



Majlis in Sheikh Zayed's Palace

In an era before air conditioning was available, buildings were kept relatively cool by the provision of broad verandahs to shade the main rooms and also by incorporating open screens to allow the breeze to pass through rooms. Many of the screens are made from decorative plasterwork in a variety of geometric patterns.

HOUSES

There are a few traditional houses left in the city. Those that have survived are deep in the oases. Some have been rebuilt along traditional lines and put to new uses, particularly in the Qattara oasis. Like the forts they are based on a courtyard pattern with substantial perimeter walls and a number of rectangular rooms around the edge of the yard. They present blank walls to the outside world, roof gargoyles and small oculi or ventilation openings being the only exterior features.