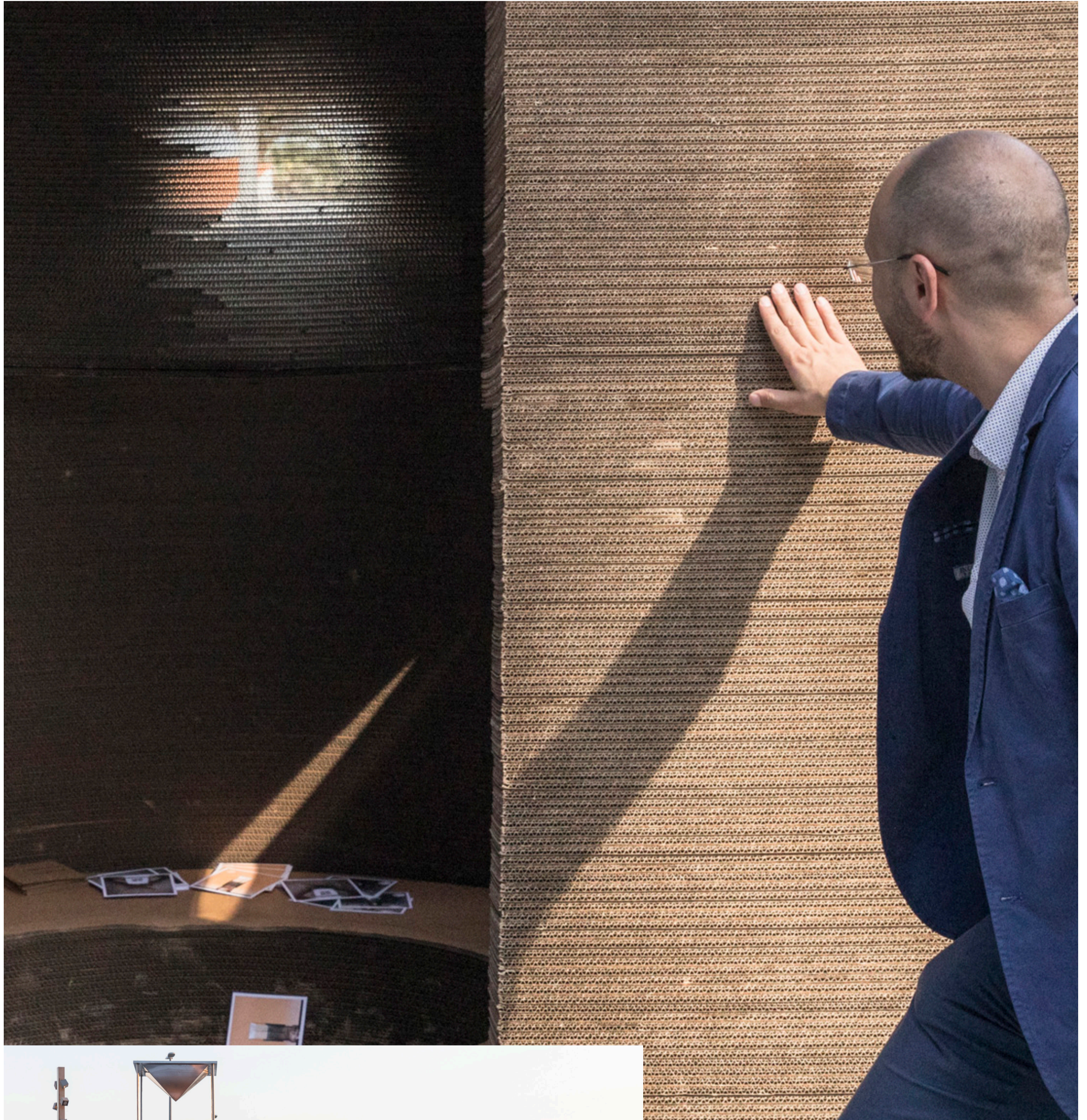


# ARTS & CULTURE

## Hot stuff caresses cool breeze at Dubai Design Week



**DUBAI:** Istanbul-based MAS Architecture Studio's design Barjeel was exhibited at Dubai Design District (d3) during this year's Dubai Design Week, the fifth edition of the largest creative festival in the Middle East. Barjeel is an architectural installation inspired by the iconic wind towers of the Gulf region which have been used for centuries as passive cooling devices. Through geometric abstraction and the use of readily available recycled cardboard and aluminum, the installation re-interprets the traditional wind tower while creating a cool place of rest and contemplation for visitors.

