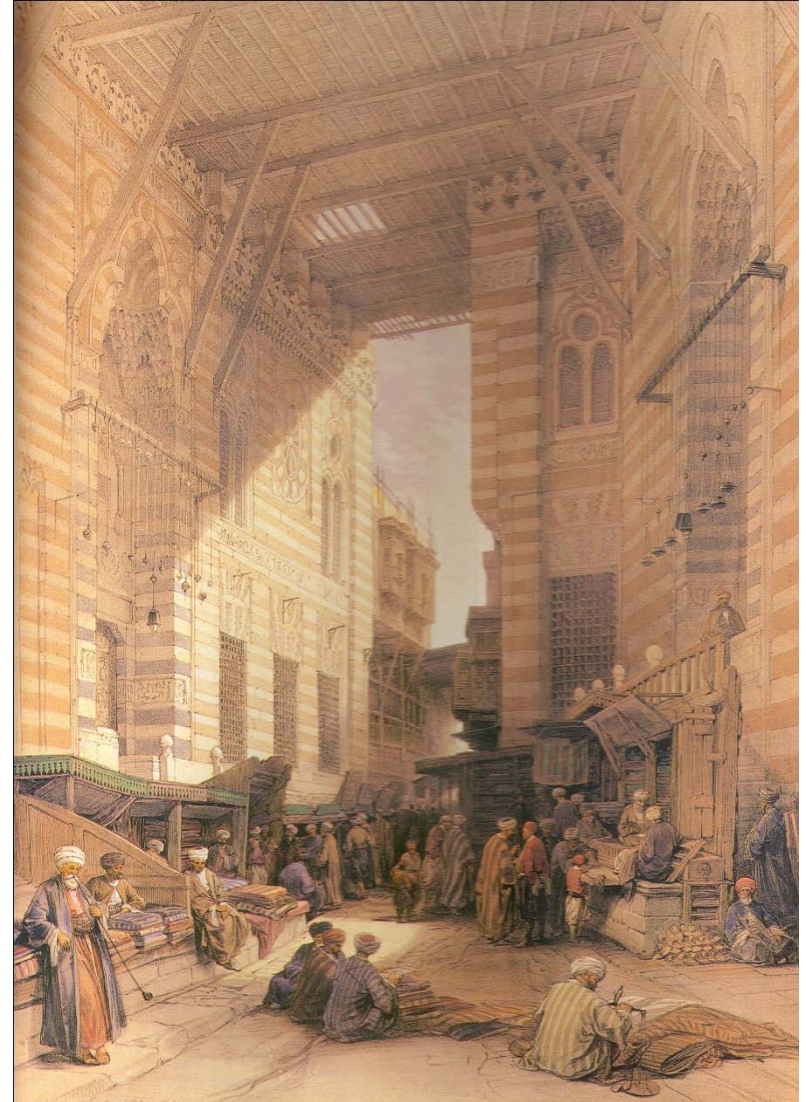


# *The Royal City of al-Qahira*



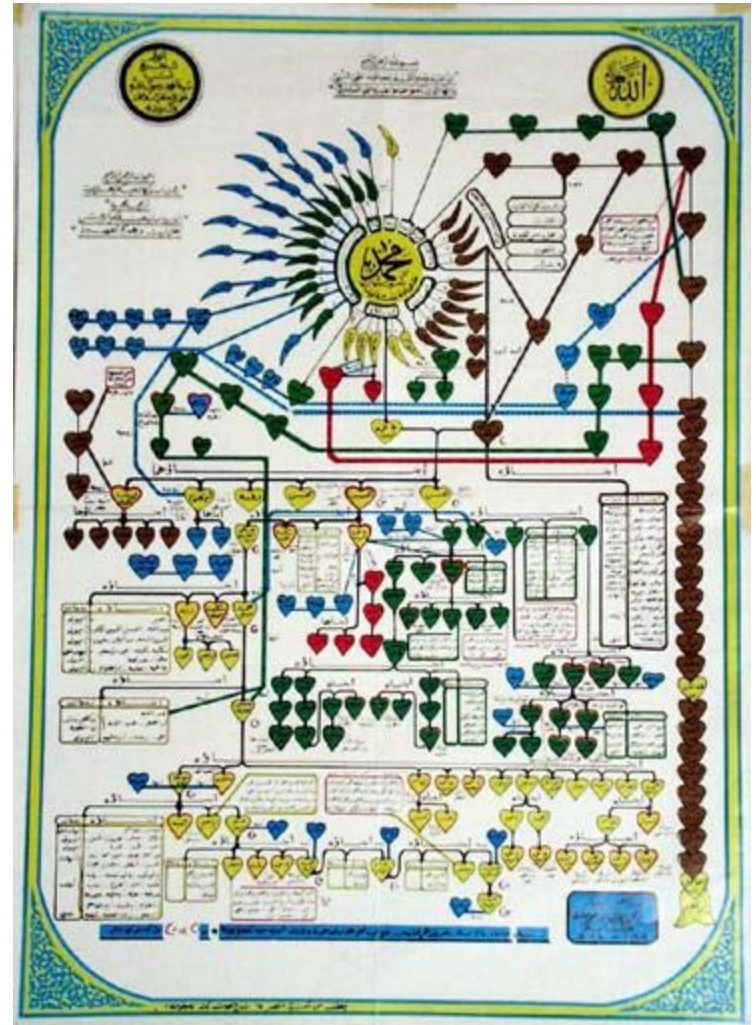
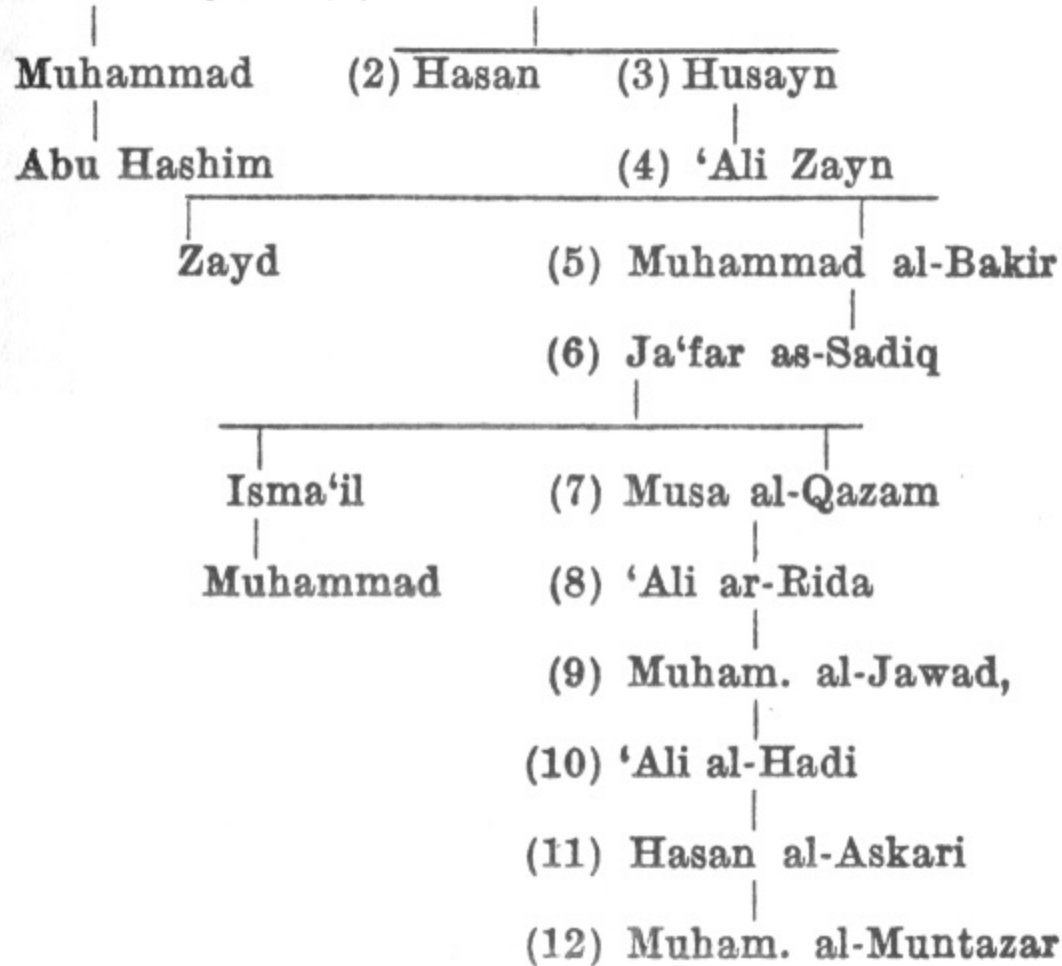
# The Fatimid Dynasty

- A Shi'i group of Ismai'li ("seveners") sect
- 909 dynasty established in N. Africa based in Mahdiyya (Tunisia) with support of Berber tribes - by Abdullah al-Mahdi
