

AquaTektur

Private Water – Beirut 2004 The Bathroom in the Dialogue of Cultures

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Nabil Gholam

1962 born in Beirut
1980–1986 École d'Architecture de Paris-Villemin,
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1983–1986 Studios FAR SARL, Fashion- und
Advertising Photography Studios in Paris
1986–1988 Columbia University, School of Archi-
tecture, Planning and Historical Preservation, New
York, Master of Science in Urban Planning
1988–1994 Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura in
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since 1994 nabil gholam architecture & planning
SARL in Beirut

Aram Yeretizian

1966 born in Beirut
1989 Bachelor of Architecture from the American
University of Beirut
1990–1997 architect at L'ARCH' in Nice
since 1999 partner at Prime Design in Beirut
since 2001 instructor at Notre Dame University
in Zouk Mosbeh
since 2002 Senior Architect at nabil gholam archi-
tecture & planning in Beirut

Foch 94, RL-Beirut



nabil gholam architecture & planning (RL)

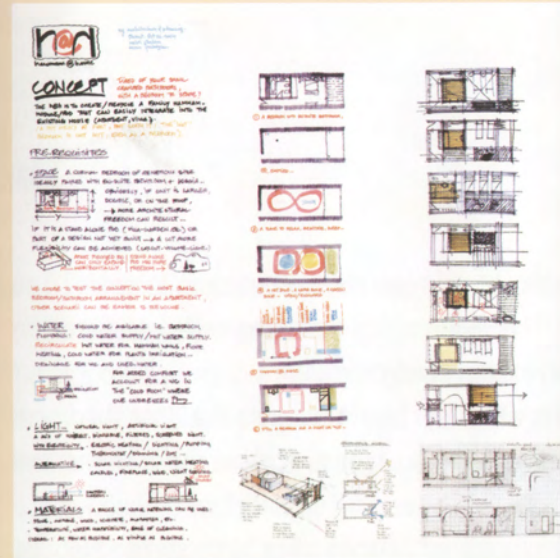
Today, nabil gholam architecture & planning is a cease-
lessly curious and enthusiastic team and is still engaged
in a perpetual process of questioning and experimenting.
It is continuously learning from every step and evolving,
remaining, committed to a set of core values focused on
delivering quality design and intelligent services in order
to enable the clients to achieve their goals.
Whether working on a complex master plan, a speciali-
zed building or a domestic object, nabil gholam architec-
ture & planning approaches the design process seam-
lessly through research and dialogue, talking into
account the broader social, cultural and economic con-
cern. Its principal guidelines are to secure optimal func-
tioning, to be ecologically sensitive, to integrate in an
intelligent way into the given environment, to ensure
that the systems are flexible and can evolve, and to find
simple solutions to complex problems.

Owner
Nabil Gholam

Projects	
Foch 94 Residential Development, Beirut	2004
Aqaba Hotel & Resort, Aqaba	2004
Apartment tower, BCD, Beirut	2002
Minsk Plaza, Victory Park, Minsk	2002

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Hamam at Home

Integration of a family hamam in an existing room layout is a central feature of the design created by Nabil Gholam and Aram Yeretian. This concept is based on the use of alternative energy sources. The concept is applied and explained on the basis of an average sized example of the space used.

Hamam at Home

Concept: Tired of your small cramped bathrooms and do you have a bedroom to spare? The H@H provides a solution to create a family hamam. This module/pod that can easily integrate into the existing house, apartment or villa by recycling an existing bedroom.

Although the process is a bit messy at first, it is worth the hassle because the “lost” bedroom is not lost, not even as a bedroom. The pre-requisites required in order to achieve this personalized hamam are:

Space: a normal bedroom of generous size ideally paired with en-suite bathroom and loggia. Obviously, if the unit is larger, is on two levels or on the roof, more architectural freedom is obtained. Consequently, this leads to more interesting spatial configurations. A lot more flexibility in terms of layout, volume and light can be achieved if it is a stand along pod, as can be found in a villa-garden, etc.

Water: a conventional source of bathroom plumbing should be available, i.e. cold and hot water supply. For added comfort we have accounted for a WC in the “tepid room” where one undresses. We also propose to re-circulate hot water for the piping in the hamam walls and under-floor heating. Cold water can be re-used for plants’ irrigation and as drainage for the WC.

Light: Carefully studied natural light will achieve the best spatial and spiritual setting. If it is not available, then artificial light or a mixture of indirect, dimmable, filtered and screened light can be proposed to render interesting settings.

Materials: A range of noble materials such as stone, marble, wood, concrete, alabaster, etc. will be used in to order to enhance the tactile sense. Electric heating, temperature as well as lighting control can be replaced by alternative energy sources such as solar lighting, solar water heating, candles and possibly a fireplace. Other passive strategies such as natural ventilation and night cooling can provide a pleasing, comforting effect.

