

Riyad Joucka

Architect and researcher in Dubai, founder of MEAN* (Middle East Architecture Network).

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MEAN*, Dubai Design District (d3), Building 6, Office 105 A, Dubai, UAE

Biography

Riyad Joucka is an architect and researcher based in Dubai. In 2016 he founded MEAN* (Middle East Architecture Network), a practice that uses computation and digital fabrication to design for the climate and culture of each place. Built projects include Repeat Wellness Club in Barcelona and The Migrant Kitchen in New York. MEAN* was named in ArchDaily's Best New Practices in 2024, and he is in AD100 2026: The Debuts. At Zayed University he teaches and holds a research fellowship in practice. At TED in Dubai in 2025 he argued for homes designed around the people who live in them.

Practice

2016–Present	MEAN* (Middle East Architecture Network), Dubai Founder And Principal Architect
2017	SHoP Architects, New York Architect
2015	Woods Bagot, New York and Sydney Architect
2014	FR-EE, New York and Mexico City Architect
2013	Front, Hong Kong Facade Consultant
2012	University of Hong Kong Fab Lab Manager And Lecturer

Education

MArch	Architectural Association School of Architecture, London Emergent Technologies And Design, With Distinction
BArch	Carleton University, Ottawa Architecture, With Distinction

Teaching And Research

2022–Present	Zayed University, College of Arts and Creative Enterprises, Dubai Assistant Professor
Present	Zayed Institute for Architecture, Heritage and Arts, Zayed University Research Fellow In Practice
2020	Live Academy, MEAL* Online Platform For Computational Design Education
2019	Apple Residency with MEAL*, Dubai AR For Designers
2018	Architecture of the Future Conference, Kyiv Curator
2014–2018	AA Visiting School Dubai Director
2016	SmartGeometry, Gothenburg
2015	WAUM Workshop, Santiago Tutor
2014	AA Visiting School Tehran Tutor
2013, 2014	AA Visiting School Shanghai
2013	AA Visiting School Petra Director
2013	AA Visiting School Penang Tutor

2012	AA Visiting School Paris Tutor
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Exhibitions

2021	Dubai Design Week
2020	The Shape of Things to Come, Dubai Design Week House 00
2020	Downtown Design, Dubai
2019	Art Nights, DIFC, Dubai Deciduous
2018	Dubai Design Week Audi Innovation Hub
2017	Amman Design Week ARID
2015	Accelerating Processes, AA Visiting School Dubai, A4, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai
2015	AA Global School Program, Architectural Association, London
2012	Detour, Wan Chai, Hong Kong Shell Star By MATSYS, With Riyad Joucka
2012	AA Annual Show, Architectural Association, London

Talks

2025	TED, Dubai Reimagining Traditional Architecture For Modern Needs
2025	Culture Summit Abu Dhabi The Rise Of AI In Creative Industries, Panel
2022	Foster + Partners Talk On MEAN* And MEAL*
2020	PAM, Kuala Lumpur Additive Manufacturing In Construction, Lecture
2020	Teulo Talks Interview
2019	Indian Institute of Architects, Thrissur Talk
2018	Burda Festival, Abu Dhabi Talk
2018	Dubai Future Foundation Pioneer Series, Lecture

Recognition

2026	AD100 2026: The Debuts, AD Middle East Riyad Joucka
2026	FRAME Awards 2026, Wellness Space of the Year, Shortlist Repeat Wellness Club
2026	Architizer A+Awards 2026, Special Mention MEAN*
2025	CID Awards 2025, Interior Design of the Year: Retail, Highly Commended MEAN*
2024	ArchDaily's Best New Practices MEAN*
2020	AD Middle East Design Awards 2020, Winner, Innovation and Sustainability Deciduous

2020	AD Middle East Designer of the Year, Nominee Riyad Joucka
2020	USM Design Competition, Winner Co-Cross
2019	ICON Design 100, 2018/19

Built Work

2026	Repeat Wellness Club, Barcelona
2025	Send Location, Dubai
2022	Le Monde d'Hermès Kiosk, Dubai
2022	The Migrant Kitchen, New York
2021	Luminescents, Dubai
2021	LATE Floor Lamp, Dubai
2020	Mawj, Dubai
2019	Deciduous, Dubai
2019	Tutuncka 2.0, Dubai, Prototype
2018	Audi Innovation Hub, Dubai
2017	ARID, Amman
2012	Shell Star, Hong Kong, MATSYS With Riyad Joucka

Research

Reimagining Traditional Architecture For Modern Needs TED, Dubai, 2025
Additive Dialogues Interview Series With Prof. Adina Hempel, Zayed University Fellowship
The Adaptive Majlis Research Fellowship In Practice, Zayed Institute for Architecture, Heritage and Arts, Zayed University
Assembled Identities: Variation Within Systems Curatorial Proposal For The National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates, 20th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, 2027
Permutable Assembly Proposal For The National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates, 19th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, 2025
MEAL* (Middle East Architecture Lab) The Research Arm Of MEAN*

Press

2026	Elle Decor Italia · AD Spain · AD Middle East · FRAME · ArchDaily · Cairo Scene
2025	GQ, September Issue · Commercial Interior Design · YUNG Magazine · ArchDaily
2024	ArchDaily
2022	Parametric Architecture
2021	World Architecture · INHERITAGE · Identity · Commercial Interior Design · The National · designboom · Design Milk
2020	AD Middle East · CNN Arabic · Le grand livre de l'impression 3D · La Vie · FRAME · CNN Style
2019	ICON · AD Middle East · World Architecture · The National
2017	Forbes · Dezeen · Monocle, Section D
2013	Monocle, Section D · ICON
2012	International Conference on Flexible Formwork