



Harem Palaces in Salah Al-Din Citadel in the 20th and 21st Centuries AD

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Abstract

The researcher deal with the subject of this research Harem palaces in the castle, which are three palaces located in the northwest of the castle built by Muhammad Ali Pasha in the period from (1825-1827), which are the palaces that the Military Museum was transferred to in (1948 AD), which is the headquarters of the museum until now, and perhaps the reason for choosing the palaces of the Harem is to highlight their historical and structural importance and As well as its importance as the headquarters of the Military Museum, where it went through many stages of development and modernization in order to be a decent place for its antiques and contents that embody and chronicle the Egyptian military throughout history until today, they were rehabilitated before the official opening of the Military Museum in November (1949), the researcher also deal with the architectural description of each of the three palaces and its architectural style and what it contains from the inside. Perhaps the most important thing that the research adds is to shed light on the stages of development and modernization of the Harem palaces throughout history, as well as their historical and structural development, and to review the most prominent halls contained in the palaces that include antiques and collectibles that chronicle the Egyptian army. The aim of this research is to promote tourism to this distinctive place, which contains the fragrance of history embodied in these palaces, as well as the museum and priceless collections_

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1. Introduction

In this research (Harem palaces in the Citadel of Salah al-Din in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries AD) the researcher deal with the establishment of Muhammad Ali Pasha a number of palaces in the castle during his reign extending from the year (1805-1848 AD) the first of which was the Palace of the jewel, which is located in the southeast of the castle, which was completed in (1814 AD) Muhammad Ali also established in the northwestern side of the castle the three palaces "eastern - middle - western" when the jewel palace narrowed by him and his two wives and eleven breeders and his children of Thirty At a time when the things of his rule were expanding and strengthening and business is increasing daily by day and was known as the palaces of the Harem, and these palaces remained during the rule of Muhammad Ali of great importance, as they are the residence of his wives and children, but after his death, these palaces did not receive the same attention, until their structural condition deteriorated, especially after they were used during World War II as a hospital for the British forces, which led to their wear, but attention returned to the Harem palaces when it was decided to transfer the Military Museum to it a year (1948), where the three palaces were rehabilitated and maintained to be in the best shape to host the Military Museum.

There are more than one historian, writer and specialist who mentioned the explanation and description of the details of the Harem palaces in the castle, as well as the history of the establishment of the castle that includes these palaces, including Muhammad Hossam in his book (Cairo from the state of Muhammad Ali to Ismail 1805-1879 AD), Mahmoud Abbas Abdel Rahman in his book (Royal Palaces in Egypt: History and Civilization), and the historian Hassan Abdel Wahab in the Journal of Architecture.

2. Research problem

The research problem focuses on the Despite the historical and structural value of the Harem Palaces, they do not receive enough attention. Although they include the Military Museum, which is one of the largest military museums in the world, they are not on the tourist map and are visited only by a small number that is completely out of proportion to their importance.

3. Research Importance

Perhaps the most important thing that the research adds is shedding light on the stages of development and modernization of the harem palaces throughout history, as well as their historical and structural development, and reviewing the most prominent

halls that the palaces contain, which include antiques and collectibles that document the history of the Egyptian army.

4. Research Objectives

The aim of this research is to promote tourism to this unique place that contains the scent of history embodied in these palaces, as well as the museum and priceless collections it contains.

Also highlight the military Museum, which is housed in the Harem Palaces, because it is considered one of the most important military museums in the world that deserves to be seen.

1. 5. Research Questions

There are a number of questions that the research will answer it presented in the following:

1. What is the importance and value of the palaces that include the Military?
2. What are the stages of development of the harem palaces and the military museum?
3. 3.How to invest in the Harem Palaces for tourism?
4. 4.The most important artifacts and collectibles contained in the War Museum?

6. Research Methodology

The research adopts the descriptive and analytical study.

6.1 Literature Review

Palaces of the Harem

After the evacuation of the Citadel of Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi from the British occupation in (1946 AD / 1367 AH) and its stationing in the Canal area, the three Haram palaces were chosen to be the permanent headquarters of the Military Museum, where the palaces of the Haram occupy the western sea side of the castle and overlook Mount Mokattam and Al-Hataba Bab Al-Madaraj (entrance to the castle)^{(*) (1)}.

