

Darat al Funun Entry & Boundary Walls

Khalid Shoman Foundation P.O.Box 5223
Amman, Jordan

Architects	Sahel Al-Hiyari & Partners Amman, Jordan
Clients	Khalid Shoman Foundation - Darat Al Funun Amman, Jordan
Commission	2004
Design	2005 - 2005
Construction	2005 - 2005
Occupancy	2005
Site	n.a.
Ground floor	n.a.
Total floor	47 m²
Costs	112,857 USD

Programme The project devised a visual structure for a new facade for an arts foundation, giving it a less domestic and more institutional appearance. It also involved some general preservation work on three 1920s houses. The idea for the layered form of the new facade emerged from the nature of the site itself - a complex stratification of diverse historical layers. Rather than attempt a nostalgic interpretation of the site's historical content, the strategy was to add another layer hybridising the two elements - concrete and stone - that set the cadence of the surrounding neighbourhood.



1 main wall façade (north west) 2 site plan showing areas of intervention 3 main wall façade before renovation 4 approaching wall from adjacent street 5 view from street on north west façade 6 stair alley on south west façade 7 approaching main façade showing garage gate



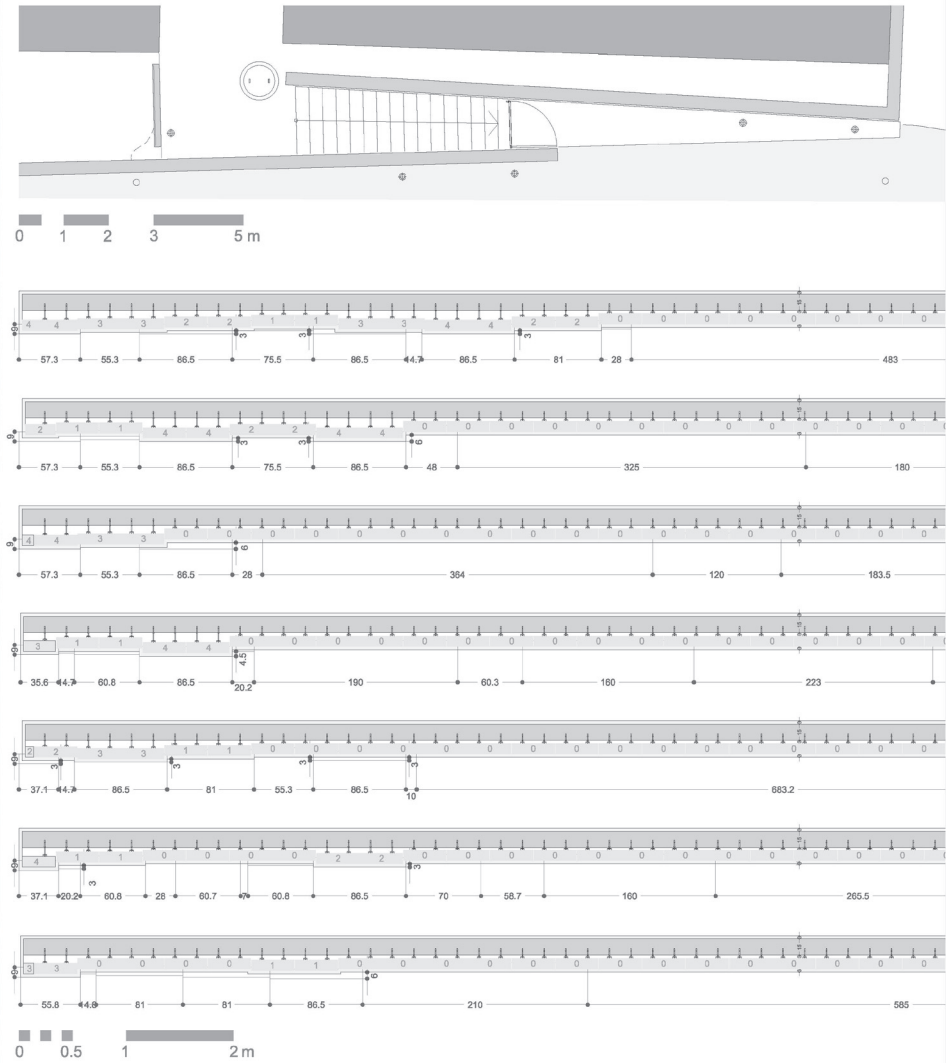
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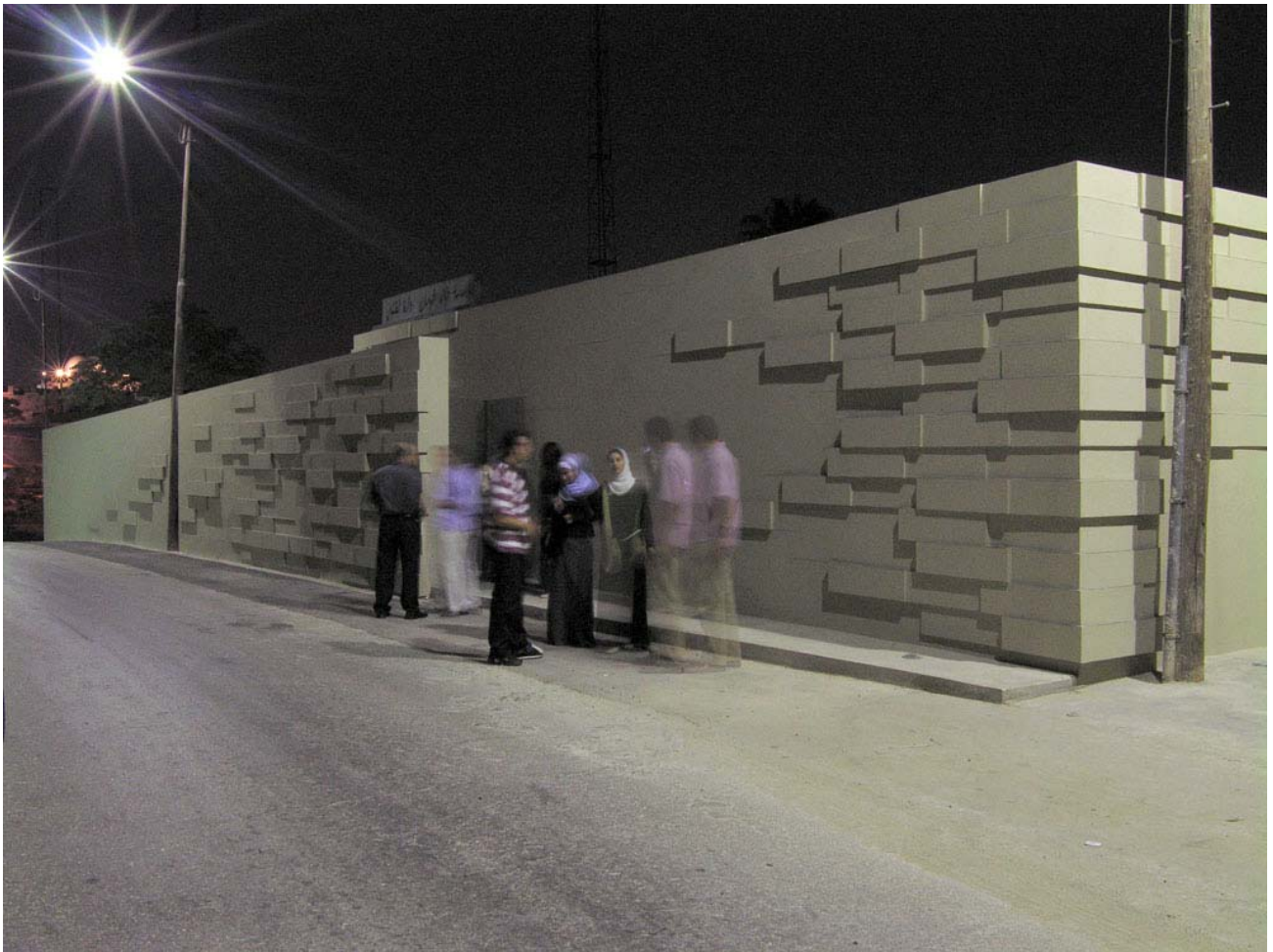
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1 view of the entry defined by two of the boundary walls 2 architectural exhibition/installation: black box with backlit drawings printed on film, and white models 3 entry to the foundation through boundary walls 4 entry stairs to the foundation 5 plan of entry & block work detailed course plans

The project's basic premise is to devise a new front for the upper part of the Darat al-Funun complex, and to carry out general restorations within the upper area of this foundation for the arts. The idea behind the boundary walls and the entrance emerges from the very nature of the site itself, which in essence is a complex stratification of diverse historical layers that have their roots in ancient history and extend to the present. Such a specific context calls for an intervention that avoids a nostalgic interpretation of the site's historical and cultural content, whereby history is reduced to a ready-made image or a stylistic exercise. Conversely, the strategy employed in this project is to add yet another layer, which endorses the plurality and contrasts present within the site, thus remaining consistent with the site's history, process of development, and function as a home for the arts. Stone and concrete are the predominant elements that define the context in terms of its expression, materiality, and construction techniques. These materials produce two diverse languages that coexist and form the cadence of that specific district in particular, and of Amman in general. The intervention (boundary walls) is an outcome of a visual hybridization between the two languages. Here, concrete yields its properties to stone, and vice versa. The idea is to create a link between the two identities through an unfamiliar body that oscillates between both, yet belongs to neither. The scale of the walls was determined by the surrounding structures. The articulation of the walls, as a fabric of three-dimensional blocks marking the entries, corners, and connections to existing structures, provides the visual structure for a new façade for Darat al-Funun.





