

Inspired from the nine-pointed serrated edge of the Qatari flag, I chose 9 unique elements that were representative of the history, tradition and heritage of the Qatari nation.

1. Landscape – The Khawr al Udayd Desert Considered as one of Qatar’s finest treasures, this is a breathtaking area surrounded by immense golden sand dunes that offer stunning views.

2. Flora – The Date Palm The Qataris have historically engaged in the trading of pearls and date palms. Dates have been a staple food of the Gulf and Qatar for thousands of years.

3. Fauna – The Oryx The Arabian Oryx is a native to the desert and steppe areas of the Qatari landscape. The Oryx has its place in Qatari folklore and poetry as a creature of inspiration.

4. Generosity – The Dallah This Arabic coffee pot has been used for centuries to brew and serve coffee. Old bedouins used the ritual of coffee preparation, serving and drinking as a sign of hospitality, generosity and wealth.

5. Antiquity – Pearl diving in Qatar The sea has since ancient times played a vital role in the daily life of the citizens of Qatar and pearl diving is one of their oldest ways of life.

6. Trade – The Dhow The Ship Umm Al Hanaya (meaning ‘mother of abundance’) is at the heart of a famous Qatari folk tale about a trading ship. To some she was a great 19th century trading ship, to others a pearling vessel - but everyone agrees that her annual return from her travels was an occasion of great joy.

7. Culture – Calligraphy Calligraphy was highly regarded in Qatari Bedouin traditions and has played a significant role in the country’s culture. As one of the most intricate and noteworthy forms of visual art, Arabic calligraphy is considered to be an essential component of Arab Islamic civilisation.

8. Oil – Discovery of Oil and Opening Up to the World Since the 1940s oil revenues have funded the expansion and modernisation of Qatar and its infrastructure and have opened up the country and enabled its position as a global force.

9. Art – The Arabesque Pattern Inspired by the conceptual understanding of the David Collins studio (the Mandarin Oriental’s architectural practice), we chose the pattern created to represent the sand dunes.