



Two UAE-based projects are vying for this year's World Architecture Festival building of the year award. Designed by the British artist Idris Khan and the Brisbane-based architects bureau⁴proberts and public realm specialists UAP, Abu Dhabi's Wahat Al Karama, is one of eight projects that have been shortlisted in the award's "civic and community – completed buildings" section. The memorial site and pavilion of honour, which can be seen on bottom left, was built to honour UAE martyrs and opened last year. Dubai-based Dabbagh Architects' Mleiha Archaeological Centre in Sharjah, meanwhile, which won the Cityscape Global award and Middle East Architects Awards last year, is competing against 16 completed projects in a culture category. Other notable entries include Urban Rigger, low-cost floating student accommodation by Bjarke Ingels' Group, the designers of Abu Dhabi's Warehouse421 in Mina Zayed. Of the 222 completed projects on the list, only 13 are from the Middle East. These include the Palestinian Museum in Birzeit, designed by the Dublin-headquartered Heneghan Peng Architects and AGI architects' Three Gardens House in Kuwait City. The winners will be announced during the World Architecture Festival, which takes place from November 15 to 17 in Berlin.

Weekender



HIT LIST YOUR WEEKEND MANTRA

Get a taste of the best hummus in the capital

Those who live in the region are familiar with the Lebanese "hummus test" and how difficult it is to find good hummus in restaurants. Don't roll your eyes just yet! Preparing this Levantine dip, considered a highlight of the Lebanese mezze, can be tricky and getting the right proportion of each ingredient is no easy feat. Where can you find the best hummus in Abu Dhabi? Mosaic. Located in the Embassies District, the restaurant serves authentic Lebanese cuisine, with hummus and baba ghanoush to die for. A plate of hummus is Dh23,



hummus beiruti is Dh25 and baba ghanoush is Dh23. It is located at Guardian Towers off Rabdan Street. Opening Hours: 9am to midnight.

Discounted beauty services

Toni&Guy has just opened its fourth UAE franchise at Dukes Dubai, on the Palm Jumeirah. It joins those already operating at the Grand Hyatt Dubai, DIFC and in Abu Dhabi's Al Bandar precinct. The new salon offers the

usual hair cutting, colouring, styling and hair extension services and also has a selection of men's grooming services and beauty treatments on its menu. To celebrate the opening, the salon is offering 25 per cent off on appointments for cut and colour (when booked together) and eyelash extensions (previously Dh600, now Dh450), from now until the end of August. Complimentary valet parking is available too. Visit to www.dukesdubai.com/beauty-fitness/toni-and-guy/

Delicious and healthy bites

Circle Café is quickly becoming a top choice as a lunch-order spot for the staff at *The National*. The sandwiches – the chicken and avo (Dh44) and the turkey and swiss (Dh42) are our

favourites – they come in a bagel, wrap or sourdough, served with sides. Salads are popular among our gang as they are large and flavourful with generous, filling portions, but most importantly, they are not "mostly lettuce". The Mexican Chicken (Dh54) is frequently ordered as well as the Goats Cheese Salad (Dh58), while The Family Salad (Dh58) comes with a plump piece of burrata, chicken and chunks of sweet pumpkin and beetroot. But the real star of the menu is the Oreo pudding (Dh28). Plus, they offer 30 per cent off when you order online at www.zomato.com. Locations in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Fitness at your fingertips

Whether you're new to the gym scene or have been a fitness lover



for most of your life, GuavaPass is a wonderful way to get the most of your workout while also discovering what fitness regimens work for you. The app is available in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and is connected to gyms, yoga studios and CrossFit boxes around each emirate. Participants can book their entire week or month of fitness workouts, four classes at a time, though just three times per month at the same venue. Members can sign up for a class or gym session up until an hour before the class starts (if it not yet full) through the website or do so on-the-go with the app. There is also the option to cancel a class without being charged, if done 12 hours in advance. Each membership lasts for 30 or 31 days, depending on the month. Visit www.guavapass.com for more information.

Convenient home share for Muslim families

While surfing the web recently looking for interesting tidbits, we stumbled across a couple of innovative concepts we think you might be interested in. Book Halal Homes and Muzbnb are home-sharing platforms that offer Muslim travelers across the world a comfortable place to stay when abroad. Book Halal Homes is based out of London, and has been around for a couple of years, while Muzbnb is a Washington-based start-up led by a so-called "team of adventurepreneurs". Visit www.bookhalalhomes.com and www.muzbnb.com for more information.

