



QANTARA

From Arch to Art

THE MAMLUK AND ISLAMIC MOVEMENT

ABOUT THE *Designer*



RIYA GULYANI an aspiring Interior designer pursuing M.Sc. Interior Design from AAFT, With a strong passion for Interior and furniture design with a focus on creating spaces that seamlessly blend aesthetics, functionality and craftsmanship.

THANK YOU
FOR
JOINING US
ON THIS
JOURNEY
THROUGH
LEBANON'S
DESIGN
HERITAGE.

GRADUATION PROJECT | 2025





QANTARA

القنطرة

“Arch” or “Bridge”| symbolize connection, transition, or a link between spaces, cultures, or eras.

Inspired by the timeless beauty of architectural arches, Qantara brings Mamluk grace into the modern era



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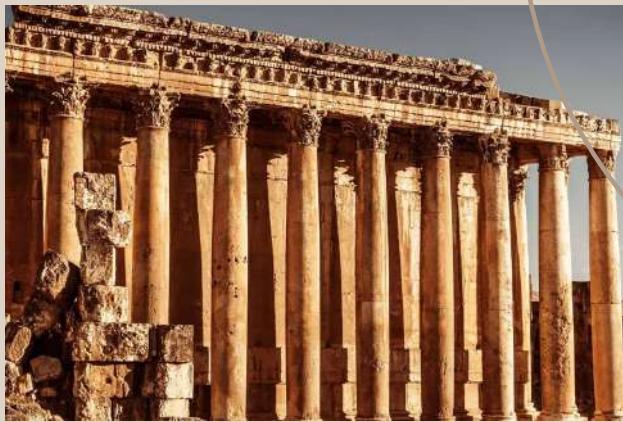
LEBANON



THE MAMLUK AND ISLAMIC MOVEMENT

Lebanon is a country in the Levant region of the Middle East, known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse history, and artistic legacy. Positioned at the crossroads of civilisations, Lebanon has been influenced by Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic, Mamluk, Ottoman, and French cultures. Its art and architecture reflect this unique blend, making it one of the most historically significant nations in the region.





A CULTURAL ODYSSEY



CRAFT & HANDWORK

The woven pattern reflects Lebanon's artisanal legacy, showcasing vibrant traditional crafts passed through generations.



CUISINE

The array of colorful dishes—like hummus, falafel, kibbeh, and tabbouleh—celebrates Lebanon's world-famous cuisine that emphasises sharing, generosity, and freshness.



TRADITIONAL ATTIRE & HOSPITALITY

The costumes and woman serving coffee highlight Lebanese hospitality culture and pride in traditional dress, often worn in festive or ceremonial contexts.



NATIONAL IDENTITY

The Lebanese flags being waved symbolise patriotism and unity, especially in the face of adversity.



FOLKLORE & DANCE

Dabke dancers represent joy, community, and rhythm, often performed during weddings and celebrations.

