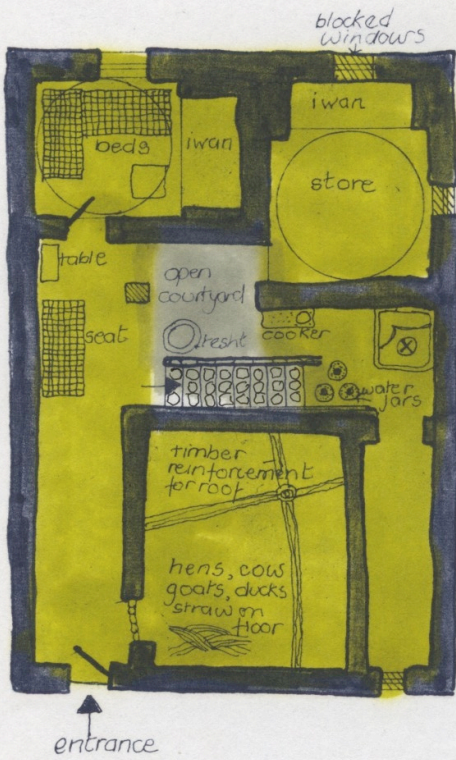
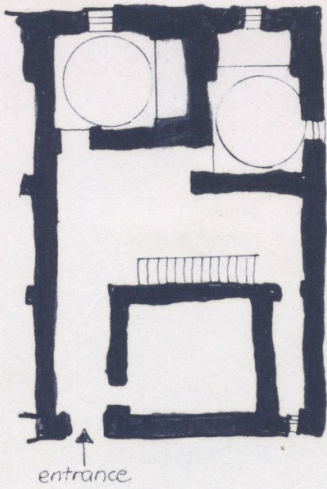


AHMED'S HOUSE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

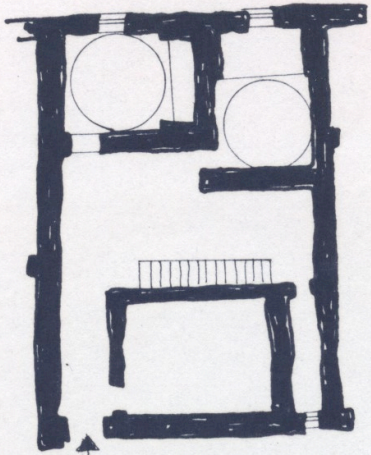


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Ahmed is the village guardian and earns £10 E a month for his work. He and his wife, Ferrida were very helpful, making sure that we were alright in our house. They have four little boys - two of them were blonde - with very cheeky grins, and always dirty, and up to mischief, a real handful for their mother. Ferrida was always up to her eyes in work and wasn't particularly house-proud. Animals were all over the place, and like all the other houses, the rooms given over to them were always clean and had fresh straw on the ground, and they were well looked after. Nearly all the villagers are very poor and rely on their animals for food, as well as flour. On one of my visits to Ferrida she was making a sweet with her flour instead of the normal sun-baked bread. She mixed the flour and water into a dough, and rolled it very finely on a round wooden table with a long, thin wooden rolling pin. She then folded it like a pancake, and shredded it extremely finely. She put a bowl of water on the primus stove and placed the shredded dough in a pan on top of it, covered with a damp cloth, letting it steam for a few minutes. It was then mixed with sugar and eaten with a spoon. The baby loved it! The baby was allowed to crawl all over the place and no-one seemed to notice the flies all over his face, in his eyes and mouth, as with all the other young children in the village.

