

# LEGACY

A close-up portrait of a woman with blonde, wavy hair pulled back, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing large, dark, teardrop-shaped earrings and a dark red top. The background is dark and out of focus.

**NADINE BESHIR**

QUEEN OF IMMERSIVE DINING EXPERIENCES

# Paris Modest Fashion Week 2026 by Think Fashion

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*The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of  
Modest Fashion Week  
honours the authentic and bold  
beauty of the city of Paris.*



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April 16–18, 2026 | Hôtel Le Marois.

# Editor's Note

**W**elcome to the very first issue of our magazine, a space dedicated to celebrating stories of legacies, growth, and inspiration. As we turn the pages of this inaugural edition, we wanted to curate a collection that truly reflects the energy and ambition of today's world – a city that embodies vision, transformation, and limitless possibilities.

Dubai, with its journey from a humble fishing village to a global hub of innovation, luxury, and culture, felt like the perfect backdrop for this conversation. In this issue, we explore its remarkable evolution: from award-winning architecture that redefines skylines, to education systems embracing tech and AI as the future; from farm-to-table culinary journeys to conscious living, and even the must-do getaways for anyone beginning a life in the UAE, mapping out where to start your global adventure.

This collection is not just about the city; it's about the spirit of legacy, the beauty of growth, and the joy of experiences that stay with you long after the moment has passed. Every story, every insight, and every recommendation has been handpicked to inspire, empower, and guide our readers on a journey that is as luxurious and authentic as it is personal.

As you flip through these pages, we hope you feel the pulse of Dubai, the ambition that drives it, and the elegance that surrounds it – a perfect companion for anyone looking to celebrate life, legacy, and everything in between.

Here's to new beginnings, timeless stories, and a journey that promises to be extraordinary.

With love and inspiration,



**Niki Shah**  
Editor-in-Chief



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# EDUCATION AS A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE: THE CHOICES OF THE WORLD'S ELITE

**N**estled at the crossroads of influence and privilege, ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) families make decisions that reflect their desire to sustain not just wealth, but legacy. These decisions, imbued with precision akin to art, often revolve around one understated yet profound choice: where to send their children for education. This choice reverberates through generations, affecting both personal futures and family dynamics.

For families sitting atop the echelons of global wealth, education is not merely a formative requirement but a strategic asset, weaving threads of continuity in a tapestry of legacy and influence. And in pursuing this asset, many UHNW families are sending their children to the bastions of learning that have long stood as gatekeepers of pedigree and prestige.

## The Gravitas of Pedigree

The word 'pedigree' isn't merely a relic of aristocratic genealogy. In the modern context, it signifies an unbroken chain of access, networking, and credibility that elevates mere fortune into something ethereal—enduring respect. Whether it's Eton in England, Phillips Exeter in the United States, or the international allure of Le Rosey in Switzerland, these esteemed institutions promise more than just academic excellence; they provide avenues to friendships and alliances that unlock doors around the globe.

As John Barker, a noted education consultant for UHNW families, puts it, **“Choosing a school is akin to choosing the foundation for a life that projects influence far beyond the classroom. It's not just about what your child learns, but rather, who they become.”**



## The Power of Place

While the names of these schools carry tremendous weight, so does their strategic location. Swiss boarding schools, for instance, appeal not only for their tranquil Alpine settings and academic rigor but also for the country's historic political neutrality and impeccable standards of safety and confidentiality. Meanwhile, historic British schools offer the allure of timeless tradition paired with proximity to Europe's financial and cultural capitals.

Such schools serve as more than educational venues; they are vistas into a world where future leaders shape their philosophies amidst peers selected for their diverse backgrounds yet similar aspirations. This geographic and cultural axis enables students to form a discerning worldview, preparing them to become the forerunners of global citizenship.

# Opportunities and Challenges

Boarding schools and elite universities come with a hefty price tag, an investment that UHNW families willingly make because they recognize the returns it yields—not just in terms of unprecedented academic preparation but the

cultivation of critical soft skills such as resilience, adaptability, and leadership.

Yet, this sphere is not without its pressures. The choices these families face are continuously expanding, with new institutions rising to claim stakes in this golden arena. Shanghai and Dubai are emerging as educational hotspots

with their world-class facilities and forward-thinking curricula, providing fertile ground for those seeking change from the traditional Western hegemony.

## Education Beyond Academia

Ultimately, these decisions connect to a larger vision that strongly resonates within UHNW circles.

Education is an exercise not only in intellectual growth but also in character-building. The curriculum is rigorous, but so are the experiences fostered outside classroom walls—lessons in diplomacy at Model United Nations, resilience on athletic

fields, empathy through community service, and cultural immersion on international trips.

Moreover, the schools importantly value mentorship and alumni engagement, endlessly crafting circles of influence and support that last a lifetime. In these environments, students are joyously marinated in diversity and prepare to navigate the complex tapestries of their own futures.



A graduate in cap and gown stands atop a hill overlooking a city skyline at sunset, reaching for the sun, symbolizing the bright future ahead.

## The Prestige Factor

Despite an ever-globalizing world, the belief in educational pedigree remains steadfast, a testament to these schools' ability to entwine traditional values and modern utility. The focused assessment of institutions like Harvard or Oxbridge adds not just a credential but a badge that signifies access—to a storied network, to insider knowledge, and to boundless opportunities.

As these elite institutions continue to evolve, they keenly understand the expectations resting on their shoulders. Partnerships with eminent corporations and influential think tanks allow them to craft programs that are not just relevant but groundbreaking.

## Conclusion: The Legacy of Choice

In the domain of UHNW families, education extends beyond the simple acquisition of knowledge—it's the early planting of seeds that will fruit into power, influence, and

continued legacy. The convergence of academia and strategic life planning creates a tapestry where new structures are continually built upon the sturdy precedent set by the old.

For partners in this realm boarding schools, universities, education consultants the ever-evolving landscape

presents boundless opportunities. These opportunities demand them to not just maintain traditions of excellence but also to innovate and expand, ensuring the first steps taken by their charges echo through corridors of influence well beyond the current century.

In this curated setting where education is both heritage and stratagem, these families ensure their children are not just passengers of the present but architects of the future.

