



SELECTED DESIGN EXPERIENCE / PREPARED FOR JABAL AKHDAR, OMAN

Sustainable architecture rooted in place.

Climate. Context. Material. Craft. Landscape.

Aabid Resort · Pooppara · Design visualisation

[Enter portfolio ↗](#)

Begin with the place.

We reinterpret the environmental and cultural intelligence of vernacular architecture for contemporary use.

01 / Place

Read the terrain, settlement and landscape before drawing the building.

02 / Climate

Shape shelter, shade and openings around the conditions of the site.

03 / Material + craft

Let construction, local skills and tactile materials give the architecture its character.

Place → Climate → Material → Craft → Contemporary architecture

SELECTED PRIOR DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Four approaches to hospitality.

From a layered highland resort to an intimate retreat: selected work at different scales.



Aabid Resort ↗

Pooppara · Main case study



A-frame Resort ↗

Hillside hospitality · Design proposal



Thanal Cottages ↗

Courtyard cottages · Design proposal



Shila Retreat ↗

Stone hillside retreat · Design proposal

01 / POOPPARA, IDUKKI

Aabid Resort

A stepped highland retreat with layered roofs, sheltered terraces and a valley-facing guest wing.

10 guest keys

Plus a separate 2-bedroom penthouse

Five levels

A stepped hillside programme

Ongoing — design development

Concept imagery and evolving design studies



Arrival elevation · Design visualisation

Let the section follow the hill.

Guest accommodation and terraces step down the hillside. The valley-facing elevation shows how the changing ground level becomes part of the spatial sequence.

Arrive above

A compact arrival connects to the vertical circulation core.

Step through

Public and guest spaces occupy successive levels.

Open to the valley

Terraces and balconies extend the experience toward the landscape.



Valley-facing elevation · Design visualisation

AABID / CLIMATE RESPONSE

Shelter becomes architecture.

The material brief places monsoon protection, deep roof shadows and durable exterior detailing at the centre of the design.

Roof + rain

Clay roofs, protected eaves and integrated drainage.

Shade + threshold

Verandahs and timber screens create layered transitions.

Ground + water

Stone bases and drained, slip-resistant outdoor surfaces.



Design intent · Performance to be resolved through detailed design

A palette rooted in the highlands.

Concept material direction from the project brief: weathered clay, ivory lime, oiled teak and grey-brown hill stone — the warm, classic highland palette.



#735242

Weathered Mangalore tile

Pitched roofs + verandahs

Regional roof craft; protect proportions, eaves and monsoon detailing.

Aged, low-sheen clay



#DECEB7

Ivory lime plaster

Primary wall surfaces

A light, tactile field beneath deep roof shadows.

Hand-trowelled, breathable



#915E37

Oiled teak

Screens + guest touch-points

Shade and tactile warmth; reserve premium timber for close contact.

Natural oil, open grain



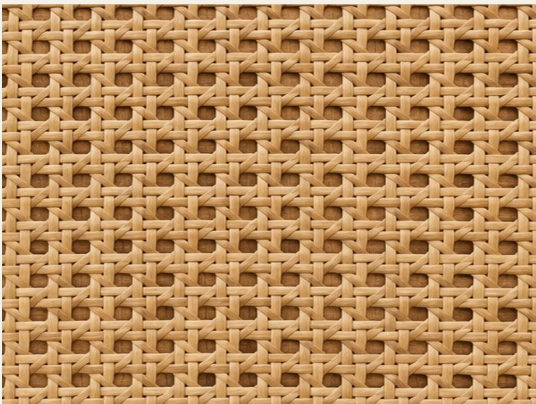
#7D7060

Grey-brown hill stone

Plinth + retaining edges

Ground the building and connect it to the terrain.

Coursed, raked joints



#BB8D5B

Natural cane

Selected interior accents

Local craft character through furniture and lighting.

Hand-woven, unstained

Illustrative texture references, tuned per project · Final material samples and specifications subject to approval.

AABID / GUEST EXPERIENCE

The landscape is the destination.

Arrival → sheltered lounge → valley-facing room → terrace
→ pool edge

Valley elevation · Design visualisation · Ongoing — design development

A-frame Resort

A compact hospitality ensemble pairs a taller arrival block with pitched-roof cottages and a shared pool landscape.

A shared outdoor heart

The pool connects the cottage landscape.

A clear roof identity

Repeated pitched forms establish the retreat's character.

Ongoing design

Selected proposal imagery



Pool view · Design visualisation

A walk through the proposal.

Two short views of the hillside ensemble and cottage landscape.



▶ Hillside approach · 10s



▶ Cottage experience · 10s

Watch the films in the online portfolio: shimmering-semolina-636721.netlify.app

Design visualisation clips · Hillside approach / Cottage experience

A roof-led material language.

Proposed selection developed from the design imagery: crisper, higher-contrast materials that sharpen the A-frame silhouette against the hillside.



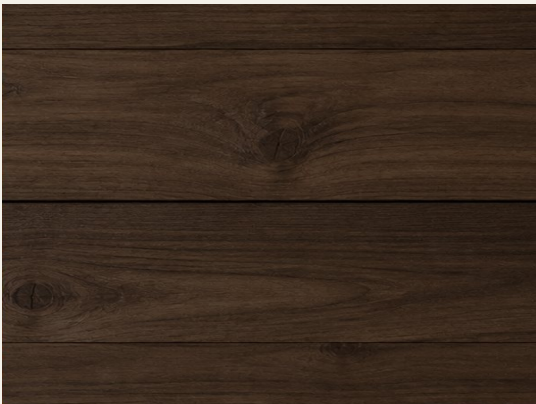
#92573A

New-fire terracotta tile

Steep A-frame roof planes

A brighter, fresher red reads crisply against the green slope; steep pitches need mechanical clip-fixing.

