration of contemporary product and furniture designs from the Middle East. It was commissioned by Design Space 1971 (Sharjah) and curated by Noor Aldabbagh.

Temporary installations were also dotted throughout d3 for the duration of the Dubai Design Show. These installations included a structure devised by Lujaine Rezk and Albert Kolambel, which played beautifully with light, and work by London-based design studio Fredrikson Stallard.



Lasvit The Silent Call



The Ribbon Chair - by Pierre Paulin



Celebrating the opening of their new Creative Centre at d3, Fredrikson Stallard presented "Prologue", a dramatic crystal-adorned piece made for Swarovski. Visitors had their own "My Dubai" moment with Apical Reform's interactive and playful piece, while Lasvit, experts in glass installations and sculptures, presented "Silent Call", a piece designed by Khalid Shafar which celebrated the daily ritual of the call to prayer. Other works by Brandinc, SUPERFUTUREDESIGN*, Aljoud Lootah and Gafra Jewellery in collaboration with Abdalla AlMulla were also inspired by Middle Eastern craft.

Visitors of all ages were well-served at the event; a pop-up programme of activities and stores ensured that there was a range of things to see and do. Those who wished to buy high-quality design products were able to visit the Super Design Market, Ripe Market or a pop-up store

by award-winning watchmakers Rado, who were displaying their latest collection “Portraits of Design”. IKEA aimed to bring out the inner child in visitors with their engaging exhibition “Let’s Play for Change”, inspiring everyone to bring play into their everyday routine, whilst an extensive



Rizo by Studio Cast Glass (SCG) Carbon 5



Viso Fort Knox by Felipe Lisboa

live programme was kicked off with a keynote by one of the world’s most influential architects, Sir David Adjaye, in conversation with Emirati commentator Sultan Sooud Al-Qassemi.

Dubai Design Week 2017 was supported by Meraas, whose portfolio of destinations in the city include City Walk, Boxpark, The Outlet Village, Kite Beach, La Mer and Al Seef. All of these are designed to improve Dubai and the UAE, both for visitors and for those living and working there. The high quality of urban living in Dubai is what makes it so attractive, and wouldn’t be possible without companies like Meraas providing such a high caliber of design and engineering.



The show was also supported by Audi, a long-time sponsor of the show. In 2017, Audi launched their second Innovation Award competition, celebrating design research. The theme of the competition was autonomy, and the first prize went to Dubai-based Jamal Alsharkas for his design “EZ Move”. The innovative product aims to give people with mobility challenges and visual impairments greater freedom to move around cities. He was rewarded with \$25,000 worth of consultancy to protect and develop his idea.

The Audi Innovation Award, along with the rest of the week-long programme, goes to show the part design plays around the world, and how it not only shapes the landscapes of our cities, but also our lives. The Dubai Design Week was a successful reminder to celebrate the talents of those like Alsharkas, and to continue to foster innovation well into the future.

Baccarat



Rizo by Studio Cast Glass (SCG) Maria Z



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