

# Designer

Middle East

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*Feature*

CREATIVE 30 SALUTES THE  
LEADING DESIGNERS AND  
ARCHITECTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

# INNOVATION CHAMPIONS

PHILIPPE VAN DER LOO AND JAKOB JOHANNSEN FROM QUOOKER, ON WHAT MAKES THE DUTCH TAP  
BRAND A GLOBAL LEADER AND A KITCHEN ESSENTIAL

# Creative



They think, ideate, and create something magnificent. This can be a house, a park, a fancy hotel, a mall, a township, or just anything that impacts space we live in and are surrounded by. Design Middle East presents 'Creative 30' that includes the most celebrated, influential, and powerful designers and architects in the region who're continuously working towards a better world



## Kerem Cengiz

Managing Director—MENA, LWK+PARTNERS

Within a culturally dynamic global practise, Kerem Cengiz is part of a leadership group evolving LWK+PARTNERS from a 34 years old, hong kong rooted architectural practice, into a globally integrated design studio and has led the MENA operations since it's established in Dubai in 2018.

Cengiz brings over 20 years of award-winning international experience across all aspects of design, real estate development, project, and design management as managing director.

Cengiz's outstanding work and leadership have helped him secure many significant and high-profile projects across the UAE, GCC, and MENA region against other globally recognised international practices. This has earned Cengiz and the teams he's led , the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award for Innovation in 2017, the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade in



Hanging Garden Bridge (Sky Garden)

2009, and two category wins at Cityscape Global 2019, in Dubai.

His global exposure brings skills required to lead this important period of the practices' history, guide and mentor his team, secure and deliver major projects, develop pipelines of work, often with complex stakeholder and partnership relationships, leading the design and delivery of significant, high-quality designs, and developments ranging across all major sectors of the industry.

Cengiz believes that architecture as a discipline is going through a very interesting phase in this part of the middle east, transitioning from the purely commercial developer-led design industry to more focussed components like the public realm consideration and sustainability being given equal importance. He thinks this is the right time to develop opportunities across the MENA region, as the built environment is taking a new direction.