Uniform, semi-matte



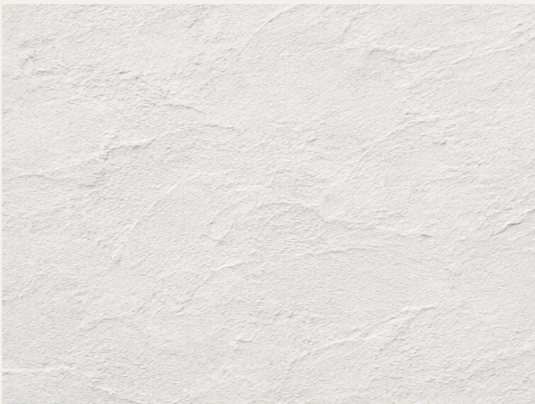
#3B2B1F

Dark-stained timber

Exposed rafters + gable frames

A deep stain sharpens the triangular frame and hides weathering on exposed members.

Pigmented oil, UV-stable



#E5E3E0

Cool white mineral paint

Gable infill + cottage walls

Maximum contrast with the timber frame; reflects heat on sun-facing gables.

Smooth silicate, breathable



#7F8382

Blue-grey Kota-type stone

Pool deck + surrounds

A cooler stone keeps the pool edge calm and cooler underfoot; verify wet-slip rating.

Flamed / leather finish



#5C534A

Dark hill stone

Terrace walls + steps

Darker, larger stones anchor the lightweight cottages to the slope.

Random rubble, recessed joints

Illustrative texture references, tuned per project · Final material samples and specifications subject to approval.

Thanal Cottages

Thanal means “shade” in Malayalam. Low pitched roofs, stone walls and planted gaps give this resort proposal an intimate scale. The path between buildings becomes part of the stay.

Small buildings

A dispersed cottage arrangement.

Shaded thresholds

Covered edges mediate between room and garden.

Landscape as connection

Outdoor paths form the guest sequence.



Courtyard view · Design visualisation

THANAL / LANDSCAPE + MOVEMENT

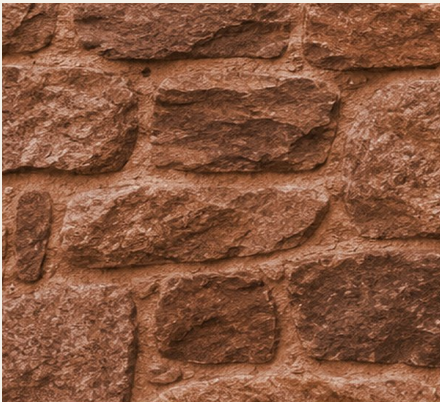
Space between buildings matters.

A quieter hospitality experience, organised around roof shade, planted courts and pedestrian connections.

Cottage pathway · Design proposal

Material, shade and garden.

Proposed selection for the courtyard cottages: an earthier, more traditional Kerala palette — laterite, ochre lime and golden jackwood — softened by shade and garden.



#87563D

Laterite block

Plinths + garden walls

Kerala's porous red stone roots the courts in local building tradition; cap tops against monsoon rain.

Dressed, exposed bed-joints



#533628

Antique clay tile

Low courtyard roofs

A darker, aged tone keeps the low roofs quiet beneath the tree canopy.

Hand-toned, matte



#E5CDA7

Ochre lime wash

Verandah + court walls

A warm earth pigment glows in dappled shade and softens the laterite base.

Limewash, layered by hand



#A96C32

Jackwood joinery

Doors + window shutters

A golden local hardwood with traditional Kerala character at the room threshold.

Clear oil, satin



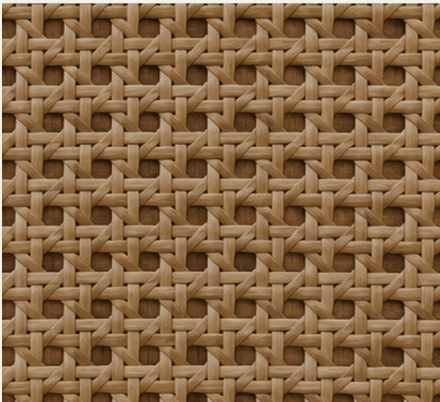
#91877A

Granite setts

Garden paths + courts

Small units follow curving paths and let rain drain between the joints.

Split face, sand joints



#886745

Coir + screw-pine weave

Verandah seats + lamp shades

Coastal Kerala craft adds a darker, rustic weave to the shaded outdoor rooms.

Hand-woven, natural dye

Illustrative texture references, tuned per project · Final material samples and specifications subject to approval.

Shila Retreat

Shila means “rock”: a stone-led hillside retreat. This compact proposal brings the guest experience close to the terrain: low volumes, intimate pool terraces and rooms opening toward the landscape.

An intimate scale

A compact ensemble rather than a large hotel block.

Private outdoor edges

Guest spaces extend toward pools and planted terraces.

Roof + ground

Pitched roofs and stone-faced edges frame the hillside setting.



Hillside proposal · Design visualisation

A room. A pool. A view.

Paired pool terraces extend the rooms into the landscape. Stone partitions, planted edges and a continuous clay roof give the smaller resort a clear material identity.

Sheltered rooms

The clay roof frames the guest accommodation.

An outdoor threshold

Each room opens toward its own pool terrace.

A planted hillside

Stone edges and vegetation connect the building to its setting.



Upper pool terraces · Design visualisation

A retreat at landscape scale.

A short aerial sequence reveals the compact arrangement and its stepped relationship to the hill.



