



Jafar TUKAN

Jafar Tukan has been one of the leaders of the architectural movement in Jordan for the past three decades. He is now the Chief Architect and Chairman at Consolidated Consultants. Jafar Tukan has extensive and distinguished design experience in various parts of the Arab world, Asia, and Africa covering all types of projects ranging from residential apartments and villas, to recreational, civic, touristic and industrial buildings. Mr. Tukan has also a notable experience in town planning, renovation and restoration of historic buildings and sites.

In May 2011 Jafar was decorated by King Abdullah II of Jordan with Al Hussein Distinguished Performance Medal of the First Order. Earlier, In March 2010 and on the occasion of 50 years of practicing architecture, the Jordanian Engineering Association presented Jafar Tukan with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to the architectural profession in Jordan.

JAFAR TUKAN

Iconic Public Buildings in Amman by Jafar Tukan

Text by **Roula Dahdaleh**

Great cities are mainly recognized by their great public buildings, and Amman has been fortunate to boast a large number of public buildings designed by Jafar Tukan.

In 1994, Jafar Tukan was commissioned by the Amman Municipality to prepare a master plan for a new development in down town Amman on reclaimed land built over the seasonal stream (Amman Seil) which lies 1.5km to the south west of the Roman historic part of Amman which hosts the Roman Amphitheater, the Odeon and the Nymphaeam. The requirement was to develop the serpentine shaped 125,000m² land about 1.3km long and an average of 97m wide into the new cultural City Center of Amman which will encompass the National Museum, Amman City Hall, Al Hussein Cultural Center and the Amman Municipality offices.

The masterplan was designed to include a welcoming plaza at the west corner of the site from the direction of the historic city center which leads to the national museum, and through a series of gardens to the City Hall and on to the Cultural Center ending with the landscape garden at the far east of the site.

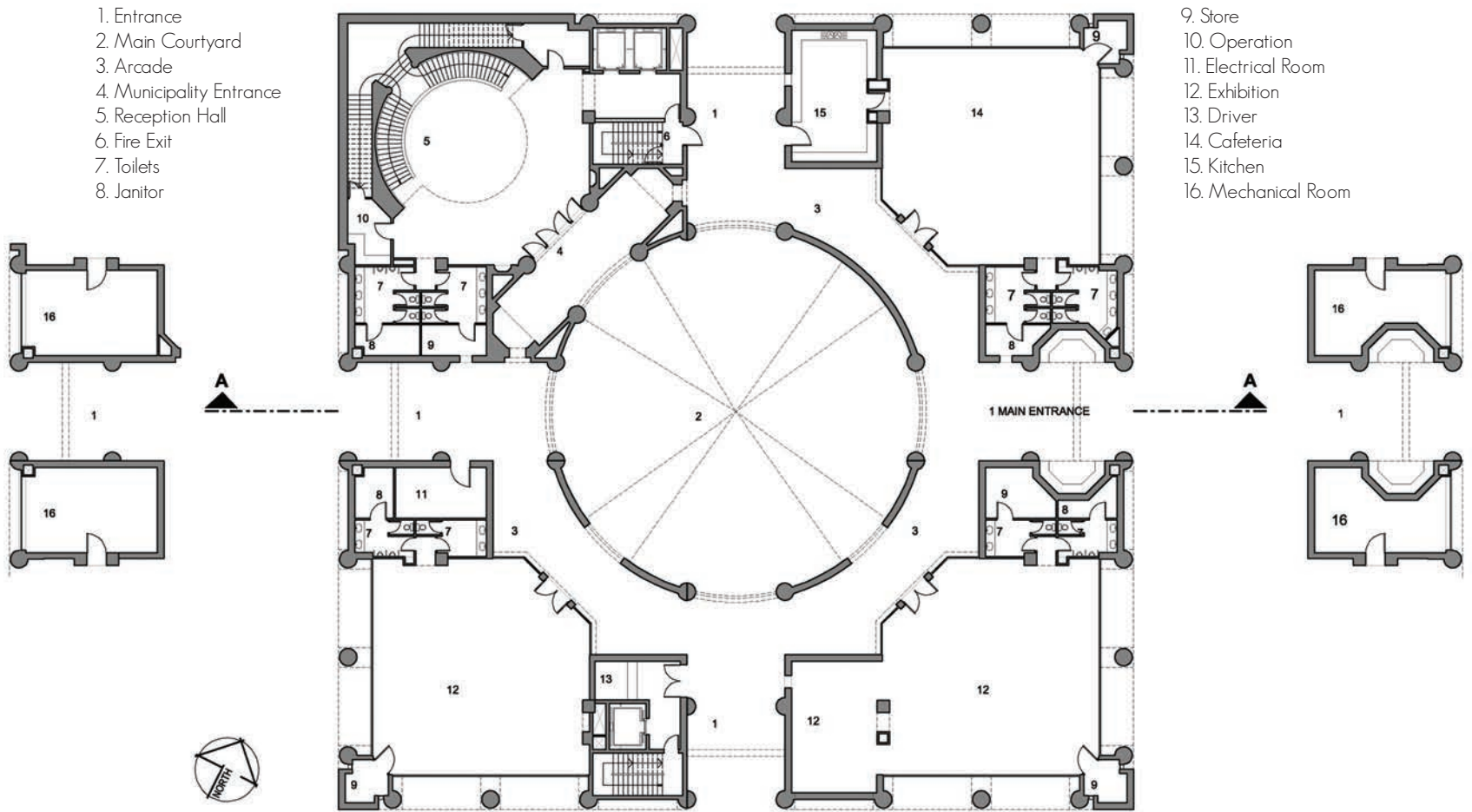
THE CITY HALL

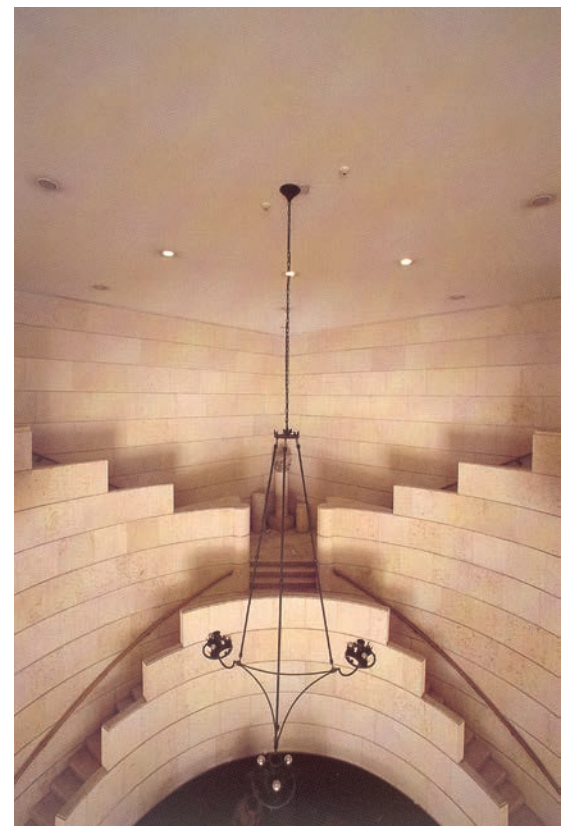
In 1996, the Amman Municipality commissioned Jafar Tukan and Raseem Badran, Jordan's two prominent Aga Khan Award winning architects to design the Amman City Hall. The architectural layout of the building was developed in line with the master plan conceptual guidelines. The City Hall was designed as a 45x45 m square building with a circular shaped courtyard which was open from the four corners at the ground level to allow public gathering from the four sides of the city.

