

Mashrabiyya House

P.O. Box 52246 Bet- Safafa  
Beit Safafa, Jerusalem

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Architects   | Senan Abdelqader<br>Jerusalem, Jerusalem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Clients      | Qassem Suhel<br>Tibe, Israel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Commission   | 2003                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Design       | 2003 - 2004                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Construction | 2004 - 2006                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Occupancy    | 2006                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Site         | 1,080 m²                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Ground floor | 240 m²                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total floor  | 1,266 m²                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Costs        | 700,000 USD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Programme    | A mashrabiyya re-imagined in stone forms the envelope for this building. The typical light and porous effect of the traditional timber screen is achieved by positioning the stones slightly apart, with irregular spacing. The stone mass - which acts as a climatic buffer - is separate from the inner building and follows a different structural grid. The gap between layers allows air to circulate, contributing to passive cooling. The upper levels of the building contain apartments, while a stone-clad deck at basement level accommodates a workshop, studio and the new Gallery for Palestinian Cultural Representation. |

Concept

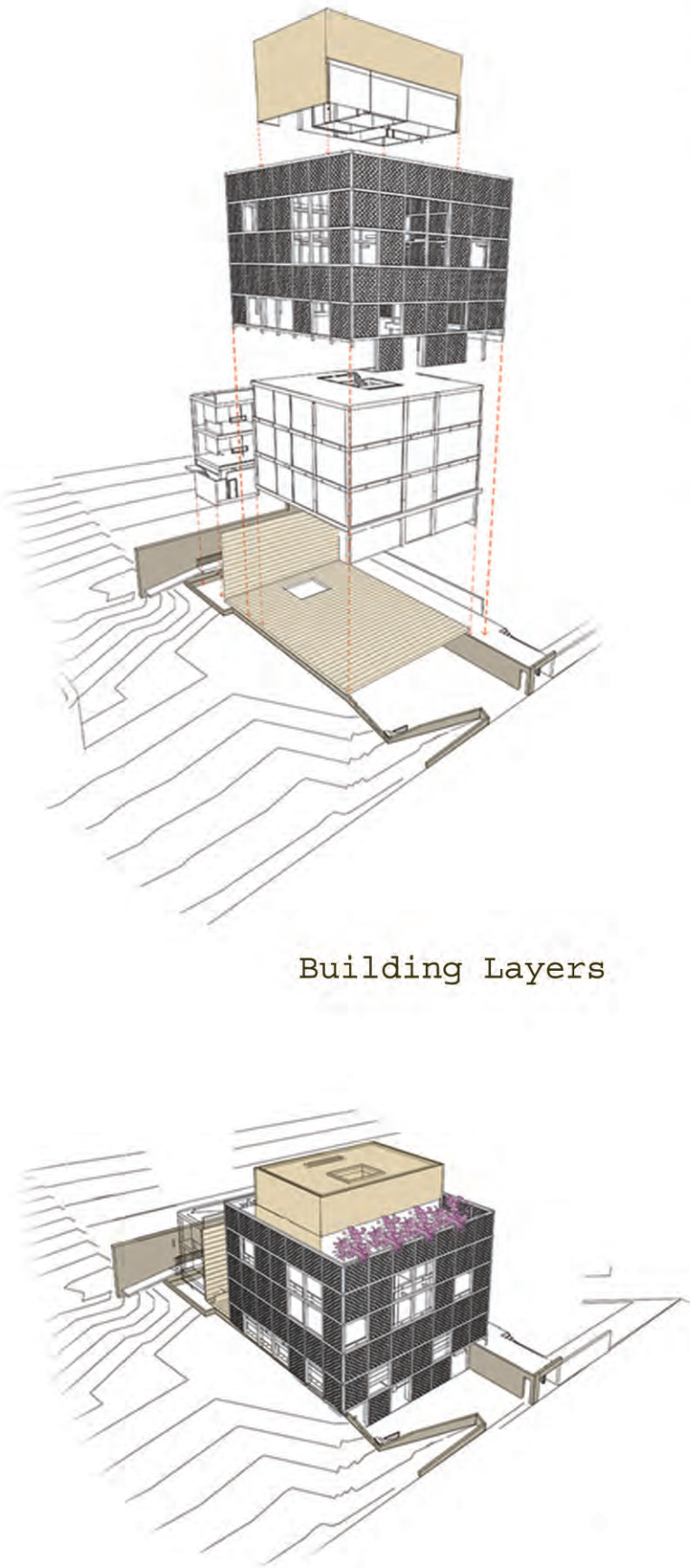
The "Mashrabiya House" is located in the Arab Palestinian village Beit Safafa between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The house was designed as a contemporary re-interpretation of traditional elements of Arab vernacular architecture, providing at the same time new and imaginative solutions for the transforming social and cultural landscape of the village.

