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AGRO CULTURE ARCHITECTURE


khaled El Maiss

FYP 1 THESIS

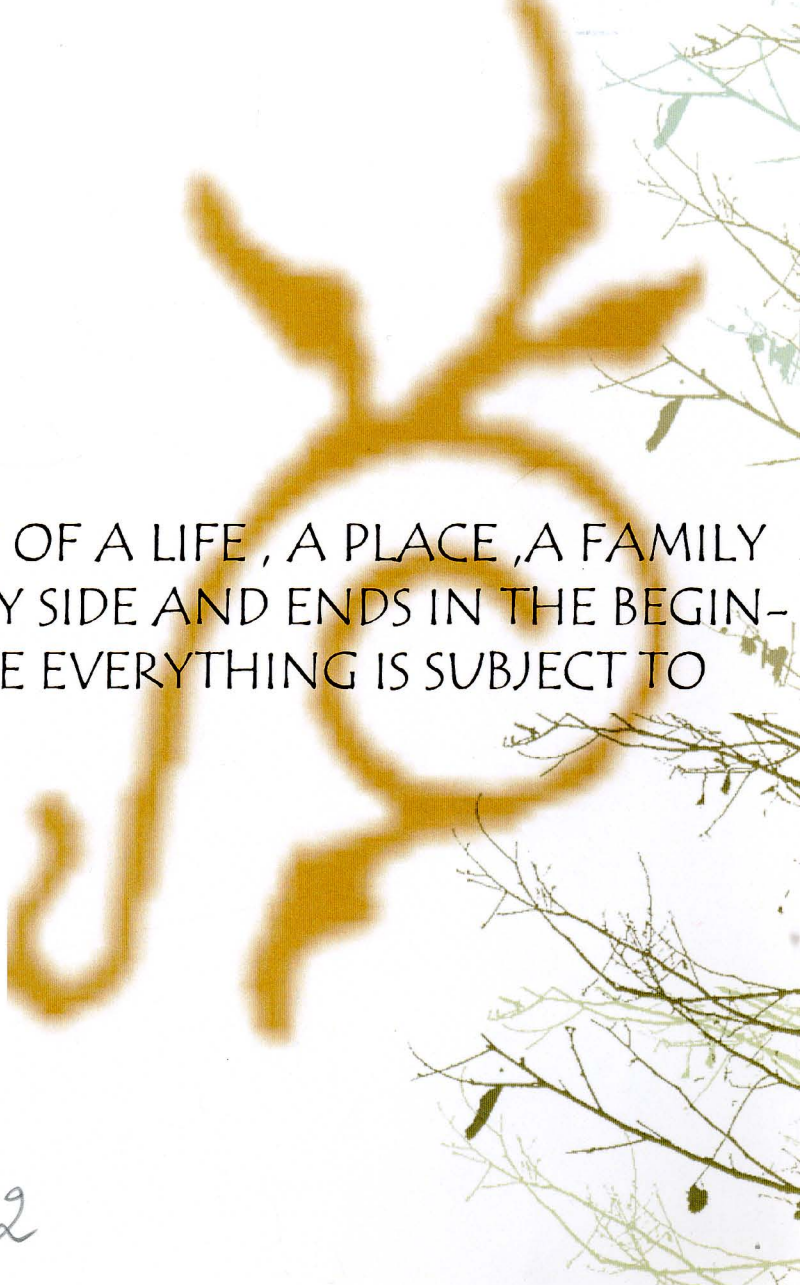


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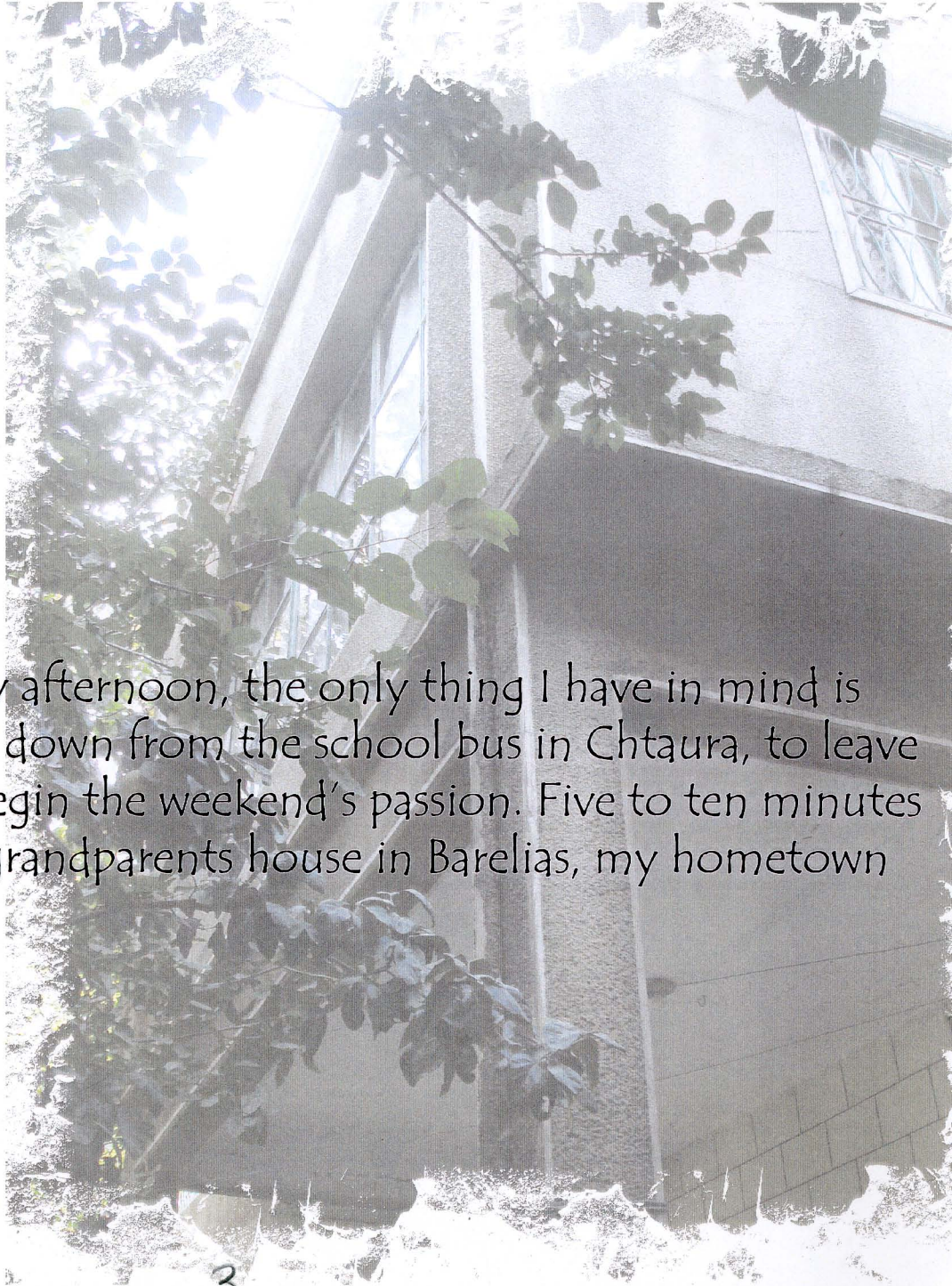
INTRODUCTION TO THE VILLAGE  
GRAND PARENTS HOUSE, FAMILY TREE  
TIME LINE OF THE SITE  
KIDS ATTRACTIONS ON SITE  
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THIS IS MY STORY, A STORY OF A LIFE , A PLACE ,A FAMILY  
IT STARTS IN THE COUNTRY SIDE AND ENDS IN THE BEGIN-  
ING OF A CENTURY WHERE EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE ...





It a regular Friday afternoon, the only thing I have in mind is "Bayt jeddi" I get down from the school bus in Chtaura, to leave right away and begin the weekend's passion. Five to ten minutes later I reach my grandparents house in Barelias, my hometown



# BARELIAS

Barelias is a village in the middle bekaa.

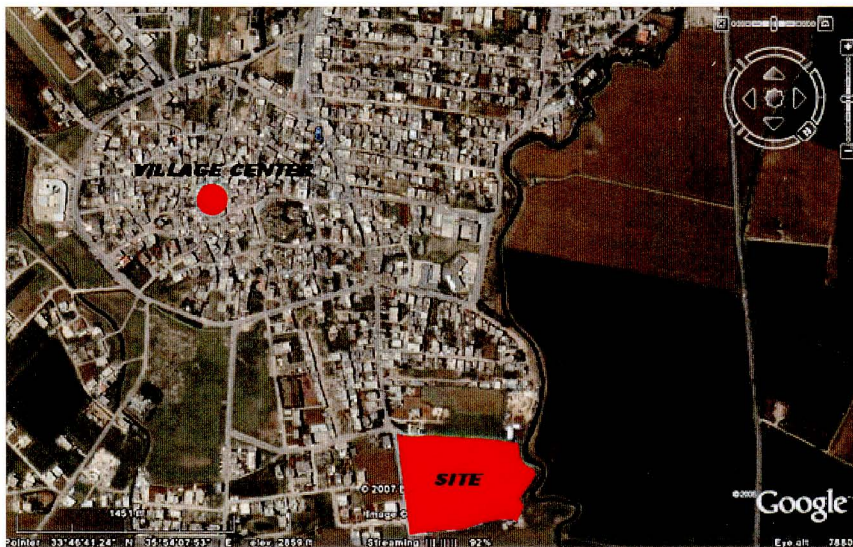
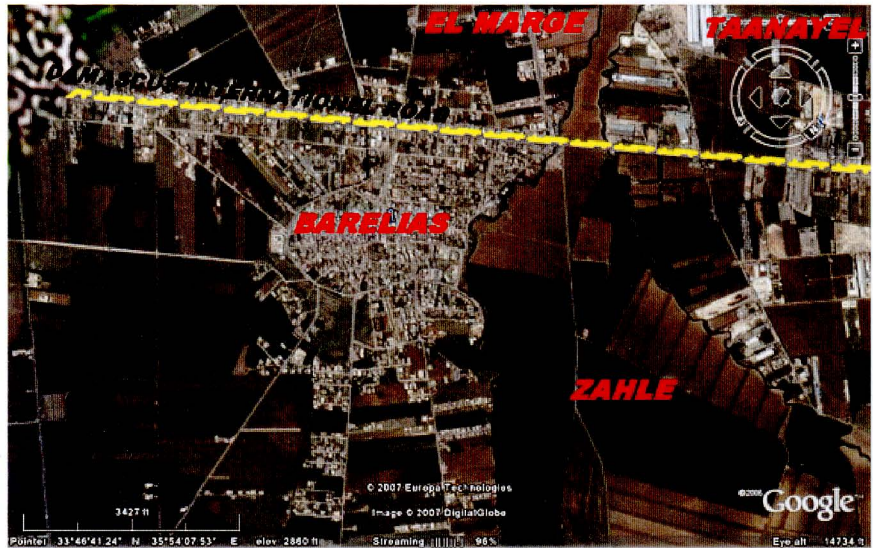
The second in size after zahleh the capital of the Bekaa.

Located at a distance of 51 Km from Beirut via Damascus-Chtoura.

The land area is about 3500 hectares.

The international Damascus road cuts through the village.

The family site lies on the northern edge of the village. Today it is at the end of the residential expansion.

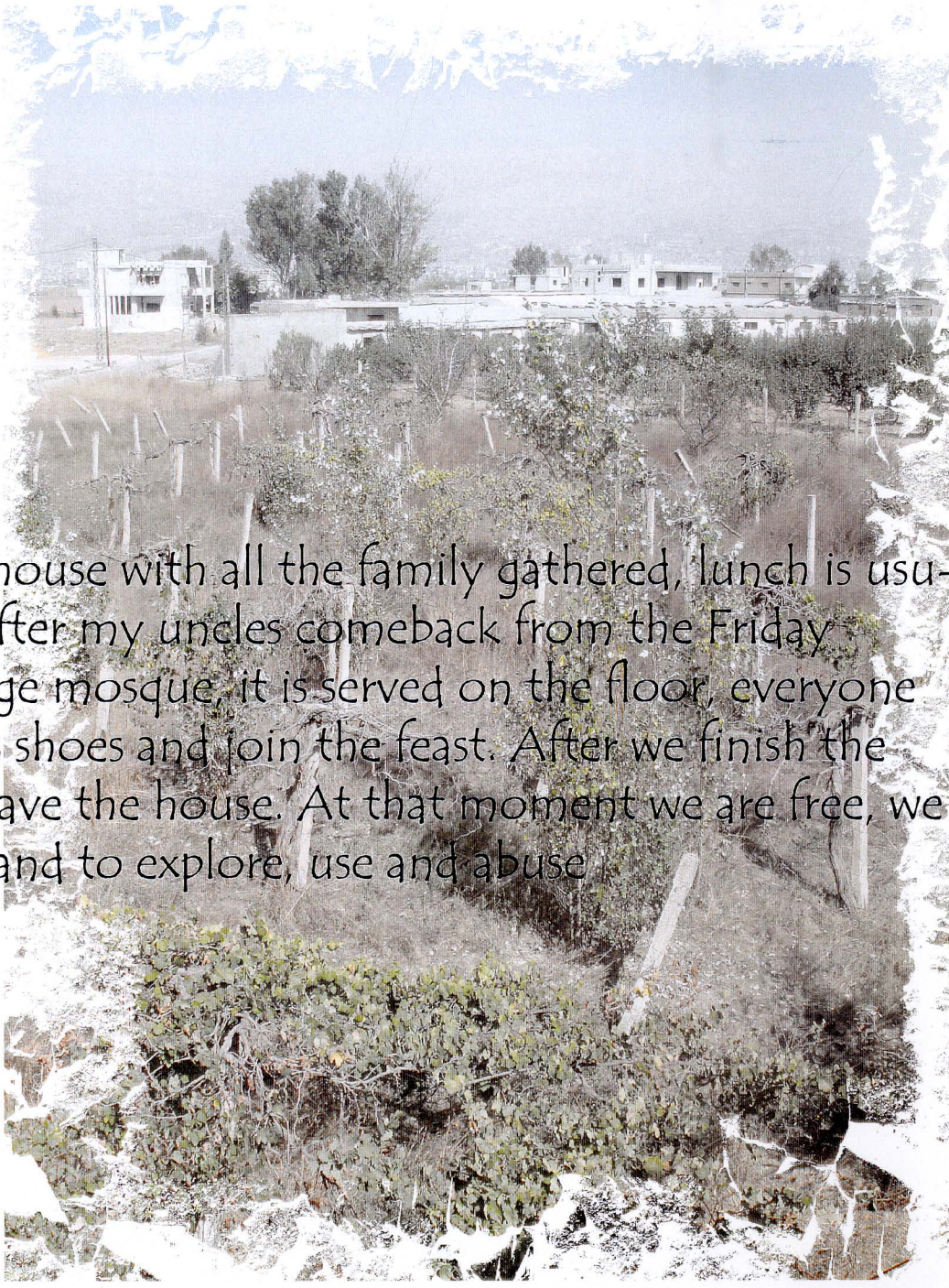


The village economy is mainly based on the agriculture and the commercial strips that has developed on the edge of the damascus road.

The population is around 25000 person where 7500 of them are voters with 21 years old and above.

Its vast planes is the village's best agricultural lands in the bekaa valley.



A photograph of a rural village scene. In the background, there are several buildings, including a prominent white mosque with a dome. The middle ground is dominated by a large field of trees, possibly an orchard, with many trees showing signs of being cut or pruned. The foreground shows some dense, green and brown vegetation. The overall atmosphere is that of a quiet, rural settlement.

Here I am in the house with all the family gathered, lunch is usually served right after my uncles come back from the Friday prayer in the village mosque, it is served on the floor, everyone has to take off his shoes and join the feast. After we finish the kids gather and leave the house. At that moment we are free, we "have the whole land to explore, use and abuse"



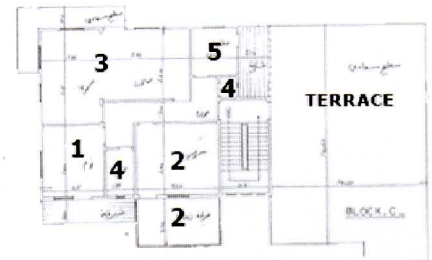
## My grandparent's house, the building, family tree

It all started in the village center where my great grandparents built there house , Halimeh and Ali had one son called Khaled, a couple of years after the birth of my grandfather his father was taken by the ottoman soldiers and never came back, his mother had to take care of him and all the land that they owned, Khaled got married and kept living with his mother till the time his family grew bigger and Halimeh decided to move in 1960 to the newly bought agricultural land, which is the family site today, she resided in an existing house on the edge of the river, where she can live in a peaceful environment and at the same time be in direct contact with the cultivated land. The house back then became the retreat to many of my uncles that used to come and help their grandmother in her duties. At the same time she built for her the first farm on site, a poultry farm.

Five years later in 1965 two of my uncles got married and built there house on the other side of the site. And at the same time a new farm was added. In 1970 my grandfather decided to move on site and built his house on top of his two children, leaving the family house to his older son and his family.

My grandparent's house used to cater for eight children and strangely it had only:

- 1-One bedroom
- 2-Two family rooms
- 3-Dining room/ guest room
- 4-Two bathrooms
- 5-Small kitchen



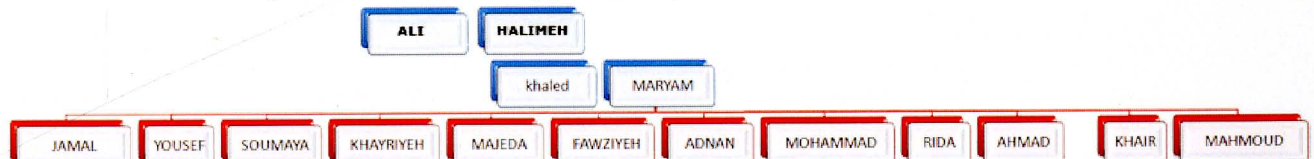
The bedroom used to be for parents and the two family rooms used to be transformed at night into bedrooms for children; one for girls and another for boys.