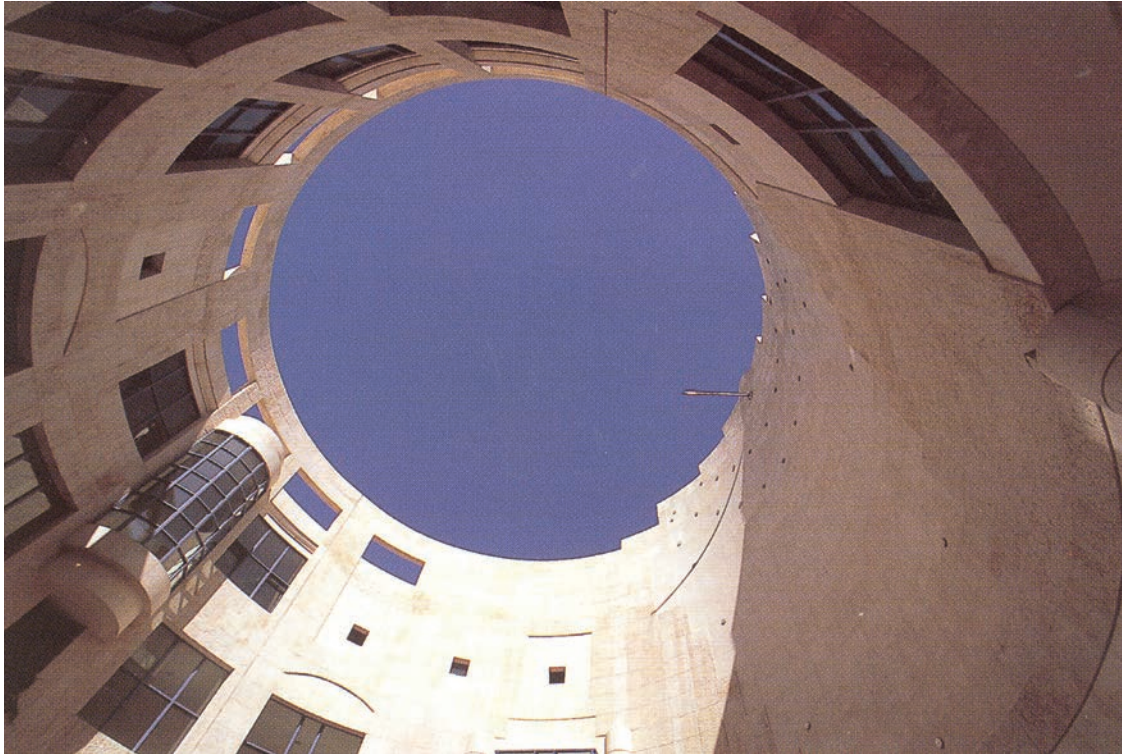
The building stands majestically in the city and is recognized as one of Amman's cherished buildings for the welcoming effect it conveys by the mere composition of the openness and the interaction that happens between the citizens of Amman, joined from all its parts, and the Mayor whose seat is in this building.

The ground floor has four separate quadrants, two temporary exhibition halls, the cafeteria and the main entrance hall to the upper levels of building. The main entrance is characterized by a ceremonial stairs leading to the second floor. The second floor includes an auditorium and offices. The third floor houses the office of the Mayor and the Amman City Council members' offices and meeting rooms.