- By Guest Writer

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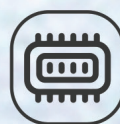
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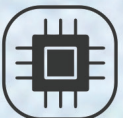
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# OZLEM THINK FASHION: PIONEERING MODESTY WITH GLOBAL ELEGANCE

**In the evolving world of fashion, Ozlem Think Fashion stands as a beacon of innovation and inclusivity, bridging the gaps between culture, identity, and style. At the helm of this movement is Özlem, a visionary who's redefined the essence of modest fashion through her groundbreaking platform, Modest Fashion Week**



► Istanbul Modest Fashion Week 2024.  
Photo courtesy of Özlem Şahin Ertas

## A Personal Creed Turned Global Movement

For Özlem, modesty was never just a career; it was intrinsically woven into her fabric of identity long before it made its global debut. “Growing up between cultures, I saw modesty as a form of quiet confidence,” she recalls. “It was less about fashion trends and more about expressing strength and character.” Modesty for Özlem was about choice – a

personal narrative where femininity was defined on her own terms, transcending mere clothing and connecting deeply with her cultural consciousness.

When Özlem transformed her lived experiences into the globally recognized Modest Fashion Week, she wasn't inventing a new concept. Instead, she was shining a spotlight on values that millions of women upheld across the world. “Turning my personal beliefs into a global platform wasn't just about creating something new; it was about giving visibility and respect to a way of living that had always existed,” she reflects with pride.



► Dubai Modest Fashion Week 2017  
Photo courtesy of Özlem Şahin Ertas

# The Birth of Modest Fashion Week

The initial online hijab show in 2013 marked a turning point in Özlem's career. "Emotionally, it felt experimental yet necessary," she says, speaking of the event that astonishingly attracted 300,000 livestream viewers. "That moment shifted from excitement to clarity when I realized this wasn't niche, but necessary." This overwhelming response laid the groundwork for Modest Fashion Week, a tangible call to a global community eager to be acknowledged and celebrated.

# Harmonizing Cultures with Creative Freedom

Hosting Modest Fashion Weeks across varied global landscapes, from Istanbul to Jakarta, isn't merely about showcasing designs. It's an ongoing dialogue of cultural respect and creative liberty. "Each city we visit has its own unique narrative," Özlem explains. "It's never about imposing a single aesthetic but encouraging designers to tell authentic stories through their unique lens." This openness ensures that Modest Fashion



Istanbul Modest Fashion Week 2024. Photo courtesy of Özlem Şahin Ertuş

Weeks are as diverse as the cities they inhabit, each with its own flair yet unified by the common thread of modesty.

# A Misunderstood Giant

Despite the widespread acclaim, there are still misconceptions that modest fashion is merely a trend. "Modest fashion isn't a temporary phenomenon," Özlem



Istanbul Modest Fashion Week 2024. Photo courtesy of Özlem Şahin Ertuş

emphasizes. "It's a constant across time and cultures, not a passing fad. It's a real, essential need for every woman." Özlem challenges the fashion industry to see modest fashion not as an alternative but as an intrinsic part of fashion's multifaceted landscape.

# Engineering a Creative Revolution

With an academic background in industrial engineering, Özlem's analytical prowess sets her apart in the fashion realm. "Engineering taught me to see fashion not just as art, but as a structured system," she shares. This approach has allowed her to optimize the modest fashion ecosystem, channelling creativity into strategic, impactful global platforms that blend efficiency with elegance.

# A Decade of Future Fashion

Looking ahead, Özlem envisions modest fashion as a core influencer in the coming decade. "Modesty will be a requisite part of sustainable and authentic fashion movements," she predicts. "It resonates with the younger generation's desire for meaningful, responsible fashion

choices that honour personal identity and cultural backgrounds."

# Beyond Religion: Celebrating Universality

A common misinterpretation frames modest fashion within religious confines. Özlem, however, articulates it as a universal style of dressing that transcends backgrounds. "It's about choice, grace, and self-expression," she explains, encouraging women from all walks of life to see modesty as a celebration of elegance and personal empowerment.

## Stories That Reshape the Movement

Every event in Özlem’s journey offers profound insights, yet the pride of designers as they walk off the runway stands out most. “Seeing their thrill and confidence reaffirms why Modest

these hurdles, liberating her concept from the conventional molds of fashion hierarchy.

## A Call for Inclusivity

If Özlem could reshape global fashion, she would democratize its rulebook. “Fashion should celebrate

## Manifesting Modest Fashion

For Özlem, if modest fashion had a manifesto, it would begin with a profound statement: “Modest fashion is the style closest to your soul, reflecting your inner beauty and uniqueness.”



► London Modest Fashion Week 2017. Photo courtesy of Özlem Şahin Ertas

Fashion Weeks exist,” she beams. These empowering stories, along with feedback from industry leaders and enthusiasts, resonate globally, confirming the movement’s compelling impact across cultures.

## Challenges and Triumphs as an Entrepreneur

Entrepreneurial journeys are rarely straightforward, especially in fashion. “Building something from scratch repeatedly is one of our biggest challenges,” Özlem reveals. Yet it’s through passion, strategic planning, and resilience that she overcomes

individuality, not be monopolized by a few,” she argues. By promoting inclusivity and diverse narratives, Özlem wishes to empower women to contribute actively to the global dialogue on style and identity.

## Personal Growth Fuels a Global Vision

Staying curious and engaging with the vibrancy of the world keeps Özlem’s creative spirit alive. “Every new experience informs my growth,” she states. In nurturing a dynamic global community, she draws inspiration from listening and ensuring everyone feels respected and valued, creating a self-sustaining cycle of mutual enrichment.

## The Question Unasked

What do authenticity and uniqueness mean for modest fashion?” Özlem ponders the question she wishes more would inquire. Her answer remains deeply personal yet universally applicable: “Modest fashion thrives on authenticity — being true to one’s self and celebrating diversity in style.” The platform she has built allows for this authentic expression, fostering a fashion language that is inclusive, empowering, and genuinely reflective of the inner narratives women choose to share with the world.

In a world where fashion often dictates identity, Özlem Think Fashion offers a global stage where identity shapes fashion, setting a precedent for the transformative power of modesty.



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# UAE WINTER ESCAPES

## FOR THOSE WHO'VE SEEN IT ALL

“ In a world brimming with travel options, finding a truly unique getaway can feel like a quest for the impossible. Yet, nestled in the shimmering sandscapes and azure coastlines of the United Arab Emirates are rare retreats that redefine luxury and exclusivity. For the discerning traveler who has journeyed far and wide, seeking something extraordinary - look no further than the UAE's hidden jewels: private island retreats, desert sanctuaries, and members-only hideaways designed to elevate your winter escape.

”



## Private Island Retreats: Where Privacy Beckons

**I**magine a place where pristinely manicured beaches stretch around you, cocooned from the world, where the only footprints in the sand are yours. This is the allure of the private islands dotting the UAE's coastlines. Zaya Nurai Island,

just a ten-minute boat ride from Abu Dhabi, is an exclusive haven, accessible only to a select clientele. Its villas blend contemporary chic with Arabian luxury, each offering a private infinity pool with panoramic views of the Arabian Gulf.