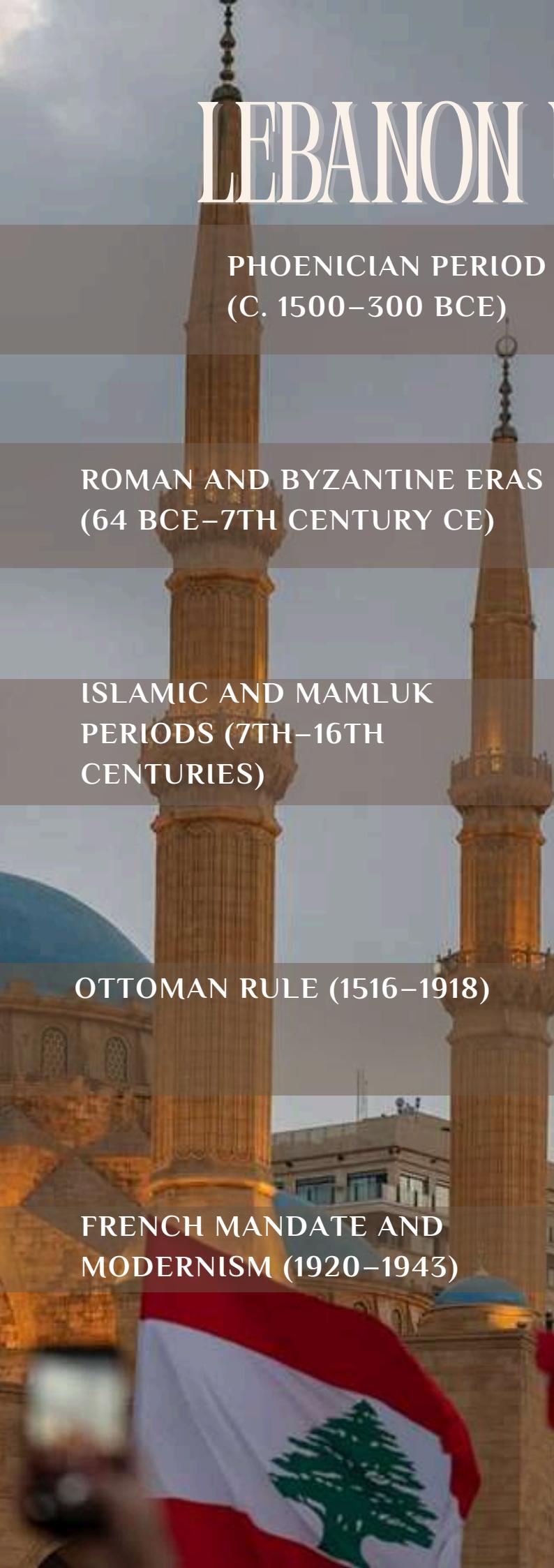


CEDAR OF LEBANON

Cedar wood holds deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance in Lebanon, symbolizing strength, resilience, and national pride.



LEBANON UNVEILED



PHOENICIAN PERIOD (C. 1500–300 BCE)

ROMAN AND BYZANTINE ERAS (64 BCE–7TH CENTURY CE)

ISLAMIC AND MAMLUK PERIODS (7TH–16TH CENTURIES)

OTTOMAN RULE (1516–1918)

FRENCH MANDATE AND MODERNISM (1920–1943)

The Phoenicians, being the earliest civilisations in Lebanon, were skilled craftsmen and builders. Their art included intricate jewelry, pottery, and glasswork.

Roman rule brought grand temples, colonnades, and theaters, still seen in sites like Baalbek and Tyre. Byzantine influence added churches with elaborate mosaics and religious iconography.

Islamic architecture introduced intricate geometric patterns, calligraphy, and domed structures. The Mamluks in Beirut and Tripoli built mosques, madrasas, and hammams with richly decorated woodwork.

Lebanese towns developed under Ottoman influence with arched windows, red-tiled roofs, and internal courtyards. Ottoman decorative arts also flourished, especially in textiles and woodwork.

French influence introduced Beaux-Arts and Art Deco styles, particularly in Beirut. The city saw a blend of traditional Lebanese stone houses with European elegance.



