

Time Out

Beirut



SEX

No.39
LL7,000
T.O. Beirut

ISSN 2070-2752

9 772070 275008

KNOW MORE. DO MORE.
T.O.Beirut
February 2012
TIMEOUTBEIRUT.COM

Inside Out

Edited by
www.timeoutbeirut.com/shopping

Inside Out



Bachir Nader

You've seen more of **Bachir Nader's** work than you realise. With Beiruf and I-Bar amongst his public projects it seems there's just no escaping this design machine. He talks to **Lucy Knight** about converting sewers and what no home should be without.

Considering the passion that comes across when you first meet Nader, it comes as a surprise to learn that the desire to be an interior designer wasn't something he was born with. 'I actually started doing pharmacy at university but after two months I moved over to art.' But even then he wasn't sure about it as a career. 'It was just a major. There was no lightning bolt showing me that this was what I was meant to be doing,' he says. 'To tell you the truth, with each project I did at university and even after, doing public ones that people appreciate, I see more and more how this is what I'm supposed to be doing.'

Just ten years ago Nader considered his car his office. Squished

into the driver's seat with laptops and mobiles he would go from meeting to meeting. 'I wanted to work for myself. I've never worked for a company. I had no office space but I did have contacts.' He sure did. His first apartment job was the talk show host Zaven Kouyoumdjian – not bad for a guy fresh out of college. This was shortly followed by the restaurant Fusion in Monot.

To date Nader has completed 250 projects, working throughout the Gulf, Europe, Nigeria and Egypt. He has done everything from restaurants to apartments to parks. It comes then as no

surprise that we are meeting at one of his favourite successes. 'I love Braai. Where we're sitting [the lower floor] once had sewage flowing through it. Before, people would come in from hunting, to their cave; I wanted to create that atmosphere. The wine bottles mounted on the wall are the protection from the elements outside. Then there's the skylight, so it's like a funnel for the barbeque, the theme of the restaurant.'

My second surprise is that I can't pin down a signature style for Nader; every venue or apartment is completely different. 'I don't have a design idol, but really take inspiration from places I've been to or objects that I see. Each space is different.'

The specific space is important to how Nader approaches the design. 'The first time I entered the building that is now Sepia, I found some

there for quarantine.' Thankfully there are no corpses or rats decorating the walls, rather murals of what each room was originally used for.

Being his own boss and working pretty much alone, Nader is free to do his own thing. 'I once worked with Bernard Khoury on a home, but that's it.'

Though not working directly with other designers, Nader does use their work in his projects. 'I might use lights from the UK or chairs from Austria, sofas from Sweden. For the bar Sepia, I sourced everything locally.' I ask him the key question: what is no home complete without.

'A painting, absolutely,' he replies. 'It is so reflective of who is living in the space.'

This then brings us to the part about his own accessory line. 'Yes, in the next few months I will be launching a



Where we're sitting once had sewage flowing through it

line of industrial design pieces, some tables, table lamps, small items. One that is really different is a wooden bench in the mould of a pelvis.' So now we'll all be able to garnish our homes with a touch of Bachir Nader.

www.bachirnader.info
timeoutbeirut.com/shopping