Before researching and studying the three palaces that include the Military Museum, I will briefly address the history of the establishment of the castle, which includes the palaces of the Harem, where the Citadel of Salah al-Din, which was known

(*) ملحق رقم (1).

(1) محمد حسام الدين اسماعيل (1997)، القاهرة من ولاية محمد على إلى اسماعيل 1805-1879م، دار الأفاق العربية، 1997، ص 87 .

as the Mountain Castle and the Citadel of Cairo, is one of the most important archaeological and tourist attractions in Egypt and one of the most important landmarks of Islamic Cairo, and one of the most luxurious military castles built in the Middle Ages, and its strategic location at the top of Mount Mokattam has provided a wonderful view of all the landmarks of historical Cairo, and because of its great importance for the history of the ages Islamic in Egypt on the one hand, and because of the various monuments it contains dating back to most of these historical eras on the other hand, Thus, it represents an open museum that gives the visitor an almost complete idea of what he can see in Islamic Egypt in general because it includes antiquities from the Ayyubid and Mamluk era "Bahri and Burji" and antiquities from the Ottoman era as well as the effects of the era of Muhammad Ali⁽¹⁾.

Salah Al-Din began to build this castle on Mount Mokattam (572-579 AH / 1171-1193 AD) in a place that was known as the Dome of Air, but it was not completed in his lifetime, and it was completed by Sultan al-Kamil bin al-Adel (604 AH / 1207 AD), so he was the first to inhabit it and take it as the king's home, and it remained the seat of government in Egypt until the reign of Khedive Ismail, who moved the seat of government to Abdeen Palace, in the Khedive Cairo area in the middle of the nineteenth century ⁽²⁾.

The castle remained throughout the centuries in which it was the seat of government witnessing construction, construction and development work until Muhammad Ali came as governor of Egypt, and it witnessed a great deal of interest, as Muhammad Ali built a new castle to protect the mountain castle, where developments in weapons, especially cannons, led to the ease of bombing the castle from Mount Mokattam opposite.

Where Muhammad Ali rebuilt and renovated the castle in (1809 AD), so he established a number of diwans and a number of schools as well as a number of palaces, and perhaps one of the most prominent landmarks is the mosque founded by Muhammad Ali, which bears his name until now, and is considered one of the most prominent features of the mountain castle, which is built in the Ottoman style, similar to the mosque

(1) عاصم محمد رزق (2003)، أطلس العمارة الإسلامية والقبطية بالقاهرة ، مكتبة مدبولي، القاهرة، ص918.

(2) تقي الدين أحمد بن علي المقرئ (2014)، الخطط المقرئية، ج2، تحقيق/ محمد زينهم ومديحة الشراوي، مكتبة مدبولي، القاهرة، ص204.

(Hagia Sophia) in Istanbul, in the period between (1830 AD to 1848 AD), and the first palace that The first palace had been built by Muhammad Ali inside the castle is the jewel palace, where he finished building it in (1814 AD) and this palace is located south of the mosque of Muhammad Ali, and in the northwestern side of the castle Muhammad Ali established the three palaces "eastern - middle - western" and that when narrowed Palace jewel by his wives and eleven born and his children of thirty (seventeen males and thirteen females) and that at a time when the matters of his rule expand and piety and business is increasing daily by day and knew The three palaces of the Harem, where their construction began in 1825 and ended in (1827 AD)⁽¹⁾, which are the palaces to which the Military Museum was transferred in (1948), following the evacuation of the English forces that occupied these palaces and used them as a hospital during World War II, and the Military Museum was officially opened in November 1949.

