

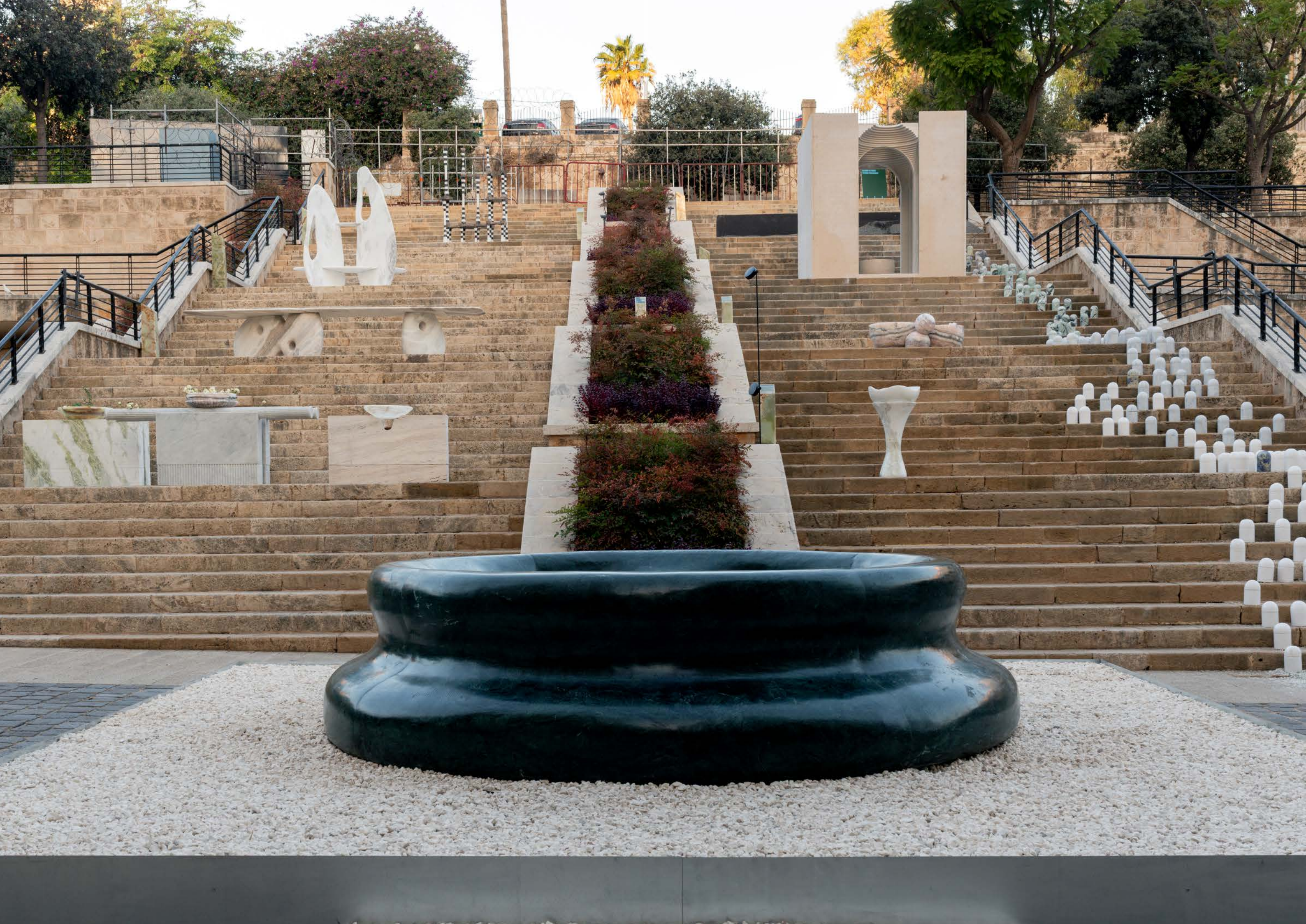
**WE
DESIGN
BEIRUT**

**OF WATER
& STONE**



THE ROMAN BATHS

The Roman Baths reveals the remains of four major bath complexes dating back to the 1st century CE, once central to the civic and social life of Roman Berytus. The baths, with their mosaic floors, water channels, and hypocaust heating system, demonstrate the advanced engineering and cultural sophistication of the era. Today, set within landscaped gardens and surrounded by government buildings, the Roman Baths serve as both an open-air museum and a public gathering space, embodying Beirut's dialogue between antiquity and modernity.