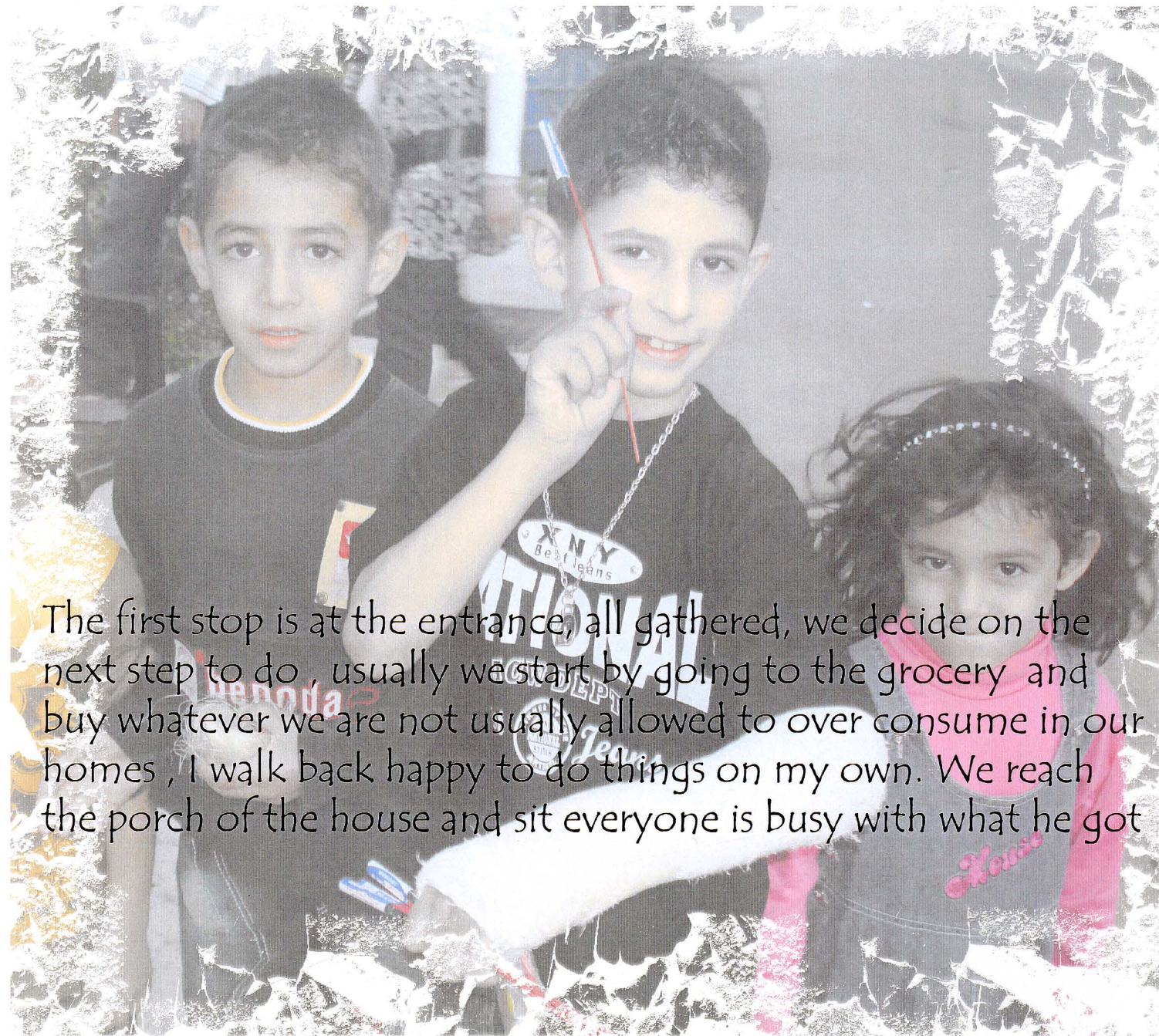
The building is a concrete and masonry building, with a room in glass façade that is called till today "oudet le zez" [i.e. glass room]. At that time and in such a rural area, this room was a big deal. The family has grown everybody got married except one aunt, at that time the bedroom became the sleeping area for my grandmother and aunt. And my grandfather moved to the inner family room where he literally placed his bed. He used to receive people in that room and inhabited the guest room only in very specific occasions like holy days and marriage ceremonies. Even after his death the bed was kept in place, and rarely when the family is gathered one of the uncles sits on it. One might see a grandson on the bed but rarely one of my uncles.

Now after the death of both of my grandparents the house is occupied by my aunt. And it is the family house where they gather there each Friday for family lunch.

Shown below is the family tree that starts with my great grandparent







The first stop is at the entrance, all gathered, we decide on the next step to do, usually we start by going to the grocery and buy whatever we are not usually allowed to over consume in our homes, I walk back happy to do things on my own. We reach the porch of the house and sit everyone is busy with what he got



## The site through time

Right next to the building of the family house, my grandfather built a third poultry farm. Consequently to both one of my uncles added a cow's farm. From the late 1970's till the 1990's the site did not witness any new construction; it kept functioning as a family site with agricultural land and farms.

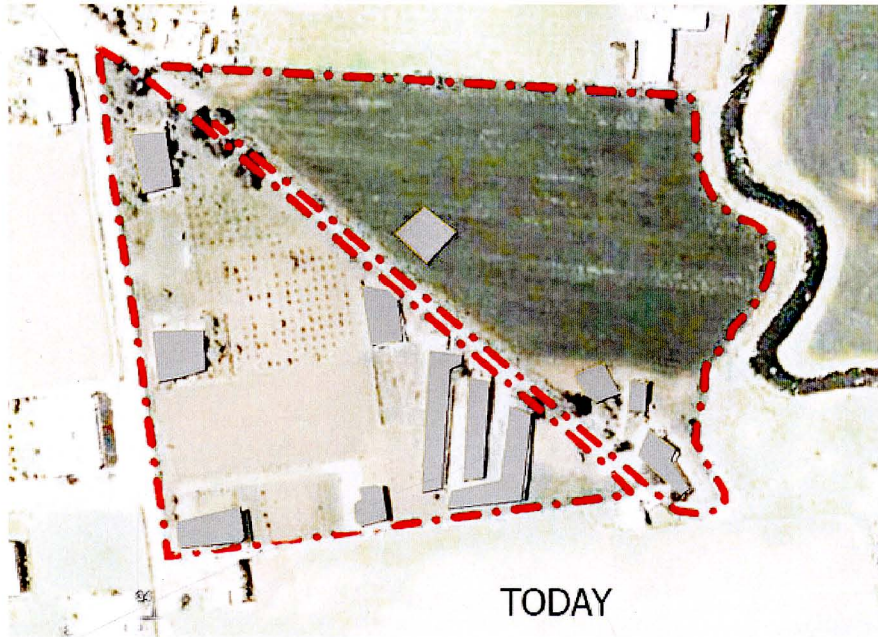
In 1992 my dad built a slaughter house.

In 1996 one of cousins built his house next to the family house and got married.

In 2000 another cousin built his house and got married.

In 2002 a third cousin built his house.

In 2007 two other houses were built on site; one for a cousin and another for an uncle.



1960



1965



1970



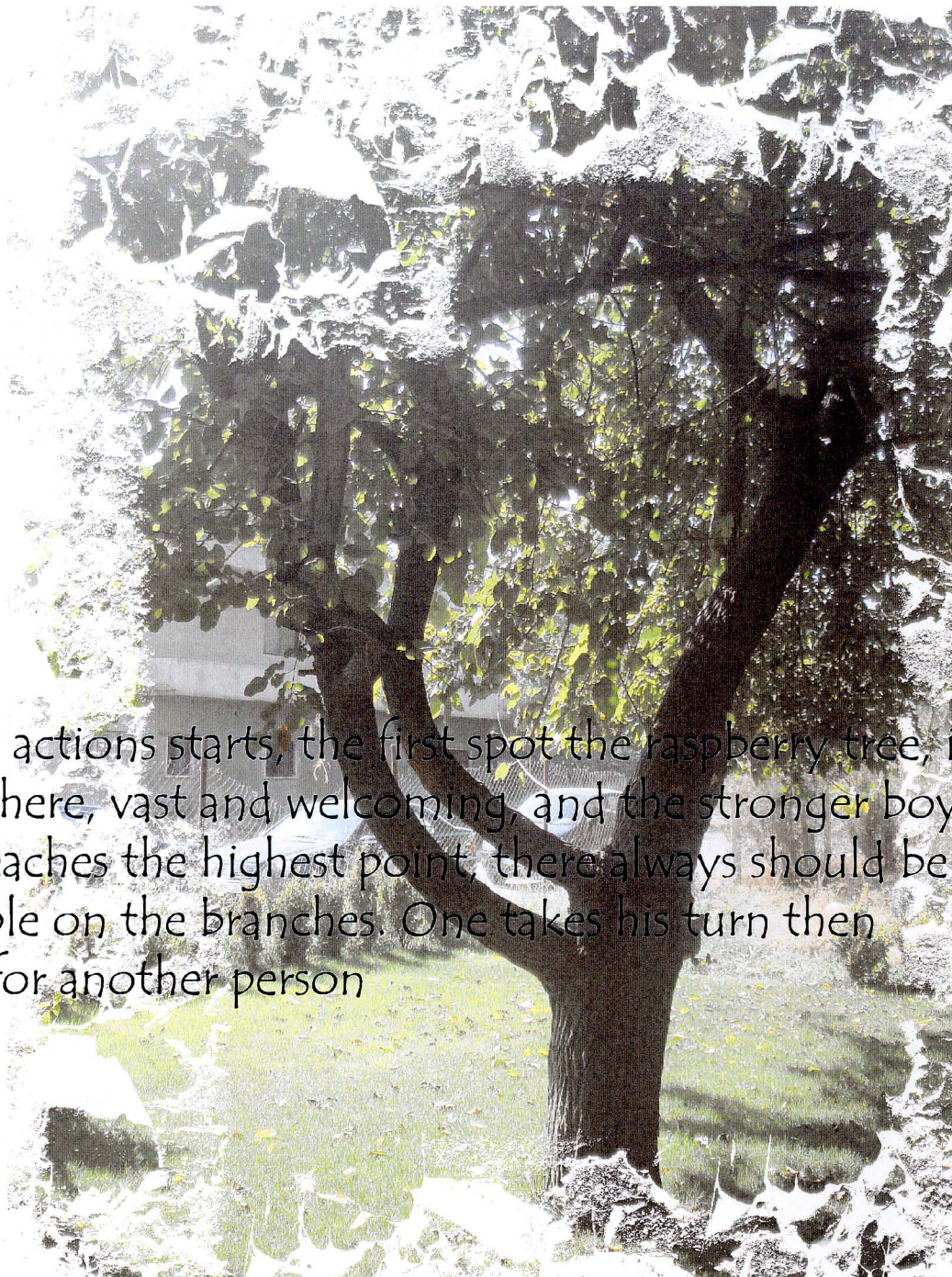
1990



2000







Minutes later the actions starts, the first spot the raspberry tree, it has always been there, vast and welcoming, and the stronger boy is the one who reaches the highest point, there always should be at least four people on the branches. One takes his turn then .leaves the place for another person



## Kids attractions on site - elaborated

Until today kids of the family still gather in the same places as they always did generations and generations ago, as if these areas have a naive magical feeling that attracts only innocent beings.

The patio in front of the family house has always been acting as a chatting space for them.

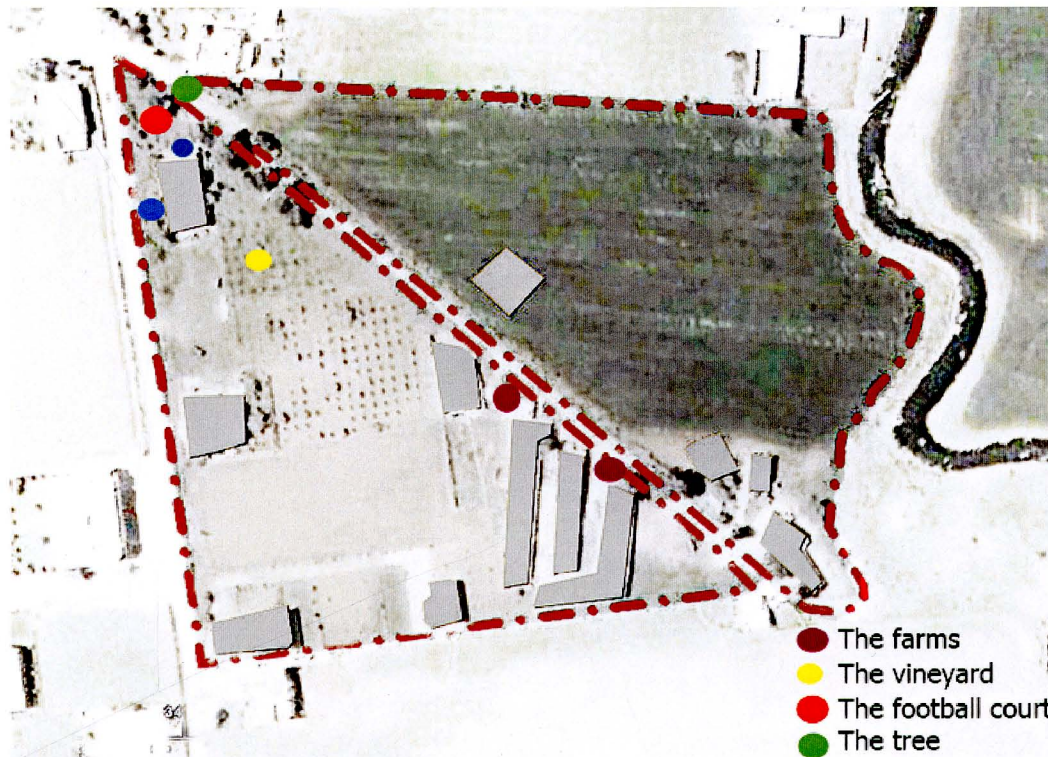
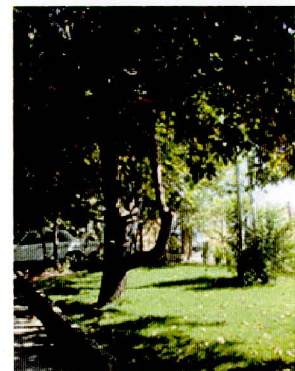
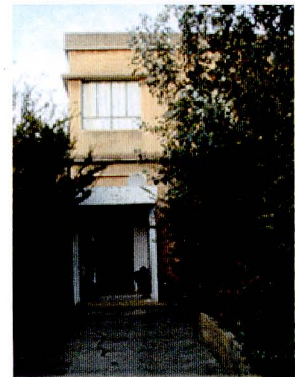
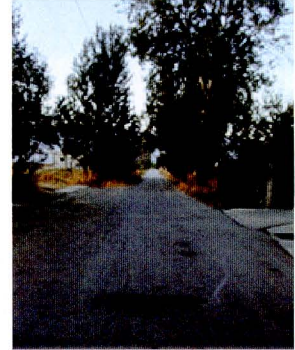
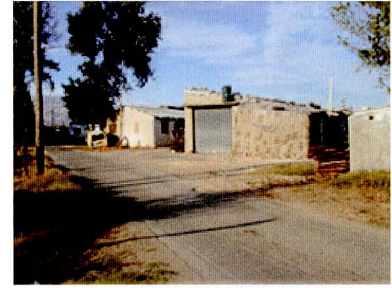
The raspberry tree in front of the family house as the powerful inter- personal shelter where they climb to show off competitive strength.

The patio of my uncle's house turned out to be their sitting area.

The street in front of the patio of my uncle's house catered and still is the football ground of all generations of the family.

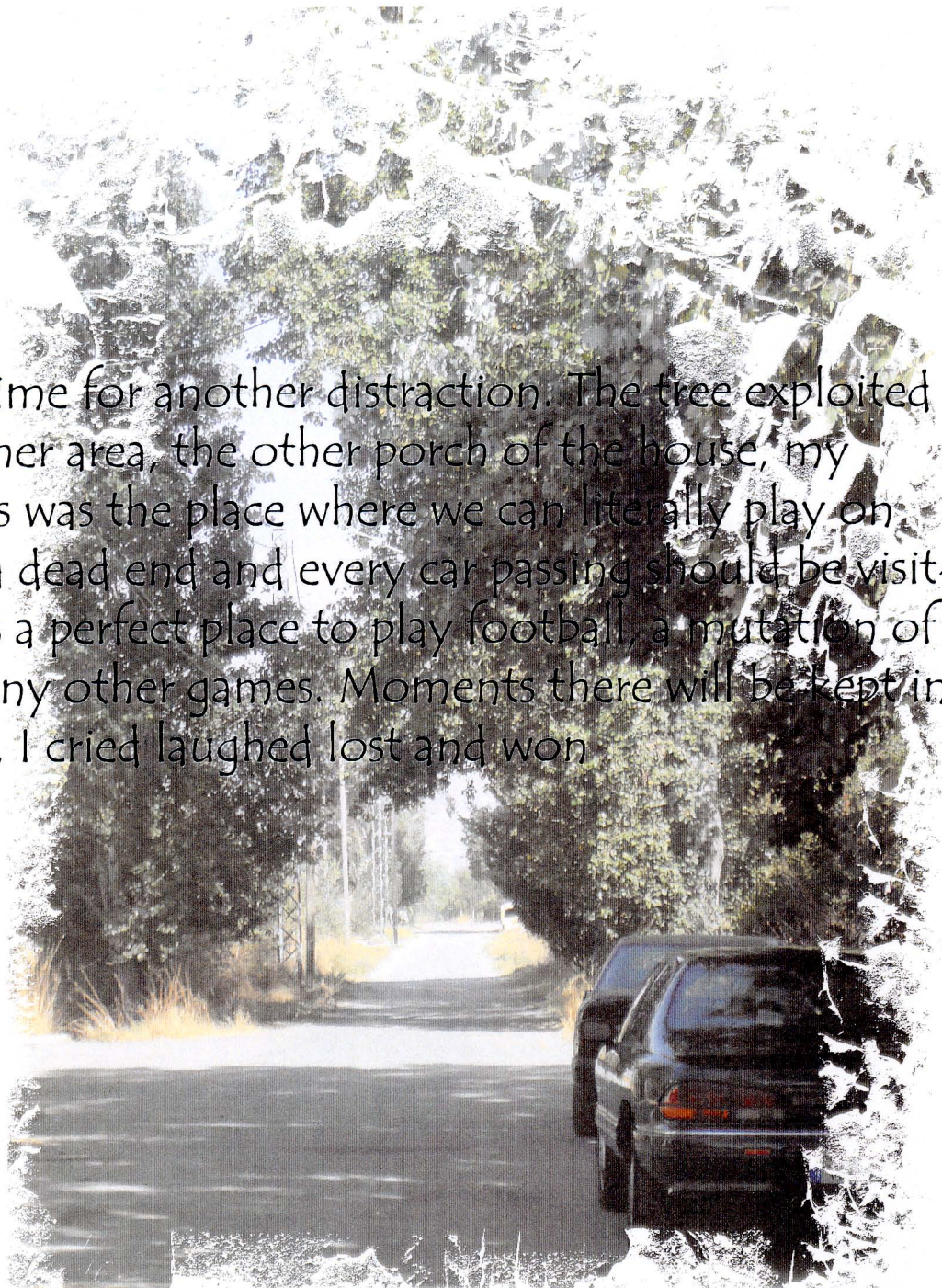
The vineyard where some hid and others seek for them.

