

Esquire

BEST DRESSED MEN

OF THE UAE
2015

A good suit alone does not maketh the man. We've scoured the region for a fresh set of male faces who are innovative, successful and, naturally, well dressed

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THE DESIGN DUO

KHALED SHARAN AND CEEBO SHAH

34, JORDANIAN AND 34, AMERICAN/JORDANIAN



If you've been to one of the Dubai hot spots The Act, Blue Marlin Ibiza UAE, Seven or, most recently, new fish restaurant Catch (which originally earned its cool status in New York City), it's these two men you've got to thank for the surroundings. Old friends and business partners Khaled Sharan (left) and Ceebo Shah (right) and their company Creative Clinic design interiors for venues that rival the hipster scene of New York or London. "We provide the backdrop in the types of venues that allow UAE society to meet, mingle and enjoy each other's company in an environment that transports them to a different world," explains Shah. Anyone who has spent an evening in The Act will appreciate exactly what the young entrepreneur means.

Sharan has a master's degree in hospitality management from one of Switzerland's leading universities, with a focus on luxury management and design, while Shah is a designer and photographer. Inspired by fellow regional designers, Zaha Hadid, Karim Rashid and Momo, their collective sense of aesthetics helps create one-of-a-kind interiors.

Each man has a very distinctive sense of style that complements the scene they're helping to build, inspired by both streetwear and the contemporary runways. Sharan sticks to his signature look, which he describes as "a strange mix of rock'n'roll", with either tuxedo jackets or unstructured blazers mixed with leather and denim pieces from Diesel and The Kooples. Shah dips into his collection of vintage T-shirts and jeans for day, while preferring to opt for contemporary formalwear-inspired pieces from both The Kooples and Sandro by night. Both create their wardrobes around an urban palette of grey, black, and white.

The creative duo has also recently been chosen to create a pop art installation for His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister. The piece, which is under wraps for now, will be placed in HRH's media office. As an endorsement for their work, it doesn't get much more exalted than that. The combined talents of the two young designers has finally put the UAE on the world's nightlife map.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE ACT



Mr Khaled Sharan wears Alexander McQueen jacket, H&M T-shirt, Balmain jeans and vintage boots. Mr Ceebo Shah wears The Kooples jacket, Sandro T-shirt, Dolce & Gabbana jeans and vintage shoes.

THE REFINED GENT
HISHAM WYNE

32, PAKISTANI

Mr Hisham Wyne wears La Villa bespoke suit, The Cobbler shoes, vintage Rolex watch, bespoke tie, bespoke shirt and collar bar by the Gentleman's Gazette.



Having lived in Dubai for almost 12 years, Hisham Wyne is a man making the most of the city's diverse potential. The managing director of his own copywriting company, HWM, he also started the One Night Standup event two years ago, a free monthly comedy event that has contributed to an exciting grassroots scene.

His evolving interests are also evident in his personal style, as he tells us. "I've experimented with my own signature look over the years but I really feel like I've finally found myself sartorially over the past year or two," he explains. "I've realised that my style is very classic, very 1970s, but with contemporary twists, such as shorter jackets, natural shoulders without too much padding, and a few tweaks to the suit profile."

Wyne's workaday shirts and suits all come from the "fine folks" at Ravi Lobo tailors in Bur Dubai. For upscale fabrics, Collars & Cuffs have swatch books that run to Zegna and beyond. "The biggest favour a man can do for himself is to get a couple of tailored jackets and shirts," he advises. "I also use La Villa on Jumeirah Beach Road. They tried their Neapolitan tailors and shoemakers out on me, and the results were superb. It's definitely a destination for the discerning man."

Does he have any tips for gents still on that journey? "I've been slowly building a bespoke wardrobe, and it's surprisingly affordable to start out and only gets better as you keep exploring," he says. "An entire world of fabrics and patterns open up. The best part is that everything is made to fit your body's quirks. I've got tailors in Dubai but also have suits from as far afield as Naples, where they do those lovely Neapolitan soft shoulders that are perfect for a lighter, more relaxed approach."

