



Kaleidoscope





THE GCC LANDSCAPE

- ❖ The Middle East is a vibrant tapestry of colour, culture, and tradition
- ❖ Ancient heritage seamlessly blends with modern progress
- ❖ Warm climate shapes architecture, lifestyles, traditions, and hospitality.
- ❖ Diverse cultures create rich expressions of art, language, and identity.
- ❖ Aromatic cuisines unite people through flavour, tradition, and sharing.
- ❖ Colourful festivals and bustling souks celebrate cultural diversity daily.
- ❖ A dynamic crossroads where tradition and progress coexist beautifully.



HEAT IN THE GCC

- ❖ Intense heat and sunshine shape the GCC's landscape and lifestyle.
- ❖ Desert climates inspire resilience, adaptation, and innovative living solutions.
- ❖ Heat influences architecture, clothing, customs, and community interactions.
- ❖ Traditional and modern design approaches create comfortable living environments.
- ❖ Extreme conditions drive sustainability, technology, and urban development.
- ❖ Sunlit deserts and dramatic sunsets define the region's unique beauty.

NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT THE HEAT



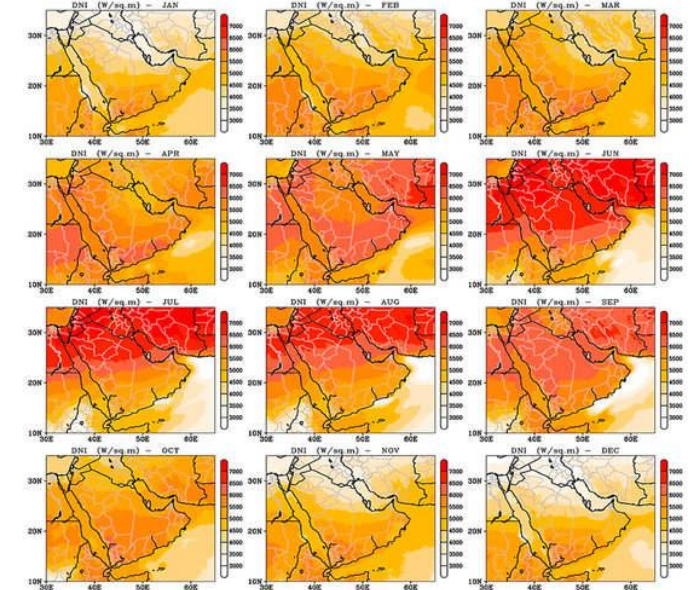
[Gulf States: Migrant Workers' Heat Protections Fall Short | Human Rights Watch](#)

[Building A Heat Resilience Roadmap for the Gulf Region](#)

[GCC Countries Team Up to Fight Deadly Heatwaves](#)

[Too Hot to Sustain: Confronting the Gulf's Extreme Heat - ORF Middle East](#)

[Heat Resilience: A Matter of Both Adaptation and Mitigation for the GCC | Springer Nature Link](#)





THE NEED FOR BEING COOL AND GREEN

- ❖ Integrating nature with technology creates healthier, more sustainable urban environments that support long-term quality of life and regional sustainability goals.
- ❖ Sustainable landscape design must balance environmental performance with user comfort and livability.
- ❖ Green infrastructure can help mitigate heat build-up while enhancing ecological value in cities.
- ❖ Shaded public spaces and innovative cooling technologies can reduce energy consumption and improve outdoor usability.



UNVEILING THE THEME FOR KALEIDOSCOPE '26...



HEAT TO HABITAT

Heat to Habitat reimagines the region's defining heat as a catalyst for innovation, transforming climatic challenges into opportunities for better design and living. The theme focuses on creating greener, more adaptive habitats that enhance comfort, strengthen communities, and support a sustainable future for the GCC.



THE CHALLENGE

To transform high-use public spaces into ergonomic, greener, and climate-resilient environments that mitigate rising temperatures while enhancing functionality, comfort, and aesthetic appeal

1. **Choose** a high-footfall public space that plays a vital role in daily community life.
2. **Retain** its core function and character while introducing sustainable, climate-responsive solutions to combat rising temperatures.
3. **Transform** it into a cooler, greener, and more inviting destination that enhances comfort, aesthetics, and user experience.

A close-up photograph of a wood surface, showing concentric growth rings in a light brown color. The texture is smooth and natural, with the rings curving from the top left towards the bottom right.

THE DELIVERABLES

Here is a list of things that we would expect to see

1. Before and after comparison shots of the space that you have chosen
2. A written explanation for the reasons behind choosing the space, and a final explanation of the elements/transformation done to it
3. Design files of the transformation or an entirely new layout with labelled parts/elements – link to design
4. A presentation featuring the entire decision to design pipeline showcasing the working of how the result came about
5. Why are you proud of what you've created? How is it revolutionising the solution?



