

definite and relatively few paths leading into the harah, the Barghouthis were able to control undesirable intrusion. This meant by definition that those few points where access was possible came to have special importance. These points represented either the main accesses leading to the harah or the highly elaborate gateways leading to the dwelling compounds. As figure 4.12 shows, penetration points into the centre of the harah were defined by these blocks. The lack of windows on the first floors and the few windows, which were screened by lattice work on the second floor, revealed very little about the life that thrived behind.

To penetrate to the core of the harah which was also the village centre, one had to pass through either one of the three access points. The east access was considered the formal gateway to the harah and was used by formal visitors and those living on the north and east sides of the village. This entrance acted as a transitional area defining what was in and what was out. To get to the saha, one passed through a narrow and shaded vestibule. The architectural articulation gave a strong sense of arrival. The change in light, width, height, of ceiling and the framed view, all announced the transition from being outside into being contained inside. The other access point located to the west, was much less defined. This access was used by the inhabitants living on the western parts of the village. This access point was a very narrow alley contained by two high walls of the north western block and the southern block on both sides. This gave a feeling of containment contrasting with the feeling of openness given by the saha. The north access point was also a narrow alley contained between the high eastern walls of the Saleh compound and the western walls of the mosque.



Fig. 4.12: Access point leading to the Barghouthi quarter