

# ALFA DESIGN AWARDS 2020

A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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INNOVATION AND  
SUSTAINABILITY

# DECIDUOUS PAVILION

MEAN\* (Middle East  
Architecture Network), Dubai



**Dubai-based architect and entrepreneur Riyad Joucka** is a radical thinker: as founder of MEAN\*, he deploys cutting-edge digital technologies to come up with innovative solutions to environmental and social challenges. Serious stuff, then, but his Deciduous 3D Printed Pavilion – built in front of the Dubai International Finance Center to mark its Art Nights event – is also a thing of joy. It’s intended to represent autumn, and to ponder what this season means in today’s climate-challenged world.

The pavilion’s abstracted botanical form, through which visitors are invited to wander, recalls the snaking branches of a tree, with the head of each branch turning orange to symbolise the colour of autumn leaves. This arresting design is a showcase for 3D printing technology, a dazzling new prospect that promises to transform architecture both in terms of aesthetics and the reduction of material waste. MEAN\* has conducted a number of experiments in the field, and here, it chose three sustainable finishes: concrete, birch plywood and 30,000 recycled plastic water bottles, which were converted into a polymer substance and used to construct the forest of branches. The result is an intelligent design that both surprises and delights.

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PHOTOS: MAARO