Here, under the shade of swaying palm trees, guests can indulge in bespoke spa treatments or opt for tailored culinary experiences that celebrate regional flavors with an international flair.

Meanwhile, The World Islands, a remarkable man-made archipelago

off the coast of Dubai, boasts islands like Lebanon Island exclusively available for private events and getaways. Its seclusion makes it ideal not only for relaxation but also for a dynamic corporate retreat. Embrace the sybaritic delights of private beach villas or the thrill of jet-skiing through the islands' waters, all curated to individual desires by a dedicated concierge.

## Desert Sanctuaries: The Solitude of the Sands

For those enchanted by the mystique of the desert, the UAE offers opulent sanctuaries amid the dunes. Al Maha, a Luxury Collection Desert Resort & Spa, located within the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, is one such epitome of elegance. It's not just a stay; it's an immersion into the Bedouin culture, yet with a luxury twist. Guests reside in tented suites adorned with antiques and handcrafted Arabian furnishings while gazing out at oryxes and gazelles roaming freely.

The bespoke experiences here are as infinite as the horizon: embark on a sunset camel ride, partake in a falconry demonstration, or unwind in the infinity pool overlooking the sweeping dunes. The resort's commitment to sustainability intertwines seamlessly with its luxurious offerings, promoting conservation while delivering an indelible experience.

The Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara, perched on the edge of the

Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter), transforms the mighty desert into a surreal canvas. Each villa boasts its own private plunge pool and sun deck, offering an oasis of tranquility. Take a 4x4 journey into the heart of the desert to witness the sunset painting the sky or indulge in a rejuvenating hammam spa treatment inside this palatial retreat.

## Members-Only Hideaways: Exclusivity Knows No Bounds

**F**or those who treasure exclusivity above all, Dubai's hidden members only clubs proffer an unparalleled experience. The Address Downtown's Secret Room Club caters to the elite, offering a blend of opulent design and avant-garde music. Its interior induces intrigue, wrapped in art and luxury, providing privacy that's priceless. Membership isn't just about access, but about becoming part of an exclusive enclave that values discretion and sophistication.

For a culinary journey that matches the allure of exclusivity, The Arts Club Dubai provides a sanctuary of gastronomic delight. With roots in the historic Arts Club of London, it offers members access to an array of curated events, art exhibitions, and dining experiences that celebrate innovation and tradition in an ambiance of refined elegance.

## Crafting the Impeccable Winter Escape

The UAE is more than its towering skyscrapers and bustling urbanity; it's a treasure trove of arresting landscapes and unparalleled luxurious experiences waiting to be discovered. Whether opting for the intimacy of a private island, the ethereal beauty of a desert sanctuary, or the allure of a members-only experience, each retreat promises not just an escape, but an adventure tailor-made for those who cherish the exclusivity and nuanced luxuries.

For connoisseurs, travel is more than just movement; it's a boundless realm of possibilities and sensory discoveries. The UAE, with its avant-garde resolve to redefine luxury, is a canvas ready for your next unrivaled escapade. This winter, as the temperatures drop, let the Emirates chart your path to untold adventures where the extraordinary is always within reach.

- By Guest Writer



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# NADINE BESHIR

In a world craving connection, Nadine Beshir has revolutionized dining with Dinner Tales — an immersive 3D sensory odyssey spanning 15+ countries. More than meals, her experiences weave storytelling into every bite, transporting guests through interactive worlds of flavor, light, and narrative. From Mumbai's vibrant streets to global tables, Beshir's visionary blend of culinary artistry and technology crafts unforgettable tales. As the force behind this experiential empire, she shares her journey of innovation, resilience, and the magic of turning dinner into destiny. Dive into the spark that ignited a global phenomenon.



## What motivated you to step into the food and hospitality industry as a founder ?

**A**t first glance, my entry into the food and hospitality world seemed like pure coincidence—but I've come to believe nothing in life truly is. As a deeply spiritual person, I see how God and the universe orchestrate our paths, nudging us toward our true purpose through unexpected turns.

It was 2005. I was a business development consultant hired by a businessman who'd just acquired a modest chain of eight cafés in one city. My mandate was straightforward: craft a strategic growth plan and recruit a CEO to lead it. Yet, the instant I stepped into that vibrant world—the aroma of fresh brews, the hum of lively conversations, the genuine passion of the teams—I was captivated. The energy was electric, the people warm and driven. What began as a consulting gig evolved into something profound.

I stepped up as CEO myself, pouring my heart into the vision. Over the next decade, we transformed those eight outlets into a thriving network of 80 branches spanning four countries. Challenges tested us—market shifts, cultural adaptations, fierce competition—but each hurdle revealed lessons in resilience and intuition. Today, I know it wasn't chance; it was destiny calling me home to a purpose that still fuels my soul.

## Did being a woman ever shape the way you built your business - for better or for worse ?

I firmly believe women are natural caretakers, blessed with an innate sense of hospitality and empathy—qualities that thrive in people-centered businesses like ours. Our philosophy is simple: nurture our teams so they can delight our guests with the same care.

As a woman leader, this instinct helped me forge profound connections with my team, fostering a brand built on empathy, trust, and intuition. We created a culture where every customer feels like a cherished guest in our home—welcomed with warmth, attentiveness, and authenticity.

My Middle Eastern heritage amplified this spirit. Rooted in traditions of generous hosting and heartfelt generosity, it infused our operations with genuine hospitality. From staff training emphasizing emotional intelligence to menu designs evoking family gatherings, these elements became our competitive edge. Leading with feminine wisdom not only drove growth but also built lasting loyalty, proving that true success blooms from the heart.

## What stereotypes did you have to break along the way ?

Many dismissed immersive dining as a fleeting gimmick—too trendy to endure, unfit for broad audiences, or

dinner tales isn't just dining - it's a celebration of human connection, proving that when cuisine meets captivating tales, we don't just eat; we belong.

food sustains the body,  
but stories nourish the soul,  
igniting memories that  
linger long after the last bite.



suit only for kids and the young. Skeptics argued it couldn't transcend cultures or everyday settings. I challenged these notions head-on, proving authenticity and creativity could redefine hospitality.

By blending storytelling, sensory surprises, and cultural nuances - like interactive Middle Eastern feasts or global adventure themes - we captivated families, professionals, and elders alike. Guests didn't just eat; they journeyed through narratives that sparked joy and connection. Today, our experiences thrive worldwide, turning doubters into devotees and affirming that true innovation creates lasting memories for all.