A photograph of four white marble bird sculptures, possibly doves, perched on a rough, grey stone ledge. In the background, a large, dark olive tree with dense foliage dominates the upper half of the frame. The lighting is soft, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The sculptures are arranged in a line, facing different directions.

OF WATER & STONE

Of Water and Stone unfolds within Beirut's Roman Baths in the framework of We Design Beirut's second edition, converging historical resonance, architectural ingenuity, cultural rejuvenation, and communal healing.

At first encounter, the site stands as both a scar and a monument; a palimpsest of Lebanon's layered history. Since the 1st century AD, these baths bore witness to the rhythms of daily life across eras. Even in their fractured state, they remain a testament to the audacity of Roman engineering and the evolving identities of Beirut across centuries.

The baths were more than architecture: they were spaces of ritual, where water softened body and spirit, and where community formed through practices of cleansing. To bathe was to believe that care for the self was inseparable from care for society; a public act of rejuvenation and communion.

In dialogue with this legacy, twenty-one designers reimagine marble to create new works for the exhibition, produced and sponsored by Stones by Rania Malli. Their interventions echo the site's layered histories — from baths and jacuzzis that once animated collective life, to the overlooked stories of Beirut's women, to the material cultures of water, soaps, wells, bubbles, spa practices, and bird baths. Each gesture conjures both the cultural past and potential futures of this archeological ruin.

Here, marble and water are not incidental but elemental, mirroring We Design Beirut's vision: to revive heritage not as static artifact, but as living matter, shaped and reshaped by each generation that inherits it.

CURATED BY NOUR OSSEIRAN

Nour Osseiran is an independent researcher, curator and volunteer paramedic based in Lebanon. Her curatorial interest positions contemporary art, cultural history, and critical social issues at the intersection of social practice and activism. She is particularly interested in curatorial methodologies that challenge institutional frameworks and create more accessible and inclusive platforms for artistic expression.

SPONSORED BY STONES BY RANIA MALLI

Stones by Rania Malli is an international marble and natural materials specialist dedicated to quality, innovation, and timeless design. Combining advanced technology with the expertise of skilled craftsmen, Stones by Rania Malli redefines luxury by transforming raw stone into refined, enduring experiences of beauty.

STONES
BY RANIA MALLI



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Éditions Levantine



Studio Nada Debs



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Elie Riachi



Elsa-Maria Halaby



Galal Mahmoud



Irene Cattaneo



Tarek Shamma



AHMAD ABOUZANAT

Infinite Bonds

Crafted from natural marble, the work comprises hand-sized cubes recalling traditional soap, both softer by water over time. *Infinite Bonds* reflects on community, rituals and enduring connection. Installed within Beirut's historic Roman Baths, a site of gathering, it honors traditions of relationship and shared experience. Each uniquely veined block is meant to be taken, dispersing across homes yet remaining linked by origin. The towers anchor the piece as gestures to resilience, memory and time, forming a living structure of community carried forward piece by piece.

Details Block One: d.90 × H.220 cm
Block Two: d.115 × H.190 cm
Block Three: d.120 × H.100 cm
Verdi Alpi, Indus Gold, Moca Beige
Instagram @ahmad.abouzanat



CARL GERGES ARCHITECT

Echoed - Thermes

Carved from a single block of Green Guatemala marble, the vessel functions as a thermal bath; its dense stone body designed to absorb and radiate heat. As a functional hot-water jet bath, it is a modern-day expression of hydrotherapy, central to ancient Roman culture.