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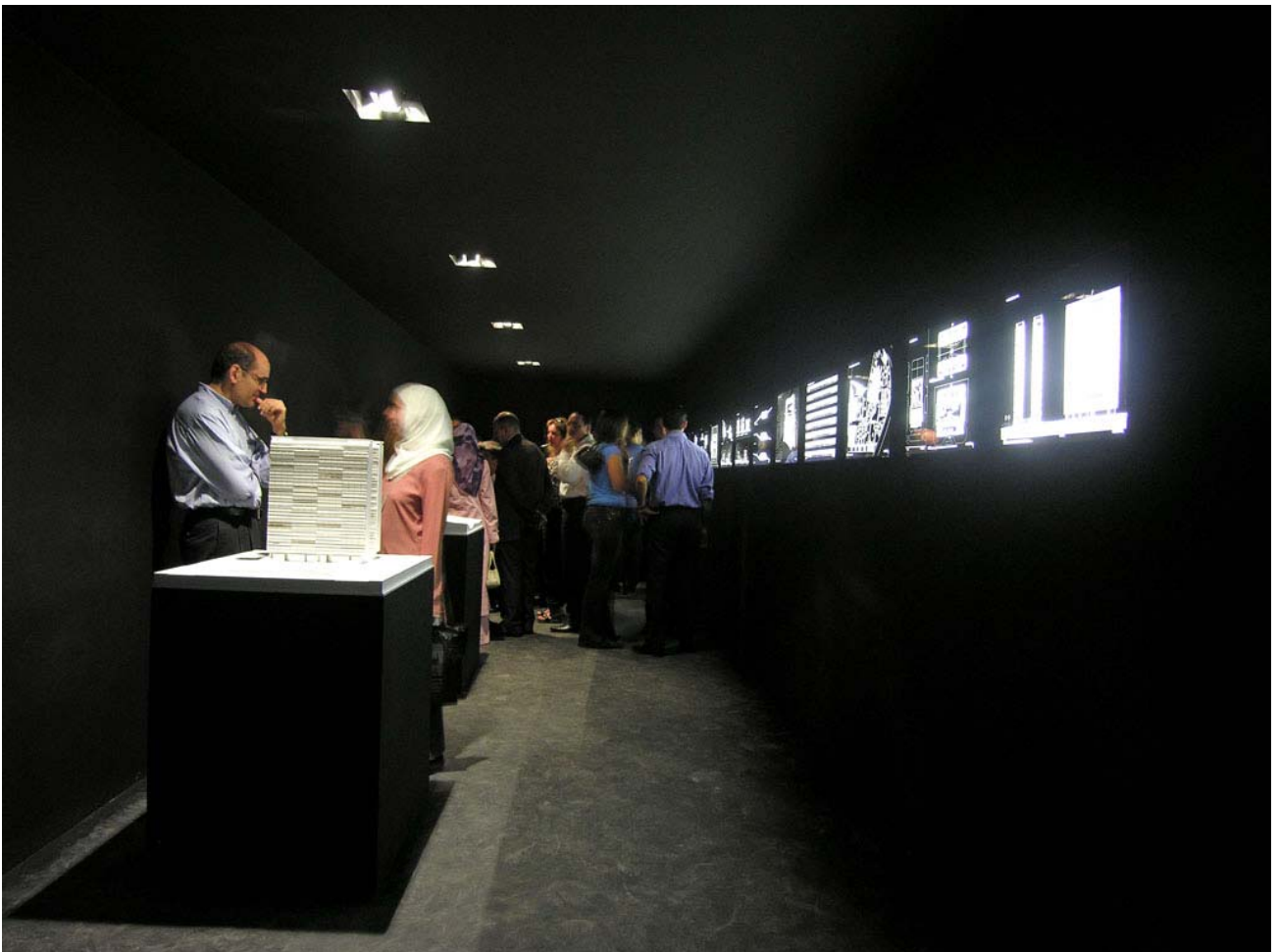
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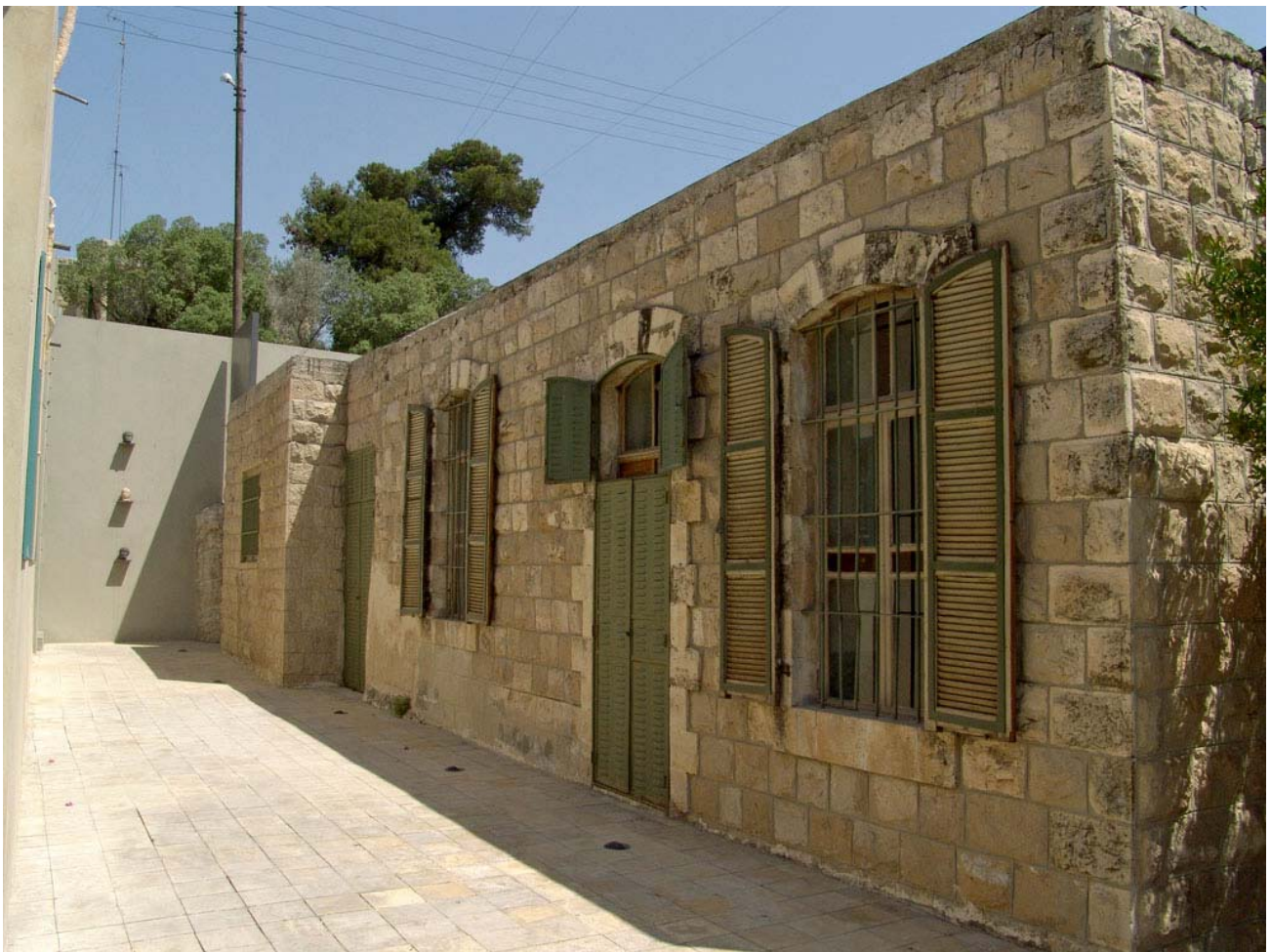
