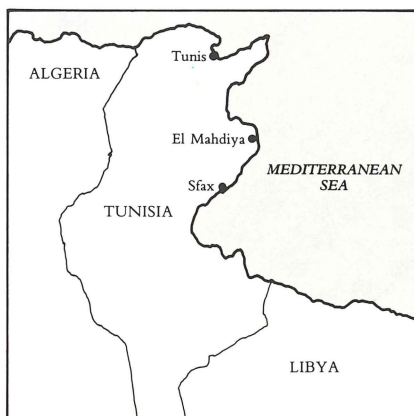


EL MOEZ HOTEL MAHDIYA



Project Data

Location: Mahdiya, Tunisia

Client: Société de Promotion Touristique de Mahdia, Mahdiya, Tunisia.

Architects: Tarek Ben Miled and Wassim Ben Mahmoud, Tunis.

Consultant: Mohammed Hassini, Tunis.

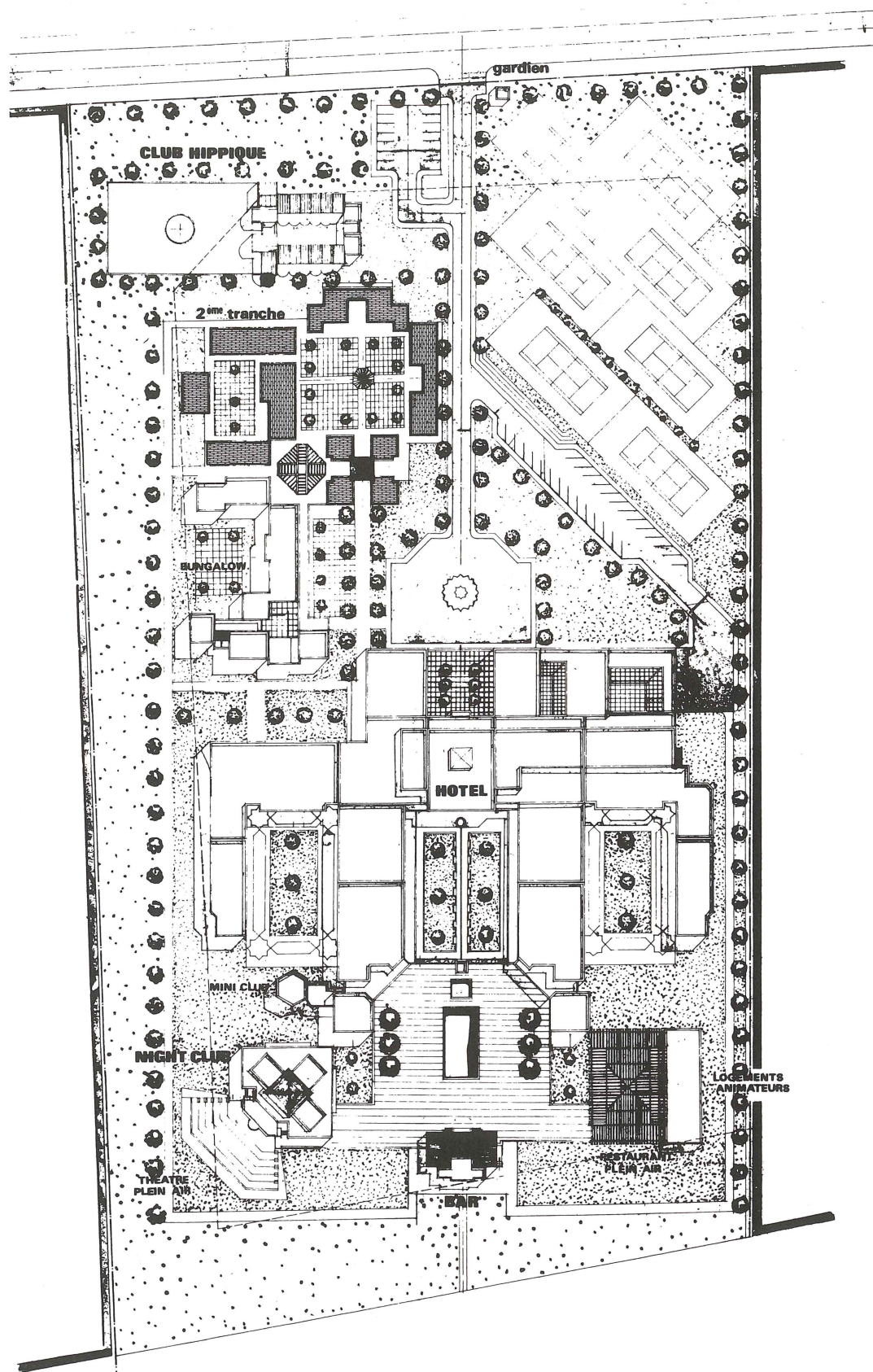
Site Area: 7 ha.

Cost: DT 5,8000,000 (US\$ 6,786,000).

Completion: December 1984.

Below: The main entrance to the El Moez Hotel; large portions of the facade are covered with ceramic glazed tiles.





Site plan of the complex, showing the organization of the hotel complex along a principal axis and the long rectangular garden inspired by traditional riyadhs.

HOTELS

El Moez Hotel is an example of the design trend in Tunisian architecture for using spatial planning features of traditional buildings together with local craftsmanship and materials. The Apartment Hotel in Sousse, Tunisia, designed in 1981 by Serge Santelli (see MIMAR 2) and, more recently, the Sidi el-Alaoui Primary School by Samir Hamaici (see MIMAR 33) are further examples of these low-rise buildings ordered around interior courtyards and gardens, decorated internally and externally with beautifully coloured ceramic tiles from Nabuel (Tunisia).

The layout of El Moez Hotel is organized along a principal axis stretching from the road to the beach. A fountain and planted courtyard precede the entrance lobby, which gives onto a larger *riyadh* with trees and a watercourse, followed by the swimming pool and a pavilion and bar on the edge of the beach. Two smaller courtyards flank the main one, and the guest rooms give onto these enclosed courts.

Although only two stories high, the simple volumes are treated so as to suggest a monumental effect. Large *iwans* (niches), and portions of the facade, are covered with ceramic tiles. The green tiled sloping roof above the entrance lobby is similar to that of the *zaoulias* or palaces. The design blends Tunisian tradition with an echo of Moorish style.

The hotel was the first project commissioned by the Société de Promotion Touristique de Mahdia, founded in 1976. It has a capacity of 400 beds, situated both in the main building and in bungalows for family use.

The basic structure uses modern techniques and materials – reinforced concrete columns, posts, beams and slabs with brick infill. However, the labour force employed in building the hotel was entirely local.

– EDITORS

Below: One of the courts and the gallery which communicate with the individual guest rooms.





Above: One wing of bedrooms, from the garden.

Above right: One of the two iḥwāns or niches at the end of the garden looking onto the swimming pool, restaurant, bar and theatre.

Right: The open-air restaurant; tables are shaded by wooden trellises rather than parasols.

Opposite top: The main lobby from the entrance showing the elaborately tiled fountain.

Opposite: Patterned ceramic tiles are used extensively inside and out; the lobby area is inspired by the sitting rooms of traditional Tunisian Houses.