Its circular perfection evokes a pursuit of proportion and balance—one that isn't ornamental but rooted in ritual—recalling the architecture of historical thermae and providing an ergonomic shape for dorsal support, allowing full relaxation. Set against Beirut's enduring Roman ruins, *Echoed-Thermes* bridges antiquity and the present: it is an elemental object that converges water, heat, and stone in a contemporary act of repose. An invitation to sink into the present moment and soak in echoes of its past.

Details L.300 × W.300 × H.65 cm
Green Guatemala
Instagram @carlgergesarchitects



CLAUDE MISSIR

Circle of Echoes

Here lies a quiet communion where marble pigeons gather around a polished black basin, stone that dreams itself into water. Commonplace at the Baths, today the pigeons stand as quiet symbols of the people who once gathered here to wash, relax and connect. A symbol of peace, rebirth and collective memory. The black marble circle presents a reflection, a mirror of time, allowing the past to be seen as new, an invitation to join the circle, and step into a scene that feels suspended between then and now. The Circle of Echoes is about memory and hope. The pigeons carry a murmur of hope, one that still lives in Lebanon. It honors the Baths as a place to nurture the body, spirit and community, inviting us to gather again, not to bathe, but to remember.

[Details](#) Various Dimensions.

Polished Nero Marquina marble & Matte Bianco P marble
[Instagram](#) @claudemissir.interiors



COLLECTIVE Y BY RHEA YOUNES

Whispers in Stone & Flames

This marble paravent embodies the dialogue between permanence and fluidity. Carved in soft, organic curves, its form reflects the timeless Roman interplay between stone, water and fire. The Romans once used fire to heat stones, creating steam that condensed into fresh water. Just as the baths once offered spaces for reflection, gathering, and ritual, the paravent invites viewers into a unique spatial experience, one where sculpture becomes both screen and passage, partition and connection. Within the Roman Baths of Beirut, the work resonates with its setting: stone that remembers history, and forms that echo the movement of water. This balance between solidity and flow is at the heart of Water & Stone.

[Details](#) 220 x 105 x 225 cm

Dover Blue Marble

[Instagram](#) @collective_y



DORI HITTI ARCHITECTS

Infinity

Carved from solid marble yet softened into a flowing arc, Infinity draws inspiration from the vaulted forms of Beirut's Roman baths — once vibrant spaces of gathering, dialogue, and shared ritual. Rising from a Roman arch base, the piece transforms this ancient architectural memory into a contemporary bench, where the weight of stone becomes a grounding foundation for rest and encounter. Its sweeping curve echoes the movement of water, inviting visitors to sit together, to pause, and to reflect. Both sculpture and social space, Infinity bridges past and present, solitude and community, permanence, and flow. Conceived as a modular form, the arc can be endlessly replicated, expanding into an infinite sequence of elements that generate continuity, rhythm, and collective space.

[Details](#) W.150 x L.400 x H.195 cm

French Green Marble

[Instagram](#) @dorihittiarchitects

The Body

Inspired by the apodyterium, this stage embodies the act of shedding. One enters as a vessel, carrying weight, memory, and the quiet of unspoken thoughts. The marble is dense, veined, grounded, and raw. Its unpolished surface reflecting the physical and emotional burdens to be released. A bench provides a space to pause, offering a moment of reflection before the journey continues. Light, conceived with BlackBox, rises from the center in a single, piercing beam, slicing through the stone's weight. It becomes a quiet emblem of cleansing, a clarity striving to pierce what is carried.

[Details](#) H.80x W.60 cm
Calacatta Viola

The Mind

Inspired from the laconicum, this stage evokes introspection and calm. The marble is lighter and less dense, honed to a smooth, satin-like finish that invites quiet reflection. A sink serves as a symbolic gesture of confronting and releasing burdens, marking the initial step toward purification. With BlackBox, we allowed light to stir from within, seeping gently through delicate fissures along the surface. These subtle cracks suggest that purification begins not with sudden rupture, but with the slow, tender emergence of clarity.