For the intent of this workshop, we choose to test the concept on the most basic bedroom/bathroom/loggia arrangement in an apartment. The following sketches illustrate the options and possibilities that are investigated.

FRE-REQUISITES

• **SPACE** A NORMAL BEDROOM OF GENEROUS SIZE IDEALLY PAIRED WITH EN-SUITE BATHROOM + KITCHEN...



OBVIOUSLY, IF UNIT IS LARGER, DOUBLE, OR ON THE ROOF, → MORE ARCHITECTURAL FREEDOM CAN RESULT...

IF IT IS A STAND ALONE POD (VILLA-GARDEN.EG.) OR PART OF A DESIGN NOT YET BUILT → A LOT MORE FLEXIBILITY CAN BE ACHIEVED (LAYOUT-VOLUME-LIGHT...)



WE CHOSE TO TEST THE CONCEPT ON THE MOST BASIC BEDROOM/BATHROOM ARRANGEMENT IN AN APARTMENT, OTHER SCENARIOS CAN BE EASIER TO RESOLVE.

• **WATER** SHOULD BE AVAILABLE I.E. BATHROOM PUMPING: COLD WATER SUPPLY / HOT WATER SUPPLY. RECIRCULATE HOT WATER FOR HAMAM WALLS, FLOOR HEATING, COLD WATER FOR PLANTS IRRIGATION... DRAINAGE FOR WC AND USED WATER.



FOR ADDED COMFORT WE ACCOUNT FOR A WC IN THE "COLD ROOM" WHERE ONE UNDRASSES

• **LIGHT**... NATURAL LIGHT, ARTIFICIAL LIGHT A MIX OF INDIRECT, DIMMABLE, FILTERED, SCREENED LIGHT. WITH ELECTRICITY... ELECTRIC HEATING / LIGHTING / PUMPING THERMOSTAT / DIMMING / DIMS...

ALTERNATIVE... SOLAR LIGHTING / SOLAR WATER HEATING CAULDS, FIREPLACE, WIND, NIGHT COOLING...



• **MATERIALS** A RANGE OF NOBLE MATERIALS CAN BE USED: STONE, MARBLE, WOOD, CONCRETE, ALUMINUM, ETC. TEMPERATURE, WATER COMPATIBILITY, EASE OF CLEANING. OVERALL: AS FINE AS POSSIBLE, AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE.

Numerous considerations and ideas about space, water, light and materials were applied to the design of a hamam concept, which can be integrated in an average sized one-room apartment with bathroom.



① A BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE BATHROOM,



②...EMPTY...



③ A PLACE TO RELAX, MEDITATE, SLEEP...



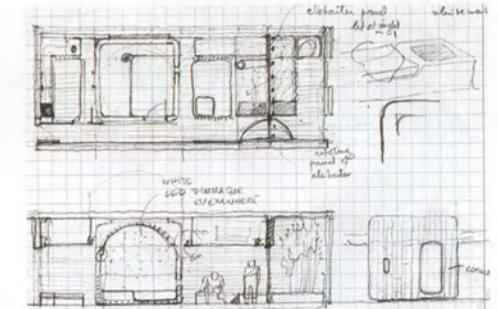
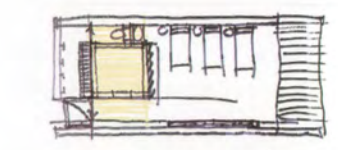
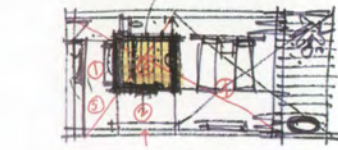
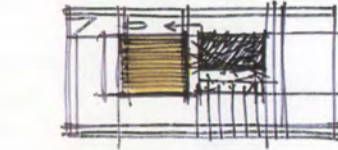
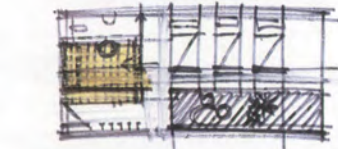
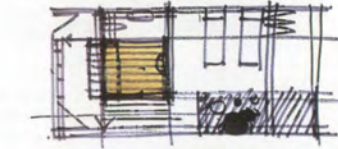
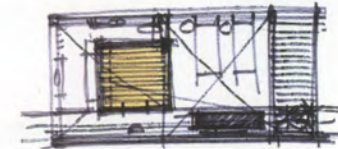
④ A HOT BONE, A WARM BONE, A GREEN BONE - OPEN/ENCLOSED