Compiled by The National staff

POSTCARD

Freezing moments from history in frames

► **Anna Zacharias** shines the spotlight on some of the framers on Electra Street, whose works hang unnoticed in hundreds of homes and offices across the country

Anil Shill named his barber shop Black House Hairdressing Saloon because when he arrived in Abu Dhabi from Bangladesh in 1978, Electra Street was dark. When he opened Black House in 1992, the first thing he did was hang a portrait of the country's Founding President, Sheikh Zayed. This was not because it was fashionable, but because Shill saw it as a fitting tribute to both the development that lit up Electra Street, and the 13 years he had served in the UAE Armed Forces.

Whenever Shill, 61, wants to get a new portrait, he heads to the framers of Electra Street. Their work hangs unnoticed in hundreds of homes and offices across the country. "All people know that framing and glass is on Electra," explains Mostafa Nader Nadderi, who opened Al Ain Frames in 1979. "Hamdan Street was for dress, Electra Street was for frames."

The 70-year-old is one of the frame makers who have been on Electra street since the mid-1970s, most of whom came from Iran more than 50 years ago as teenagers. Nadderi came on a baqara ship in 1963 at the age of 15, earning a rupee a day with room and board at his first job in Dubai. He saved enough to open his own shop in Al Ain before shifting to Electra Street. In those years following the country's 1971 unification, placing royal portraits on office walls quickly became a national habit.

Name a business in the capital, and Nadderi will tell you the work he's done there. He says he's framed more than 5,000 images of the royal family. Recently, he gave one government department a quotation for 3,000 frames – 1,000 for Sheikh Zayed, 1,000 for Sheikh Khalifa, President of the UAE, and 1,000 for Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

Nadderi offers 47 different photos of the rulers. He acquired these from various sources – from stationary stores to rare photographs bought from *Al Ittihad* newspaper. Customers can choose from this collection to get their framed photo. The most expensive photo he bought is a Dh700 portrait of the royal family at a majlis. One copy can be seen at a biryani restaurant around the corner.

The framer has photos of his most popular subjects in various settings – from Sheikh Zayed riding a white stallion, to a collage that includes the Founding President bowling.

Styles change. A photo of Sheikh Zayed in aviators was favoured in the late 1990s. Today's best-seller is a

composite of Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Khalifa and Sheikh Mohammed against a red backdrop.

Ornate wooden frames painted golden became popular from the 1980s. By the late 1990s, gold was indispensable. Nadderi has only one rule: composites are for homes, offices should carry sets.

The craftsmen take their work seriously, seeing themselves as custodians of a more communal time. The framer first met Sheikh Zayed as a young man fitting glass at Al Masoudi tower in 1965. "Baba Zayed was sitting on the sand drinking coffee: 'Come, come', he said to me."

Later, Nadderi and his wife were offered citizenship as Sheikh Zayed pushed to establish a settled population in towns like Mirfa and Liwa in the Western Region. "Before Baba Zayed said to my wife and I, 'go to Mirfa, stay there with your family and you'll get passports', "my wife said, 'Mirfa is very far. So very far'." They stayed in Abu Dhabi.

Nadderi's stories are not unique. Mohammed Yousef, 70, was the first framer on Electra Street when he opened Gulf Glass & Framing in 1975. "Anybody in UAE from a church, he knows him," says Kamel Boules, who volunteers at Abu Dhabi's

The framer has photos of his most popular subjects in various settings including one of Sheikh Zayed riding a white stallion

Saint Antonius Cathedral. "He's a gentleman for everyone."

Boules had come to Yousef to re-frame a picture of St Antonius.

At Black House Hairdressing Saloon, everyone has a theory as to how hanging a royal portrait became a custom.

"It started in Saudi Arabia in the 1920s with King Abdulaziz, the first one," says Habib Harb, 58, from Lebanon, twisting his moustache into place. "Egypt," came a voice from behind him, "A lot of people in Egypt put up pictures of [former prime minister] Saad Zaghloul."

The voice belonged to a regular from Egypt who had come for a shave. "But here," he continued, "A man puts up pictures because he loves Zayed. Here he has a background in loving from the heart."



Mostafa Nader Nadderi, who came from Iran to the UAE, opened his store Al Ain Frames in 1979 Pawan Singh / The National