[Details](#) H.130 x W.85 cm
Rosso Levanto

The Spirit

Inspired by the frigidarium, this stage embodies rebirth. All burdens have been released; nothing remains to carry. The marble rises into light, almost weightless, its radiant, translucent surface reflecting pure clarity. Together with BlackBox and Neko Lighting, we let beams of light emanate from within the stone, radiating outward in joyful bursts. Each ray celebrates the completion of the cleansing process, a luminous testament to clarity fully realized. rupture, but with the slow, tender emergence of clarity.

[Details](#) H.216 x d.400 cm
Base Dimensions: W.80 x W.80 cm
Dover White
[Instagram](#) @bleu.design



DIANA GHANDOUR

Barrel in Blush

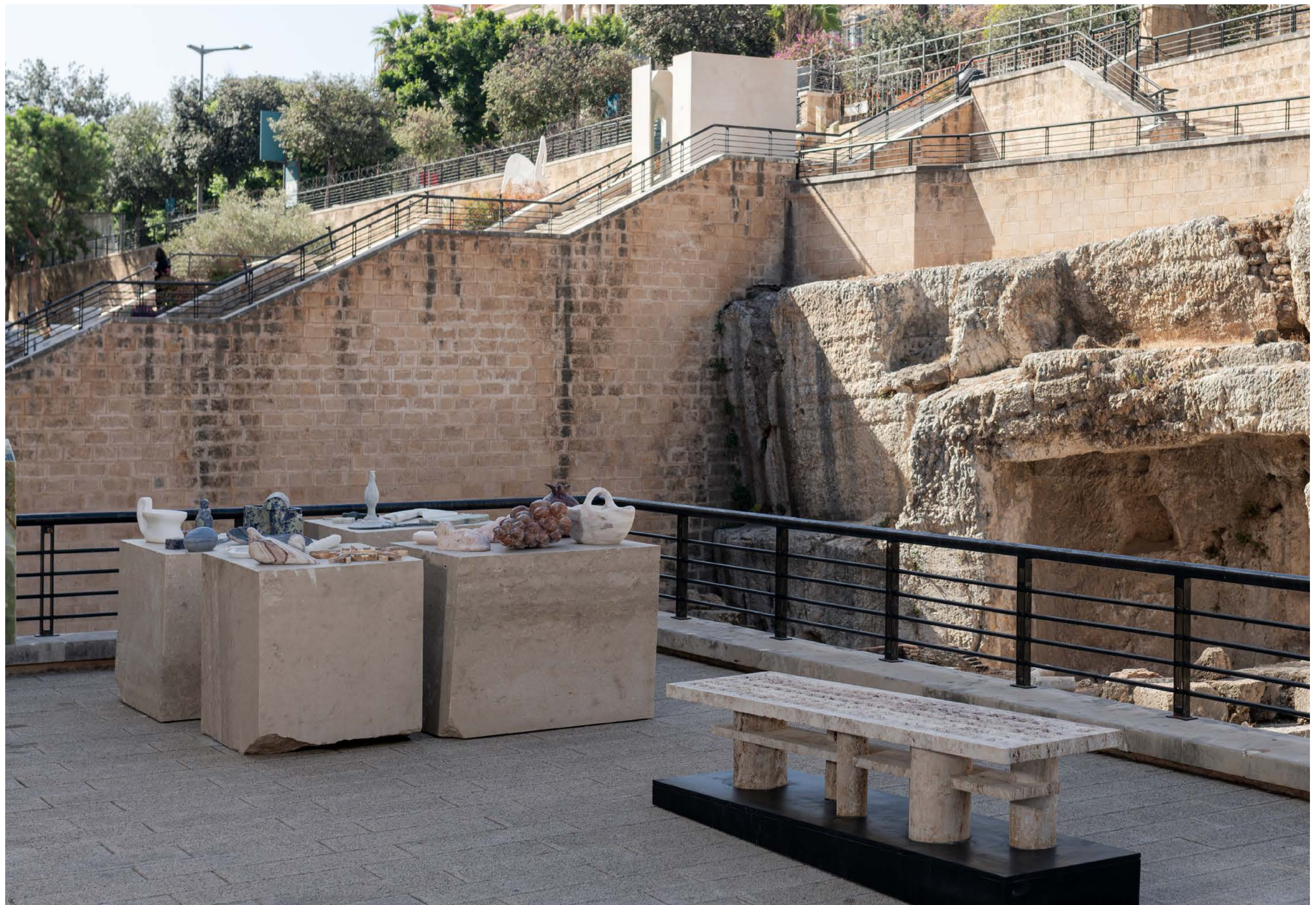
The Roman Bath Barrel by Diana Ghandour reinterprets the timeless rituals of Roman baths, blending antiquity with a modern twist. Sculptural in form, it embodies harmony, art, and wellbeing, radiating a joyful spirit. Crafted in a soft pink tone chosen for its femininity and rarity, the piece celebrates both strength and elegance. More than design, it is a vessel of happiness, transporting us from the grandeur of the past into the vitality of the present. The accessories accompanying the barrel are conceived as true pieces of art, carefully curated to enhance its atmosphere and elevate the experience. Her passion for refined accessories design shines through, creating a work that balances history and modernity with artistry and chemistry.