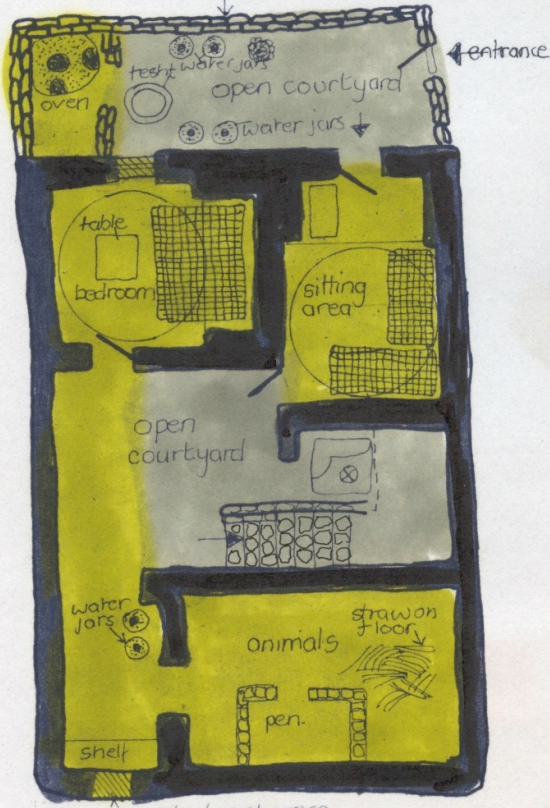


REZG'S HOUSE



entrance

mud brick extension



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Rezg works at the Winter Palace Hotel in Luxor. He is married and has four sons. The eldest is Nasser who is 9 years old, a very happy boy who we nicknamed "gird" - meaning monkey. His mother is a very domineering woman, obviously the head of the household in domestic matters.

This house was quite an exception - it had electricity and was spotlessly clean, and organised. Rooms had a specific purpose, and the animals had their own space, and kept apart from the living areas.

The entrance to the house was changed to the other end, and a large courtyard was added in which the family virtually lived during the day-time. Here the cooking was done and the washing. As in all households, the provided washing arrangement was obsolete, and a tont - a circular metal bowl - was used instead.

The parents had their own bedroom on the first floor, and the children slept on the ground floor. They were always clean and washed, and their mother seemed to spend all her time washing clothes or cooking.



Mohamed is a guardian at the Valley of the Queens and he is also a farmer.

He is married and has three sons, and one daughter who is married.

The eldest son is at Cairo University training to be a doctor. His wife is a nurse and works 3 days a week at a nearby hospital.

The whole family lived in Old Gournah until 3 years ago and now Mohamed's wife and the two younger sons live in this house, and he divides his time between them and his mother's house in another part of New Gournah.

Gamal, his 13 year old son gave me most of this information over numerous cups of "shea". He goes to Luxor Secondary School and is quite good at English. He works very hard and joins a group of boys under the electric lights on the road outside the village to do his homework.

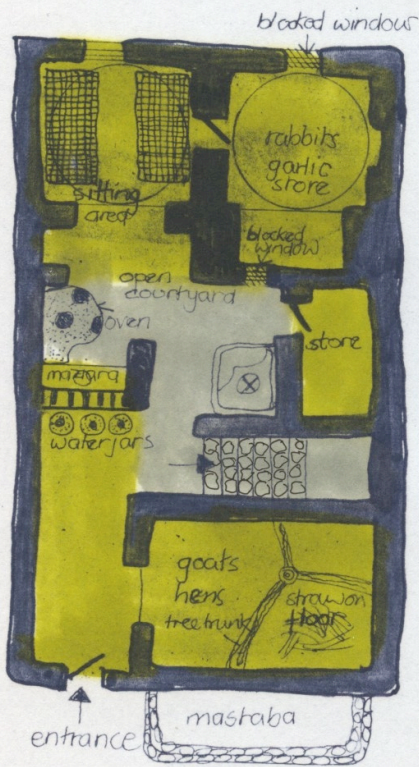
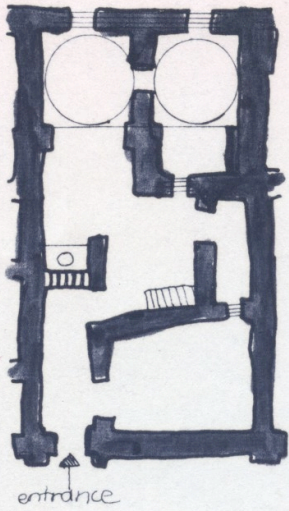
Apparently the two domed rooms on the ground floor alternate as bedroom and store - in summer they sleep in the room of greatest height, and change for the winter.

The entrance has been moved right over to the other side of the house, facing the fields at the back of the village. One has to climb over a foot-high mud brick step to enter through the thick wooden door.

