



Throne Village Palaces: Venues for your events and activities

RIWAQ رواق

Center for architectural conservation

2009

Photos courtesy of Palfest 2010

HISTORIC THRONE VILLAGES

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the central highlands of Palestine (today the West Bank) were divided into twenty-four administrative domains (sheikdoms). These sheikdoms were ruled by sheiks who belonged to rich or “noble” families, and it is where these sheiks and their families resided that we find “Throne Villages” or *Qura Karasi*. The sizes of sheikdoms varied with some encompassing more than forty villages, such as the Jamma’in Sheikdom in Nablus and others, like the Bani Harith Sheikdom, which governed fewer (eleven).

The sheikh, who was endowed with both political and social status, was the tax collector on behalf of the Ottoman government. As a result, sheiks gained tremendous power and wealth, which was reflected in their lifestyles and the architecture of their Throne Villages. They could boast close relations with, and often allied themselves to, urban notables. Hence, the architectural style of their palaces is unique, for in spite of the fact that the palaces were located in rural areas, the architecture reflected urban styles more than peasant, especially in scale and spatial organization.

TODAY’S VILLAGES

Throne Villages are among the 50 Villages that Riwaq is focusing on for the regeneration of their entire historic fabrics. The majority of throne palaces still stand today and Riwaq, along with other organizations, has renovated many of them. They are not only sites of Palestinian history and heritage but offer beautiful spaces, renovated for modern use.

Most of the palaces have large courtyards and indoor spaces that can fit workshops, conferences, music events, or other cultural or community



ABDEL-HADI PALACES IN ARRABEH

A collection of palaces built in the early 1800s, these historical sites were renovated either fully or preventively between 2003-2006.

- Location** 13 km southwest of Jenin
- Number of historic buildings in town** 1,009
- Capacity** Outdoor spaces fit for more than 200 ppl; renovated rooms fit to 40-50 ppl
- Suggested usage** Fit for conferences, workshops and open air activities
- Amenities** Internet; Parking; Dining / Kitchen Facilities

(Full or preventive renovation done by the UNDP through the Tashgeel program)



JARRAR CASTLE IN SANUR

Constructed around 1700, the Castle underwent preventive conservation from 2008 to 2009.

Location	27 km south of Jenin
Number of historic buildings in town	151
Capacity	Large interior courtyard fit for more than 200 ppl
Suggested usage	Courtyard suitable for open air Activities; Palace exterior wall fit for projections
Amenities	Parking;

(Renovation funded by the German Representative Office in Ramallah)



JAYYOUSI PALACES IN KUR

Built in the mid 1700s, these historical Palaces (4 prominent ones) were renovated either fully or preventively between 2003-2006.

Location	19 km southeast of Tulkarem
Number of historic buildings in town	29 A remarkable village mainly made up from Palaces
Capacity	Outdoor spaces fit for more than 200 ppl; renovated rooms fit to 40-50 ppl
Suggested usage	Fit for conferences, workshops and open air activities;
Amenities	Parking;

(Full or preventive renovation done by the UNDP through the Tashgeel program)



AL KAYED PALACE IN SABASTIYA

The Palace was built in 1858. In 2005 it was renovated for the benefit of the Union of Women Committees for Social Work.

Location	12 km northwest of Nablus
Number of historic buildings in town	183
Notable sites	Roman ruins Church of John the Baptist
Capacity	Indoor room can fit 30-40 ppl Courtyard can fit the same
Suggested usage	Workshops, Conferences, Cultural activities
Amenities	Internet; Parking; Dining / Kitchen Facilities

(Renovation funded by Sida- the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)



AL QASEM PALACE IN BEIT WAZAN

The Palace was built in 1820 and renovated in 2003 for the benefit of An Najah University to house its “Urban and Regional Development Center.”

Location	5km northwest of Nablus
Number of historic buildings in town	65
Capacity	Inner courtyard can fit for more than 50 ppl
Suggested usage	Large indoor rooms suited for workshops and conference; outdoor cultural activities
Past Events	Venue for the 2010 Palfest
Amenities	Internet; Small Parking; Kitchen Facilities

)Renovation funded by Sida- the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)



AL KHAWAJA PALACE IN NE'LEEN

The Palace was built in 1831 and renovated in 2008 for the Ne'leen Society for Development and Social Work.

Location	22 km west of Ramallah
Number of historic buildings in town	292
Capacity	Large courtyard fits more than 200 ppl; Rooms fit for 25 ppl
Suggested usage	Workshops, Conferences, Cultural Activities
Amenities	Internet; Parking; Dining / Kitchen Facilities

(Renovation funded by Sida- the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)



IBN SAMHAN CASTLE- RAS KARKAR

The construction of the Castle was finalized in 1799. Between 2007 -2009 it was renovated in three phases.

- Location** 12 km west of Ramallah
- Number of historic buildings in town** 27
- Capacity** Large interior courtyard fit for more than 100 ppl
Indoor rooms can host around 50 ppl
- Suggested usage** Workshops, Conferences, Cultural Activities
- Amenities** Dining / Kitchen Facilities
- Past Events** Riwaq has utilized castle for many workshops
Venue of The Sounding Jerusalem Music Festival

(Renovation funded by the German Representative Office in Ramallah)



SUHWEIL PALACE IN IBWEIN

The Palace was built in 1780 and in 2006 was the site of preventive conservation

Location	30 km west of Ramallah
Number of historic buildings in town	163
Capacity	Large interior courtyard fit for more than 100 ppl
Suggested usage	Suitable for open air activities
Amenities	Parking; owners can prepare and deliver food

(Renovation funded by the German Representative Office in Ramallah)