SHOT ON LOCATION AT TOMO, VIDA HOTEL, TOMO AE

THE NETWORK SPECIALIST
AMIR GHAFFARPOUR

40, PERSIAN/SWEDISH



When he was 16, Amir Ghaffarpour published his high-school yearbook and was head of his school's Event and Party committee. It was an indication of things to come, as he has built an impressive career in media, publishing, events and hospitality consultancy over the years. He is now regional director of private members' club ELEQT Middle East and is responsible for some of the city's most vibrant parties.

"My core business is media and events and through my international media platforms I help place UAE on the global market as a key player," explains the entrepreneur, who currently resides in the Burj Khalifa. "Through events I open doors to people and communities to network and find business opportunities. Sometimes I even get to play Cupid. I have also been fortunate to help shape the nightlife scene with concepts such as I2 and Republique, and leave an everlasting memory behind."

Ghaffarpour's not someone you're likely to forget, as it's his warm and friendly demeanour that makes him instantly likeable. It's also his style that makes him stand out for Esquire, which is partly Italian inspired. His svelte frame is the perfect starting point for slim Dolce & Gabbana and Dior Homme suits, while it's Jen Dahlstrom Stockholm he goes to for tailor-made suits. "A pocket square completes most days' looks," he admits.

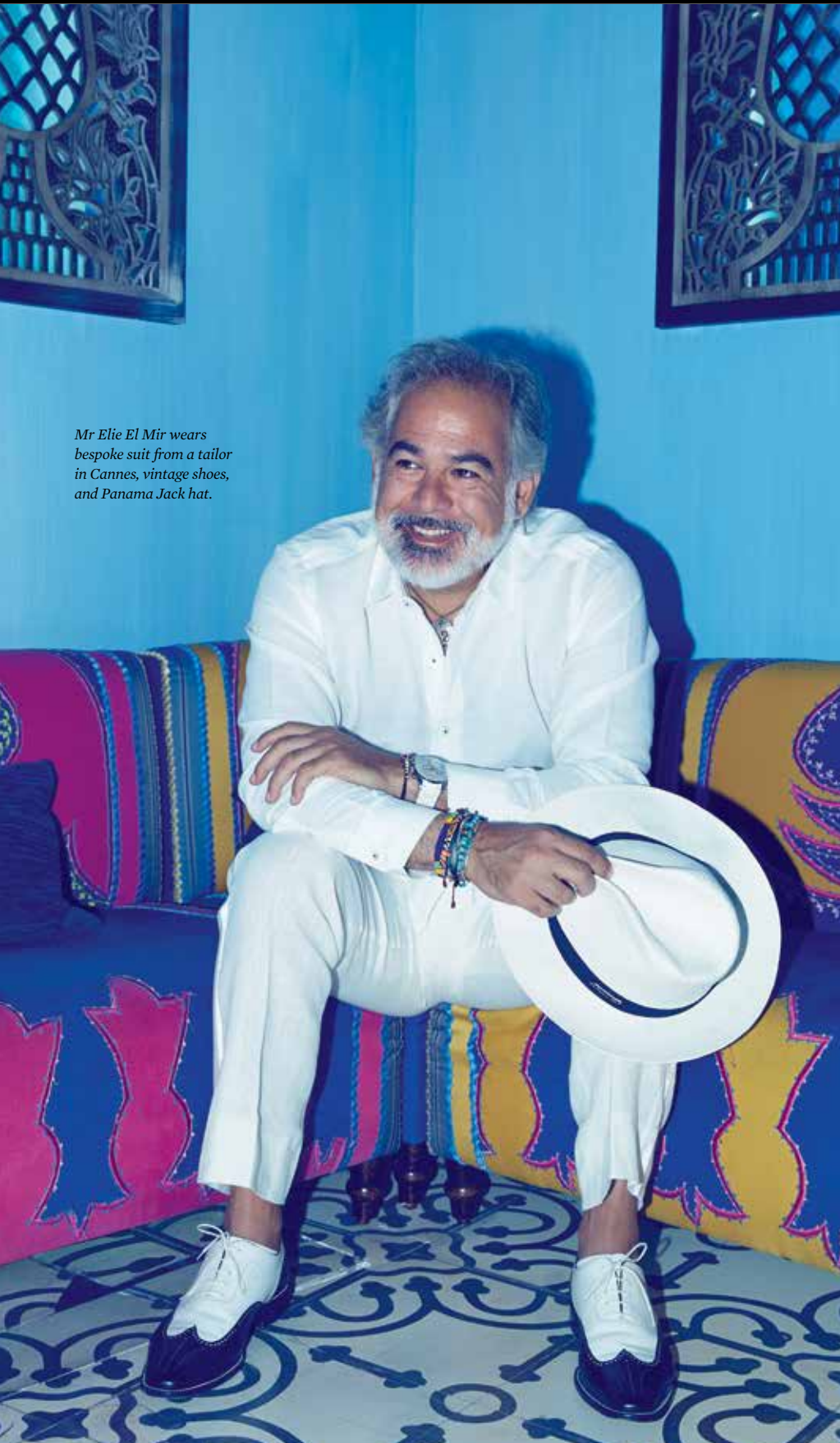
His Swedish roots have instilled in him a love of Scandinavian brands such as Acne and J. Lindeberg. "I almost feel like my young, crazy self is hidden when I'm in a serious suit," he smiles. "I refuse to grow up, which is why I always like to add a dash of crazy with a scarf or pocket square. That's the real me."