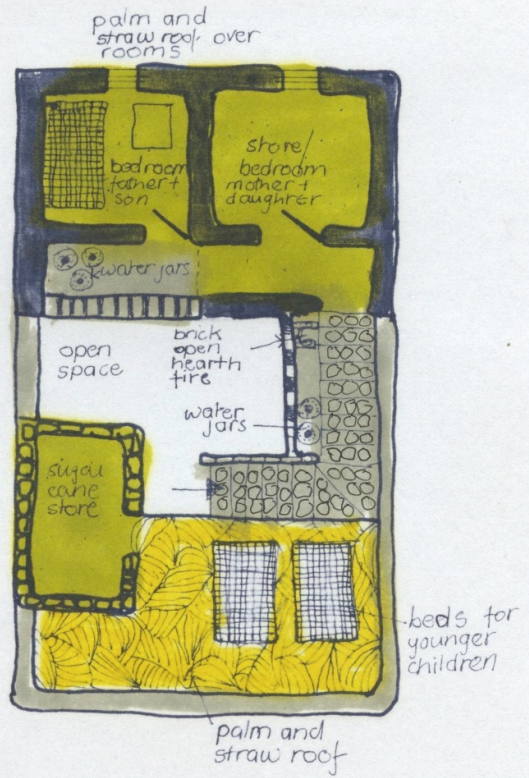
The place is full of animals - dogs, cats, chicken, geese, goat, pigeons and ducks, and they seem to be everywhere even though the house itself is quite clean.

Like the other houses straw and palm have been used to cover a part of the courtyard to provide shade and make it cool.

HAWARI'S HOUSE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Hawari is a policeman who works at the Police Station on the main road outside the village.

He is married and lives with his wife, three sons and three daughters.

We got to know the whole family very well as they were our nearest neighbours, always wanting to give us "shea" and food, and several times had supper with them.

This entailed sitting on the floor round a circular table on which was bowls of hot soups with tomato and potatoe and spinach in them. We dipped pieces of home-made bread into these. Fried rice and pieces of chicken and goat then appeared, and we ended up with cups of "shea".

Lunch usually consists of the bread with goats cheese and an oily sauce, and eggs, all home produced.

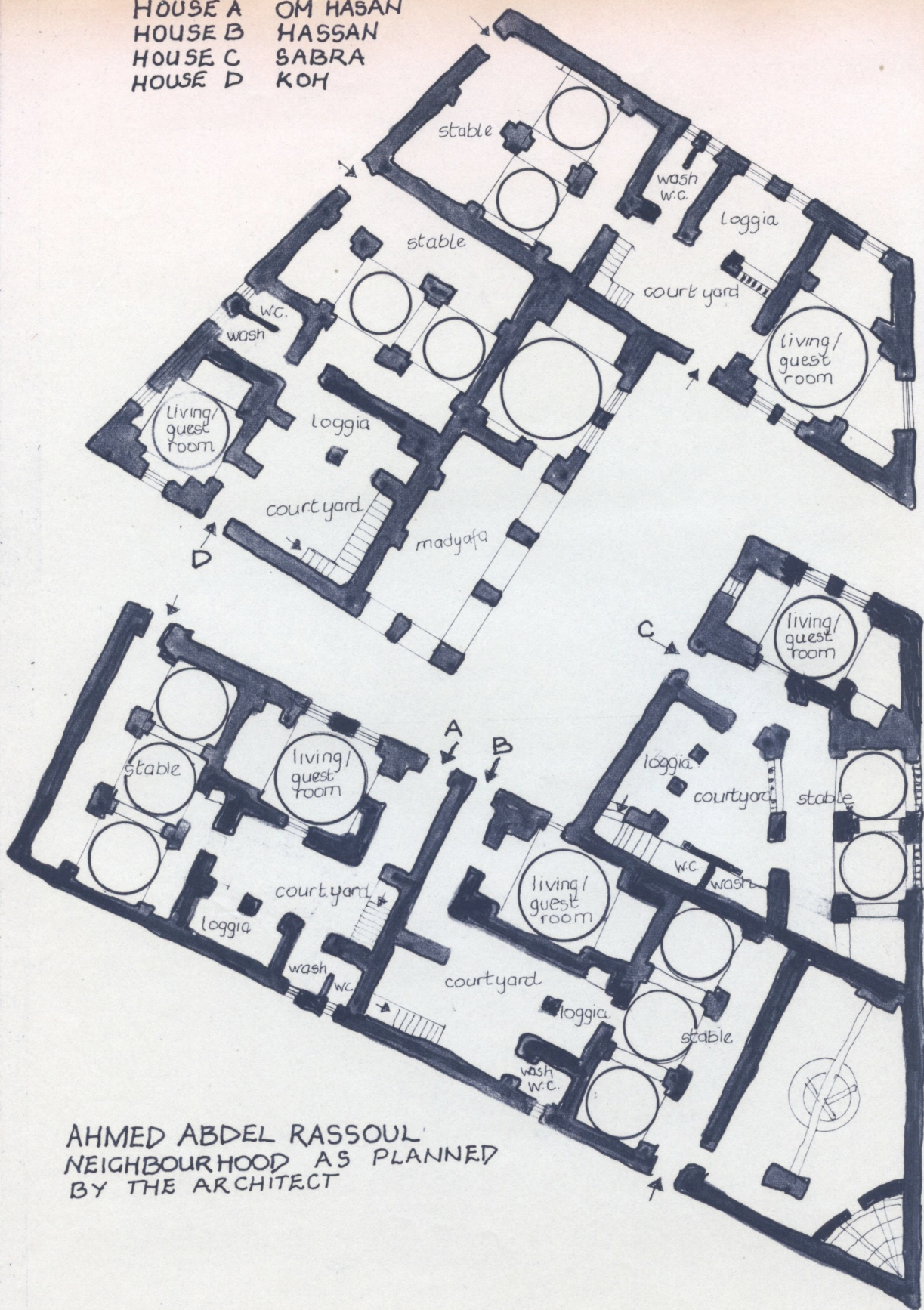
The washing and laundry facilities provided aren't used at all. The women don't bother to fill up the tank on the roof which would enable them to have running water [it gets very hot up there] and keep all water in water jars in a cool place. They like going backwards and forwards to the village pump and chatting with the other women.