## **Dinner Tales is built around storytelling — why was that concept important to you ?**

I've always viewed restaurants as extensions of storytelling and entertainment. Dining transcends mere food—it's about curating atmosphere, evoking emotion, and weaving narratives through every detail, from ambient lighting to curated playlists. With Dinner Tales, I elevated this vision, crafting immersive experiences that bind people through shared stories.

Stories transform transactional meals into profound emotional journeys. They bridge divides of age, culture, and language, fostering genuine connections in a fragmented world. Imagine guests at our tables embarking on interactive tales—a mystical Arabian Nights feast where dishes unfold like plot twists, or a global odyssey sparking laughter and tears. Food sustains the body, but stories nourish the soul, igniting memories that linger long after the last bite.

This fusion creates something magical and enduring: communities formed over narrative-driven nights, where strangers become storytellers. Dinner Tales isn't just dining—it's a celebration of human connection, proving that when cuisine meets captivating tales, we don't just eat; we belong.

## **How do you balance creativity with business in such experience-driven concepts ?**

Creativity forms the beating heart of our ventures, but structure provides the essential skeleton. Every bold idea undergoes rigorous dual tests: Does it stir guests emotionally, forging deep connections? And does it align operationally and financially for seamless execution? When these forces harmonize—think immersive tales with efficient kitchens and smart pricing—magic happens. The result? Powerful experiences that scale sustainably, turning visions into thriving realities.



## **What does it take to build a restaurant that people remember, not just visit ?**

Design for emotion, not Instagram likes. Guests might forget the menu, but they'll cherish how you made them feel—seen, surprised, delighted, inspired. Craft those feelings through meticulous details: soft lighting that whispers intimacy, music that sets the heartbeat of the tale, pacing that builds anticipation, immersive storytelling, and genuine human connections with staff who become co-conspirators.

It's not just narrating a story; it's inviting guests to star in it—laughing through

interactive plot twists, sharing gasps over dramatic reveals. At Dinner Tales, a flickering lantern signals a secret unfolding, turning diners into protagonists. Memories aren't plated dishes; they're the electric moments between courses—the shared glances, the lingering wonder. Prioritize hearts over hashtags, and you'll create experiences that echo forever.

## **Storytelling has redefined immersive dining — what made you take that risk ?**

Honestly, I never dwell on risks. When intuition strikes strongly, I trust and follow it blindly. Pioneering something new demands embracing uncertainty as the creative spark. In business and life, I skip "Will this work?" for the empowering "How can I make it work?" This mindset turned café visions into global empires and Dinner Tales into emotional triumphs—proving bold instincts, paired with adaptability, conquer all obstacles.

## **Why do you think experiential dining resonates so strongly with today's audience ?**

Immersive dining bridges the virtual and physical realms seamlessly. Unlike scrollable content, it's tangible—you touch fabrics, savor aromas, feel the thrill of live performances. We're technologically agnostic; tools like projections or AR serve the story, never stealing the spotlight from human connection.

In our hyper-digital age, people yearn for meaning beyond novelty. They seek belonging amid isolation. Dinner Tales delivers: guests don't just dine—they inhabit tales, forging bonds over shared surprises, like a table "enchanted" by interactive lights



revealing hidden narratives. This emotional engagement creates lasting memories, turning strangers into a community. It's not about gadgets; it's about reigniting the soul through real, multisensory experiences that make you feel truly alive and connected.

## How do you ensure innovation without losing authenticity?

Balancing technology in immersive dining is undeniably challenging. The temptation is to dazzle with flashy gadgets, but for us, the anchor remains the story and experience we craft—not the tools themselves. We prioritize simplicity, channeling a child's boundless curiosity to keep things magical yet grounded.

I adore Picasso's wisdom, which I rephrase: He devoted years mastering the techniques of the greats, then a lifetime unlearning to paint like a child. That duality—polished skill fused with innocent wonder — defines our

keeps innovations fresh, scalable, and soulful, turning potential pitfalls into profound connections that guests carry home forever.

## What leadership lessons did entrepreneurship teach you that no corporate role could?

Entrepreneurship revealed that passion is the ultimate fuel—and it's wildly contagious, igniting teams and guests alike. It drilled home that resilience trumps raw talent; setbacks forge unbreakable grit. True vision demands laser focus on long-term impact, ignoring shiny short-term distractions.

I learned culture emerges not from rulebooks, but daily

approach. At Dinner Tales, we blend expert choreography with playful surprises: a "whispering" table via subtle vibrations tells secrets, or light projections evoke dreams without overwhelming the human heart.

This mindset ensures authenticity. Tech enhances, never eclipses, the emotional core — fostering awe like a kid's first discovery. It

actions and personal example—leading with empathy builds loyalty that policies can't touch. Above all, the journey rigorously tests you: emotionally through losses, mentally via endless pivots, spiritually in moments of doubt. Emerging stronger instills profound humility, reminding us success is collective. From café expansions to Dinner Tales, these truths shaped a legacy of purpose-driven growth.

they journeyed  
through narratives  
that sparked  
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## How do you build teams that align with your vision as a woman leader?

Hiring is among the toughest challenges in our business. I prioritize passion and attitude over polished résumés—the right energy fuels our creative fire. Once aboard, we invest deeply in their growth: tailored training, mentorship, and vision alignment workshops. This builds a devoted team that evolves alongside Dinner Tales, turning raw potential into passionate storytellers who elevate every guest experience.



it's not just narrating a story;  
it's inviting guests to star in it - laughing  
through interactive plot twists,  
sharing gasps over dramatic reveals



## What would you tell women who feel the food industry is too competitive or male-dominated ?

Honestly, I've never seen any industry as too competitive or gated by dominant players. Innovation is the true magic key - it unlocks doors for anyone daring enough to turn it. From hospitality's giants to tech titans, fresh ideas and genuine passion carve space where none seemed possible

At Dinner Tales, we disrupted norms not with bigger budgets, but bold, story-driven experiences blending cultures and emotions. Passion fuels persistence; innovation ensures relevance. Barriers crumble when you offer what others can't: authentic magic that resonates deeply. There's always room at the table for those who redefine it.

## What does success look like to you today ?

For me, success transcends metrics—it's crafting a creative legacy that endures beyond my lifetime, far more than mere profit. It's the joy of guests returning, eyes alight, bringing families and friends to relive the magic of Dinner Tales. Their anticipation for our next immersive show is the ultimate reward.

