

Jordanian-born architect Jafar Dajani has a rich portfolio of striking designs; they immediately stand out with their clean geometric lines and ultra-modern finishes. His design philosophy combines functionality with a hint of whimsicality.

In this sense, the 39-year-old designer admits that he's always trying to balance two fundamental aspects when creating new pieces. "There is a thin line between something that is functional

and something that is aesthetically pleasing. I like to combine both by making functional objects that can also be admired as pieces of art," he says.

An example of this is the Burqa cabinet, a one-of-a-kind piece he designed for *Architectural Digest's* one-year anniversary. The black and gold bespoke piece is a translation of the designer's tendency to be inspired by everything around him. "I got inspired by the burqa, which is

part of the traditional costume of the older generation of Emirati ladies. The outside of the cabinet is inspired by the upper part of the headpiece while the inside is inspired by the lower part of the burqa that covers the mouth and lips. So the inspiration here came from a fashion item and then I turned it into a cabinet that is functional and aesthetically beautiful."

But Dajani doesn't always play it safe with his work. He says he likes to challenge himself and



JAFAR DAJANI

Interior Architect  
Age: 39  
Jordanian  
Lives in Dubai

## Beautiful lines and functional designs

*Jordanian architect Jafar Dajani turns abstract forms and geometric lines into objects of admiration*

push boundaries with unconventional pieces that might not be relevant from a commercial standpoint. "I tend to design things that are just for me, and when I do that my wife always gives me a reality check; she tells me: is this going to sell? Who's going to buy this? That's too edgy! Calm down a little. An example of this is the cabinet I designed for this year's edition of Design Days. It's a little bit edgy, but I designed it for our daughter, so I'm not worried if it doesn't sell."

Dajani admits that he and his generation of designers stand on the shoulders of all the great architects and artists who preceded them and who already built everything. But if there is one thing he would like to build from scratch and make it his own, it would be a boutique hotel. "I want to go back to the origins of this trend and how it started in the States and Europe in the early Nineties. I think this concept got diluted with time. Now modern-day boutique hotels have many rooms that look exactly the same. I would like to eventually build my own boutique hotel, and individually design each room and make it completely different from the other," he says.

Until then, Dajani continues to create bespoke pieces informed by his surroundings and appreciation for architecture, which he cites as the base of all arts. —

JAFAR DAJANI wears cotton shirt, GIORGIO ARMANI, safari jacket, LOUIS VUITTON and sunglasses, FENDI

هناك نيك رفيع بين تصميم ما هو عملي  
وما هو أنيق

2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the De Stijl Movement. The furniture Jafar presented is an homage to this school-inspired school of thought that was cultivated by Mondrian through art and Rietveld through architecture and furniture. The artwork is based on our study of the different relationships that result from the motion and rotation

of squares and rectangles. When transforming the study into furniture, he positioned the layers so that they do not intersect, thereby allowing each element to exist independently. Highlighting the relationship between contrasting aspects - black and white, with natural elements of wood, marble and brass.