The Hawari household is really like a farm yard, one room taken over by rabbits, another by goats & hens. One afternoon a mummy goat gave birth to four kids while we were there. The mother and eldest daughter's bedroom was full of newly baked bread - enough to last 4 days - it's baked in the sun on round pattis, and reheated in the oven.

None of the girls go to school, the eldest son is training to be a Lathe operator, and the other two are at school.

They moved here from Luxor 3 years ago.

HOUSE A OM HASAN
 HOUSE B HASSAN
 HOUSE C SABRA
 HOUSE D KOH



AHMED ABDEL RASSOUL
 NEIGHBOURHOOD AS PLANNED
 BY THE ARCHITECT

The Ahmed Abdel Rassoul neighbourhood was intended for a specific family group, the head of whom decided he preferred another part of the village when it had already been built. The people who live there now just moved in. We surveyed four houses, the fifth being locked up because the owner was away.

House A. belongs to Om Hasan. She is a widow who lives here alone, and has one son who has lived in Aswan for 7 years. She came from Old Gourna.

House B. belongs to Hassan, son of Ahmed. He is a farmworker who moved from Old Gourna when he married. He lives with his wife and little girl.

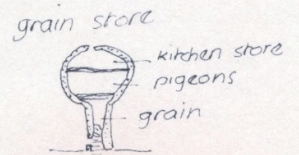
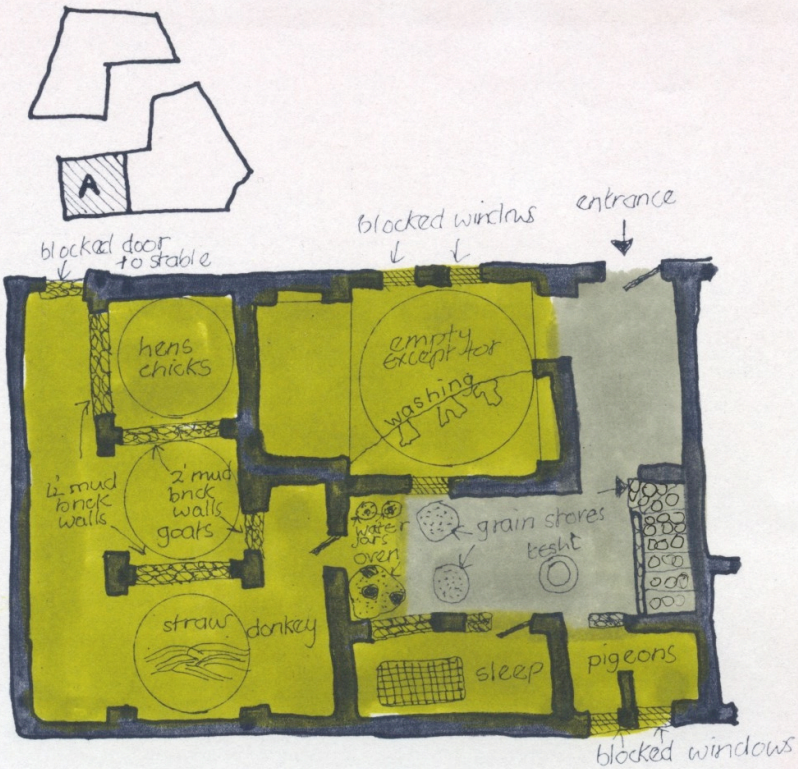
House C belongs to Sabra. Her husband died, so she came to New Gourna from Old Gourna. Her husband's second wife had a son who is in the army, so his wife came to live with her and her four children.

