



## Design Days Dubai: Afghan carpets with the Fatima Bint Mohammed Initiative

Anna Seaman | March 12, 2015



One of many women employed by FBMI in Afghanistan. Courtesy: FBMI

It is just a few days to go until the fourth edition of Design Days Dubai opens its doors. With 44 exhibitors from 20 countries and over half from the Middle East, it is a perfect opportunity to witness some of the freshest contemporary designs and products from all over the region.

As well as world renowned names such as Carpenters Workshop Gallery (Paris/London), David Gill Galleries (London) and Chamber NYC (New York), there is a really interesting non-profit projects programme that features Sheikha Fatima Bint Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan's humanitarian initiative (FBMI).

Launched in 2010, FBMI offers women employment in the weaving industry in Afghanistan, while also providing them critical social services including training, healthcare and education. The carpets produced through FBMI, made through traditional crafting methods use wool from Afghan farmers, natural vegetable dyes and a local workforce that to date has numbered over 4,000. They are then sold through one of four showrooms that are situated in Kabul, London, Dubai on Jumeirah Beach Rd and in Abu Dhabi at Yas Mall.

At their stand in the Design Days Dubai fair, you can learn more about this wonderful initiative, see some of the beautiful handmade carpets and find out where to buy them from.

\* Design Days Dubai runs from March 16-20 at The Venue, Downtown Dubai, at the base of the Burj Khalifa. For more info visit [www.designdaysdubai.ae](http://www.designdaysdubai.ae)

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