- 969 Conquer Egypt and establish rival caliphate based in al-Qahira
- Late 11<sup>th</sup> century control outside of Egypt challenged by Turks (Levant), Zirids and Banu Hilal (N. Africa)
- 12<sup>th</sup> c. Crusader threats
- 1169-1171 fall to the Ayyubid dynasty





al-Hanafiya + (1) 'Ali + Fatima



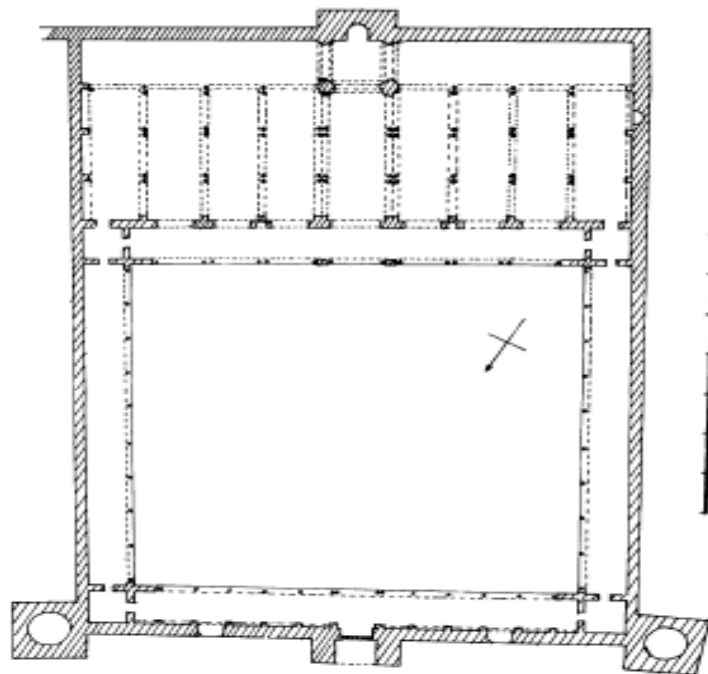


Fig. 4. Al-Mahdiyya. Mosque, Plan (after Lézine).