And the edge line of the farms where the kids gather to interact with the available animals.

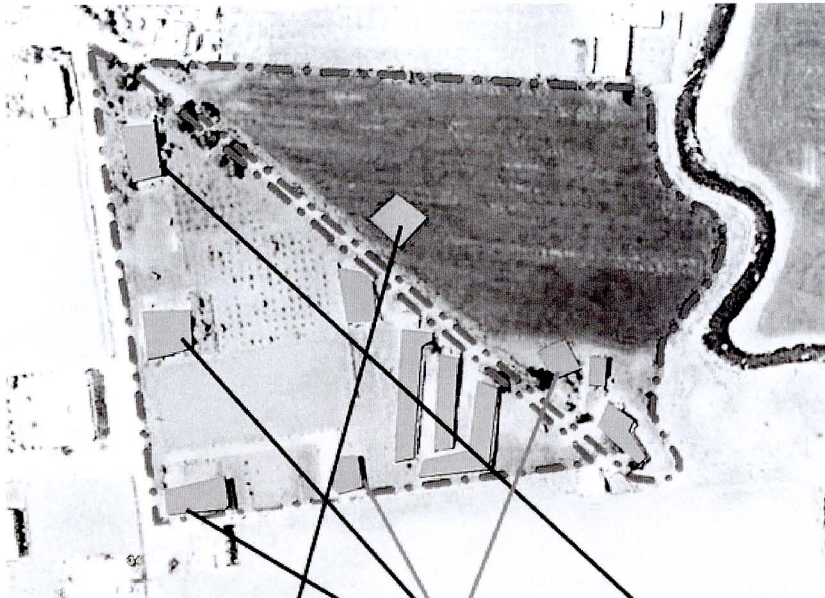




Now comes the time for another distraction. The tree exploited we move to another area, the other porch of the house, my uncle's house, this was the place where we can literally play on the street, it had a dead end and every car passing should be visiting the site, it was a perfect place to play football, a mutation of volleyball and many other games. Moments there will be kept in my heart for ever, I cried laughed lost and won





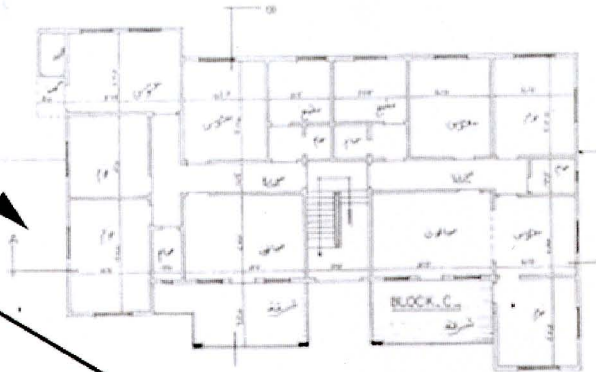


## Vernacular architecture

Generally the storage is the main stimulator of the whole construction. The storage is an annex to the farm where tools and resources are piled up. It is placed on the ground floor for accessibility purposes then the adjacent housing facilities start building up on top of it in the 1st floor. The materials used for that purpose are concrete and CMU blocks that are very accessible and present in the area.

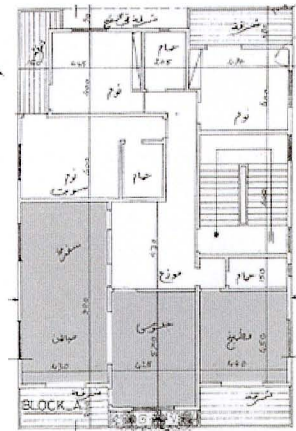
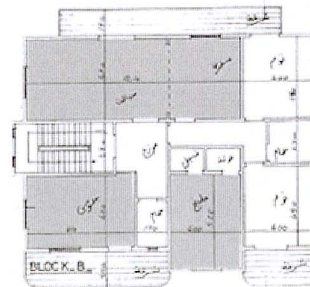
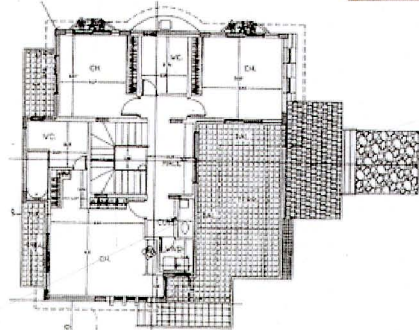
This type architecture has nothing to do with the financial situation of the family. This is a response of an instinctive need where practicality is the main drive.

Generally this type is constructed on one single floor above the storage ground and is rarely a two floor structure. The only time that this happens is when the family gets bigger and the need for more rooms exists.

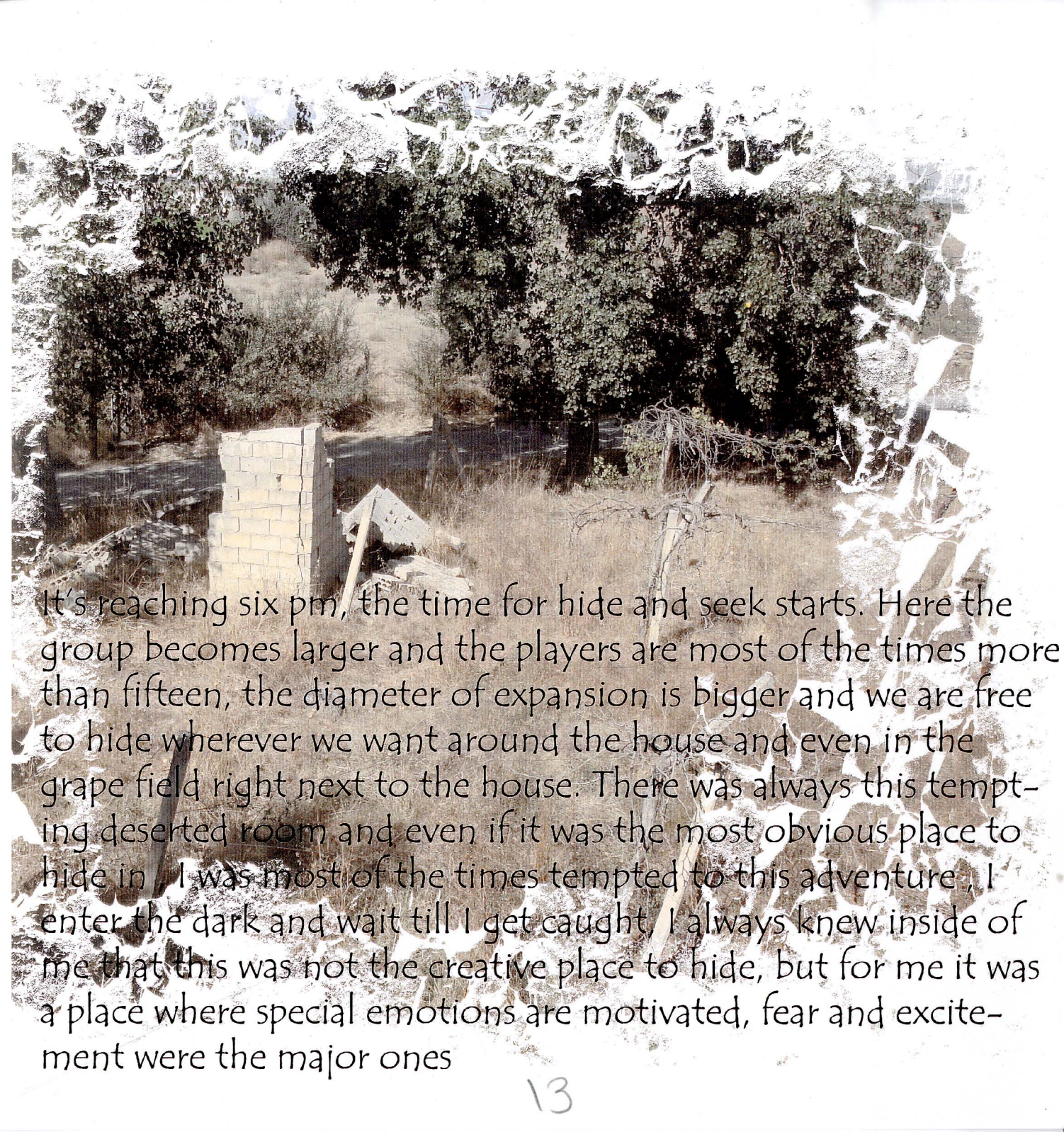


## Houses by architects

These are the villa type. It is a two story construction with a roof made out of brick. The spaces are planned ahead and the program is developed based on conventionally needed activities that are minorly modified later on.





A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a dirt path leading towards a stone wall. The wall is made of light-colored, rectangular blocks. To the right of the wall, there is a pile of debris, including a wooden structure and some metal. The background is filled with dense green trees and bushes. The sky is bright and overcast. The overall scene is somewhat desolate and appears to be a hidden or abandoned area.

It's reaching six pm, the time for hide and seek starts. Here the group becomes larger and the players are most of the times more than fifteen, the diameter of expansion is bigger and we are free to hide wherever we want around the house and even in the grape field right next to the house. There was always this tempting deserted room and even if it was the most obvious place to hide in / I was most of the times tempted to this adventure, I enter the dark and wait till I get caught, I always knew inside of me that this was not the creative place to hide, but for me it was a place where special emotions are motivated, fear and excitement were the major ones



# Plantations on site

On the family scale  
 agricultural land 750 000 m2

<b>Part 1 .. 350 000 m2</b>	<b>Part 2 .. 350 000 m2</b>
planted with	planted with
Potatoes	Wheat planted in winter
Onions	Barley (lower amount)
Garlic	

Lettuce  
 Parsley  
 YEAR 1

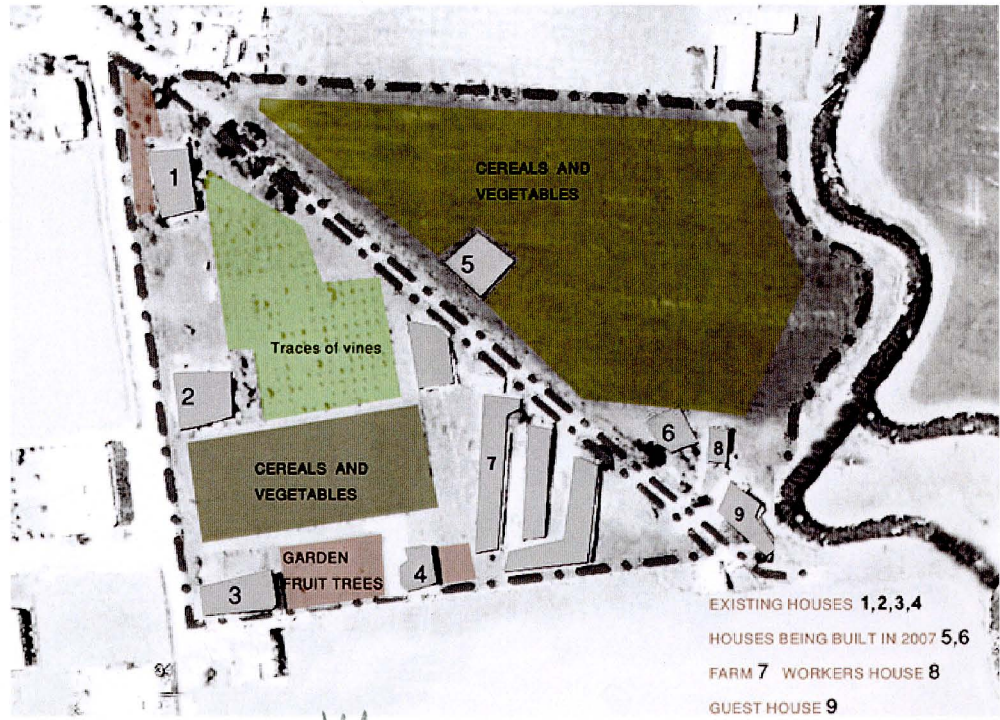
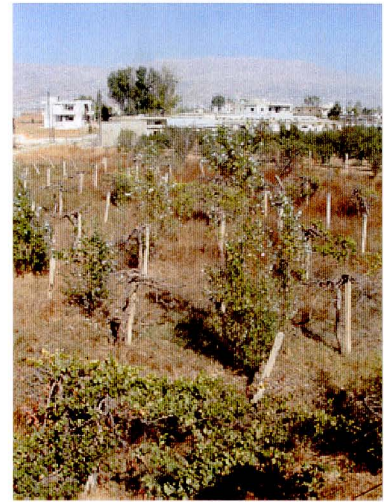
ALL PRODUCTS ARE PLANTED  
 EACH YEAR IN AN ALTERNATING  
 MANNER BETWEEN THE TWO  
 PARTS

<b>Part 1 .. 350 000 m2</b>	<b>Part 2 .. 350 000 m2</b>
planted with	planted with
Wheat planted in winter	Potatoes
Barley (lower amount)	Onions
	Garlic

YEAR 2

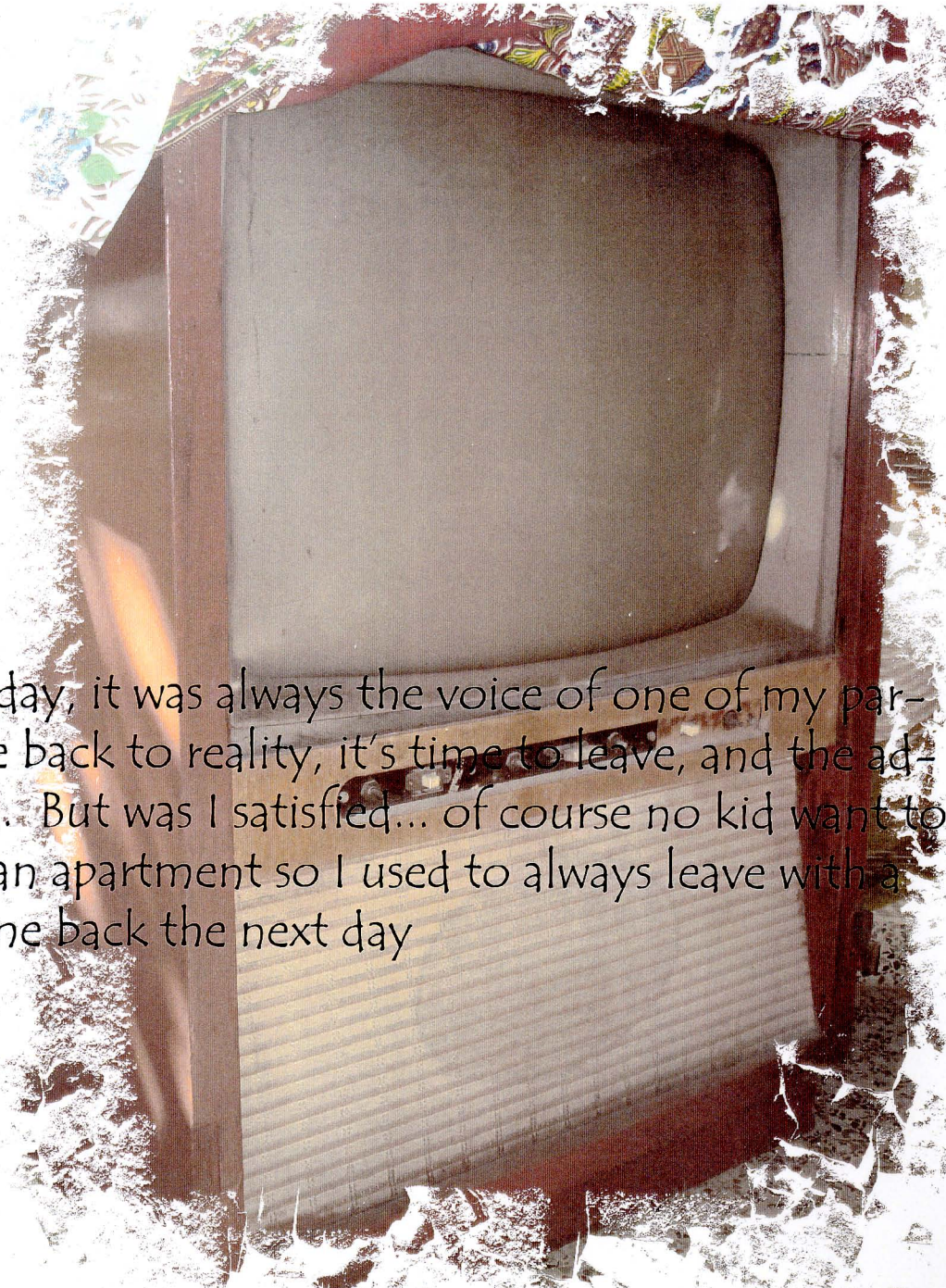
Lettuce  
 Parsley

IN ADDITION A COW FARM PRO-  
 DUCES MILK SELLING TO DIFFERENT FACTO-  
 RIES , AND A POULTRY FARMS PRODUCES  
 CONSUMABLE EGGS AND CHICKEN