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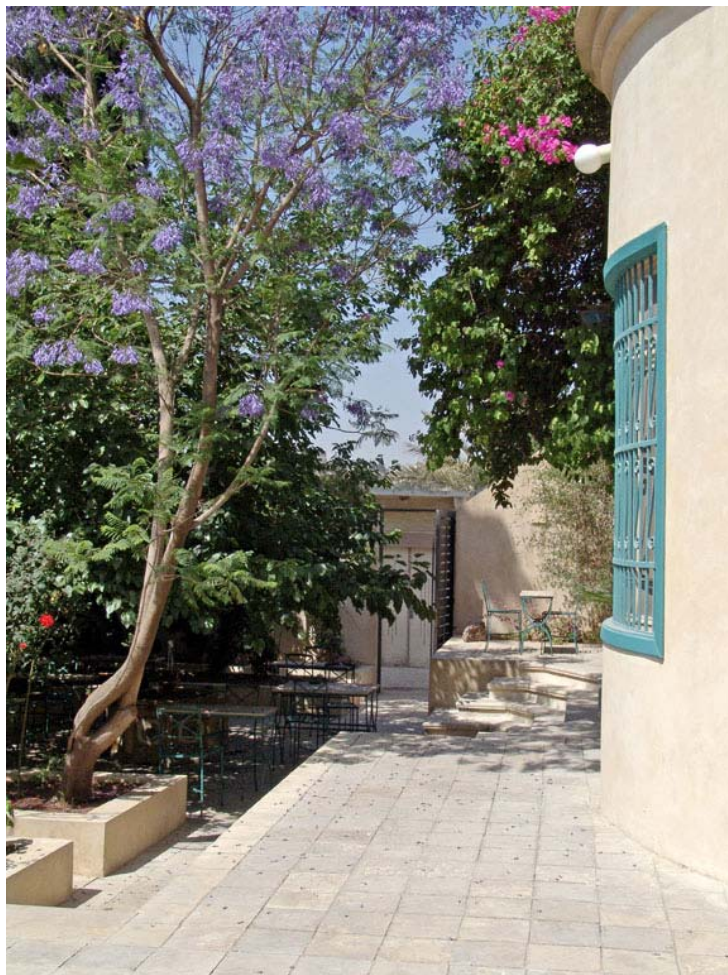
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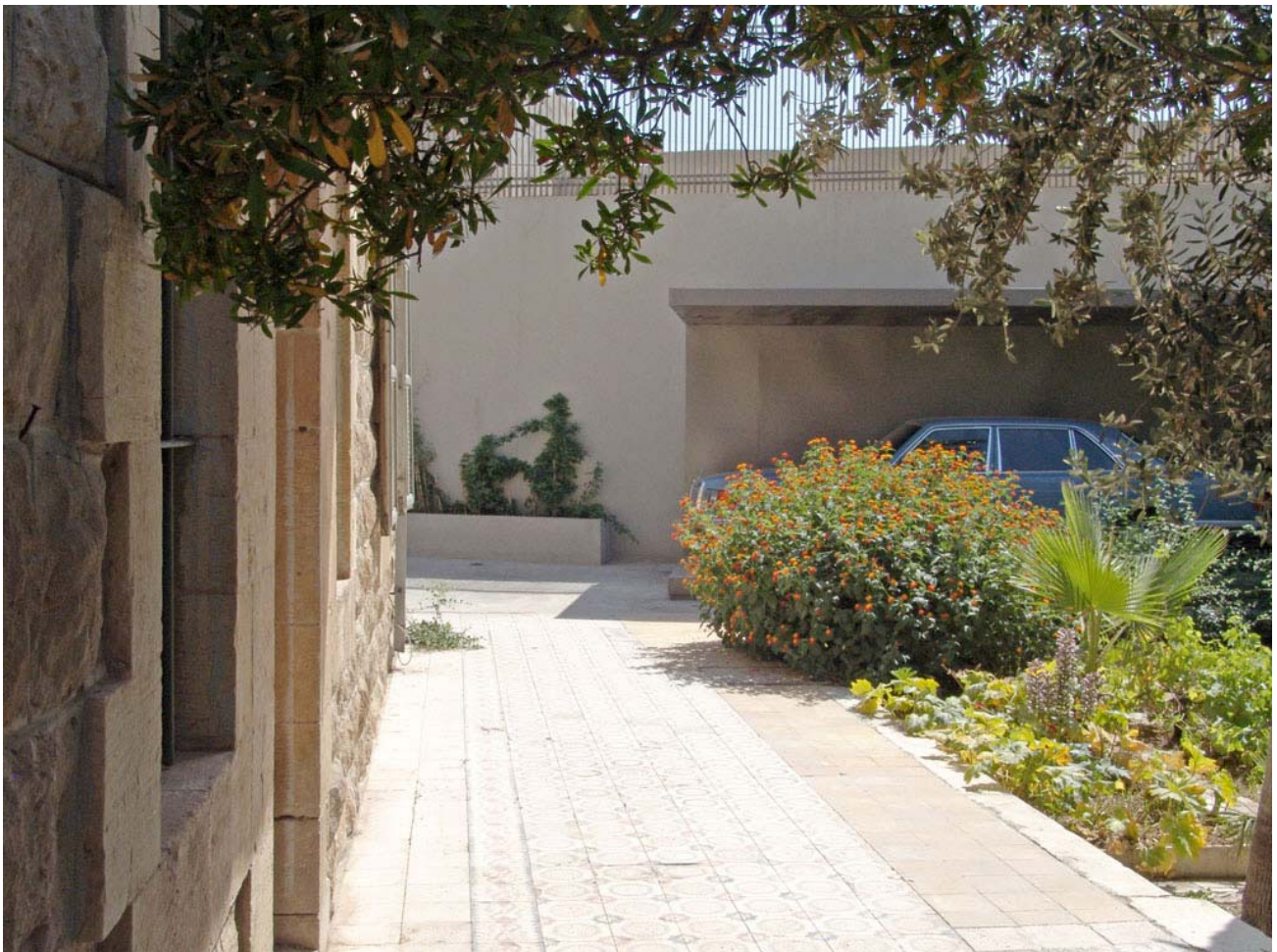
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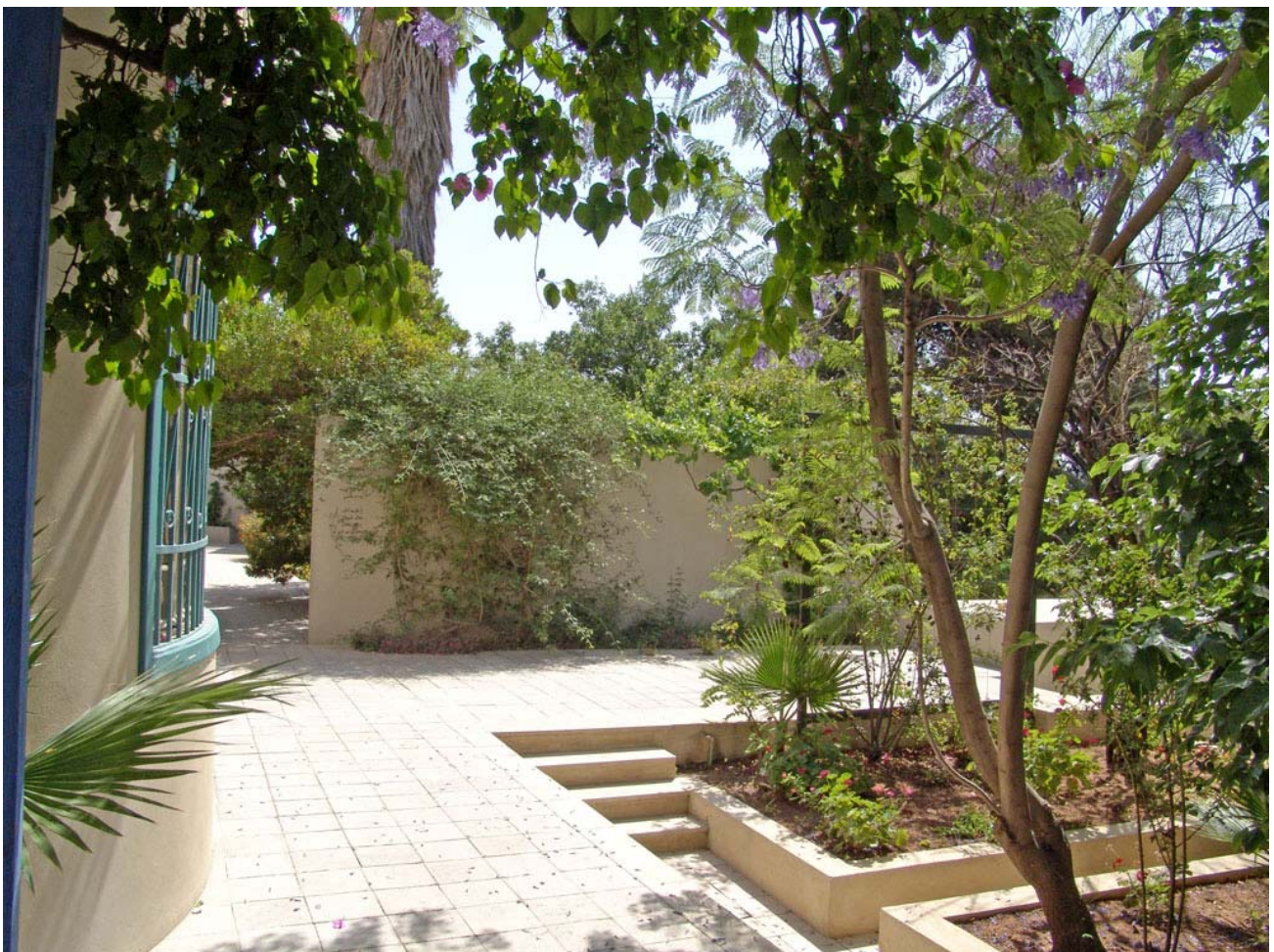