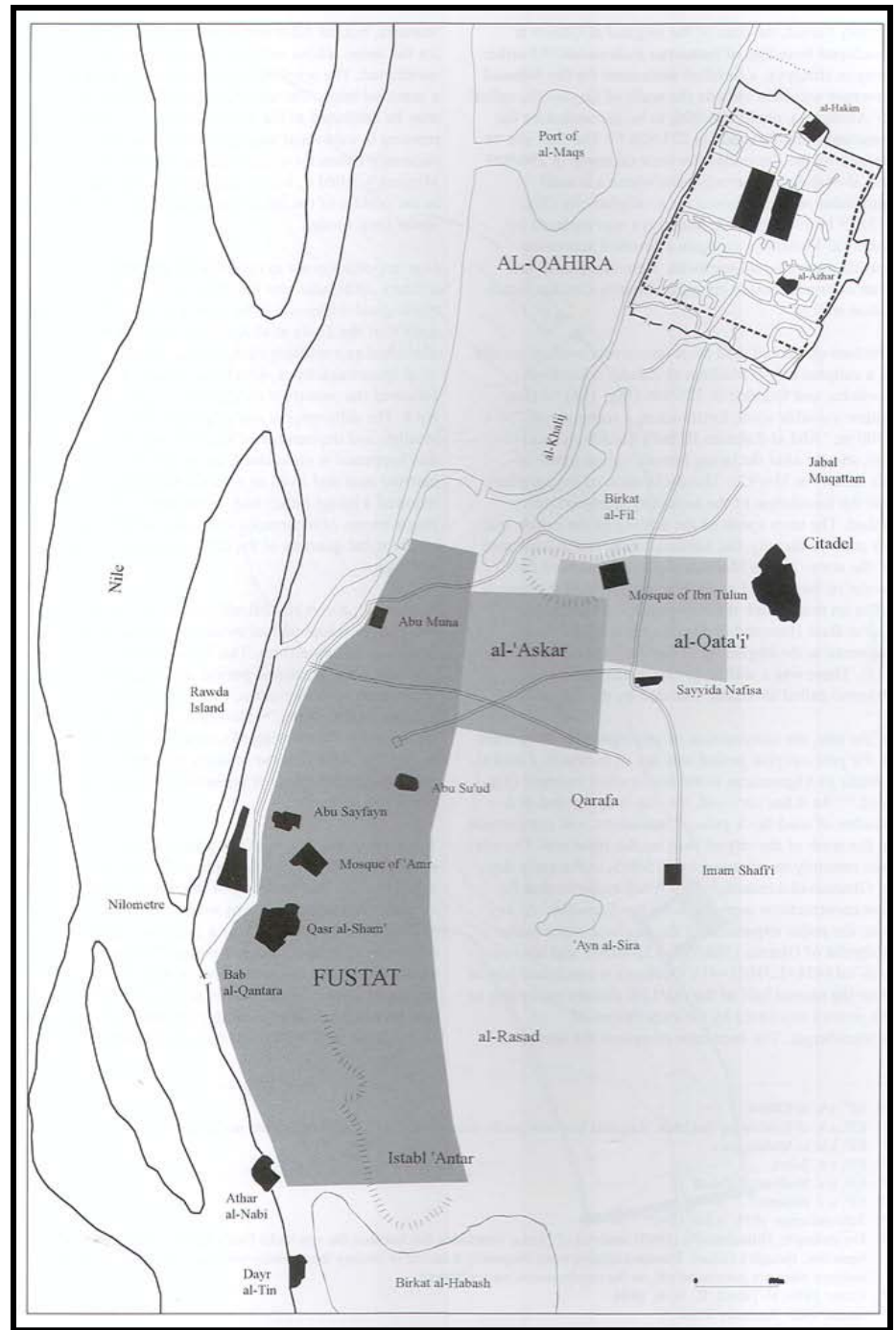
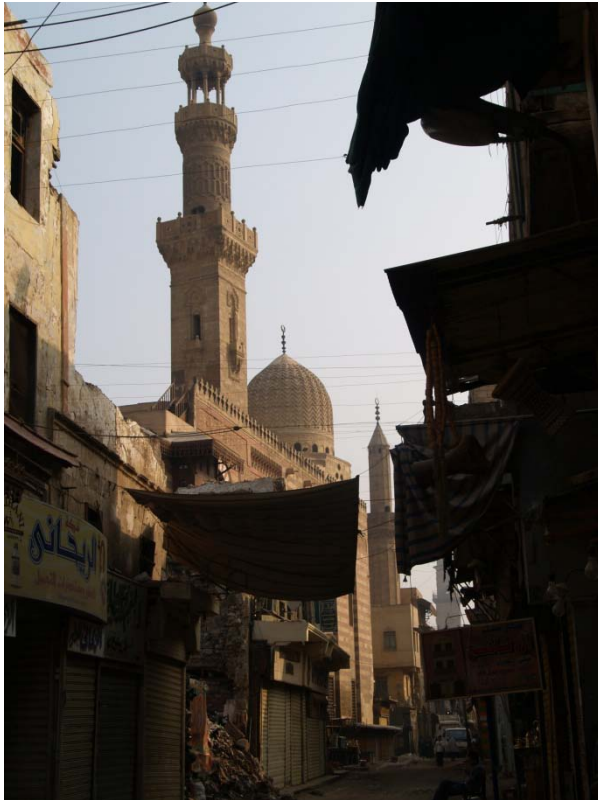
Plate 1. Al-Mahdiyya. Great Mosque. Portal. (Photo: J. Bloom.)



