



DESIGNING SOLUTIONS

With a near freeze in the region's construction market, it would seem the writing is on the wall for the interior design sector. But rather than go quietly, some firms are seeking non-traditional ways to fill their demand gaps, discovers **DOMINIC ELLIS**.

Interiors firms are definitely feeling the pinch as the construction market wobbles. But just as the properties lining the Gulf skyline are as architecturally diverse as they come, so too are the region's design firms and how they are handling the downturn.

Take Depa Saudi Arabia. There can not be many companies in the current climate that rang in the

New Year toasting a \$7.84 million contract, but the subsidiary of the Dubai-based interior contracting services firm was one of them. The contract covers the renovation and fit-out of four floors of offices and public areas for the Minister of Defense and Aviation in Jeddah.

Depa sees significant opportunities for renovation work across the region during the expected slowdown of the