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Home

Creative Spaces

In the leafy surrounds of the Green Community, away from the hustle and bustle of Dubai city, is artist Imad Bechara's creative enclave, where he lives, breathes and thinks art.

Text: Devjani Cox, Contributor; Photos: Kishore Kumar, ANM



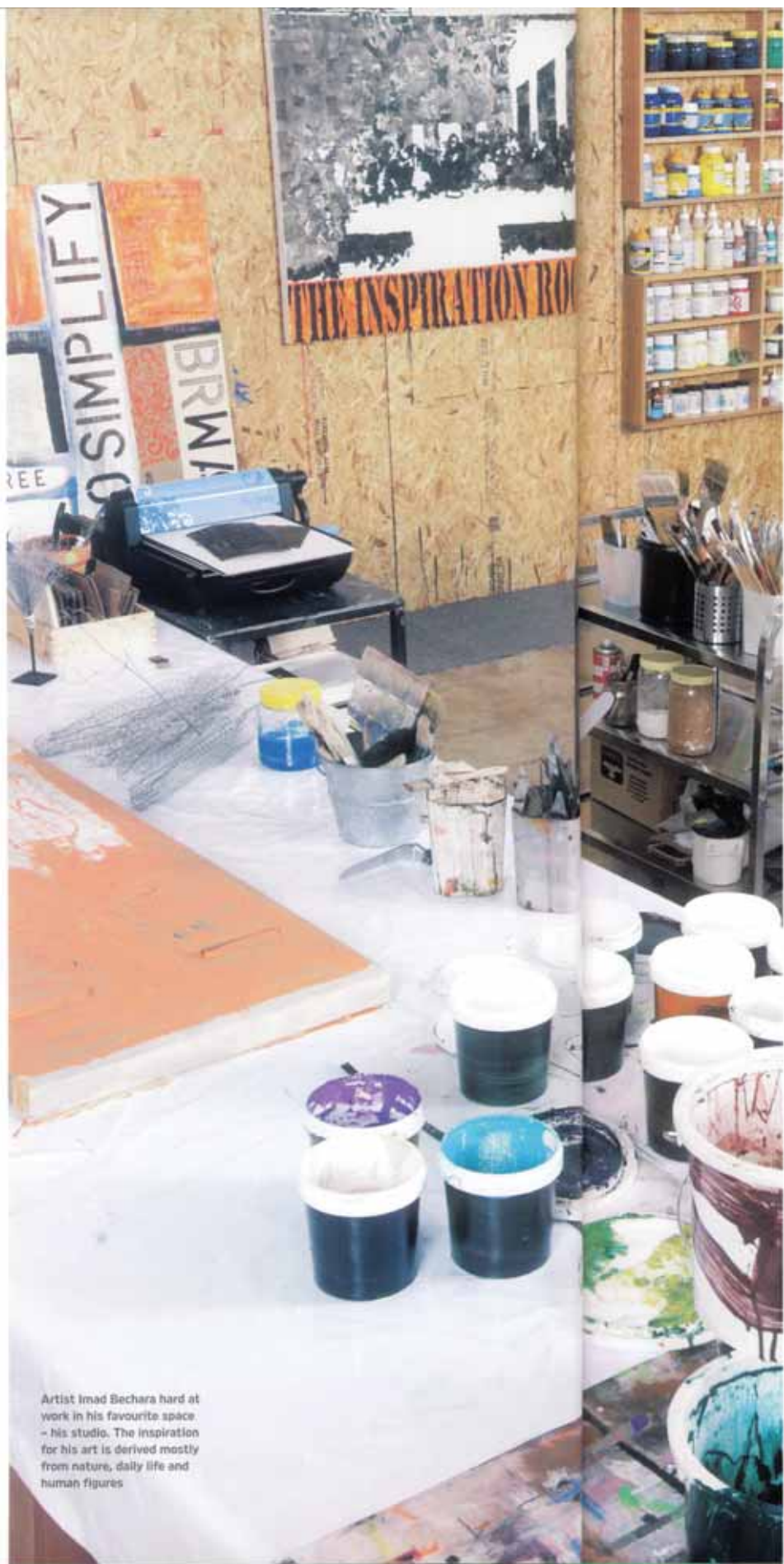
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On one of the Green Community's quieter streets is a glass door, which appears to lead to nowhere special, until you push it open and are left gaping at a 4,000-square-foot space bristling with abstract and figurative art. Welcome to Dubai-based artist, Imad Bechara's home away from home, a space that shows his passion for all things creative.

Imad is a successful Interiors expert, known not just for his clever design but also for creating distinct atmospheres and specific environments. This premise spills into his studio space as well, a bohemian enclave filled with furniture that has been chosen, not for its provenance, but by Imad's eye for spotting potential in the humblest of objects. As he explains, "Quite a few of the pieces were lying around, some of them sitting in my warehouse for years, but here, they somehow all fit." And beautifully. A large farmhouse-style table, sourced locally, lends an air of familial cosiness, an Omani chest holds files and an even more generously proportioned cupboard adds warmth.