Mr Amir Ghaffarpour wears Jens Dahlstrom blazer, bespoke shirt from a Savile Row tailors, J Lindeberg jeans and scarf, Maneesilp handmade shoes, Bulgari watch and Salvatore Ferragamo cufflinks.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE AND LOUNGE, THE ADDRESS MARINA

THE INNOVATOR
ELIE EL MIR

51, LEBANESE



Mr Elie El Mir wears
bespoke suit from a tailor
in Cannes, vintage shoes,
and Panama Jack hat.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT EM SHERIF. WWW.EMSHERIF.COM



Engineer and artist Elie El Mir has made a reputable name for himself in the region by designing and creating bespoke musical fountains for private villa gardens. As managing director of Atec Water Design, he's married his lifelong passion for music with his trained craft to develop a music software program to work in conjunction with water fountains — a signature the region has become well known for.

But then innovation is nothing new to El Mir. Back in the 1980s he came up with an idea of covering the cost of transportation for university students by bus advertising. The project was presented to the Lebanese government, which then quickly approved making transport free to all students. This flair for creative thinking has made El Mir an inspiring and possibly unlikely style icon in the region, as his eclectic taste spills over into many areas of his life, including the interior design of his house, a beautiful watch collection and his wardrobe.

Not one to follow trends or style norms, El Mir, who has lived in the UAE for 10 years, has built up a diverse array of colourful menswear pieces picked up from his travels around the world. Whether it's the bespoke white linen suit he's wearing for our shoot, which he picked up from a tailors in Cannes, or the colourful prints of Versace and Etro he gravitates towards whenever he's in a mall, El Mir's style choices are more about gut instincts than they are conscious style statements.

"I think my style says a lot about me and how I look at things in life," he explains. "I am a very daring person and my personal style is the same. I love how colourful and varied life can be and so when it comes to fashion, I love to mix and match brands."



As a former model for brands such as Dior, Ted Baker and Diesel, you'd be forgiven for dismissing the boyish good looks of Andrew Scott as just a stylish façade. Dig a little deeper, however, and you'll appreciate that he's an integral part of the style scene in Dubai.

Scott started the blog andyscottfashion.blogspot.ae after realising his first-hand access to many menswear collections was a privilege he wanted to share with others. It's now one of the few menswear blogs in the region worth keeping in your favourites folder, as Scott has both the voice and the impeccable style to match.

Switching between two style uniforms, depending on the occasion, Scott has lived in the UAE for two years following a career as a semi-pro footballer in the US for seven years before that. His faultless style is a result of frequently heading to the high-street for inexpensive menswear staples that update and freshen his look every new season.

"It's about finding a brand that suits your shape," he advises. "Zara is one of my shops, and I feel like everything in there is tailored to my size, especially the blazers. Ted Baker's British-inspired tailored blazers also fit me really well, whereas I head to Reiss for fitted shirts. Their ties and pocket squares are also really good quality."