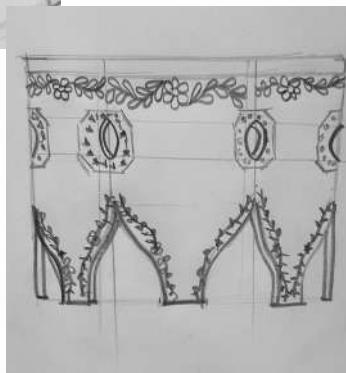
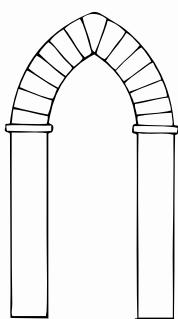
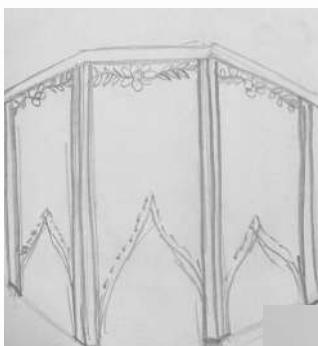
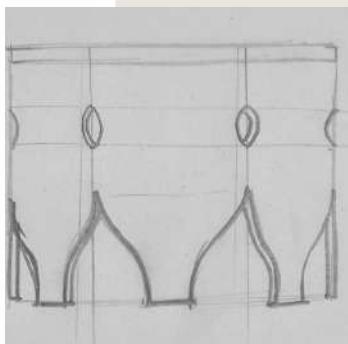
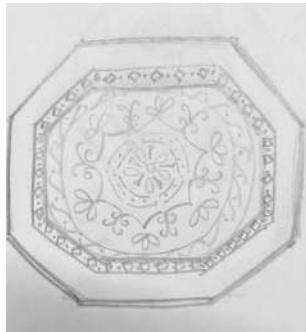
ABOUT CLIENT AND CONCEPT

Jasmeet Kaur is Real Estate Property Manager who values heritage-inspired pieces, authentic craftsmanship, and storytelling through design. She envisions a coffee table inspired by Lebanese heritage, emphasising traditional architecture and craftsmanship. The requirements included an octagonal top to reflect geometric harmony and arched legs crafted from wood or carved wood, drawing from classic design elements also. Instead of using bone inlay, they preferred painted stencils to mimic bone inlay motifs—offering an ethical, cruelty-free alternative that still captures the elegance of the original craft.



Traditional Lebanese furniture follows Islamic architectural craftsmanship by using locally sourced hardwoods, such as walnut, cedar, and beech, combined with fine inlays.

The Top of the table: Octagon shape (8 sides), The octagonal form has deep roots in Islamic geometry and is commonly found in Ottoman-era Lebanese homes. It symbolises harmony and infinity, reflecting spiritual and artistic values.



The Table legs: Pointed arch design, it resembles those found in traditional Moorish and Mamluk doorways and windows, seen in historical buildings in Lebanon.

Pointed Horseshoe arches: This type of arch is commonly found in Islamic architecture, particularly in mosques, palaces, and other buildings.

Bone-inlay Pattern: Cruelty free alternative to bone inlay by using hand painted stencils, It allows for greater flexibility in pattern customisation, reduces production time and avoids use of animal derived materials, all while maintaining the visual richness of traditional Labanese motifs.