## Mahdiyya



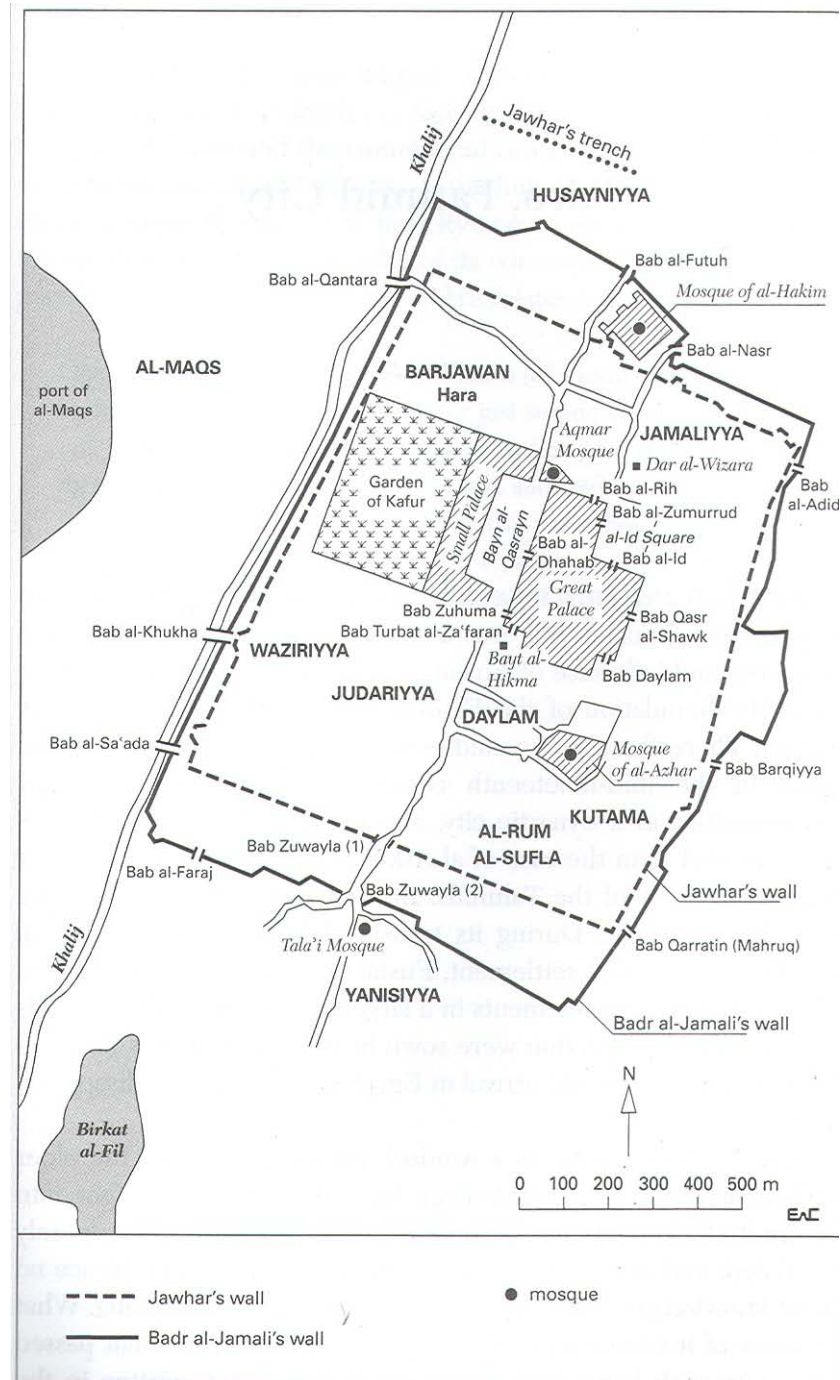
# Segregating the Ruling class from the Ruled





# Elements of the Fatimid Royal City

- Walls and Gates
- The role of the Palace
- Inscriptions
- Socio-spatial segregations
- Architectural branding and Shii identity