14



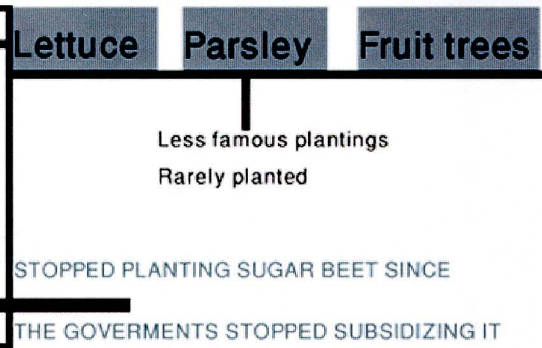
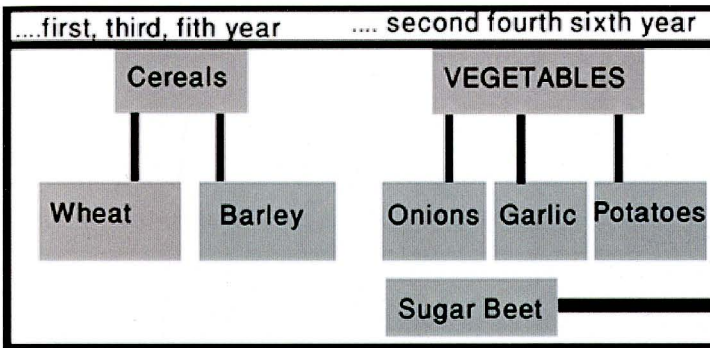
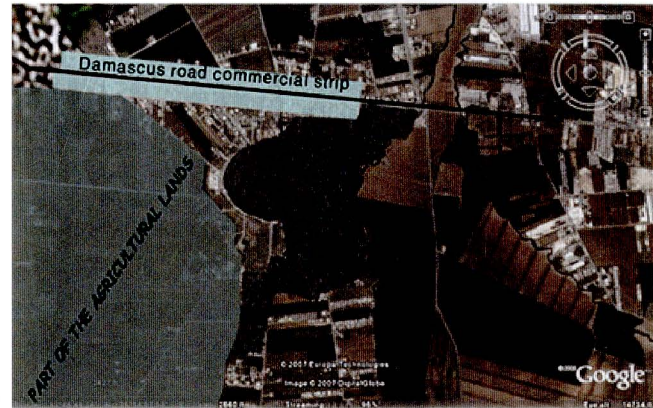


Tired after a long day, it was always the voice of one of my parents that bring me back to reality, it's time to leave, and the adventure has ended. But was I satisfied... of course no kid want to spend his time in an apartment so I used to always leave with a ... promise to come back the next day



# Agriculture in the village

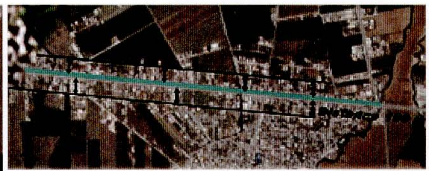
The agricultural land in Barelias is around 40 000 M2  
 80% of it is agricultural the rest 20% is inhabited mainly by the residents.  
 It is the biggest agricultural valley in the middle of the Bekaa area.  
 Agriculture is the main source of income for the inhabitants. The  
 secondary source is the commercial strip where agricultural goods are  
 sold. It is located on the edge of the lands on the damascus international  
 road.  
 Around 300 family holds on this sector to live. Basically it is the fathers  
 and their sons who are responsible about this business. Nowadays it is  
 only the father's job as a large percentage of the new generation's sons  
 are choosing other than the agricultural field to live...



**Two year cycle**, the first year the land is planted with **cereals**, the year after it is planted with **vegetables** and the cycle restarts

Farmers usually plant products that are backed up by the government like **wheat** and the sugar beet before, because they are sure that they will make profit out of it  
 In such policies the government assure to buy the crop at fixed rates

In the 1950's the village started a public market where all local vegetables were sold.  
 The market expanded later on to caer for animals, poultry products in addition to clothing and gadgets.  
 The market used to be located on the edge of the inhabited area, on municipality lands that used to run it.  
 In the 1965 the market was closed because of several problems it caused among the inhabitants.  
 The market still exists today in the adjacent village Al Marj and it is know as Monday's market.



During the french mendate, they divided the edges of damascus road into plots of 100 meters depth, and they gave land to inhabitants depending on how much agricultural land they owned. this urban plan aimed to maximize the benefit of people and allow everyone to have access to the comercial zone. ... it was meant to developp as a place to sell agricultural products ... but today it is a diverse commercial road

*IF ACTIVITIES ON A PROPOSED SITE IS DIRECTED BY AN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION THIS WILL FREE THE SITE FROM THE TAXES PAID ON BUILDINGS AND CARS OWNED BY THE NAME OF THAT ASSOCIATION, THIS ALLOWS AN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT TO BENEFIT FROM TAX FREE FACILITIES. IF IT FOLLOWED CERTAIN SET STRATEGIES TO FUNCTION*





Its Saturday morning; my dad sends someone from his office to take me to my grandparents house. Today, the experience is different, it's more specific and more focused on me.



## Social system on site

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Issues of public private spaces.

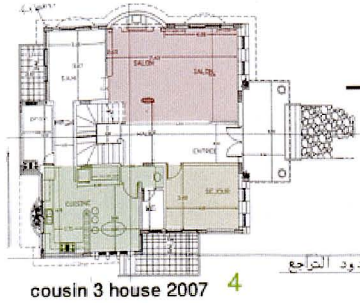
Difference between a traditional house and a modern house in different seasons.

Men and women activities in modern and traditional house.

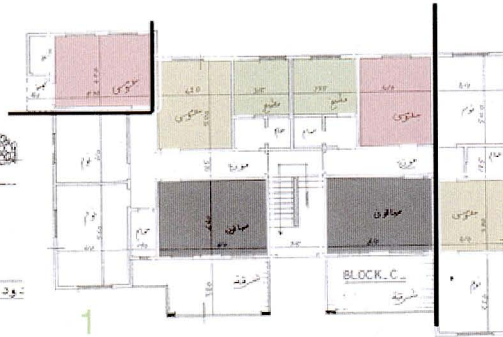


# Social Systems

## Issues of public and private



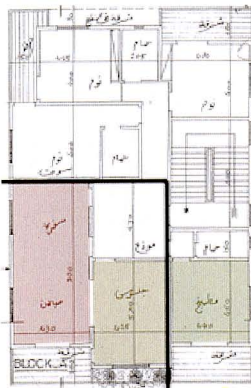
cousin 3 house 2007 4



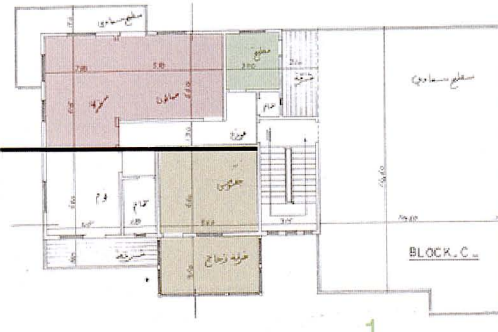
family house and uncles houses 1965 and 1970



cousin 1 house 1996 2



cousin 2 house 2000 3



1

We notice that through time the **grey** area have disapeard the function was combined with the guest room.

Also one can notice that the kitchen grew bigger with time , in early days 1970 and before most of the fonctions used to happen outside.

In the 1990 the kitchen had to cater all the cooking activities so it became a bit bigger.

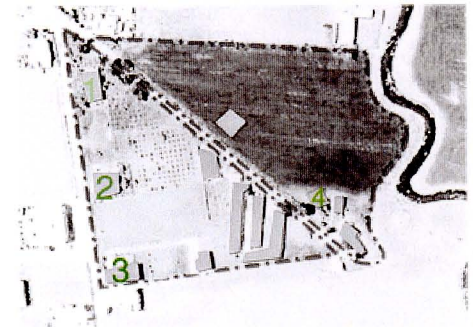
In the late 2007 houses -built by an architect- the kitchen's size is the same as the guest room because it includes a small private sitting area.

the grey area is the unused part of a traditional house , it is opened only for big occasions, it is the most public area of the house and the guest welcomed are usually from everywhere.

the pinks codes the daily guest area, it is used also for relatives when they visit.

this color codes the family room , it is the most private part of the house, usually only direct family members are allowed inside

the green codes the kitchen, a busy room day and night, restricted to family members

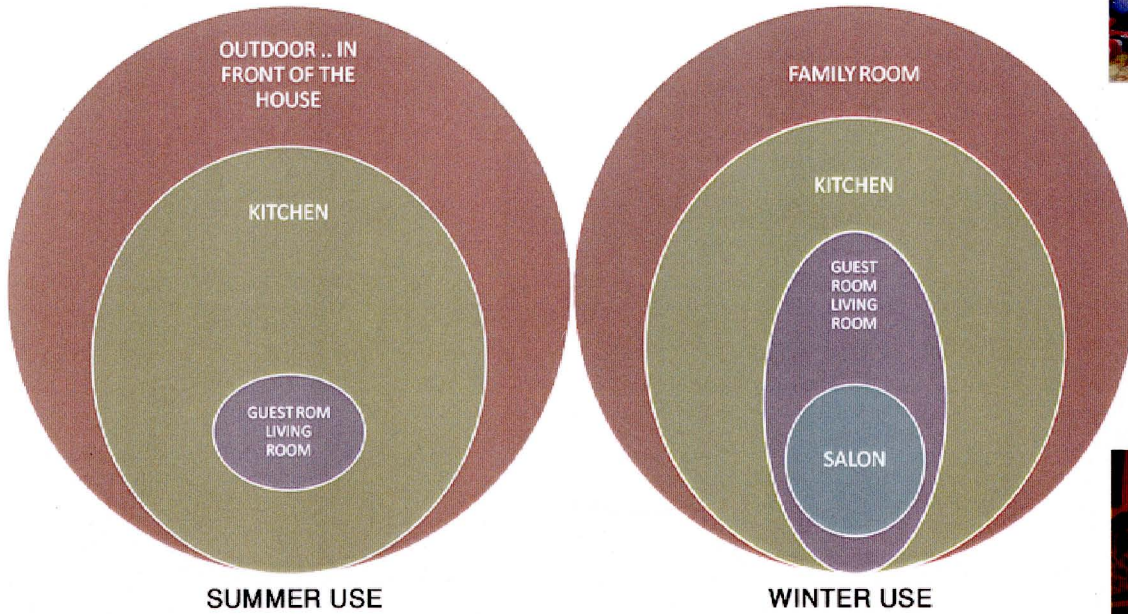


Privacy issues are very important for the families on site and for farmers families in general , boundaries are clearly defined in the house (refer to plans)



# House Use


## IN DIFFERENT SEASONS



		SEMI PUBLIC	PUBLIC	PRIVATE, EXCLUSIVE
TRADITIONEL HOUSE		<b>GUEST ROOM</b>	<b>COMMON ROOM</b>	<b>FAMILY ROOM</b>
SUMMER	IT IS USED FOR FORMAL GUESTS THAT CANNOT BE RECEIVED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE , OTHER CASUAL VISITS ARE HOSTED IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE, AND ALSO IN SUMMER MOST GATHERINGS ARE GENDER SEGREGATED , UNLESS THE VISITORS ARE CLOSE TO THE FAMILY	THIS ROOM IS CONSIDERED UNEXISTANT IN SUMMER , BIG OCCASIONS USUALLY TAKE PLACE OUTDOOR OR UNDER BUILT TENTS FOR THE EVENT , IT IS MOSTLY USED AS A STORAGE ROOMS FOR PRECIOUS THINGS, TO BE PRESERVED. THIS ROOM IS MEMORY ROOM, IT HAS AN EMOTIONEL EFFECT	THIS ROOM IS NOT USED AT ALL IN SUMMER , RARELY DURING NOON TIME , AT NIGHT IT IS MOSTLY USED FOR SLEEPING. EVEN THE TV IS TAKEN OUTSIDE IN SUMMER , THE CENTER GATHERING SPACE FOR THE FAMILY BECOME THE OUTDOOR BALCONY, GARDEN	
WINTER	RECEIVES REGULAR DAILY GUESTS , IT IS USUALLY HEATED WHEN SOMEONE IS EXPECTED , THE ROOM CAN STAY DAYS INACTIVE IN WINTER , THE SEASON DOES NOT ENCOURAGE SOCIAL VISITS FOR STRANGERS	ONLY OPENED FOR BIG OCCASIONS HAPPY OR SAD , AND IT CONTINUE TO ACT AS A STORAGE ROOM FOR PRECIOUS BELONGINGS, THE ROOM IS NEVER HEATED IN REGULAR DAYS , THE DOOR IS ALWAYS CLOSED , ISOLATED	HEATED ALL DAY LONG ALWAYS OCCUPIED , ALL THE DAILY ACTIVITIES HAPPEN IN THIS ROOM IN WINTER , EVEN MEALS ARE SERVED HERE , BECAUSE KITCHEN ARE USUALLY VERY SMALL IT SI ALSO USED AS A SLEEPING AREA AT NIGHT , MAYBE BECAUSE IT IS THE WARMEST PLACE	







First, my grandmother does not have to pay 20 grandsons to take care of, it only me and my cousins who live there. I have all the right to be pampered and to ask whatever I want from her, and it was as always French fries ... I eat and go down to play with my cousins; Today it's a different age group but it was always enjoyable for me to stick around. Then with whomever I was with we head to the farm



# Activities in homes through out the year

TIME	DAY	DAY	NIGHT	NIGHT	DAY	DAY	NIGHT	NIGHT
GENDER	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
FALL	work	house holds	esting	resting, households	work	work	rest	rest house holds kitchen
WINTER	receive men	receive women	receive family guests	receive family women	indoor activities wide social circle, active life outside			
	indoor activities		indoor gatherings		the house , receive guests from both genders			
	n land	households outdoor	ALWAYS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE , THE RECEIVE		work	work	receive outside the house	
SUMMER	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES and indoor		GUESTS MOST OF THE TIMES SEPERATLY		outdoor activities with mixed genders with family and friends			
	HOSTING OUTSIDE	FAMILY MEMBERS	resting	KITCHEN WORKS			rest	house holds kitchen
<b>TRADITIONAL HOUSE</b>					<b>MODERN HOUSE</b>			

THIS TABLE SHOWS THE ACTIVITIES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THEIR HOMES IN THIS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY , BY TRADITIONAL HOUSE IT IS MEANT THAT THE HOUSE IS VERNACULAR AND THE FAMILY STILL WORKS IN AGRICULTURE, BY MODERN HOUSE I MEAN THAT HOUSES WERE BUILT BY ARCHITECTS AND THE COUPLE LIVING IN DO NOT WORK IN AGRICULTURE BUT IT IS A DESCENDANT OF A FAMILY THAT WORKS IN AGRICULTURE.





As we arrive, the worker would let us in only to the poultry and cows farm, but never to the bulls one, it was always too dangerous to get close. We step in and enjoy watching cows being milked, eggs being picked up, I even got many chances to pick up some on my own.



# FARMS

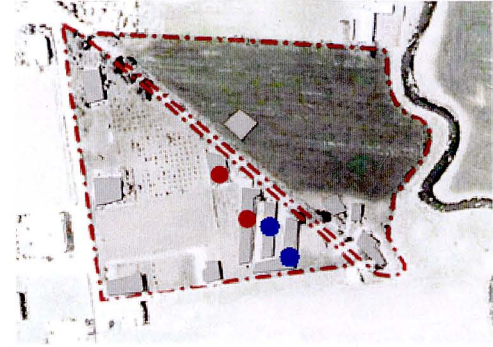
## 4 WAREHOUSES EXIST ON SITE

2 POULTRY FARMS EACH WITH 5000 CHICKEN CAPACITY  
2 COW'S FARMS WITH A CAPICITY OF 40 COWS IN EACH  
WAREHOUSE

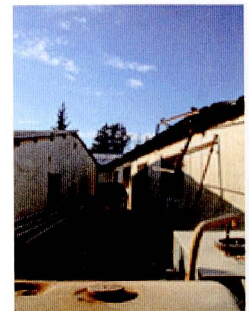
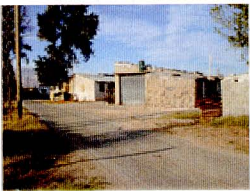
Each warehouse of the four is made of CMU blocks and concrete structure with a wooden beams and metallic sheets on the roof.

THE FARMS ARE USED TO RAISE CHICKEN FOR THEIR EGGS. USUALLY THIS TYPE OF CHICKEN IS IMPORTED FROM EUROPE AND IT NEEDS SPECIAL TREATMENT IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A PROPER AMOUNT OF EGGS TO BE SOLD. SINCE THESE POULTRY TYPE NEEDS A LOT OF CARE, MY FATHER, (VETERINARY DOCTOR), USES THE TWO WAREHOUSES TO KEEP IT UNDER HIS SIGHT CONSTANTLY.

THE COW FARM USED TO PRODUCE MILK FOR THE MILK FACTORIES IN THE BEKAA VALLEY BIT THE SITE IS TRANSFORMING INTO A RESIDENTIEL AREA, AND THE NEIGHBORS WERE ANNOYED OF THE SMELLS, THEY WERE CLOSED A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AND MOVED FURTHER IN THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS OF THE VILLAGE.