Picture multi-generational tables sharing laughter over evolving narratives, bonds deepening with every visit. Ultimately, I dream of immersive dining as ubiquitous as restaurants or cinemas—gracing cities worldwide, from bustling Mumbai streets to Parisian boulevards. A global standard where stories and cuisine unite humanity,

proving experiential hospitality can transform everyday meals into timeless adventures.

## How do you want your work to impact the next generation of women founders ?

I want aspiring innovators to know they don't need to chase someone else's formula. Forge your path: craft something fiercely original, deeply emotional, and unapologetically powerful—uniquely yours. Ditch imitation; infuse your vision with passion, whether in dining, art, or business.

Most of all, claim your space boldly. Your ideas deserve the spotlight. Like Dinner Tales disrupted hospitality, your authenticity will resonate, inspire, and endure. Step forward confidently—you're not just entering the room; you're redefining it.

## What's next for you and your brands ?

We're venturing into fresh dining formats and event expansions, but growth isn't about getting bigger — it's diving deeper. I prioritize crafting profoundly meaningful experiences: richer, multi-layered storytelling that immerses guests in worlds of pure emotion and imagination. Think evolving Dinner Tales into pop-up realms where narratives unfold across senses, forging indelible bonds.

Volume chases trends; legacy etches souls. By honing intimate, high-impact moments like bespoke cultural odysseys we build enduring magic, not just footprints. Depth ensures our stories echo across generations, redefining hospitality one heartfelt connection at a time.



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# IGNITING A NEW FESTIVAL ERA : HOW THE GLOBAL YOUTH FESTIVAL IS REVOLUTIONIZING INDIA'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Marking a significant milestone, the sixth edition of the Global Youth Festival (GYF), hosted by the esteemed Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD) in celebration of its 25th anniversary.



“ In the heart of Mumbai, where the city’s spirit thrives on dreams and diversity, a cultural revolution has just unfurled its vibrant wings. Marking a significant milestone, the sixth edition of the Global Youth Festival (GYF), hosted by the esteemed Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD) in celebration of its 25th anniversary, has set an unprecedented benchmark in redefining India’s festival culture. The sprawling Jio World Garden transformed into a dynamic epicenter of youthful energy, with over 20,000 young minds celebrating a weekend that promised transformation and unity.”

## A Festival Like No Other

The Global Youth Festival is not just an event; it is a thoughtfully curated experience that seeks to create a meaningful dialogue among the youth, empowering them to harness their collective potential. Over the course of this electrifying festival, the convergence of purpose, passion, and the pulsating drive of over 20,000 young individuals became the heartbeat of Mumbai’s most ambitious weekend.

This year’s GYF was a testament to creative audacity and strategic collaboration, featuring over 60 immersive experiences across six electrifying arenas that ranged from wisdom and wellbeing, art and

adventure, to music and social impact. It transformed conventional festival frameworks into a holistic platform designed to inspire and innovate, thereby redefining what it means to engage today’s youth in culturally rich and socially impactful ways.

## A Celebration of Innovation and Tradition

Supported by the Departments of Sports and Youth Affairs and Cultural Affairs of the Government of Maharashtra, GYF 2025 stood out with its kaleidoscope of experiences catering to the diverse interests of today’s youth. “Inniverse,” a pioneering fusion of

art, tech, and sonic storytelling, created an otherworldly atmosphere that mesmerized attendees, while “Wisdom Masterclasses” put introspection and personal growth at the forefront of youth culture.

The poignant and uplifting message from Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji, founder of SRMD, resonated deeply with the attendees. His thoughtful discourse on making a ‘U-Turn Within,’ was a call to the youth to seek clarity and direction amidst an often overwhelming world, offering a serene yet powerful approach to personal and collective transformation..

## Diverse Voices and Real-World Impact

GYF 2025 also celebrated the power of diverse voices, bringing together an impressive list of panelists and speakers. Prominent figures like Malaika Arora, Dipali Goenka, Diipa Büller-Khosla, and a host of other influential leaders from various industries shared their inspiring journeys and actionable insights. Their presence imbued the festival with authenticity and authority, adding layers of depth to the collective experience.

The “Love and Care Arena” provided a poignant reminder of the youth’s capacity to effect real-world change. From women’s empowerment initiatives to child education drives, and rural upliftment projects, attendees witnessed live showcases highlighting the impact of compassionate action and social entrepreneurship.

## The Rhythms of Change

As night fell, the festival grounds pulsed with energy and light. Attendees participated in India’s largest outdoor sound healing session, an EDM-inspired yoga flow, and a high-octane Adventure Thrill Zone that



ignited the thrill-seeker within. This concoction of adventure, wellness, and enlightenment fueled a unique alchemy that left participants and onlookers alike captivated and inspired.

On the GYF Main Stage, a symphony of emotions played out under the night sky, with performances from Stebin Ben, the Mahadevan Brothers, and indie sensations like Last Minute India. These musical narratives transformed the festival into an emblem of shared emotion and celebration, seamlessly blending the lines between art and audience.

## A Transformative Experience

The transformative essence of GYF 2025 was not lost on its participants. Dr. Alok Shah, the Festival Coordinator, highlighted the invaluable role of young volunteers in bringing the festival to life. “Their passion shaped the spirit of the festival,” he noted, “It may have lasted two days, but the shift it created feels far bigger.”

Anushree Sawant, a participant, eloquently summed up the sentiment

felt by many: “GYF felt like a space that finally understands us. I walked in as myself, and walked out as a more awakened version of myself.” Neil Ramchandani echoed this transformation, crediting the profound discourse by Pujya Gurudevshri for its lasting impact.

## Looking Ahead

With Mumbai still abuzz with the momentum of GYF 2025, the festival gears up for its next stop in Kolkata on December 14, before making its international debut in New York the following year. As this cultural beacon continues to expand its reach, the messages of unity, self-discovery, and collective action championed at GYF in Mumbai set a powerful precedent for future endeavors

The Global Youth Festival stands as more than just an event; it is an evolving movement that aligns cultural celebration with meaningful impact. By providing a dynamic platform for dialogue, creativity, and action, GYF is paving the way for a new era of festival culture, one where the youth rewrite the rules and inspire a future imbued with purpose and passion. This is not just a festival; it’s a reimagining of India’s vibrant cultural tapestry, stitched together by the dreams and aspirations of its youth..

- By Global Youth Festival Representative



▶ Stebin Ben live on Day 2 at the Global Youth Festival



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# FROM FOUNDER TO FORCE:

## SCALING INFLUENCE WITHOUT SCALING NOISE

At the crossroads of today's hyper-connected landscape, where digital influence reigns supreme, the challenge of balancing personal brand and public perception has become an art form. Welcome to a world where founders don't just lead companies—they shape legacies, mastering the art of scaling influence without amplifying the digital chaos.

