

45

**HOSSEIN REZVANI*****founder***

Hossein Rezvani

Hossein Rezvani was born in Germany, but returned to his family's roots in the Persian carpet business after completing his studies. Born out of a long-held dream to design Persian carpets for the 21st century, he established his first textile collection in 2009. A strong believer that every piece should have a story behind it, Rezvani re-interprets classic craftsmanship with contemporary and elegant design in each carpet. The overall effect is a bespoke quality rug that will withstand the test of time. As a result Rezvani's firm has been awarded large residential projects throughout the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

46

**MIRA GHANEM*****Founder and lead designer***

Empire Interior Design

Founder and lead designer of Empire Interior Design, Mira Ghanem is Dubai-based with a decade of experience in the region, having extensively designed residential, commercial and hospitality outlets. She has roots both in Europe and the Middle East, and is of Finnish and Lebanese decent. She brings this duality into her work, with pieces that combine Arabic traditional styles and a strong European influence. Ghanem has a strong connection to, and understanding of, Emirati culture, and has dedicated her career to bringing this local passion to life. She has created a signature furniture line, Mira Design, showcasing various luxury pieces.

47

**INDU VARANASI*****Founder and director***

ir design

Indu Varanasi formed ir design in 2004, which is based in Dubai Media City. Varanasi was previously an architect at LW Design and Design Division, having studied at the School of Planning and Architecture at Jawaharlal Nehru Technology University in Hyderabad, India. Varanasi's company specialises in interior design solutions for the retail/hospitality and corporate sector internationally. Recent project wins for ir design include the HQ for Wataniya telecom in Kuwait. "It gave the team a fantastic morale boost and the confidence to meet bigger challenges. Our recognition for good design is the biggest bonus and we will cherish this win," commented Varanasi.

**JITKA KAMENCOVÁ SKUHRAVA*****Designer***

Lasvit

Jitka Kamencova Skuhrava is a renowned Czech glass artist and designer. For the last five years she has been designing exclusive lighting sculptures for a Bohemian glass and crystal company Lasvit, and has created many significant art pieces which embellish a list of prestigious buildings globally and regionally. Skuhrava's art pieces have featured in many public areas around the United Arab Emirates such as in Abu Dhabi's Etihad Towers and Rocco Forte Hotel, the original Hyatt Capital Gate Hotel, Dubai's Ruler's Court, Jumeirah Creekside Hotel and the Dubai Metro. She is currently working on designs for the Waldorf Astoria hotel in Ras Al Khaimah.