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JUNE | JULY 2019

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ISSUE 50 LBP10000



5 287000 647045

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FURNITURE LINE IN LEBANON: AN ITALIAN ROMANCE

A New High-End Boutique Marries Mediterranean Styles



Lovy, Bonaldo



Otto, Bonaldo



Logica, Alf Dafre



Allen, Alf Dafre



Furniture Line, one of Beirut's leading luxury retailers, recently announced the opening of their Allenby Street boutique. The new store carries with it two new designer furniture lines, Bonaldo and Alf Dafre. Here, we take a look at the brands and talk with the architect of the boutique, Good Design Global Award Winner Mauro Lipparini. Bonaldo, a well-established Italian furniture brand, is all about passion, design, research and quality. Its collections are characterized by an eclectic, colorful, dynamic and unique style in furniture such as tables, chairs, accessories, sofas and beds.

Alf Dafre is an influential Italian firm that offers solutions special to living area furniture, as well as bedrooms and kitchens, with products reflecting a modern lifestyle and contemporary trends.

Mauro Lipparini, the architect, said of the boutique: "For each brand, I created subtly distinct, individual expressions through different nuances of wall-paint colors that interplay with varied boiserie panels: for Bonaldo, cheerful, bright color schemes that contrast with an underground style reflected in the Alf Dafre display area's mirror-finish false ceilings."

Lipparini's style could be best described as being rooted in spare forms and clear, powerful lines, the trademarks of Italian minimalism, "I seek to imbue my work with a spirit of joy, a buoyant sense of pleasure and possibility. Freely employing bold colors, organic textures, and imaginative visual concepts, I endeavor to broaden the palette of classic minimalism, bringing the immediacy and strength of the aesthetic into a new era," he said. Four key materials were used in the design of the new boutique to create something that stands out from the crowd, that is conceived not to vanish into an environment, but rather to make you stop and think about all the choices that went into it, "Bronzed mirror-finish metal, Canaletto walnut, Ceppo di Gré, and seeded aggregate concrete are joined in an instinctive weaving of design and function, and then the additional element of surprise. In this combination of what might seem to be disparate ideas, the aim was always to eliminate the inessential and speak to timeless values and exceptional taste. The feature staircase, as an expressive tool, draws attention to the charm and elegance of the showroom while functioning as its backbone, passing through all three floors like a sparkling belt buckle, an eye-catching accessory," said Lipparini.

"This is my first project in Beirut and my experience of the city began as love at first sight. I could read its cultural history like a topographic map: three stratifications, each fundamental to the city's vibrant energy, tracing back to three distinct epochs, one characterized by its Roman ruins, another by prewar buildings scattered among church bell towers and mosque minarets, and yet another defined by modern postwar architecture, designed for a new generation of international city dwellers, yet steeped in Mediterranean culture," said the architect, enthusiasm clear to see.

The end result is a project that is grounded in both its immediate surroundings and its ancestral roots. "Beirut offers endless inspiration from this point of view. Its inhabitants have an inherent elegance and sense of style, and the neighborhood where the showroom is located has a courtyard-like intimacy where I immediately felt at home as a native Italian. Pergolas and water features, dotted among Europe's main fashion houses and smaller boutiques, in a piazza-like setting—it's a heart within the heart of the city," said Lipparini. The end result is a boutique that marries Lebanese and Italian aspects to create a beautiful whole.

furniture-line.com

WHAT'S OUT THERE

With ever more fantastic designs flooding the market, now's the time to take a look at what's on offer. Here we explore Lebanon's finest interior pieces, there's sure to be something that will catch your eye.



MINOTTI
Lawson Sofa. Designed By Rodolfo Dordoni.



FEDCO
Poissons Combattants sculpture, mint glass with a blue patina, a numbered edition.



BONALDO
Mellow table is available in many finishes and materials. Designed by Bartoli.



FEDCO
The Infinite Collection of white porcelain. Haviland.



NATUZZI
Colosseo, a wide range of modular seating systems. Available in leather, fabric or a leather, fabric mix. Designed by **Mauro Lipparini**.



LE CERCLE
Atoll sofa by Antonio Citterio. B&B Italia.



FEDCO
Lustre Excess. Saint Louis.



CALLIGARIS
Fifties is made from tubular metal, with fixed upholstery and a velvet backrest, faux leather or leather. Design: Buseti, Garuti and Redaelli.



BONALDO
Parentesi coat stand. Designed by Fabrice Berrux.



FEDCO
Tommyssimo violet.



CALLIGARIS
CARTESIO table with an elegant and sober line, available with a wooden or ceramic top and an original supporting structure in dyed metal composed of four rectangular "V" elements. Design: Busetti, Garuti and Redaelli.



LE CERCLE
Richard bed by Antonio Citterio. B&B Italia.



LE CERCLE
Dala. Love seat, available in three different colors, can be ordered in selected colors and fabrics combinations. Designed by Dedon.



LE CERCLE
Ribes outdoor sofas by Antonio Citterio. B&B Italia.



MINOTTI
Daniels Sofa. Designed by Christophe Delcourt.



FEDCO
Fontana Centerpiece Limited Edition, a collaboration with Zaha Hadid. Lalique. Available in black clear crystal.



NATUZZI
The Campus dining table with semi oval shaped top has an elegant structure with laser cut steel plate and insert of solid wood. Design Mauro Lipparini.



NATUZZI
MELPOT modular seats can be combined harmoniously to create a wide range of comfortable and elegant solutions. Available in leather or fabric. Designed by Mauro Lipparini.



FEDCO
Amber Cavalcade, table centerpiece by Daum. Limited Edition piece.



MINOTTI
Grant side table. Designed by Rodolfo Dordoni.



LE CERCLE
Bay outdoor armchairs by Doshi & Levien. B&B Italia.



NATUZZI

Model Icon is available in leather or fabric, in a modular system. Design: Michele Menescardi.



LE CERCLE

Saparella. Ligne Roset.



LE CERCLE

Canaletto. Ligne Roset.