Details 180 × 120 × 110 cm

Rosso Alicante

Instagram @whats_hipp







ELSA-MARIA HALABY

A Bird Bath

The connection between beings and water has been an instinctive primordial bond. For birds, as for humans, the ritual of bathing is a source of cleansing, renewal, and sustenance. The design emerges as a vessel, laid freely on its grounded base, allowing movement and rotation, while the Dover Blue marble, evokes the purity of bathing and the fluidity of water. At the heart of the vessel, a vibrant three-dimensional mosaic is unearthed from raw marble, shaped by nature and time. As the water level changes, its interplay with the mosaic and organic stone creates an ever changing experience. In its final form, the piece is not merely an object, but a presence. It harmonizes with its environment without imposing. Through this quiet dialogue, it becomes a participant in the ecosystem: nurturing, supportive and alive. Naiiman!

Details 85 × 50 cm
Dover Blue Marble
Instagram @elsamariahalaby



GALAL MAHMOUD

Delos

The Delos Table embodies nature's quiet power, carved in marble and reinterpreted through contemporary design. Inspired by the gradual act of water shaping stone, its form reflects the softened contours of pebbles worn smooth by centuries of flow. Two monumental bases support a polished slab, each punctuated with organic voids that suggest water-carved hollows. These openings lighten the structure, creating a dialogue between mass and transparency. The tabletop, with its intricate veining and mineral layers, preserves the geological memory of the stone, while its polished surface radiates elegance. More than furniture, the table stands as a functional sculpture; an enduring union of natural inspiration, craftsmanship and modern refinement.

Details W.105 × L.400 × H.75 cm
Dover Gold Marble
Instagram @galalmahmoudarchitects





IRENE CATTANEO

Well, Well, Well

Well, Well, Well is a stone sculpture in the form of a well—both functional and symbolic. Made of solid stone and containing water, it resonates with the exhibition’s setting: an ancient Roman bath. Stone and water, elemental and enduring, serve as material and metaphor. Inside, illuminated text spells out *Well, Well, Well*. At once humorous and contemplative, the phrase becomes a meditation: a descent into self-reflection.

Traditionally dark, the well here illuminates with light, suggesting revelation and clarity. Rooted in Roman antiquity, where wells held communal and spiritual significance, the work reactivates that dialogue. As a site-specific installation, it harmonizes with its surroundings while offering a poetic reflection on history, matter and the self.

