

its significance. The inside of the dome which was whitewashed, had intricate decorations (Fig. 4.35). Similar to other Barghouthi elevated rooms, the Shu'aibis had little furnishings which consisted basically of mattresses and cushions laid on the floor. The 'alieh had one relatively big window looking away from the Shu'aibi quarter.

THE SHU'AIBI COMMUNAL COURTYARD

The Shu'aibi quarter could be seen as one communal compound shared by the different sub-clans. Connected to this courtyard were another two smaller, enclosed semi-private courtyards.

Figure 4.32 illustrates the distribution of the four sub-clans which lived in this quarter around the turn of this century:

The largest sub-clan, dar Abu Jaber (indicated in blue) included the descendants of Abul Hamid and his six sons, who ultimately came to establish separate domestic units. The Abu Jaber sub-clan lived mainly in adjacent houses (dour), located on the north and west of the quarter, but some of them also occupied houses within the main courtyard.

The Salman sub-clan (indicated in yellow) and the Sheikh Saleh sub-clan (orange) who shared a common courtyard, also had houses located within the main courtyard. The smallest sub-clan, Dar Abdel Jawad (pink), had only one house, located within the main courtyard.

The Shu'aibi main courtyard was thus more of a communal clan space, rather than a private sub-clan space, as was the case in the Barghouthi quarter. This can be explained by a number of reasons: first, as a result of the close intermarriage patterns of the Shu'aibi sub-clans, almost all members residing in this quarter were closely related. Second, even though the Shu'aibi women were influenced by the social conservatism of the Barghouthis, the Shu'aibi women, together with most other fallaheen women, took an active role in some agricultural tasks. Hence the interaction between the Shu'aibi men and women was much more substantial.