

In the summer and during daytime the house was not much in use. Only during festive occasions such as weddings and feasts the house played an active role.

The two staircases, located in the north-eastern and south-western corners of the central courtyard, connected the extended family communal space to the private domains pertaining to the masters of the domestic units. The compound had five elevated rooms ('alali) which functioned as parental sleeping rooms. As figure 4.20 illustrates, each elevated room had a walled-off roof (steiha), which was used as an outdoor terrace by the head of the family and his wife. While sheikh Mahmoud and his brother 'Ali shared one steiha, Mohammad, Yousif, and Abdul Jabar, each had his own steiha. However no walls separated between the three brothers. These walled-off sections of the roof formed an anti-room to the more private parts of the house. The elevated rooms were the most elaborated and decorated parts of the house. The pendentive domes of the 'alali had geometrical intricate designs on the inside. The interior walls were often white washed. The floors were frequently paved with coloured tiles or marble mosaic (Fig. 4.22 and 4.23).

In the walls were recesses for ornamental wood cupboards with delicately carved doors and panelled with delicately carved panels.

Unlike openings on the ground floor which were very small, the 'alali windows were relatively big. As figure 4.19 illustrates ornated shutters, made out of lattice wood, were used. The outside of these windows were also elaborately decorated.

Hence, unlike the fallaheen houses which will be described at length later, the Saleh house was differentiated into different domains varying in their functions and their gradations of privacy and intimacy.

I will now describe another Barghouthi dwelling, the Abdul Aziz to indicate the diversity which existed within this class of habitat.