6.2 The Eastern Palace

This palace is the largest of the three palaces and the richest in decorations and artistic inscriptions, and this palace was built to raise orphaned children from the ruling classes or ancient Mamluk elements, in order to prepare the officers of the modern Egyptian army after their studies at the military school established by Muhammad Ali and supervised by Suleiman Pasha Al-Fransawi, and this palace is called "Sarai Al-Jawhara", which is wrongly rumored on the "Al-Josaq" that is located behind the Muhammad Ali Mosque, The palace consists of three floors, and this eastern palace is reached by a door knotted on the tribal façade covered with white marble with decorations and topped by a memorial plaque of marble with Turkish writings dated "1242 AH / 1826 AD" and what is stated in this painting "This high ruler has established a new palace as a masterpiece, a palace like paradise What a wonderful palace decorated and this door held wooden shutter with a small peach, leading to a courtyard with its northern wall A door leads to a large hall, and there is another door It leads to an entrance leading to a large courtyard⁽²⁾.

The most important thing that draws attention to the ground floor is the hall of Al-Fasqiya, and it has four iwans topped by a marble salsabil shrouded in graceful marble columns engraved with decorations in the form of birds coming out of their mouths water pouring into graduated basins flowing into the channel of Al-Fusaiya, which is located in the center of the hall, and the walls of this hall are engraved with colorful drawings, and it

(1) محمود عباس عبد الرحمن (2005)، القصور الملكية في مصر تاريخ وحضارة، الدار العالمية، ص66.

(2) حسن عبد الوهاب (1941)، سراي الجوهرة، مجلة العمارة، المجلد الثالث، عدد 3-4، ص38-41.

is noted that the four iwans are engraved with landscapes, and the double staircase connects to a large upper hall with four iwans from which rooms and corridors branch out to The rest of the palace, and this hall is followed by another rectangular hall, and the most important feature of the palace is the colorful oil paintings on the walls, which follow the style of Baroque and Rococo, which is one of the styles of European art and was used to decorate the three palaces of the Harem^{(1)(*)}.

6.3 The most important features of the East Palace

Halls of the ancient Egyptian (Pharaonic)

The Pharaonic era in the Military Museum has 6 halls and a corridor, where the halls include the development of the Egyptian military as well as the development of weapons throughout the history of ancient Egypt, as well as the most prominent war battles that took place in the past.

Hall of Weapons in Ancient Egypt includes:

Weapon showcases that illustrate the development of weapons in ancient Egypt from predynastic times to defensive weapons used in self-defense and at the same time being offensive weapons if necessary.

Pharaonic Corridor:

It is a corridor in the middle of the halls of ancient Egypt, and the most prominent features of the corridor include:

- A mural of King Thutmose III showing the king disciplining one of his enemies.
- A painting depicting the victory of King Ramses II in the Battle of Kadesh.
- Gypsum model of the victory painting of King Merenptah, son of Ramses II (1223-1211 BC).^(*)

⁽¹⁾ عرفه عبده علي (1998)، القاهرة في عصر اسماعيل ، الدار المصرية اللبنانية ، القاهرة، ص165.

^(*) ملحق رقم (2).

^(*) ملحق رقم (3).

Halls of the Islamic Era:

The halls of the Islamic era include the monuments and exhibits of the Islamic era in a large hall with 5 halls attached to it^{(1) (*)}.

6.4 Middle Palace

There is a door in the tribal wall leading to the garden of this palace, which reaches an area of 70×75 m and was surrounded by grapes and palm trees in the middle of a fountain and overlooking the garden and the façade of the palace, which has a large door in the middle, and the walls of this palace were sweetened with beautiful pictures and oil drawings, but they were removed during the period of the English occupation, while the roof is still decorated until now with oil inscriptions dating back to the style of Baroque and Rococo art².

The palace includes a courtyard surmounted by a choir, and in the middle of the façade of the palace is a two-shuttered door whose fillings are decorated with plant bas-reliefs and leads to a double staircase that leads us to the upper floors, and the ground floor contains a large hall, with its four corners, eight rooms, all of which have retained the inscriptions of their ceilings, in which we see a variety of geometric shapes and strands spread with flowers, and on the same floor a bathroom consisting of a rectangular vestibule covered with a local roof with colored glass, followed by a door leading to a room divided into a hall consisting of two iwans and a hall between them, and the inner section From the bath is the house of heat, and the double staircase carried on huge marble pillars leads to the third floor where we find a large hall with four iwans^{(3) (*)}.

