

Tuwaiq Palace

Hayy Assafarat
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Architects
OMBRANIA
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Buro Happold
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Atelier Frei Otto
Aachen, Germany

Client
Arriyadh Development Authority
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Designer
May 1981

Construction
April 1983

Occupancy
December 1985

Site
75000 m²

Ground Floor
8503 m²

Total Floor
24210 m²

Costs

- Global 32500000 USD

117000000 SAR

Rate USD = 3.60 SAR (Aug. 83)

- per m² 1742 USD

4832 SAR

Rate USD = 3.60 SAR (Aug. 83)

Currency Saudi Arabian Rial

Programme

The guest house includes tennis

and squash courts, swimming

pools, athletic zones, a conference

hotel, and a restaurant and

cafeteria. These requirements had

to be met while at the same time

respecting Saudi Arabian religions

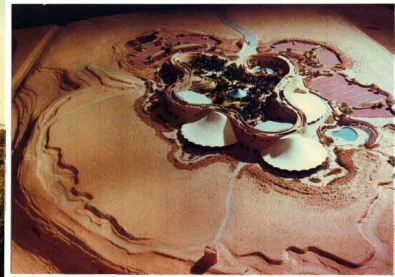
and cultural traditions.

Building Type 534

1995 Award Cycle 626.SAU



View from the South-East



Model: view from the West



Interior view of southern multi-purpose hall



Interior of the reception hall

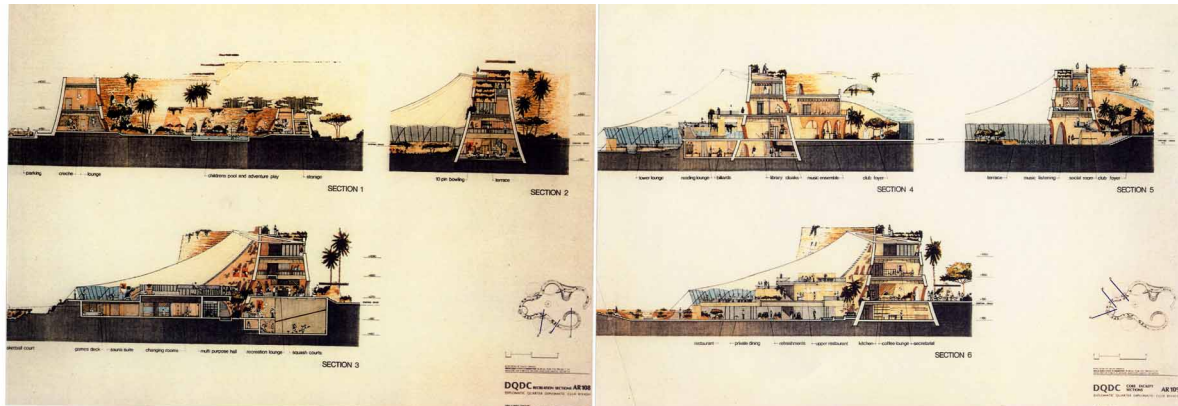
The Tuwaiq Palace is a centre for socio-cultural and diplomatic exchange for the Saudi and diplomatic community in Riyadh. Originally it was developed as the Diplomatic Club in the area called Hayy Assafarat where the diplomatic quarter is located. The diplomatic quarter was developed as an outcome of the decision to move the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign diplomatic missions from their previous location in Jeddah to the capital city of Riyadh. The idea of a Diplomatic Club originated as an incentive to encourage the diplomatic community to complete the transfer of their missions to Riyadh.

Since its completion, however, the building has never been used as a club; instead it serves as a prestigious location for government functions, state receptions, and the celebration of national events by different embassies. The general conception seeks a maximum harmony with the site configuration.

The project developed around the idea of an oasis with terraces, courtyards, and caves enclosed within a sinuous outer wall which closely follows the site's relief. Three tent-like structures lean into the exterior of the wall, creating an overall design that has been compared to a "desert rose". This arrangement has permitted a separation of various zones according to their respective functions.

The project is constructed using reinforced concrete walls, precast concrete floor slabs, in-situ concrete floor slabs, and in-situ concrete foundations. Tents and nets are made of cable nets and support masts; Teflon-coated fibre-glass fabric is used for the tent roofs.

The design is seen as an example of the synthesis of the diverse forces acting in Arabian architecture. The eternal quality of the desert landscape is echoed in the organic wall surfaces and is further accentuated by the presence of the delicate tent structures. The temporal quality of the tent is highlighted by the proximity of the massive stone walls. The introduction of "contrast for unification" is a driving force behind the design of the Tuwaiq Palace.



Upper ground floor plan



- 1. Servery
- 2. Fountain
- 3. Family swimming pool
- 4. Creche
- 5. Changing rooms
- 6. Loggia
- 7. Lounge
- 8. Bowling alley upper level
- 9. Multipurpose hall
- 10. Games deck
- 11. Coffee lounge
- 12. Reception
- 13. Information
- 14. Shop
- 15. Lounges
- 16. Coffee shop
- 17. Restaurant
- 18. Banqueting reception
- 19. Banqueting hall
- 20. Guest accommodation reception desk
- 21. Lounge
- 22. Coffee shop
- 23. Staff accommodation
- 24. Plant
- 25. Main drop off
- 26. Main swimming pool
- 27. Multipurpose court
- 28. Tennis court
- 29. Walkway to historic watch tower
- 30. Parking
- 31. Gate house
- 32. Service access

