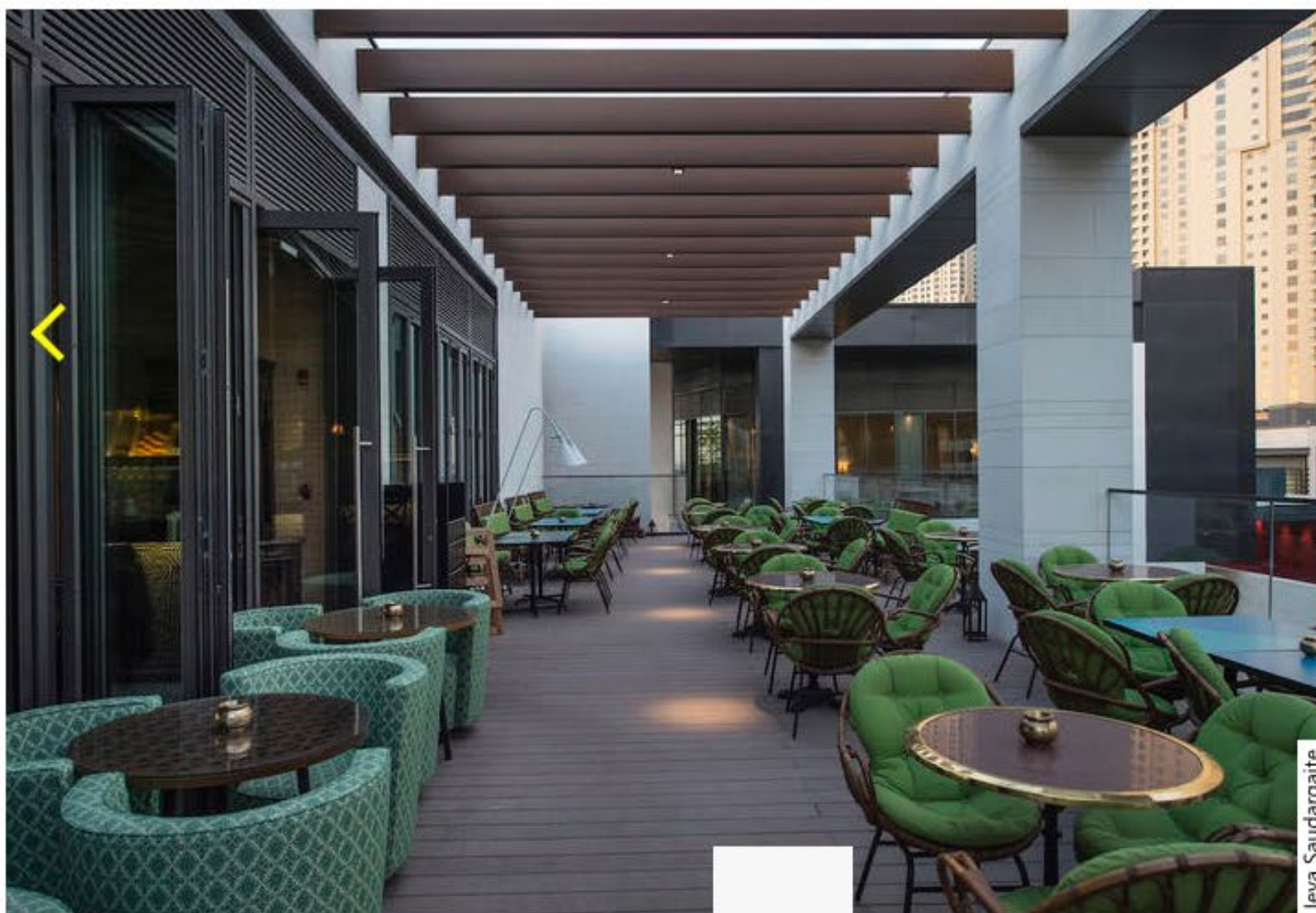


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ALMAZ BY MOMO: NORTH AFRICAN CUISINE IN DUBAI

A new restaurant with a warm Moroccan interior in United Arab Emirates. A project by Architect Annabel Karim Kassar



THE TERRACE OF THE RESTAURANT ON THE SECOND FLOOR. THE PROJECT IS BY ANNABEL KARIM KASSAR, AND IS LOCATED AT THE HOTEL JUMAIRAH BEACH RESORT IN DUBAI

Almaz by Momo is AKK studio's latest project. Focused in recent years on creating an architectural space that allows its inhabitants to witness modern structures and ornamental elements coexisting organically, AKK used cutting edge technology to create kinetic ceilings that put together craftsman century-long techniques and new projects. The studio frees its architecture from having to choose between conviviality and aesthetic rigor. Design is more a process than a style.

Located in the suggestive Jumeirah Beach Resort. Its furnishings and textiles were chosen in **colours that complement the sun, sky and sea**.

Kassar has designed the venue on two levels, with the ground floor restaurant dominated by a vast **terrace overlooking the sea**. A mirror staircase leads to a further café/restaurant and shisha lounge, which is characterized by an elaborate **wooden tree sculpture** rising from the floor and across the ceiling.

«After making the necessary technical details and models to simulate the positioning of the axis, the assembly was entirely made in the traditional way» says the architect Karim Kassar.

Referencing the wide-open space of the terrace below, the tree sculpture gives a sense of being sheltered by its branches while enjoying the outdoors. After producing a series of technical drawings and precise scale models, AKK commissioned a master carpenter to complete the installation.

«One of the key elements of the interior of the new Almaz is the Zellige, **wall cladding made as a mosaic**, using the typical Moroccan tiles» she adds.

Early visitors to the restaurant have praised Almaz's effortless blend of modern Arabic cuisine with a **warm Moroccan interior**, maximizing the view of the beach while offering a bold and extravagant contrast to the coastline with rich pattern and colour.

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