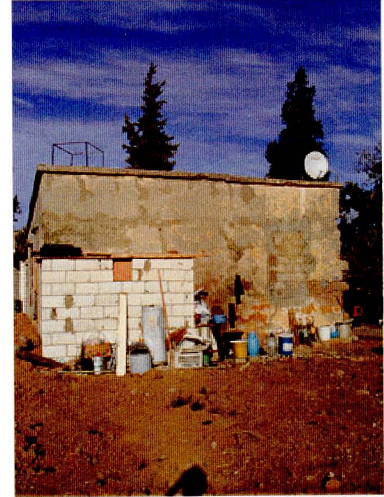
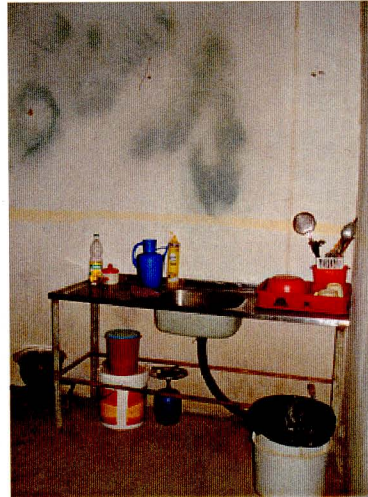
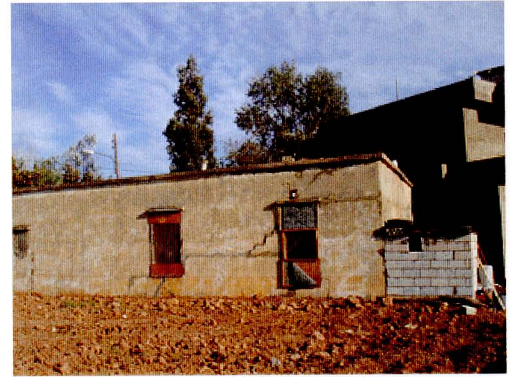
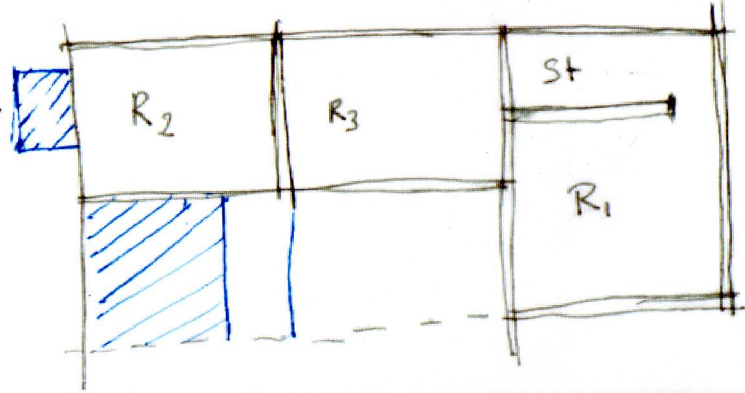
THE COW FARM IS USED AS A STORAGE SPACE TODAY FOR EQUIPEMNTS, VEHICLES AND PRODUCTS.



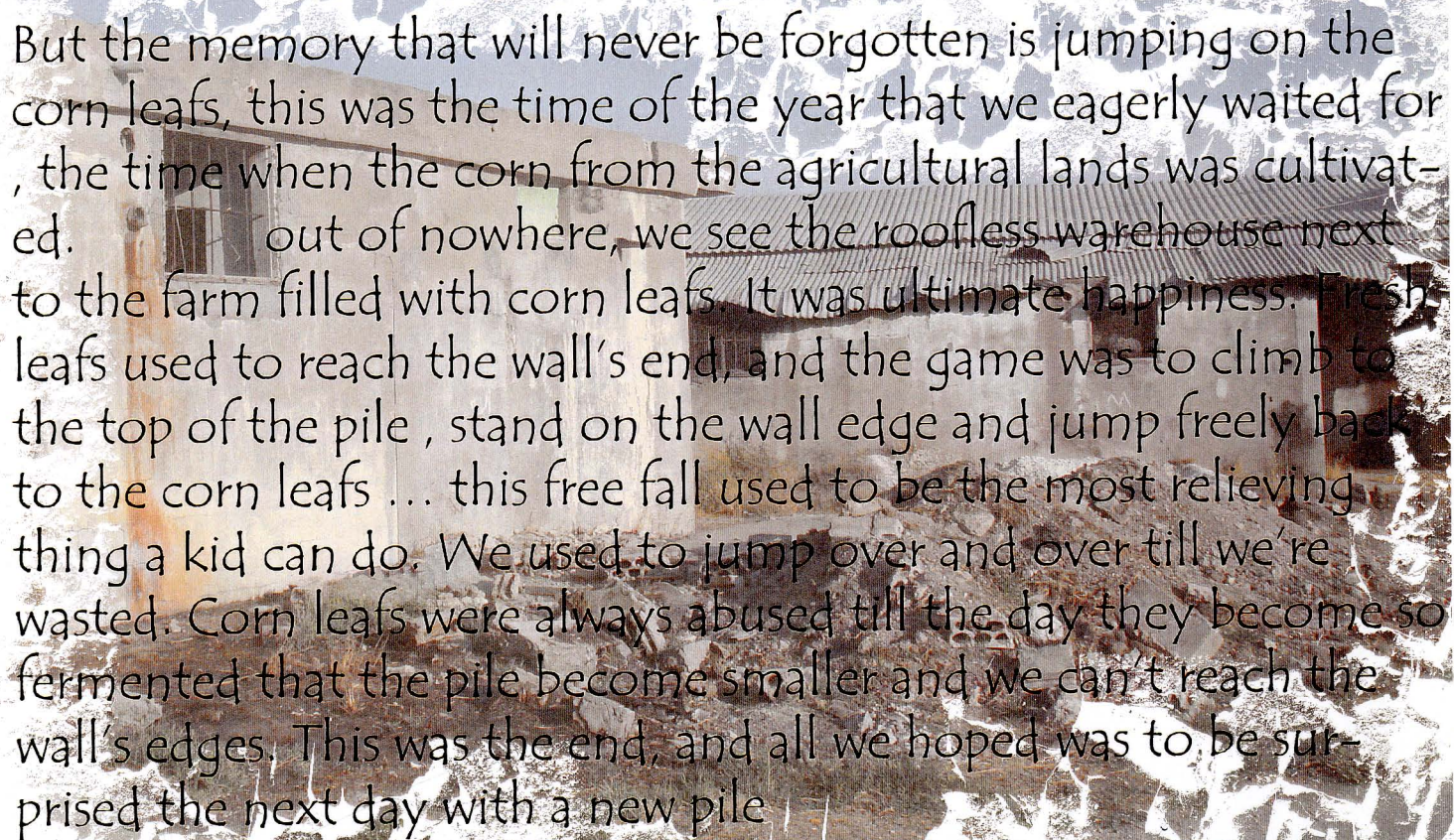


## workers house

Right next to the guest house lies the oldest structure on site. it functions today as housing for two workers families that work in the land of one of my uncle's and serve the guest house. It's a three room structure with a kitchen and attached bathroom







But the memory that will never be forgotten is jumping on the corn leaves, this was the time of the year that we eagerly waited for, the time when the corn from the agricultural lands was cultivated. out of nowhere, we see the roofless warehouse next to the farm filled with corn leaves. It was ultimate happiness. Fresh leaves used to reach the wall's end, and the game was to climb to the top of the pile, stand on the wall edge and jump freely back to the corn leaves ... this free fall used to be the most relieving thing a kid can do. We used to jump over and over till we're wasted. Corn leaves were always abused till the day they become so fermented that the pile become smaller and we can't reach the wall's edges. This was the end, and all we hoped was to be surprised the next day with a new pile



# SUSTAINABILITY AND RECYCLING

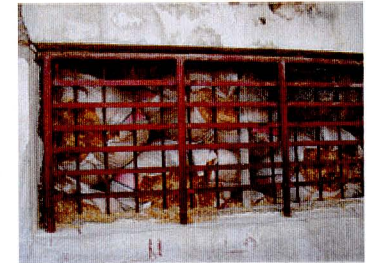
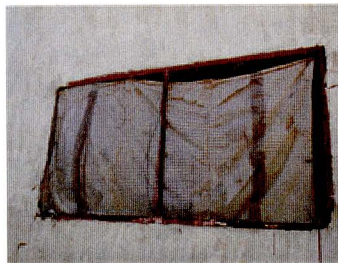
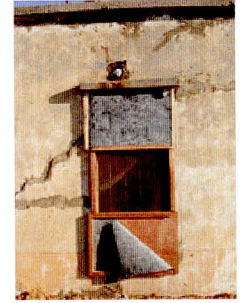
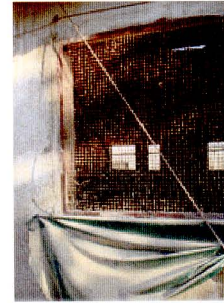
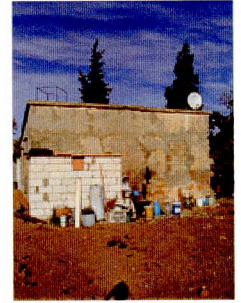
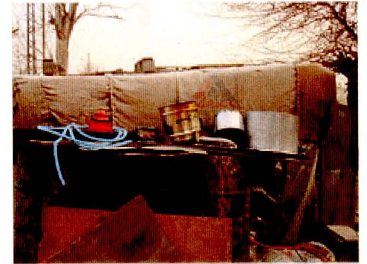
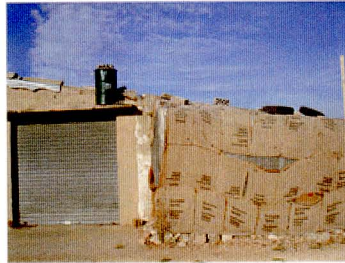
In farmer's communities budgeting production is an art. Since no one can afford having pioneer technological systems. Everyone recycle materials in order to maximize the minimal profit of the sector.

On site we see packaging bags being used as windows covers to prevent wind from entering to the farm. Steel mesh covering the windows is also used depending on the need, in a poultry farm it is light steel, in cows farm the steel covers become harder.


Windows are reduced in size with wood panels in winter in order to minimize wind flow. They are even closed sometimes with metals sheets usually used for roofing.

When there is a need for an extra room and no budget for construction, everything available is used to construct it, bags, metal sheets, nylon bags for insulation, metal bins, CMU blocks to hold sheets on the roof, even car's tires if available, literally everything can work to provide a need.

EVERYTHING  
IS KEPT, IT  
MIGHT BE  
USEFUL ONE  
DAY.







Years passed and a new attraction was created on site: the slaughter house. It was a new experience, a creepy one, but when one visits the place in a group the experience become more do-able. I can still remember the smell of chicken, it was awful, and the whole process was disgusting, but, there I had a real encounter with my dad's work. I have always seen the farms but here I saw a .process, a producer



# Slaughter house to guest house

The poultry slaughter house was built in 1992. It was intended to serve the village needs of chicken

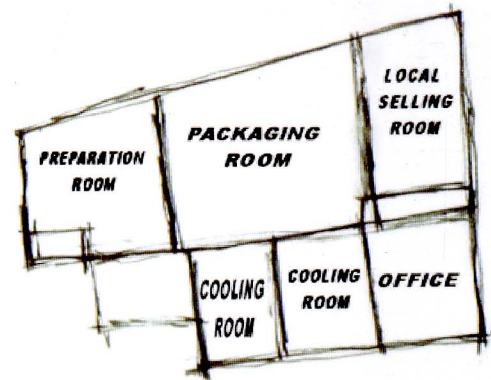
A couple of years later, it was closed for two main reasons: one is financial and the more important was that the land was transforming into a residential area and the smell of the slaughter area was disturbing the resident of the neighborhood

It was transformed later to a guest house for one of the family members that use to be the mayor of the village. It's open for public.

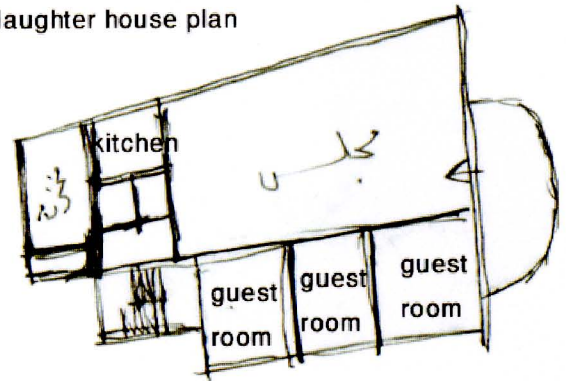
Social gatherings happen every day. Members of the family play cards at night with their friends

The architecture of the building was altered to cater the new function

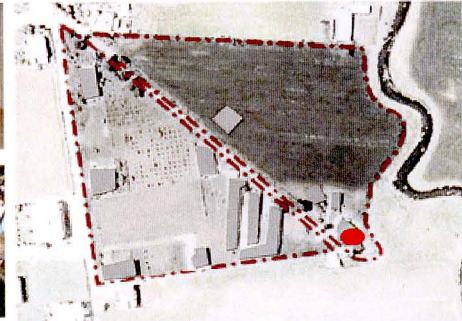
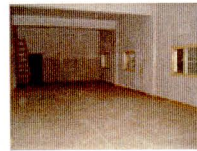
The building lies right on the edge of the Litani River with magnificent sceneries that




slaughter house plan



guest house new plan





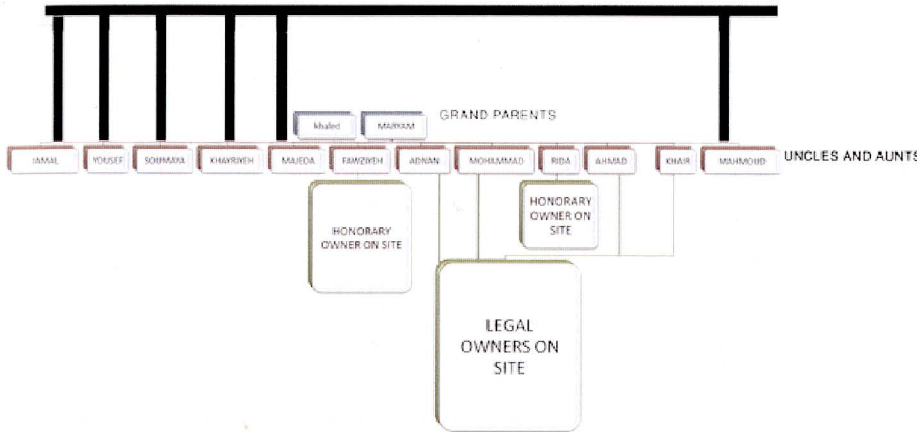


The family is growing: my cousin got married and bought a new house. This was awesome our football ground was the area between my grandparents house and the new house and it became a perfect rectangle. We always wanted the harvest to come so it becomes flat and ready for use. I remember many summer days when older cousins used to join the game



# OWNERSHIP

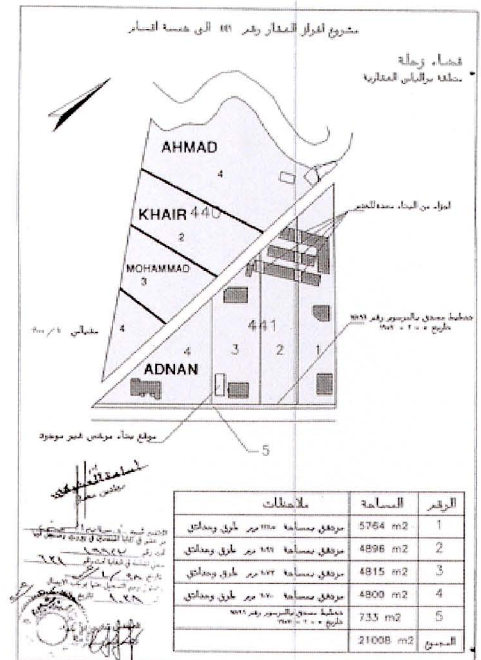
## PSYCHOLOGICAL OWNERS ON SITE



- PERMENANT PRESENCE ON SITE
- TEMPORARY PRESENCE ON SITE
- FUTURE POTENTIAL PRESENCE ON SITE



THE SITE HAS TODAY FOUR LEGAL OWNERS , FUTURE INHERITANT WILL REMAIN SELECTIVE , ONLY THE MALES IN THE FAMILY INHERIT THE SITES , IT IS PLANNED TO BE KEPT AS SUCH.

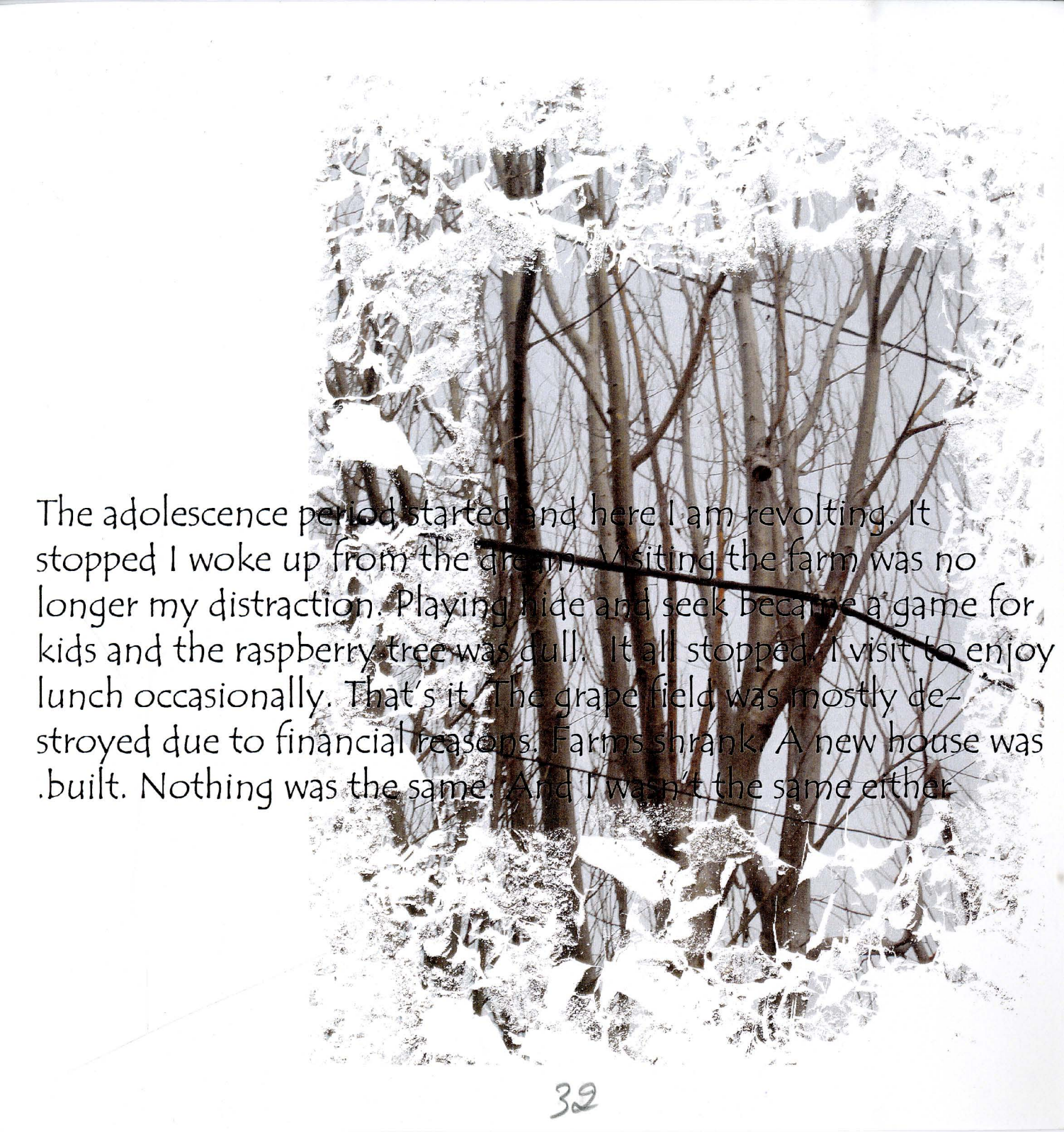


**Legal Owners** are the people who own the site today.

**Honorary Owners** are the people who own the site but ownership is not transmitted to children after death.

**Psychological Owners** are the family members that did not inherit shairs of sites but since it is still a family site they are still involved.



