

# EDITOR'S LETTER



**A**s we approach a new year, there's a rousing sense of anticipation of all the exciting yet unknown opportunities that await. This year has certainly been a thrilling – and

progressive – one for Dubai's burgeoning design industry. The first coup of the year was undoubtedly the opening of d3 in the spring, an area that has fast become a hub of talent for local and international companies keen to position themselves in such a promising community. More recently, we have had a great deal to celebrate with the emirate's inaugural Design Week at the end of October, cementing Dubai's position on the world's creative landscape, (*Design in the City*, page 58), and the largest ever edition of Downtown Design providing an unrivalled platform for local and international luxury brands (*Global Takeover*, page 62). On a personal level, the most exciting event of all was the return of Harper's Bazaar Interiors' annual design awards, held during these city-wide

events as the official gala dinner of Downtown Design. Along with the six other judges, I had the hard yet ultimately rewarding task of deliberating the outcome of each of the 12 hotly contested awards, and it was an incredible honour to present each deserving winner with our beautiful bespoke marble trophies, designed by architect Viktor Udzenija. I especially can't wait to see what 2016 holds for Ammar Kalo, the inventive creative who took home the Emerging Designer of the Year Award (*The Harper's Bazaar Interiors Awards 2015*, page 49). With so much cause for celebration this season, we turn to the experts of entertaining, and speak to Carolyne Roehm about her festive collaboration with Baccarat (*Crystal Clear*, page 64), while the queen of secret dinners Alamira Noor Bani Hashim reveals how she entertains at her chic home in Abu Dhabi (*Join the Club*, page 68). Staying one step ahead of the trend forecasters, we implement next year's colour palettes across stylish tablescapes for the party season ahead (*Festive Elegance*, page 96). If the UAE – and wider Gulf – can match the energy, creativity and growth seen in 2015, we will have even more to applaud this time next year, where

there's every likelihood the region will have gone from emerging market to setting the pace – and a brisk one at that. Next year promises to be a thrilling journey, and I can't wait to see where it takes us.

*Eleanor*  
ELEANOR JOSLIN, EDITOR

**Eleanor's EDIT**

Entertain with golds, gilded edges and a splash of blue steel this season

- 1. Preciosa Muutos light, Dhs4,921
- 2. Stella McCartney Dress, Dhs8,350
- 3. Wedgwood Arris plate, 28cm, Dhs140
- 4. Hermès Rose-gold ring, Dhs3,273
- 5. Cities Pulpo vases, Dhs 1,755
- 6. Nakkash Gallery Cabinet, Dhs12,500



*As the **Middle East's leading luxury design awards**, the much-anticipated ceremony at the iconic Jumeirah Emirates Towers on Wednesday, October 28, provided a prestigious platform for honouring and celebrating the very best design brands across 12 distinct categories.*

Nominated online by industry professionals and discerning readers of *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors, the acclaimed judging panel deliberated each brand and designer carefully, to award the most deserving recipients of this year's coveted, custom-made marble and steel trophies, designed by Viktor Udzenija.



Churchill armchair by Luna Bella at Nakkash Gallery

**BEST REGIONAL FURNITURE BRAND  
NAKKASH GALLERY**

**In association with Hansgrohe**

Over three decades after Wajih Nakkash established Nakkash Gallery in Dubai, his children Omar and Aya are infusing the store with new energy and diversity.

The judges were unanimous in acknowledging the label's steadfast support to furthering the design dialogue in the region and for introducing new brands, such as Portuguese labels Munna and Ginger & Jagger, to consumers. "Nakkash Gallery has raised the bar in the region," says Rue Kothari. "They've introduced both established and emerging designers and new design vocabularies, which continues to inspire us."

**COMMENDED:** Children's Lane, Cities, PF Emirates

**NEW BUYS**



Portuguese furniture brands Ginger & Jagger and Munna can now be found at Nakkash Gallery



Wedgwood's Arris milk jug, sugar pot and teapot



**BEST TABLEWARE BRAND**  
**WEDGWOOD**

In association with Cities

For some of the judges, appreciation for the classic British purveyor of tableware stems from childhood, seeing the brand's products become precious, and sentimental, family heirlooms. Others applauded its return to form with contemporary collections that hint of cool Britannia. Lyndall Fernie was a strong supporter, noting: "I've always admired Wedgwood for their designs rooted in British heritage and I love how they have ramped up the style stakes with new, edgier collections such as Arris."

**COMMENDED:** Christofle, Marie Daàge at White Almonds, Michael Aram at Bloomingdale's Home



Arris geometric espresso cups

**BEST OUTDOOR BRAND**  
**DEDON AT NAKKASH GALLERY**

In association with Blanc D'Ivoire

The first to weave synthetic fibre into luxury furniture for outdoor living, Dedon has a twenty-year history of handcraftsmanship, evocative design and inimitable quality. The label continues to surprise with innovative technology and collaborations with cutting-edge designers, such as Philippe Starck, Richard Frinier and Jean-Marie Massaud. "Their designs are contemporary, yet playful," says Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, "and in warmer climates, such as the Middle East, it's important to have a seamless look from indoors to outdoors. Dedon does that very well."

**COMMENDED:** B&B Italia, Minotti at Aati, Paola Lenti at Purity



Dedon's Mbrace lounge chair