

constituted a common pattern for the Barghouthi dwellings. Privacy, separation between women's domestic and men's outer world, (dictated by the absence of the Barghouthi women from the fields and their confinement to their houses), separation between the different domestic households sharing the same courtyard, and to lesser extent, defence were the underlying shared principles dictating the spatial organisation of the majority of the Barghouthi dwellings.

In most of the Barghouthi compounds, one could distinguish four different domains: (1) the male guest area which was considered the men's semi-public domain (only found in the richer Barghouthi families, Saleh and Abdul Aziz), (2) the central courtyard, considered the semi-private domain for all the women of the compound, (3) the single-space houses (dur) around the courtyard, considered the private domains for the domestic household and, (4) the elevated rooms ('alali) located on the upper levels, considered as the very private parental domain.

Before proceeding to a more detailed description of the Saleh and Abdul Aziz compounds, we may pause to list the invariant features which constituted the Barghouthi dwelling pattern:

1. The compound in the majority of cases gathered around a central courtyard (hosh) which was the real heart of the compound. No rule can be given for the dimensions or shape of the courtyard, even though in most cases it was close to being a rectangle. The floor of the courtyard was often, in richer houses, stone paved. No planting as such was found in the courtyard except for one fig or mulberry tree. One or more water wells were often found in the courtyard.
2. Around the courtyard, on three, sometimes four sides, gathered a number of cross-vaulted single spaces. These houses (dur) normally housed the different domestic units of the extended family sharing the compound. A stall riwaq (loggia) for animals, mostly horses, was found in richer Barghouthi houses.
3. The backs of these houses formed an envelope which protected the