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ARAB  
WORLD

# ELLE<sup>®</sup> DECORATION

STYLE STEAL  
BEAUTIFUL BUYS AND  
THE LATEST TRENDS



## FALL FOR BLUE

HOMES AND DESTINATIONS  
FOR AN ENDLESS SUMMER



UAE 25 DHs



# UNDER THE BLUE EMIRATES SKY

An iconic project: The renovation of the Conference Room XVII of the Palais des Nations, the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva.

BY FAY AFGHAHI PHOTOS GUILLAUME DE LAUBIER







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### 1. Technology meets design

Nature and heritage are the key words in this design that exemplify the use of state of the art technology.

### 2. Sand and wind

Curved wooden panelled walls in veneered oak and carpeting in shades of red echo the tones of the sand.

### 3. Innovative materials

Desk and chairs are made from white Krion, that feels like cool stone and whose colour is that of the immaculate Keffieh.

**Without a doubt !** Invited by the Ministry of Presidential Affairs in the UAE to participate in the international competition to renovate the conference room XVII, in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, Dubai based Joakim De Rham and Swiss based Siavosh Adeli accepted the challenge without even a glint of hesitation.

**Nature and Heritage.** The brief was simple, design a project that would subjectively represent the UAE, its nature and heritage employing the latest AV technologies. The core of the design is a stunning electroluminescent sky "The structure is linked to the sky which symbolises the vision of the UAE, the endless, limitless and interminable sky that represents the futuristic innovative vision of the country", explains De Rham. This sky is in fact an LED screen that projects 8 hours of images of the UAE sky, from dusk till dawn, capturing the plethora of colours it has to offer even the passing of the odd cloud. The curved perimeter of the room is constructed from



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### 1. Limitless sky

An electroluminescent diode sky where LED screens project 8 hours of images of the UAE sky.

### 2. Winning team

Joakim De Rham and Siavosh Adeli, design complicity.

### 3. Epic race

The glass wall separating the visitor's space from the rest of the hall shows the carving of an Arabian horse, as if a mirage.

sand coloured veneer oak finish wooden panelling whose carved shapes represent a subtle and whimsical interpretation of the camels in the windy dunes. The floor is carpeted with shades of red that characterise the unique colours of the sands of Abu Dhabi, whilst the desks are all white Krion, a synthetic resistant solid material that is warm to the touch. The white colour was chosen to echo that of the Keffieh, the traditional Emirati cloth worn by men.

**The result?** The creation of an inspirational and atmospheric landscape combining technological innovation with exceptional design, in which conferences of international amplitude are conducted and life changing decisions made; Under the Emirati Sky.

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