

compounds neighboured on the fellaheen quarters.

3. The Barghouthi dwellings, as illustrated earlier, had reflected a variety in their architectural forms: scale, size, architectural articulation, treatment of elevation, etc.--all depended on the owner's position in the social hierarchy. The Barghouthi dwellings ranged from the urban-looking Daher compounds, to the typical peasant forms of the Dawood family compounds. In spite of this seemingly limitless variety, invariant features of spatial organisation could be delineated; privacy, separation between women's domestic and men's outer world, separation between the different domestic households sharing the same courtyard, and to a lesser extent defense, were the underlying shared principles dictating the spatial organisation of the majority of the Barghouthi dwellings.

The Urban Nexus

As tax-farmers of the Bani Zaid sheikhdom, the Barghouthis had strong commercial ties with urban centres, particularly with the town of Nablus. In addition to political alliances with urban and rural notables such as the Rayyans and the Jayyousis, intermarriages occurred between the Barghouthis and notable families in other throne villages.

Such close relationships with urban centres and urban notables reflected itself in Barghouthi built-form in a variety of ways:

1. The most striking feature was their urban architectural forms. The scale of buildings, their size, the elaborate architectural details, the ornate fine stone and woodwork, and above all, their introverted spatial organisation, all recall urban structures.
2. The division of the Barghouthi dwellings into different domains varying in the degree of their privacy (for male, female, and parental domains) echoed not only urban forms but also urban life-styles. The aspirations to have an urban life-style was