▶ Landscape approach · 10s

Watch the films in the online portfolio: shimmering-semolina-636721.netlify.app

Design visualisation clip · Small resort proposal

Stone at the edge. Clay above.

Proposed selection from the realistic design views: a cooler, stone-led palette where charcoal rubble dominates and every other material steps back.



#5C5853

Charcoal granite rubble
Battered retaining walls

Heavier, darker stone makes the terraced walls the defining material of this resort.

Rough, deep-raked joints



#836455

Sun-baked clay tile
Single upper roof

A paler, softer red lets one roof crown the ensemble without competing with the stone.

Weathered, open texture



#867C74

Silver-weathered teak
Decks + room thresholds

Left to grey naturally, blending with the stone and cutting maintenance at the pools.

Unfinished, brushed



#D5C7B3

Sand-faced plaster
Recessed wall planes

A coarse, earth-toned render keeps secondary planes calm but tactile.

Coarse float, integral colour



#51504F

Flamed black granite
Pool coping + outdoor steps

A dark, slip-resistant edge frames each pool terrace; check heat gain in full sun.

Flamed, eased edges

Illustrative texture references, tuned per project · Final material samples and specifications subject to approval.

FROM TROPICAL EXPERIENCE TO AN OMAN BRIEF

The expression changes. The methodology remains.

Transfer the discipline of responding to place. Develop the architectural language through the specific Omani site, its climate and its culture.

Tropical design experience

Rain protection; layered roofs; sheltered outdoor space; vegetation; clay, lime, timber and stone.

Jabal Akhdar / proposed lines of inquiry

Altitude and cold nights; intense mountain sun; thermal mass; terraces and falaj water heritage; local stone and lime; sheltered courtyards; drought-tolerant native planting.

A proposed design agenda for Jabal Akhdar, to be tested against the actual site and brief.

Jabal Akhdar: build with the mountain.

High in the Al Hajar mountains, the Green Mountain is defined by terraced gardens, stone villages, falaj water channels and dramatic canyon edges. The site combines level plateau ground with steep terraced slopes, in a climate closer to a mountain retreat than to coastal Oman.

Altitude

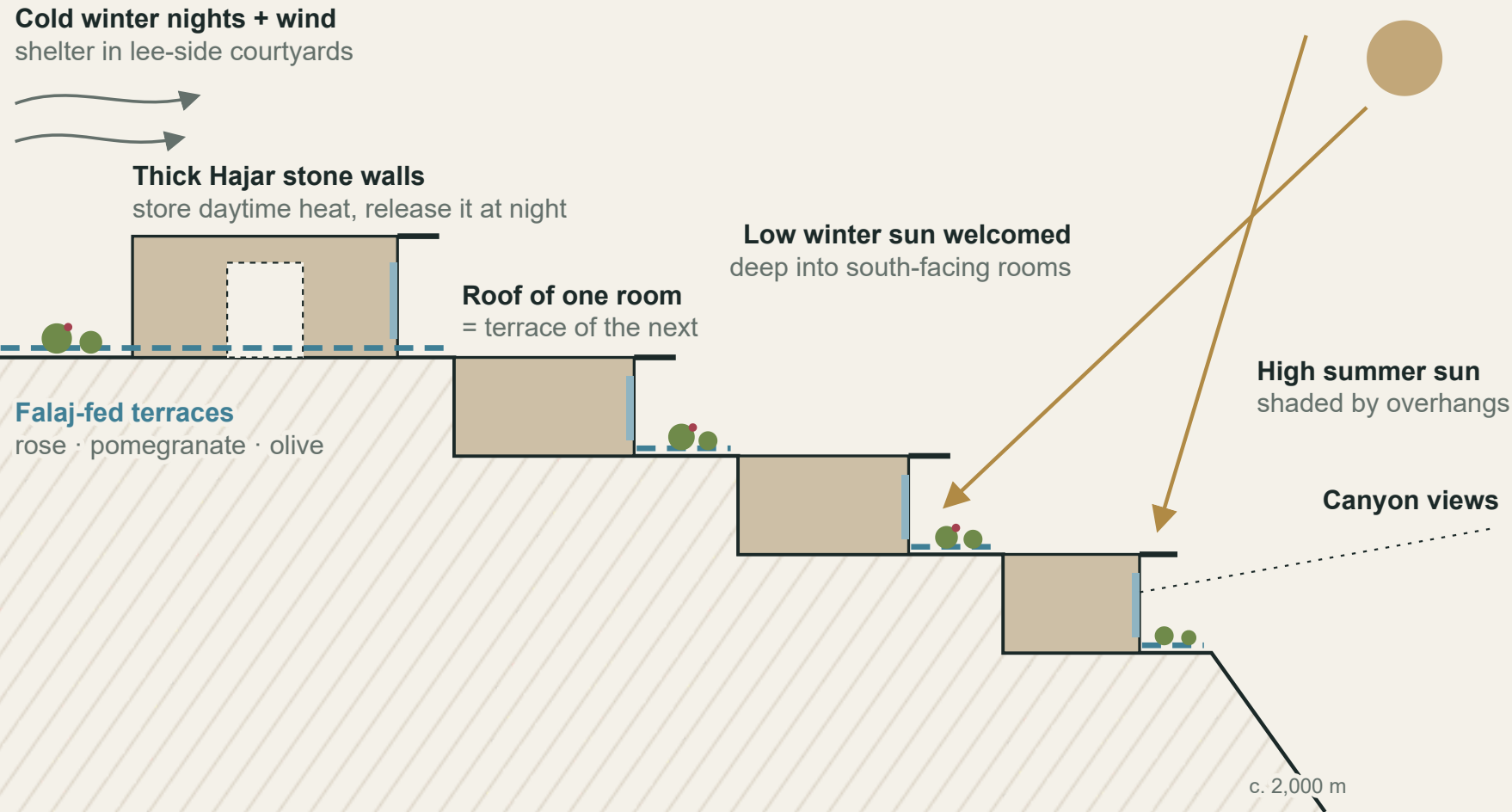
Cool winters, intense sun and a large day–night temperature swing.

