

Abstract

Hotel + Garden

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Starting with a collection of images of hotels and gardens dating back to the Golden Age of Travel in Egypt, the diploma task has been to develop a architectonic proposal using the hotel as program. The intention of this diploma was never to create a replica of the Grand Egyptian Hotels, but rather use the images as a vocabulary for fascination and translation.

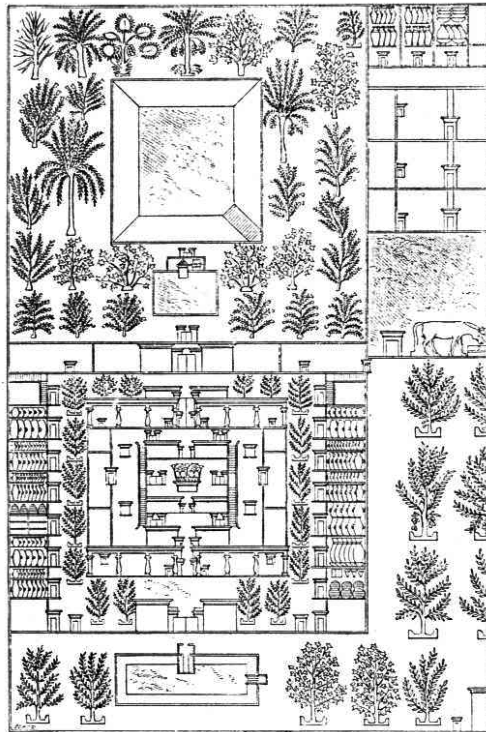
The final proposal is both a public monument and private shed placed in between the city and the sea located on the peninsula of the port city Alexandria in Egypt.

From the interior the hotel offers thirty two rooms distributed vertically in a repetitive system, in which each room has been arranged in such a manner that allows corner situations with two views. The rooms are comfortable in scale, offering a working table, a bed, a dining table, and a flower from the garden below. The horizontal cuts in the facade brings the outside in, and curtains give privacy when needed. When the guests are not seeking rest in their own space, the top floor invites for a dinner or a drink with the city as backdrop. On ground floor is the lobby, a small souvenirshop and a cafe with access to a terrace overlooking the harbour and the existing beach. In addition a banquet hall is available for events and gatherings. The interior non-symmetry breaks with the outer shell, which is perceived as a stamp with its strangely symmetric facade. From distance it appears as a otherworldly creature, intending to create identity in a city mostly built upon stories from the past.

The imagined garden follows the traces of the existing geographical lines, contemplating the existing wall, with the quality of framing, leading and protecting it from the hectic city life. The mural is not taller than 1.5 meter, allowing the crowns of plants and human activity inside to be in touch with the outer world. The character of the garden is something in between the artificial and the atmosphere of a wild jungle. In between species as the local palm, *white amaryllis* and other tropic seeds, chairs are floating freely using the flora as a carpet for interaction between locals and tourists.

The hotel and garden can be interpreted both as the final destination of the existing promenade or as a new port to the peninsula.

Two gestures from the past,
are intended to become seeds for a new beginning.



1 Stamp of the promenade in Alexandria
 2 Print of Ancient Egyptian Garden