A black and white photograph of a snowy forest. The trees are bare and their branches are heavily laden with snow. A wire fence runs across the middle of the image. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow.

The adolescence period started and here I am revolting. It stopped I woke up from the dream. Visiting the farm was no longer my distraction. Playing hide and seek became a game for kids and the raspberry tree was dull. It all stopped. I visit to enjoy lunch occasionally. That's it. The grape field was mostly destroyed due to financial reasons. Farms shrank. A new house was built. Nothing was the same. And I wasn't the same either.



This is the state of the site today; it is being transformed into a residential area without taking into consideration any of its characteristics. A Concrete invasion will eventually destroy everything alive.

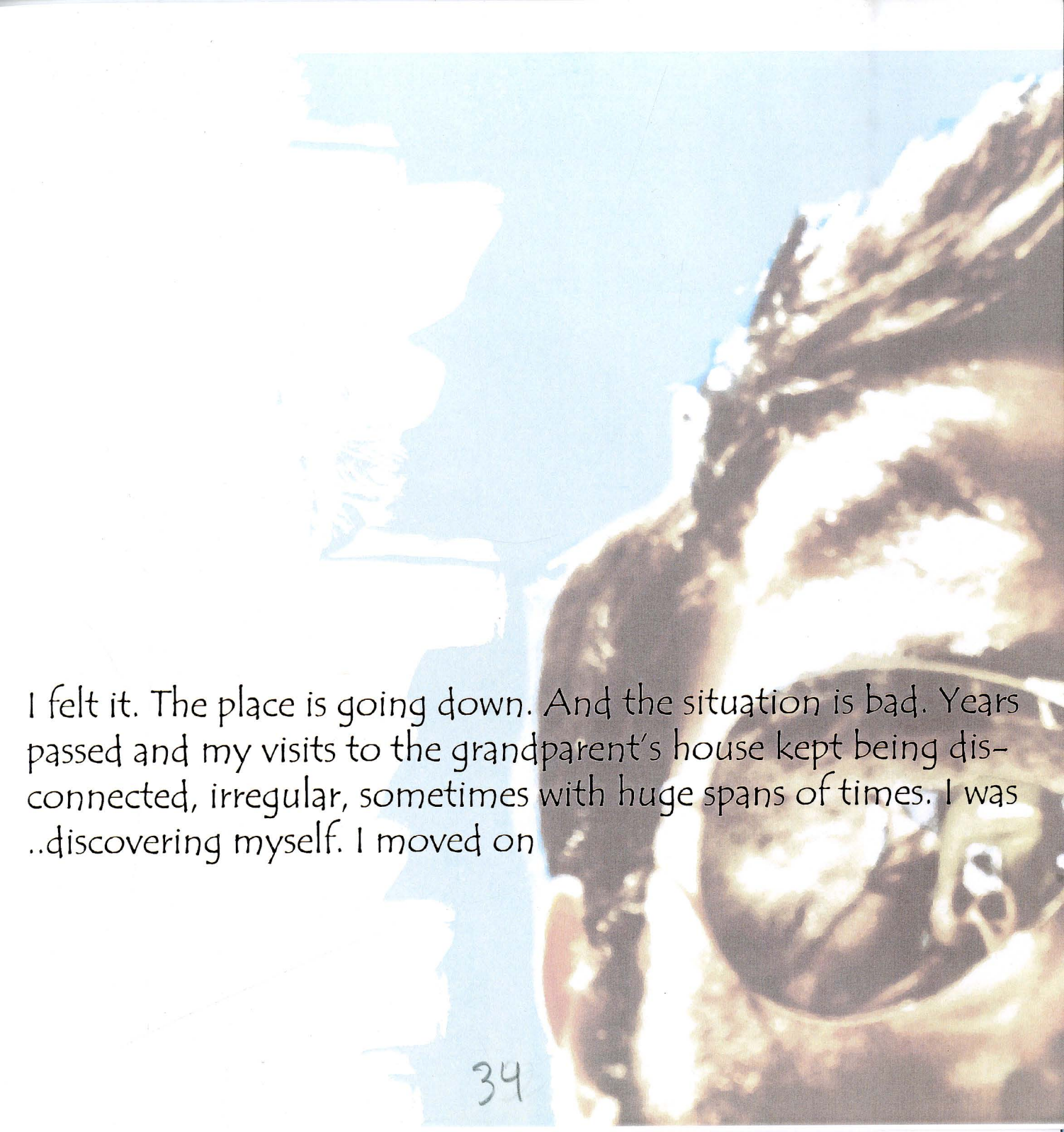
**The aim is to preserve the site as a family site... Taking into consideration its social relations and at the same time revive its agricultural role both to the family and the village.**

I plan to develop a project that will address the agricultural sector and the family ties at the same time. By claiming the land to remain one big property with shares will allow me to preserve it. Financial problems can be solved by shares with special laws as it has always functioned on site.

By creating a presentation area for agriculture sector, an area of celebration of tradition where one can have a proper experience with land. Land is not something made to only step on, it is the reason of one's existence. I will not demolish already inhabited structures, the aim is not a Disney land effect, but they will be removed in a way to enhance their qualities.

The site will be treated as a whole trying to always articulate the idea of an open island. The architectural expression that will later be articulated will provide for the advertising image that will attract people on my site.





I felt it. The place is going down. And the situation is bad. Years passed and my visits to the grandparent's house kept being disconnected, irregular, sometimes with huge spans of times. I was ..discovering myself. I moved on



THE AREA BECOMING **RESIDENTIEL** , THE **STREET** CUTTING THROUGH IS **COMMERCIAL** , THE **PROJECT** NEED TO SERVE **AGRICULTURE**.

**PROPOSAL:** KEEP THE SITE AS AN ENTITY , DEVELOPP A PROJECT THAT HELP FARMERS TO SELL THEIR PRODUCTS DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS, DESIGN AREAS FOR SELECTED PLANTINGS, **PERMANENT SALE** , **TEMPORARY MARKETS FOR VEGETABLES** , **FRUITS AND HOME MADE PRODUCTS**, AND ALONG THE RIVER SIDE AN ENTERTAINMENT AREA TO ATTRACT OUTSIDERS, **THE TENANTS WILL REMAIN ON SITE, IN THEIR HOUSES THAT I PLAN TO PLAN TO RENOVATE.**





Life continued and my only extended visits were restricted to Eid days- Adha and Ramadan. The family experience remained the same. Traditions never change and what always happened I kept recurring.



# PROGRAM

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-Permanent vegetable market: the market will be designed as vernacular mud houses that used to exist in the area but they will act as shops. The idea is to recreate the spirit of the latest agricultural housing, in a manner that caters for today's needs. The products sold in this market are all producers product aiming to enhance their sales without the need of merchants that usually take their products in minimal prices. The aim is to supply around 50 small shops as a minimum that will benefit at least 50 families.

-Temporary products display area: this area will cater people one day per week. The aim of this part is to benefit small or individual producers to sell their homemade products in their own packaging manner. For example a woman will be able to sell her jam pots or famous "tabboule" on a stand that she'll rent for a day.

-Entertainment area: this will take place in the area surrounding the guest house. It will act as a permanent restaurant that uses cooked products from the village land. People will benefit from the sceneries that exist beside the river edge. The main plan is to introduce outsiders to the vast planes of the Bekaa valley.

-Outdoor sitting areas scattered in planted areas: this part is for organic plantations where selected vegetables will be planed and ready for the consumer. The sitting areas will allow people to pick up their own vegetables and maybe sit and enjoy a meal. The free standing elements will be designed in an integrated manner that will not disturb the planted areas. They will be scattered in the whole land.

-Storage space: will be used by producers to store their products in order to serve the permanent product.

-Houses renovation: after a close understanding of the social habits on site, they will be the rule that guide the spatial renovation. The architecture will be altered in order to fit with the new structures on site that will give it a special spirit creating an image that attracts people from different region. Kids' areas will be enhanced and articulated to host children as it always had.

-Farms renovation: the farms will be renovated and accessible for visitors that might chose to pick up their own eggs. The cow farm will be transformed into a workshop that teach people how to build in mud.





In the morning the whole family is gathered together in the courtyard with a breakfast after the Eid prayer. Then at about 10 AM the guests from the village starts to arrive and we move to the guest room to host them. Only men visit. Women of the family usually gather in the family room. After the lunch is served, the day in the family house is about to end.



# PROGRAM TABULATION

permanent farmer's market	permanent SOUK, on the traditional way, selling all farmer's products	around 100 shop of 10 to 15 m2 each, built from mud
product display area	will be temporary, made out of movable and non movable structure.	around 100 parcel of 5 to 10 m2 each
entertainment area	Readaptation of the guest house, restaurant, and cafeteria.	It should be capable to host around 200 people. the target is families and large groups
outdoor sitting areas free standing elements	sculptural like effect made of a mix of sustainable , recycled and readapted materials and objects	around 10 to 15 piece scattered in the planted land
storage space	In between the residential area of the site, right on the street coming from the agricultural land, possibly semi underground	a total of 4000 m2 will be divided into the public and the family needs
farm renovation	adapted in a way to be visited and exhibited	The capacity of the farm will remain the same but the size may vary to add the new function





Everyone goes back home till the night falls when the young  
..cousins come back and spend the evening playing cards.





## CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDIES WERE CHOSEN FOR THEIR PROGRAM AND FOR THEIR ARCHITECTURE.



# SOUK EL TAYEB

## FIRST FARMERS MARKET IN LEBANON

Souk el Tayeb novelty is about being a farmers market ... where only producers – farmers, bakers, cooks ... come and sell their own products; a direct contact from producer to consumer.

A pot of jam is not just that, but linked to a person, a human being ... Weekly markets are meetings, reunions for everybody.

Recognition is the best reward for each producer ... for what they are doing about preserving traditions and life.

### ORGANIC.

Souk el Tayeb began in its concept as an organic market, but soon changed to be a farmers' market, of fresh, local, seasonal food products – natural, traditional and organic, if possible. . "Souk el Tayeb has been divided in 2 clear sections: the first one, clearly labeled "organic" is for certified products.

### WHEN & WHERE

Souk el Tayeb is an open- air weekly market, all year round ... earth gives us goodies all the time and we are always here to taste and consume.

Souk el Tayeb is held every Saturday in Saifi Village parking (from 9 to 2) and soon again every Tuesday in Hamra (from 9 to 2).

A new project is prepared in collaboration with the municipality of Beirut, in Ramlet el Baida, to make of the farmers' market project a public concern.

Souk el Tayeb has to go regional too, Tripoli, Saida, Batroun ... for local regional food specialties in every market.





# SOUK EL TAYEB

Dekenet Souk el Tayeb is now available at Artisans du Liban et d'Orient (Ain el Mreisseh) and at Souk an Najjarinn (Saifi). Dekenet Souk el Tayeb a selection of fine food products from all Souk el tayeb family: farmers, producers, cooks, natural, traditional and organic.


A real seal of quality as only the finest is selected for dekenet souk el tayeb. A fair project, as products are labeled under the brand of dekenet souk el tayeb ... and the name or brand of each producer – giving recognition to each one. A fine window for the best of our land, mountains and sea, always supporting small producers of high quality, and discovering and perpetuating food and culinary traditions.



THE IDEA BEHIND THE PROJECT IS TO HAVE SHOPS IN DIFFERENT AREAS IN LEBANON THAT SELLS SOUK EL TAYEB PRODUCTS.

THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PLACE MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CEAL THE BRANDS OF THE PRODUCERS WITH THE NAME OF THE SOUK GIVING IT A FREE TICKET TO THE CONSUMERS HOUSE.





-Years have passed and here I am moving to Beirut to start university. For me, it was not a big deal at first. I had a house in the city that I visited sometimes during weekends. At first, I did not notice my difference. For me everyone has a large extended family and, everything is shared ... but, after spending substantial time in the city, I started discovering how unique my childhood was. It was not something that everyone had. At that stage, I woke up. The teenager in me realized that what he had was not overwhelming and annoying but unique and healthful



# ARC EN CIEL PROJECT- TAANAYEL

Arc en ciel project:

The project is located in Taanayel built by arc en ciel association in order to celebrate ancient vernacular architecture in the Bekaa valley.

The project is a replica of typical traditional houses that can be rent by night. People rent rooms to relive for a short time how ancestors in that area lived.

When you enter the compound, you go back in time and everything is served in the traditional fashion, even food.

Mr. Firzli the manger says about the place

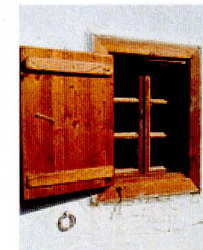
"we want our customers to live tradition so we do our best to provide them with feelings. They can even watch in the morning an old woman preparing their breakfast bread. We are even thinking about expanding the place to host a larger number of people. And there is a plan to build an old market next to the place that follows the same traditional customs".

When asked about publicity, and how come few people know about such a place, he replied

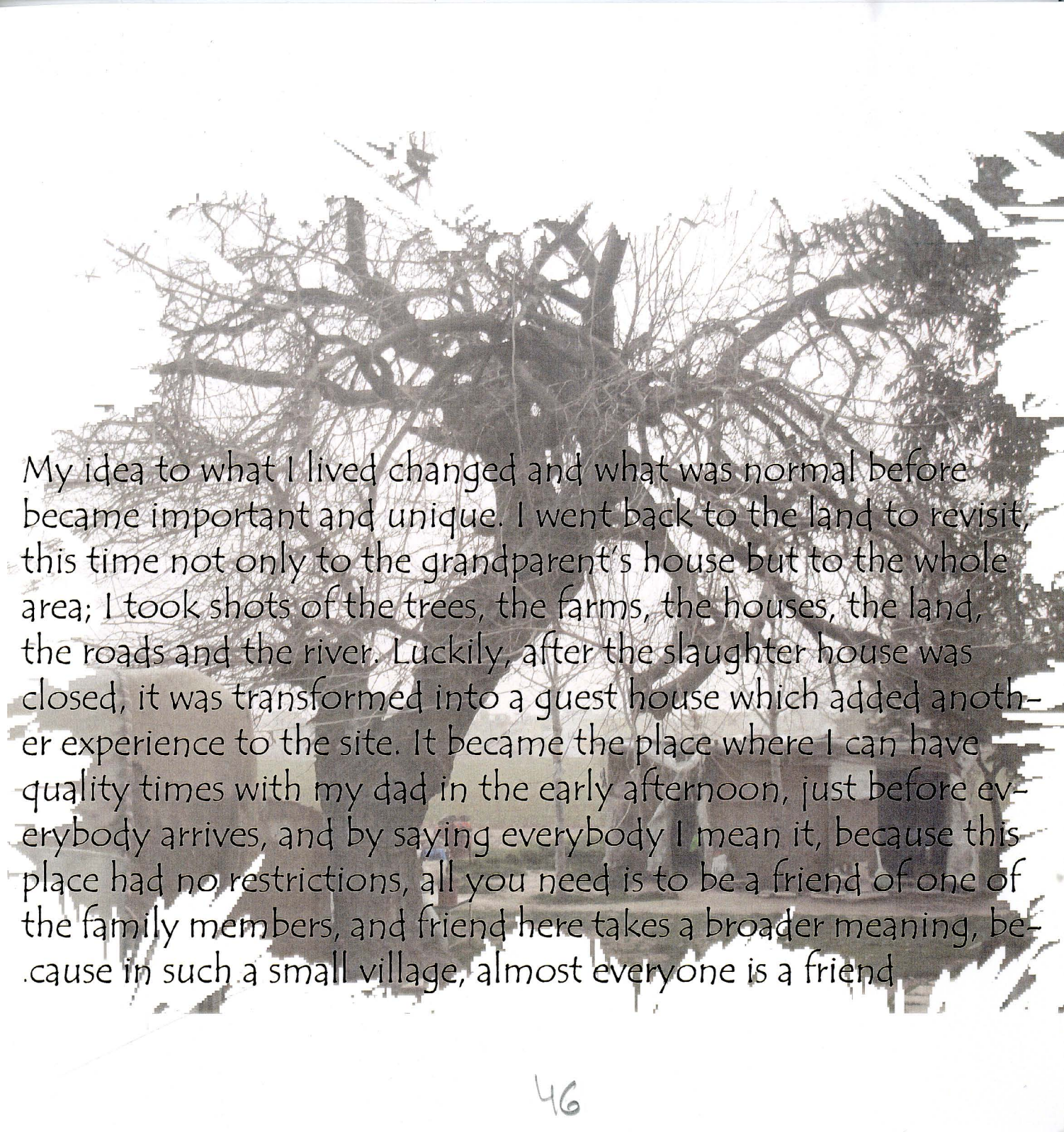
"we do not address large public; our intention is local cultural tourism. The reputation of the place has grown by mouth to mouth publicity. We even have regular customers now".