The most important thing in the Middle Palace

Al Majd Hall

It is one of the most important halls of the museum and tops the entrance to the Military Museum and was named by this name because it tells and embodies the history of the Egyptian military through the ages, and includes a number of side halls such as^(*):

(1) محمود محمد إبراهيم (2023)، المتحف الحربي القومي " دليل الإرشاد"، ادارة البحوث العسكرية، ص116-118.

(*) ملحق رقم (4).

(2) محمود محمد الجوهري (2003)، قصور و تحف من محمد علي إلى فاروق، دار المعارف ، القاهرة، ص106.

(3) حسن عبد الوهاب (1941)، سراي الجوهرة، مجلة العمارة، المجلد الثالث، عدد 3-4، ص38-41.

(*) ملحق رقم (5).

(*) ملحق رقم (6).

Tahya Misr Hall "Modern Hall"

It is one of the new halls containing statues of the symbols of June 30, as well as a painting representing "Egypt's embrace of its history and its people"

Kalchorama Hall "Modern Hall"

It is one of the modern halls implemented in cooperation with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to show a film material about the Egyptian military from the Pharaonic times until the present era and mention to the military leaders who contributed to the establishment of the Egyptian military.

Cinema Hall

Documentary films about the October victory (1973), films about the history of the Egyptian military, as well as a film about the development of the museum are screened⁽¹⁾.

2.5: Western Palace

It reaches the western palace through a courtyard of 75×60 m, the outer wall of this palace extends with the middle palace, until we reach a door in the tribal wall that leads to an open courtyard supervised by the façade of the palace connected to the rest of the facades, and in the middle of it is a door leading to the Great Hall on the ground floor and to the double staircase.

The design of this palace is similar to the eastern and central palace, and there have been serious and significant changes to the western palace, losing all its wall reliefs, as well as losing many of its ceilings with carvings that represent landscapes and various flowers, and one of the reasons for this was the poor use by British forces of buildings, its wooden ceilings were replaced by iron ceilings^{(2)(*)}

The most important thing in the Middle Palace

Revolutionary Command Council Hall

It is a hall open to the 1952 hall or part of it and houses 14 busts of the Revolutionary Command Council around the staircase of the contemporary pavilion^(*).

(1) محمود محمد ابراهيم (2023)، المتحف الحربي القومي " دليل الإرشاد"، ادارة البحوث العسكرية، ص116-118.

(2) محمود عباس عبد الرحمن (2005)، القصور الملكية في مصر تاريخ وحضارة، الدار العالمية، ص66.

(*) ملحق رقم (7).

(*) ملحق رقم (8).

October Lounge (Transit Hall):

It is one of the most important galleries of the museum as a whole, the October 1973 Nasr Gallery, which belongs to the Western Palace^{(1)(*)}.

2.6 Museum Garden

The three palaces of the Harem overlook a wide garden, which reaches an area of 70 * 75 m, but each palace was surrounded by its own wall around the courtyard of the palace to provide privacy and protection for the palace, but with the move of the Military Museum to occupy these three palaces and to provide an open view scattered with statues and archaeological armament units in an influential artistic display, all the walls that surrounded this garden and the museum were removed and separated morally and materially from visitors and from the rest of the courtyards of Salah al-Din Citadel and to highlight the architectural elements And to lift the psychological barrier that these walls caused between the visitor to the castle and the landmarks of the Military Museum⁽²⁾.

3- Stages of development of the palaces of the Harem (Military Museum)

Since the military museum moved to its current headquarters in the Harem palaces in November 1948, the museum has witnessed many and large development and modernization operations, including the buildings of the Harem Palace, which dates back to the era of Muhammad Ali Pasha in the period from 1925 AD to 1927 AD, so it needed development and modernization work, as the buildings occupied by the Military Museum have gone through different periods of time that eventually led to their arrival in a bad condition, and this required the preservation and restoration of the palace, its decorations and buildings, by addressing Archaeological roofs and facades, as well as maintenance, restoration and provision of more antiques and collectibles.