Terraces

Centuries-old agricultural terraces set the grain of the land.

Water

Falaj channels and careful water use sustain roses, pomegranates and walnuts.



Conceptual section · Not to scale · Proposed approach, to be tested against the actual site

SURVEY-LED DESIGN

Designed on measured ground.

The site's contour survey is carried out by our own survey team, so design starts from the ground as it really is, and every decision is tested against measured terrain.

01 / Design on true contours

A contour and topographic survey before the first sketch: terraces, rooms and roads fitted to the real ground, not an assumed slope.

04 / Water paths mapped

Flow lines, wadis and existing falaj channels traced from the survey: siting away from flash floods and smarter water harvesting.

02 / Less cut, fill + retaining

Earthwork volumes calculated from our terrain model, so the layout minimises excavation, retaining walls and cost.

05 / Views tested in 3D

Canyon viewsheds studied on the real terrain, so every room earns its outlook and keeps its privacy.

03 / Flat vs slope, with certainty

The terrain model shows exactly where the plateau ends and the terraces begin, and places each design strategy there.

06 / One team, survey to site

Heritage terraces and trees recorded and survey-grade set-out for construction, with no hand-offs between consultants.

Sun and shade, simulated.

Each scheme is built as a geolocated 3D model on the surveyed terrain, then tested against the real sun path of the site, hour by hour and season by season.

Real sun path

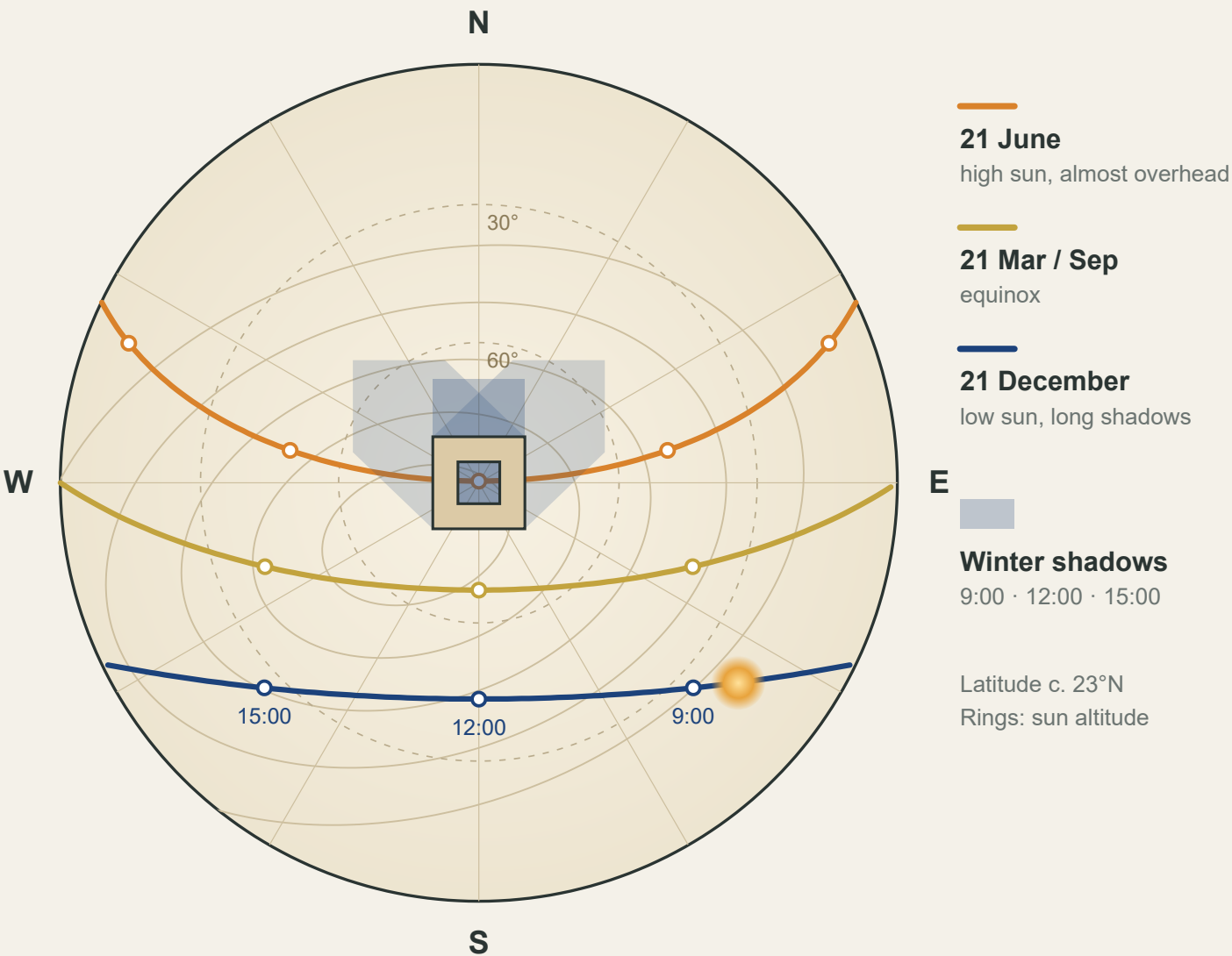
Exact sun positions for the site's location, from the high June sun to the low December sun.

