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(181536) 15 HAZIRAN 199?

374 TABBAA, Yasser. The "salsabil" and the SELSE 0: "shadrwan" in medieval Islamic courtyards. SAD Ryth J Environmental Design, 1986 i, pp. 34-37

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**SHADIABAD** [see MĀNĎŪ].

<u>SH</u>ADIRWĀN, also <u>shadh</u>irwān, is an Arabised Persian word which originally meant a precious curtain or drapery suspended on tents of sovereigns and leaders and from balconies of palaces and mansions. But in mediaeval sources it often occurs as an architectural term designating either a wall fountain or its most important element—the inclined and carved marble slab upon which water flows—perhaps in reference to the fabric-like texture of water rippling down the oblique surface (Laila Ibrahim and M.M. Amin, Architectural terms in Mamluk documents, Cairo 1990, 66, 68-9; G. Marçais, Salsabīl et Šadirwān, in Études d'Orientalisme dédié à la mémoire de Lévi-Provençal, Paris 1962, ii, 639-48). In this second sense, it usually alternates with salsabīl, an Arabic word which appears in the Kur<sup>3</sup>ān (LXXVI, 18) as the name of a particular spring in heaven. In Muslim India, large water chutes, called ābshārs and made of inclined and carved marble slabs similar to shadirwans or salsabīls, intercepted the flow of water in the long channels that run the entire length of gardens, especially in the Mughal gardens of Kashmīr, and provided the transition from one level to the next below [see on this MA2.

The origin and first appearance of shadirwan or salsabīl in Islamic architecture are not known. Nor is its place of appearance, although there are some indications that it might have been Sāmarrā<sup>2</sup> [q.v.], the transient and opulent 'Abbāsid capital (221-79/836-92), where a large number of palaces with gardens, fountains, and pools were constructed. Modern exand contemporary panegyric poetry describing these palaces suggest that the monumental water works in Samarra anticipated the later and more intimate shadirwan systems (Yasser Tabbaa, Towards an interpretation of the use of water in Islamic courtyards and courtyard gardens, in Journal of Garden History, vii/2 [July-Sept. 1987], 198-9). The earliest datable remains of a shadirwan, a marble slab (1.3 m by .37 m and .14 m thick), carved with a chevron pattern with three fish in low relief at one end, was discovered during the excavation of the Zīrid Kalcat Banī Ḥammad in Algeria, built in the middle of the 5th/11th century (L. Golvin, Recherches archéologiques à la Qalcat des Banī Hammād, Paris 1965, 122-7, and pls. 43-4). Several shadirwans from the 6th/12th century, complete with scalloped or carved salsabīls, small basins, and channels emptying in central pools exist in various regions, Palermo in Sicily, al-Fusțāț in Egypt, and a number of sites in Syria and Djazīra, proving the diffusion of the type over the entire Islamic world. The earliest and best preserved among them is the shadirwan of the La Ziza (Azīza) Palace at Palermo, built between 1165 and 1175 for William I and William II, Norman kings of Sicily, undoubtedly by Muslim craftsmen. Located in an alcove at the centre of the main hall under a mukarnas [q.v.] vault, it consists of a nozzle in a niche in the wall from which water gushes over a multi-coloured marble salsabīl with a chevron deep carving to a channel cut in the paving which flows into two aligned shallow square pools before emptying in a large pool outside (G. Caronia, La Zisa di Palermo: storia e restauro, Rome 1982, 53-6, 64-7, figs. 71-3, 142-3, 164-5). A painting of a shadirwan with a lion head for a spout and a chevron-patterned salsabīl emptying in a quadrilobed pool appears among other paintings into the ceiling of the Cappella Palatina in Palermo built by Roger II in the 1140s (R. Ettinghausen, Arab painting, Geneva

1962, 48). This representation and a number of references to the <u>shadirwān</u> in contemporary Sicilian Arabic eulogistic poetry, addressed both to Norman and Muslim Hammādid patrons, suggest that the type was widespread in palatial architecture all over the Maghrib (Tabbaa, 202).

This is further confirmed by the remains of large houses excavated in al-Fustāt. The plans of at least two of them (nos. iii and vi), dated to the Fāṭimid period (4th-5th/10th-11th centuries), exhibit arrangements similar to the Ziza shadirwān. They each have a big basin in the centre of the courtyard connected with a small basin in the middle of a side hall via a shallow channel. The small basin is set under a wall recess with a spout attached to pipes in the wall from which most probably water ran over a no-longer-extant salsabīl (K.A.C. Creswell, Muslim architecture of Egypt, Oxford 1952, i, 124-6, figs. 58, 61). Whether the salsabīl had any mukarnas hood above it is impossible to know.

