

## **Military Architecture in far Morocco (the kasabh model)**

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### **Abstract:**

Defensive fortifications are one of the most important means used by the ruling authorities to defend and protect Islamic cities, cities of al-Aqsa Morocco retain a great heritage of fortresses, castles, fences and Kasbah that the rulers of successive countries have taken care of for their rule. They have built military settlements or defensive fortifications in order to defend their properties and protect their cities from raids of countries attacking them, staving off the danger and ensuring living in security and stability, as the countries do not live in safety unless they guarantee a strong army in strong forts that protect them from raids and attacks by aggressors, and with the fact that most of the countries that have successively governed these countries and their wars have had a great impact on building fences, towers, Kasbah, forts, and others defense establishments. The emergence of bronchoscopes began in Morocco in the era of the Almohad rulers, Merinids and Saadians except in the Alawite era, especially in The era of Mawali Ismail who took on a new character in fortification, so it was used to monitor tribes, and to control and secure commercial roads in all Moroccan cities. The Kasbah in Morocco is a building that is fortified with strong walls that the castle meets in the Arab Levant and its purpose is fortification, and it is considered the most important building in the city and represents the first nucleus from which the city's construction begins, and it represents the administrative and residential center of the rulers with its various facilities, reeds have been used to build Moroccan cities in addition to using local materials available in the surrounding environment, including dust, which is mixed with other materials, constituting a technique used in various buildings in Morocco, which is the cob technique.

The research problem is represented in the difficulty of restricting all Kasbah in Al-Aqsa Morocco through different periods of time. The research aims to shed light on the Kasbah as a model for the military buildings in Al-Aqsa Morocco and to identify the building materials and architectural planning, and highlight the main goal of its establishment, which is to fortify the Moroccan cities from any external dangers.

## **Introduction:**

Islam was keen on preparing strength and defending against aggressors and jihad for the sake of God by building defensive fortifications for military installations to ward off attacks by invaders and aggressors. Military fortifications, or military architecture despite the difference in names, the meaning is those fortifications that are built to protect cities, gaps, and commercial roads that the enemy is likely to pass through into a city or a country, and it includes castles, forts, towers, fences, doors, and the contents of these elements of Almazghal, Alshirrafat, openings, etc. Just as the Islamic East celebrated many styles of military architecture, starting with the walled cities equipped with defensive towers, it included many military elements such as Almazghal, Almsgart, and Alsiqatat, and others, and was also characterized by the development of entrances, and what appeared to be known as the broken entrance, which is the entrance in which the interior deviates to the right and to the left several times before reaching the facility, and thus it is not the weakest point in the fortifications of the wall in the range of missiles, and was also distinguished by its immunity in terms of keenness to choose strong construction materials taken from nature, in addition to the establishment of complete military castles that were often built at the highest point in the city in order to facilitate its protection and control those who might attack it. We find that Al-Aqsa Morocco had witnessed the emergence of ruling families and the establishment of independent states that have played a great role in its history of building cities and providing them with many installations and buildings, also the construction of their walls and bridges, those butchers that include many facilities, including the governor's palace, the role of ministers, entourage, the mosque (The Kasbah mosque), warehouses arms stores, and tanks to store water, so the Kasbah could become a defensive facility that combines military and civilian installations, religious architecture, and necessary facilities.

## **Kasbah in Morocco:**

### **The definition of the Kasbah:**

The Kasbah, as it was mentioned in the tongue of the Arabs by Ibn Manzur (the substance of the cane), is that it is the hollowness of the palace, or the palace itself, the Kasbah of the country is its city, and the Kasbah is also the village. It is identified as fortified housing, constructed close to the desert, and these housings in their class are large houses inhabited by rich or influential families, and they are built in the form of castles with four pillars that occupy tall towers. The Kasbah in Morocco is a building fortified with strong walls that the castle meets in the Arab East and uses the word Kasbah to refer to architectural forms intended for fortification. A place that is fitted for resistance for a long period of time. As for the Kasbah at Robert Montani, "the Kasbah is the traditional building that takes a warlike and defensive structural form, housing certain distinct social groups, such as those with material influence, such as affluent families, which have wealth and property in the region, and they are among the most important features of leadership in tribal, it is the abode of the "Amgar", which is located among the tribe and is decorated with towers.