When he's not being snapped mingling in Dubai's ever-evolving fashion social scene, Scott's off-duty style constantly consists of limited-edition Nikes and snapbacks, but he says there's no 'inbetween'. "I've always taken great care of what I've worn, even when I was a teenager," he says. "I think my style shows people that I take the time and care. It's important to give a good impression when you first meet someone, whatever you do or wherever you are."

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE COVE BEACH. COVEBEACH.COM



Mr Scott wears Ted Baker blazer, Reiss shirt, Top Man trousers, Ted Baker tie, vintage tie pin, Daniel Wellington watch, Billionaire loafers and Ray-Ban sunglasses.

THE CULTURE CREATOR
MOHAMED AL BORNO

31, PALESTINIAN



Mr Mohamed Al Borno wears The Kooples jacket, shoes and scarf, Alexander Wang top, Balmain pants and vintage Rolex watch.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT D3



The long-awaited Dubai Design District (d3) is the city's most exciting project of the past few years and will help take Dubai's contemporary cultural scene to the next level. Mohamed Al Borno is the business development manager at d3 and works as the beating heart of the rapidly evolving project.

"I always knew that I wanted to contribute to the vision of the UAE when it came to my career," explains the brooding and softly spoken Palestinian, who grew up in Dubai. "Throughout my career I have developed opportunities and sustainable businesses in different clusters. Previously it was in finance and now it's design. The opportunities out there are endless."

As one of the youngest team leaders to graduate from London Business School (LBS), Al Borno works in the most stylish up-and-coming area of town, which is set to become a hipster's playground. This means workwear is more of a creative, personal statement than it is a formal uniform. Not drastically differing from his off-duty outfits, Al Borno's day-to-day wardrobe consists of contemporary wear in solid black, white or navy hues, focused around a base of denim. "I like to think that my style says that I refuse all grey areas," he laughs.

Contemporary and minimalist brands that err on the side of sportswear include personal favourites such as Balmain and Alexander Wang. The Kooples, COS and Sandra fill any gaps in his wardrobe, while suits are always bespoke from Royal Tailoring in the Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

"Dealing with creative minds from people with different backgrounds on a day-to-day basis is nothing but inspiring," he says, referring not only to his career but his style choices too.

THE COMEDIAN
NITIN MIRANI

36, INDIAN



Funny men are not usually renowned for their refined sense of style, but stand-up comedian Nitin Mirani certainly takes his appearance seriously. The 36-year-old (or as he points out, 1,156,110,986-second-old) is a pioneer in the local comedy scene and represented the UAE in the Laugh Factory USA's Funniest Person in the World, coming fourth last year.

Having grown up in the UAE, after moving here with his family when he was a one-year-old baby, the comic loves the multicultural audiences of the region, which he says makes targeted humour a resourceful challenge. He has also founded his own brand, Laugh Your Assets Off, offering bespoke comedy packages to the corporate world, as well as touring his *Komic Sutra* show around the region.

While it's his sense of humour that has propelled the Indian into the public sphere, it's his quintessential approach to style that earns him his spot on our list. "I feel like my style is always evolving," he says. "I'm a firm believer that if you dress well, that's almost half the battle done, so I always make it a point to dress to impress, or in my case, be fashionable and funny."

Salvatore Ferragamo is a common hunting ground for Mirani when it comes to accessory staples like shoes and belts. Suits are made bespoke from Sator Milano Bespoke in Italy, or off the rack and then tweaked from Canali. Zara and Massimo Dutti are among his most common high-street haunts.

This month sees Mirani start work on a Bollywood movie in Mumbai, but what else does the rest of 2015 have in store? "World domination is definitely on the cards," he deadpans. "But until then, signing up for a Bollywood movie along with doing a US tour with my show *Komic Sutra* is what I'm working on for now." Which isn't a bad way to begin his quest for a global takeover.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT TOMO, VIDA HOTEL TOMO.AE



Mr Nitin Mirani wears Juwan Aly suit, bespoke shirt, Elle Homme shoes, Iconic tie, Tie Rack tin pin, Zara sunglasses, Tie Rack pocket square and Hublot watch.

THE PERFUMER
MOHAMMED NE'EMAH

35, KUWAITI

Mr Mohammed R.M Ne'emah wears a bespoke dishdasha from Sakkba tailors in Kuwait, Bottega Venetta shoes and Piaget watch.