The Mashrabiya

The Heaviness of the ground is contrasted by the lightness of the vertical structure. The floating effect is achieved through the creative interpretation of an Arab "Mashrabiya", a latticed window screen that traditionally formed a threshold between private and public spaces. The typical semi-transparent effect of the wooden screens is achieved by positioning the stones slightly apart, with irregular spacings, creating an effect of lightness and porousness. The resulting stone envelop is structurally separated by a narrow gap from the actual apartment building behind and follows a different structural grid. The playful arrangement of small and large openings provides views from the interiors out into the landscape while carefully retaining their privacy.

Hosh and Bustan

The raised courtyard between the rear retaining wall and "The Mashrabiya" is reminiscent of a traditional hosh while the "Mashrabiya" at the top of the building becomes a 'garden wall' for a roof top garden following the 'Bustan' motif: a closed garden as a sheltered place of tranquility and privacy.



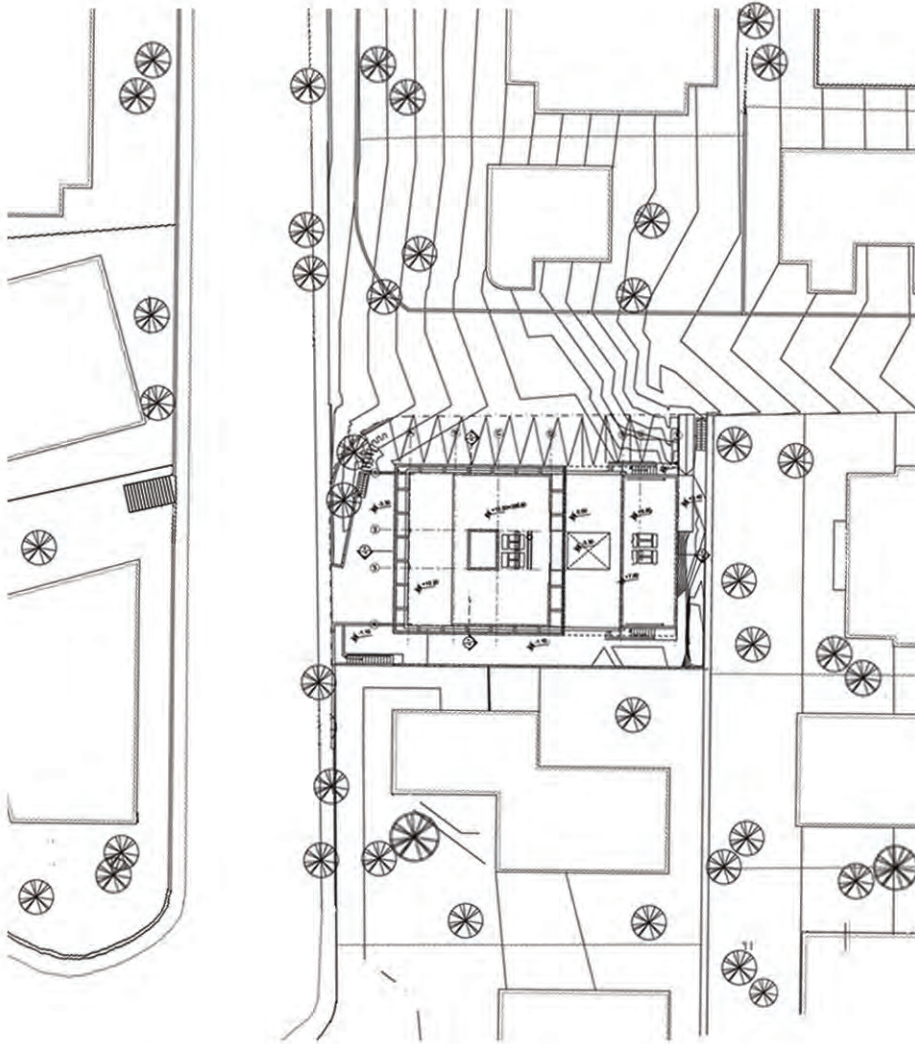
Building Layers

MASHRABIYA HOUSE  
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عمارة المشربية