Shadow studies

Shadows from buildings, trees and the surrounding mountains, so courts and terraces get winter sun and summer shade.

Sized to the sun

Overhangs, screens, pergolas and room orientation tuned to the results, not rules of thumb.

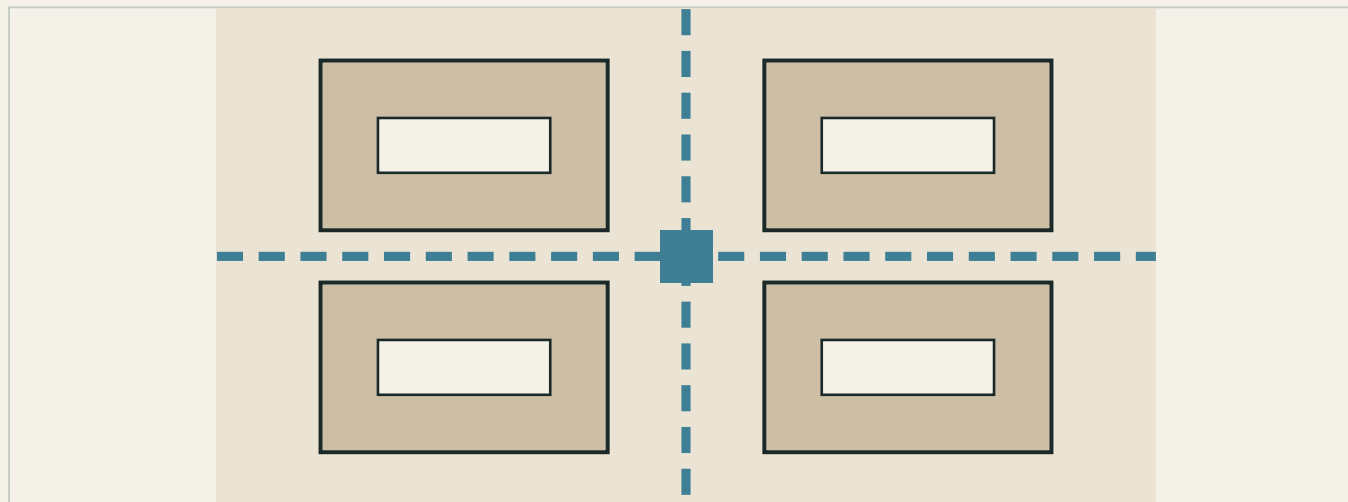


Illustrative sun-path diagram for the site latitude · Final studies run on the geolocated 3D model

Two grounds, two strategies.

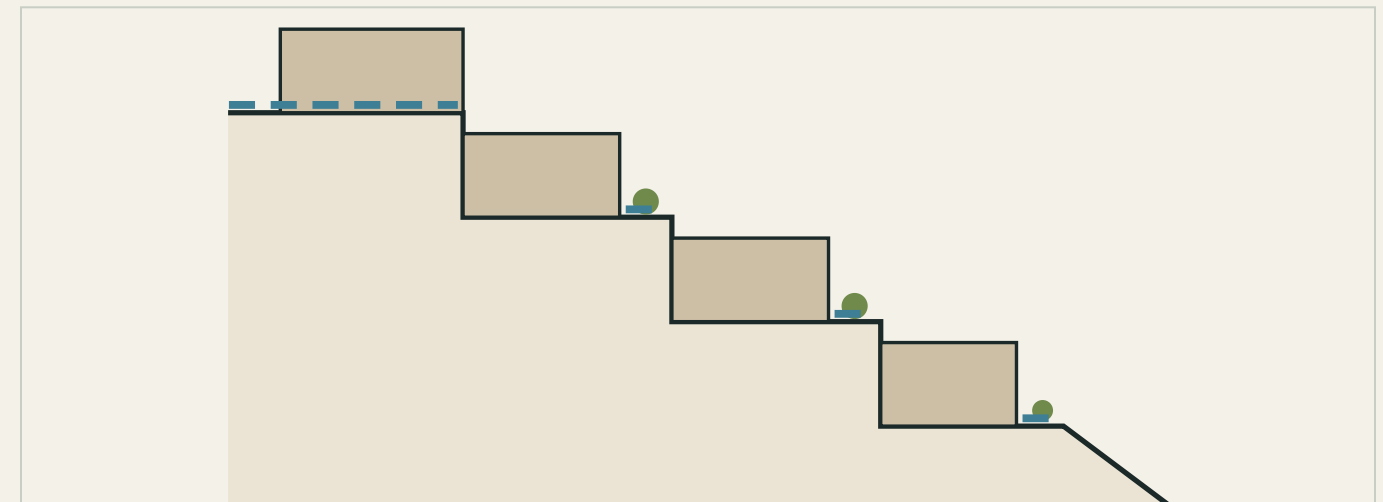
The site combines level plateau ground and steep terraced slopes. Each is designed on its own terms, then joined by one landscape of water, stone and planting.

Flat plateau → a courtyard village



- Dense, low courtyard clusters: shelter from wind, sun into the courts
- A falaj rill and shaded lane as the organising spine
- Shared spaces: majlis, spa, rose garden, craft lane, stargazing
- Plateau palette: rammed earth, copper, terracotta, pebble, lattice

Sloped terraces → rooms that step



- Rooms follow the contours: the roof of one is the terrace of the next
- Stone retaining walls rebuild the agricultural terraces
- Every room faces the valley and the low winter sun
- Terrace palette: Hajar stone, sarooj lime, earth render, palm, timber

Zoning to be fixed by the site's contour and topographic survey.

Learning from the mountain villages.