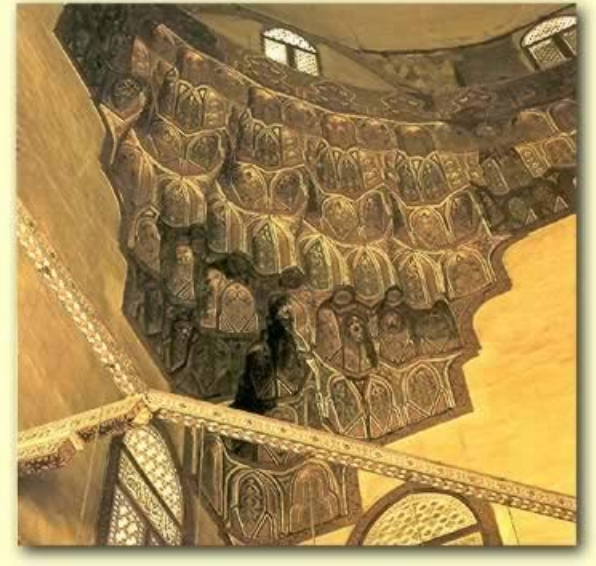
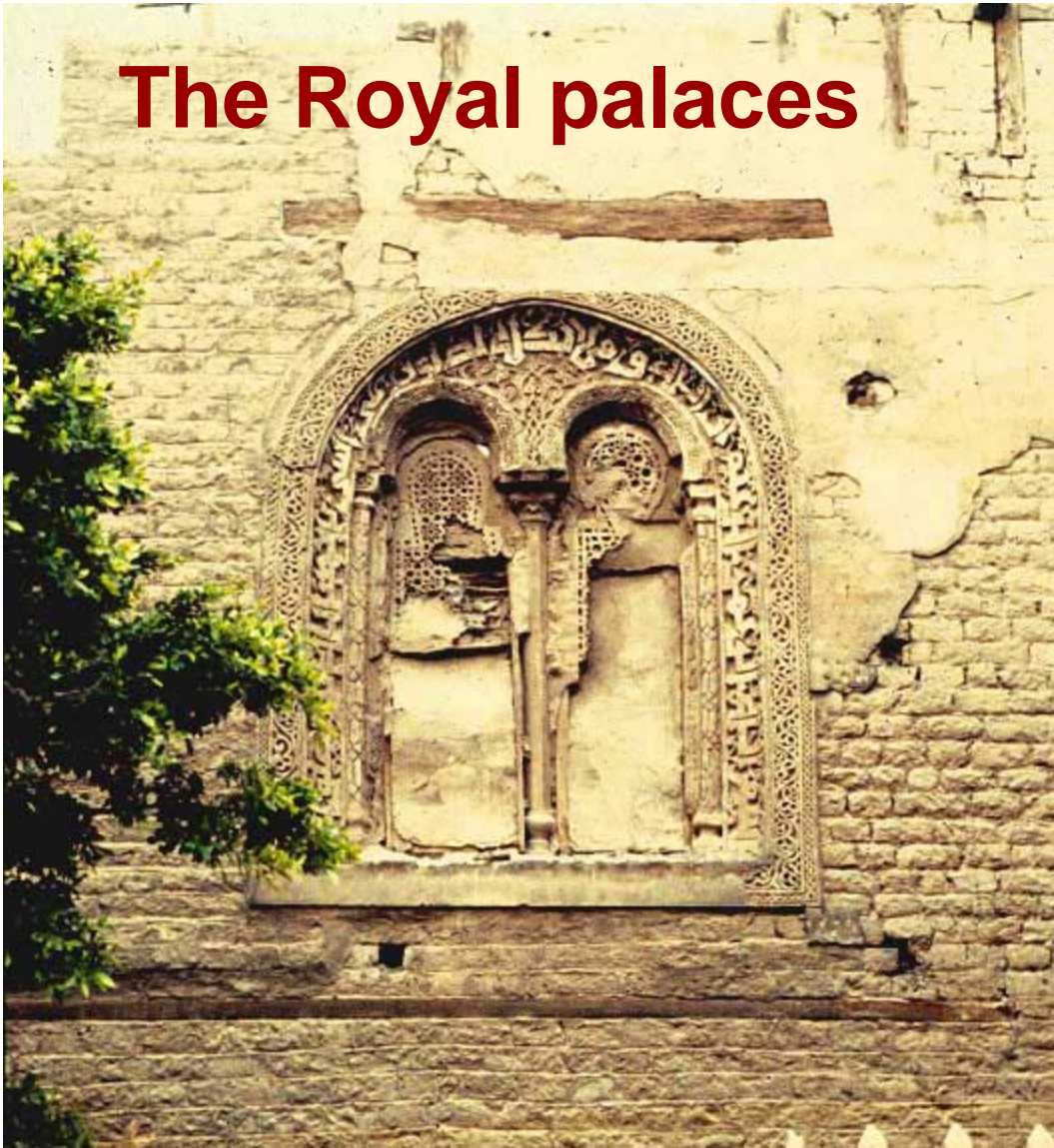
Bab Zuwayla (1092)



Bab al-Futuh (1087)