The interior is conceived as a carved void that transforms from a circle at the base to a square on top as a reference to the simple geometric forms used widely in Islamic architecture. The resulting space is a three-dimensional volume

✦ *The Barjeel stands in solitary splendour at Dubai Design Week.*

that allows collective seating at street level with maximum exposure to natural light and prevailing winds at the top.

Cooling breezes are funneled down to the seating area below via the windcatcher, and natural light filters through the top and side recesses to create a passively cooled, shaded space with lighting qualities that change through the day.

At night, the structure is illuminated through an array of LED strips embedded in the layers of cardboard, producing the effect of a solid

structure that seemingly emanates light from within.

The installation brought attention to the spatial and performative qualities of a vernacular typology while creating a place of rest and contemplation for the visitors of d3. The archetypal wind tower is reinterpreted as an abstract form made of layers of locally sourced, pre-cut, recycled cardboard, a cross-shaped "windcatcher", made of 0.3 mm thick sheets of brushed aluminum and structural posts embedded into the cardboard layers at each corner to ensure structural stability.

In the predominantly horizontal native landscape of the Gulf, the verticality of the traditional wind towers can be considered an architectural characteristic that finely meanders the dichotomy between pure functionality and

✦ *A visitor tests the material Barjeel is made of.*

pure symbolism. With first examples dating back to 3100 BCE, the wind tower emerged through the necessity of funneling cool high winds to and exhausting hot air from the level of urban habitation. Over time, however, it became a highly prominent feature of the urban landscape, much more articulate and symbolic in its expression.

As a result, Barjeel is simultaneously an artifact of the attempt to create a sustainable coexistence with one's natural habitat and their aspiration to surpass its limitations through symbolic meaning.

Through its geometric abstraction, use of readily available, reusable materials and performative environmental qualities, Barjeel is an installation that seeks to exploit the rich spatial qualities of the vernacular typology of which it is named after, while making tangible its performative relationship to natural elements on a personal scale.

As such, in response to contemporary urban form making that is largely generated through the characteristic of verticality, the proposal aims to offer a standpoint where architecture can be considered neither as mere utility nor pure ornament, but as a synthesis that has the potential to instrumentalise both.

The wind catchers, prevailing wind and directs it to the rooms below though vertical shafts. The tower were angled at 45 degree to prevailing wind maximise air volumes captured. Cool clean air is captured at a high level and

driven down to ventilate hot interiors. Which are squared design and 5-8 metres above the roof level, represents the main decorative feature of the house.

Barjeel is produced in partnership with Metal Yapı Holding, Kasso Engineering, Tepta Lighting, Advanced Engineered Solutions (AES), ALEC Engineering and Contracting LLC.

Kerim Miskavi is the founder and design lead of MAS (Miskavi Architecture Studio). It is an innovative architectural practice established in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2017. Prior to founding his own architectural practice, Miskavi received his education from Rice University in USA, and gained over five years of professional experience at award-winning international architecture offices such as SO-IL and Mitchell|Giurgola Architects in New York, USA and Herzog & De Meuron in Basel, Switzerland.

Derya Tezel is MAS Managing Director. Tezel earned her professional Bachelor of Architecture degree from Illinois Institute of Technology with a minor in Structural Engineering. Upon graduation, she worked for JAHN, formerly known as CF Murphy Associates, one of the pioneers of the Chicago School of Architecture and Perkins + Will, one of the leading interdisciplinary design firms worldwide, celebrated especially for its focus on innovation and sustainability.

She was a key member of the design teams for several globally recognised projects with various scales and programmes, including the Chicago O'Hare Airport Renovation and the 600 North Fairbanks Residential Tower at JAHN and Dubai Towers Istanbul and King Saud University at Perkins+Will.

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