



Concepts we crave

Standing along a lonely road in the middle of an empty field is The Dollhouse, Canadian artist Heather Benning's thought-provoking life-size art installation. While the house looks like an ordinary abandoned house from the exterior, a quick trip to the other side reveals a Plexiglass wall that simply beckons viewers to take a peek at the warm and cozy interior of this larger-than-life dollhouse. Benning carefully restored the home to its former glory with original furniture from the 1960s, lace curtains, pale yellow and pink walls and a few personal touches: a pair of skates hanging on the wall and a shirt casually flung on a bed post. The artist painstakingly recreated The Dollhouse's lived-in feel, leaving viewers with a feeling of nostalgia and a sense of child-like awe.

the lowdown

LOCATION'S IRISH MAE SILVESTRE ROUNDS UP WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF DESIGN THIS MONTH

Urban angle

Super sleek and über urban, BoConcept's 2008/09 collection is everything a city slicker could ask for. Add to your minimalist chic abode with the Danish design house's new luxe and modern Como range, BoConcept's latest fall furniture collection. We love the streamlined look of the snow white sofa, with its super comfy pocket spring for extra support, topped off with elegant stitching details. There's hardly a better way to make the most of limited apartment space than with the Lecco wall system, an extra flexible shelving unit available in various sizes and colours to complement existing décor. Check out BoConcept's flagship store in Mall of the Emirates, Dubai. www.boconcept.com



PLAY ON

The upcoming 45-storey Zenith Tower is taking the concept of work-life balance a step further by introducing a 5,000-square-foot centre just for kids. The play centre will include play and entertainment facilities for children of all ages and highlights the importance of play in a child's behavioural growth. The project will be overseen by Dr Singhania, a UAE-based child development expert, whose clinic deals with children suffering from ADHD, ADD and educational difficulties. Singhania said: "Play is the work of the child and its importance cannot be underestimated - play prepares children for society, emotional development and interaction."



OFIS goes to school

After making its mark in airports and offices, OFIS is going to school. Schools across the UAE are incorporating the adaptable Grow Along tables and chairs, ideally designed for growing kids and teens. Safe and highly durable, these height adjustable colourful chairs and tables can be easily altered and tilted for maximum comfort. With the UAE's growing education field, Holland-based brand MARKO has recognised the need for comfortable and ergonomic school furniture. www.ofisdubai.com



Little loungers

Bright, cozy, iconic and just a little bit fat, it's no wonder that fatboy® is being hailed as the "beanbag from the 21st Century". With its highly durable fabric and contemporary style, it's the ultimate beanbag for those who take lounging seriously. Due to its massive success, the fatboy is now available in miniature. Measuring 130cm x 100cm, the fatboy junior is a welcome addition to the kids' room or TV room. It also comes in a myriad of candy colours in special easy-to-clean material with special water and stain-resistant coating so parents can rest easy. Check out fatboy's modern take on beanbags at Desert River, located in Centro Shopping Centre, Satwa. For more information, call (04) 345 4541.

FEEL AT EASE @HOME

Don't risk getting the newlyweds yet another toaster or vase that's bound to clash with the curtains. When it comes to gifts, brides and guests can now breathe a sigh of relief with @home's gift registry service. Located in Mercato Mall, @home is South Africa's leading homeware store where registered couples can pre-select products under their name, giving guests the freedom (minus the confusion) to look up their preference and pick a gift according to their budget. The service is also available for other celebrations including birthdays, house warming and anniversaries.



SNOOZE IN STYLE

Here's a range of bedroom furniture that's certainly nothing to snooze at. Making bedtime more fun is the Boudoir Beauties, THE One's latest collection of stylish bed frames. Catch up on some beauty sleep with the Juicy bed, a bohemian-inspired design in velvety vintage pink with a side table to match. Then accessorise with décor in shades of red, cream or fuschia. www.theoneplanet.com