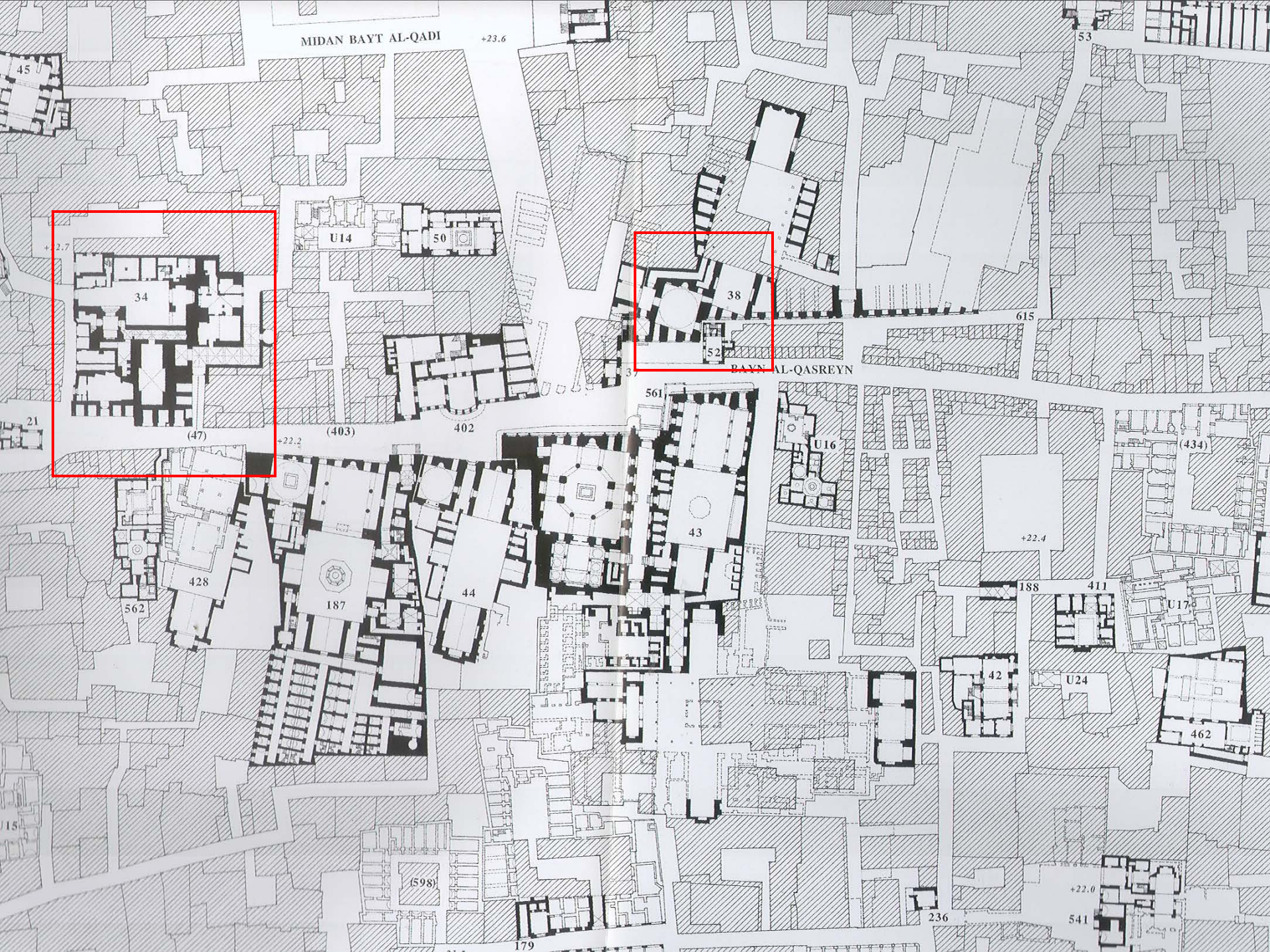


# The Royal palaces



A double-arched window from the Western Palace incorporated into the Bimaristan of al-Mansur Qalawun.

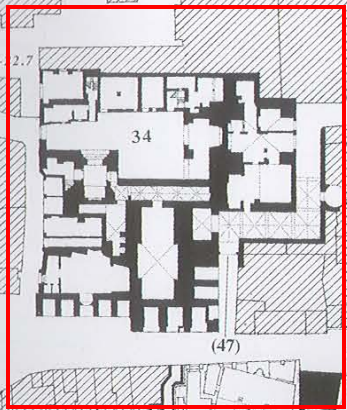




MIDAN BAYT AL-QADI

+23.6

53



U14

50

38

52

615

BAYN AL-QASREYN

561

U16

(434)

(47)

(403)

402

43

44

187

428

562

188

411

U17

42

U24

462

+22.0

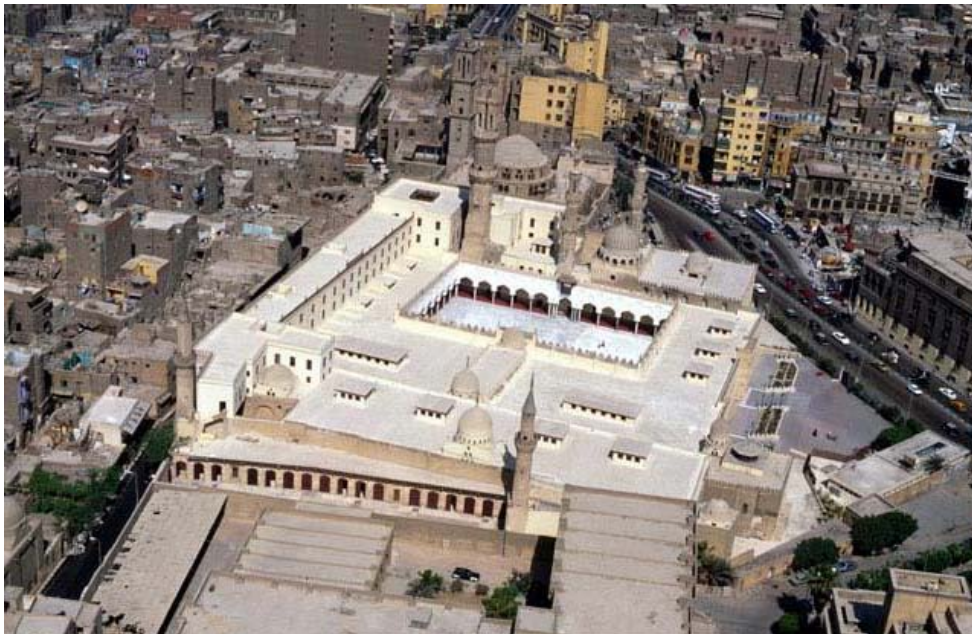
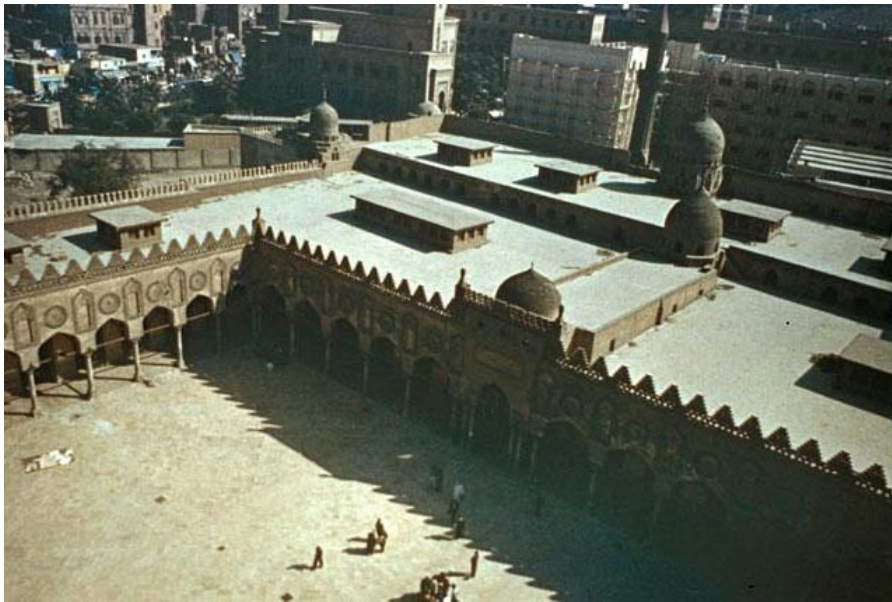
236