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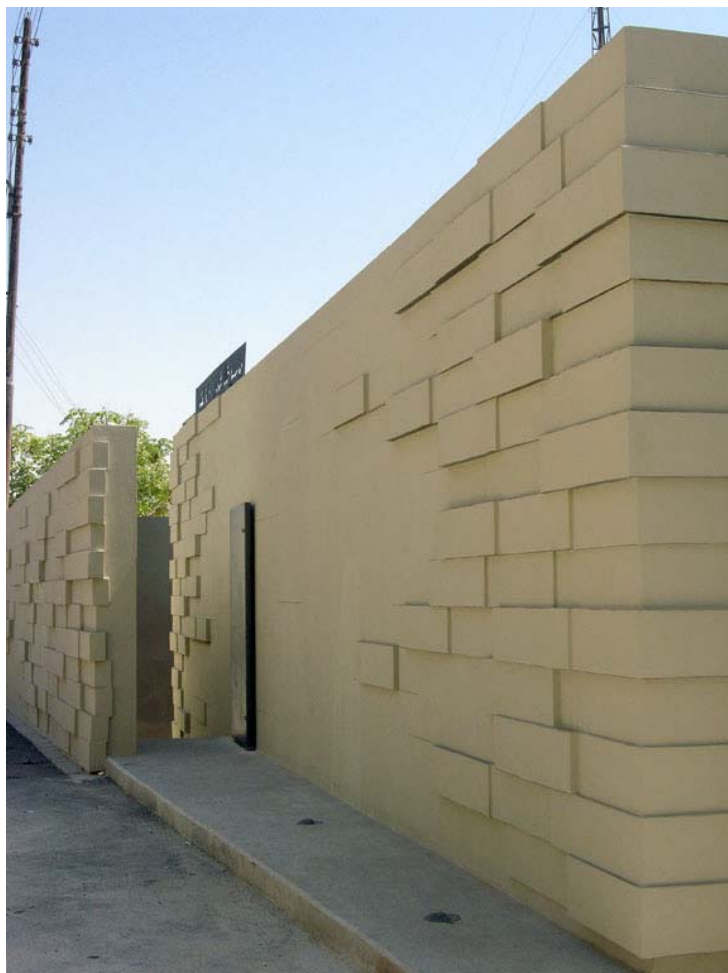
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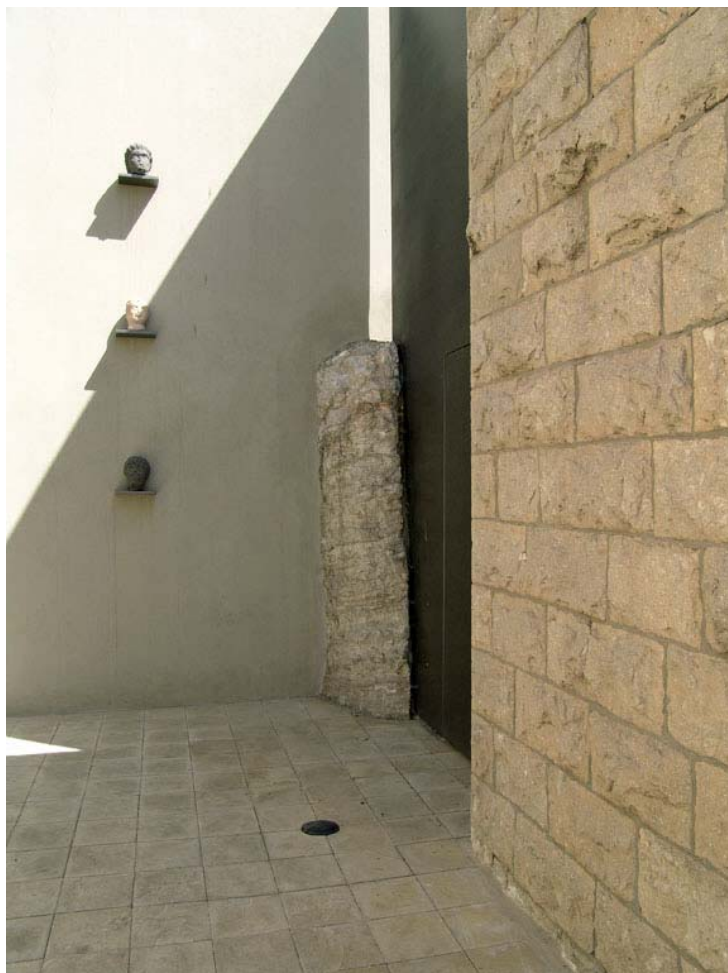