House D belongs to Koh. He is married and has three children. He gathers bird droppings and sells them as fertilizer.

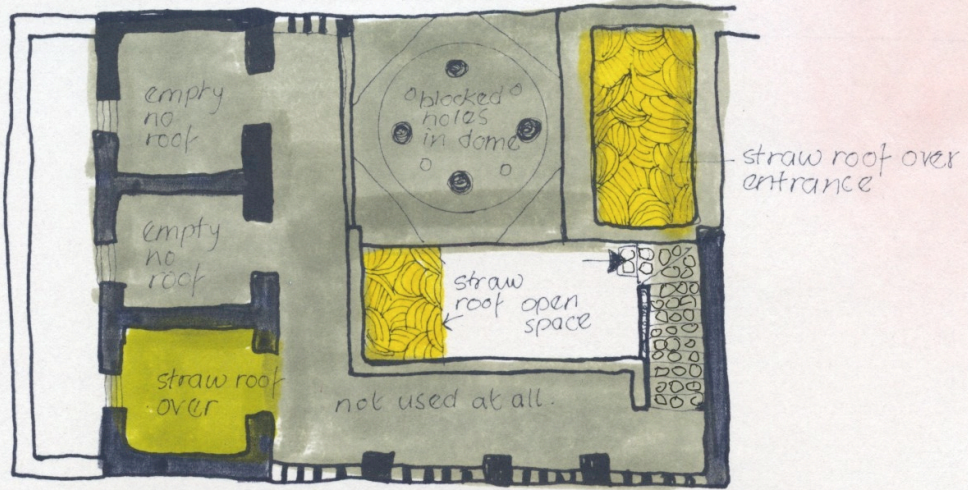
None of the houses have running water and toilets as intended - they were never finished as planned. All washing is done in keshts, and water kept in water jars.

As all the people are poor the guest rooms cease to function.

OM HASAN'S HOUSE



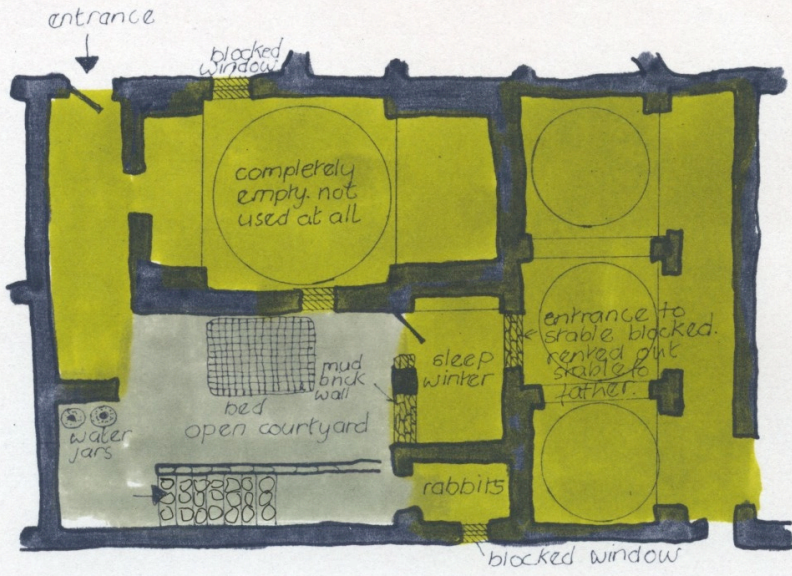
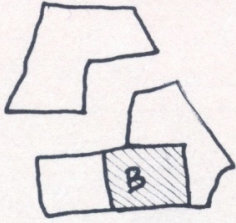
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



