



A Man with a Vision

THE WORKS OF KARIM NADER

Karim Nader is an architect and teacher who recently founded his eponymous practice, Karim Nader Studio. While teaching at the American University of Beirut and the Lebanese American University, Nader has won a number of prizes for his work, including the Azar Award and the third prize in the Aareen Award for Excellency in Architecture. Here we talk to him about his new studio, his vision and some of most outstanding works.







*Villa Kali designed by Karim Nader
alongside Blankpage Architects,
Patrick Mezher and Walid Ghantous*







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Tell us a little about Karim Nader Studios.

I founded it in 2016. Located in Saifi, in the heart of the Beirut art scene, the studio collaborates with architects, engineers and contractors of affiliated firms to produce work of the highest quality and craft. From residential developments, resorts, to villas or interior design projects, passing by furniture or object design, all projects are given the same attention and passion. The quality of the design and its execution is the result of our 18-year experience in the local market where personal ties were built with designers, suppliers, craftspeople and fabricators.

Define your style as an interior architect.

I am interested in architectural representation and process and always emphasize the role of the designer as a passionate, engaged and responsible individual.

Tell us about a few of your projects.

From 2008 until 2016 I was part of Blankpage Architects with Patrick Mezher and Walid Ghantous. Our projects, in particular the Amchit Residence and Villa Kali, have been widely published in the international press and nominated in 2015 for the Archmarathon Award. In 2011, we were declared winners of two competitions, SEF 355 office complex in Sin el Fil commissioned by Express International as well as Triade, a multi-use project commissioned by Medproperties and M-Tower S.A.L. In 2012, we were declared by FFA Real Estate as the laureate of the Kfardebiane country club competition from a panel of twelve competing firms. In 2015, we won the Badalodge competition, a 20,000sqm eco-resort in Bamako, Mali organized by Omnium Capital. The projects represent a diverse collection and I am proud to have delivered them.

Tell us about your work on El Khalil's home.

Villa Kali is a seaside mansion and we were particularly inspired by the nearby stratified rock formations, their whites and off-white colors, but also their horizontal layering. Eventually, the house is a deep exploration of a very simple palette, the whites of the pebbles, the beiges of the rocks, from the external cladding until the tiniest detail. This was a project where everything became an opportunity to design, from the landscape to the doorknob. Revisiting the traditional oriental home in a seaside setting - a house with several bedrooms that surround an open courtyard with a water fountain - this version of the concept is achieved through a splitting the volumes into two horizontal movements that open up towards the Mediterranean allowing for uninterrupted sea views to all spaces of the house.