

# TimeOut Beirut



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*Kashida, the language of design + get pinned up with brooches*

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**Around Town & Kids**  
*Throwing great balls of fire + Harlem Globe Trotters spin into town*

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*Forget talking, Nadine Labaki would rather dance + BIFF*

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*'We are your friends' with the BCE, We Run Beirut, Ronin & Nexta and DJ's Shade & Salah Sadeq*



## The original



**The Egg** - Whether you love it or hate it, no one can deny that The Beirut City Center is making Beirut hot – if only for the number of heated debates it's sparking. The iconic 'egg', designed in the '60s by Joseph Philippe Karam, once represented modern design at its best. Today, it's fuelling a war of words between groups like Save Beirut Heritage and developer Solidere. Although Solidere recently said it would integrate the structure into a new design, more than 3,000 people are congregating on Facebook to protect the building from its potential demise. One enthusiastic online poster relays, 'I recently discovered... that the shape of the exterior of the dome will not change. Let's see! Her post is met with only one reply: 'No new concept. We want the old egg.'

## The designers

**PSLAB** - Lighting goes couture. Illuminating everything from yachts to London galleries to Beirut bars to Italian hotels, this firm offers a pitch-perfect ambience. Flicking the light switch was never high on our list of fun things to do, but these design wizards will change the way you look at lighting. Whether it's installations made with more than 700 plastic gallon bottles or functional metallic beams carrying horseshoe-like fixtures, the ingenuity is never ending.

**Cyrille Najjar Associates** - An innovative company working in architecture and industrial design, Cyrille Najjar's team is bringing a slick – and most importantly, a sustainable – edge to their work. 'Of all human production, 45% is meant to end up in the garbage,' says Najjar. 'We decided to bring a radical solution to this issue by offering designers an online platform on which to upload their products. This will be an innovative way to create objects at home with a 3D or 2D printer. Is there a more creative way to help the planet? We think not.'

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## Design

New designs may reshape history.

## Future legends

**USJ Campus de l'innovation et du sport** - This educational centre, covering 57,000m<sup>2</sup>, is hot to trot. It's been six years in the making, to the sweet tune of \$33 million, and has been featured in every architecture magazine and blog worth reading. The six urban blocks that will give you multiple views of the city are decorated with perforations to conjure the traditional Arabic design, bringing in the light that is so important to Oriental architecture as well as holes pitted at random to symbolize Lebanon's years of war. The creation of 109 Architects in collaboration with Youssef Toghme is set to open this month.

**Yellow House** - After dedicating over a decade to the appropriately nicknamed Yellow House, activist Mona Hallak is finally paying off. The house, once owned by the Barakat family, was constructed during the 1920s and '30s and during the Civil War became home to snipers, who appreciated its strategic position along the Green Line. While it was later set to be demolished, Mona campaigned until the government agreed to protect the building and turn it into a museum. But then almost ten years passed and little happened. This year will see the Yellow House's biggest victory yet: restoration and reconstruction is set to begin before the New Year. Once finished, the Beit Beirut museum will celebrate Lebanese history and pay respect to its darker hours.