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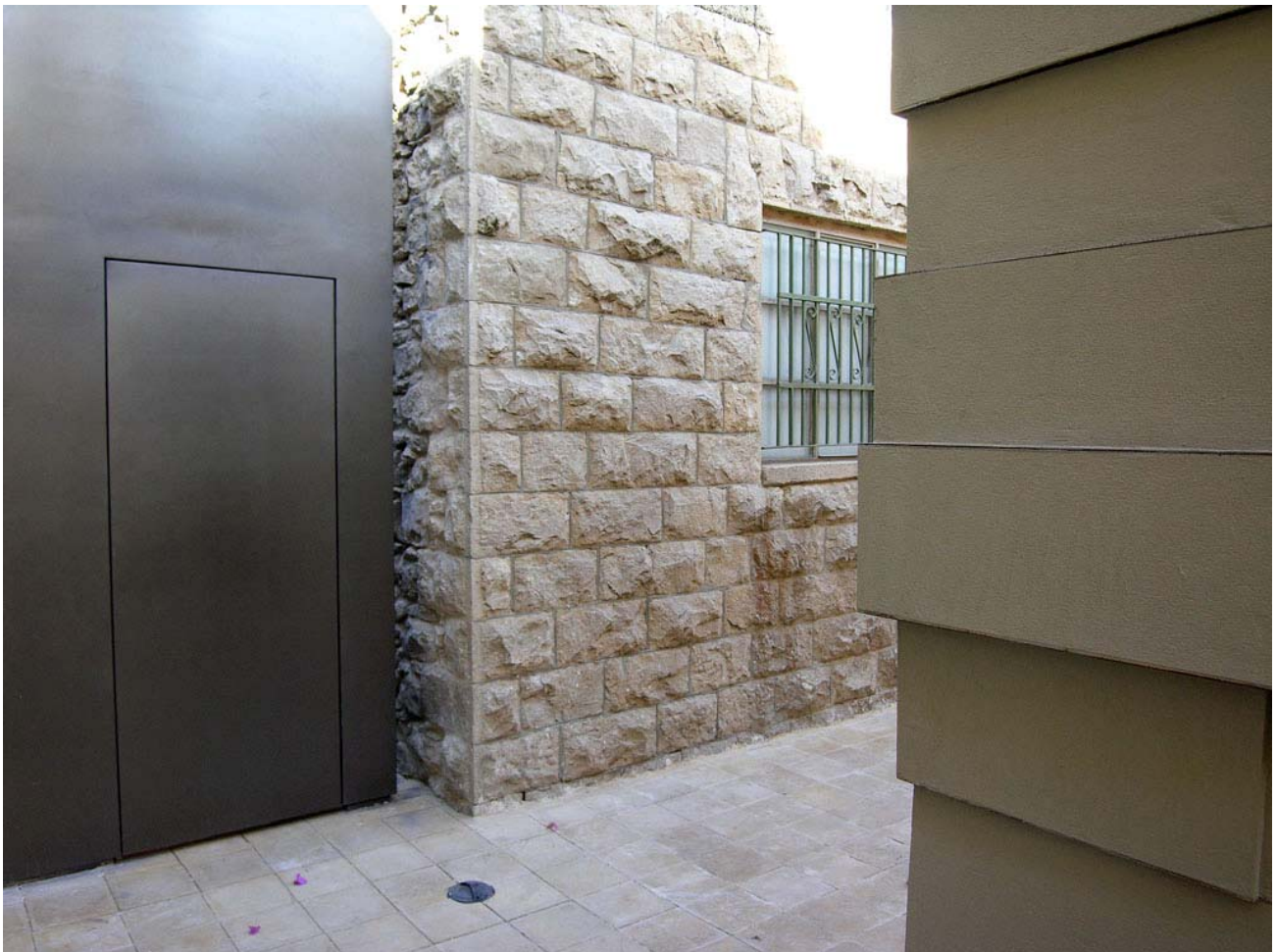
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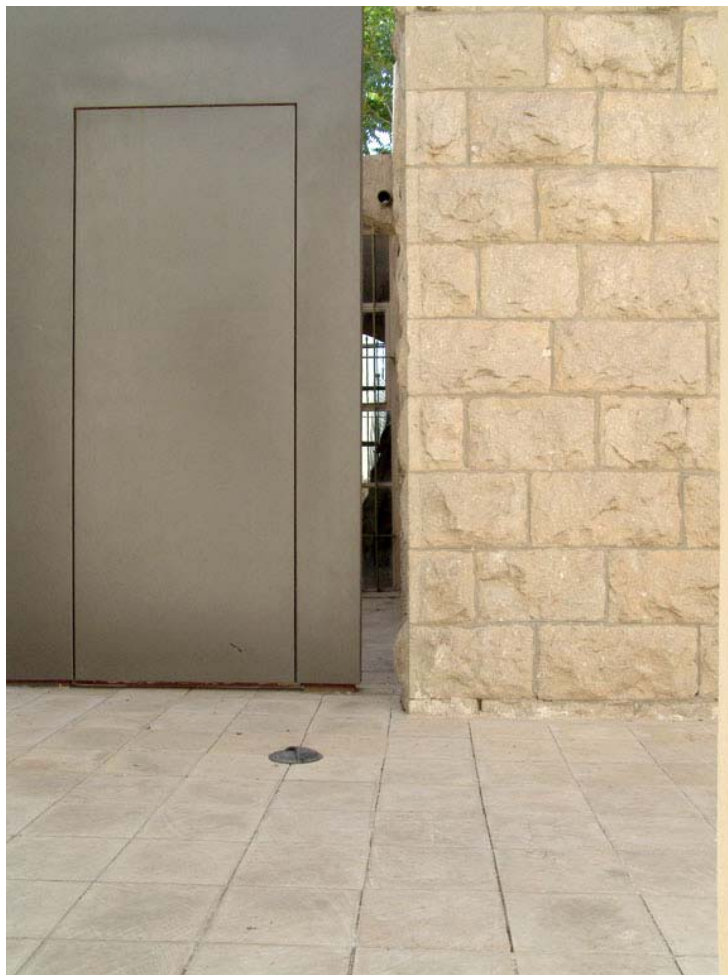
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