

Local



Treasures inside the Arab Fund building in Kuwait include traditional Egyptian mashrabiya, handwoven carpets, modern Arab paintings, pearl inlaid cabinets and boxes, the covering used for the Holy Kaaba and much more. These remarkable examples of art and craftsmanship highlight the talents and skills of artists and artisans from across the Arab world. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



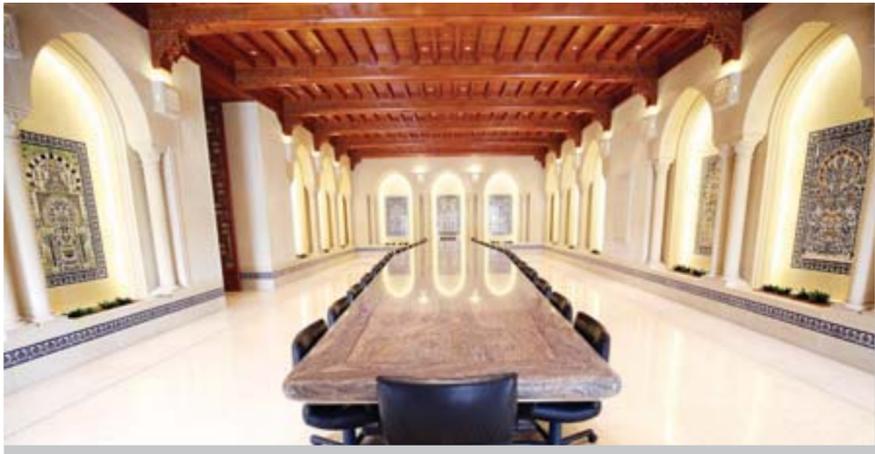
12th century Egypt. A massive inlaid table and carved mashrabiya showcase medieval Egypt's grandeur. Downstairs, the Damascene diwaniya offers Arabian comfort to visiting VIPs with a gentle bubbling water fountain and cool tiled floors. Around the corner, the Tunisian meeting room showcases the craftsmanship of Tunisian artisans with exquisite carved Tunisian stonework. A massive marble conference table reflects soft light from the Jordanian stone in the surrounding columns, arches and floors, and Moroccan cedar wood in the ceiling scents the air. The entire building is spotlessly clean, dust free and

impeccably maintained. Modular design in the furnishings allows almost any room or office to be reconfigured as needed. The atrium floor, entrances and reception areas as well as the stairwells are tiled in white and grey Italian marble.

Every detail of the building - from the cabling beneath the office floors to the light sources - has been designed with practicality, beauty and careful planning in mind. Hydroponic trees stationed in rotating planters embedded in the atrium floor can be rotated monthly toward the natural light from the one wall of windows, thus preventing the trees from growing slanted over time. Songbirds in small cages scattered throughout the atrium add a light note of nature to the atmosphere.

Islamic art and geometric patterning is carried as a theme throughout much of the building's public areas, in the art, furnishings and designs.

A modern marvel, the Arab Fund building is not only home to the best of Arab art and craftwork, but also a piece of art itself.



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