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EXCLUSIVE
ROBERT DOWNEY, JR.

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magic-carpet ride

AN ISLAND RESORT FOR THE CROWN PRINCE OF ABU DHABI BECOMES MORE THAN A FLIGHT OF

The Israeli-born designer **Dror Benshetrit** can banter about pivot hinges and hydraulic pistons with anyone, but he avoids technical talk, instead favoring lightly accented wonder. And so, at one professional gathering, he casually announced to the roomful of design aficionados, "And now I'm working on an island!"

The laughter only died down once Benshetrit began describing the biggest project of his brief career: helping to transform Nurai, a desert island in the Persian Gulf, into a resort for the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and his peers. Prices for villas and water villas began at a highly precession \$10 million, and on the strength of Benshetrit's breath-taking designs, they sold out last year.

The construction of the project is a collaboration between an oil-baron and a designer who combine luxury and serenity with modern design. Benshetrit's villas feature roofs of glass and steel, square-shaped rooms, and unobstructed views of the sea.

DESIGN



HOT PROPERTY
 RISING DESIGN STAR DROR BENSHETRIT AND, BELOW LEFT, HIS VISION FOR AN ISLAND ENCLAVE.

his bard

...me of us, the atmosphere of evening New York commuter loosened ties, dusk-lit... cocktails sipped out of... cups—unfailingly conjures

THE LIFE AND HARD TIMES OF JOHN CHEEVER.

