

"In Dar Mustafa (my in-laws) lived my father-in-law Mustafa, my mother-in-law Zainat (who is the sister of 'Aisheh, the wife of Mahmoud mentioned above) and my sisters-in-law Bakrieh (13), Khadiegeh (11) and Amineh (10)".

"In Dar Sa'id (my brother-in-law) lived Sa'id, his wife Mariam (who was his first cousin), and their daughters 'Aisheh (3) and Latifeh (2). In addition to their lower house, Dar Sa'id had one of the upper elevated rooms which was used as a parental bed room".

"In the upper floors, there were three elevated rooms; in the western elevated room lived Abdul Rahim (my father-in-law's cousin) and his wife Wadha (who was his second cousin)".

"In the eastern elevated room lived 'Aisheh, the widow of 'Awad (my fathers-in-law second cousin), with her grand-daughter (12)".

"And finally, I and my husband Hasan lived in the southern elevated room, which later collapsed (1942). But I used to join my in-laws during the day".

In the central courtyard were two ovens (taboon) located in the northwestern corner, used by all the women of the compound.

The usages and spatial organisation of the different domains in this compound was very similar to those discussed above in the Saleh compound, hence no further elaboration is necessary. It is worth mentioning that the four elevated rooms which belonged to the different nuclear families were reached by four different staircases (Fig.4.27) and were located at different heights to provide for maximum privacy.

I described the Abdul Aziz compound here in some detail to illustrate the significant differentiation in life-style that existed within the elite of the Deir Ghassaneh peasant community. It also typifies the manner in which high status architectural form has been modified to serve the needs of new social arrangements in family life.