In essence, true influence is about more than just having authority; it's the power to inspire and shape narratives. In an age teeming with information, the challenge is to emerge as a beacon of clarity rather than adding to the noise. Icons like Elon Musk and Oprah Winfrey exemplify this balance, demonstrating how to protect their personal space while communicating their vision.

Time, our

most precious commodity, is at the heart of influence. Influential leaders often attribute their success to skillful time management. Keeping chaos at bay with a trusted team, these leaders strategically navigate opportunities with clarity and purpose. Through the selective art of saying 'no,' they focus on meaningful engagements that enhance their influence.

Image, too, plays a pivotal role in this visual-centric era. Creating an authentic narrative without overloading one's persona demands thoughtful engagement. Modern leaders partner with image advisors to sculpt identities that resonate far beyond mere visibility, projecting authenticity and a clearly defined vision.

Moreover, authenticity enhances authority in today's world. The public craves genuine connections, urging leaders to expand their reach while staying true to their core

values. Here, PR firms and branding experts intertwine to ensure every message aligns with foundational beliefs, fortifying true influence.

In this cacophonous digital orchestra, the most compelling leaders also wield silence as a tool—allowing pauses to heighten their influence. It's in these moments of deliberate stillness that anticipation builds, creating narratives infused with strength and strategic intention.

Ultimately, crafting influence in the digital age requires a maestro's touch, where thoughtful orchestration turns noise into harmony. By embracing this delicate dance of influence, founders can sculpt impactful legacies that endure beyond ephemeral digital trends.

- By Guest Writer





**IN THE UAE EVERYONE IS**

**EMIRATI**

# HARMONY IN MOTION: THE UAE YOGA COMMITTEE'S PATH TO A UNIFIED YOGA COMMUNITY



In a land where modern cities rise from the sand and tradition harmonizes with progress, a quiet but powerful movement is finding its footing. It's not built of concrete or steel, but of breath, discipline, and connection. At the heart of this movement stands Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim, the President of the UAE Yoga Committee—a figure whose calm demeanor and focused vision are guiding the nation toward a more unified and mindful future.

## A Vision Rooted in Unity

For Mr. Ibrahim, yoga is more than a practice; it's a philosophy of balance and belonging. As he often says, "Yoga teaches us to connect—with ourselves first, and then with one another." That belief forms the foundation of the Committee's mission: to create a national framework that standardizes and promotes yoga across the Emirates, ensuring safety, inclusivity, and excellence.

Under his leadership, the UAE Yoga Committee - operating under the Ministry of Sports and the UAE Sports

for All Federation—is working to transform yoga from a private wellness routine into a recognized national sport and shared cultural experience. In a country that celebrates more than 200 nationalities, that's no small feat.

## Bridging Tradition and Modernity

Mr. Ibrahim's background is a blend of tradition and innovation. As the co-author of *Yoga for Everyday Life: A Beginner's Guide*, he understands the delicate art of introducing ancient wisdom to modern audiences. His book, a gentle invitation to explore the



fundamentals of yoga, has become a touchstone for many who are stepping onto the mat for the first time.

That same spirit infuses the Committee's work. Together, they are crafting a national accreditation system for instructors and centers, aligning with global standards such as the WHO-endorsed Common Yoga Protocol. The goal is simple yet transformative: to ensure every yoga class in the UAE embodies quality, safety, and authenticity, no matter where it's practiced.

## Inclusivity as a Guiding Light

When asked about what drives him, Mr. Ibrahim often speaks about inclusion. "Yoga belongs to everyone," he says, "and in a place as beautifully diverse as the UAE, that truth takes on even greater meaning."

The Committee's initiatives reflect this belief. Programs are being developed to reach women, children, seniors, and people of determination, offering accessible pathways to participate. Through community events, educational workshops, and outreach sessions, yoga



Empowering community through movement and discipline. A powerful Yogasana session in Dubai; where strength meets focus, and progress begins

is being reintroduced — not as an exclusive art, but as a shared language of health and peace.

## Building a Pathway for Growth

Another cornerstone of the Committee's vision is nurturing future generations of yoga leaders. A tiered training system

now allows practitioners to progress from beginners to certified instructors through structured, comprehensive learning modules. This system ensures that quality instruction remains consistent while encouraging personal growth and mastery at every level.

Soon, a national registry will list all certified instructors and accredited studios - offering the public a trusted reference point for choosing where and how to practice yoga.



Honoured to present a book authored by Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim Buserin-Yoga for Everyday Life to Shri Prataprao Jadhav, a proud moment advancing yoga and holistic wellbeing globally.



shaping more than policy. It's nurturing a movement—one that invites every resident, regardless of background, to breathe, move, and belong. This is yoga not as a solitary act, but as a shared rhythm—the heartbeat of a nation in motion.

In weaving yoga into the country's cultural and sporting fabric, Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim is leading more than an initiative; he's guiding a story of unity, compassion, and connection. And like every mindful breath, this story is just beginning.

- By Ahmad Ibrahim Busherin

## A Movement for the Nation

As the UAE Yoga Committee continues its work, challenges inevitably arise—balancing global yoga traditions with local cultural values, and ensuring equality across such a diverse population. Yet, under Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim's steady leadership, the vision remains clear: to build a yoga community that reflects the UAE's enduring spirit of harmony.

He often describes this moment as “a bridge between body and society.” Through yoga, he believes, people rediscover stillness in motion—a sense of balance that mirrors the Emirates' journey toward collective well-being.

## Harmony Beyond the Mat

The UAE Yoga Committee's work, inspired and guided by Mr. Ibrahim, is



Discipline, balance, and control in motion. Years of practice—one powerful moment in Dubai

# FROM EXTRAVAGANCE TO ETHOS: DUBAI'S DINING REVOLUTION EMBRACES CULINARY EXCELLENCE AND SOCIAL IMPACT



**In Dubai, a city renowned for its unparalleled opulence, the restaurant scene is undergoing a transformation that blends culinary excellence with philanthropic innovation. This evolution heralds a new era, where dining is not just about luxury but also about impact.**



Skyline dining with Burj Khalifa views, where elegance meets golden hour in Dubai.

Dubai's culinary reputation was built on a foundation of extravagance, where meals were immersive experiences, showcasing creative opulence. Yet, a shift has emerged, driven by a demand for healthier, ethically-sourced options. Restaurants like Wild & The Moon and Comptoir 102 now lead the way, offering plant-based menus that emphasize wellness and local sustainability.

