

NCollection

The NCollection label, by 40-year-old Nadia Ahmed, was launched five years ago. Her abayas are available at two boutiques in Sharjah, or visit ncollection.ae.

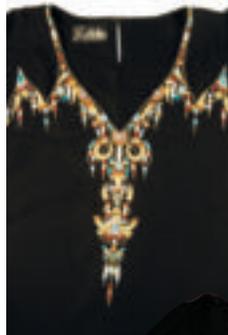
My inspiration for this collection: “I was influenced by the wonderful embroidery of Pakistan, which is a vivid explosion of colour and pattern. I wanted to bring the bright pinks and reds of my home country to the Arab world, with beautiful floral designs. I recently showed these at the abaya fashion show at BurJuman in Dubai, as part of Dubai Summer Surprises, and the reaction was fantastic.”

My icon: “Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qassimi, wife of the Ruler of Sharjah, because she is elegant and very kind-hearted.”

I would accessorise with: “One of my sheila headscarves or handbags – either with embroidery or Swarovski crystals, as I offer a crystallising service. And an elegant heel always works well.”

My favourite designers: “Locally, I love Dubai-based Arushi, which produces stunning embellished evening dresses and has royal clients. Internationally, I like Dior and Chanel – particularly for bags and shoes.”

My biggest influence is: “My mother, as she taught me how to sew from a young age. Thanks to her, I’ve always embellished my clothes and added my own personal touch.” ■



EBONY CHIC

Ahmed uses subtle Pakistani references in her designs