Hearing Mohammed Ne'emah talk passionately about his bespoke dishdasha is not unlike a hearing an English gentleman explain the intricacies of a Savile Row suit. While the untrained eye would certainly agree that he looks very smart in Kuwaiti national dress, the perfumer and entrepreneur's attention to detail goes to another level.

Here's what we learned about Ne'emah's quest for perfection: he always has his trusted Kuwaiti tailors, Sakkba (meaning 'chic' in Arabic slang) visit him wherever he is to take measurements. He's learned to customise his dishdashas over the years to fit him perfectly, including the addition of an extra smaller pocket within each pocket for his BlackBerry and a small hidden loop stitched in behind the buttonholes upon which he can hook his sunglasses. These details are all essential to his formal uniform.

Ne'emah's chief occupation as a perfume designer sees him spends most of his time flying between Kuwait and Dubai. When he goes further afield to source rare ingredients for his luxury concoctions he has an equally impressive western wardrobe. This includes two-button suits from Tom Ford and Canali along with a tie bar from Dior Homme. His jeans are from True Religion and his shoes are made by Berluti.

It's clear the young Kuwaiti has a refined palette when it comes to style, echoing the bespoke perfume company, Ne'emah, which he founded when he was just 17 years-old. "Perfumery has been a part of my family tradition for decades and my greatest personal achievement is making my family name recognised worldwide," he proudly explains of the luxury brand that will soon be available in the US. "Perfume is a fashion statement and I want to spread the word even further."

SHOT ON LOCATION AT FIOUL BISTRO DE LUXE. FRIOULBISTRODELUXE.COM

THE CHEF
ALEXIO PASQUALI

39, ITALIAN



Alexio Pasquali is not just your usual celebrity chef with a charming persona. While he'll be familiar to most as a judge on *Foodshala*, the biggest culinary reality TV show in the region, which has been watched by 22 million people, the Italian aims to change the way people in the region think about food. He's played an integral role in launching an anti-obesity campaign across the UAE, which focuses on teaching children to eat healthily. Think of him as a regional Jamie Oliver but without the round edges that most chefs seem to sport.

"The obesity and diabetes figures in this region are shocking. We have to educate families — starting with the kids — to look after themselves and eat right," he explains. "I practise what I preach. I eat healthily and go to the gym twice a day and believe food is the most important thing for your health."

While he has the Italian sense of style running through his blood, Pasquali also lived and worked in London for a time, where he was influenced by Savile Row tailoring, before arriving in Dubai in 2012. He now depends on British Dubai-based Ascots & Chapels for his suits, and the tailoring house is more than happy to stitch his signature onto his shirts, a detail inspired by the chef whites he lives in.

"I love experimenting with clothes and have more shoes than most women," the father-of-two laughs, before admitting that he loves to inject some colour into his footwear with the laces or a block-colour sole. He's also a fan of Church shoes, another habit he picked up in London.

When it comes to off-duty threads, Mr Pasquali heads to Ralph Lauren for casual wear with a tailored twist. "They do great tailored shorts in bright colours that are perfect for the weekend here."

SHOT ON LOCATION AT ATELIER M. ATELIERM.AE



Mr Pasquali wears Ascot & Chapels bespoke suit, shirt, pocket square and floral pin hole, and Kurt Geiger shoes.

THE IMAGE MAKER
DR MICHAEL APA

38, AMERICAN

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Dr Michael Apa is responsible for making people smile. Literally.

The American dentist, who has appeared on *The Today Show* and *Good Morning America* to talk about his profession, has been travelling between New York City, where his original practice is based, and the UAE for the past seven years, giving high-profile clients the perfect set of gnashers. Three months ago he opened a branch in Dubai, with the aim of spending more time in the region. “I am trying to elevate the level of dental care to be able to give patients the ease and confidence to get work done here at the very highest level,” he explains.

But it’s not his dentistry skills that put him on Esquire’s Best Dressed list. Apa’s style is not unlike his work — immaculate, professional and attentive to detail. “I really like designers who use extremely good fabrics; who know how to construct things to last and aren’t flashy,” he admits. “I approach my style in a similar way to how I am in the chair. I like to enhance the way people look with my smiles, but in a way that doesn’t stand out. The same goes for timepieces and shoes. I feel uncomfortable in flashy things. It’s not my style.”

