# AFFORDABLE, DURABLE, MODULAR AND EXTENDABLE "NUBIAN VAULT" HOUSING

A catalogue for actors of the NV eco-consruction sector in the Sahel



#### INTRODUCTION

This catalogue presents the principle features of a housing model which is affordable, durable, modular and extendable, based on the Nubian Vault (NV) technical concept of construction. Its purpose is to help actors of the NV sector in the Sahel, especially NV artisans and entrrepreneurs and their clients, to take decisions on the choice of different NV housing plans and associated materials requirements.

The FIRST SECTION of the catalogue is a comprehensive description of the housing model, each sub-section corresponding to a phase of a NV construction project: understanding the technical concept > choice of the quality of finish > choice of specific housing plans and layout options.

The SECOND SECTION provides an opportunity, case by case, to think about the layout of a construction plot and the ways in which future extensions of a NV house can be anticipated. A specific example is provided for a 300 m2 plot (15 X 20 m), growing from an initial 20 m2 house, in six successive stages, to one with 112 m2 of floor space.

Finally, the THIRD SECTION looks at the potential of using the NV model in pilot housing estates, eco-villages and neighbourhood projects.

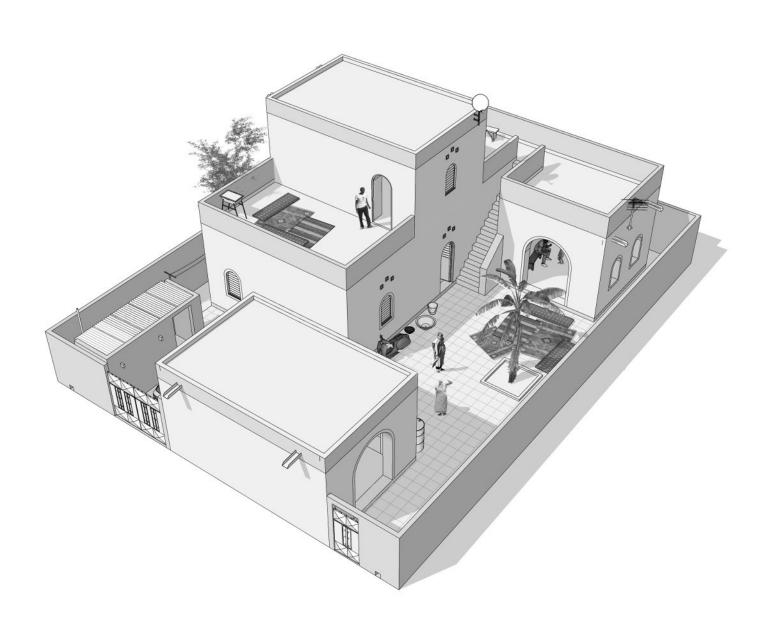
#### BE AWARE!

Note that this document illustrates outlines of a range of possible NV house designs. An actual construction project requires not only a team of qualified specialist NV masons but also access to the available complementary technical documentation, including:

- technical dossiers corresponding to each type of of module, covering the implementation process and calculation of materials quantities;
- the Professional Rules of the Nubian Vault technical concept, produced by the Nubian Vault Association, in particular the Nubian Vault Mason's Manual (2018).

Ownership of a solid, comfortable "green" home at a competitive price is possible with the popular, durable, modular and extendable

Nubian Vault housing.



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#### 2. Choice of quality of finish

- 2.1 Low cost version
- 2.2 Basic version
- 2.3 Comfort version

#### 3. Choice of modules and layouts

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- 3.4 Single Module / Option 1
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#### PROGRESSIVE EXTENSIONS WITHIN A PLOT

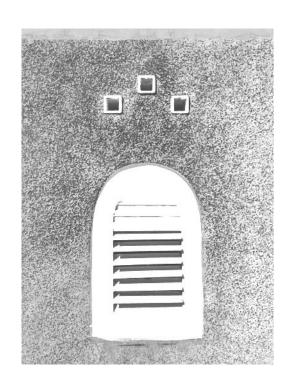
#### 4. An example of a plot size of 15 x 20 m

- 4.1 Main principles
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- 4.7 Stage 6 : Triple Module + Half Module + Staircase + Single Module
  - + Single 1st Floor Module + Balustrade / 112 m2