The old stone villages of the mountain already solve its climate. We will study them on site and reinterpret — not imitate — their strategies.

01 / Stepped stone settlements

Houses built into the slope in local stone, clustered for shelter and shade. The resort steps down the terraces the same way.

02 / Covered lanes (sabat)

Shaded passages between buildings become covered guest routes linking the room clusters.

03 / Falaj + terraces

Gravity-fed channels irrigating stepped fields become the landscape spine and water-conscious gardens.

04 / Courtyard + majlis

Inward-looking courts and a welcoming majlis shape the arrival lounge and sheltered room courts.

05 / Beam, palm + earth roofs

Timber or palm-trunk beams, palm-frond matting and an earth layer: an insulated flat roof, reused as a terrace.

06 / Small, deep openings

Thick walls, small windows and carved shutters control sun, wind and privacy; larger glazing only toward protected views.

Vernacular strategies to be documented on site with local builders and community knowledge.

Six moves for Jabal Akhdar.

The same discipline as our tropical work (read the place first) expressed through the mountain's own villages, terraces and climate.

01 / Follow the terraces

Step the plan along the contours: the roof of one room becomes the terrace of the next.

02 / Mass for the extremes

Thick local stone walls, deep reveals and compact volumes buffer strong daytime sun and cold nights.

03 / Welcome winter sun

Orient main rooms south with calculated overhangs: shade in summer, low winter sun deep inside.

04 / Water as heritage

Falaj-inspired channels, rainwater and greywater reuse feed rose, pomegranate and olive terraces.

05 / Village, not block

Cluster rooms along lanes and courtyards like a mountain village, sheltered from cold winds.

06 / Local materials + craft

Stone, lime, earth, palm and timber from the region, built by local masons and craftsmen.

Arrival lane → courtyard majlis → terraced rooms → rose gardens → canyon-edge terrace → rooftop stargazing

Terraces: local stone first.

A palette sourced as close to the site as possible: mountain stone and lime for thermal mass, earth, palm and timber for shade and craft. No pitched clay roof; here the roof becomes a terrace.



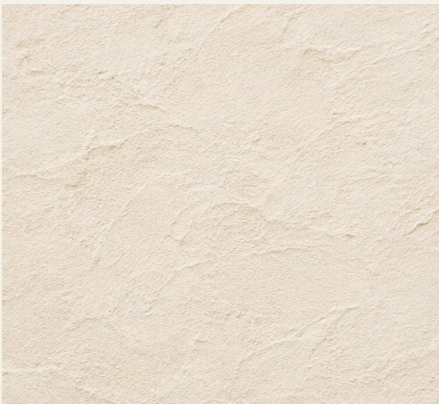
#8E8272

Hajar mountain stone

Walls + terrace retaining

Stone of the mountain itself, reusing site excavation; thick walls give thermal mass for warm days and cold nights.

Local · site + regional quarries · lime-pointed rubble



#E9DDCE

Sarooj lime plaster

Courtyard + interior walls

Traditional Omani lime-based render and mortar: breathable, repairable and softly tinted by local earth.

Local · Omani lime craft · hand-floated



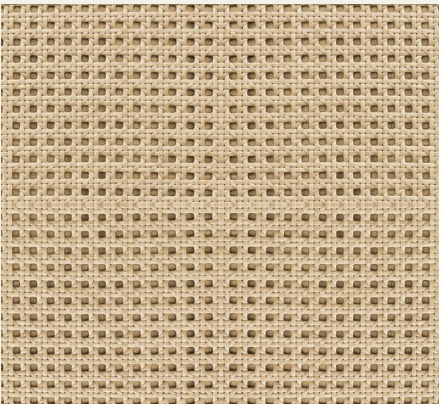
#C0A490

Earth render

Feature walls + niches

Site earth stabilised for protected walls, recalling Omani earthen architecture.

Local · site soil · straw-fibre, hand-applied



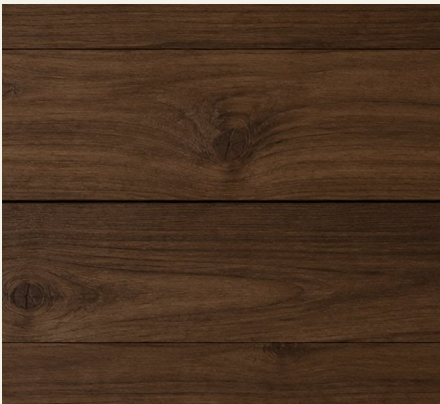
#C3AC8B

Palm-frond (areesh) weave

Majlis ceilings + shaded walks

Woven date-palm fronds over timber beams: a regional craft that filters light and air.

Regional · Interior date groves · fire-treated



#4A3220

Carved hardwood

Doors, shutters + screens

Echoes the carved Omani door; deep-set shutters close against winter nights.

Omani carpentry · oiled, hand-carved



#C3BBAC

Pale limestone flags

Roof terraces + courtyards

Light, cool-toned paving limits heat gain under intense altitude sun.

Regional stone · honed, slip-resistant

Illustrative texture references · Sources and specifications to be verified with local suppliers, Omani craftsmen and the actual

On the flat ground: a village of courts.

Where the land levels out, rooms gather around courtyards along a shaded lane and a falaj rill: dense, sheltered and walkable, like the mountain's old villages.