The compound is built out of mud following the same traditional construction methods. The only difference is that the roofs are covered with a concrete layer in order to eliminate the burden of treating it after every storm. Other than that, everything is typical.

The planning is a set of houses joined with a courtyard. The only private function is the bedroom. Everything else is shared as it has always been in such houses.







My idea to what I lived changed and what was normal before became important and unique. I went back to the land to revisit, this time not only to the grandparent's house but to the whole area; I took shots of the trees, the farms, the houses, the land, the roads and the river. Luckily, after the slaughter house was closed, it was transformed into a guest house which added another experience to the site. It became the place where I can have quality times with my dad in the early afternoon, just before everybody arrives, and by saying everybody I mean it, because this place had no restrictions, all you need is to be a friend of one of the family members, and friend here takes a broader meaning, because in such a small village, almost everyone is a friend



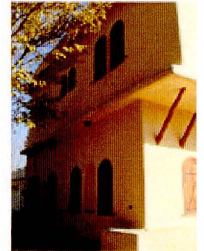
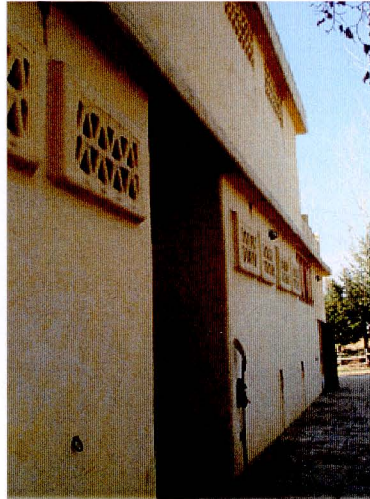
# HARET ISSA

It's a house built by and for the owner of Arc en ciel association. It is located near Dayr Taanayel.

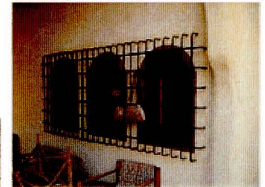
The house architecture is meant to imitate the mud traditional houses but it is built in concrete. The concrete from the outside is articulated to give the rough effect of mud. Tree trunks are inserted in the balconies to give the effect that they are holding the structure.

The house has a U shape enclosing a courtyard with a small fountain.

Next to the house, we find vintage mud houses that used to exist in the land. These houses were left intact with only permanent maintenance.



THE ONLY ALTERNATION ON THE MUD HOUSES IS THE CONCRETE LAYERS SPREAD ON THE ROOF TO DISCARD THE MUD ROOF MAINTENANCE DILEMMA







Having spent three years in the architecture school had already altered my look to things have changed, I started to appreciate things that never took my attention. My appreciation of the land grew bigger. Chaos had a new meaning. Poverty made sense. recycling became clever and attractive instead of ugly and deceiving.



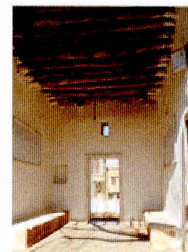
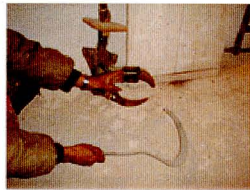
# TERBOL ECO-MUSEE

The museum used to be an old house of a farmers family in the village. It was almost the most preserved mud house in Terbol.

After many generations, the owners of the house became more than twenty and they did not want to demolish their great grandparents house. But at the same time, they did not have the financial capacity to properly renovate it.

Kettaneh company offered to renovate it and transform it into a museum for traditional agriculture housing.

The house date from the late nineteenth century and it now gathers different households that were used for cooking, living and working in land.



The house is now a celebration of early **agro-culture architecture**: a term that I can at this stage define as;

The architecture of the agricultural society.

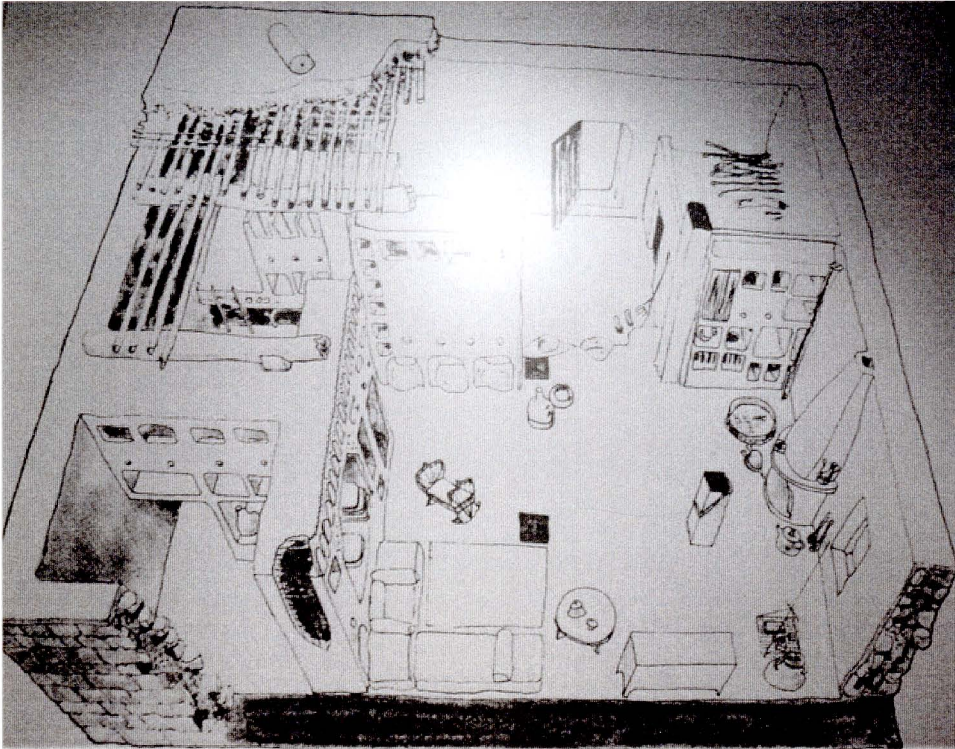
The architecture that serves needs with the cheapest material available.

The architecture of the regular people designed by them from their own experience and habits.

The architecture that has the scale of a human being.



# TERBOL ECO-MUSEE



A drawing representing A typical MUD house of the region

One livable space usually exist in the house and it is used as dining room , living room and bedroom

THE INTERIOR DECORATION WAS ALWAYS A TASK ACCOMPLISHED AND MAINTAINED BY THE WOMEN OF THE HOUSE.

EVEN WHEN THE MUSEUM WAS RENOVATED AN OLD WOMEN TOOK THE RESPONSABILITY OF DOING THE MUD DECORATIONS INSIDE.



IN HER BOOK, DWELLING IN THE BEKAA, HOUDA KASSATLY TRIES TO GIVE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF TRADITIONAL FARMERS HOUSING I QUOTE ;

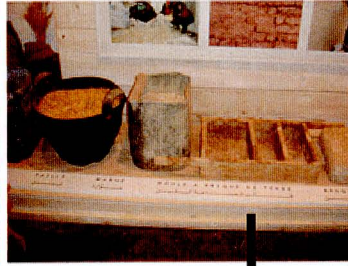
“Whereas the external shape of these houses reflects the climatic and geographic conditions of the pertaining regio, the interior was marked by the inhabitant’s way of life. it was designed according to the activity, work and social status of those who built the houses or had build. In the past, the inner disposition used to be the farmer’s working tool, and as such it reflected his activity”.

“In the past, farmers strove to survive in a self-sufficiency system and in harsh climatic, economic and social conditions”.



# TERBOL ECO-MUSEE

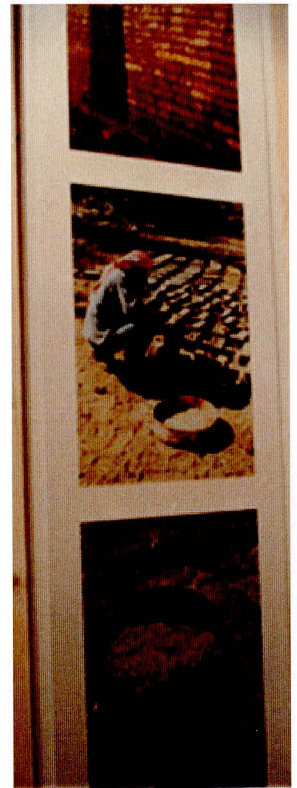
## MATERIALS OF BUILDING



Earth Straw Small Gravel Water Mold indigo Lime stone powder



## MUD FOR BUILDING





## CASE STUDIES


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I tried to look at these projects in order to see possible modern uses of this construction technology.

In my site I am already trying to stop the concrete invasion so after seeing these projects, I considered the option of making all new additions in mud.

This will introduce visitors to the real agricultural life that existed. And at the same time, the interaction between mud and concrete will keep my site real and far away from being a Disney land.

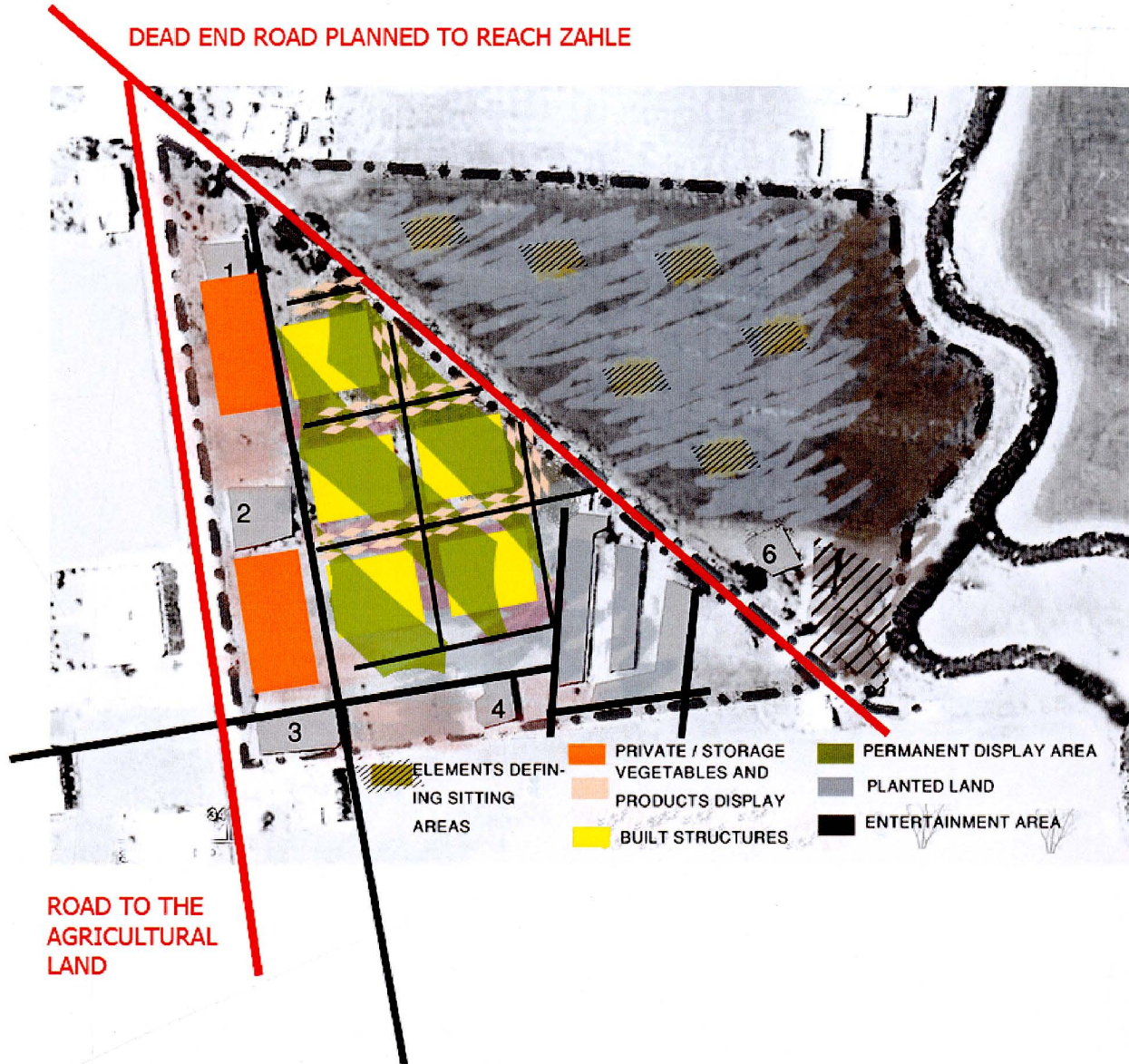


A photograph of a tree with bare branches in a dry, open landscape. The tree's trunk is thick and textured, with many thin, leafless branches extending across the frame. The ground is dry and dusty, with some sparse, low-lying vegetation. The sky is a pale, overcast grey.

The place became a new adventure for me. With every visit, I discovered something new. I wanted the land to remain as it was... but, with all the new houses being built, the emerging residential needs are killing what I have always enjoyed. The architecture student in me started to intervene. Here comes the time when I had to choose a topic for my final project and the only place I had in mind was the LAND, I couldn't think of something else to intervene upon



