



PLAN OF A SPORTS' CLUB

IN JERUSALEM, PALESTINE

By Emile Stephan

Final Year Engineering

1947-1948

The American University of Beirut

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis was done under the tutership of Professor K. Yeramian. I wish to express my gratitude for his helpful suggestions which helped me design the plan of the club.

The dimensions of the foot-ball field, the track, the basket-ball court, the tennis courts and the swimming pool were taken from a book called "Architectural Graphic Standards" by Charles George Ramsey and Harold Reeve Sleeper. I wish to thank Professor N. Manasseh for lending that book and giving me valuable hints.

INTRODUCTION

Some fifteen years ago a large piece of land was purchased in the outskirts of Jerusalem for the purpose of initiating a Sports' Club. But due to financial difficulties the building was never built. A number of tennis courts were made and a small hut was built for the convenience of the tennis players. The remainder of the land was used as a foot-ball ground and a hockey field.

The aim of this thesis is to suggest plans for the Club building and for the Club premises, including a few tennis courts, a foot-ball field, a basket-ball court and an outdoor swimming pool.

LOCATION

The land of the proposed Club is now in the midst of a first class residential district known as the "German Colony". At the time when the land was bought, that locality was considered to be far from town and therefore the price was relatively low. The total area of the land is 40,950 square meters. The project presented in this thesis warrants an area of 23,423 square meters. To help finance the project it would be a good idea to sell the remaining part of the land which will no doubt be used for residential purposes, thus selling at a high price.

As seen from Plate I the proposed Club shall lie in

a residential district which was well planned. No house is more than three stories high, and the new building code does not permit to build on over 25 % to 30 % of the area of the lot. So, neither the view nor the air are obstructed. Moreover being located in a residential district which has a regular bus service, a larger number of members will be induced to join the Club. One would say that the locality is a very suitable one.

DESIGN OF THE BUILDING

The Main Floor

The main floor is four steps higher than the driveway. In front of the main entrance there is a landing 3 m. by 1.8 m. and protected from rain by a projecting slab on top.

The main entrance door opens to a vestibule which could be used as a waiting room too. To the right is the information desk and opposite that there is the office. Facing the entrance is the elevator and the cloak room. Beyond the office door there is the entrance to the hall. Beyond the desk there are two doors, one leads to the lounge and the other to the bar. The lounge and bar are also interconnected. The stair-case is situated behind the cloak room and the elevator. The elevator shaft is designed for an elevator which holds four persons. The stairs are 1.4 m. wide with a rise of 17 cm. and a run of 29 cm. The toilets are located behind the bar.

The kitchen and the service quarters and the showers and lockers occupy the rest of the main floor. The showers and lockers for the ladies and the gentlemen have each an independant back entrance. There is a back entrance too for the service quarters and kitchen.

The lounge is a corner room with three large windows. Three glass doors connect it to the bar.

The hall is a vast room 10 m. by 7 m. with two doors and two windows in a row showing out to the terrace. The terrace is covered with a light wood construction. The terrace may be used for dancing during the summer. The hall may be used for dancing, for social gathering or for any other activity that requires a lot a space.

The kitchen has got a small elevator which connects it with the pantry on the first floor. The service quarters are composed of two single bed rooms and one toilet room. The showers and lockers room for ladies is divided into two, one contains the lockers, two showers, one W.C., one lavabo and three mirrors. The other serves as a rest room. The showers and lockers room for men is one single room with three showers (since it is expected to have more men tennis players than ladies), one W.C., one lavabo and two mirrors.

The First Floor

The first floor contains the following rooms:- The dining room, the card room, the ladies' rest room, the

lecture room, the reading room, a small office and the indoor games room.

Food comes from the kitchen by the elevator to the pantry which is just next to the dining room. The dining room is spacious and lighted by three windows facing East. After meals the ladies might go to their rest room which is on the same floor. The men will go down to the lounge or the hall. Business men coming from outside Jerusalem will go to the small office and talk business.

The lecture room and the reading room are situated in the South West corner far enough from the indoor games room. The reading room contains a small library and a reserve shelf with magazines, papers and periodicals, it also contains writing materials. This room though not big, yet it serves a manifold purpose; it is a library, a reading room and a quiet room.

The indoor games room is located above the lockers and showers rooms and thus it is not a source of annoyance to any body. This room contains ping-pong tables, billiards, small tables for other games such as chess, trick-track, etc. are put near the double windows. All the games accessories are stored in the space behind the elevator shaft.