541

179

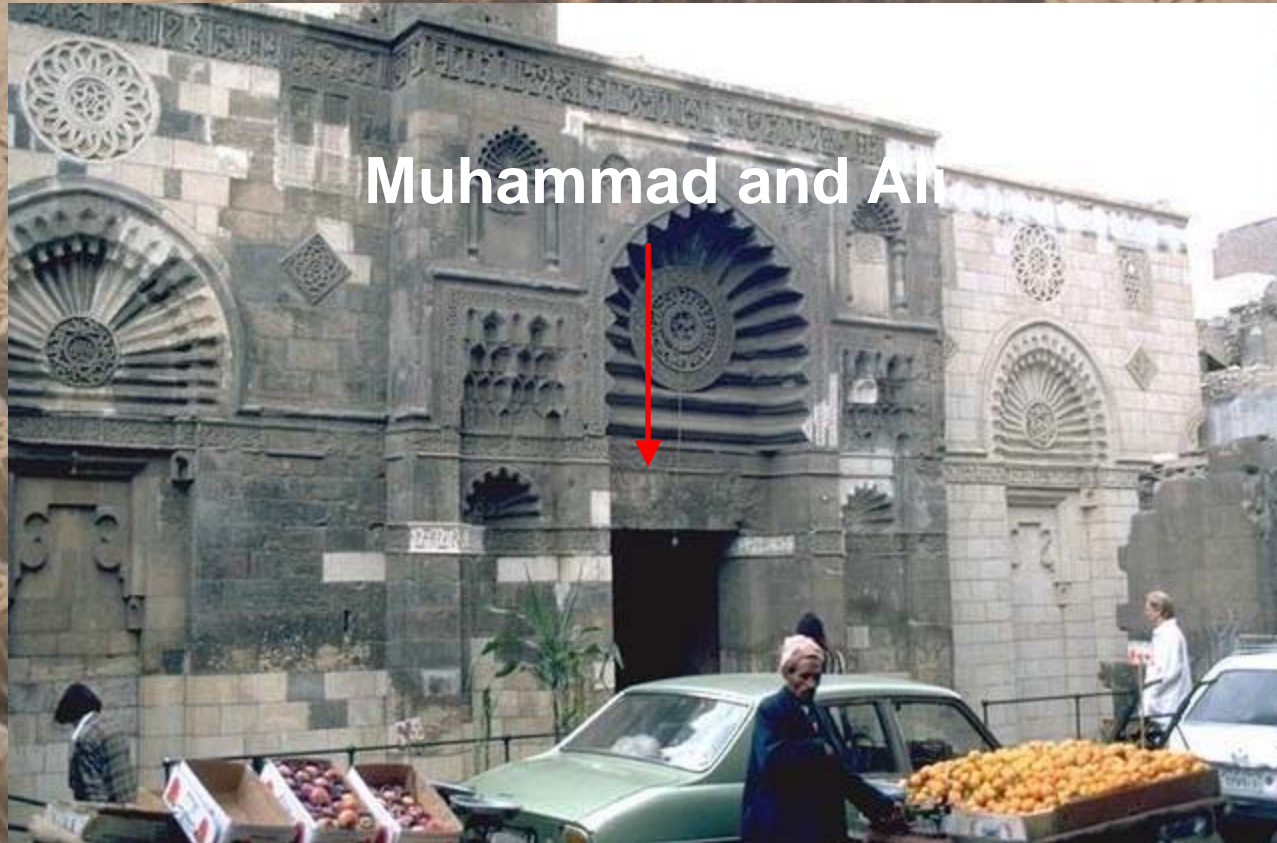


## Al-Azhar





# The Fatimid Public text



Muhammad and Ali

Al-Aqmar Mosque

“God only desires to take away uncleanness from you, Oh the People of the House” Qur'an 33:33



