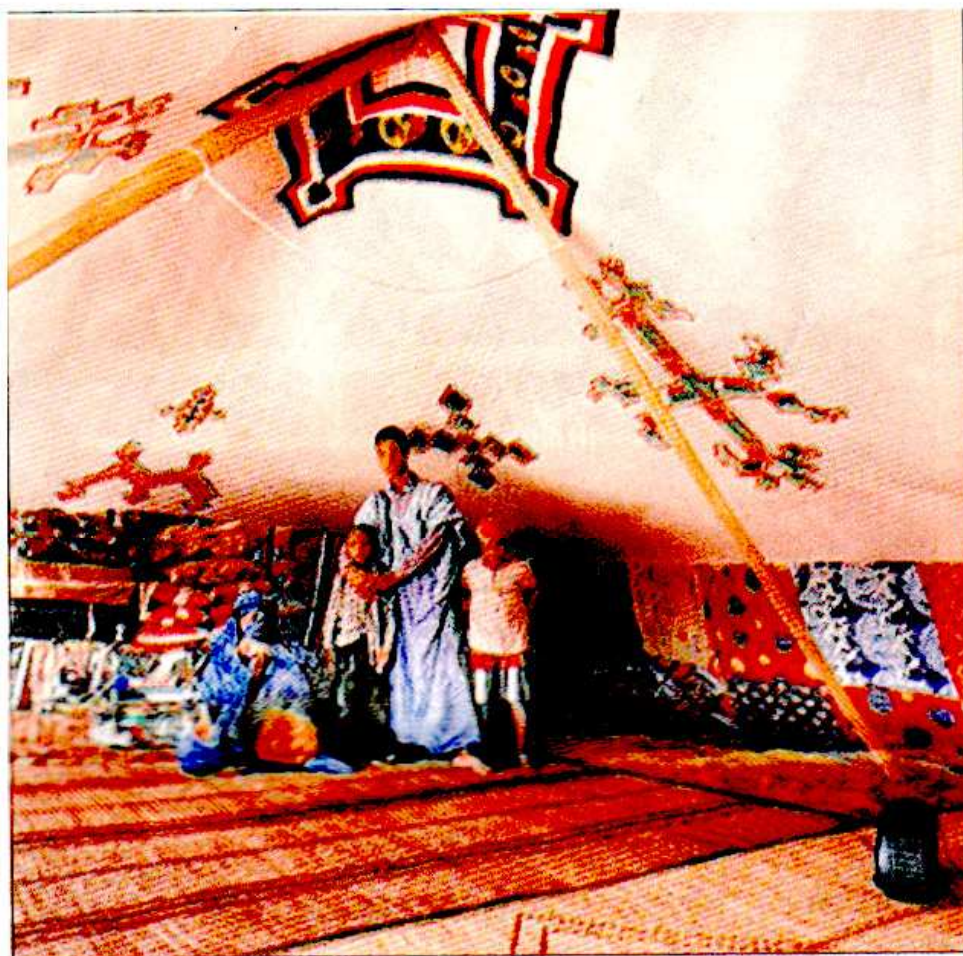




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PHOTOS: MARECHAUX, DEIDI VON SCHAEWEN

A DIFFERENT WORLD: Take a look at how people in the Arab world live.

Living under the crescent moon

HOME-PROUD Singaporeans will have a chance to see how those in the Arab world live.

An upcoming exhibition will feature, among other highlights, an interior of a clay house filled with thick cushions and brightly coloured carpets (inset), and a tent with sand for a floor.

The event, called Living Under the Crescent Moon: Domestic Culture in the Arab World, will be held at the National Museum from March 22 to May 21.

It is organised by Germany's Vitra Design Museum, a leading design and architecture museum founded in 1989 by Vitra furniture company and its director Alexander von Vegesack. It is located in Weil am Rhein

near the Swiss border.

Vitra produces classic masterpieces such as the La Chaise seat by American designers Charles and Ray Eames. They are sold at upmarket furniture store, Space, in Millenia Walk.

The two-month exhibition also marks its first collaboration with the National Museum of Singapore and DesignSingapore Council.

A memorandum of understanding was signed by the three parties yesterday at the National Museum.

Under this, Singapore will get to host at least one of the Vitra Design Museum's travelling exhibitions (there are 10 to 14)

each year.

The two museums will also collaborate

on publishing design catalogues in Chinese.

Currently, Vitra's catalogues, such as one chronicling the works of Danish designer Vernon Panton, are published in English, Spanish, French, German, Italian and Japanese.

The late Panton was famous for his one-piece, colourful Panton chair.

The partnership also hopes to create new exhibition ideas here to showcase overseas.

Ms Lee Chor Lin, director of the National Museum, says "Vitra has strong experience in bringing exhibitions overseas, which will be a crucial factor".

Mr von Vegesack says a highlight of their cooperation will be to create a Design and Architecture Museum here.

Tay Suan Chiang

► Living Under the Crescent Moon: Domestic Culture in the Arab World is on at the National Museum from March 22 to May 21 from 10am to 6pm daily. Admission is free.

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