[Details](#) d.115 × H.75 cm

White Onyx

[Instagram](#) @_irene_cattaneo_

MOHAMED FARES

The Living Springs

The Living Springs is where architecture, nature, and ritual converge, symbolizing longevity and renewal. Set within the Roman Baths of Beirut, an ancient site rooted in resilience and community, it channels the belief that well-being is the foundation of existence. Three distinct stone structures stand independently, yet flow together in one seamless journey.

Once inert, the marble awakens as function meets beauty. Natural stones are carved into varied forms and assembled into sculptural compositions that speak to both body and spirit. This installation becomes a sanctuary — a contemporary echo of the bath’s original purpose. Drawing on nature’s elements, it invites healing through sound, scent, touch, and reflection. A sensory dialogue across time, *The Living Springs* revives ancient values for today’s collective future.

Aroma

[Details](#) H.80 × W.35 × L.120cm

Sink: Crystal White Onyx

Body: Silver Original Travertine

Longevity

[Details](#) H.80 × W.35 × L.120cm

Sink: Green Onyx

Body: Dover Green

The Offering

[Details](#) H.80 × W.35 × L.120cm

Sink: Channel Pink Onyx

Body: Michael Angelo

[Instagram](#) @m_fares



JEFFREY MEAWAD

Stillae

Inspired by the timeless interplay between water and stone at the Roman Baths, this hand-carved marble seat evokes the gentle geometry of oversized water droplets; smooth, rounded, and quietly monumental. Its form invites pause and presence, echoing the ancient tradition of communal gathering and reflection that defined Roman thermae. For centuries, Roman baths were more than places of cleansing, they were centers of civic life, conversation, and philosophical exchange. This piece channels that legacy, offering a space where visitors might sit, connect, and be shaped by dialogue, just as water slowly sculpts stone.

[Details](#) Seat 1: L.330D × D.100 × H.70 cm

Seat 2: L.190 × D.135 × H.70 cm

Dover Green

[Instagram](#) @jeffreymeawadarchitect





OMAR CHAKIL

Memory Upcycle

When 700 boxes streamed down the stairs of Downtown Beirut

In *Memory Upcycle*, 700 “encapsulated” stone boxes filled with salt and thyme cascade down a staircase like fragments of a current flowing through time, from the ancient Roman baths of Berytus into the present and onward to the imagined future. Carved from precious gemstone and rare marbles that evoke shifting states of water (snow, vapor, sea, and river) these vessels compose an intuitive choreography weaving molecular bonds and the collective fabric of memory. Echoing ancestral cleansing rituals, the work reflects on how memory can be reactivated rather than just preserved, and how matter and spirit might converge to renew a landscape and its story.

Each capsule endures as a vessel of time, a relic of the moment when fragments of memories streamed down these stairs.

Details 700 boxes each D.12 × H.20 cm
Sodalite, River Green marble, Palissandro marble, Dover & Calcite Blue marble and Snow White marble
Instagram @omarchakil



PHILIPPE DAHER FOR RAYXANDER

Al Waha

In antiquity, Roman baths were sanctuaries where domes, columns, and arches shaped spaces of gathering, reflection, and presence. That essence endures. On the same land, memory is inscribed in every brick and breeze. We still gather in circles, to eat, dance, mourn, celebrate. The circle, eternal and inclusive, binds past and present, ritual and rhythm. This work continues that lineage: circular modules echo domes above and water below, their repetition evoking continuity through time. Thirteen columns support thirteen dome fragments, recalling Tawhīd: unity in multiplicity. Alternating bands of light and dark recall Ablaq masonry, once uniting Middle Eastern landscapes in Roman and Byzantine eras. Neither monument nor furniture, it is a sculptural gesture; an architecture of continuity.

Details L.142 × D.71 × H.220 cm
Michelangelo, Coffee Serpegiante, Portoro Go
Instagram @rayxander_official



STUDIO NADA DEBS

Urban Birdbath

The Roman Baths in downtown Beirut are a site of history, once shaped by water, ritual, and gathering. Today, the absence of birdsong leaves the place still and silent. The Urban Birdbath reimagines the baths as a living habitat, inviting life back through design. The series is created from onyx, a stone whose translucent layers echo the depth and reflection of water. Formed into organic, stepped basins, the pieces recall Roman pools while creating gentle perches where birds can rest, drink and bathe. The installation honors Lebanon’s familiar species: the Blackbird, Common Kingfisher, Bulbul, Palestinian Sunbird, House Sparrow and Laughing Dove, transforming the Baths into a meeting point of heritage, ecology, and song.