A view from East-Nourth



Site plan 0 5





west Elevation



The between court



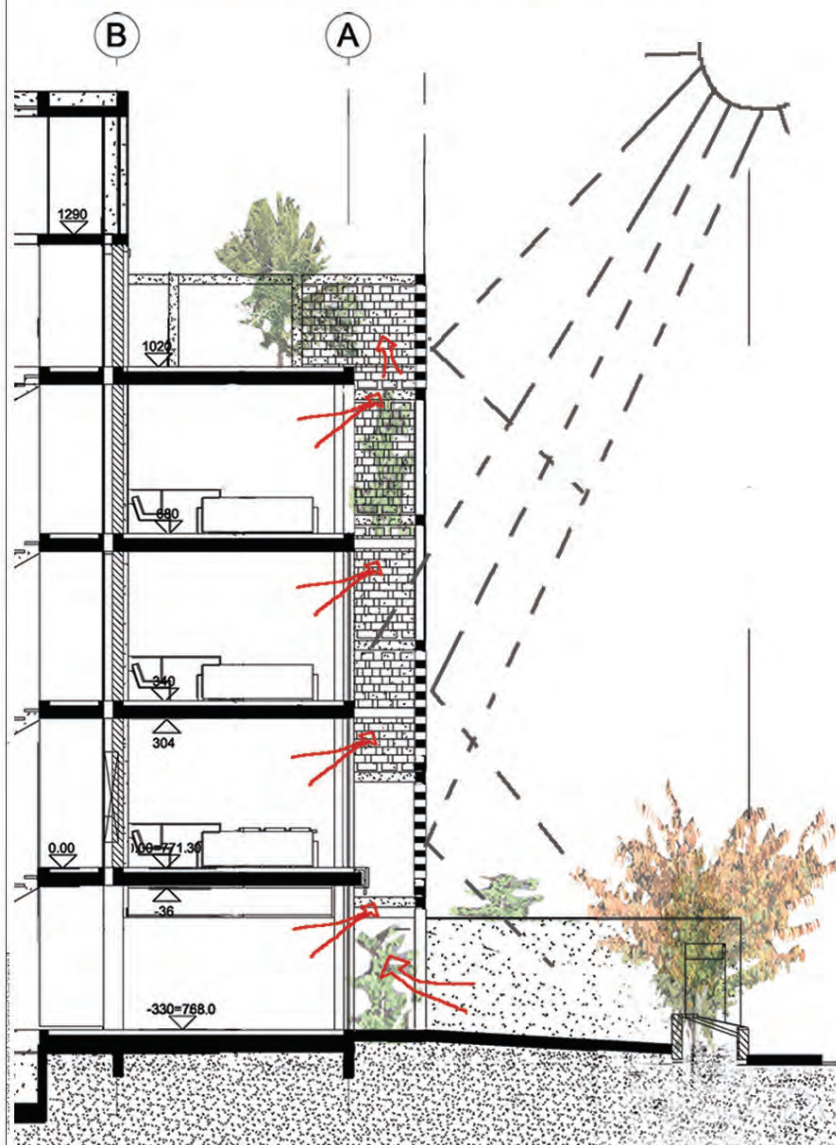
Gallery space



Between mashrabiya and house

### An Arabic interpretation of sustainability

The M"ashrabiya "Provides an element of climatic control. The stone mass of the outer envelope acts as a climatic buffer: It helps to absorb heat during the day and release heat during the cool Jerusalem nights. Thus it protects the building against solar radiation as well as winter rain and winds. A further element of passive cooling is the 1m gap between outer and inner envelop. Not only does it ensure constant circulation of fresh air around the building the fact that it remains open towards the top of the building generates a suction effect like that of a chimney: Hot air travels upwards and fresh air is sucked into the gap from below.