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD INTERVENTIONS**

5. Housing estates, eco-villages...

## THE MODULES, LAYOUT OPTIONS AND FINISHES



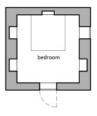
#### 1.1

#### BASIC PRINCIPLES

#### THE DIFFERENT MODULES

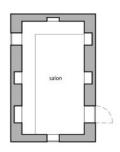
HALF MODULE - OPTION 1

HABITABLE SPACE = 12 m2



SINGLE MODULE - OPTION 1

HABITABLE SPACE = 20 m2



DOUBLE MODULE - OPTION 1

HABITABLE SPACE = 40 m2



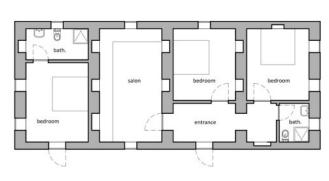
TRIPLE MODULE - OPTION 1

HABITABLE SPACE = 60 m2



QUADRUPLE MODULE - OPTION 1

HABITABLE SPACE = 80 m2



#### 1.2

#### BASIC PRINCIPLES

#### THE DIFFERENT LAYOUT OPTIONS

HALF MODULE - OPTION 2

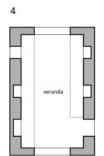


These do not include all the layout options. They cover the main requirements, but other options are possible...

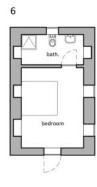
SINGLE MODULE - OPTIONS





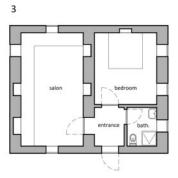






**DOUBLE MODULE - OPTIONS** 







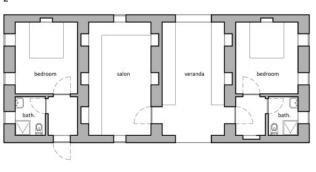
TRIPLE MODULE - OPTIONS







**QUADRUPLE MODULE - OPTIONS** 



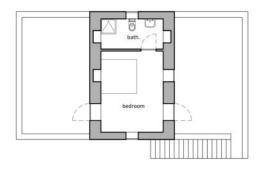


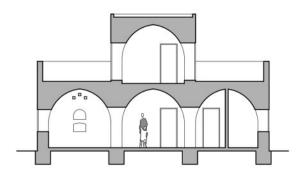


### 1.3 BASIC PRINCIPLES UPPER STOREY EXTENSIONS

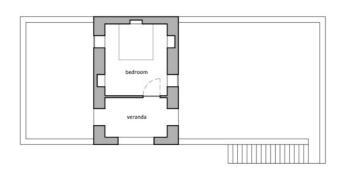
Floor partitions > lightweight partitions required !!!

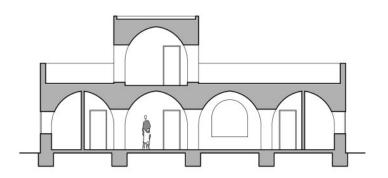
TRIPLE MODULE + STRAIRCASE + SINGLE MODULE HABITABLE SPACE = 80 m2



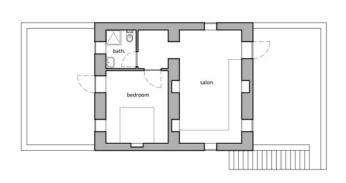


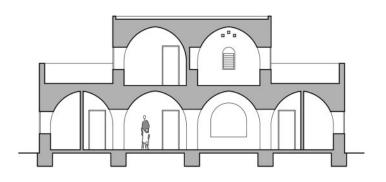
QUADRUPLE MODULE + STAIRCASE + SINGLE MODULE HABITABLE SPACE = 100 m2





QUADRUPLE MODULE + STAIRCASE + DOUBLE MODULE HABITABLE SPACE = 120 m2





### 1.4 BASIC PRINCIPLES STAIRCASES AND BALUSTRADES

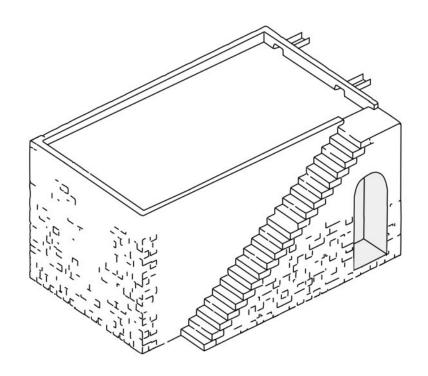
#### **MASONRY EXTERNAL STAIRCASE**

The staircase gives access to the roof.

It is made with mud bricks.

The steps and risers are reinforced with concrete.

Its shape should be adapted to the specific situation, as advised by the NV artisan in charge.

