

Beirut Design Fair to fete heritage

Third edition to showcase work of some 50 exhibitors from over 10 countries

By **Maghie Ghali**
The Daily Star

BEIRUT: The third edition of the Beirut Design Fair is set to launch next week, promoting regional talent to an international audience.

Staged in parallel to the Beirut Art Fair at the Seaside Pavilion from Sept. 19-22, the fair will present pieces by designers and galleries from across the world, with about 50 exhibitors from over 10 countries.

“Our commitment remains to relentlessly raise the bar of design,” founder Guillaume Tasle d’Heliand said at a recent news conference. “BDF is devoted to providing visitors an experience overflowing with surprises and emotion, unsuspected encounters and discoveries.

“Spectacular installations are in our DNA, which is why we entrusted architect Rawad Rizk to develop the scenography of your yearly rendezvous with design.

“His two symbolic installations simultaneously propose a benevolent confrontation with Beirut’s architectural chaos, and serve as



A lamp in the shape of a loud air horn by Fadi Sarriddine.

cutting-edge displays to showcase exceptional design creations.”

The scenography of the Beirut Design Fair is a tribute to the evolving architecture of Beirut. Showcas-

ing two pavilions with contrasting structures, they evoke both the traditional past and the more modern, pre-Civil War golden age.

“Beirut is a world city as much as

a city [of] history and today enjoys the status of the most important design hub in the Middle East, with open doors to the West, and a showcase for the region,” Rizk said.

“Beirut continues to renew itself, to invent itself over and over, to rebuild everywhere and permanently – sometimes in disregard of its memory.

“Beirut is regularly the subject of disputes between archaeologists and real estate developers, between defenders of the inheritance and supporters of the clean slate,” he added. “We want people to see the coexistence and the clash between the heritage of the 1800s and the 1960s. It’s a message for our society to look forward and define our heritage, because if we don’t define our heritage we cannot define our future.”

The first pavilion pays tribute to the broken arches and arcades typical of traditional Lebanese houses from the 1800s. The second pays homage to modernism, through the clean forms characteristic of the ’60s.

The fair will showcase limited edition contemporary and modern furniture, jewelry, pottery and glasswork, and unique home accessories. While it is hosting international designers, there is a strong Lebanese presence, in the hopes that foreign galleries can see what the country has to offer. Among the local innovations are Nada Debs’ colorful creations, Lebanese heritage-inspired Nada G Fine Jewelry pieces and the architectural designs of Christian Zahr, which seek to reconcile past and present.

For more info, visit beirut-design-fair.com.

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Maghie Ghali/ *The Daily Star*

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