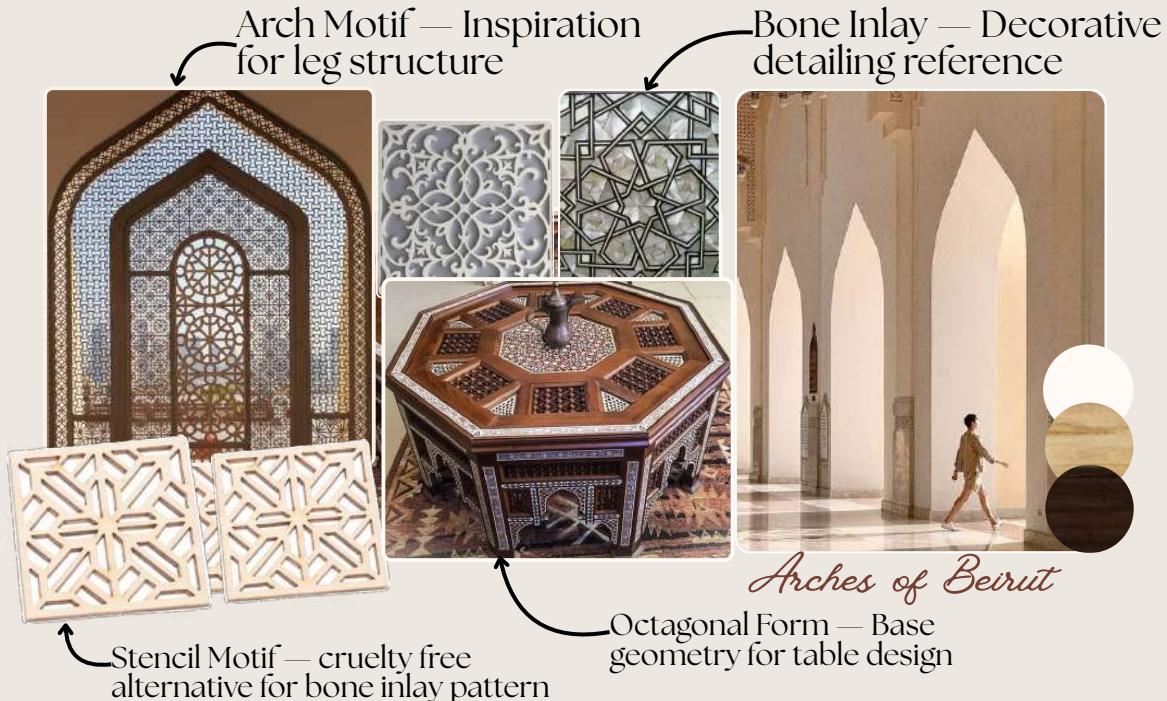
INSPIRATION BOARD



Inspiration
BOARD



MOOD BOARD



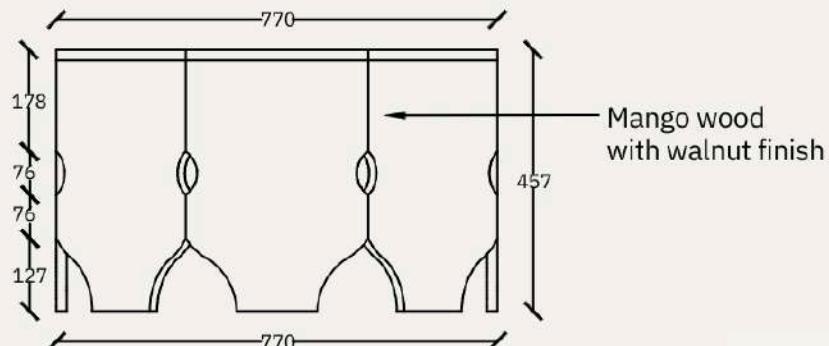
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MATERIAL BOARD

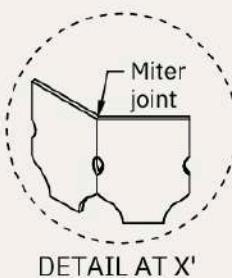


- Mango Wood (Base Material)- Chosen for its sustainability, durable, and beautifully grained hardwood.
- Dark Walnut Wood Finish- Adds depth and elegance while enhancing the traditional Lebanese aesthetic.
- White Paint (Stencil Inlay Effect)- Mimics the look of bone inlay, allowing artisanal detailing without using real bone.
- Stencil is used instead of bone-inlay pattern as atenciling avoids the use of animal materials, making the product eco-friendly and cruelty free
- Shimmer Beige Fabric- Provides a neutral yet refined background that highlights the vibrancy of the table and décor.
- Intricate floral rug- Brings warmth and cultural richness, grounding the space in classic Middle Eastern heritage.
- Brass Vase and Islamic lantern- Adds metallic accent, reflecting Lebanese and Islamic craftsmanship.