Apa opts for suits, shirts and ties either by Brunello Cucinelli, or bespoke suits and shirts by New York tailor Max Girombelli, who also has a pop-up branch in DIFC. His shoes are always from Berluti and his preferred watch brands are IWC and A. Lange & Söhne. However, he’s currently sporting a Franck Muller Master Banker Wall Street Edition, number five of just 10 made. Only the most knowledgeable watch collectors would recognise this precious timepiece. It’s just another example of the subtle differences that makes Apa stand out from the crowd.



Dr Apa wears Brunello Cucinelli suit and tie, bespoke shirt, and Franck Muller Master Banker Wall Street Edition watch.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT CATCH, FAIRMONT DUBAI. WWW.CATCH.AE

THE MUSIC MAN
FAI KHADRA

23, PALESTINIAN

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While his stylish twin sisters, Sama and Haya Khadra have been enjoying the spotlight for a few years now, it’s their older brother Fai Khadra that’s set to make a name for himself in the coming months. The Saudi-born Palestinian singer is on the cusp of what could be a very successful music career.

After spending his formative years in Dubai, where his parents still reside, the young star now spends most of his time in Los Angeles where he rotates between the sea, surf and studio, in what seems like a pretty cool way to spend for any guy to see out his twenties. Debut single, “I Love It” landed on iTunes in April, with a plan in the pipeline to release plenty more tracks soon. Think R&B but with a hint of acoustic undertones that echo one of his musical inspirations, John Mayer.

If you’re one of his 19,000 Instagram followers, you’ll be familiar with the circles he moves in — a recent post revealed him to be front row at the tiny, and ridiculously exclusive, club show by Rolling Stones in L.A. You’ll also recognise his laid-back California style, which consists of simple black or white tees, layered shirts, slim denim and biker jackets.

His style staple? “Custom made hats from my friend Nick Fouquet,” he explains. “He’s based in Venice, California and he makes the most awesome felt hats.”

Remember where you read about this guy first. He could be the next Middle Eastern break-out star, and a well-dressed one at that.



Mr Fai Khadra wears Dsquared2 shirt and jeans, and vintage sandals.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT SUNSET BEACH. WITH THANKS TO THE SURF HOUSE DUBAI.

THE ARTIST
TAHER ASAD-BAKHTIARI

32, IRANIAN



Mr Taher Asad-Bakhtiari wears Ann Demeulemeester jacket, Rick Owens vest and shorts and vintage boots.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT D3



While it's undeniable, when sifting through his wardrobe, that

Taher Asad-Bakhtiari's style is influenced by contemporary designers, the work he does is very much cemented in his colourful and ancient heritage. The young artist creates *kilims* (tapestries), which are part art, part functional.

"For as long as I have known, tribal influences have poured into my life from both paternal and maternal sides," he explains. "Sardar Asad Bakhtiari, an ancestor of my father's, was a hugely influential tribal leader of early 20th century Iran, when more than one third of the country's population lived a nomadic lifestyle. The Farmanfarmaian family on my mother's side have always collected tribal artifacts, folk art, clothes, jewellery and other objects of tribal life."

His childhood memories are inseparable from these objects and the atmosphere they created. "By making kilims I hope to keep the tradition alive," he says.

As well as seeking to reintroduce traditional Iranian crafts and imbuing them with a contemporary functionality, the self-taught designer also has his own creative agency, which he first opened in Tehran and then expanded to New York.

On the other end of the spectrum, the young creative has no rules when it comes to his unique sense of style, claiming to shop anywhere and everywhere and even making his own clothes when he feels like it.

When he's not feeling so nifty with a needle and thread, brands on his list include avant garde names such as Rick Owens, Ann Demeulemeester and Haider Ackermann or timeless pieces from Saint Laurent. "I like to think I'm a free soul, so my style echoes that — I don't like to box myself into one specific category or brand."