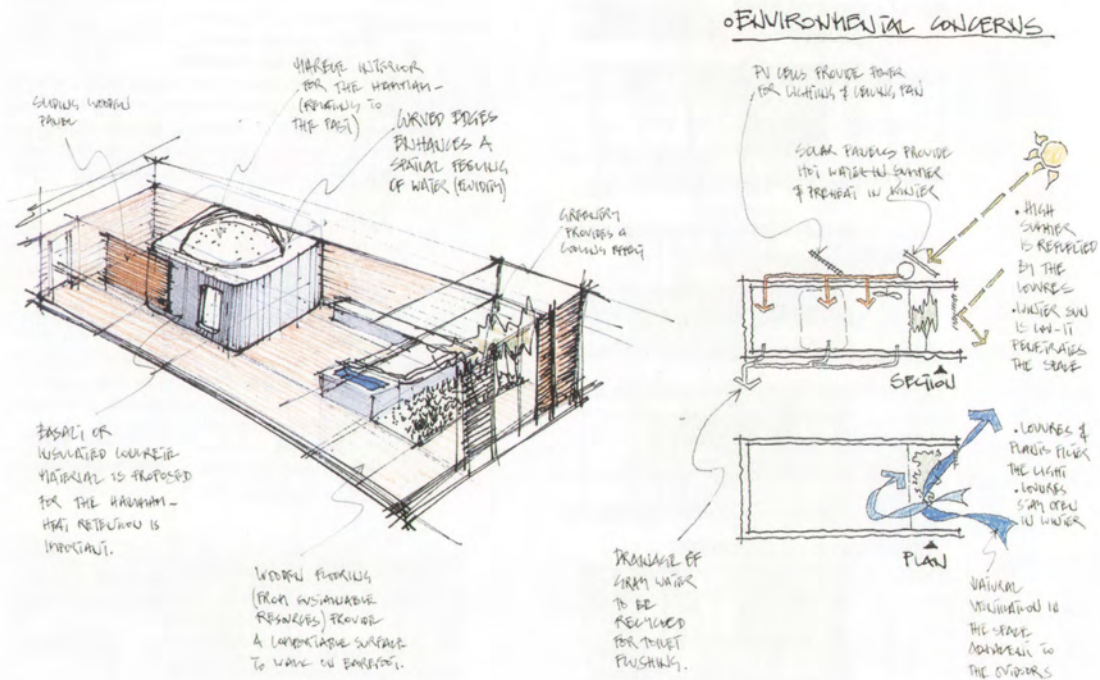
⑤ HAMAM @ HOME



⑥ STILL A BEDROOM FOR A NIGHT OR TWO -



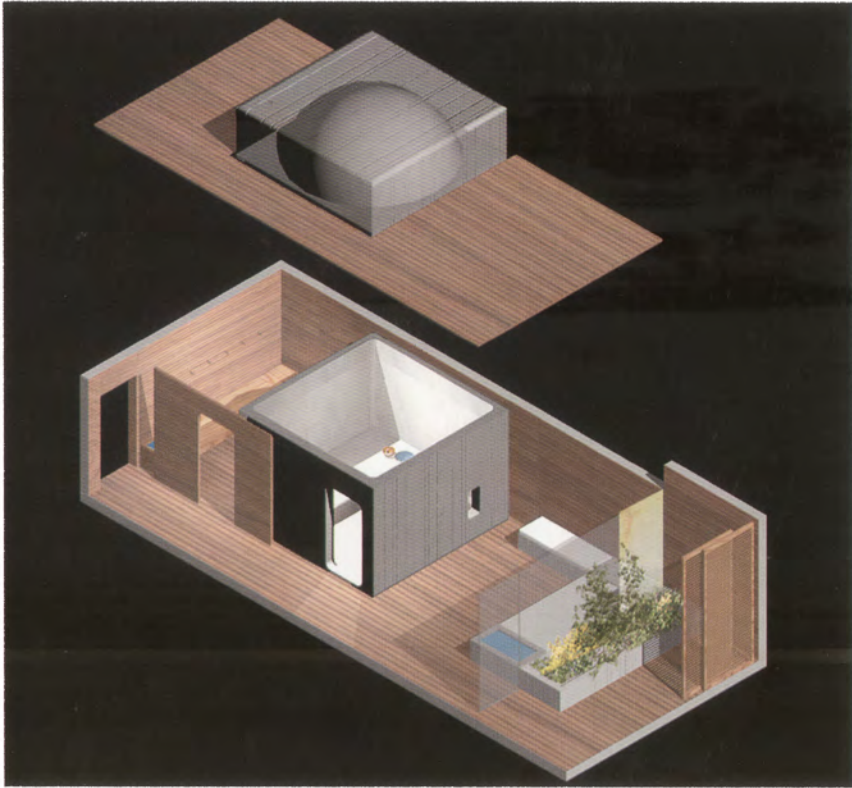
The hand sketches document the stages in which the architects approached their goal. In the end, a hamam, a resting and washing area, is to be capable of being integrated in an existing apartment with a loggia.