## 1- The Kasbah of the Udayas:

### **The location of the Kasbah:**

The Kasbah of the Udayas is located in the city of Rabat on a rocky, irregular altitude, thirty meters high above the sea level, in the southern corner of the mouth of Wadi Abu Regraq or overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

### **Originator and creation date:**

It was built by the Almoravids at the beginning of their appearance, and during the reign of Tachfin bin Ali, the Almoravids used it when the Mahdi bin Tumart revolted against their state, and made it a fortress, with which they would be entrenched when a siege incident occurs, and made it a secret port to the sea.

### **Architectural description of the Kasbah:**

The Kasbah of the Udayas are still the remaining parts of the Almohad walls, whether from the side of Abi Raraqq River, or from the ocean side, and these Almohad walls are generally composed of four walls, the first wall overlooking the shore of the Atlantic Ocean, and the second wall extends in the direction of Bab Al Alou from the spinning market and parts of the wall of the northwestern and northeastern side that extend near the museum building and its garden in the Kasbah. The width of this wall is two and a half meters, and up to three meters in some parts. These walls are topped by towers, some of which are still visible before, expressing their wonderful architectural design, and are opened in the Prague, loopholes that target rifles, from which they were subjected to shooting during the event of an assault on the city, and from these towers, some were directed towards the ocean, and some of them overlooked the city

## 2- Kasbah of Tetouan:

### **Location:**

The Kasbah of Tetouan is located in the north of morocco near the city of Melilla, and this Kasbah occupies the southwestern corner of the city of Tetouan, and its place is the place currently known as the Kasbah Mosque.

### **Originator and construction date:**

The Kasbah of Tetouan was established during the reign of Sultan Yusuf bin Yaqoub bin Abd al-Haq al-Marini, and that was in the year 685 AH / 1286 AD, and the goal of its foundation was siege and seizure of the city of Ceuta (occupied by the Spanish until today).

### **Architectural description of the Kasbah:**

The Kasbah consists of a castle, a mosque, and a house, in addition to a small bathroom. When the Marinades were built, it was used as a military base, and there is a residence for its founder, Sultan Youssef, which was a center of the ruling authority. They monitor the revolutions that come from Ceuta, and at the same time they could block them.

This is why the Kasbah of Tetouan was distinguished by its strong defensive fortifications represented in the construction of its walls, which are interspersed with many huge towers in the building, and they are linked by a walkway or a guard corridor inside the fence, through which soldiers could move to monitor the cities surrounding the Kasbah and defend them against the incursions from enemy states. It was also distinguished for containing many necessary facilities such as the Sultan's House, the mosque, pantry stores, soldiers' barracks, horse stables and other necessary facilities.

### 3- Kasbah of Meknes:

#### Location:

It is located in the city of Meknes or the broom of olives, it is a large city built by a tribe called broom and from which its name was derived, which is located thirty-six miles from the city of Fez, and fifty miles from the city of Sale.

#### Originator and construction date:

Abu Yusuf Yaqoub al-Marini ordered the construction of the Kasbah of Meknes in the year 679 AH / 1300 AD, and he built the palace and the mosque.

#### Architectural description of the Kasbah:

The Ismaili Kasbah of Meknes was designed according to a tight engineering layout, this design includes a number of buildings and facilities that are distributed inside the Kasbah accurately, there are religious installations, civil facilities such as palaces and buildings for housing, and others dedicated to the Sultan stores and stables for horses and industrial homes, in addition to orchards and gardens.

