



First Emirati landscape designer to show at Chelsea Flower Show

Posted by [Iszara Morgan](#) on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 · [Leave a Comment](#)

The relationship between humankind and the earth is celebrated by RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015 new comer Kamelia Zaal of Al Barari, Dubai.

‘The Beauty of Islam’, by the first Emirati landscape designer to show at Chelsea, provides a sensory reflection of Islamic and Arabic culture.

Kamelia describes her garden, as a sanctuary in which to feel inspired and relaxed.

“I have channelled the movement and sound of water to draw visitors into a mix of sensory experiences, directing them through the garden. The use of poetry, calligraphy, sculpture, textures and a play of shade and light come together in the garden to celebrate Islamic and Arabic culture. Poetry, which is heavily rooted in Arabic tradition, is engraved into marble and aims to pull visitors further into the garden” comments Zaal.

Based on a traditional, Arabic pattern that is set into a 45-degree angle, The Beauty of Islam breaks away from the typical, traditional courtyard quadrant. A juxtaposition of multi-purpose spaces and pockets of calm forms the layout of the garden.

A seamless combination of modern and classic materials from countries touched by Arabic and Islamic culture, including Turkish white marble, form the foundations of the garden’s design and flow. Mother of Pearl, representing the art of pearl diving, integral to the UAE’s heritage, runs through the garden. Four walls create different rooms in the garden and enhance the theme of discovery, with water flowing throughout each section. Dividers of stainless steel and cement add a contrast of textures, off-setting the diversity of plant life throughout.

Planting and hard landscape patterns reflect those found within Islamic culture. Orange, Olive, Fig and Pomegranate trees and plants such as Cardamom, Pepper, Tumeric, Jasmine, Rosemary and Papyrus take visitors on a journey that maps the growth of the Arabic empire through its history, rooted in trade. Specifically it tells the story of the Spice Route, which spread by sea and overland from the Indian Ocean, the Far East, India, the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea and into Europe.

The Beauty of Islam is the creation of landscape designer Kamelia Bin Zaal, who trained in garden design at Inchtald School of Design, London. Kamelia lives in Dubai and runs a landscape architectural

practice, Second Nature. Kamelia is also the Creative Landscape Director of Al Barari (meaning ‘wilderness’). A luxury residential estate, owned and developed by her family, its six themed gardens – with over 16.4 kilometres of naturally landscaped lakes, freshwater streams, cascades and waterways – make Al Barari the lowest density development in the UAE. It is more akin to a botanical garden than a residential community.

“I am absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to share my passion for Arabic and Islamic culture at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015. The garden is intended as a true celebration of heritage, art, design, culture and the diversity of the UAE’s plant life. I do hope that visitors enjoy the journey!” says Zaal.

Exhibitor: Al Barari Firm Management LLC

Sponsor: Al Barari Firm Management LLC

Designer: Kamelia Bin Zaal

Contractor: The Outdoor Room

Plant Supplier: Kelways



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