The card room is 7 m. by 5.7 m. and can hold very easily four tables of bridge. If necessary six tables may be arranged. And in case of a big crowd of bridge players

another room may be used, such as the reading room.

The Second Floor

The second floor is smaller than the other two floors. It contains three double-bed-rooms and four single-bed-rooms. There is one complete west bath-room serving two double-bed rooms. One complete west bath and two toilet rooms with a lavabo and a seat each, serve the rest of the bed rooms. Two single-bed-rooms have doors leading to a small terrace. One of the double-bed rooms has a terrace in front of it, this same terrace has a door to the corridor. On this floor there is one service bed room with bath. Another room serves as a laundry room, ironing and knitting. There is a big terrace in front of it which is partly covered for the purpose of hanging the washing during rainy days.

Most of the rooms are amply supplied with built in cupboards. The space behind the elevator shaft may be used for keeping the linen, the towels, etc.

Materials of Construction

The building shall be made of white limestone "bush hammered" like most of the buildings in the locality. The tiles shall be the mosaic cement tiles. All the other materials shall be like those used in every other building and which are readily found on the market. Nothing shall be specially ordered thus cutting expenses to the minimum.

THE CLUB PREMISES

The Club as a whole covers an area of 23,423 square meters, and contains a foot-ball field with a track around it, one basket-ball court, three tennis courts, the swimming pool, the building, and an ample space for parking.

The Foot-Ball Field and Track

The foot-ball field is a standard field 90 m. by 45 m. The track around it has one lap equal to a 350 m. run. The foot-ball field shall be a simple earth field, while the two semicircular areas on both ends shall be made into lawns. A small hut shall be constructed near the field for storing field equipment.

The Basket-Ball Court and the Tennis Courts

There is one basket-ball court 28.2 m. by 15 m. with 3 m. clear space on all sides. There are three tennis courts whose overall dimensions are 36 m. by 18 m. each. The detailed dimensions of the basket-ball court and of the tennis courts are given on Plate VI. The three courts are put all in one enclosure. As tennis is played in Jerusalem only during the summer earth courts are the best.

The Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is a typical outdoor 25 m. pool. All dimensions are shown on the plan and the longitudinal section (See Plate VII). A detailed drawing of the diving board and another of the built in ladder are shown on the

same plate. Water to fill the pool shall be supplied directly from the mains and not from the reservoirs. The water shall be changed as often as possible, and properly treated with disinfectants to avoid all possible mosquito breeding. All swimmers should take showers before going into the pool in order to avoid unnecessary dirtying of the pool.

There is a gutter on the inner side of the surrounding wall for carrying any overflow. The surrounding tiled floor slopes towards the inside and has drains one every three meters, thus keeping the floor as dry as possible.

Entrance and Parking Space

There are two main gates on the main street. One is for entrance and the other is for exit. A car goes in from one gate, stops at the foot of the entrance steps, and goes out through the other gate. It might park near the entrance steps but only for a very short time, otherwise it should go to the place provided for parking. (See Plate VI).

SOCIAL AND SPORT ACTIVITIES

Though called a sports' club yet it gives opportunity for a number of social activities. In Jerusalem foot-ball, basket-ball and tennis cannot be played all the year round. One can swim only during the hot months of the summer. Therefore to keep the members interested and attract more members other aspects of activity should be given. This is provided for by making dancing parties, bridge games, lectures,

Social parties, garden parties, dinners etc. The indoor games are always good recreation. Members from outside Jerusalem are very much encouraged when they know that they can be accomodated at the Club for a number of nights at a moderate rate. In short if the Club is properly managed it becomes the meeting place of the young and old.

CONCLUSION

As I have mentioned before the Club is located in the midst of one of the first class residential districts of Jerusalem. This will give it its dignity and attract a greater number of high class and educated people. In my opinion this Club meets the most important requirements of a club. (here I am thinking of clubs in this part of the world). The building is simple and there is nothing extravagant in the design of any part of the plan, thus the expenses are reduced a great deal and the whole project becomes a logical one; and therefore the realization of this plan is possible.

P L A T E S

Plate I The Cadastral Plan.

Plate II. The Main Floor and the First Floor Plans.

Plate III The Second Floor Plan.

Plate IV. Two Elevations.

Plate V One Perspective.

Plate VI. The Location Plan.

Plate VII The Swimming Pool.

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