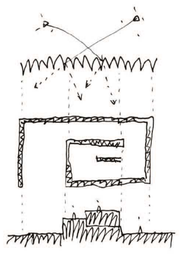


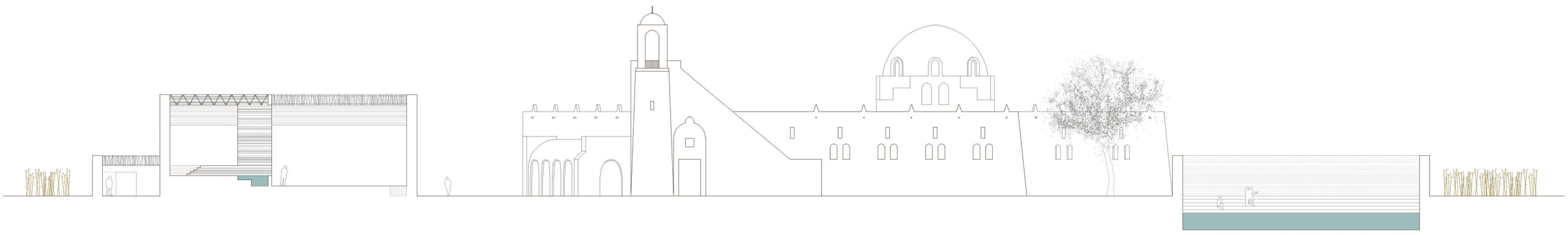
New Gourna is a town full of lights and shadows, a place where the buildings emerge from the ground enclosing living spaces of freshness and shade.

The project follows a strong compromise with the tradition and the cultural context in every scale, from its urban settlement to the construction details and materials.

The project is understood from the urban scale as an operation inserted in the existing pattern. The hamman is located in the end of the main axis of New Gourna, in the West side of the Mosque. On the other side, completing the limits of the square, a wall encloses a space where the water from the Nile basin arises from the ground.

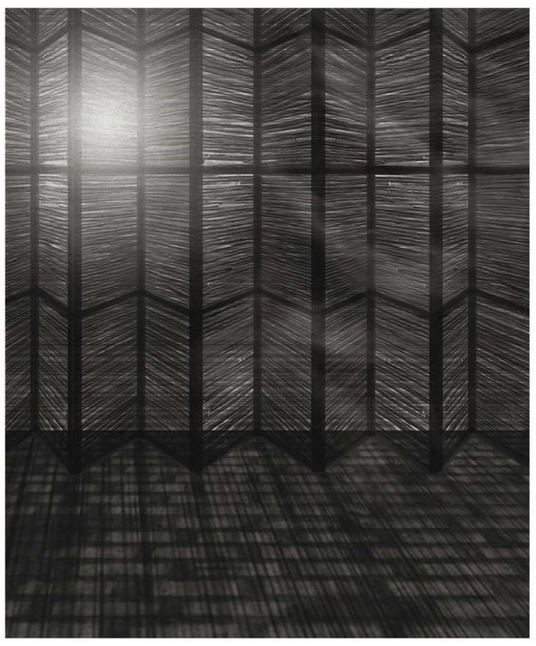
site plan e:1/750

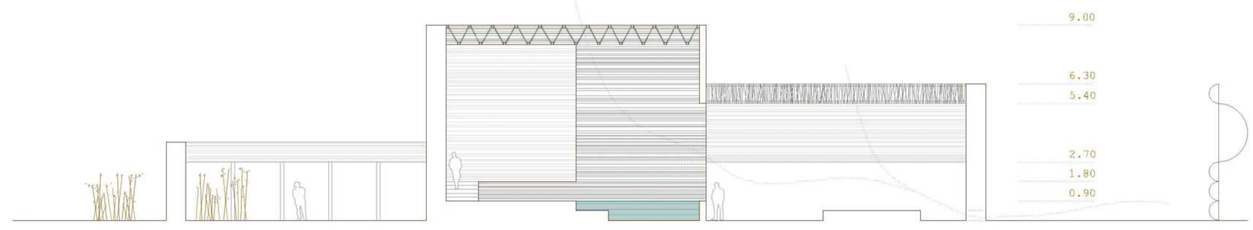
0 5 10 20 30 50 m



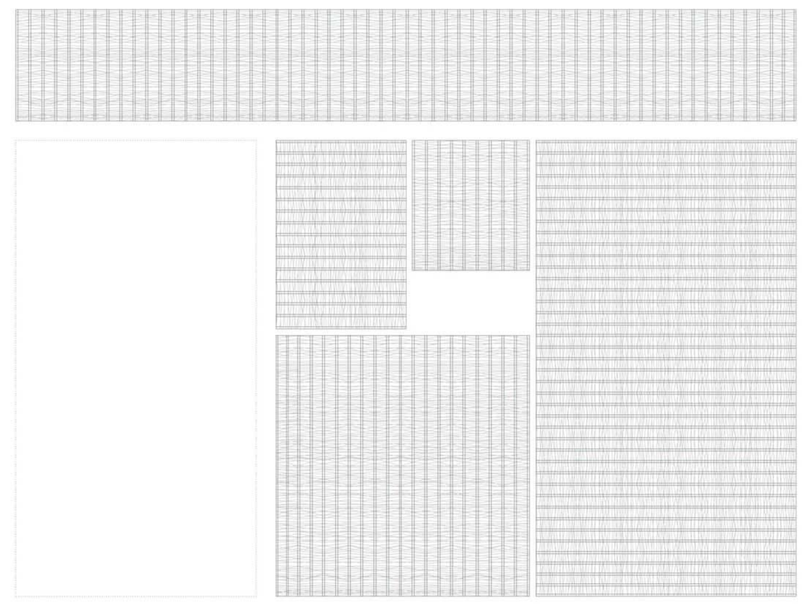
section e:1/250

0 1 2 5 10 15 m

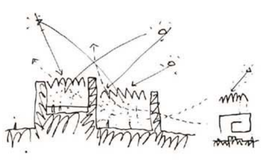




section e:1/200



plans e:1/200



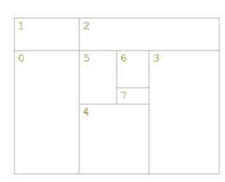
The project for the Hamman is conceived as a combination of three single elements which relation with nature activates the space. These three elements: the floor, the wall and the roof create a continuous space where, water, air, and light inhabit.

The floor, a ceramic pattern in continuity with the ground, establishes different platforms for the cold, warm and hot rooms creating different static spaces inside the dynamic movement of the spiral development.

The wall, built with traditional ceramic bricks, emerges from the ground, provides a structural enclosure to the space and a vibrating material texture.

The roof is understood as a filter, like a thick cloud, which traps the solid light and diffuses it creating an atmosphere of freshness and shadow in the space. The roofs are built as independent folded sheets of wood sticks with papyrus reeds woven to control the light.

The choice of the available materials in the area: ceramic bricks, wood sticks and papyrus reeds; and the simple construction techniques: brickwork and papyrus weaving, offers a respectful gaze to the Egyptian tradition and the Nile river from a contemporary point of view.



0_patio
1_recepción
2_aseos/vestuarios/taquillas
3_sala de masaje
4_sala fría
5_sala templada
6_sala caliente
7_escalera de bajada

0 1 2 5 10 15 m