

I am CLAUDIO

With a portfolio of award-winning residential projects across the UAE and Oman, Italian designer Claudio Modola is on a mission to reshape the way we live. Stevie King meets the man with ambitious makeover plans



Through his exclusive architectural and interior design practices located in Dubai, Muscat, Lamu and Siena, Italian-born designer Claudio Modola and his team have set an impressive benchmark in the design world – creating and crafting some of the most spectacular properties in the Middle East region and beyond.

Specialists in luxury private residences, boutique hotels and stylish commercial developments, and with a ‘Who’s Who’ client list of big-name entrepreneurs, high-profile celebrities and European royalty, Claudio’s arrival in the Middle East, six years ago, immediately put the agency on the map with the realisation and delivery of landmark project, Bayt Jullanar, on Jumeriah Beach in 2012. Accredited with the coveted accolades of “Best Single Residence Dubai” and “Best Single Residence Arabia” in the 2014 International Property Awards – it was a showcase project that would position the agency as keynote design player in the region.

Modola and his team have since gone on to build upon those pioneering foundations, taking on numerous design commissions both in Dubai and in the neighbouring emirates, with the practice currently working on several headline projects; a mansion estate in Ras Al Khaimah, two contemporary private villas on the exclusive Jumeriah Beach Island, as well as two masterplan developments off the Dubai coastline.

As to what prompted Modola, with an already established portfolio of both classical and theme-inspired residences in both Europe and East Africa, to relocate his Italian team to the Middle East; his answer is refreshingly honest: *“Free will wasn’t the motivating factor. It was actually in response to an invitation – a discreet request for our presence. My personal*

relationship with the region however has its origins in Oman, where in the late 90s; I was inspired by the study of fortified residences and traditional interior concepts. Moving from the rocky mountains of Oman to the gentle shores of Dubai was just a short next step on the design journey.”

Modola has also been quick to identify a gap in the market. While most architectural firms in the UAE are resolutely focused on high-rise design and build concepts – Claudio has taken a different approach, investing time and effort in bespoke residential ventures that thrive on creative freedom. *“Licence to think out of the box is critical to design success – a value-added spin off, is that it’s also hugely rewarding from a creative perspective.”*

Tell me about your team?

We’re a close-knit family of talented professionals who foster and develop lasting relationships with a discerning clientele.

How would your clients describe your company?

We have a loyal client base of both private clients and property developers which I think speaks for itself. We are also fortunate enough to be privy to word of mouth referrals, which I hope is testament to the calibre of work that we produce.

How do you see the residential market evolving in future in the Middle East?

The next generation will likely be exposed to a more diverse, ‘break-the-mould’ repertoire of architectural creativity across all design genres. That said, as a legacy, it’s one that will depend on each and every one of us pushing the boundaries and nurturing an aspirational, unblinkered approach to our living environments.



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