The next example of shadirwan comes from Damascus. In the Madrasa al-Nuriyya (of Nūr al-Dīn, 567/1172), in the īwān [q.v.] facing the entrance and under a mukamas hood, "water pours from a shadirwan into a pool, which opens into a long channel until it falls into a central pool in the courtyard" (Ibn Djubayr, Rihla, Beirut 1964, 256). It was recently cut off and its channel paved over, but the 1920s plan made by Herzfeld shows a typical shadirwan system (Creswell, ii. 109-10, fig. 56). The appearance of this shadirwan can be considered a novelty, since this is the first time we encounter it outside the realm of residential or palatial architecture. A little later in date is a series of Ayyūbid and Artuķid palaces built in the citadels of Syria and Djazīra with elaborate water systems consisting of fountains, channels, and pools. At least three of them, the early 7th/13th-century Artuķid palace at Diyārbakir, the Ayyūbid palace in Aleppo (built between 617/1220 and 658/1260) and the Artukid al-Firdaws palace in Mārdīn (636-58/1239-60), have shadirwans occupying the centre of an īwān's back wall and flowing via a narrow channel into a large pool in the courtyard (Tabbaa, 208-11, figs. 11-17).

In Ayyūbid and Mamlūk Cairo, shadirwān arrangements became a salient feature in reception halls, known as kā as. Several Cairene shadirwan slabs with various patterns engraved on their surfaces are on display at the Islamic Art Museum in Cairo and the Dār al-Āthār al-Islāmiyya in Kuwait, while few are still in situ. The most notable among them are the two shadirwans in two opposite īwans of the bīmaristan of Sultan Kalāwūn (683/1284), which may have belonged to the four-īwān  $k\bar{a}^{c}a$  of the Fāṭimid Western Palace, or its Ayyūbid replacement that was appropriated by Kalawun to build his complex (Creswell, ii, 208-10, pl. 63). Wakf [q.v.] documents furnish a number of descriptions of Mamlūk shadirwans which provide information on their various uses, composition, and terminology (Mona Zakarya, Deux palais du Caire médiéval, waqfs et architecture, Marseilles 1983, 148). Thus, for example, we learn that the small receptacle in which water falls before flowing over the shadirwan had an onomatopoeic name, karkal; the channel was called silsal (Ibrahim and Amin, 66). The bīmāristān of al-Mu<sup>2</sup>ayyad Shaykh (821-3/1418-20) repeated the model of the bīmāristān of Kalāwūn with two shadirwans in two opposite iwans (wakf of al-Mu'ayyad Shaykh, Dar al-Watha'ik, no. 938 k, 7, 1. 24-5). Cairene sabīls [q.v.] too had shadirwāns from which water collected into small basins (fasāķī, pl. of fiskiyya) (wakf of Amīr Khāyir Bek, Dār al-Wathā'ik,

# İSTANBUL ŞADIRVANLARI

Asistan Y. Müh. - Mimar

# **ENVER TOKAY**

I. YAPI BİLGİSİ KÜRSÜSÜ

Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Araştırmaları Merkezi Kütüphanesi	
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ISTANBUL MATBAACILIK
T. A. O. — 1 9 5 1

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# THE "SALSABIL" AND "SHADIRWAN" IN MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC COURTYARDS

- Sebil posetinde - Sadiruar

The uncritical application of the concept of Paradise<sup>1</sup> to all slamic gardens and courtyards has failed, among other things, to show how the various formal components of these gardens and courtyards contributed to the formation of a specifically Islamic garden iconography. The purpose of this paper is to investigate primarily one common medieval water device, namely the salsabil, with its shadirwan and courtyard fountain. Although only one study, by George Marçais<sup>2</sup>, has been dedicated to the salsabil, I shall show that it was a central feature of numerous medieval Islamic palaces and pious institutions as well as a key to the general understanding of the use of water in Islamic courtyards.

A typical salsabiliconsist of a water spout in the back wall of an iwan; an inclined, carved marble slab called a shadirwan on wich water flows; a long and thin channel running through the middle of the iwan; and a pool in the middle of the courtyard in which the salsabil water flows. Many salsabil also originate under a muqarnas vault, and many have a small intermediary pool a short distance away from the shadirwan.

The earliest existing examples of the salsabil come from such diverse places as Lashkari Bazaar in Afghanistan, Qal'at bani Hammad in Algeria, and Fustat in Egypt. In Lashkari Bazaar, generally dated to the 11th century, Schlumberger discovered a water system consisting of a long channel with an octagonal tank in its middle situated on the long axis of the courtyard. Water would have flowed from one end of the courtyard into the pool and then out the other canal<sup>3</sup>.

The excavations at Qal'at bani Hammad by Lucien Golvin exposed a slab of gray marble (1.30 m. long, 37 cm wide, and 14 cm thick), carved with a chevron design between two borders and comained an image of three fish in low relief at its beginning point. Without any question it was a shadirwan, and, judging from the place of its discovery, it seems to have been located in a niche covered by a crude, but very early, mugarnas vault.