THE TIMELINES

September 6, 2026 – Registration starts

September 30, 2026 – Registration closes

October 1, 2026 – Submissions open

November 28, 2026 – Submissions close

December 3, 2027 – Announcement of Campus Winners

January 2-9, 2027 – Country-wise Finals

Final week of January, 2027 – GCC Regional Finals



EVALUATION RUBRICS

1. Originality – 10%
2. Creativity – 20%
3. Integration of Themes and Topics – 20%
4. Feasibility – 20%
5. Transformative Ability (with Asian Paints products) – 25%
6. Brownie Points for Integrating the Colour of The Year – 5%



REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1. Participation Certificate for all submissions
2. Travel and Stay for the final round in UAE
3. Winner's Certificates for country and final winners
4. Cash prizes for the final round:

Second runner-up	1500AED
First runner-up	2500AED
Winner	5000AED
5. Opportunity to visit ColourNext India 2027
6. An opportunity for an internship at the company to do hands-on work with actual clients

COLOURNEXT

For over a decade, ColourNext by Asian Paints has served as a thought leadership initiative, inspiring the larger design community and driving meaningful conversations around colour, design, and innovation.

It is a pioneering colour and design intelligence platform that forecasts emerging lifestyle, cultural, and design trends to shape the future of spaces, through extensive research and expert collaboration, picking themes and colours of relevance.





COLOURNEXT THEMES

1. **Pastoral** – A contemporary return to nature, celebrating simplicity, regeneration, and a deeper connection with the land.
2. **Solar Punk** – An optimistic vision of the future where technology, sustainability, and community coexist in harmony.
3. **Daydream** – A soft, imaginative escape into fluid, expressive spaces that blur the boundaries between reality and fantasy.
4. **IRL (In Real Life)** – A renewed appreciation for authentic, tactile, and human experiences in an increasingly digital world.

The Colour of the Year 2026 is **Moonlit Silk**.

PASTORAL

Land-Held Luxury

Rugged, Harsh, Cold, Extreme Stark, Dramatic, Weathered, Expansive,
Sparse, Scattered, Spiritual, Reverence, Connection, Intentional, Slow,
Contemplative



SA28
WET TURMERIC



X135
CHERRY BON BON



9745
CHILIKA LAKE



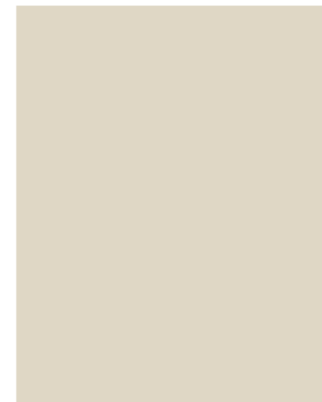
X203
AALTA



SA29
VINTAGE PISTACHIO



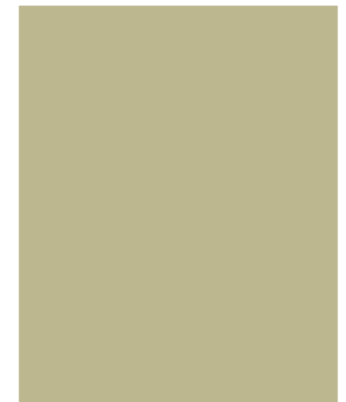
9913
BAKED OCHRE



0974
BASRA PEARL



8293
CARBON COPY



0G15
COUNTRYSIDE

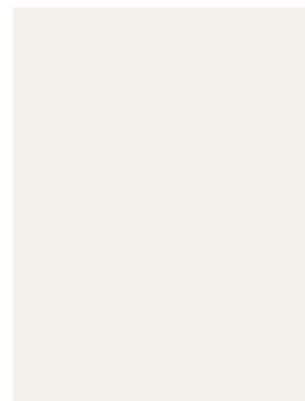
Solarpunk

Post-Capitalist Optimism

Designed Hope, Regenerative Futures, Ecological Optimism, Nature-Informed Progress, Symbiotic Futures, Repair as Design, Post-Collapse Imagination, Planetary Intelligence, Optimism Engineered, Speculative Optimism



K131
MONSOON MIST



L163
SALT WHITE



K146
SAGE GREY

"It is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism."