This healthy dining renaissance is coupled with a profound rise in philanthropic entrepreneurship. Dubai's

restaurant magnates are increasingly viewing their venues as platforms for social change. Visionary partnerships between these establishments and environmental NGOs are addressing food waste and promoting agricultural sustainability. Initiatives like "Seeds of Change" exemplify this, turning dining into

a catalyst for community and environmental wellness.

Purposeful capital, the blending of business acumen with social responsibility, is rapidly becoming the new currency in Dubai's gastronomic circles. Impact investors see the city as a leader in aligning luxury dining with meaningful change. The collaboration between restaurateurs and philanthropic foundations offers a fresh blueprint for corporate social responsibility, fostering an era where fine dining serves a greater purpose.

As Dubai's dining narrative continues to evolve, it invites a global audience to engage with this unique blend of food and philosophy. The city not just feeds its patrons but also nourishes the future, weaving a rich tapestry of flavors and shared purpose. Here, dining transcends

mere consumption, reflecting a commitment to a durable legacy of ethical opulence.



- By Guest Writer

# DUBAI'S LEGACY: AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM PEARL DIVING TO GLOBAL PIONEERING



Dubai's evolution from a quaint fishing village on the Arabian Gulf to a resplendent global powerhouse is a narrative that resonates with ambition, innovation, and the audacious spirit of visionary leadership. Once a settlement of just 800 souls, today's Dubai is a vibrant cosmopolis of over 3 million residents that attracts millions more yearly, eager to witness its marvels. This awe-inspiring transformation offers invaluable insights into the art of legacy, community building, and the feats possible under foresighted governance.

## The Humble Beginnings: A Trading Legacy

In 1833, the Al Maktoum family established the foundations of Dubai along its modest yet strategic natural harbor, Dubai Creek. The community, primarily surviving on fishing and pearl diving, displayed a raw fortitude born from shared adversities and reliance on the Arabian Gulf's bounty. However, the 20th-century advent of cultured pearls from Japan spelled devastation for the local economy, prompting a crucial realization: diversification and innovation were indispensable.

## Harnessing Oil: Transformation through Vision

The discovery of oil in 1966 could have easily ensnared Dubai in dependency. Instead, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum's revolutionary vision utilized oil funds as seed capital, not a perpetual resource. His masterstroke was directing this newfound wealth into infrastructure projects, including the expansion of Dubai Creek and the construction of key ports like Jebel Ali, fostering a business haven liberated from oil reliance.

This strategic pivot underlined a profound belief: that infrastructure investments and diversified economies yield a more lasting legacy than unrestrained spending. Sheikh Rashid's foresight ensured Dubai's status as a global trading and logistical hub, with bustling ports at its heart, long after the oil wells run dry.

## Opportunity for All: Dubai's Entrepreneurial Spirit

Dubai quickly emerged as a beacon for dreamers worldwide. Countless narratives, like that of Qurat ul Ain, who transitioned from selling ice cream to co-founding a leading real estate company, epitomize Dubai's promise. These stories aren't exceptions but standard fare in a city renowned for its economic structure that rewards ambition and talent through zero personal income tax, efficient business set-ups, and entrepreneurial support from an accessible government.

## Building Communities: Sustainable Urban Development

Dubai's legacy shines not merely through skyscrapers but in thoughtfully engineered communities like Emirates Hills and Dubai Marina, which offer a blend of living, working, and recreational environments. The city is now setting new benchmarks with Expo City Dubai—an urban epitome of sustainability, integrating 123 LEED-certified buildings with cutting-edge smart infrastructure. This holistic approach reinforces the importance of human wellness alongside economic growth.

## Forging the Future: The Youthful Energy

Recent trends emphasize empowering young entrepreneurs to craft Dubai's continuing legacy. Government initiatives are afoot, promoting youthful innovations like "Sugar and Spice" by 22-year-old Shahad Alzarooni and heritage-inspired ventures such as "Around Our Freej." These endeavors illustrate the progressing shift from job seekers to job creators, signaling an invigorated phase of Dubai's growth.

## Dubai's Living Legacy

Dubai's visionary pathway to 2050 encapsulates expanding onto the global stage with advances in clean energy, smart cities, and economic diversity. Policies aim for net-zero carbon emissions, endorsing environmental stewardship while doubling green spaces - a testament to the city's commitment to progressing for the benefit of future generations.

Dubai exemplifies how strategic vision and unwavering commitment transform geographical and economic constraints into unparalleled opportunities, establishing a truly inclusive legacy. Its journey from a modest fishing enclave to a contemporary icon resonates as a testament to what human potential can conquer, given resilient resolve and daring dreams.

- By Guest Writer



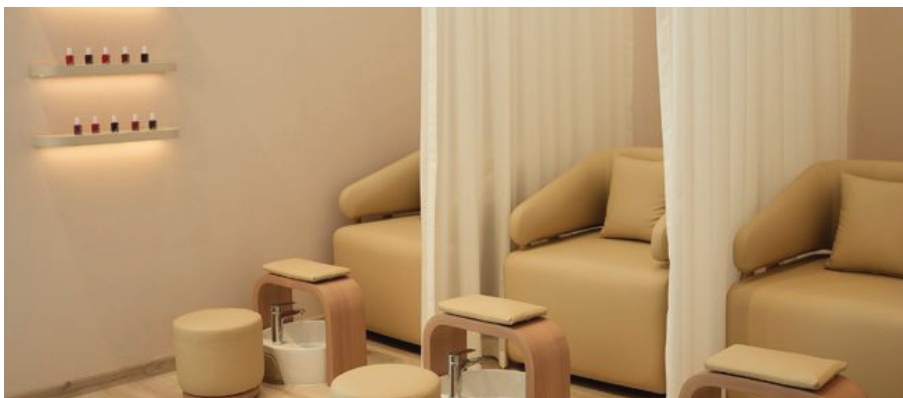
The rapid transformation of Dubai from a quiet trading hub into a global metropolis.

# DESIGNING THE FUTURE: EMOTION LED SPACES AND INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS OF 2026

**A**s we stand on the brink of 2026, interior design is evolving to meet the emotional and functional needs of modern living. Moving beyond aesthetics, today's interiors focus on creating personal experiences that resonate deeply with our lifestyles and emotions. The new design tenets for 2026 include Earth-Centered Minimalism, Bold Expressionism, Adaptive Multi-Functional Spaces, Craft Revival, and Atmospheric Lighting. Together, they offer a roadmap to creating spaces that are as comforting as they are functional, helping make modern living more intentional and fulfilling.