At least two of the excavated houses in Fusiat (III and Whad complete salsabils fed through underground channels which began at the well of the house. Each contained the succession of spout, shadirwan, short canal, small pool, long canal, and central pool. Although to dating sequence has been established for these palatial residences, Creswell has pointed out a number of Iranian decorative features — most notably the

hazar-baf technique — which in Iran are dated no earlier than the late eleventh century.

Despite the time and distance separating these waterworks from Baghdad and Samarra of the 9th and 10th centuries, there are good reasons to suggest that influences from the Abbasid capital were operative in each of the three cases. The Ghaznavids, enjoyed very close relations with the Abbasids caliph, whom they supported against the Buyids. Furthermore, it is known from the literary sources and the actual remains that the Ghaznavids attempted to model their palaces after the palaces of the Abbasids7. The patrons of Qal'at Bani Hammad also had their eyes turned eastward to Baghdad and Samarra, although their architecture also contains the added ingredients of Fatimid and local forms and motifs. One may therefore postulate the transferral of the salsabil form directly from Baghdad or via Fatimid Cairo where we know it existed. It is generally accepted that the form of these Tulunid and Fatimid houses belongs to the Hiran house type which was brought to Egypt during the reign of Ahmad ibn Tulun<sup>9</sup>.

The 12th century presents us with a substantial number of salsabil and fountains from Sicily, Syria, and Anatolia. Perhaps the earliest perfectly preserved salsabil is that found in the Ziza (Arabic al-'Azza = the dear one) Palace outside of Palermo, completed by the Norman King William II (1166-1185)<sup>10</sup>. This salsabil is essentially a better preserved and more refined version of the one at Qal'at Bani Hammad. Here also water flowed from a spout beneath a stone muqarnas vault, down a marble shadirwan, into a first collecting pool, and finally through a long, partly submerged channel which empties in a larger pool.

Although no medieval fountains have survived in Damascus, Ibn Jubair, the 12th-century Andalusian traveler described a salsabil in the funerary madrasa of Nur al-Din saying: "Water pours from a shadirwan into a pool, extends in long channel until it falls into a central pool". This fountain existed, as one can tell from Herzfeld's plan, until recently when its water supply was cut off, its channel paved over, and the whole western ilwan was divided into two floors, thereby hiding the muqarnas vault which covered the shadirwan. The lower courses of the muqarnas vault can still be seen.

A number of 13th century salsabil have been partially preserved in certain palaces in Diyar

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2.1 EYIÜL 2014 MONA EL-SHERIF LAGE YAYIMLANDIKTAN PARA GELEN DOKÜMAN

# Fountain

Fountains in Islamic art and architecture exhibit considerable variation, both in terms of the etymologies of the various words for "fountain" and the physical forms, facts that may reflect the structure's multiple linguistic and architectural sources. Etymologically, some of the terms that have been used to refer to fountains—including 'ayn (spring), salsabīl (sacred spring), and ka's (cup or basin) are Qur'anic; others—including dūlāb (rotating fountain), çeshme (water jet), and shādirwān or chādar (inclined plane fountain)—have a Persian etymology; and one later term, fisqiyya (small basin with fountain), seems to have a Latin root in piscina. But perhaps the most common terms for fountain—nāfūra and fawwāra, with both words referring to water jetsare derived from triliteral Arabic verbs (n-f-r and f-w-r), which, respectively, indicate gushing and bubbling. This considerable etymological and architectural variation is further complicated by temporal and geographical discrepancies in the use of these terms and an overall lack of consistent correspondence between word and object.

Despite their considerable variety, fountains in the Islamic world, with the possible exception of those of Mughal India, are characterised by several constants and commonalities. First, the general paucity of water in the Islamic world mandated limitations on the size of fountains, which tend to be fairly small. Second, although we tend to think of fountains as water jets in which water is forced upwards, most fountains in the Islamic world are of the descending type, where water flows down channels and inclined planes. Third, although fountains were sometimes displayed in open gardens, they are more commonly used in courtyard gardens, where they introduce a dynamic and three-dimensional element into the architecture. Fourth, in view of their modest size and the general absence of human sculpture in them, these fountains are more ornamental and contemplative than monumental and dramatic, a feeling reinforced by their evocation in Arabic and Persian poetry.

In view of these commonalities, fountains in the Islamic world may be examined according to type, which is largely determined by the action of water within the fountain, and by following temporally and geographically the development of each type. With the possible exception of one Umayyad monumental fountain—in the Khirbat al-Mafjar Palace, near Jerichomost fountain types in the Islamic world can be traced to the palaces of Sāmarrā', the third/ninth-century 'Abbāsid capital. Of these, by far the most common and longest lasting is the channel fountain, in which water descends along a central channel that is often orthogonally bisected