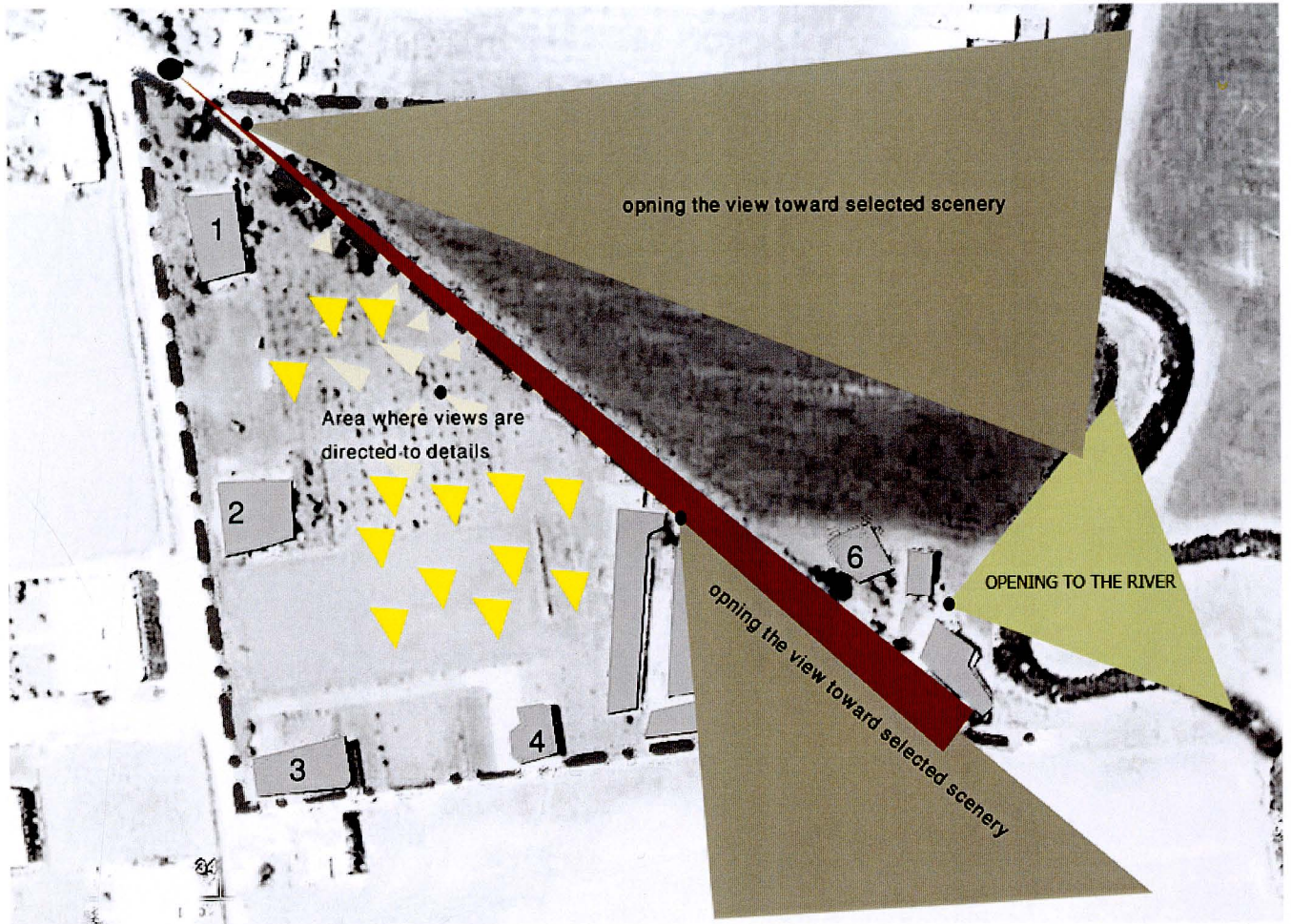
# LAND USE





# LAND USE

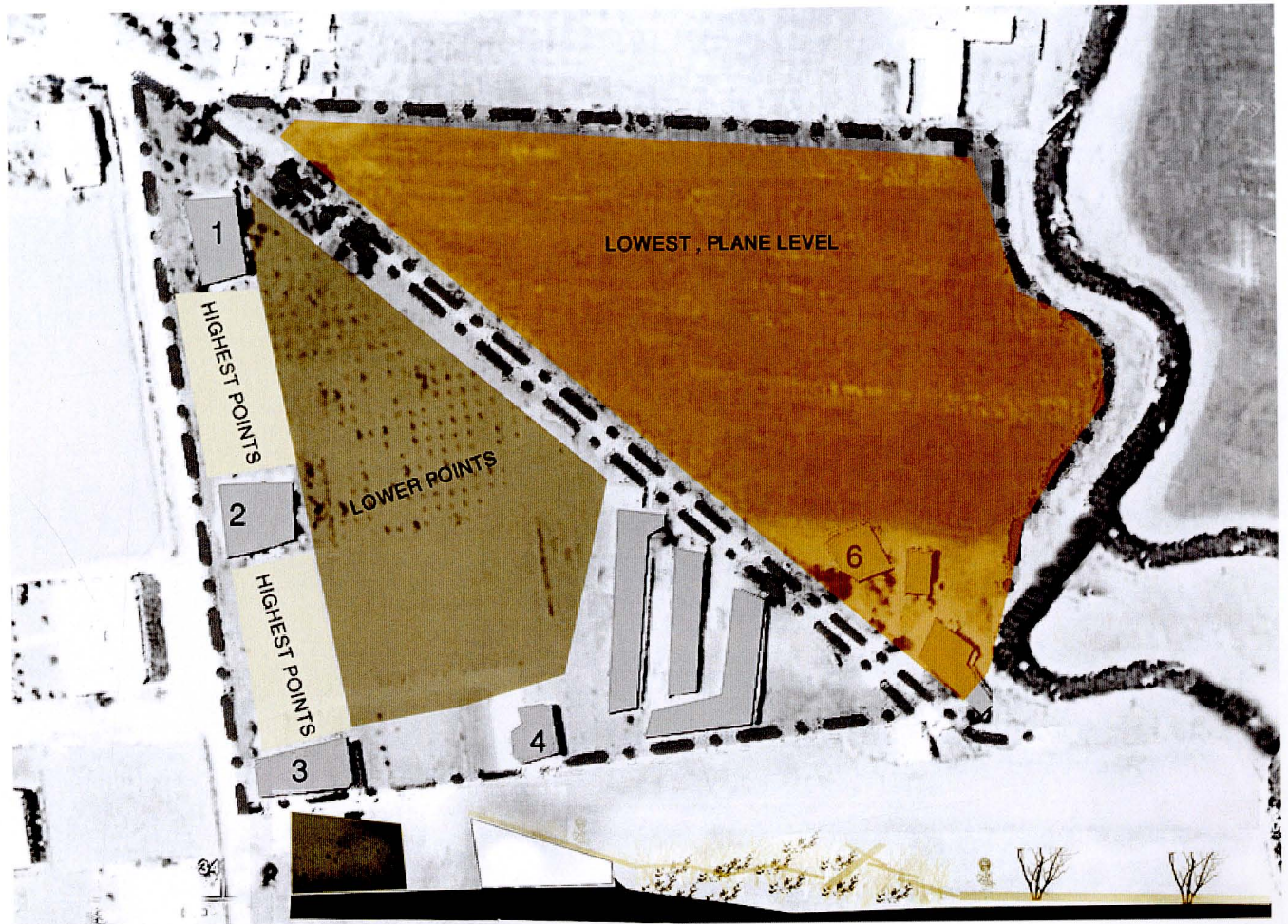
## VIEWS STRATEGY





# LAND USE

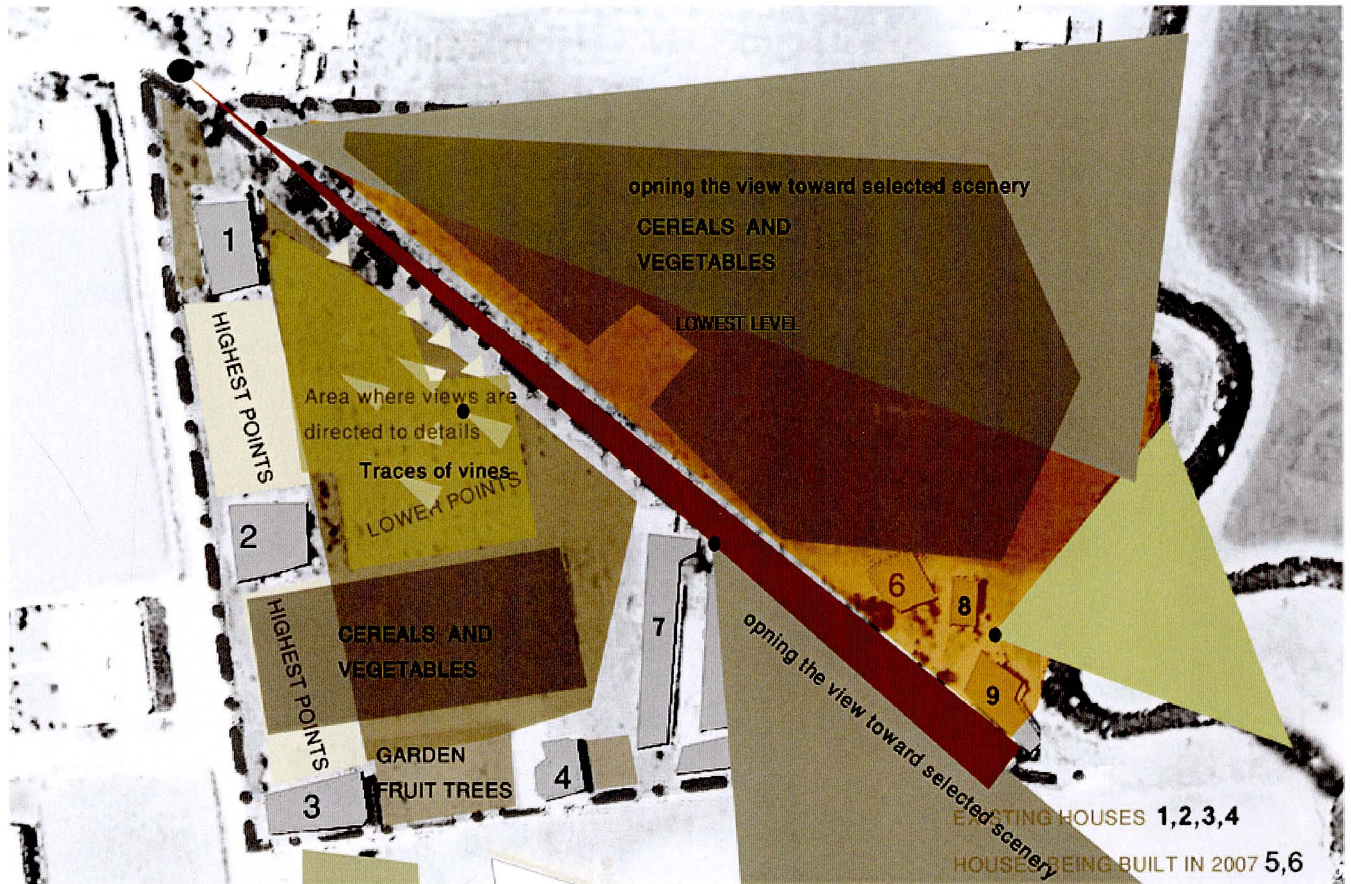
## LEVELS HEIGHT STRATEGY





# LAND USE

## VIEWS LEVELS AND VEGETATIONS



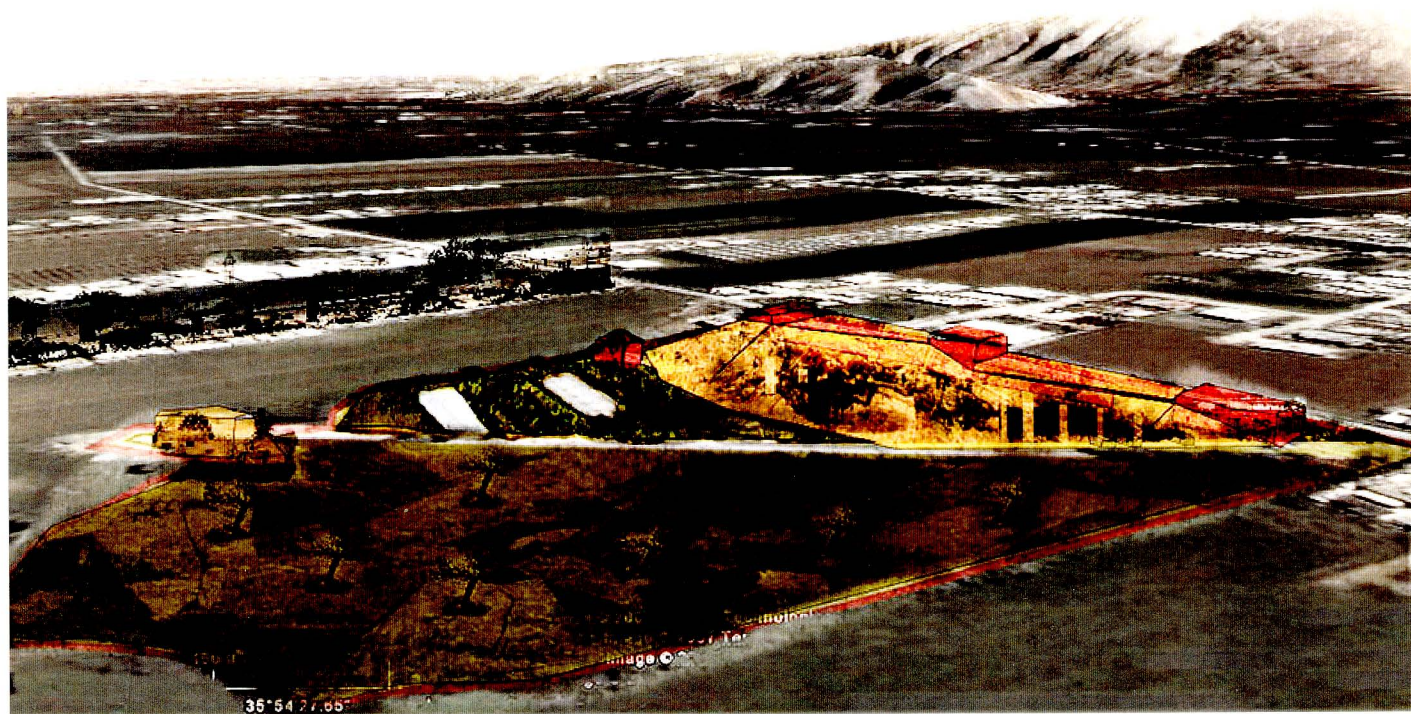




For the first time, I went to the LAND for the first time for a formal purpose. Strangely, it was talking to me and everything made sense. Something urged me for change



# VISIONS ON SITE





# VISIONS ON SITE

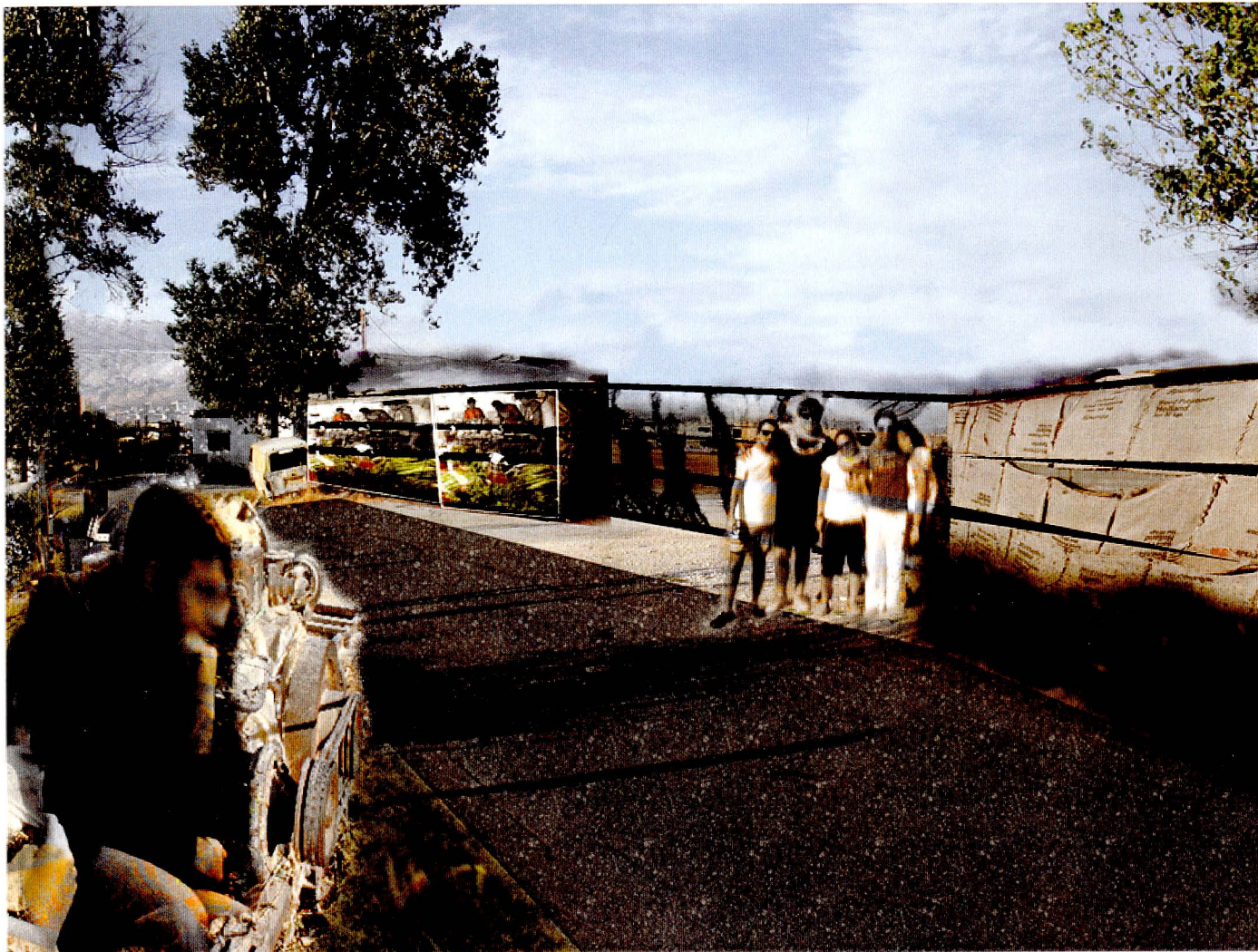
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# VISIONS ON SITE

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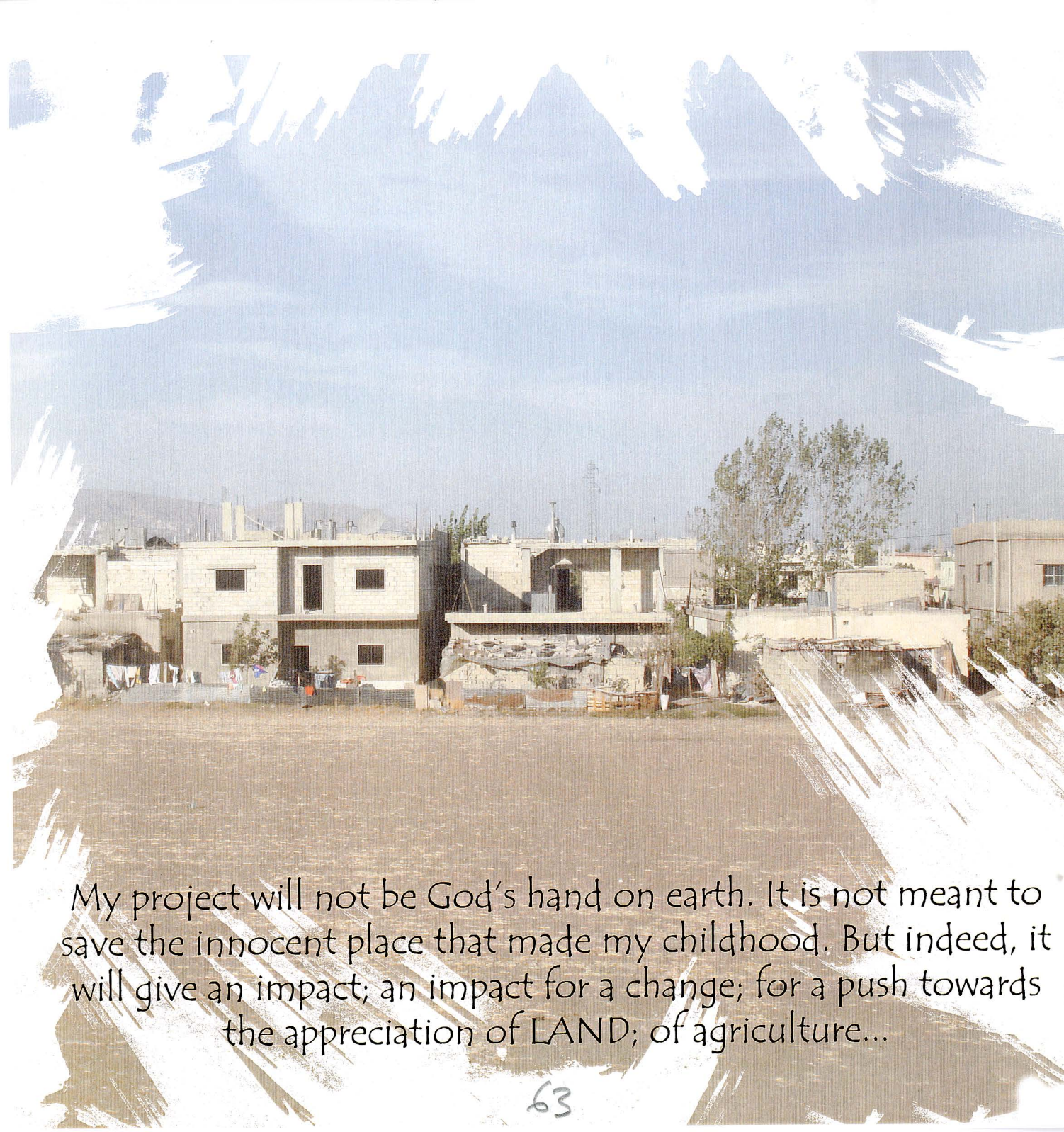


# VISIONS ON SITE

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My project will not be God's hand on earth. It is not meant to save the innocent place that made my childhood. But indeed, it will give an impact; an impact for a change; for a push towards the appreciation of LAND; of agriculture...



For many reasons أرض



i have always used the term AGRO-CULTURE ARCHITECTURE, having this composite clear in mind i wanted for the book to have a simpler name, a powerful term that can sum up my message. In a second it was clear that it will be أرض أرض is the reason of my culture's existence, it is the reason for its architecture, it is the place that hold it. i want people to appreciate the أرض and celebrate it. i want my own project to be a celebration of the reason of its existence.



# REFERENCES

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[WWW.BARELIAS.NET](http://WWW.BARELIAS.NET)





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