Shelter

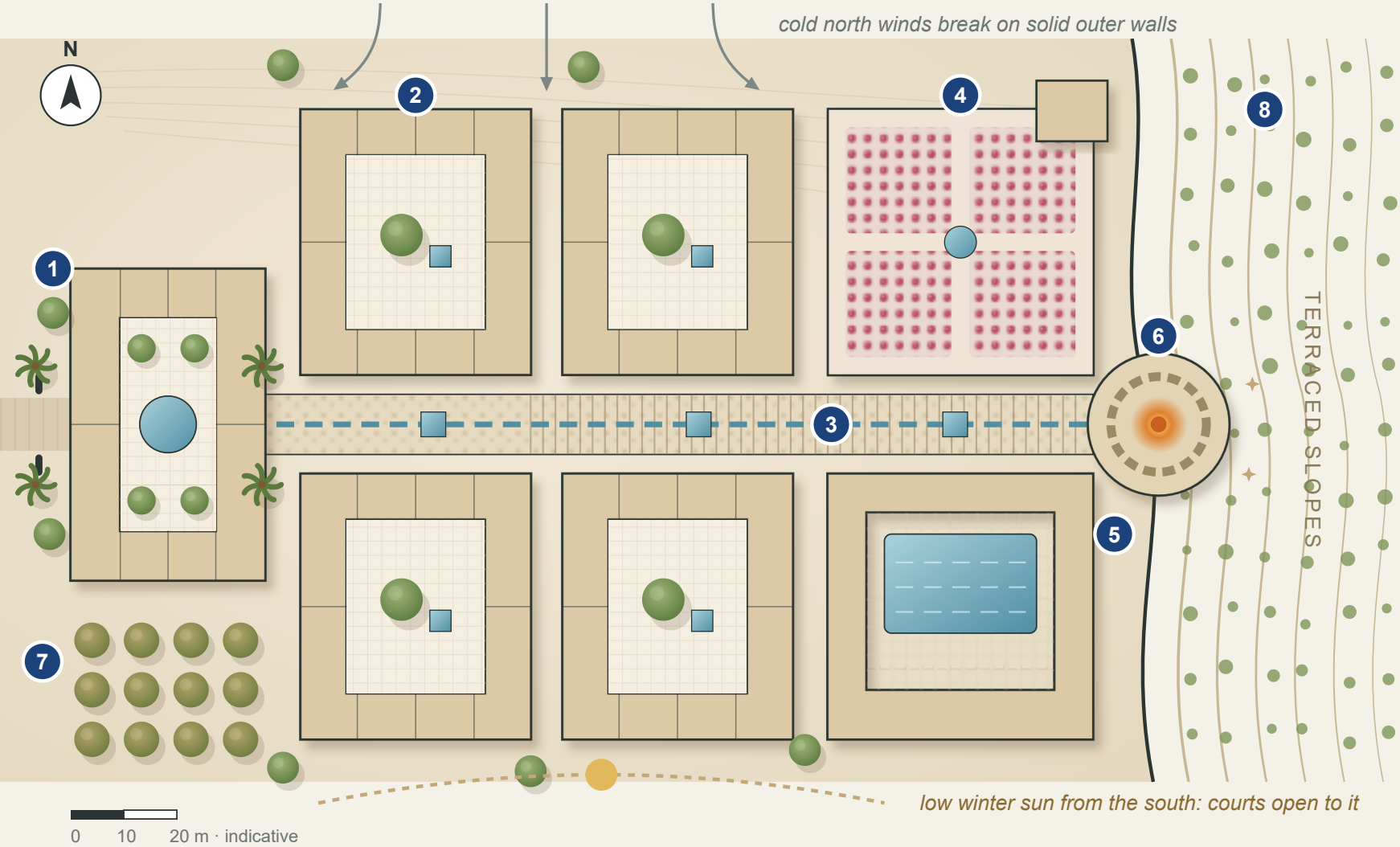
Solid north walls and tight lanes break the cold winds.

Sun

Courtyards open to the south to catch the low winter sun.

Water

A falaj rill links arrival, courts, gardens and spa.



- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Arrival + majlis court | 2 Courtyard rooms | 3 Falaj rill + shaded lane | 4 Rose garden + distillery |
| 5 Warm-water spa | 6 Stargazing court + fire | 7 Orchard dining | 8 Terraced slopes |

Conceptual plan · Not to scale · Illustrative arrangement for the flat part of the site

Special spaces on the plateau.

Moments that make the stay specific to the mountain and its traditions.

01 / Arrival majlis court

A shaded courtyard with coffee, dates and rose water: the traditional Omani welcome.

02 / Rose distillery garden

Damask rose beds and a small distilling pavilion where guests join the spring harvest.

03 / Stargazing court

A sunken, wind-sheltered circle with a fire pit at the plateau edge, for clear mountain nights.

04 / Warm-water spa

A heated pool and stone steam rooms for cold evenings, set within thick earth walls.

05 / Craft lane

A covered lane with studios for pottery, copperwork and palm weaving by local artisans.

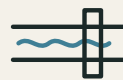
06 / Orchard dining

Long tables under pomegranate and walnut trees, watered by the falaj.

Programme to be developed with the client brief and local community partners.

Small features, lasting character.

Details drawn from Omani craft and climate, repeated across courts, lanes and terraces.



Falaj rills

Narrow stone channels carry water through courts and lanes: sound, cooling and heritage.



Carved doors

Studded, hand-carved timber doors mark each courtyard house.



Sun-warmed benches

Built-in stone benches on south walls hold winter sun for evening conversation.



Lantern niches

Small niches cut into thick walls for lanterns, pottery and rose-water flasks.



Stone lattice

Pierced screens filter low sun and frame views while keeping privacy.



Palm pergolas

Areesh shade over lanes and roof terraces casts dappled light.



Rain spouts

Projecting spouts throw rare rain clear of the walls into planted gravel beds.



Copper lanterns

Pierced copper lights by local metalworkers pattern the courtyard walls at night.

Illustrative details · to be developed with Omani craftsmen.

