

الفارس العربي

# ARABIAN KNIGHT

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2002

**BASEM SOBHI AL-SHIHABI**  
Knight of Architecture

**ABDULLAH AL MUHARRAQI**  
Royal painter

**SHAIKHA HUSSAH SABAH AL-SALEM AL-SABAH**  
Priceless ambition

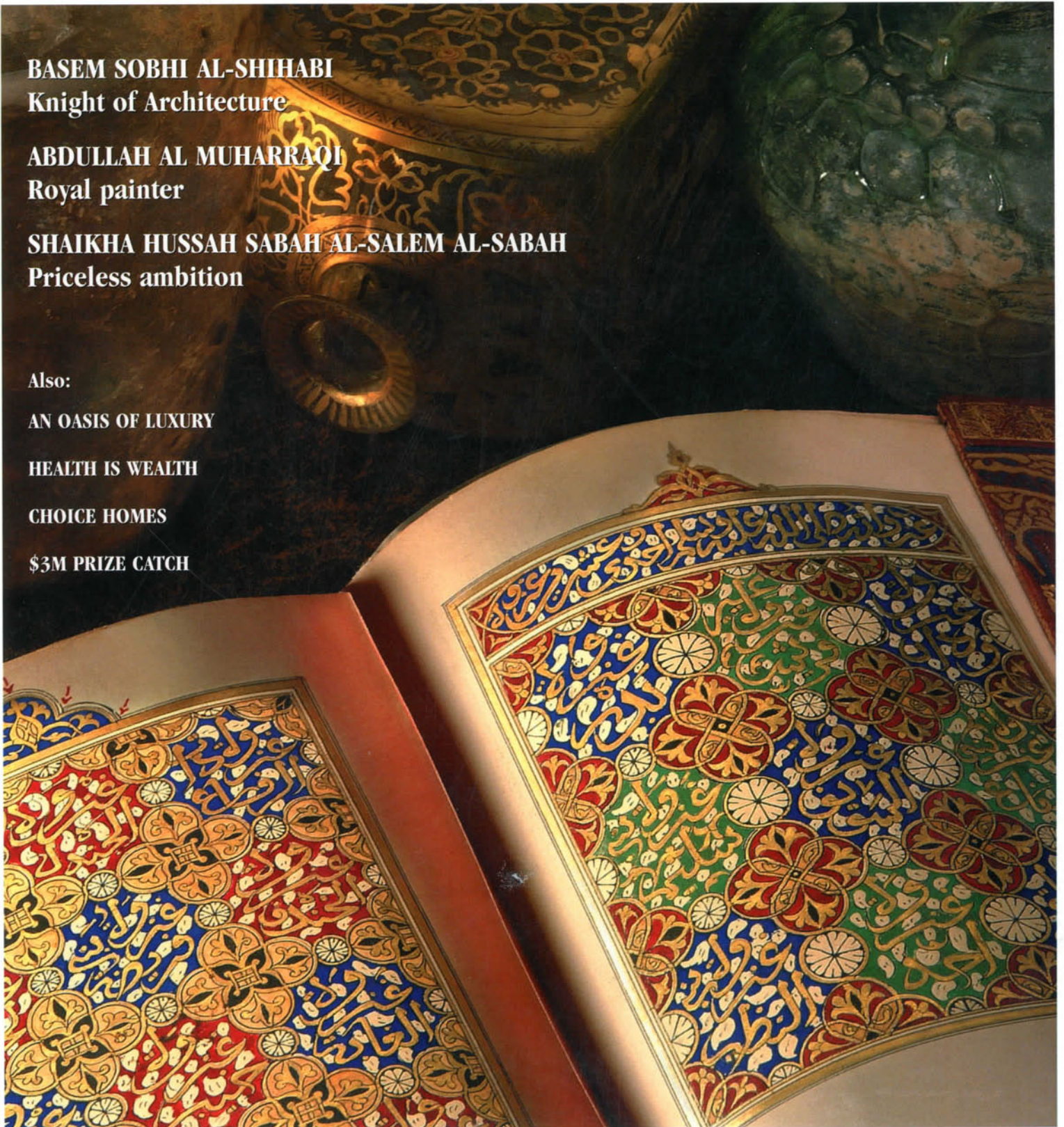
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# Aviation

*The double-decker A380-800, the ultimate super-jumbo aircraft still to take to the skies, has caught the interest of a private Middle Eastern buyer.*



# A private A380

The still-to-fly humongous Airbus A380-800 capable of carrying 550 passengers and 150 tonnes of cargo quite literally belittles the Boeing 747 jumbos privately used by HM King Fahad of Saudi Arabia and US President George Bush.

At present on order by leading international airlines - including launch customer Emirates in addition to Qatar Airways - the \$120million super A380 boasts an upper deck that stretches the full length of the fuselage and an overall interior bigger than the terminals of some Third World international airports.

For the past year the brief to prepare interior designs for a private A380-800 to meet every exacting requirement - perhaps down to the last gold tap - of a private Middle East client have been on the drawing boards of a New York-based specialist firm headed by designer Edese Doret Jr.

If dedicated solely to a VIP and his entourage the A380-800 will redefine the boundaries of jet-setting comfort in the lofty worlds of the globes richest men.

Doret discreetly admits the project excites them "as well as the client" and provides "an opportunity to work in a part of the world that we enjoy and with people that we respect and admire. Their sense of style and eye for design fuels our effort."

Fitting out the interior of a much smaller "green" jet can cost \$10million plus once the demanding needs of discerning owners are met, for these at times range from Louis XIV antiques to marble and gold bathroom fittings, from palatial majjlis to medical-care facilities.

The price of fitting out the huge A380-800 at a guesstimate could be two or three times more for

*The luxury of  
space in an A380  
main salon  
designed for  
commercial use.*



there are outline interior plans for a main deck comprising a large entrance, spacious salon, plus a conference and dining area while at the rear there is also a large galley with staff seating in the aft.

Meanwhile the cavernous upper deck accessed via a grand stairway includes an owner's stateroom in addition to two guest suites while a family room plus a dining room are designated aft in the upper galley.

The pressurised lower deck - the cargo hold on a normal airliner - would basically turn a private A380 into a three deck aircraft, with potential for a mixture of working space and for cargo.

Doret's professional pedigree identifies with an impressive list of completed projects including the interiors of two 747s, a Boeing 767 and an Airbus A319CJ.

"We believe design is more than just the artful placement of item, image, text and sound," he says. "The ultimate success will be determined by

the extent to which design meets or exceeds the client's needs, and because our focus is design, we have the freedom to match the needs of the project to the best technology and the best fabricator.

"A second advantage is youth generating innovative ideas through new eyes, making new connections and not stifling creativity. Thirdly being a small company every associate of Edese Doret Industrial Design has a personal interest in completing the project on schedule and within budget." ■

*A grand stairway leads from the entrance to a cavernous upper deck.*