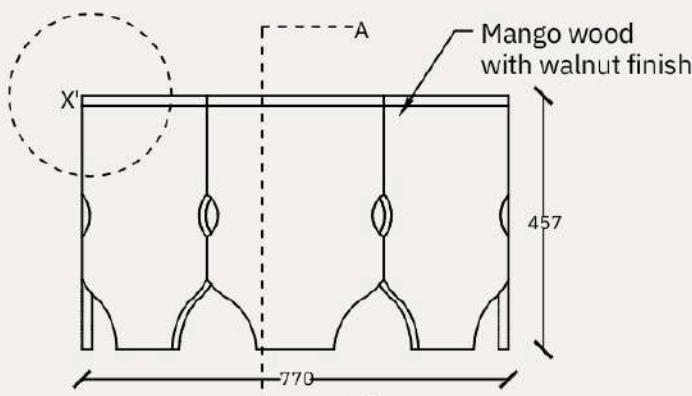
TECHNICAL DRAWING



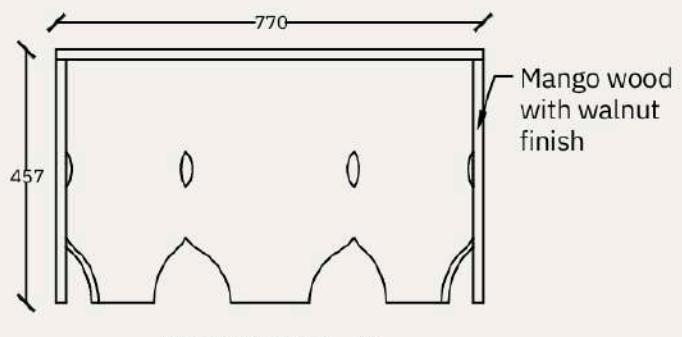
FRONT ELEVATION



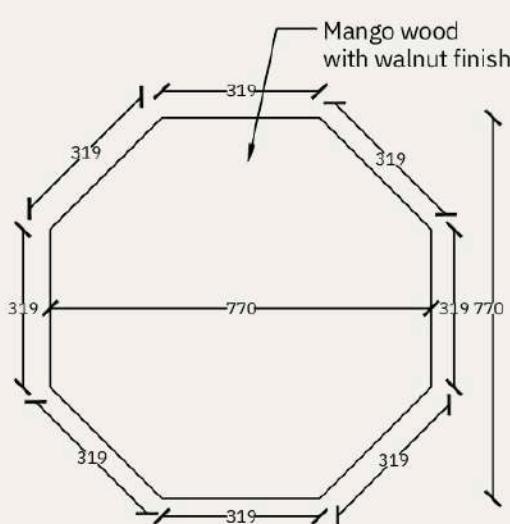
DETAIL AT X'



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A'



