

BEIT GHAZALEH RESEARCH PROJECT

Executive summary

Introduction

Ghazaleh House is one of the foremost examples of 17th century Ottoman architecture in Aleppo. It is located just outside the old city of Aleppo in one of the most prestigious and touristic areas of the city, the Jdeideh neighbourhood.

Beside traditional elements, like the beautiful courtyard, the fountain and the carved decorative stones, it boasts also well-preserved and high-quality wooden panels and – unique feature in Ottoman Aleppo – a large private hammam.

The house has been described in several publications about the old city of Aleppo and was used as a school in the 1970s. This state-owned mansion has been recently restored and transformed into a museum of the City of Aleppo by the DGAM (Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums) and the Municipality of Aleppo.

Ghazaleh Project Overview

- The first step is the creation of a professionally-designed website devoted to Beit Ghazaleh.
- In a second phase, we intend to produce a high-quality illustrated publication on Ghazaleh House.
- The project output (website / publication) will include the following sections:
 1. Architectural/archaeological survey of the Ghazaleh House.
 2. Description of house's location, the Jdeideh district of Aleppo.
 3. Outline of the role of the Ghazaleh¹ family and major Christian families in the Levantine historical context (1800 -):
 - i. Outline of the role of the house and the family
 - ii. Outline of the family tree (geography, profession)
 - iii. Role of Christian families
 - iv. Changing pattern of commerce
 - v. History
 4. Outline of the role of the house and of Aleppine Christian families in its Ottoman / Arab context (scope tbc).
 5. Project conclusion/postscript.
- Languages (English, French, Arabic - Executive Summaries).
- Both website and publication will include contemporary purpose-made drawings and images and historic iconographic sources.

Ongoing and new research

- on Ghazaleh House.
- on the Family tree (2 branches).
- on the families activities/role.
- on house ownership, in Ottoman archives,
- in Aleppine archives.
- on commercial history, in Antaki / Gazalé family archives.
- Family's role in diplomatic archives (France / UK / Dutch).

¹ Due to languages transcriptions, we may find different spellings: *Ghazaleh*, *Ghazalah*, *Gazaleh*, *Gazalé*...

References & data ² (click on the links)

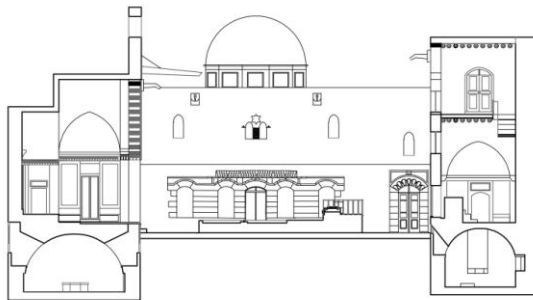
- The house is listed in the Aga Khan “[ArchNet](#)” database.
- Our current research on the Jdeideh district and the Ghazaleh house (see Annex 1).
- Our architectural survey on the house with DGAM permission (see Annex 2).
- [Photographic survey](#) about Beit Ghazaleh on RC Heritage website.
- Ghazaleh [Family tree](#). (2 branches, extracts of May and Mark trees).



main elevation



courtyard & iwan



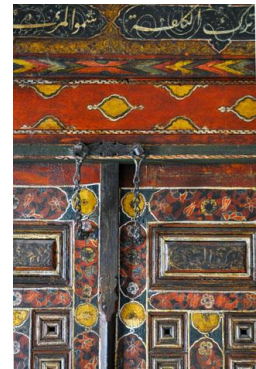
section on courtyard (Th. Grandin)

plan (Th. Grandin)

see [Google Maps](#)



decorative stone-work



wooden closet



² Document bibliography and footnotes to use [Oxford referencing system](#)

Output for the two next research stages (TOR)

Levantine historical areas of interest (Philip Mansel)

- Aleppo
- Aleppo in Levantine context and other main Levantine cities
 - Transitions - Aleppo vs. Smyrna, Beirut and Alexandria
 - Alexandretta and Aleppo
- Silk route / Trade Mediterranean, with Mosul, Baghdad, Gulf (Christian families)
- The Levantines and Aleppines - historical / political
- Christian Aleppines and foreign traders (consuls, dragomen)
- Aleppine Diaspora:
 - i. Aleppines / Syrians in Egypt/Lebanon
 - ii. Aleppines / Syrians elsewhere
 - iii. Motivation / Consequences

Ottoman period

- Istanbul archives, House ownership:
 - i. foundation date
 - ii. original ownership
 - iii. successive dates of acquisition(s) and sale(s)
- Istanbul archives, Family activities:
 - iv. social & economic roles
 - v. 17th & 18th periods
- Istanbul archives, Jdeiddeh neighbourhood / Ghazaleh house:
 - vi. urban growth
 - vii. establishment of churches, hammam, awqaf...
- Aleppo economic growth and role in the 17th & 18th centuries
 - viii. the role of the religious and ethnic communities
 - ix. regional & international significance of Aleppo as a trading pole
 - x. Silk Route / Gulf / Mediterranean