THE JEWELLER
VIKRAM JETHWANI

37, INDIAN



Mr Vikram Jethwani wears Ascot & Chapels bespoke suit, Casio G-Shock watch and The Cobbler shoes.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT COYA, FOUR SEASON'S DUBAI. COYARESTAURANT.COM



As a third-generation jeweller, Vikram Jethwani is distinctly

understated, considering he's responsible for some of the region's most extravagant jewellery pieces. While the Indian grew up in Dubai, it was his grandfather who started their family business, Universal Pearls & Jewels DMCC, over 50 years ago in Kobe, Japan before Mr Jethwani's mother settled in Dubai and took over. She then passed over the reins to her son 10 years ago. "The UAE has given us the infrastructure to excel in the jewellery business," the managing director admits. "There is a massive appetite for jewellery in this region. Diamonds, pearls and gemstones are all part of a rich history and tradition where jewellery is passed on from one generation to the next. I am astounded by some of the bespoke pieces that people ask us to make."

As well as running the family business, Jethwani also launched his own fine jewellery company, Vik Jethwani, which produces incredibly intricate and impressive bespoke pieces for some of the region's most high-profile residents. After our shoot, the certified gemologist is on his way to drop off a diamond and ruby-encrusted bird-cage necklace, complete with a sitting bird (also jewel-encrusted) inside. It's certainly impressive.

Meeting clients on a day-to-day basis, armed with millions of dirhams' worth of precious jewels, means Jethwani depends on impeccably well-fitting bespoke suits, mostly from Dubai favourite Ascot & Chapels in DIFC, in neutral greys and blues.

While you might expect a diamond-encrusted Graff timepiece on the wrist of the young entrepreneur, it's a Casio G-Shock that peeks out from his jacket sleeve on the day of our shoot — a subtle nod to Mr Jethwani's love of sports and his refreshingly pretension-free attitude to success.

THE AD MAN
BEN KARMI

35, DUTCH/IRANIAN



A combination of impeccable style and the fact that he's managing

director of the first international ad agency in Iran makes Ben Kami the region's better-adjusted answer to Don Draper. Dashing handsome and politely charming, the 35-year-old moved to Dubai 12 years ago to set up a TV channel before starting his own advertising agency. He recently perched himself nicely at the top of his current workplace, Carat ICA Iran, which is an impressive feat in itself.

The self-confessed workaholic admits that he absolutely loves his job. "There's no limit to being creative and producing creative work, which I think is where the addiction comes in," he explains.

Karmi was raised in Europe but feels much more at home in Dubai's energising and multicultural surroundings, which only encourages his entrepreneurial and constantly enquiring mind.

And like Don Draper, Karmi's faultless sense of style is well thought out, perfectly executed and utterly timeless. "If I had to describe my personal style I'd say I'm distinctive, neat and smart," he says, pulling up his subtle yet playful polka dot Thomas Pink socks, which we can't help but notice perfectly match the blue in his tie.

"Socks are my favourite clothes — they should never be forgotten about," he says with a smile. "It's the small details that really matter." We couldn't agree more.

Mr Ben Karmi wears Van Gils suit, Ascots & Chapels bespoke shirt, Ralph Lauren tie, Paul Smith shoes, Thomas Pink socks, JLC watch and Hermès belt.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT COMPTOIR 102. COMPTOIR102.COM

THE BOUTIQUE OWNER
OMAR BIN KHEDIYA

43, EMIRATI



Having lived in Dubai his entire life, Omar Bin Khediya has been long been exposed to a vibrant mix of nationalities and cultures. He credits this upbringing for making him more open to new ideas, which perhaps explains the boutique he founded, O Concept. The Emirati entrepreneur says he wanted to combine fashion, art and design while attracting passionate designers and artists from all over the world.

"My aim with O Concept is to contribute to UAE society by supporting new fashion and art talents," he explains of the boutique he opened in 2009 in the building of his childhood home. "I love to gather enthusiasts to share creative ideas, which is why part of the boutique is a café."

Bin Khediya aims to seek out little-known, contemporary designers in menswear and womenswear not found anywhere else in the Middle East and introduce them to the region. Brands currently in store include ready-to-wear labels Tom Rebl, Deadly Companions and wooden sunglasses by Sunboo.

