



The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

1995 ARCHITECT'S RECORD

660.SYR

I. IDENTIFICATION

Project Title Khan Asa'ad PashaStreet Address Khan Asa'ad Pasha - The Market of Al-BzouriehCity Damascus Postal Code _____ Country SYRIA

II. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

A. Architect/Planner

Name Prof. Dr. Sultan MUHESEN / Director GeneralMailing Address The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums.City Damascus Postal Code _____ Country SYRIATelephone 2214854 Facsimile _____ Telex 412491 MUSEUM

B. Client

Name The Ministry of Culture, The Directorate General of AntiquitiesMailing Address The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums.City Damascus Postal Code _____ Country SYRIATelephone 2214854 Facsimile _____ Telex 412491 MUSEUM

C. Project Affiliates

Please list those involved in the project and indicate their rôles and areas of responsibility (e.g. engineers, contractors, economists, master craftsmen, other architects, clients, etc.).

Name	Rôle
<u>Prof. Dr. Sultan MUHESEN</u>	<u>Director General</u>
<u>with a group of engeneers and</u>	
<u>specialists.</u>	

Please cite addresses, telephone numbers and other project affiliates separately.

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III. ARCHITECT'S BRIEF

Please describe the initial project programme.

It was intended to turn the main floor to a saloon with an oriental style, and using the internal yard as a room for different cultural activities. But now it is going to be used as a museum for natural history.

IV. EVOLUTION OF DESIGN CONCEPTS

Please describe the history of the project, from its conception to its final construction and actual use.

It lies in the middle of the market or Al-Bzourieh in Old Damascus, and it was built by the ruler of Damascus, Asa'ad Pasha in the years 1742-1756. After six years of its building, an earthquake happened, and two domes were destroyed. Since 1973, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums is in charge of the building. From the beginning of the 80th, a total plan of restoration is in course.

V. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

A. Description of Materials

(please also indicate if locally produced or imported and whether fabricated on-site or elsewhere)

1. Foundations :The foundations are stony under the bearing walls.
2. Principal Structural Members :It is done using the bearing walls. The columns of the stony yard end with crowns.
3. Infill
4. Rendering of Façades or Exterior Finishes :The main gate consists of geometric decorations.
5. Floors: The floors are made of Bazilty stones.
6. Ceilings: The ceilings consist of a mixture of gravels, limestone and ashes.
7. Roofing: The roofs of the internal yard consist of eight domes which are carried on 24 arches.
8. Other elements (please specify)

B. Construction Technology

Indicate the basic construction technology, methods, details or systems.

The khan is built using the way of the bearing walls. The joint materials is limestone and ashes which gives a very high resistance in the regions on the Middle East, especially in the Islamic building.

C. Type of Labour Force (please indicate percentage) 12 Skilled Workers 36 Unskilled Workers

D. Origin of Labour Force X Domestic Foreign

VI. TIMETABLE

(please specify year and month)

- A. Commission 1973
- B. Design: Commencement 1/1980 Completion 9/1981
- C. Construction: Commencement 1/1981 Completion 12/5/1984
- D. Date of Project Occupancy _____

VII. AREAS AND SURFACES

Site and Building Area (please indicate in square metres)

1. Total Site Area 2500 M2
2. Total Ground Floor Area 1771 M2
3. Total Combined Floor Area 3542 M2
(including basement(s), ground floor(s) and all upper floors)

VIII. ECONOMICS

Please specify the amounts in local currency. Provide the equivalent in US dollars. Specify the date and the rate of exchange for US dollars at that time.

	Amount in Local Currency	Amount in US dollars	Exchange Rate	Date
A. Total Initial Budget	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1980</u>
B. Cost of Land	<u>500,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1980</u>
C. Analysis of Actual Costs				
1. Infrastructure	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Labour	<u>1,400,000</u>	_____	<u>4-6</u>	<u>1980-1984</u>
3. Materials	<u>1,600,000</u>	_____	<u>4-6</u>	<u>1980-1984</u>
4. Landscaping	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Professional Fees	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Other	_____	_____	_____	_____
D. Total Actual Costs (without land)	<u>3,000,000</u>	_____	_____	_____
E. Actual Cost per sq.m.	<u>850</u>	_____	_____	_____

F. Cost Comparison

Please indicate how the costs of this project relate to typical building costs in the country:

800 sp Average 1200 sp Above Average 600 sp Below Average
G. Sources of Funds

1. Please indicate the percentage of funds that came from:

_____ Private Sources 100% Public Sources

2. If funding was public, what percentage was from:

_____ Local Sources 100% National Sources _____ International Sources

IX. PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

In what way is this project important ?

It lies in the middle of Old Damascus. It is surrounded by many important buildings and archaeological monuments.

It is very strong, and the most interesting thing is the construction system and the architectural creation.

This project is considered as a school that graduates engineers qualified workers,...etc., who work depending on a scientific system.

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Name (please print) Prof. Dr. Sultan MUHESEN, Director General

Signature _____

Date 27/II/1994

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08 DEC. 1994

It lies in the middle of Al-Bzourieh market in Old Damascus. It was built by the ruler of Damascus, ASA'AD PASHA Al-Athem, who ruled Damascus in/1742-1756 A.C./, which was clear on its entrance. The Khan consists of two floors: The first one has a central yard with a pool, and surrounded by rooms of different sizes. One can reach the second floor by using the stairs, which lead to different passages that end with rooms. There is a dome covering its roof, which is surrounded by eight other semitric domes. It has five passages on the yard, four of them begin in the corners of the khan, and the fifth one relates the central yard with a little smaller one lies in the north part of the khan.

Thus this building is unique in its architectural plan and way of building basing on the alternance of white and black stones with the characteristic arches and other features. It was used as a commercial point for the caravans. We are intending to use it in a civilized and cultural purposes.