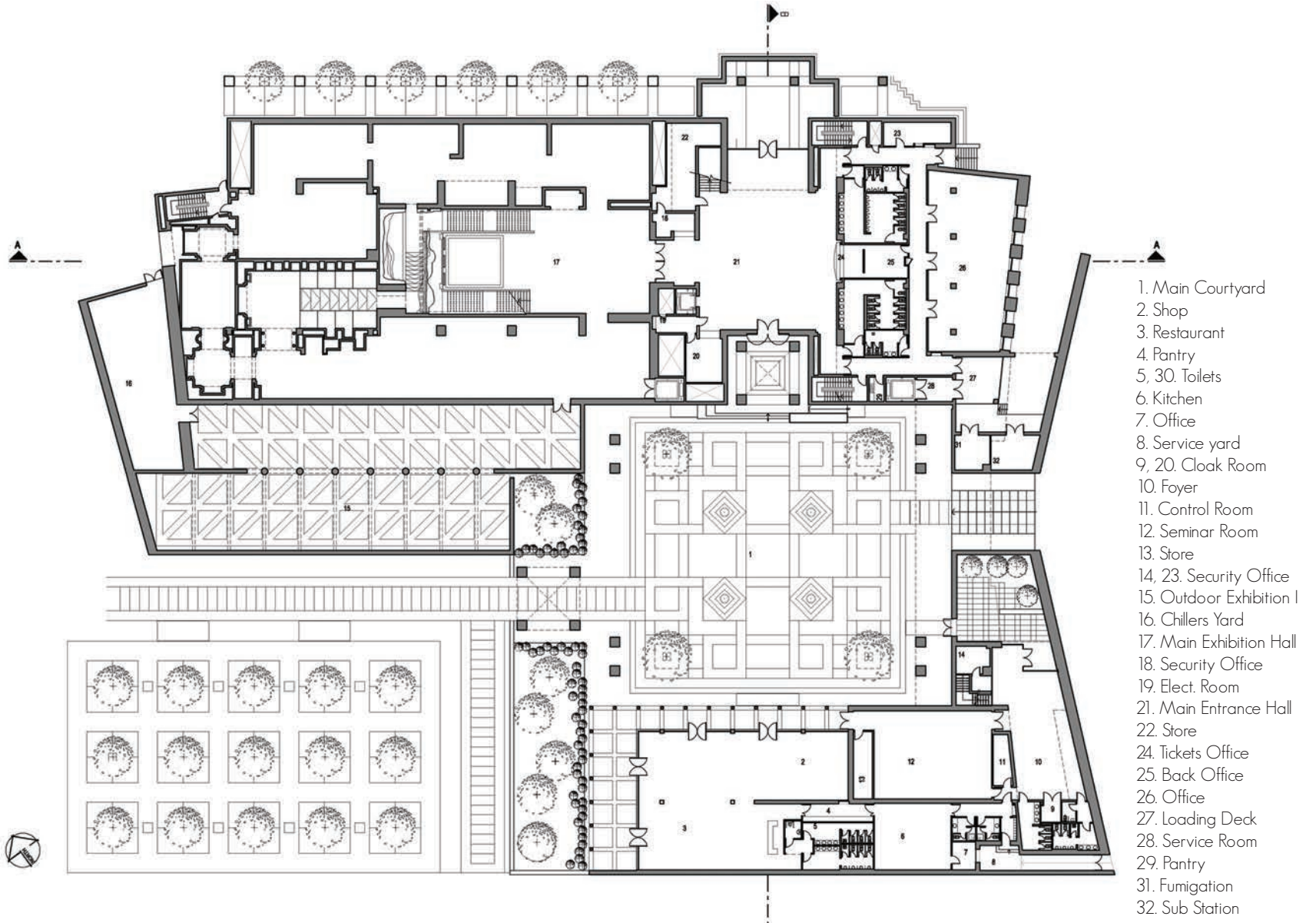


THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

In 1999, Jafar Tukan was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency JICA to design the National Museum. This was one of many projects funded by the Government of Japan to develop the tourism sector in Jordan. The land allocated for the museum was donated by the Amman Municipality within the New Amman Cultural City Center west of the Amman City Hall and the Municipality building. The design brief called for a building that should showcase Jordan's rich history and culture from the prehistoric ages all the way to the modern ages and the establishment of the Kingdom of Jordan. The interior spaces needed to be flexible and simple to highlight the importance of the exhibits.

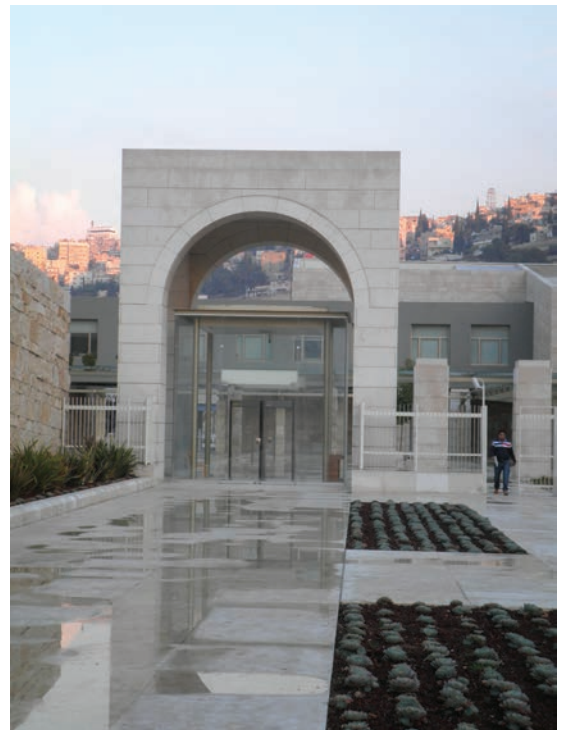
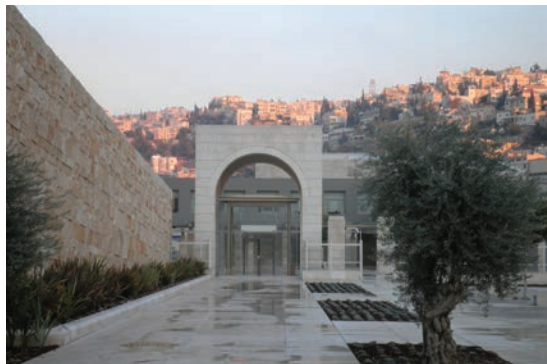
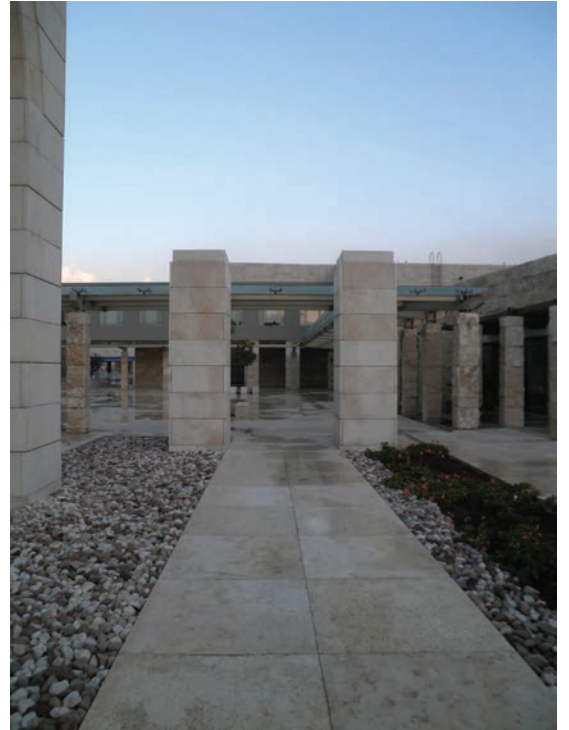
The project is composed of two main masses, the museum on one side and the museum shop and cafeteria on the other side. The two masses create a ceremonial outdoor plaza which might be used for outdoor exhibits as required. The two buildings are connected by a bridge at the first floor level. The main inspiration for the elevations came from the earth stratum that is so visible in many parts of hilly Amman as the mountains sides are carved and exposed where new roads and structures are being built. Jafar felt that borrowing on this reference would provide a symbolic illusion to the visitor that beyond these walls lie the riches of Jordan. The building features rough stone walls that are inclined at a soft angle with simple bold layered masses. As the masses rise in height, the stone becomes softer and chiseled to represent the development of man and the better use of tools. The building culminates with a cube glass atrium which represents the current age that we live in and the technological evolution of man throughout the ages.

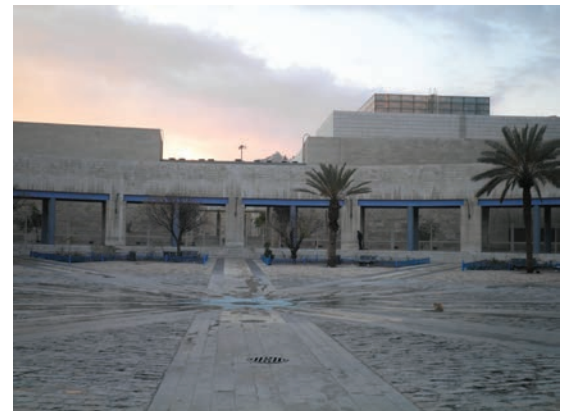
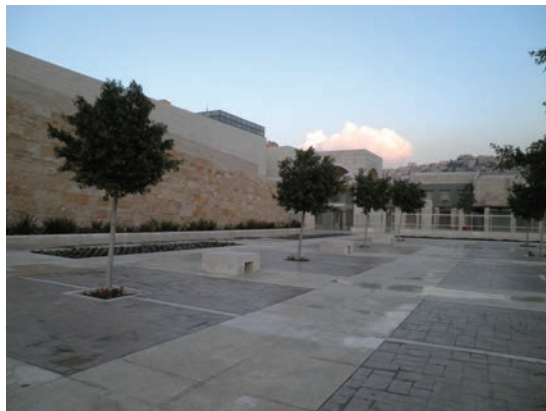