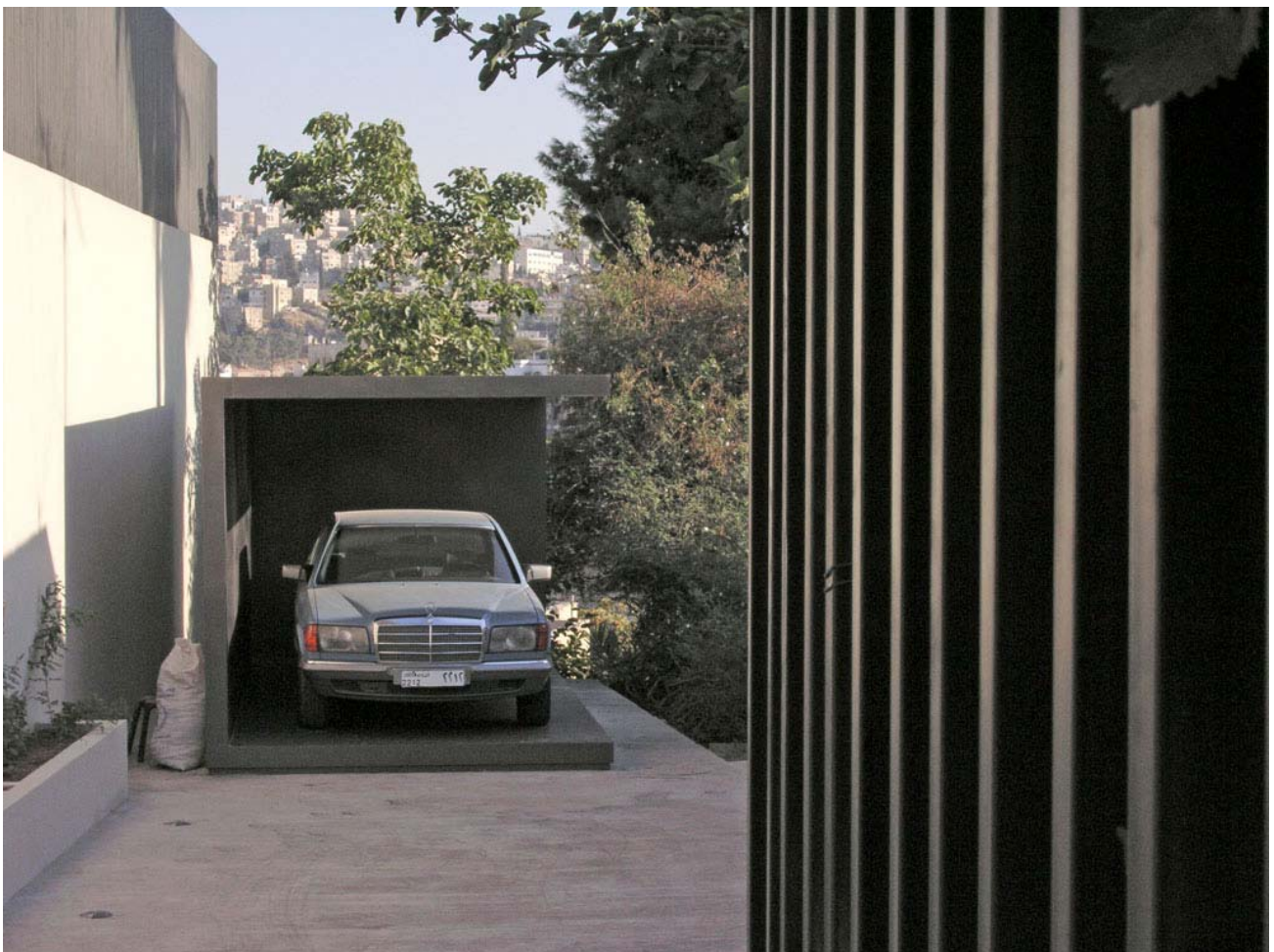
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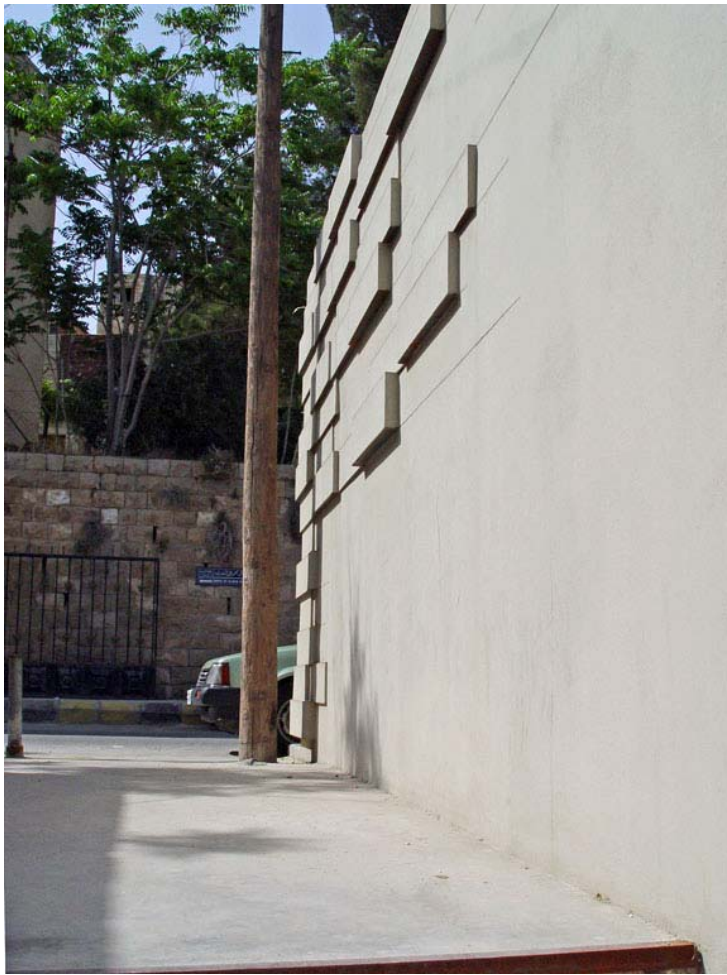
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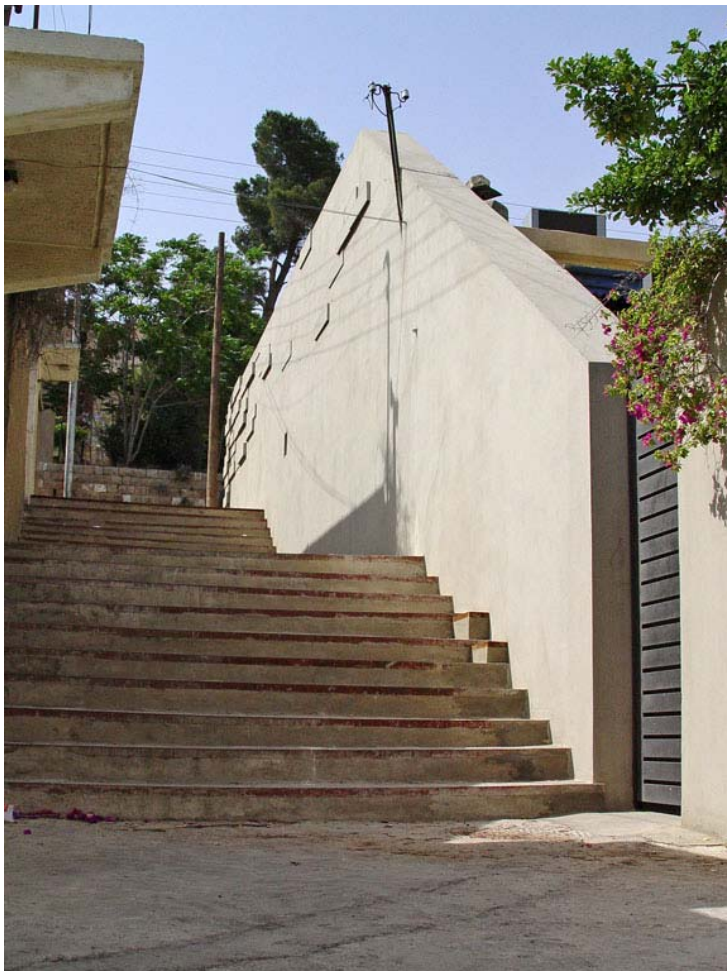
