

AD

MIDDLE EAST
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST • GENIUS DESIGNS • INSPIRING ART • LUXURIOUS HOMES

30

Ultra-stylish
sofas and
chairs

SHEIKHA
LATEEFA BINT
MAKTOUM

PRINCESS
DEENA
ALJUHANI
ABDULAZIZ

SHEIKHA
LULU
AL-SABAH

on style,
art and
design

WORLD
EXCLUSIVE
LOUVRE
ABU DHABI
COLLECTION
UNVEILED

ROYAL Allure

Middle Eastern and European monarchs reveal their spectacular palaces

ISSN 2409-5643
05
9 772409 964005
BRO 3 QMR 30 NOV 15 OMR 3 SAE 30 AED 30



a noble ATTITUDE

EVERYTHING WAS RUNNING SMOOTHLY in the office when my phone suddenly rings. On location, one of our stylists calls to update me on how things are going on a house shoot slated to be published in one of our future editions. And this typical Dubai villa is everything you could dream of: luminous, modern and with a paradisiac sea view. To the eyes of the common observer there's no doubt that the property ticked all boxes. "But there's a kind of an issue", confides our stylist in a whisper.

The issue turned out to be a really big issue. In almost every room there were knockoffs of great classics, from the Eames lounge to Fritz Hansen's egg chair. The design heaven was, in fact, a copycat hell and I immediately asked our team to end the shoot. Funnily enough this embarrassing situation came up while we were working on our first ever Royal Issue, an edition dedicated to extreme beauty, craftsmanship, luxury and nobility. As the worldwide leading design publication, *Architectural Digest* has a responsibility to promote real creativity and, therefore, we don't endorse copies or publish projects that showcase this cancer of our industry. In order to generate awareness to this serious issue that heavily affects our regional market, we are preparing a special report to be published in January. There's nothing more regal - in life and in design - than being honest.

Our Royal Issue proved to be one of the most fulfilling projects I have ever worked on. Although we arrived in the Middle East only eight months ago, we were granted the privilege to interact closely with European and Middle Eastern royals, known for being extremely private. A big thank you to the Earl and Countess of Durham, Count Giordano Emo, Princess Deena Aljuhani Abdulaziz, Sheikha Lateefa bint Maktoum and Sheikha Lulu Al-Saba for the generosity of choosing our magazine to showcase their beautiful palatial homes and to exchange ideas on interior design and art. Also a note of appreciation to the Louvre Abu Dhabi team that also collaborated with us on the worldwide exclusive preview of their collection. With a deep feeling of accomplishment we couldn't ask for a better way to finish our first year.

Manuel Arnaut

Manuel Arnaut
Editor-in-Chief
Follow me on instagram @MrArnaut



- 1. Parfums de Voyage candles, L'Objet
- 2. Quartz screen by Chahan Minassian
- 3. Maharadja Chair, Baker at Obegi Home

Venetian LEGACY

Magnificent and charismatic, Villa Emo Capodilista
is an invitation to journey through time

Words KARINE MONIÉ



The design of **Villa Emo Capodilista** is based on a square plan, which reflects a perfect symmetry





Count Giordano Emo strives to continue a long tradition of wine production

Opposite: The loggias are the perfect place to enjoy the sublime landscape

If walls could talk, the ones from Villa Emo Capodilista would tell us thousands of stories. Everything started in the 8th century when the Capodilista family came with Charlemagne to the Veneto region, in Italy, to fight against the last Lombard King. From this period on, the Capodilista family became the lords of Padua whereas the Emo family governed the neighbouring town of Venice for several years. Thanks to the alliance between the two families, this grandiose house, which offers unobstructed views of the exquisite gardens and countryside, has been owned by the same dynasty for centuries.

Located on the top of a hill, nine kilometres from Padua and 55 from Venice, the eye-catching villa is not only a tribute to the past but is also a piece of heaven, perfectly in tune with the surrounding landscape. Built in 1568 as a hunting lodge, it continues to reflect the Venetian splendour of its origins. With a square plan and according to a perfect symmetry by painter and architect Dario Varotari, Villa Emo Capodilista has several fascinating particularities. For example, its four sides – including the front of the house – are identical and host loggias across two floors. Each facade is oriented towards a cardinal point and has its own staircase, which merges with the three other ones inside the palace, in a cross-like shape.

As you enter the villa, the influence of master Veronese, from whom Dario Varotari was the disciple, stands out. Architectural magnificence, delicate materials, tapestries with historical value, stunning trompe-l'oeil and antiques are just some of the singular elements of this house. In every corner, Mannerist frescoes and artworks represent mythological scenes or refer to the family history.

Spread across 800 square metres, the interior space includes six bedrooms, whose names are inspired by the illustrations that appear on the frescoes and on the vaults. Among them are the “Muses bedroom”, the “Five Paintings bedroom” and the “Villas bedroom” in reference to the material possessions of the family. The “Vineyard bedroom” evokes the history of wine production of the property, which goes back to the 16th century. The current owner of Villa Emo Capodilista who actually lives in a castle opposite, Count Giordano Emo, keeps this tradition alive: “This land is particularly good thanks to a mild climate, the volcanic character of the slopes of the hills and the proximity to the sea. I like to describe our region as ‘the south of the north’, a land which produces great wines with Mediterranean touches”, he says. Overall, the vineyard occupies 45 hectares and more than half of the production is exported.

A few privileged people – up to 12 at a time – can rent the house during the summer through *Ville in Italia*. For those who do not have that chance, it is possible to visit this architectural gem during the winter. Either way, this unique place reveals the true meaning of “la dolce vita”.



The grandiose house offers unobstructed views of the exquisite gardens

Built in 1568 as a hunting lodge, Villa Emo Capodilista continues to reflect the Venetian splendour of its origins





This 800-square metre **palace** can easily accommodate up to 12 people



The original **decorative elements** were preserved thanks to the fact that the house has belonged to the same family for the past five centuries. Opposite: The sumptuous **decor** reveals the history of the two families who lived in this house. Traditional style furniture and accessories create a cosy and classic ambiance



In every
corner,
Mannerist
frescoes and
artworks
represent
mythological
scenes or
refer to the
family
history



Tapestries with great historical value, stunning trompe-l'œil and antiques are some of the singular elements of this house





Painter, sculptor and architect **Dario Varotari** had a major influence in the property. His legacy was preserved over the centuries