

Amar Headquarters

Al-Balad, Harat Al Mazium No. 1 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	
Architect	Sami Angawi Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Client	Amar Headquarters Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Occupancy	December 1988
Site	240 m2
Ground Floor	240 m2
Total Floor	1'200 m2
Costs	
- Global	233'066 USD 874'000 SAR
Rate	USD = 3.75 SAR
- per m2	194 USD 728 SAR
Rate	USD = 3.75 SAR
Currency	Saudi Arabian Rials
Programme	Restoration of a traditional house for use as an architect's office and centre for traditional architectural heritage.

Building Type	073
1995 Award Cycle	1121.SAU



West façade, after restoration

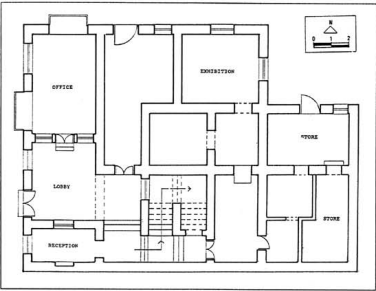
AMAR, essentially an architects' office, was set up by a group of Saudis, with the aim of stimulating interest in the Saudi architectural heritage by means of restoration and development in the Old Balad part of Jeddah. The group considers their main challenges as: lack of information; scarcity of craftsmen specialised in traditional crafts; and an apparent gap between traditional craftsmen and construction professionals. The now-restored five-storey building concerned here serves the dual purpose of offering comfortable working conditions whilst exhibiting what can be achieved in restoration, blending past with present.

Located in the old city of Jeddah, the building chosen by AMAR is in close proximity to the central traditional market area, adjacent to the 400-year old Al-Shafai mosque. The property had been endowed to the mosque under the traditional *awqaf* system, and its restoration, therefore, provided funds to upgrade the mosque itself. Existing *rashans* or *mashrabiyas*, a characteristic feature of the buildings of old Jeddah, were maintained as they offer privacy and shade in the hot and humid climate.

Existing features have been maintained throughout, though some internal walls appear to have been removed. Air-conditioning and modern services were installed to ensure the level of comfort associated with the contemporary office environment. An exhibition space and the computer room form part of AMAR activity in gathering and making available information concerning Saudi architectural heritage, in particular, and Muslim culture in general.

The main structure incorporated was the use of existing loadbearing walls reinforced with brick and stone where necessary. Existing timber was treated with preservative or replaced as appropriate.

The project has to an extent started a chain reaction, entirely funded by the private sector, reanimating the old city of Jeddah through adaptive re-use of existing structures. In addition, it would seem that AMAR, through their library and experience, can now offer assistance in other, similar ventures elsewhere in the Arab world.



Ground floor plan



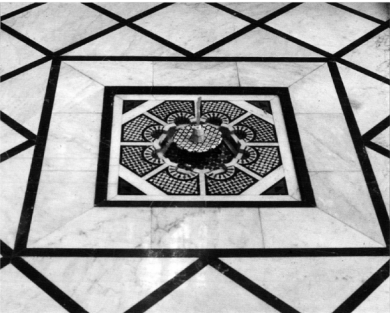
1121.SAU
Amar Headquarters
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



Interior, director's office, after restoration



Interior, director's office, after restoration



Interior tile design



AMAR



AMAR
FOR ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
JEDDAH
SAUDI ARABIA

