



landscaping and infrastructure all actively embrace good environmental practices. The villas employ an acute awareness of natural light and shade, and have been grouped in leaf-shaped clusters to minimise the impact on the land. Each residence supports its own energy-efficient home system and residents are encouraged to recycle through the underground waste system that separates organic from inorganic waste - all while being invisible and odourless. The landscape's high density planting keeps the ground cooler, which means it requires less water from the development's 'intelligent' irrigation system. Through the conservation and careful use of our resources, we use recycled water (which would otherwise be pumped into the ocean) to maintain our gardens.

**You've been selected to show at the Royal Chelsea Flower Show this year. How did that come about?**

I was judging last year at the Dubai Garden Design Competition and was fortunate enough to meet David Dodd from The Outdoor Room and Jo Thompson, a garden designer from the UK. Both have been behind award-winning show gardens. I brought them to Al Barari not just to see the project but also to show them some of the private villas I had designed, and after seeing everything they suggested I put in a design for the next year. I submitted a design for the show garden category called The Beauty Of Islam, a contemporary Islamic garden design, and was lucky enough to be picked. I have selected plants that reflect the spread of Islam and Arab culture and the growth of the early Arab empire through trade and along the Spice Route. The Beauty Of Islam will be planted with species that reflect that broad heritage, including jasmine, rosemary, orange, pomegranate, olive and papyrus. When it comes to representing the UAE at Chelsea in 2015, I have a sense of responsibility and hope that my garden will be something that not only resonates with the British public, but will also have an effect at home in the UAE, especially among my fellow Emirati women.

## Home-grown hero

Kamelia Bin Zaal, Creative Director of Al Barari, reveals the inspiration behind Dubai's leafiest landmark

### **How did you get into landscape design?**

I grew up watching my father in the garden. He has always loved flowers and the sense of peace a garden can give. I worked in the Government for four years and while I enjoyed it, I felt as if something was missing. At the time my father was planning the concept of Al Barari, a plant nursery, maybe a horticultural school, and it was this conversation that made me think of garden design. Within a month I was at the Inchtald School of Design in London studying garden design. I began my career as a freelance garden designer working on residential villas until I established my own landscape architectural practice, Second Nature, in 2006, working on both large commercial projects and unique residential projects. Later I formed an association with my family's property development company, Al Barari, where Second Nature, now part of Green Works, created the lush botanic

surroundings and themed gardens that the address has become recognised for.

### **What was the inspiration behind your design?**

As a family, we have always loved gardens and greenery, it's a way of life that we wanted to bring to the community. Our aim was to bring the soothing, calming effect of nature, and allow residents to be at one with their environment. We created six themed gardens, which are all individually designed to reflect a different ambience and style. We have a Mediterranean garden, a contemporary garden which was featured in the book *Garden Design Up Close*, a water garden, a Renaissance garden, a Balinese garden, and a woodland garden.

### **How have you managed to keep the project environmentally friendly?**

A commitment to sustainability and responsible eco-conscious development means that Al Barari's architecture,