- 1. Main Courtyard
- 2. Shop
- 3. Restaurant
- 4. Pantry
- 5. 30. Toilets
- 6. Kitchen
- 7. Office
- 8. Service yard
- 9. 20. Cloak Room
- 10. Foyer
- 11. Control Room
- 12. Seminar Room
- 13. Store
- 14, 23. Security Office
- 15. Outdoor Exhibition I
- 16. Chillers Yard
- 17. Main Exhibition Hall
- 18. Security Office
- 19. Elect. Room
- 21. Main Entrance Hall
- 22. Store
- 24. Tickets Office
- 25. Back Office
- 26. Office
- 27. Loading Deck
- 28. Service Room
- 29. Pantry
- 31. Fumigation
- 32. Sub Station

Ground floor plan



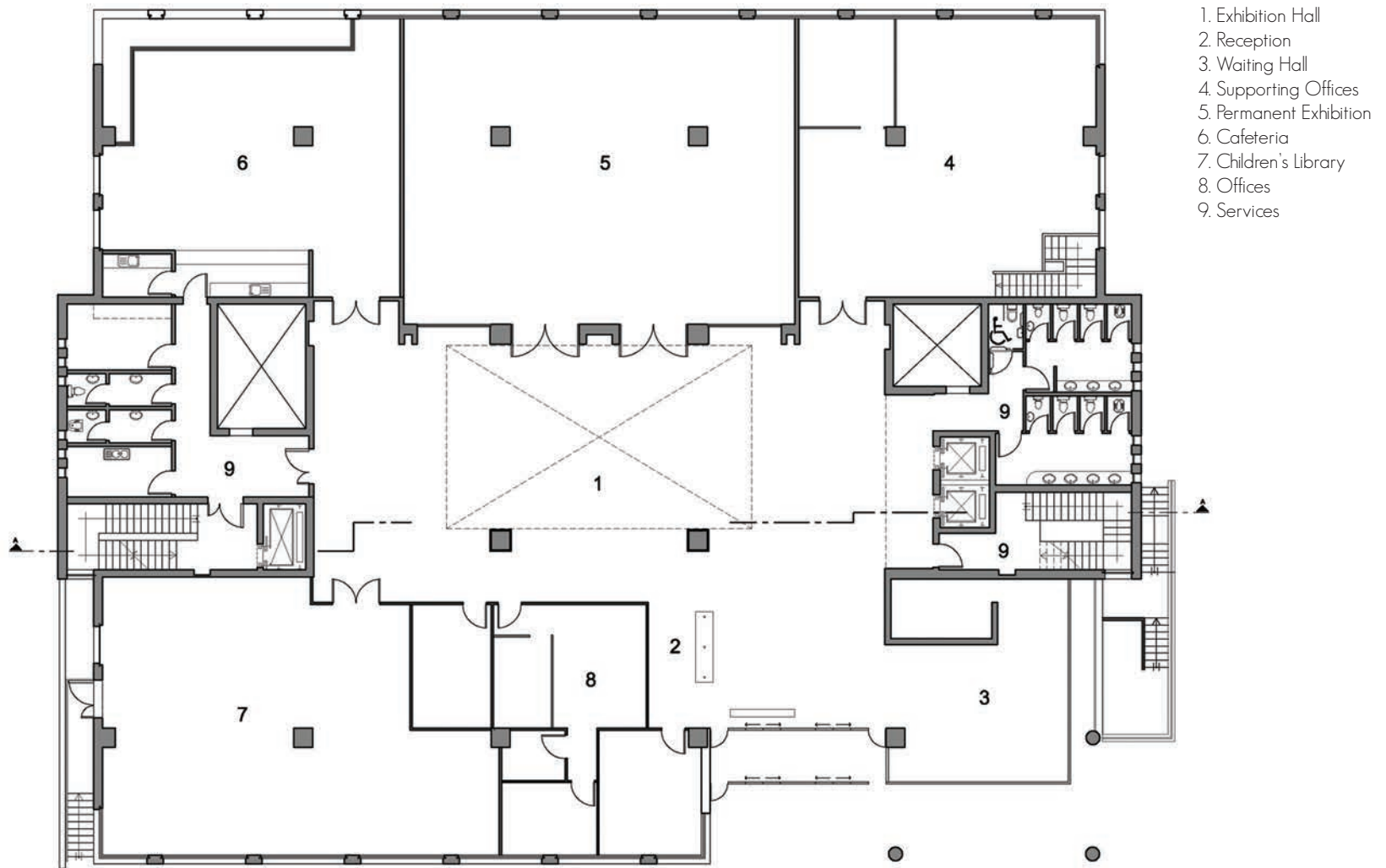


THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

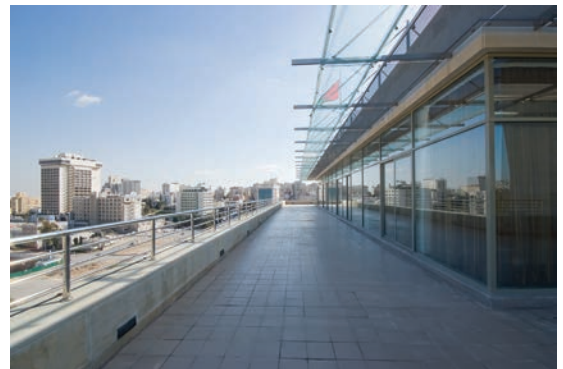
In 2004 Jafar Tukan was commissioned by Ministry of Culture to design the National Library which houses all the public manuscripts, periodicals, photographs, recordings, videotapes, and other materials relevant to the National Jordanian Heritage in particular and to the Arab and Islamic world in general. The project selected for the site is a prominent location in the city of Amman in vicinity of the Amman Cultural Center within Al Hussein Sports City complex and opposite the Ministry of Interior.

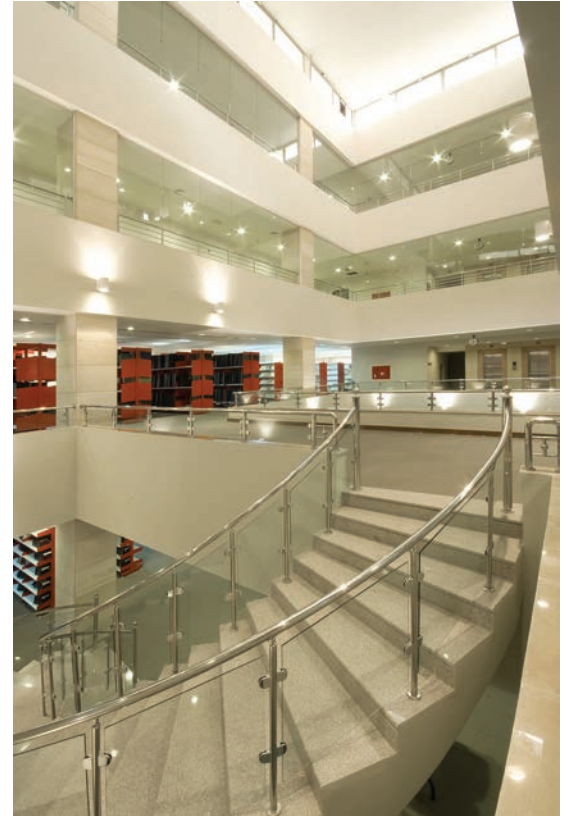
The design challenge is to provide a safe and secure place for the unique manuscripts housed in the building, yet provide an inviting and open building so that the public are encouraged to visit and refer to the publicly accessible official documents. The design is a simple rectangular shaped six storey building. The main feature of the elevations are the dominant horizontal slit window which provide the required secure spaces and plenty of natural lighting in all public and reading spaces. The proportions of the horizontality of the opening which are further emphasized as continuous openings at the corners of the building give the National Library a distinct architectural expression. The relatively solid stone mass is offset by major glass openings in steel at the ground and roof levels.





