

Throne Village Palaces: Venues for your events and activities



Center for architectural conservation

2009

### 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 1,009

buildings in town

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 151

in town

Capacity Large interior courtyard fit for more than

200 ppl

Suggested usage Courtyard suitable for open air

Activities; Palace exterior wall fit for pro-

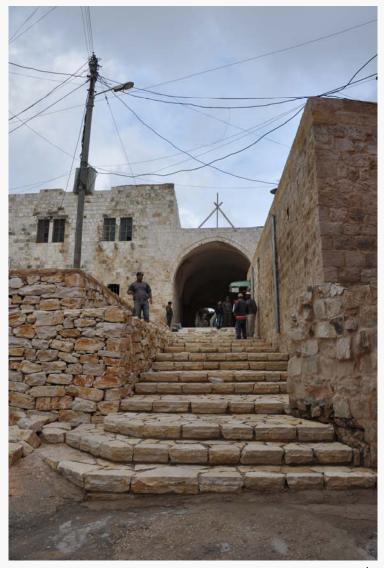
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Amenities Parking;

(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.

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**Location** 19 km southeast of Tulkarem

Number of historic 29

buildings in town 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

Capacity Inner courtyard can fit for more than 50

ppl

65

Suggested usage Large indoor rooms suited for workshops

and conference; outdoor cultural activi-

ties

Past Events Venue for the 2010 Palfest

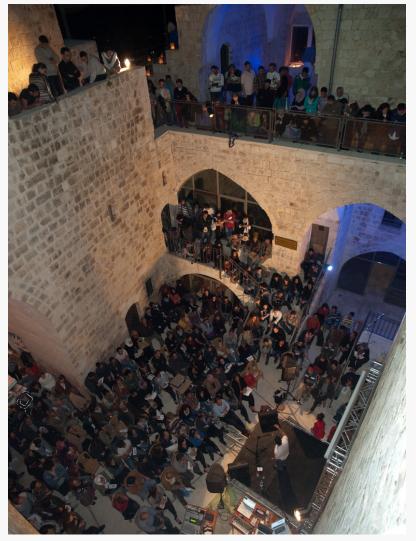
Amenities Internet; Small Parking; Kitchen Facilities

)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, Confer-

ences, Cultural

Activities

Amenities Internet; Parking; Din-

ing / 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 27 buildings in town

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 163

in town

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)