AMAR
HEADQUARTER

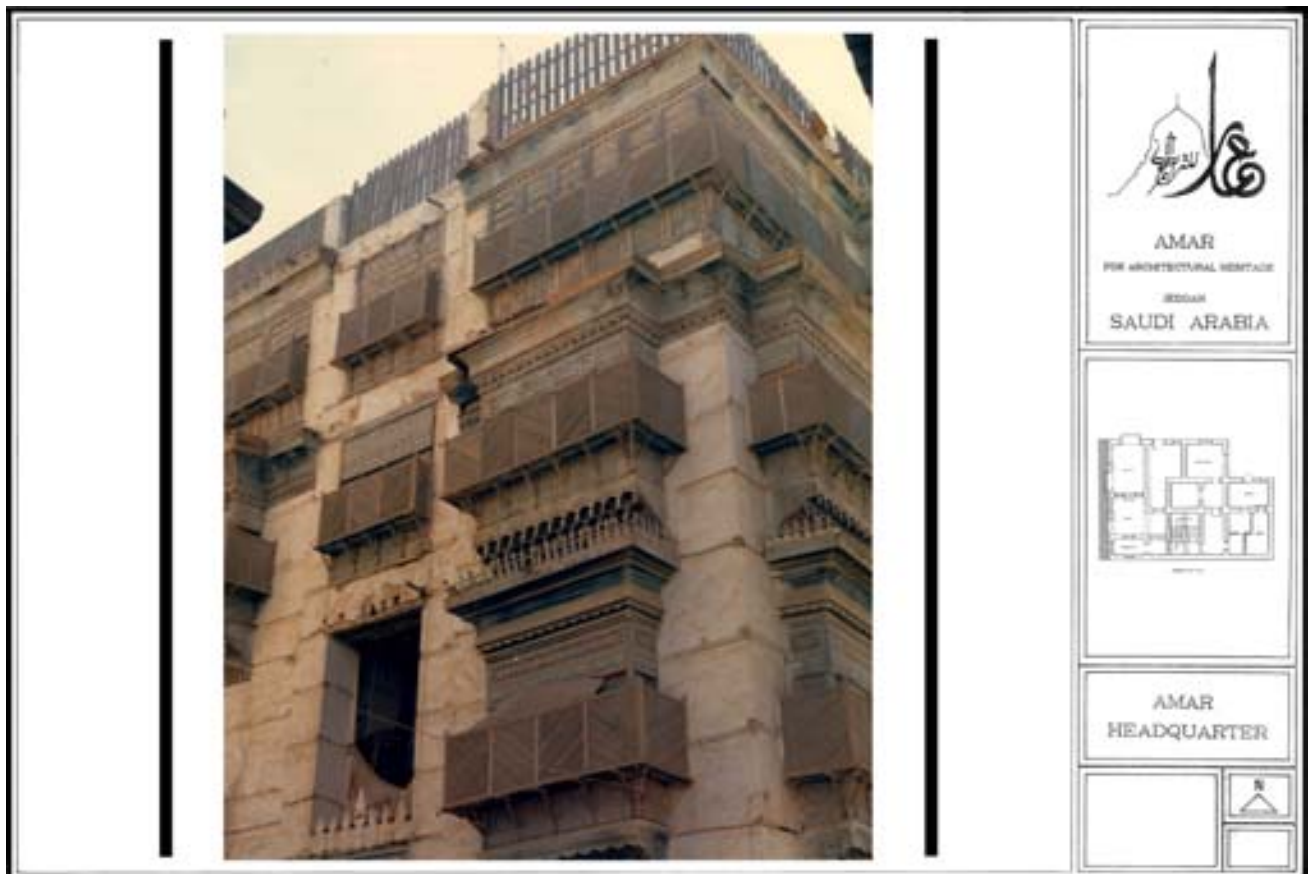
Scale 1:2000



Site plan of Jeddah



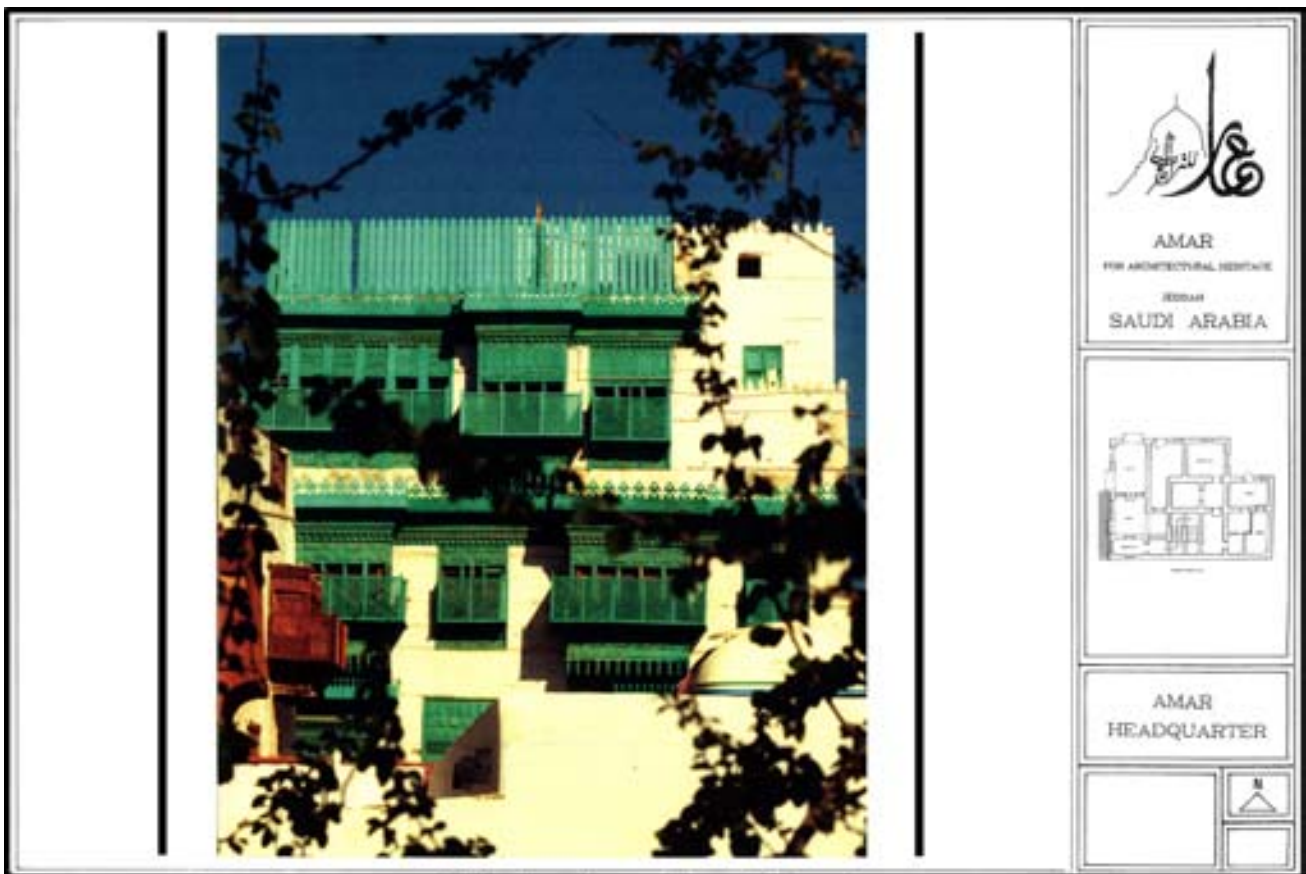
Elevation details



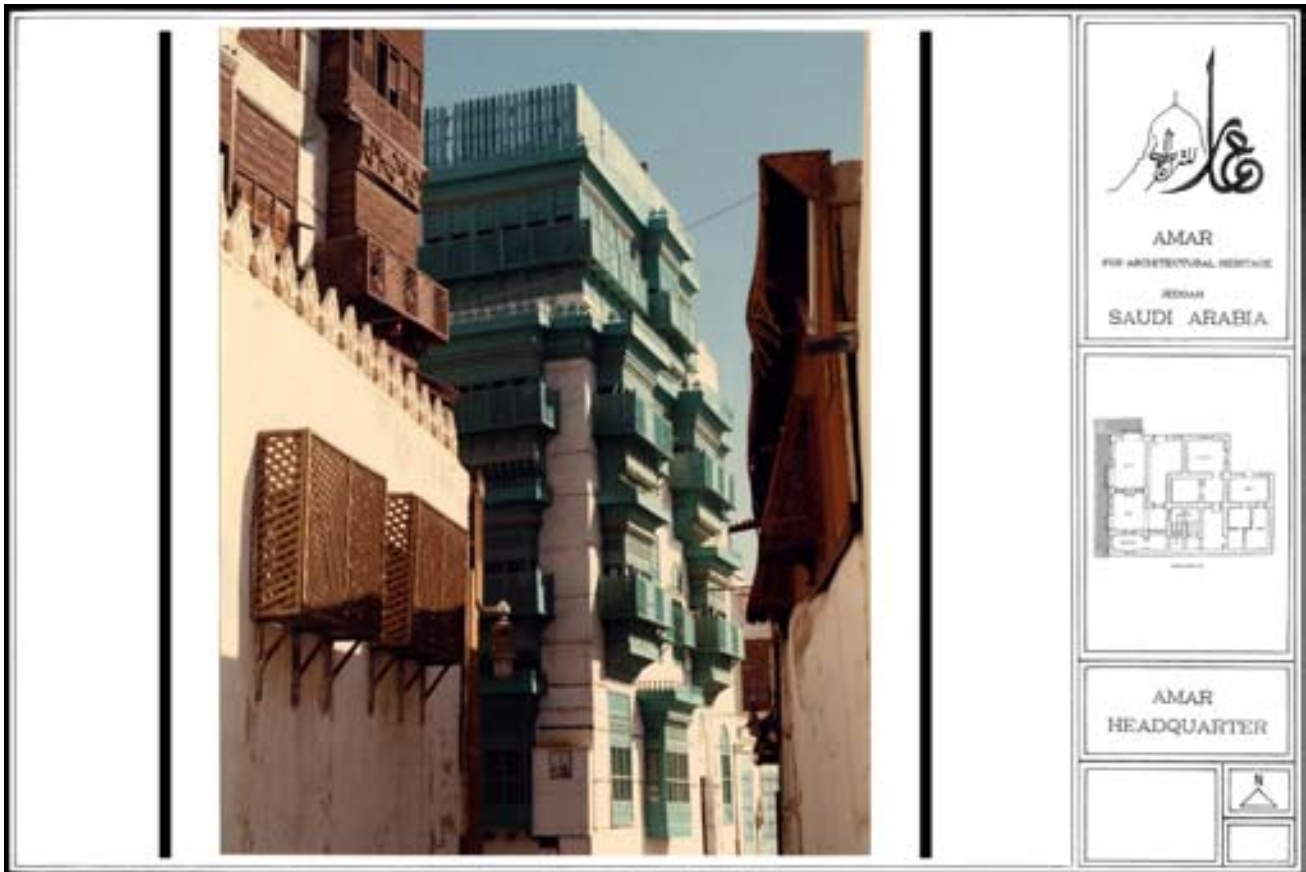
