

movement announces the transition into a private world. The two-story compound is gathered around a central courtyard. The same principles are present here which dictated the spatial organization of the Saleh compounds, discussed earlier. These are privacy, separation between women's domestic world and men's outer world, the separation between the different domestic households sharing the central courtyard, and defence.

Similar to the Saleh compound, the Abdul Aziz compound was basically divided into four domains which had different functions and different users; 1) the central courtyard common to all, was considered the women's semi-private domain; 2) the individual houses (dur) around the courtyard on the first floor were the private domains of the different households; 3) the elevated rooms located on the upper floors were the private domain used as parental sleeping rooms. However, since the turn of this century, the elevated rooms lost their original functions and housed nuclear families, who used them for both living and sleeping. The semi-public domain, located next to the entrance vestibule, has also lost its intended function since the turn of this century and, like the elevated room, was used as a private house.

#### A Stranger in a Beehive of Cousins

Zakieh (Um Ezzat), who is about ninety years old today, described to me the patriarchal world of cousins which she joined around the year 1910. Zakieh, who is originally from the village of Majdal Sadik near Jaffa, married Hassan, the son of Mustafa, when she was twelve years old. "I, of course, came to live in the house of my father-in-law Mustafa and his family. My husband and I were given the elevated room which was used by my in-laws as their sleeping room. They moved to live and sleep in the lower room. Since I was a "stranger", my husband prohibited me from talking to any of his brothers or his male cousins who shared the same compound. I once talked to his brother 'Abed and as a punishment my husband stopped talking to me for a week. This was not the case with other women - wives - in the compound since they were all related to one another.