Plateau materials: earth, metal, craft.

Where long walls are possible on level ground, the palette turns to site earth and Omani crafts: warmer, more tactile and more decorative than the stone terraces.



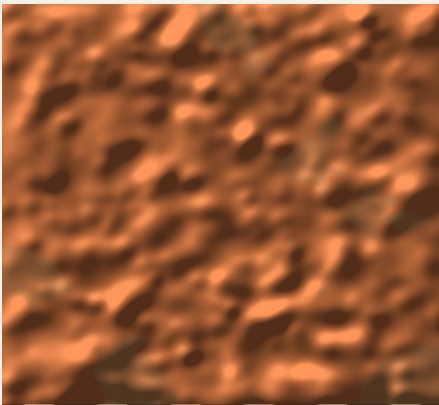
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Rammed earth

Courtyard + boundary walls

Site soil compacted in layers: striated, thick and thermally massive; ideal for long walls on level ground.

Local · site soil · lime-stabilised



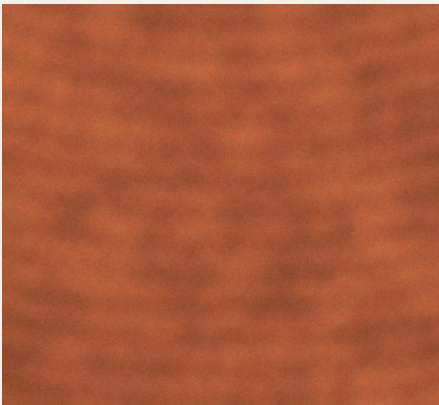
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Hammered copper

Lanterns, basins + door fittings

Omani metalwork adds glow and a living patina to the courts at night.

Omani craft · hand-beaten



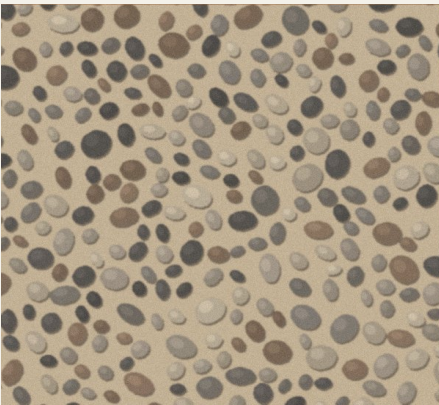
#A95837

Bahla-style terracotta

Water jars, planters + floor tiles

The pottery tradition of nearby Bahla, for cooling water jars, planters and floor tiles.

Regional · hand-thrown, unglazed



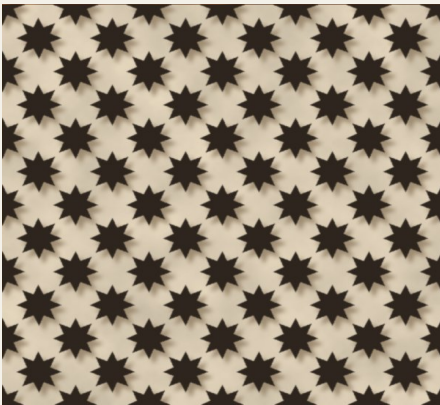
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Wadi pebble paving

Rill edges + courtyard floors

Rounded wadi stones set in lime: textured underfoot, letting water soak away.

Local · set in sarooj



#9A8E7B

Pierced stone lattice

Screens + light wells

Geometric screens filter low sun and frame views while keeping privacy.

Regional limestone · hand-cut



#946B38

Olive + juniper wood

Benches, tables + small joinery

Native mountain timbers used sparingly for furniture and tactile details.

Local · reclaimed where possible

Illustrative texture references · Sources and specifications to be verified with local suppliers and craftsmen.

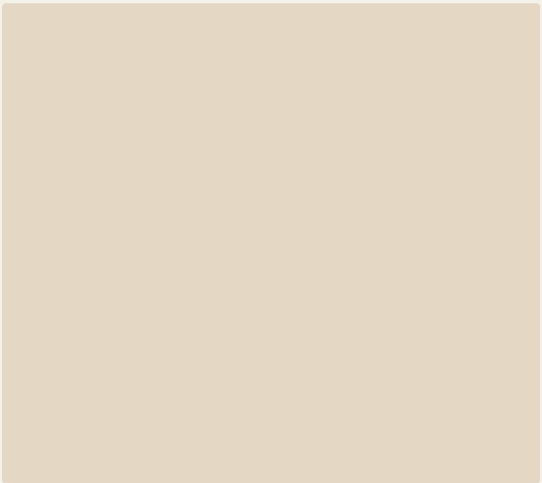
Colours of the Green Mountain.

A restrained base of stone and lime, with seasonal accents borrowed from the terraces.



Hajar stone

The dominant field: walls, terraces and retaining edges.



Sarooj lime

Light courtyard and interior surfaces.



Damask rose

The spring bloom of the terraces; textiles and the rose-water guest ritual.



Pomegranate

Deep red accents in fabrics and ceramics.



Juniper + olive

Native, drought-tolerant, wind-hardy evergreen planting.

Planting to be confirmed with local horticultural advice and water availability.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANCY

Listen to the land. Design for its future.

A site-specific approach to the Jabal Akhdar hospitality project.

01 / Survey + understand

Our team's contour and topographic survey of the site, plus mapping of terraces, slopes, falaj, sun, wind and night temperatures with local knowledge.

02 / Test

Compare terrace layouts, massing, shade, guest routes and local material options against the brief.

03 / Resolve

Coordinate structure and services; develop buildable details; verify local materials through samples and mock-ups with Omani craftsmen.

Sustainable architecture rooted in place.