PLAN



3D RENDER

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3D RENDER



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MAKING

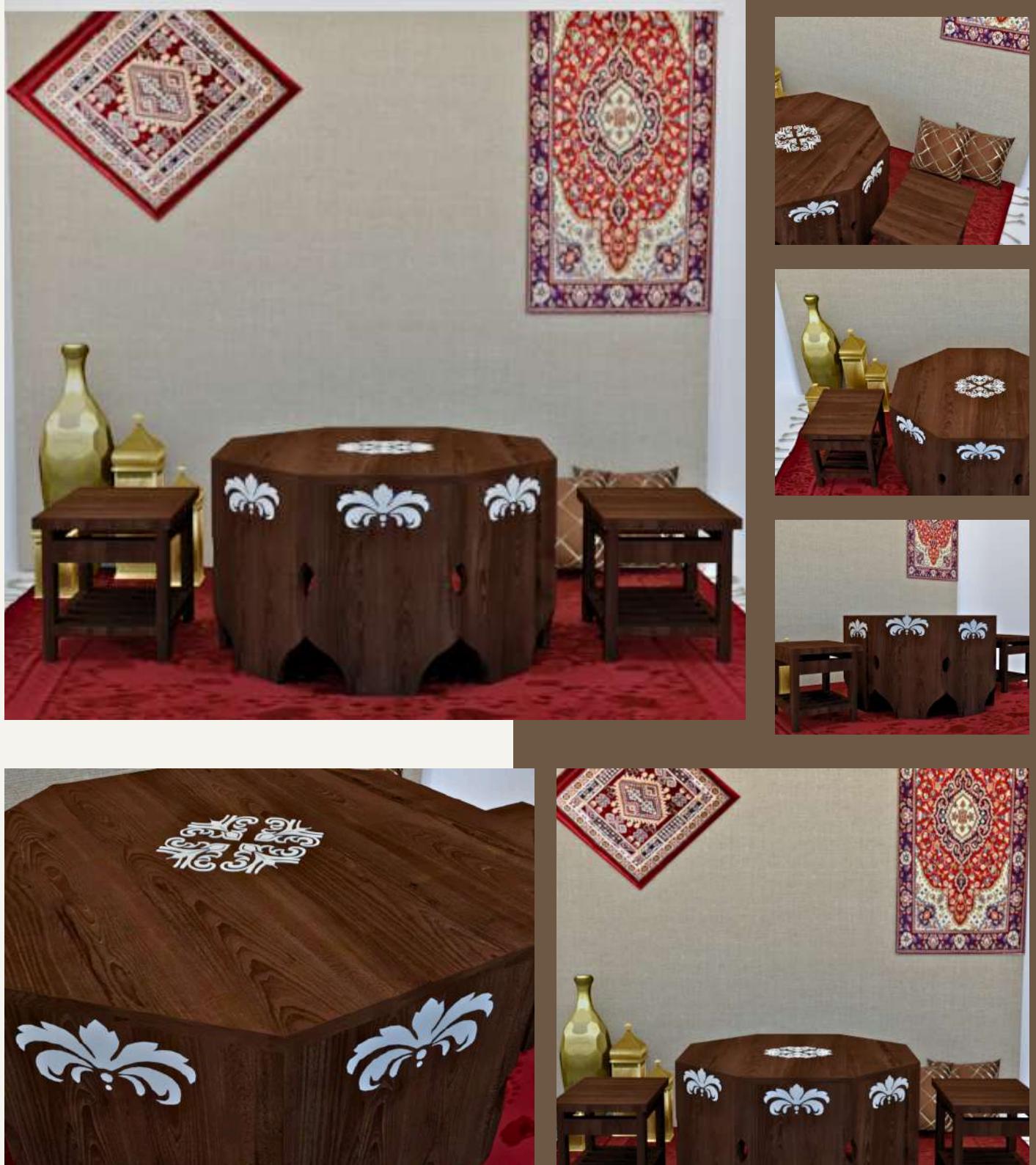


FURNITURE SHOWCASE



FURNITURE
COST- ₹24,500/-

FURNITURE SETUP & STYLING



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ACCESSORIES



BRASS VASE

Brass is a material often used in traditional Lebanese and Levantine decor. Its warm, reflective quality echoes the historical metalwork traditions of the region.



Islamic Floor Lantern

Lanterns like this are iconic in Islamic and Middle Eastern interiors. Placed near the table, it reinforces the arch and geometric themes already present in the table legs and form, creating a cohesive visual narrative.



SMALL RED CARPETS

Red is a dominant color in Middle Eastern textiles symbolising warmth, hospitality, and vibrancy. Placing these as a backdrop introduces textile layering, a key feature of Levantine interiors.



BROWN AND GOLDEN CUSHIONS

They soften the space around the table and provide a tactile contrast to the hard surface of the wood.



INTRICATE RED CARPET

The dark red base frames the octagonal table beautifully, highlighting its geometry and making it the centerpiece of the arrangement.



CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Ms. Leena Karmakara, for their invaluable guidance, consistent support, and constructive feedback throughout the development of this project. Their mentorship played a crucial role in shaping both the concept and execution of this look-book.

A special thank you to my family for their unwavering love, patience, and support during this creative journey. I am equally grateful to my friend Gursimar Kaur who stood by me, offered creative input, assisted in photoshoots, painting and believed in the vision I was striving to bring to life.

My sincere thanks also go to the talented carpenters and vendors who provided the furniture, materials and accessories that enriched the visual and cultural storytelling of the lookbook.

Lastly, I extend my deepest thanks to AAFT (Asian Academy of Film and Television) for giving me the platform to explore and express my creative vision. The opportunity to work on this project has been a significant and rewarding part of my academic journey.