The museum witnessed four basic development phases as well as two periodic maintenance operations, the first phase began in 1977 and the opening was in 1982 AD after its renovation, then it was developed again in partnership with the Egyptian Antiquities Authority and the opening was in April 1988 AD, then it was redeveloped jointly with the Democratic Republic of Korea in 1990 AD, and it was opened in

(1) محمود محمد ابراهيم (2023)، المتحف الحربي القومي " دليل الإرشاد"، ادارة البحوث العسكرية، ص116-118.

(*) ملحق رقم (9).

(2) حسن عبد الوهاب (1941)، سراي الجوهرة، مجلة العمارة، المجلد الثالث، عدد 3-4، ص38-41.

November 1993 AD, and finally the last development, which took almost three years and was opened in October 2021 AD.

4- How to invest in Harem palaces (Military Museum) as a tourist

As we know, the Harem palaces include the Military Museum in the citadel, and these are proposals to promote tourism to the Military Museum:

- The Military Museum should be placed on the tourism programs of tourism companies as an important landmark that must be visited because of its value.
- The importance of the Military Museum and its antiques, collectibles and treasures must be highlighted and actually calls for pride in the history of the Egyptian army throughout history, and those in charge of the museum are hosted to explain and clarify the value and importance of the museum and its history, as well as allowing various media to visit the museum and photograph reports from inside the museum, and even photograph full and varied episodes, as the museum includes treasures that are undoubtedly sufficient to be valuable content worth watching and following.
- Because of the great importance of social media, accounts must be launched on these various media and through which photos and videos of the most important contents of the Military Museum are published.
- Allowing various media outlets to visit the museum and photograph reports from inside the military museum.
- It is important to organize cultural and recreational events inside the museum's corridors or in the museum garden to attract families to the museum to watch these events and also to see what the museum has to offer.
- Since the museum is located inside the castle and its location is relatively far inside it for visitors and is not known to all, signs must be placed at the entrance to the Citadel of Salah al-Din to introduce the museum, but also distribute brochures about the museum.

5- Conclusion

Perhaps the most important The results that were reached to This research is that the Haram Palaces, despite their historical importance, lost this importance to some extent after the death of Muhammad Ali Pasha, and reached their worst stage during World War II, when they were used as a hospital for British soldiers, which led to the deterioration of the buildings. However, after it was decided to use the palaces as a

headquarters for the Military Museum, the state rehabilitated and developed it and maintained the buildings and roofs in a manner befitting the reception of the museum's holdings.

- This research was able to answer a number of questions, including who made the decision to build the Haram Palaces, as well as the reason for building the three palaces, who resided in these three palaces, and shedding light on the importance of these palaces, both from a historical perspective and from a structural perspective in terms of the details of each palace from the inside, the building style, the most prominent features it contains, and also the stages of its development.

The addition that this research has made compared to other studies is the following:

- Perhaps the most prominent thing that the research presented is that the Haram Palaces witnessed many development works that began in 1982, then 1988, as well as the development in 1993 AD, and ended with the development in 2021, which is the largest and most comprehensive development of the Haram Palaces.
- This research reviewed the most prominent halls in each palace and the most prominent artifacts they contain.
- This research presented proposals for investing in these palaces for tourism purposes, due to the treasures they contain that embody the history of the Egyptian military from the pre-dynastic era until the present time.

Appendix No. (1)



Haram Palaces in the Citadel

<https://egymonuments.gov.eg/ar/museums/national-military-museum>

Source: Ministry of Tourism website

Appendix No. (2)



Eastern Palace

Source <http://egyptian1.com/archives/14008>

Appendix No. (3)



Secret of soldiers from ancient Egypt in the Pharaonic passage

<https://www.mod.gov.eg/modwebsite/MuseumDetailsAr.aspx?id=1>

Source: Egyptian Ministry of Defense website

Appendix No. (4)



One of the paintings in the Islamic Era Hall

<https://www.mod.gov.eg/modwebsite/MuseumDetailsAr.aspx?id=1>

Source: Egyptian Ministry of Defense website

Appendix No. (5)



The Middle Palace is preceded by a statue of Ibrahim Pasha.