al-Muiz 969 CE



al-Aziz 978-9 CE

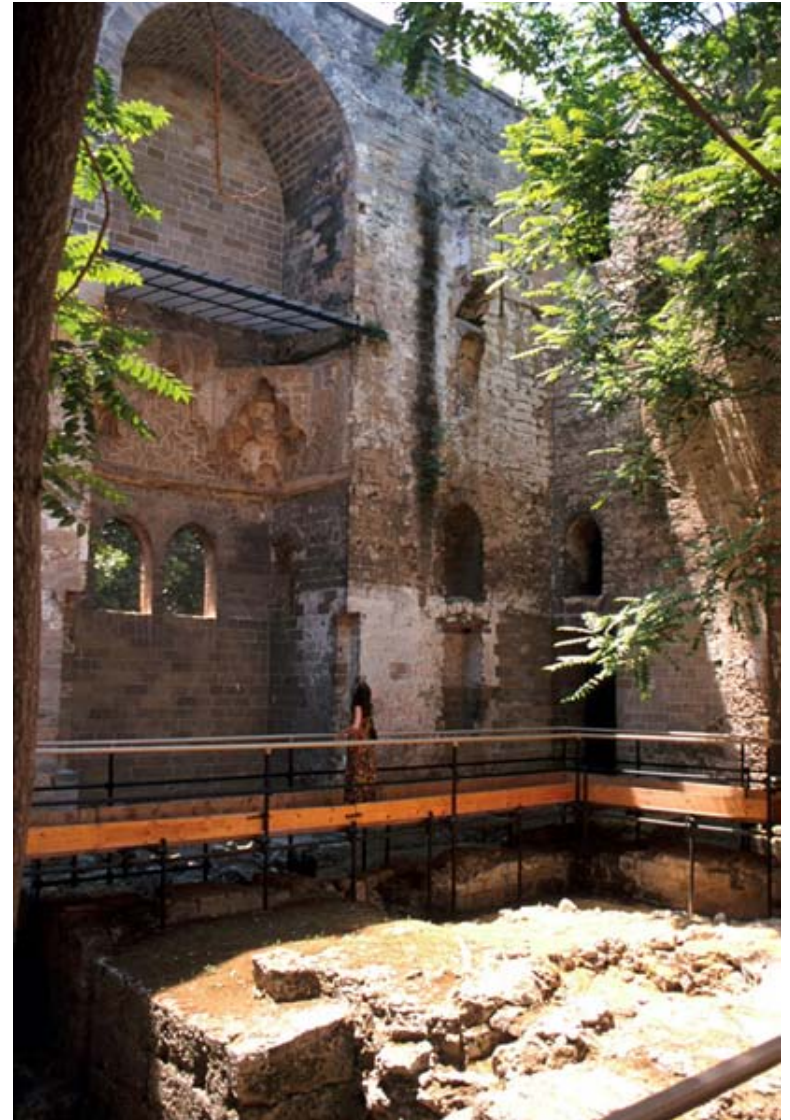
“Muhammad is the messenger of God who sent him with guidance and the religion of truth that he might make it supreme over all other religions, even though the polytheists may detest it.” Sura 9:33



# Architectural Influences Beyond Egypt



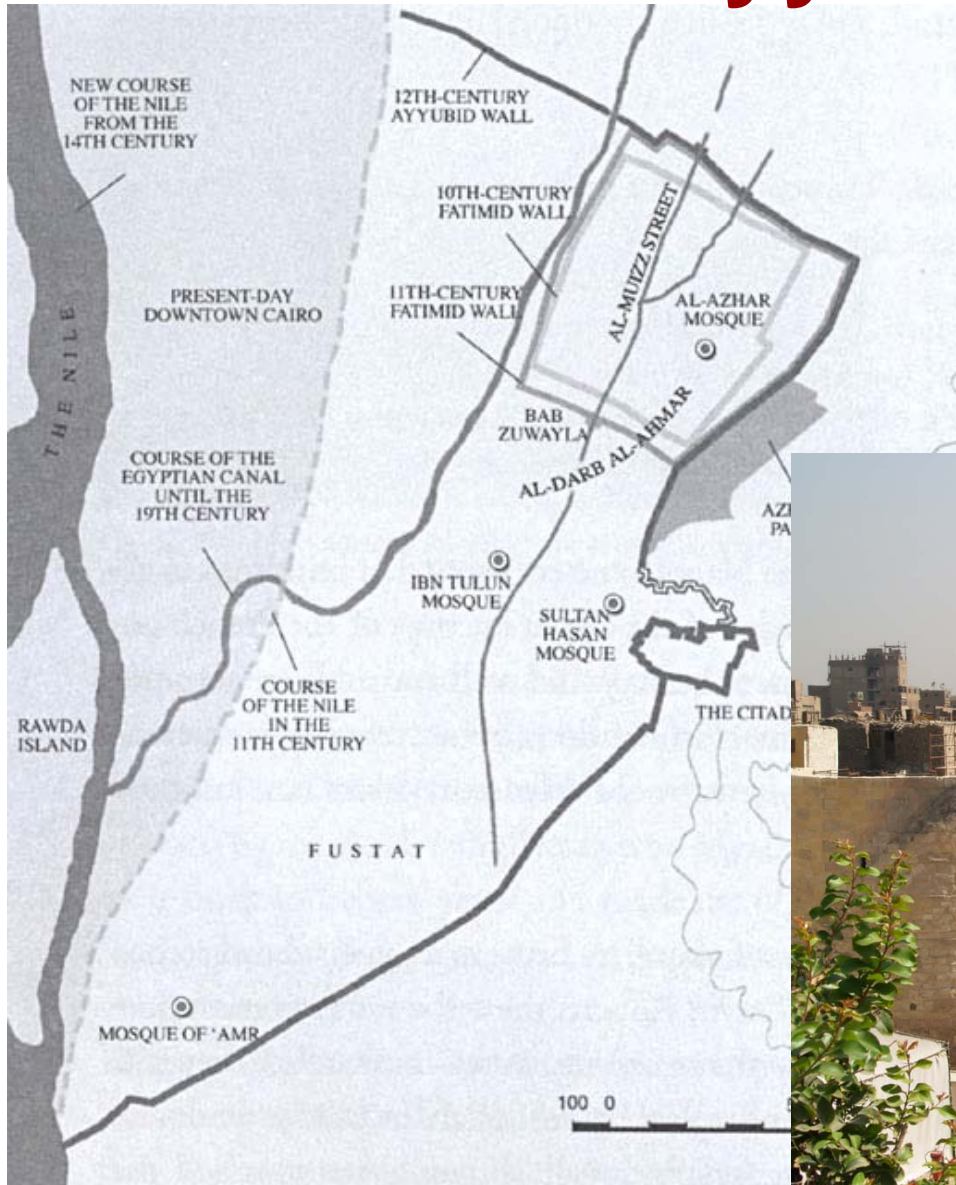
La Zisa Palace: Main Hall with Shadirwan and water channel.



La Cuba Palace: View of the Main Iwan



# The Ayyubid Wall







Exterior of the mosque of the wazir al-Tala'i





# A contemporary reinterpretation



Azhar park – Cairo 2007