Ground floor plan





THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM AND THE CULTURAL VILLAGE

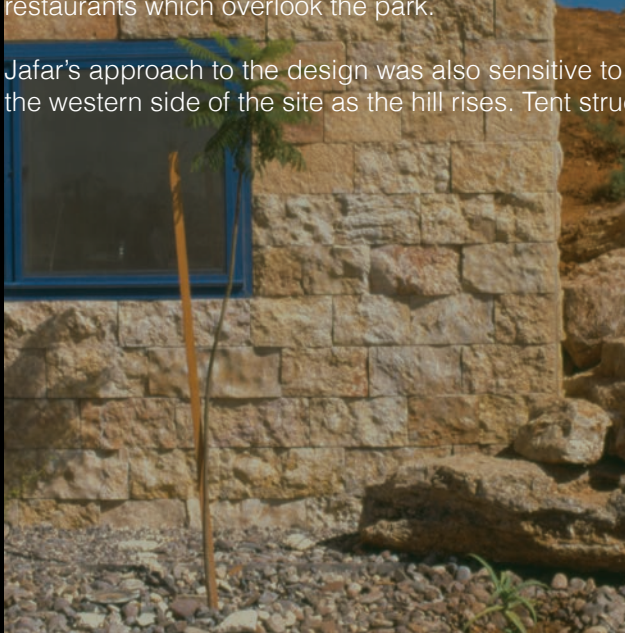
In 1994 Jafar Tukan was commissioned by the Amman Municipality to prepare a Master plan for the 70 hectare Al Hussein Park west of the city. The park is dedicated to the late King Hussein and a memorial was planned to be built in the park to commemorate his name and his contribution to Jordan. Jafar collaborated with Edaw from France to design the master plan. The design brief called for a park which is open to the residents of Amman with a few cultural buildings that can be located within the park.

Jafar was later commissioned to design the Car Museum that will house the collection of the late King Hussein cars and motorcycles which were going to go on public display. The collection included some 50 vintage cars and 10 motorcycles, most of which were used in official occasions such as weddings, coronations and to receive visiting officials to Jordan.

Due to the large size of the building, and to Jafar's intention to respect the park, the Museum was designed as a low key building mostly covered by landscape from all the sides. The most visible part of the museum are the glass blocks walls at the high part of the exhibition halls which give natural filtered light into the exhibition halls without disturbing the exhibition lights which highlight the exhibits.

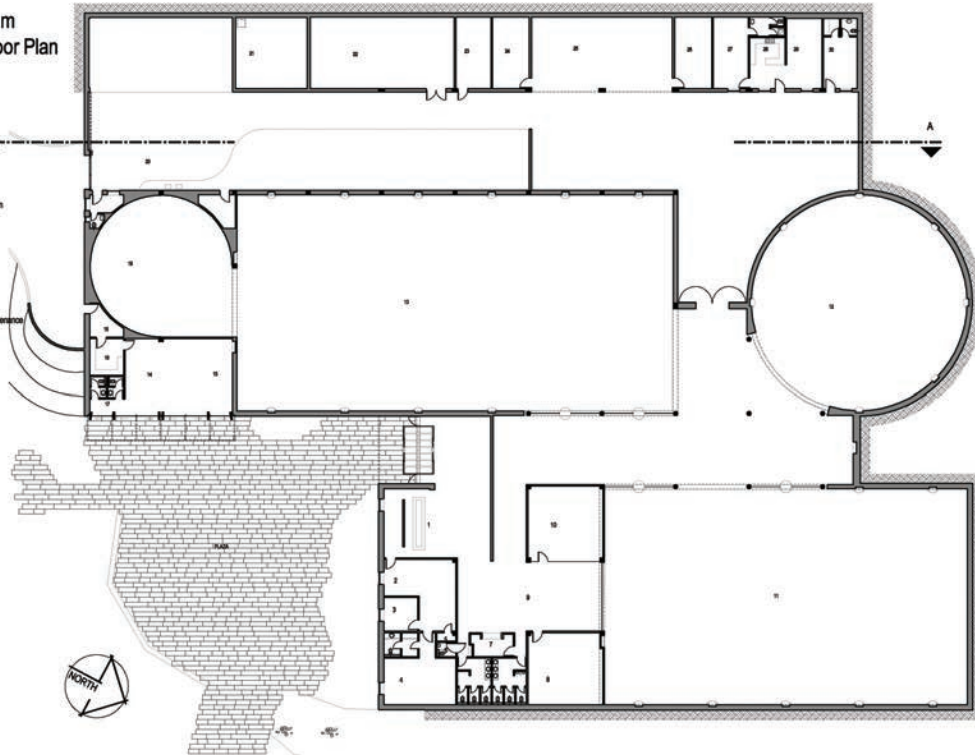
Jafar was also commissioned to design the Cultural Village in the park. The requirement was to plan the complex around a 46 x 24 meter sunken courtyard that will house the returned artwork of Jordanian Pavilion exhibited in Berlin in 1996. The Cultural Village is a complex of galleries, workshops and shops that are rented out to artisan workers to promote Jordan's rich cultural handicrafts and art. The complex was also designed to include two restaurants which overlook the park.

Jafar's approach to the design was also sensitive to the park, single storey modest structure that fits within the site and is tucked into the hill at the western side of the site as the hill rises. Tent structures are used to provide shade and outdoor exhibition space within the complex.