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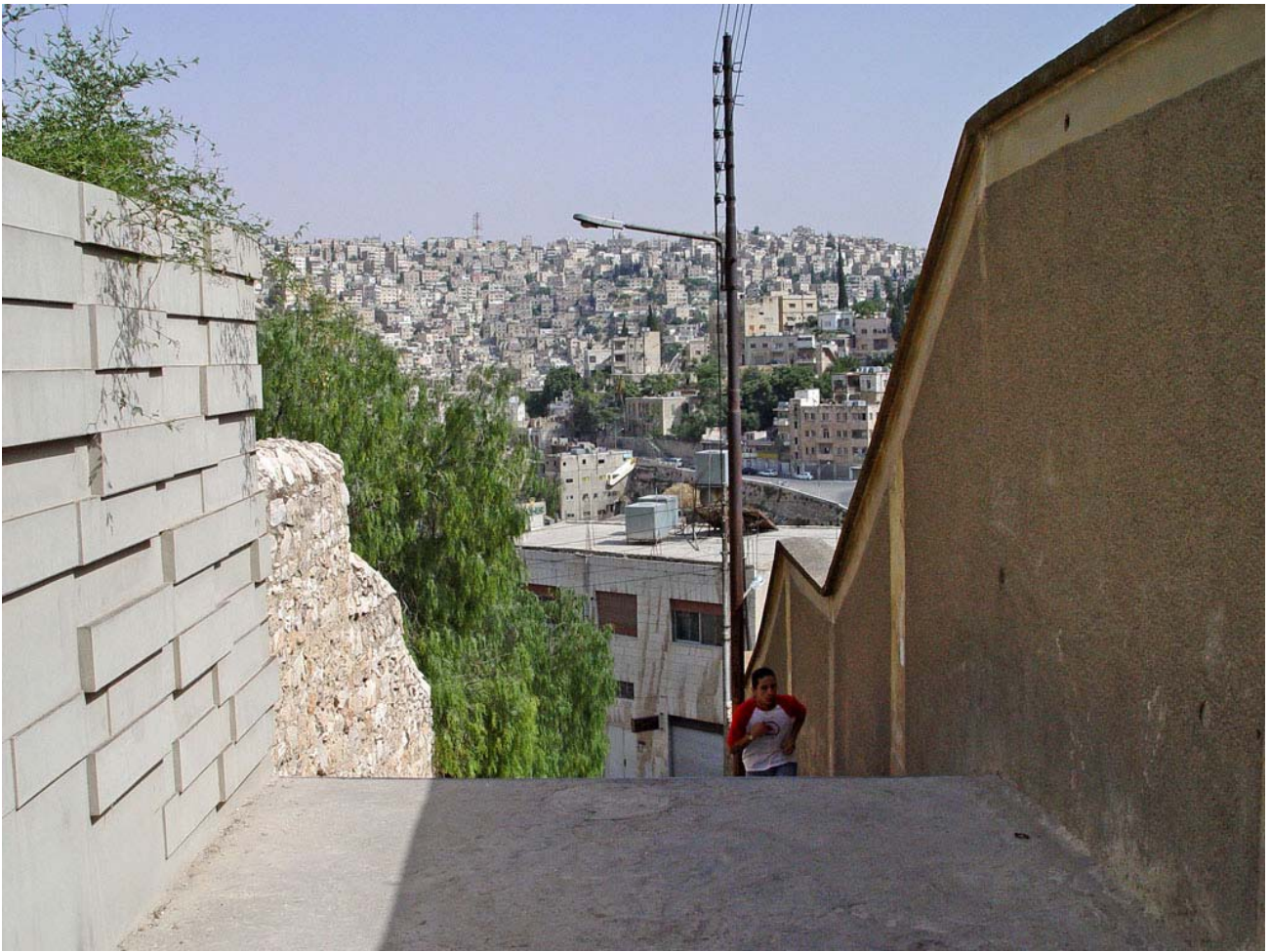
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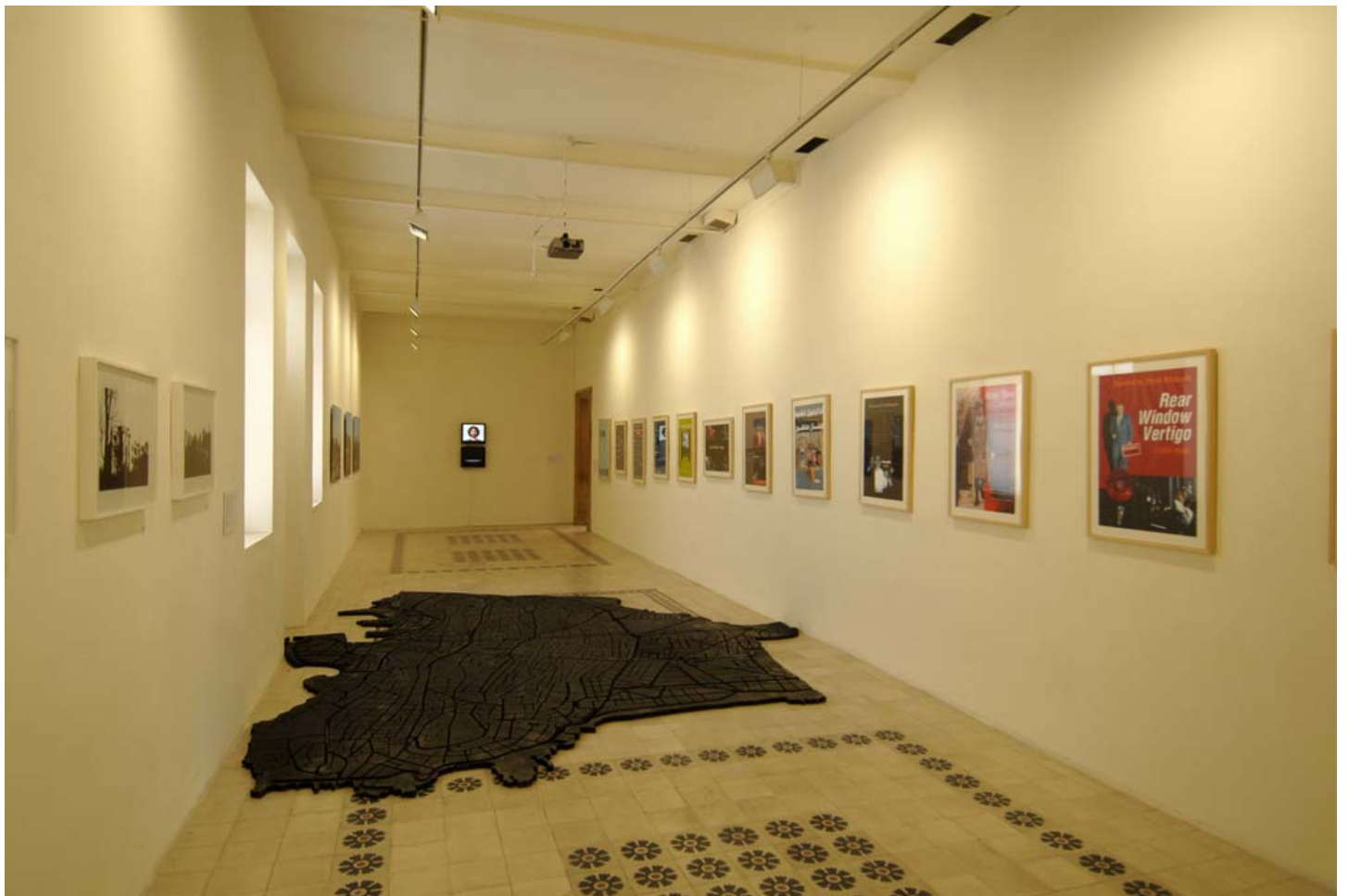
