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

he 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 create Nurai, a desert island in the Persian Gulf, into a resort for the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and his peers. Prices start at $100 million, and on the strength of Benshetrit’s breath-taking designs, they sold out last week. Construction of the project is set to start in June.

The resort comprises an oil-baron inspired living complex that combine luxury and sustainability in a way that only Benshetrit can. The structures, which include a series of square-shaped pavilions, each with its own private infinity pool, are designed to be unobtrusive and blend into the very sand and sea.

DESIGN

THE LIFE AND HARD TIMES OF JOHN CHEEVER.

Vogue / Men’s Vogue  March 2009
Dror Benshetrit / Nurai

Dror

Vogue / Men’s Vogue  March 2009
Dr. Robert Downey, Jr.

Vogue / Men’s Vogue  March 2009
Manolo Blahnik