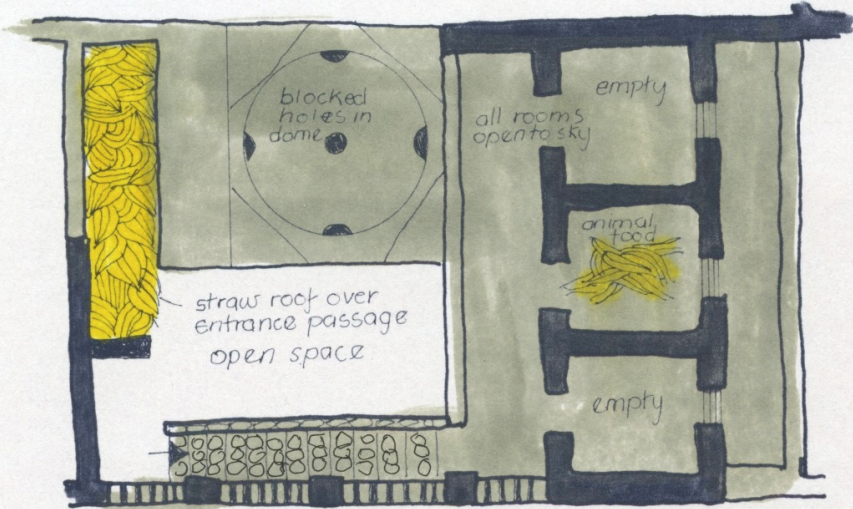
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



HASSAN'S HOUSE



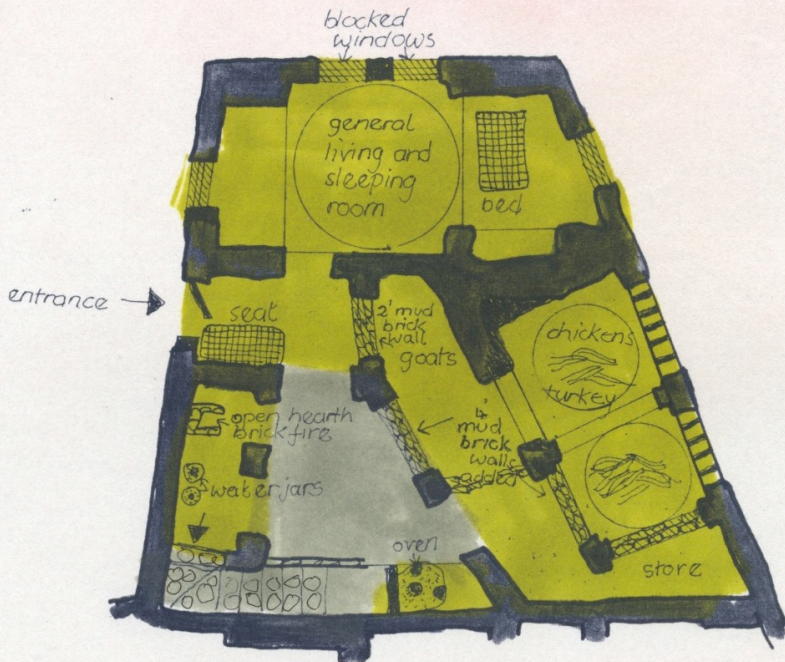
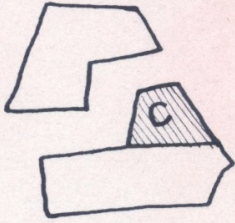
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



