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Colour spectrum: a rainbow of style  
Power luxe: lighting for all moods  
Grand dame: Hoppen's big four-O  
UAE + UN: nations united by design

DHS 20.00 RO 2.00 BD 2.00  
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## United collaborations

The new 'Salle des Emirats' at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva aims to help delegates focus on finding solutions to the world's problems.

TEXT: STEVE HILL

**The Dhs81 million renovation** of Conference Room XVII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the European headquarters of the United Nations, was recently completed.

Joakim de Rham, the co-founder of Dubai-based Swiss Bureau, and Lausanne-based Siavosh Adeli worked together on the scheme which was inaugurated as 'La Salle des Emirats' or The Emirates Room.

Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, said: "La Salle des Emirats combines functionality, cutting-edge technology and a design that merges innovation and cultural heritage, very much in line with the spectacular architectural trends that have emerged in the United Arab Emirates over the past years.

"Room XVII does not only shine in a new design, but also has technical features that will ultimately help delegates focus on finding solutions – under the blue Emirates sky – to the world's problems that are being addressed here in Geneva."

The ceiling of the formerly dilapidated room now contains a round metallic structure showing the name of the United Arab Emirates written in stylised Arabic calligraphy. The level of light and its colours change according to the time of the day.

Curved wooden panels subtly represent the



Joakim de Rham &amp; Siavosh Adeli



wind of the dunes, and the orange hues of the carpet characterise the colours of the sand of the desert of Abu Dhabi.

Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said: "We cannot address today's global governance challenges with yesterday's tools. This room now benefits from adaptations that have brought it into the 21st Century and make it a model for open and inclusive discussions."

Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates Maitha Alshamsi said: "The commitment of the United Arab Emirates to provide appropriate working tools to the United Nations System is in line with its constant support to international

organisations, and aims at strengthening the role of the United Nations as a forum for the international community in order to achieve its objectives and aspirations."

Work began in July 2015 on the project, which is part of a strategic heritage plan to completely renovate the Palais des Nations.

Building code compliance and greater accessibility for persons with disabilities are among the key objectives of the project, which also includes the construction of a new building. Restoration and construction works will begin in 2017 and are expected to conclude by 2023. 