Bin Khediya is certainly concerned with style, as the 43-year-old's contemporary yet classic style rarely includes any colour other than black, yet it's the brands that matter less in his wardrobe, the older he gets. "While I used to be really into wearing certain brands, I'm more concerned with wearing what makes me feel good, happy and comfortable now," he reveals.

The frequent traveller heads to contemporary designer concept stores elsewhere in the world to do most of his shopping and these days tends to spend money on what he's first drawn to, instead of the brand name. His top shopping hot spots include Opening Ceremony in New York, Corso Como 10 in Milan, and Dover Street Market in London. Oh, and O Concept in Dubai, naturally.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT O CONCEPT.



Mr Omar Bin Khediya wears Tom Rebl jumper and jeans, Patek Philippe watch and Dooraj sneakers.

SYLVAIN PIERRE GAILLARD

36, SWISS



Mr Sylvain Gaillard wears Givenchy shirt, Balmain jeans and Balenciaga sneakers.



With years of experience in Swiss private banking, Sylvain Gaillard, the general manager of Opera Gallery in DIFC, has made a career leap that most men can only dream of. And seeing the 36-year-old at home in the art gallery it's hard to imagine him wearing a suit and fitting in with strait-laced banker types.

Having been an avid fan of art and a committed collector from an early age, Gaillard was approached by Gilles Dyan, Opera Gallery's founder and chairman, a couple of years back and trusted with one of the 12 galleries he runs around the world. The rest, as they say, is history.

As a fairly new resident of Burj Daman in DIFC, his apartment was chosen specifically because of the high ceilings and space that could incorporate Gaillard's extensive art collection, as well as his array of sneakers and watches. "I think my approach to my style is very much like the art I sell — I am contemporary and live in the 'now,'" he says.

This is evident with his favourite purchases. "My most treasured sneakers are my Louis Vuitton x Kanye West red dons. They came out in summer 2009, and I was the first customer in Switzerland to acquire them at 10:07AM as per the receipt issued by LV."

And his favourite watch? A Zenith El Primero Grande dating back to the revival of the brand when Thierry Nataf took over. "It houses the 4021 calibre movement, which is one of the best in the world."

The brand-loyal shopper is a big fan of Balmain's biker jeans, and Riccardo Tisci's shirts at Givenchy, both of which he'll regularly pick up, usually when he's visiting New York every autumn.

In Dubai he says that Bloomingdale's and Harvey Nichols that are the first stops on his shopping trips.

SHOT ON LOCATION AT OPERA GALLERY, DIFC. OPERAGALLERY.COM

IFEANYI IBEKWE

26, NIGERIAN



Mr Ibekwe wears Zara suit, T.M Lewin shirt, Eton tie, Andrews Tie's pocket square, Hugo BOSS watch and Massimo Dutti shoes.



Living on a starting salary is no excuse for not exuding an impeccable sense of style, as 26-year-old sustainability consultant Ifeanyi Ibekwe proves. After recently completing a master's degree in Energy, the young graduate helps embed sustainability practises in numerous construction projects across the UAE. The goal? To help create a more sustainably built environment for current and future UAE citizens.

But it's not all hard hats and steel toe-caps. Ibekwe is equally ambitious and forward thinking when it comes to his wardrobe. "As I've only just left university, I head to Zara for menswear and Massimo Dutti for shoes, but if I had the choice I'd only shop in Harvey Nichols — the menswear selection there is fantastic," he smiles.

He has other upgrades in mind. His current go-to piece is a grey, double-breasted blazer from Zara, which, as soon as the salary allows, will be replaced with an upgrade from Zegna.

To the casual observer, Ibekwe's style says he's a well-dressed young man with a decent taste in shoes. To people who know what to look for, his style reveals far more personal details and stylish quirks. For instance, hiding behind his blue Zara suit are banana-yellow braces, and at the moment his favourite personal touch is a smiley badge that he wears in his lapel pin hole. "It always changes but I like to think there is always a bit of creative nonchalance in my outfits," he explains.

"But when do I feel my best? When wearing a good double-breasted jacket, offset with the perfect linen pocket square, a crisp shirt and the perfect loafers or monks. I could take on the world in such an outfit."

SHOT ON LOCATION AT JBR THE WALK