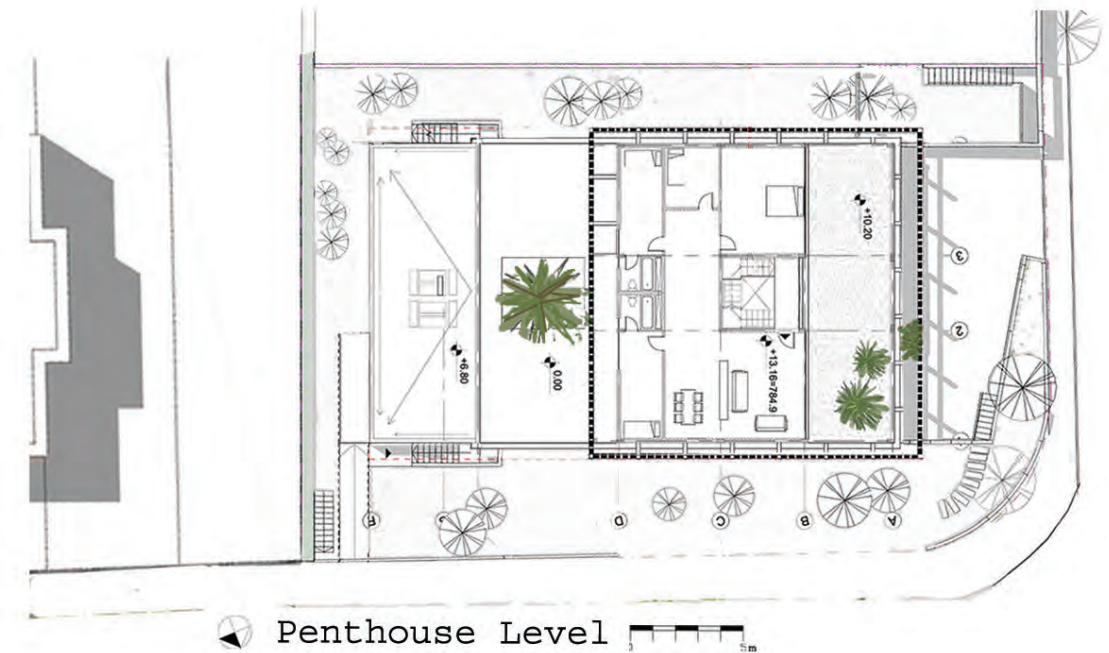
Section through mashrabiya

## MASHRABIYA HOUSE عمارة المشربية

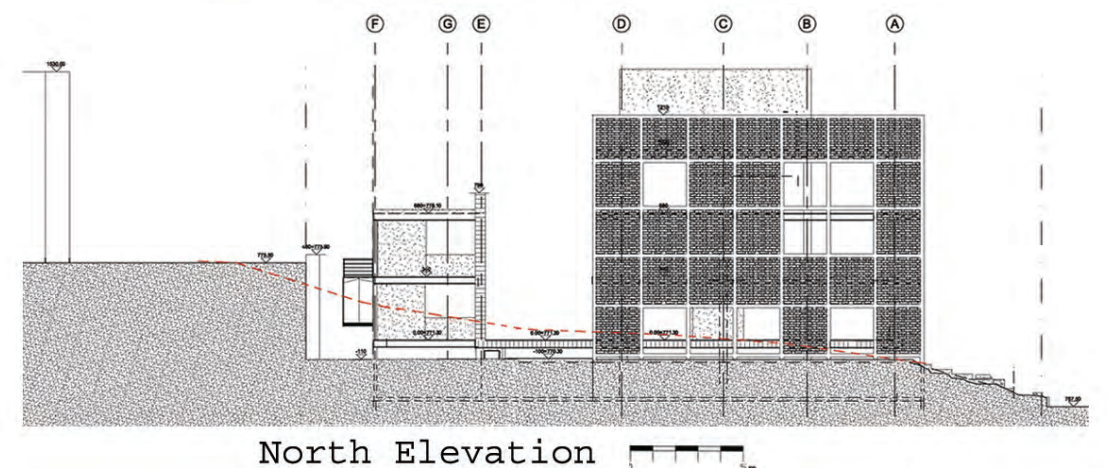
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South-West Elevation



Penthouse Level



North Elevation





Site plan 0 5



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