Car Museum
Ground Floor Plan

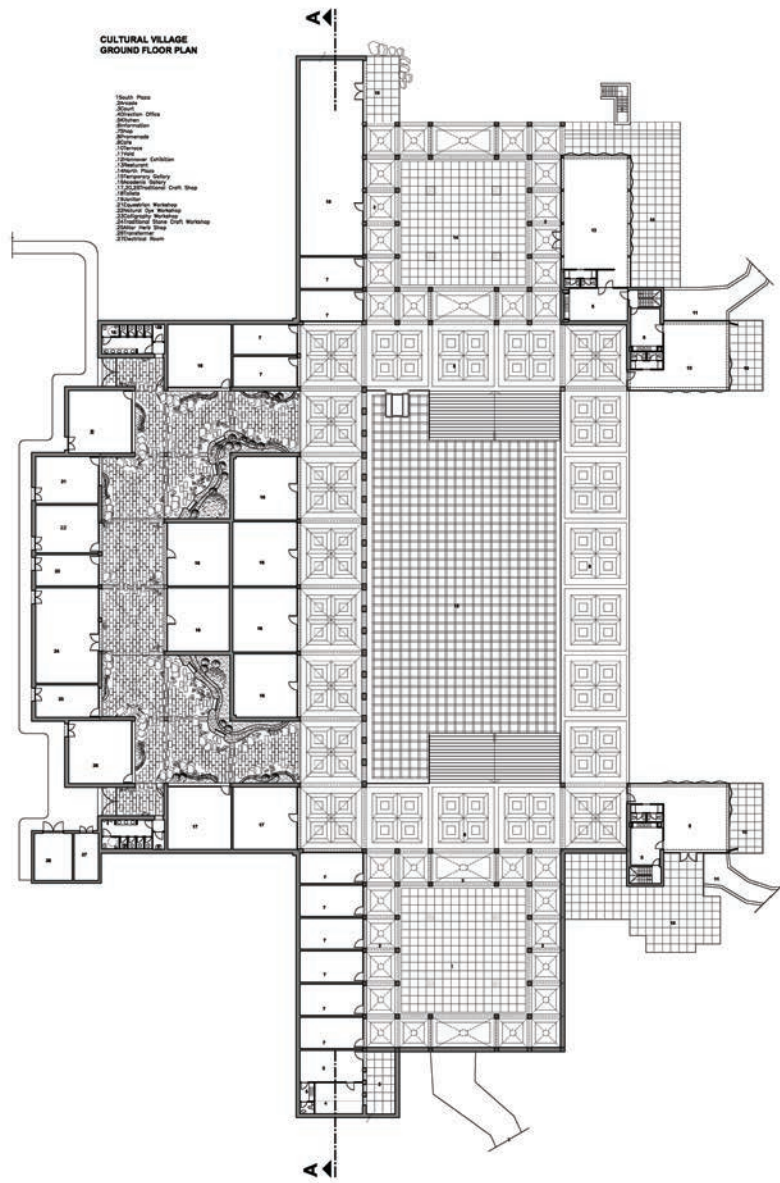
1. Reception
2. Administration
3. Office
4. Directors office
5. Elev.
6. h.c Toilet
7. Cloak Room
8. Auditorium
9. Special Exhibition
10. Library
- 11, 13. Show Room
- 12, 16. Special Show Room
14. Cafe/tea
15. Gift Shop
- 16, 26. Kitchen
17. Toilet
18. ANTE Room
20. Children Yard
21. Water Tank
22. Mechanical Room
23. Electrical Room
- 24, 25. storage
25. Workshops and Maintenance
27. Red Room
29. Living Area
30. Security



Ground floor plan







Ground model

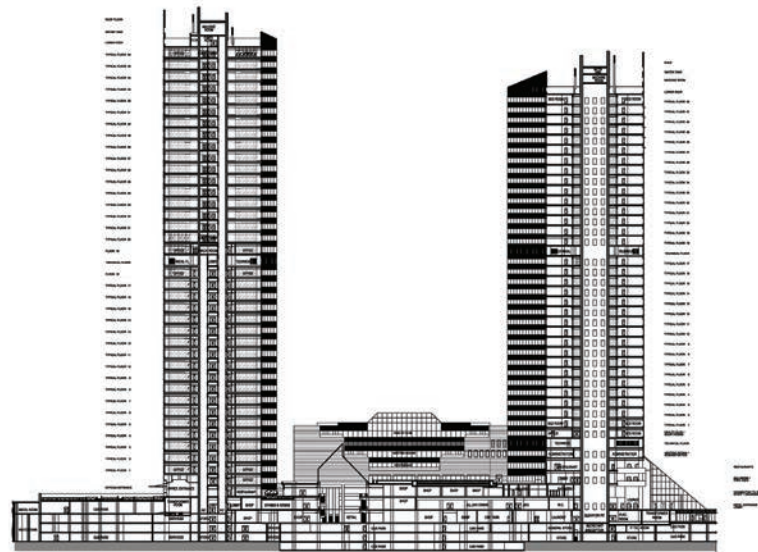


THE JORDAN GATE AND DAMAC TOWERS

More recently in 2005, during the towers boom, Jafar was commissioned by Al Hamad Contracting to design the highest towers in Amman the Jordan Gate. The development financed by Gulf Finance House and the Kuwait Investment and Finance Company will adorn the skyline in the not too distant future. The complex is made up of two 38 storey towers, an office building and a hotel connected at the base by a 5 storey commercial podium. The geometry and composition resembles elegant spears that fade into the sky. The proportions of the width to the height of the towers were carefully studied by breaking each tower into 3 slim trapezoids ending with sharp triangular sloping roofs of varying heights to further enhance the verticality of the composition. The color of the glass was carefully selected to fade into the Amman sky.

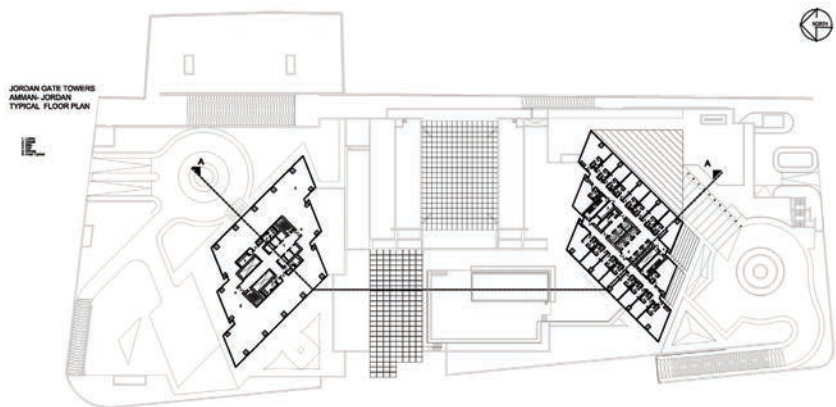
Jafar was also commissioned by Damac, an Emirates based developer to design the Damac complex in al Abdali Development in Amman. The project consists of a tower and an annex that are linked together by a two storey height structure which contains the social hub of the project. The Damac complex is a high end residential project which offers several types of apartments ranging from one bedroom to luxurious lofts with a small component of shopping located at the ground and mezzanine of the annex building.