## Earth-Centered Minimalism: Grounded Luxury

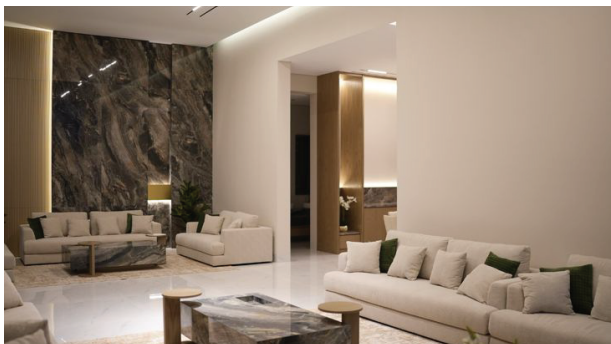
The minimalism of 2026 moves past the stark, sometimes sterile feel of past decades into a future where simplicity meets earthiness. This trend harnesses



the calming essence of natural materials, emphasizing curvilinear forms and tactile finishes. Spaces become sanctuaries of warmth and tranquility through raw wood furniture and stone accents.

## Bold Expressionism: Reflecting Identity through Design

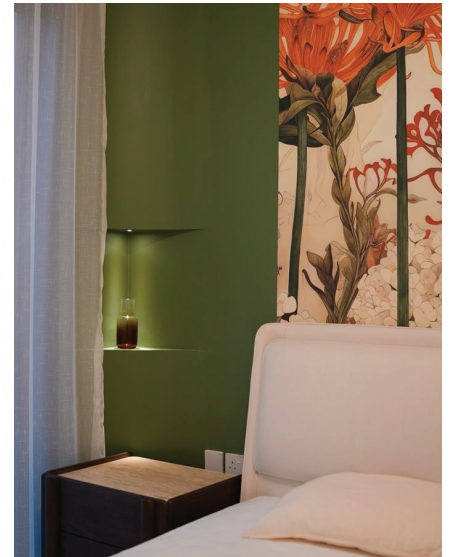
In contrast, Bold Expressionism allows for a loud declaration of individuality with vibrant colors and personalized art. This approach turns living spaces into unique reflections of personal identity, crafting environments that are unapologetically you.



## Adaptive Multi-Functional Spaces: Empowering Dynamic Lifestyles

The modern world demands flexibility, and adaptive, multi-functional spaces are leading the way. Interiors transition seamlessly between various

functions, supported by modular furniture and movable partitions, allowing for rapid alterations to suit changing lives and needs.



## Craft Revival: The Resurgence of the Human Touch

In 2026, there's a renewed appreciation for the handmade with bespoke joinery and handcrafted textiles. These elements bring authenticity and soul to spaces, adding layers of history and artistry to our homes.

## Atmospheric Lighting: Shaping Moods through Illumination

Lighting has evolved into a dynamic design element that shapes ambiance and mood. Layered lighting solutions highlight architectural details, providing comforting, energizing, or soothing atmospheres tailored to each space.

- By Manali Sutaria

## Conclusion: Crafting Spaces for Emotion and Intention

The trends defining 2026 in interior design represent a holistic approach to living spaces, centering on emotion and function equally. By embracing these trends, we craft experiences that inspire and nurture our everyday lives.



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# THE DIGITAL DUBAI: CRAFTING LEGACIES IN PHILANTHROPY AND PURPOSEFUL CAPITAL

**The early 21st-century narrative of Dubai was one of unparalleled growth and ambitions a futuristic city sculpted from sand, steel, and dreams.**

In the ochre glow of a desert sunset, the silhouette of Dubai's futuristic skyline seemingly floats. It is a city that speaks in the language of luxury, innovation, and ambition. Yet, this shimmering beacon has, in its latest iteration, evolved into something deeper—a hub for philanthropic innovation and purposeful capital that is embedded in

resilience and vision. As the connoisseurs of global cities gather to decode its magic, Dubai extends an enticing question: Can legacy and luxury intertwine through impactful giving?

In the heart of this desert oasis, towering marvels of architecture stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the heartfelt missions of elite philanthropists and their grand foundations. Here, opulence is matched by a conscious commitment to shape a better world. These leaders, with their fingers on the pulse of technological evolution, are not just creators of digital advancement but visionaries crafting legacies through the power of purposeful capital.

The early 21st-century narrative of Dubai was one of unparalleled growth and ambitions—a futuristic city sculpted from sand, steel, and dreams. However,

the narrative has shifted; beyond its impressive physicality lies an era marked by digital innovation, rooted firmly in the ethos of impactful investment and corporate social responsibility. This transformation is not merely a bridge to the future but a solid foundation for an enduring legacy.

Today's Dubai boasts a digital ecosystem intersecting with philanthropic ecosystems. The refined corridors of boardrooms and the vast opportunities in digital advancements host discussions that steer beyond profits to purposeful investments—initiatives that promise a lasting impact. Philanthropy, in this new age, has transcended traditional almsgiving to become a strategic element of financial portfolios, amplifying impact and weaving a societal fabric that stretches beyond regional borders.

Enter the players in this grand theater—foundations led by the elite visionaries who drive purposeful capital agendas. These luminaries, with their discerning sensibilities, see beyond grandiose conceptions to the very core of humanity's issues. They champion

The fusion of luxury and legacy in Dubai's digital era is propounded by no small measure of theatricality. From the majestic unveiling of philanthropic projects at global expos to orchestrated partnerships with worldwide organizations, Dubai consistently pushes boundaries, illustrating how legacy, when paired with purposeful capital, extends an invitation to the world.

In forging these new paths, Dubai has garnered attention from corporate social responsibility managers, impact investors, and the custodians of grand philanthropic foundations around the world—inviting them to partake in this visionary pursuit of a future where luxury is synonymous with legacy. In this thriving city, the elite are not merely inhabitants but custodians of a future that marries digital artistry with purposeful generosity.

As the winds of change sway through the golden dunes, Dubai's narrative continues to evolve. A paradise of possibilities, inviting world leaders in CSR and impact investments, it boldly extends a canvas to those ready to



sustainable initiatives in fields as diverse as technology, education, climate change, and healthcare, leveraging Dubai's advanced digital platforms to craft solutions that are grand in both vision and scale.

imprint their legacies. Here, in this city of dreams, the art of legacy is not just in what one's hand creates, but in the dreams one's soul inspires. In Dubai's cosmic dance of legacy, luxury, and philanthropy, the future is now ready to unfold its wings. *- By Guest Writer*

WHERE EVERY  
*carat*  
BECOMES A MEMORY.

