

*Fredj Stambouli*

Here are a few illustrations of the housing experience in Tunisia. In 1975, the Ministry of Housing tried to relocate the people who lived in a shantytown or slum called The Red Mountain which is only 100 metres from the Hilton Hotel and from the brilliant new campus of the University of Tunis. You will not be surprised to learn they pushed them nearly one kilometre away. There, they tried to build houses in the spirit of Islam and to stop construction of those anonymous military boxes prevalent for the past twenty years. And to show that they build in the spirit of Islam, the new city is called Ibn Khaldun. They imitated the madina in the privacy of the houses. They tried to build intimacy within the available space.

First, I ask my colleagues here to look and see if the architecture is correct and in the spirit of Islam. I am not an architect, and therefore not qualified to judge.

The second remark is a sociological one. The relocated people have made modifications and additions to the houses. The main orientation of this change from the sociological point of view is that they

would like to emphasize privacy within their house.

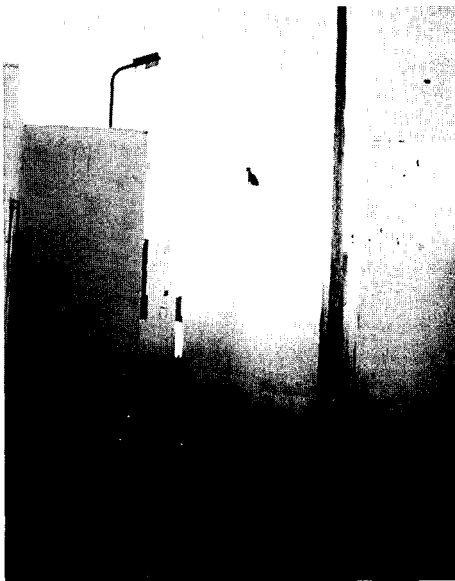
My final remark. Some of them have put other symbols on their houses which show the values with which this population

would like to identify itself. These values are very clearly bourgeois. These people are from popular origins. They project themselves into the future, a Tunisian bourgeois, decadent, aristocratic future.



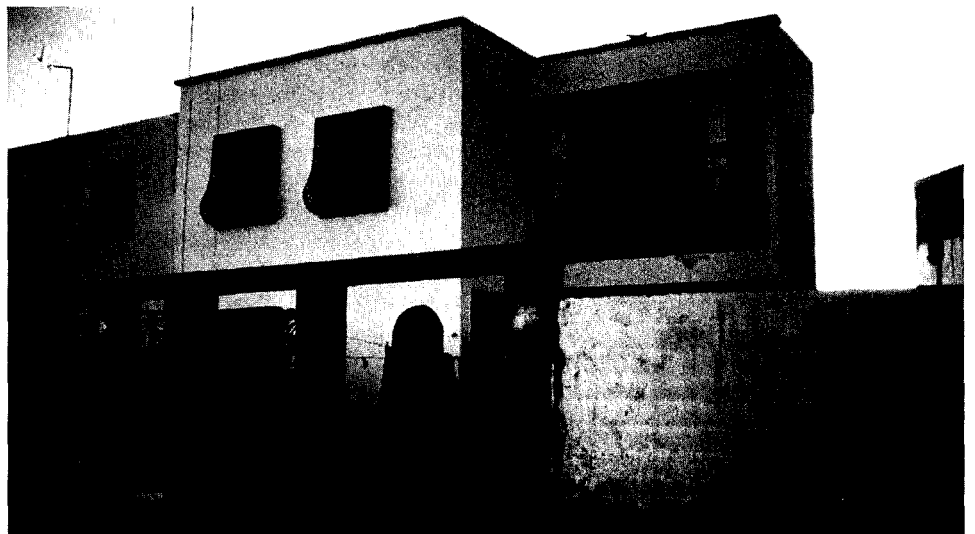
*Tunis, Tunisia Ibn Khaldun City*

*Photo: F. Stambouli*



*Tunis, Tunisia: path in the new Ibn Khaldun City*

*Photo: F. Stambouli*



*Tunis, Tunisia "bourgeois" housing*

*Photo: F. Stambouli*