



HBA Breathes New Life into the Renovation of Grand Hyatt Dubai

New York, NY – HBA / Hirsch Bedner Associates dove deep into local culture, artistry, craft and lifestyle when designing Al Manzil, Grand Hyatt Dubai’s residence space, Ahasees Spa & Club, and The Living Room, Grand Hyatt Dubai’s nightlife venue.



AL MANZIL : In-line with Hyatt’s ‘Residence’ concept, Al Manzil feels like a well-curated residential home.

It’s all in the details, Al Manzil is a richly curated environment made up of Arabic rhythms and patterns. Inspiration was drawn from the delicate designs found in door-hardware around the city and from the design in meticulously hand crafted local jewelry. The artwork collection is fashioned by these Arabic motifs with a contemporary twist. Jewelry pattern details were emulated and enlarged, painted onto floor to ceiling canvas panels, magnified and perfectly stylized.

In local culture Arabic homes are often built around a central courtyard with rooms opening in toward the courtyard. Similarly, guests enter Al Manzil through grand timber paneled

doors into a central courtyard like space. Immediately to one side is the open kitchen, lounge and dining areas on the other side. After passing through the central space, meeting facilities open off to either side, followed by the conservatory space. Skylights evoke the feeling of natural light, which soaks a backlit stretch fabric wall with warm light.

The color palette is made up of strong contrasting colors and finishes – dark red onyx marble, red velvets, bronze metal, dark timbers and embossed leathers in buttery cream and tan. Arabic patterns are alive in the furniture with laser cut metal tables and pendants, embossed leathers, and white washed timber Moroccan style chairs. The patterns are also depicted in the exaggerated geometric flooring design in the courtyard entry, which is outlined in gold mosaic against cream marble. And metal-cut backlit panels play with pattern and scale on the walls.

The residential feel is carried through to the timber flooring covered with loose rugs sourced and made in the Middle East to the array of local accessories in metal. Silver displays sit on the shelves and tabletops within each room.

The kitchen, the heart of every home, features full cooking and entertaining facilities clad in a warm honey onyx. The space boasts dark timber millwork, cream Kinon wall panels and soft cream flooring. An array of cookbooks, spices, oils, and beautifully coppered pots and pans can be found in the kitchen. Freshly potted herbs fill the space with an aromatic sensation, adding to the residential experience and function.

Al Manzil is an *mélange* of custom designed and locally sourced fabric and furniture creating a meticulously curated sense of place. Local flavor, art, history and culture are alive in the space while the ultimate in modern technology and function are folded in seamlessly.

SPA: A thoughtful Spa redesign and expansion for Ahasees Spa & Club

Much like a painter HBA dipped its brush into the local pallet to design the Ahasees Spa & Club at Grand Hyatt Dubai. The outcome is a clean and textural refuge that will satisfy the visual appetite. The lower level is made up of a serene palette composed of white marble, contrasting dark tones of walnut woods and copper metals. Warm mid-tones of amber and sand with finishes of custom coloured Kinon were used to contrast the iridescent copper glass mosaics and metal wall tiles; the outcome, a contemporary harmonious space.



In sync with the contemporary design are accents of Arabic design, featuring large-scale

abstract geometric pattern engraved into the bronze tinted glass shower doors.

The new extension of the Upper level Spa carries the contemporary vocabulary of design with soft color tones and finishes. Timber flooring at reception and staircase in Antico Larch Grigio, play on the tactile nature of the space with accentuated grain giving a textured surface and an 'aged' look and feel. The color tones and textures complimented by the hand-tufted rugs with their dusky pink shade are intensified by the wool and silk make.

Touch, feel, and temperature are key in designing wellness spaces, thus tactile soft surfaces were created using silk wall paneling and leather. As the guest walks up the staircase their hand will glide along the leather handrail and feel the leathery touch of the tabletops in the reception. Contrasting to the silk and hand tufted dusky pink rug. Mosaic floors, Timber flooring and polished Perlata plaster juxtapose the butter leather touch with a sleek reflective shimmer. The language of Arabic culture is literally cut into the tables, as patterns of the surrounding environment are laser-cut into the surface of tables.

The treatment rooms are an extension of Arabic design language with a luxurious veil. Each room has luminous mother of pearl tiles and bronze etched glass with Arabic designs. Custom laser cut henna pattern pendants hang from the ceiling, creating a play of shadow and light. In the relaxation rooms, a sanctuary of calm prevails as customized three-dimensional stone cut angled walls reminds the guest of the rich local culture just beyond the walls of the spa.

Taking inspiration from local photographers and artisans, a series of sand dune photographs with Arabic poetry inscribed are on display throughout the space. Henna patterned over-scaled backlit panels featured in the treatment rooms create a sense of place. The panels carry on this artistic demeanor; emanate intimate warmth and calming ambiance.

