

information

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THE FAN OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL JUMEIRA, DUBAI

Every Mandarin Oriental hotel has its own fan reflecting its own corporate identity and the Group's oriental culture. Each fan is unique and chosen to reflect both the individuality of the hotel and the culture of the country it resides in.

For Mandarin Oriental Jumeira, Dubai, the bespoke fan was designed by Dubai-based multidisciplinary designer Aljoud Lootah. Known for her work creating bespoke objects and collectables, Aljoud is one of the most exciting artists in the United Arab Emirates. Her work interprets Emirati heritage and craftsmanship in a contemporary light by mixing the traditional with modern elements. Aljoud is also the first Emirati designer whose work was acquired by an international gallery, the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia.

The signature fan was handmade by local craftsmen. An artistic blend of local Emirati heritage with modern touches, it takes inspiration from land and sea, the two historical sources of livelihood for the residents of the UAE. The fan's main geometric pattern is inspired by khous, palm frond weaving. This technique was used by Emiratis in the past to create a variety of items and necessities including The Mahaffa, a hand-held square fan to keep cool in the desert heat which formed another source of inspiration for Aljoud.

The curved pattern is a nod to the sea which is an essential part of the historical coastal town of Dubai as much as it is part of the modern thriving city it is today. The sea was instrumental in the development of the country thanks to thriving trading and pearl diving industries, with the latter developing into one of the UAE's most treasured traditions. The city's stunning beaches remain a draw for travellers from everywhere and are integral to the modern city's way of life.

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The ribbed structure of the fan is made of brushed brass to complement the interiors of the hotel and to represent the modern edges of Dubai, while the patterns of the woven khous gradually fade over time, mimicking how original khous patterns would appear.

The overall result is a stunning work of art that is a true reflection of the spirit of Dubai.

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For further information, please contact:

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