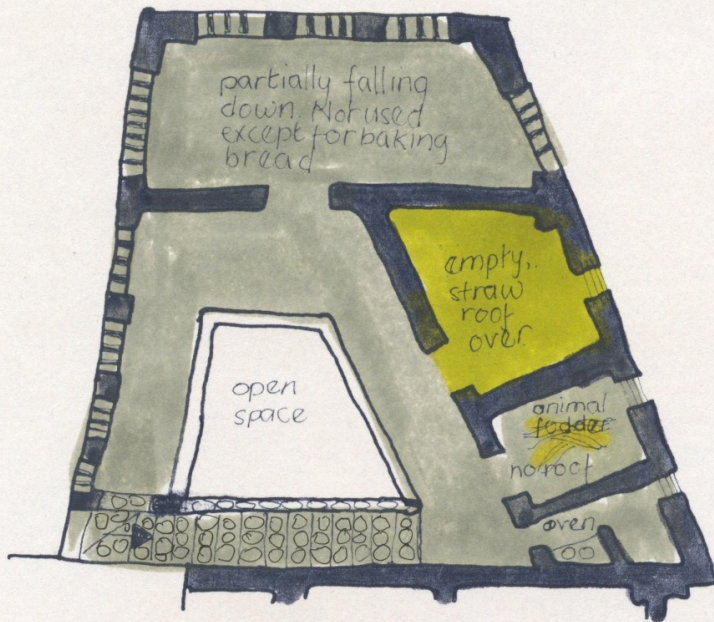
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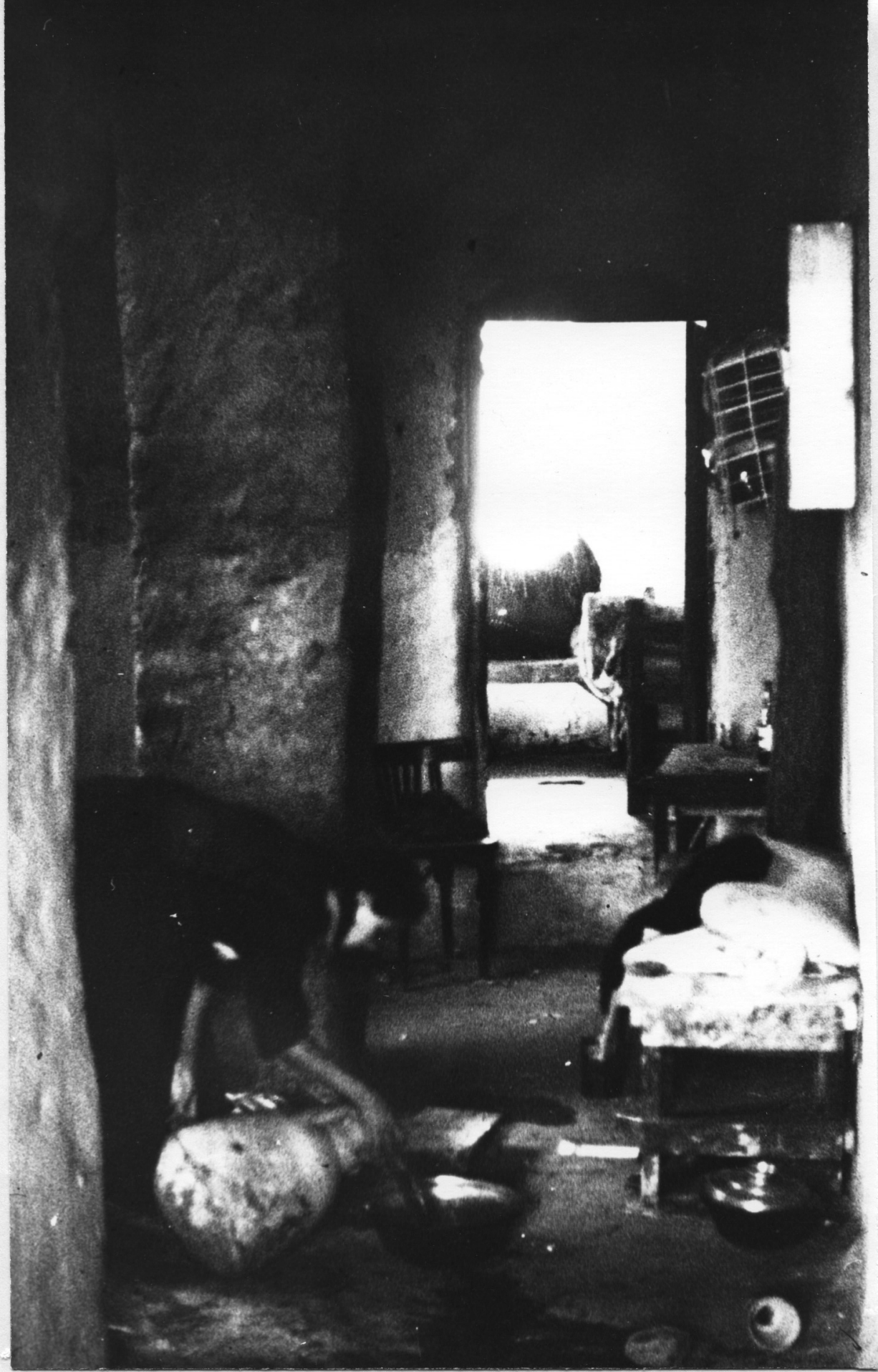
SABR'S HOUSE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



KOH'S HOUSE

