

Date palm products were used extensively for both light and heavy construction. Split palm trunks formed lintels and rafters. The leaf ribs, **zor**, were used as small lumber or were woven into heavy matting, **da'an**, and open textured screens both of which could be used for arrish construction. Palm leaflets were woven into a lighter form of matting and the interleaf fibre called **lif**, was used as an insulating layer in roof construction.



Da'an and split palm logs used to make a roof

Acacia and other locally available woods were used to form lintels and doors. Imported wood was only used for the largest doors and latterly sawn wood was made into window frames and shutters. Teak, **saj**, was the preferred material for the large fort doors, which can still be seen, in their original condition, at the Eastern and Jahli forts. These massive doors are well studded with iron nails and have a small postern gate to allow individual people to enter.