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A first look inside Dubai's The Royal Atlantis Residences

Sybille de Margerie uses her feminine style and passion for art to create an understated design on Dubai's Palm Jumeirah

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Rose Gold Lounge in one of the 231 residential homes at The Royal Atlantis Residences

“**A**ll of our work is rooted in culture,” says interior designer Sybille de Margerie, the founder of the self-named interior design studio that is now embarking on its first project in Dubai. “Every design has its own language with personalised textiles and colours.”

A member of the Taittinger family, a name synonymous with prestigious hotels and champagne, de Margerie founded her studio in 1989. Quickly establishing a reputation as a leading interior architecture firm across Europe and the Middle East, the boutique studio has become the domain of luxury hotel, casino and gourmet restaurant design over its 30 year history. The firm's clientele includes luxury brands such as Louvre Hotels, LVMH group (Hotel Cheval Blanc in Courchevel, France), and Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, as well as private individuals. De Margerie also likes to work with artists.





So for her latest project, she set out to create just that – a work of art. Located in the heart of Dubai's Palm Jumeirah beside the looming Atlantis hotel. The Royal Atlantis Residences represent the absolute pinnacle of modern contemporary style.

The 43-story development, cantilevered above sea views of the Arabian Gulf, will offer 231 residential homes comprised of two, three, four and five-bedroom apartments ranging from 1,434 to 17,088 square feet when it completes in late-2019. The sumptuous residences will also feature apartments, and will house more than 90 swimming pools in total. A hotel component in the west wing of the property will see the addition of a further 795 guest rooms and suites.



Developed by Kerzner International Holdings, the building's exterior has been designed by New York City architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF), while hotel guest room and suite interiors are being designed by London-based GA Design.

"Almost five years ago now, there was a competition to design the most iconic building in Dubai," says Elie Gamburg, Director at Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates. "The final idea was to take a very simple form, which is the slide building, and pull it apart. This design has in effect created these apertures which we call sky courts.



“As a result, for all the duplex apartments in the building as well as many of the penthouses and all of the suites in the hotels, you will find a rather sizable terrace, complete with a pool, instead of a balcony,” he explained.

But one of the distinguishing aspects of this project’s design is in de Margerie feminine touch and artistic flare. The designer’s use of calm, subtle tones of gold and pearly whites, much like that of the complementing sea views, are accented by art works as understated as the interiors themselves.



"I think that my understanding of luxury is very personal and even feminine. I do not impose my signature and there is no ego in my work at all – I work for the client," she explains.

De Margerie enlisted five artisans to create a series of decorative pieces. Prospective buyers can mix and match from Isabelle Poupinel's sculptural porcelain wall reliefs; Céline Alexandre's gold-enobled tapestries; Helen Amy Murray's hand-sculpted leather walls; Annie Corbiere's intricately woven screens; and luminous metalworks by Annie Trussart.



“The fact that they are all women artists was not done on purpose, but because their work is sublime and represents what I'm looking for,” she says. “For me, luxury is like Hermes bag. Through the years it is still well done, and it will always be timeless.”

sybillemargerie.com/fr (<http://sybillemargerie.com/fr>)

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