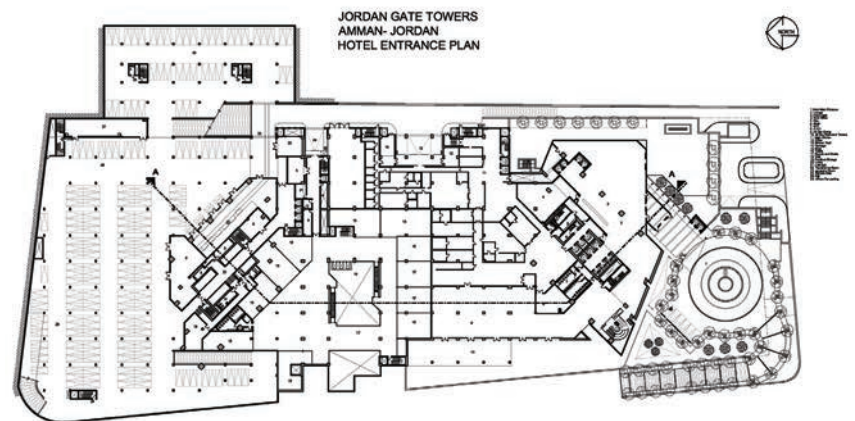
JORDAN GATE TOWERS
AMMAN- JORDAN
SECTION A-A

Section A-A



JORDAN GATE TOWERS
AMMAN- JORDAN
TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN

Typical floor plan

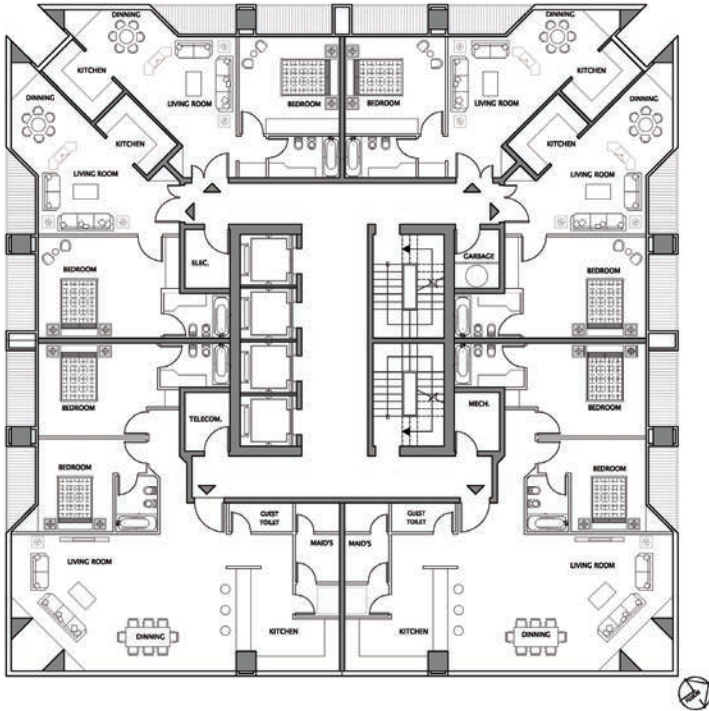


JORDAN GATE TOWERS
AMMAN- JORDAN
HOTEL ENTRANCE PLAN

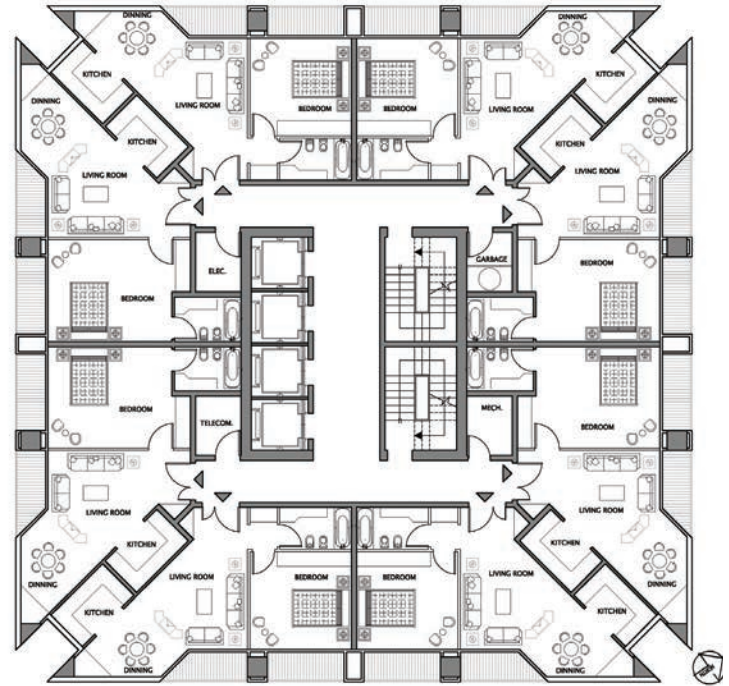
Hotel entrance level



DAMAC DEVELOPMENT - ABDALI
TOWER - 1st & 2nd FLOORS
SCALE 1 : 100

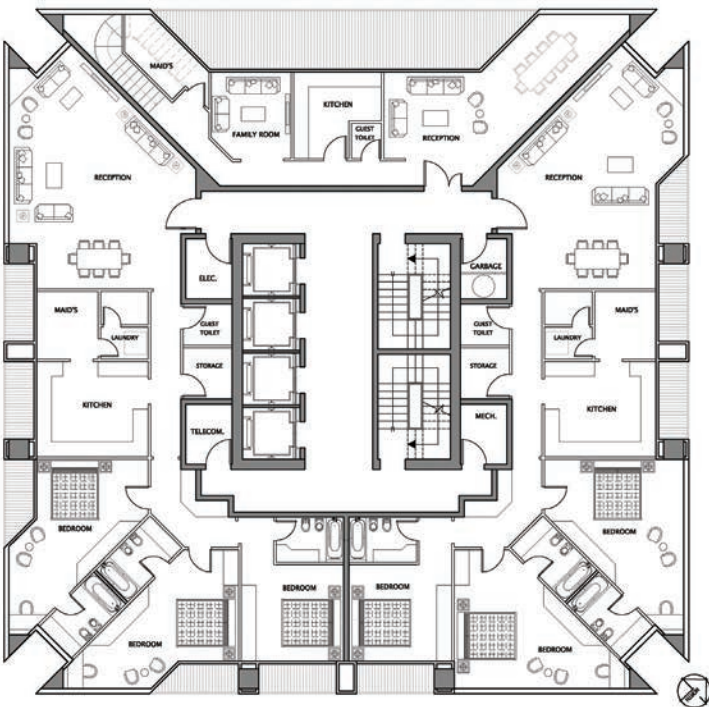


DAMAC DEVELOPMENT - ABDALI
TOWER - 3rd & 4th FLOORS
SCALE 1 : 100

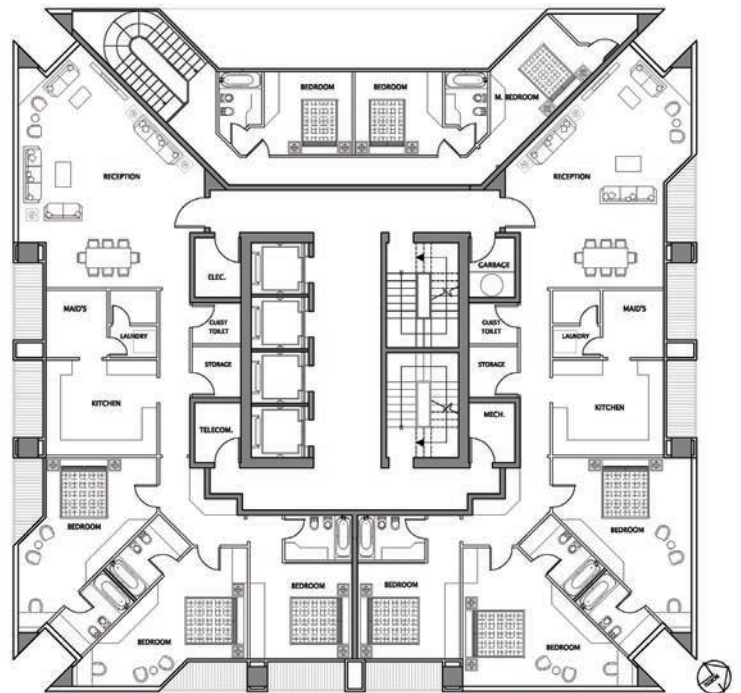


Damac Tower

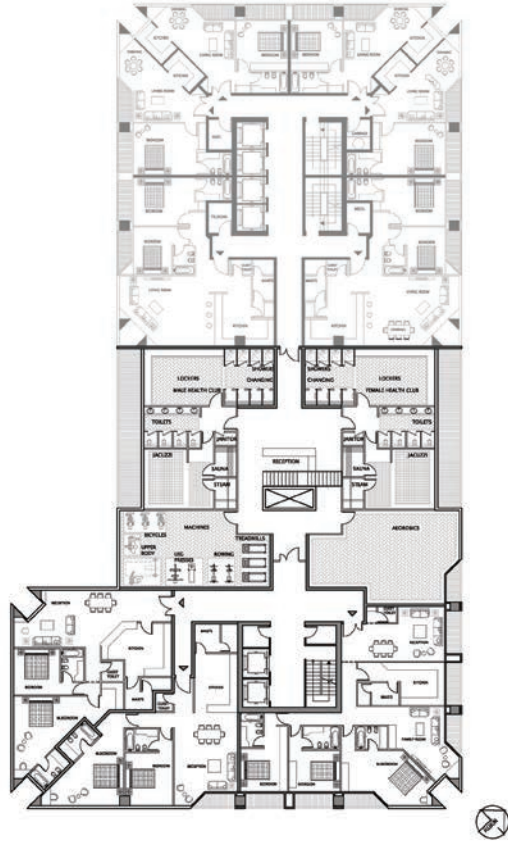
DAMAC DEVELOPMENT - ABDALI
TOWER - 23rd FLOOR
SCALE 1 : 100



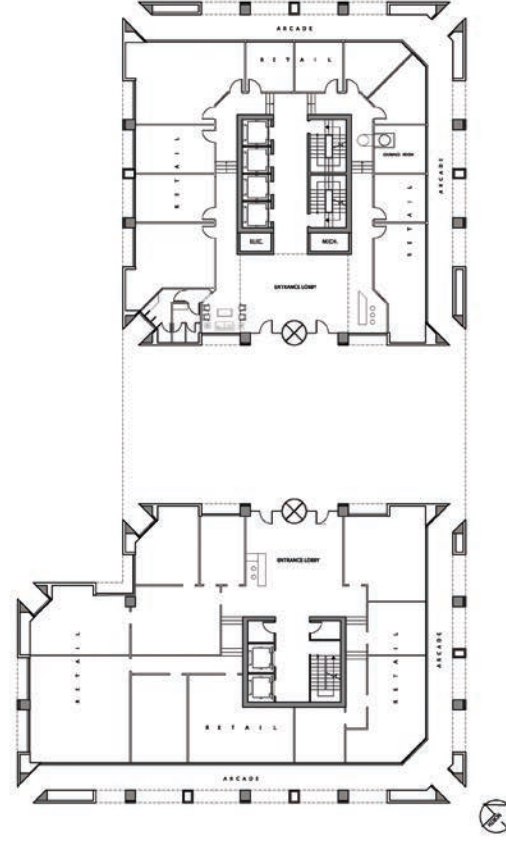
DAMAC DEVELOPMENT - ABDALI
TOWER - 24th FLOOR
SCALE 1 : 100



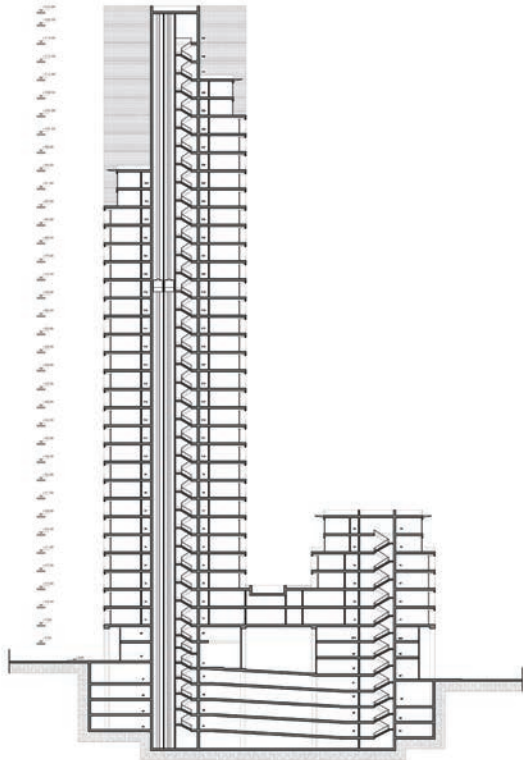
DAMAC DEVELOPMENT - ABDALI
PODIUM - 2nd FLOOR
SCALE 1 : 200



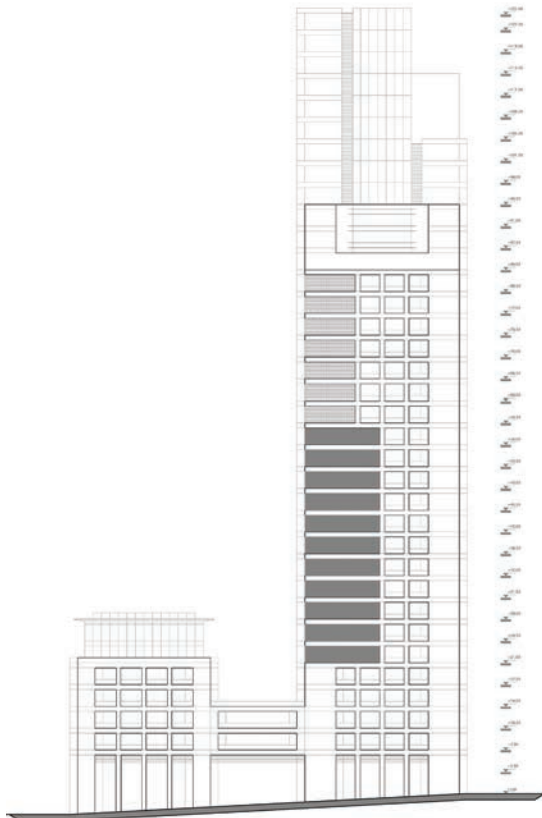
DAMAC DEVELOPMENT - ABDALI
TOWER & PODIUM G.F.
SCALE 1 : 200



SECTION A-A
SCALE 1 : 400



NORTH-EASTERN ELEVATION
SCALE 1 : 400



DAMAC DEVELOPMENT - ABDALI
NORTH-WESTERN ELEVATION
SCALE 1 : 400