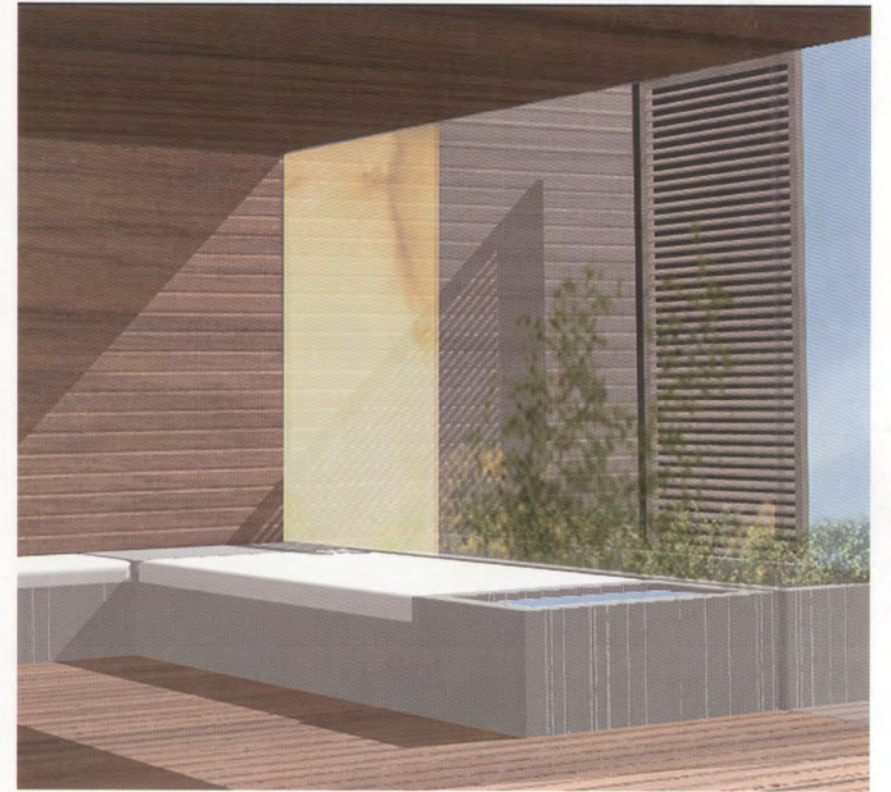
The envisaged materials are, for example, marble, alabaster, wood and stone. In addition, re-use of the warm and cold wastewater and the use of alternative energies are taken into consideration.



When you enter the apartment, the changing room is on the left-hand side and, behind it, there is the hamam. In the last third of the room, there is a rest area with a view of and access to the loggia.



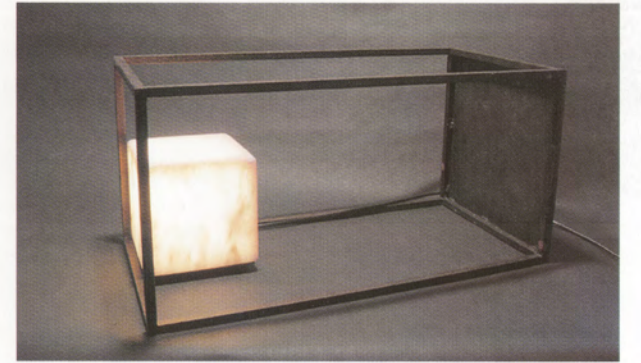
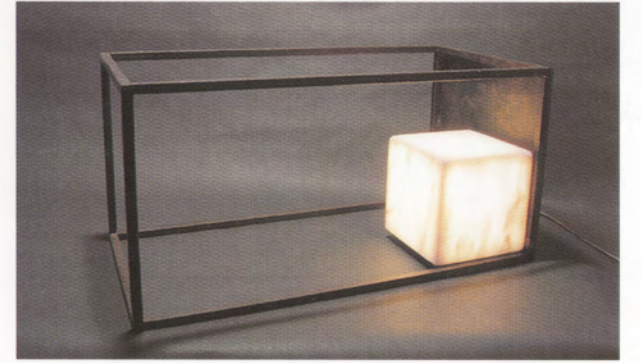
Natural light can enter the room through the glass front and an alabaster surface. The result is a pleasing spatial light effect.



The original function as bedroom has not been lost in the new concept. The seating surfaces in the rest area can be used for sleeping at any time.



An interesting scenery is created by the light installations which are integrated in the domed ceiling of the hamam and are composed of direct and diffuse dimmable LEDs.



In order to test the effect of backlit natural stones and to reconsider the proportions of how the space is divided up, fixtures were arranged by Ana Corberó.