#### Religious facilities:

Lal-Awda Mosque (Al-Kasaba Mosque): It is one of the first large mosques that Molly Ismail was interested in building, and its construction had continued from the year (1082 AH / 1672 AD): (1088 AH / 1678 AD).

- The Green Mosque (Al-Anwar Mosque): It is the largest of Al-Qasaba Mosque, as the Al-Kasbah Mosque is not crowded with people. This mosque was built larger than it is in the area.

#### Civil facilities:

**Sixty Palace:** It is a palace of great engineering style, it was built on an area of one hundred meters' length, fifty meters' width, and has a wide permissibility surrounding it from its four sides and the roof have been carried on columns of marble.

**Victory Palace:** It is the palace that was built by Moulay Ismail days. He was the successor to his brother, the Moulli Al-Rashid, in Meknes. He was known as the "La La Pani" palace.

We find that the Kasbah is the most important thing that Moly Ismail did in the city of Meknes, especially what he built with defensive fortifications, religious and civil installations, and necessary facilities, which were tightly and skillfully built, which made them reach us through the ages, and in that Al-Zayani said in (the Altarjuman Almucrib) "If the monuments of the countries of the kings of Islam were to gather together, what our master Maulana Ismail would have favored in the castle of Meknesah, the home of his king, and that building still exists along the ages, as the mountains are not affected by wind storms, and earthquakes will not be disturbing, nor is the rain and snow that could ruin buildings."

### 4- Tadla Kasbah

Location: The Kasbah is located in the city of Tadla, which is in the Al-Aqsa east of Morocco, where it separates Fas city and Tulamisan in the central Morocco from the east, and it is between the mountains of Senhajah, and it is bordered by the Dern Mountains from its west to the ocean, and from the south it lies between the cities of Fas and Marrakech

**The originator and the creation date:**

Al Kasbah Tadla, was established during the reign of the Almoravids on the Yemeni bank of the Umm Al-Rabi' Valley and completed the construction of the crescent moon, and the Almoravids erected a fortress in order to stand before the Almohads. Defensive in 1687 AD, the Tadla Kasbah was among the fourth chains that the Sultan, ordered the construction of, and built mosques, dwellings and the famous Qantara (passage) that were mistakenly attributed to Portugal.

**Kasbah description:**

Tadla Kasbah is designed according to a tight engineering layout, so the Kasbah includes a number of elements and facilities that are distributed inside the Kasbah in a precise way. The fences are supported by prominent towers, whether rectangular or square, and they have few openings, and the entrances to the walls were opened, which represent a greater defensive value from the military point of view, due to the twisted layout of the entrance, which impedes the attackers and fortifies the facilities. The royal facilities (the palace and its annexes), public facilities (prison stores, Ismaili Qantara and stables and their attachments) are located, and the big door that represents the official entrance to the men of the store, and near this door is the mosque, which is still standing in its cell in the eastern side of the Kasbah, and next to the mosque is the house of the store in the Southern side.

The Sultan Al-Mawli Ismail Ali Kasbah Tadla had established for his son Abu al-Abbas Ahmad al-Dhabi, an army of slaves or what he called (Eubayd Albukhari), and his army numbered three thousand of his ranks, and he commanded him to increase the construction of the Kasbah from his father's mosque in the first Kasbah

**Conclusion:**

Through the above, we got acquainted with the main features of the building of Kasbah in Al-Aqsa Morocco, through its location, which plays an important role in monitoring and fortifying cities, as it is usually built on a high hill, and in the highest mountains, near the seas and rivers, and also through its function as being the seat of the ruler, his entourage and soldiers, and through using various local building materials such as the use of cob, bricks, and stones in construction.

The study also confirmed that the issue of fortifications and defensive means was strongly present in the countries of Al-Aqsa Morocco in the various countries that assumed the throne, especially during the era of Molly Ismail Al-Alawi, who built many brothels to monitor tribes in multiple locations in Moroccan cities, and was entrusted with oversight to his children and some military leaders.

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