<https://rosaelyoussef.com/1166870>

Source: Rose Al-Youssef website

Appendix No. (6)



Glory Hall in the Middle Palace

<https://www.mod.gov.eg/modwebsite/MuseumDetailsAr.aspx?id=1>

Source: Ministry of Defense website

Appendix No. (7)



Western Palace and Museum Garden

<https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate>

Source: Al-Shorouk Newspaper

Appendix No. (8)

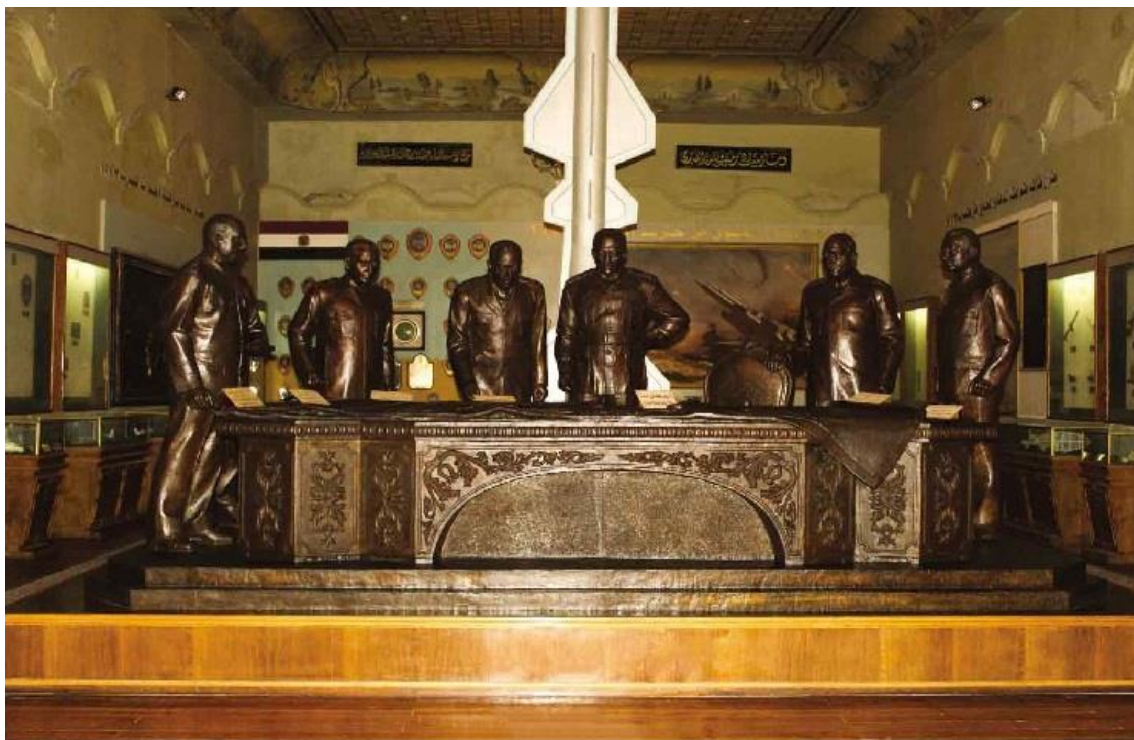


14 busts of leaders of the July 1952 Revolution

<https://www.mod.gov.eg/modwebsite/MuseumDetailsAr.aspx?id=1>

Source: Egyptian Ministry of Defense website

Appendix No. (9)



**The late President Mohamed Anwar El Sadat and the leaders of the
armed forces around himIn the transit hall**

<https://www.mod.gov.eg/modwebsite/MuseumDetailsAr.aspx?id=1>

Source: Egyptian Ministry of Defense website

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- 2) حسن عبد الوهاب (1941)، سراي الجوهرة، مجلة العمارة، المجلد الثالث، عدد 3-4، ص38-41.
- 3) عاصم محمد رزق (2003)، أطلس العمارة الإسلامية والقبطية بالقاهرة ، مكتبة مدبولي، القاهرة، ص918.
- 4) عرفه عبده علي (1998)، القاهرة في عصر اسماعيل ، الدار المصرية اللبنانية ، القاهرة، ص165.
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