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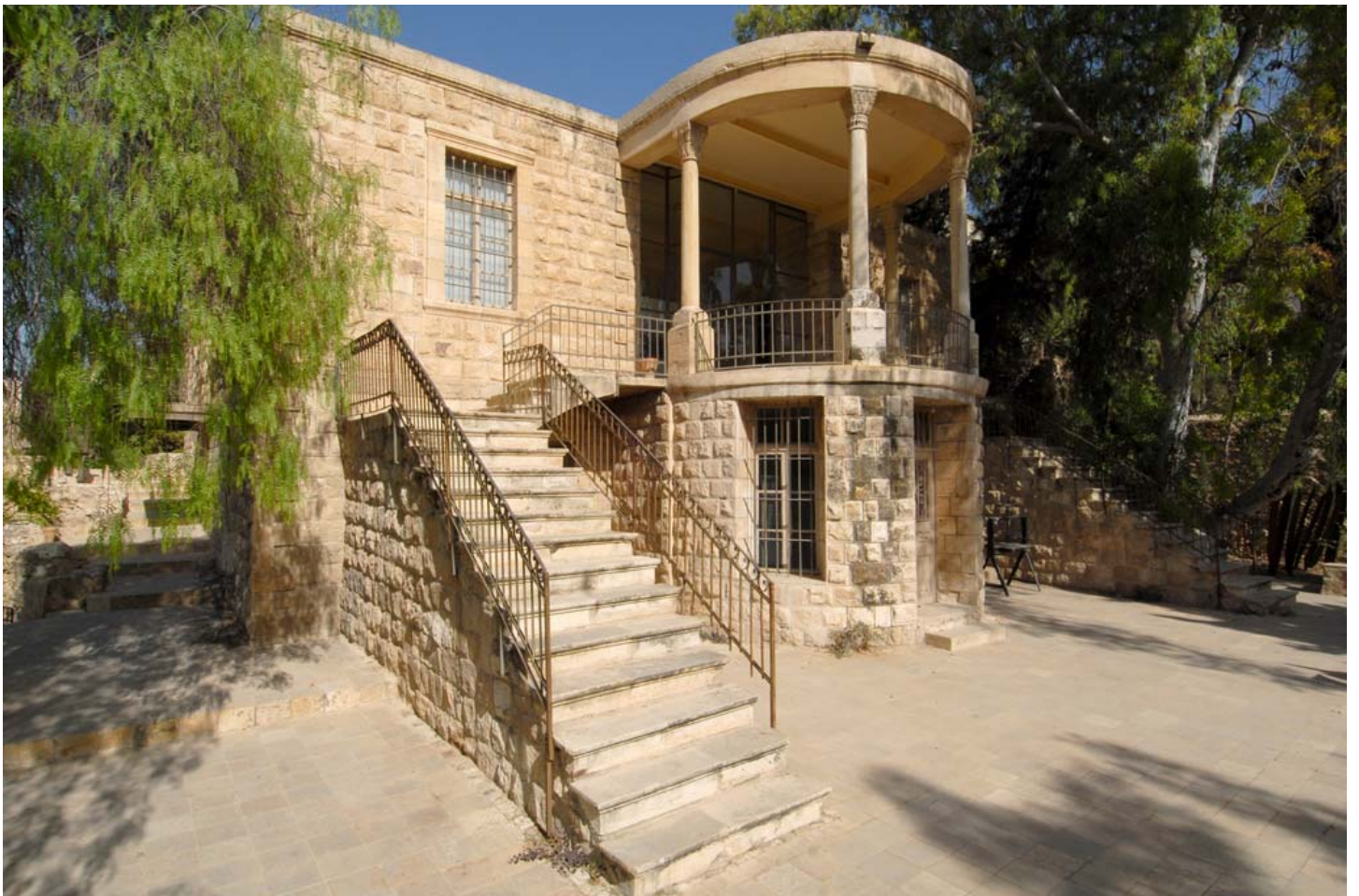
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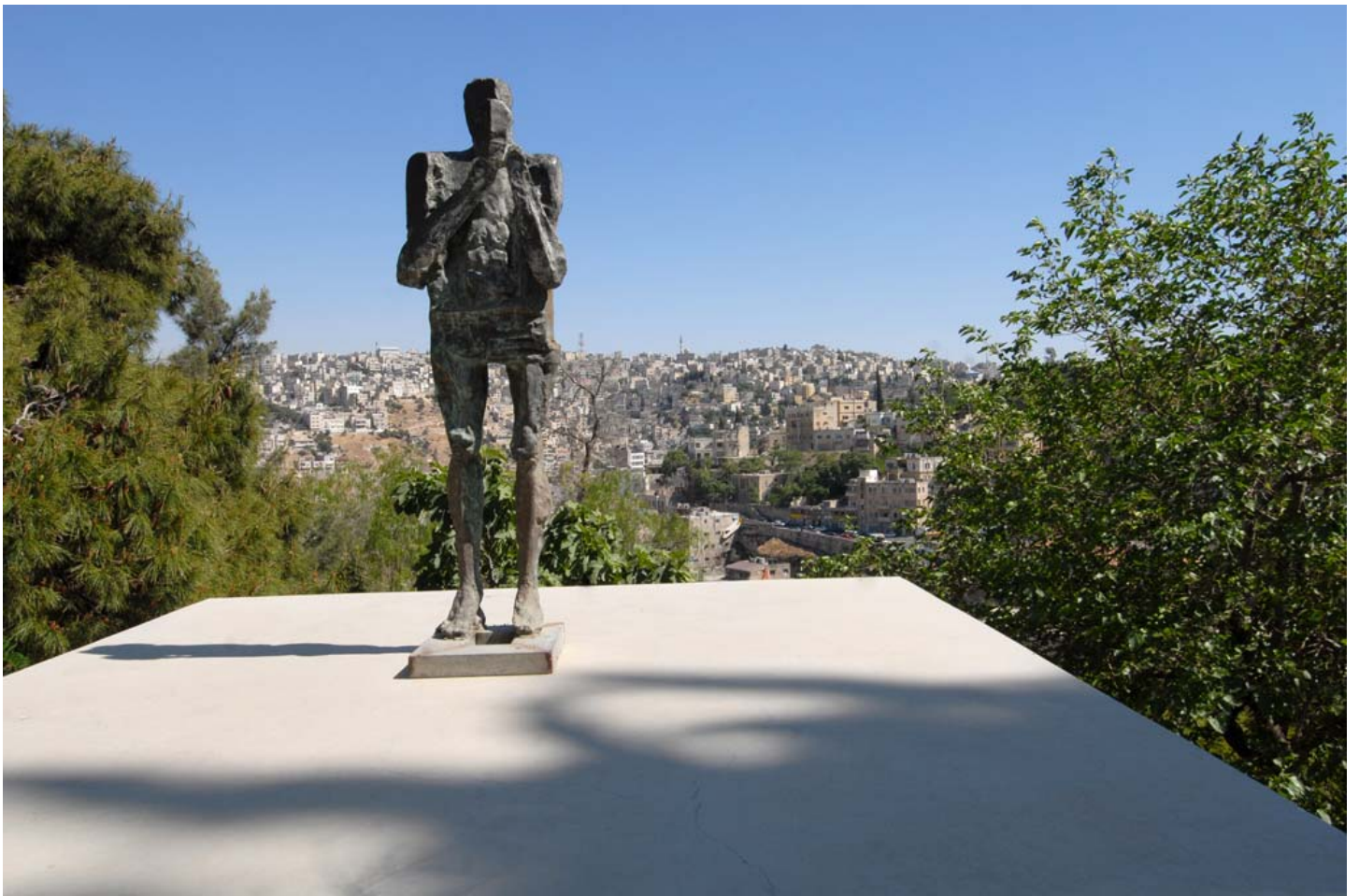
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