The Living Room

Dubai, known as the “City of Life,” has become one of the most vibrant, young, dynamic cities today. The harmonious mix of diverse cultures spanning the Middle East, Europe and Asia living and working together in Dubai inspired the Living Room concept. The Living Room is a place that reflects the energy and vibrancy of such an exciting city, taking elements from these cultures and bringing them together in a melting pot of styles to create its own unique experience. Taking inspiration from the culture and colors we created a series of living rooms each with its own unique style and ambiance.

The layout of the space is composed of a central bar area with off-shoots of smaller intimate ‘Living Room’ spaces. A sunken lounge with a long curved feature wall is off to one side of the central bar.

The main bar counter is clad in textured metal sourced from De Ferranti, a London based company who specialize in unique and innovative finishes. The bar counter concept is then carried into each of the living rooms, this then links each room with the next space through open portals or apertures. Thus each room has its own bar, an extension of the main bar counter, creating an independent space that can be fully stocked and self-serviced. The open portals provide a glimpse into the room or space beyond, playing into a VIP see and be seen

culture. The ceiling of the main bar is a series of 'light boxes' at varying heights, allowing different scenes to be set as the evening progresses with color changing LEDs.

Another pinnacle feature in the space is framing the food as art. The cheese and cold cuts room is flanked by floor to ceiling wine towers providing a view into the exciting live kitchen. The window here is framed with a large picture frame. The food is thus displayed as art.

The artwork played a major role in creating the atmosphere and identity of the Living Room. The concept was to work with different media such as glass and metal to create dimension and a unique experience. HBA worked directly with the artists to develop the commissioned works of art. The art program begins from the moment the guests enter the space, at the main entrance pivot doors. The doors were created as 2mW x 2mH artworks. When closed, the doors no longer appear as doors. Hollywood glamour plays a role in the Living Room with iconic images printed onto aluminum sheets and clad to the doors for a contemporary look and feel. The two doors can be alternated so the artwork changes between the two images. Much of the artwork was commissioned for the project from the "White on White" oil on Aluminum piece by UK based artist Julia Brooker. Especially commissioned art in collaboration with famed London photographer Gianni Mosella, involved creating unique pieces printed onto aluminum.

Each Living Room has a unique concept and identity, while blending together seamlessly. The Velvet Lounge takes inspiration from the Middle East's love of color. The space incorporates vivid hues of purples and magenta with a hint of gold. The room has a velvet sheen and softness, which is articulated in the curved walls, padded in soft leather. The floor complements the walls with leather floor tiles. A strip of carpet runs from the entry of the room across the floor all the way up the facing wall, all of the furniture, including tables is padded and upholstered in leather, velvets and richly patterned fabrics. Every detail is thought through, down to the junction from floor to walls – the transition is curved in order to emphasize that softness.

The European Lounge has Louis VX chairs upholstered in modern day fabrics and pearlized leathers with black lacquer frames. The architectural colors are white on white, which is carried through in the large oil paintings on aluminum metal by Julia Brooker. The room is punctuated by tones of grey and vivid orange. As guests enter the room through a glowing burnt orange portal constructed in high gloss lacquer, it creates a grand sense of entry. In line with the Louis XIV chair, an entire wall is clad in antiqued mirror and through this is wall is the portal that glimpses into the Velvet Lounge.

The Chinese Lounge, bold and strong with vibrant reds and blacks that create a real sense of drama. The space is punctuated with two oversized heavily adorned chandeliers in crystal and velvet. The chandeliers were sourced from a local supplier, Petals, known for their flamboyant designs. One wall is attributed to a photographic scene from a Chinese nightclub. The dress of the central figure in the scene of a woman was colored to match the silk fabrics panels around the room. The well-choreographed art and interior design program provide a focal point seen from all around the room and create a unique atmosphere unlike anything found in Dubai.

The combination of cultural interplay, artistry, and unique spatial planning creates an energetic and alive environment that could only exist in the dynamic city of Dubai.

About HBA

World-renowned as the “Number 1 Hospitality Design Firm” (Interior Design) and honored in 2011 by the Perspective Awards, the Boutique Design Awards and the European Hotel Design Awards; HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates, unveils the world’s most anticipated hotels, resorts, and spas. Leading the hospitality interior design industry since 1965, HBA remains keenly attuned to the pulse of changing industry trends governed by today’s sophisticated traveler. The company’s international presence, depth of experience, and detailed industry knowledge enables them to identify interior design trends at their source, make definitive predictions about new directions and innovations, and influence design standards at a global level. HBA’s ultimate objective is to add value, raise standards and enhance the brand of a project’s owner and operator.

HBA creates the signature look of traditional luxury brands, independent contemporary boutiques, urban resort spas, world-class residences, restaurants, casinos, and cruise ships. From continent to continent, each HBA interior is the result of a unique and sensitive response to location, architecture, and client vision. With over 500 designers around the globe in 13 offices and a recent expansion in Asia, HBA is a true global company with more than 75% of its employees now outside the United States. HBA’s international presence, combined with its extensive knowledge of the interior design industry, has facilitated the ability to rewrite the language of design with each new project.

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