West facade before restoration



Exterior view, North-West corner



Exterior view, of west facade



Exterior view, North-West corner



Interior view of first floor director's office



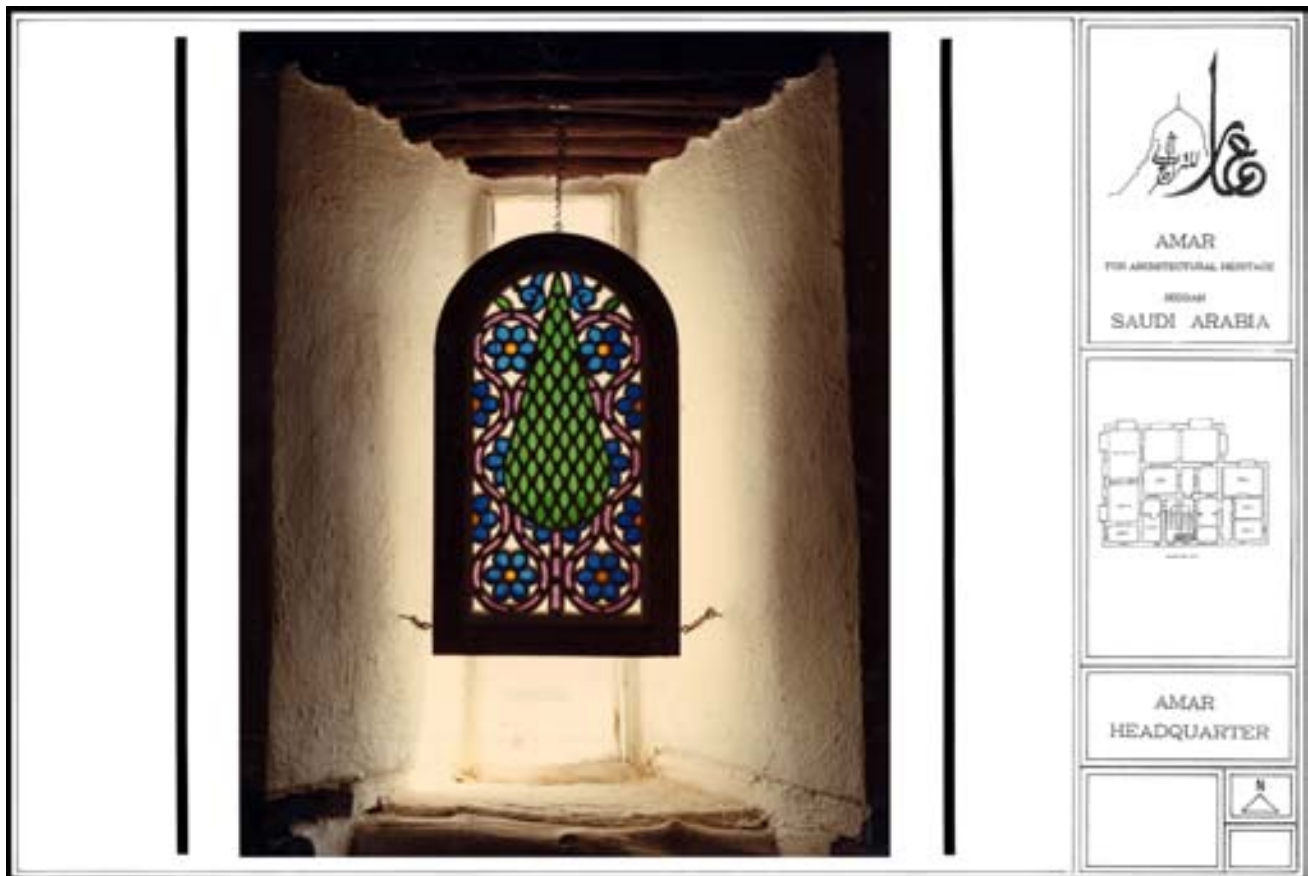
Interior view of first floor director's office



Fourth floor guest room



Interior view of third floor office



Interior view of stained glass window detail within the stairwell core