CASE STUDY · BIOPHILIC DESIGN

A Desert Landscape, Held in Glass

A bespoke terrarium for a private residence in Jumeirah Park, Dubai

GREEN ZEN · DUBAI · 2026

THE BRIEF

Bring the desert indoors, without bringing the desert in.

The client asked for one thing: a desert landscape, contained within a terrarium, at the heart of their living space.

The answer had to hold its own in a large, light-filled room with floor-to-ceiling glazing, and read as part of the architecture rather than an object placed in it. We designed and delivered the piece in its entirety, from first concept through fabrication, planting, and handover, over an eight-week program.

The enclosure spans 3.2 meters in width and 1.4 meters in depth: a fine-framed glass volume that sits flush to the room and lets the landscape inside do the talking.

Within it, an olive tree anchors the composition, built on a preserved trunk with foliage crafted to hold its form indefinitely. Around it, live cactus and agave are planted into a terrain of sand and natural rock, so the landscape continues to grow and change with the home.

LOCATION

Private residence, Jumeirah Park, Dubai

SCOPE

Design, fabrication, planting and installation

ENCLOSURE

3.2 m × 1.4 m glass terrarium

PLANTING

Olive on preserved trunk; live cactus and agave

PROGRAM

8 weeks, concept to handover

BEFORE · THE ROOM AS WE FOUND IT

AFTER · THE TERRARIUM IN PLACE

THE MAKING

Built on site, panel by panel.

A piece at this scale cannot arrive finished. The frame was set out in the room first, then each glass panel was carried in and fitted by hand, with the final panel closing the volume only once the tree and terrain were in place.

The sequence mattered. Terrain and rock went in before the planting, the olive was positioned and secured before the live specimens were set around it, and the enclosure was sealed last. Our team handled every stage in-house, so the design intent carried through to the smallest detail.

THE RESULT

A landscape that lives with the house.

The finished terrarium reads as a quiet, permanent feature of the room: a slice of desert held in glass, lit from above and framed by the architecture around it. The live planting means it is never quite the same piece twice.

> *The client was delighted with the result, and the terrarium has drawn consistently positive comments from guests to the home.*

Green Zen designs and delivers biophilic features for residences, hospitality, and workplaces across the UAE, from moss and green walls to bespoke terrariums and full landscapes. Every piece is made to feel like part of the architecture, not an addition to it.

BIOPHILIC DESIGN · MOSS WALLS · GREEN WALLS · LANDSCAPING · GREEN ZEN MULCH

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