— MARK FISHER, CAPITALIST REALISM



8480
BEACH COMBER



K167
CHERRAPUNJI GREEN



K277
GREY WIND

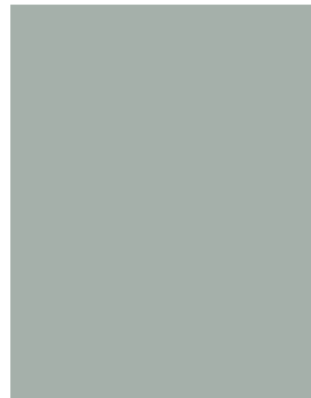


8229
BURNT MALT

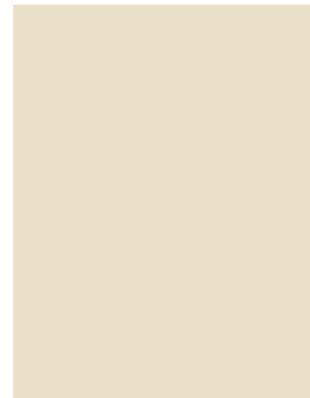
DAYDREAM

Quiet Surrealism

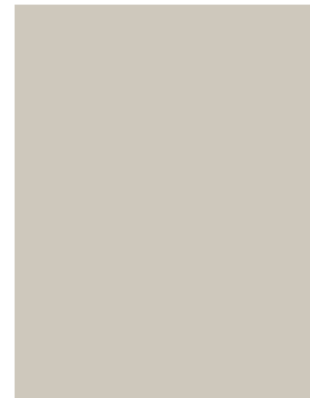
Soft Suspension, Luminous Drift, Poetic Liminality, Gentle Unknowing,
Ethereal Pause, Floating Attention, Quiet Surrealism, Dream-State Presence
Hazy Wonder, Translucent Calm



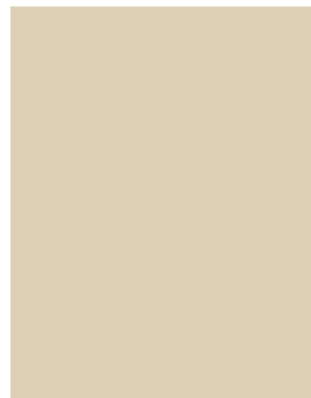
K134
PEPPERMINT AIR



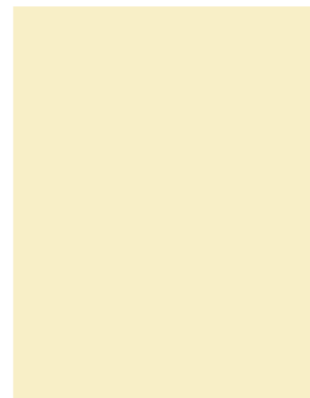
3196
PINE NUT



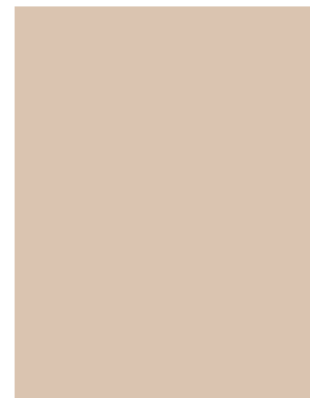
8474
PISCES



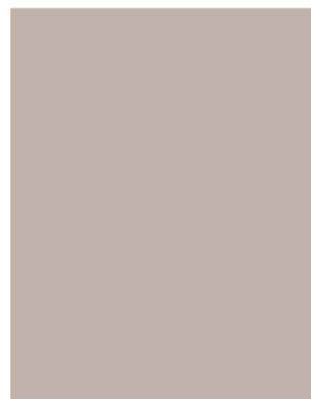
4214
SWEET CORN



7914
SUNDRENCHED



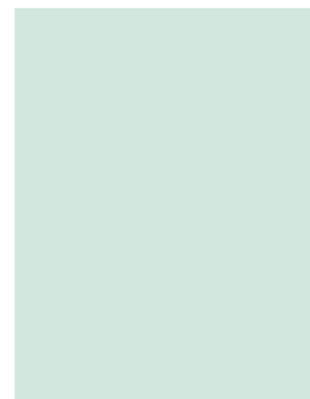
8554
HERITAGE HILLS



8754
DESERT DUNE



7809
CHINESE TEA

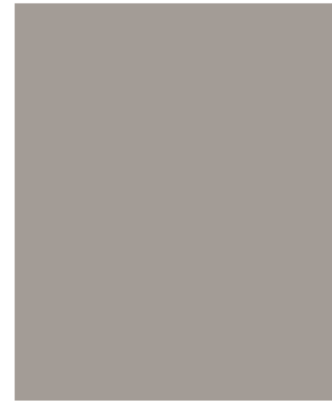


0210
CASCADE



Unplug to Belong

Collective Joy, Community, Inclusive, Presence not perfection, Discovery, Space of Belonging, Dynamic, Play, Informal, Collaborative, Surprise, Tactile, Immersive, Unconditional, Organised Chaos, Analogue, Plurality of Experiences, Inclusive



8753
EARL GREY



0N17
PALACE LIGHTS



8569
HAZEL NUT



9888
BILLBOARD YELLOW

“Sometimes I think I have
felt everything I’m ever
gonna feel... and from
here on out, I’m never
gonna feel anything new.”
— Her (2013)



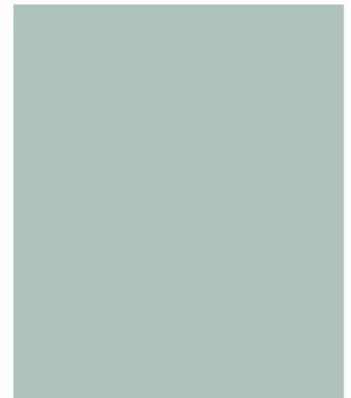
8639
BRICK TONE



SA27
RIVER STONE



SA24
MANGROVE GREEN



8345
SEA DREAMS



ANY QUESTIONS?