Details 90 × 60 × H.10 cm
80 × 57 × H.10 cm
75 × 54 × H.10 cm
Onyx
Instagram @studionadadebs

SAMIR HAKIM

The Boon

In the steamy chambers of Roman thermae, oil and strigils once cleansed the body —no bubbles, only steam and conversation. But what if they had used soap? What if bubbles drifted across marble pools, turning ritual into play.

The Boon table captures that imagined history - ephemeral bubbles carved eternal in stone. Hand-sculpted Onyx spheres cluster like foam, reflecting light as water once did.

Their arrangement invites touch and thought, merging utility with imagination. The Boon honors Roman refinement yet transforms it, reimagining cleansing as wonder. A vision of history reshaped where the fleeting and the lasting meet and innovation emerges from what might have been.

Details W.140 × L.180 × H.43 cm
Chanel Onyx
Instagram @samirhakim_architects



SAMER BOU RJEILY

Whispers of Stone & Water

Set within the Roman Baths of Beirut, this basalt fountain system transforms weight into motion. A five-meter block anchors a perfectly carved 70cm sphere, brought to life by the pressure of water that allows it to rotate endlessly. The piece echoes the ancient hydraulics beneath the site, recalling rituals of cleansing and gathering while offering a contemporary meditation on balance, memory, and renewal.

The sphere, suspended yet grounded, rests off-center—a gesture of asymmetry that resonates with the fragmented harmony of the ruins. Neither relic nor rupture, the fountain becomes a living libation: water enrobing stone, silence conversing with flow, resilience revealed through perpetual motion.

Details Base: W.500 × L.60 × H.45 cm Sphere: d.70 cm
Basalt Stone (Akkar)
Details L.200 × W.44 × H.35 cm
Chocolate Travertine
Instagram @samerbr



SERREEN HASSANIEH

Fluvia Bench

Carved from solid marble, Fluvia is a bench and more of a sculptural ode to ancient beauty; a flowing monument to the Roman baths. Its layered form rises like the pilae tile columns that once held the floors of thermal sanctuaries, now reimagined in fluid curves and rippling lines that mimic water's dance through stone. Air slips between subtle grooves, whispering of breath, movement, and heating rituals long past. From raw edges to a silky polish, its surface traces the journey from nature to civilization. Drawn from the Lebanese coast, its palette echoes a sea that shimmers green — a hue born not of chance, but of light gliding across shallow depths, ivory sands, and verdant plankton-rich waters. This green is not static, but shifting — a result of reflection, depth, and life.

Details Full Bench (3 Modules) L.735 × H.51 cm
Green Onyx, Vitoria Regia, Lady Green,
Calacatta Oro and Travertine
Instagram @sereenhassanieharchitects



TAREK SHAMMA

Nine Reflections

Set within the ruins of the Roman Baths, this stone pavilion is conceived as a fragment a vanished sanctuary that lingers in memory. At its heart lies a central dome, encircled by curved traces of eight absent chambers, suggesting both loss and renewal. Rough and honed stone surfaces, carried by a hidden steel frame, hold the marks of time like a vessel of remembrance. A single oculus opens the dome to the heavens, casting a shifting beam of light onto a shallow basin where water or vapor breathes softly into the space. Mirrored planes extend the fragment into wholeness, inviting visitors to complete the geometry within themselves. Here, stone, light, and silence awaken reflection, revealing resilience not only in architecture but in the human spirit.

Details W.250 × L.250 × H.300 cm
Classic Beige Local Limestone
Instagram @tarekshamma





FOR INQUIRIES

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