Because of the mammoth proportions of the space, rendered even more spacious thanks to soaring ceilings, large pieces are key. This fact is especially referenced by an oversized sofa that seems to engulf whoever sits on it. This is where his three children, Dalia, Dominic and Noura, huddle to watch television. The warehouse has been laid out in a series of vignettes - an entryway, a living area, a study, a galley kitchen, a bar, a reading nook and, of course, his spectacular studio space. The concrete floor with a glossy, epoxy top coat is particularly eye-catching.

Imad's mother was a painter, his father an antiques expert and his brother a photographer, so creativity courses through his veins. His work has been exhibited in a number of galleries in the Middle East, the Gulf and Europe, and is owned by members of the royal families of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Bahrain. ■



Artist Imad Bechara hard at work in his favourite space - his studio. The inspiration for his art is derived mostly from nature, daily life and human figures







THE LIVING AREA

A Marina Interiors velvet sofa anchors this space with coconut shell lamps on either side. A coffee table from Spain holds Imad's collection of art books as well as a piece of wood from Thailand that was originally used to carry rice bags by farmers. Two silvered, handmade trays by Artisanat of Lebanon add a traditional touch. The background artwork is made by Imad by pasting cut-out cardboard letters.

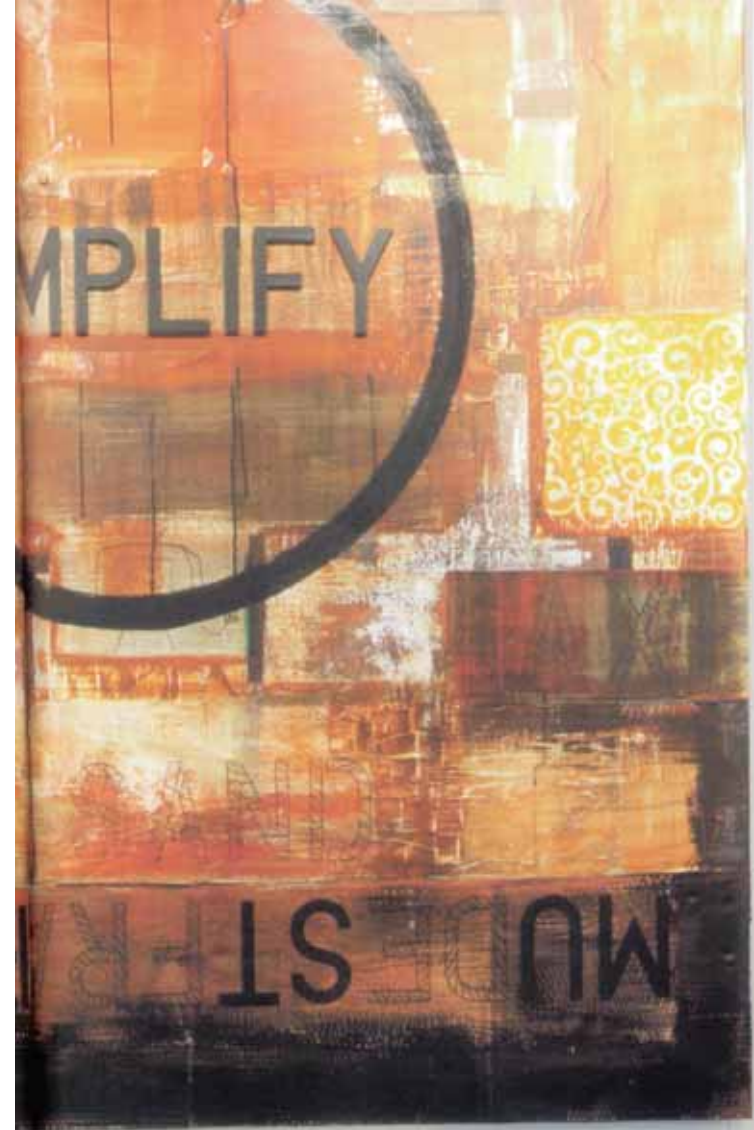




EXTRA SEATING AREA

Imad's ability to fuse diverse materials can be witnessed here. A set of papier mâché cubes form quirky pouffes. On the wall is a mixed media painting where multiple layers of paper were pasted on a canvas. An African tribal figure mounted on sandstone sits on the floor.







THE BAR

Designed by the artist himself, the bar is made from a curved piece of wood that was sprayed with matt, white paint and topped with a piece of glass. A series of artworks, created during Imad's time spent recently in Austria, sit behind the bar along with some pieces of wood embellished with Arabesque style relief work in oils, made by his mother



LOUNGE & DINING AREA
A mobile with family pictures clipped on to it hangs over an old farmhouse-style table, next to which is iron and wood shelving that holds Imad's quirky collection of travel objects - two daggers from Laos, an antique Omani necklace, and a handmade, copper bell from Austria, which Imad inherited from his Austrian wife's aunt. A collection of stingray skins from Bali are also displayed

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