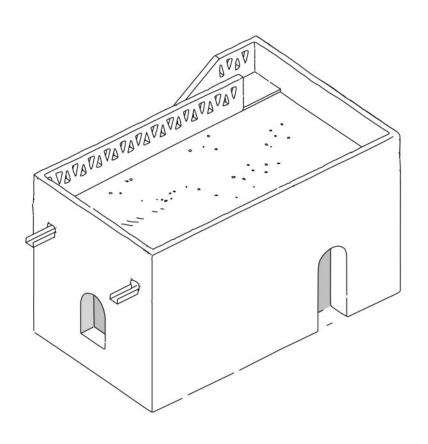


#### **MASONRY BALUSTRADE**

The balustrade provides safety for an accessible roof space.

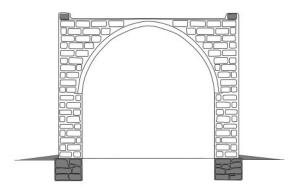
It is made from mud bricks topped with concrete slabs.

Its form and style should be adapted to the specific situation, as advised by the NV artisan in charge.



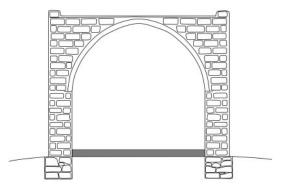
### 2.1 CHOICE OF QUALITY OF FINISH

#### **LOW COST VERSION**



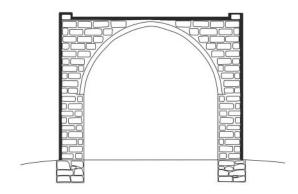
#### **WALL FOOTINGS AND HEADERS**

> Foundations of rocks and earth mortar+ damp proofing + rammed earth periphery > Rampart of adobes + concrete slabs



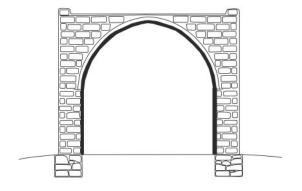
#### **FLOOR**

> Backfill: earth or compacted rubble > Finish: sand



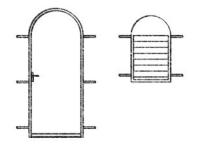
#### **EXTERNAL RENDERS**

> Walls: sand - cement tyrolean finish or mud - sand - bitumen with paint finish > Roof: mud - sand - gravel - bitumen



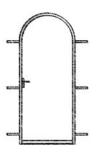
#### **INTÉRIOR RENDERS**

> Walls and vaults: Mud - sand - lime wash finish



#### **EXTERNAL DOORS AND WINDOWS**

Doors: iron, flush to outside of wallWindows: iron, flush to outside of wall,with adjustable louvres

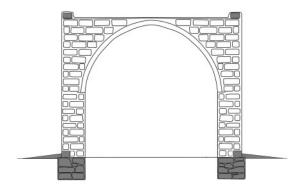


#### **INTERNAL DOORS**

> Iron

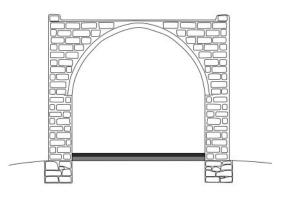
### 2.2 CHOICE OF QUALITY OF FINISH

#### **BASIC VERSION**



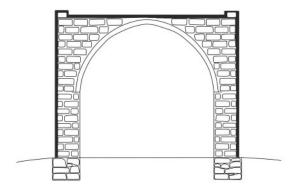
#### **WALL FOOTINGS AND HEADERS**

- > Foundations of rocks and earth mortar + damp proofing + half course of rocks and cement + rammed earth periphery
  - > Rampart 15cm concrete blocks + top slabs



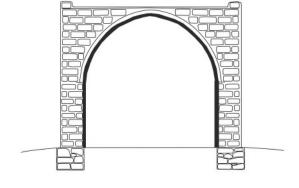
#### **FLOOR**

Backfill: earth or compacted rubbleFinish: reinforced concrete slab



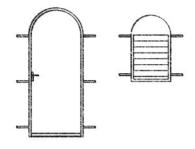
#### **EXTERNAL RENDERS**

> Walls: sand - cement tyrolean finish or mud - sand - bitumen with paint finish > Roof: mud - sand - gravel - bitumen



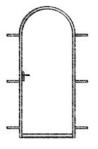
#### **INTERIOR RENDERS**

> Walls and vaults: mud - sand - lime wash finish



#### **EXTERNAL DOORS AND WINDOWS**

Doors: iron, flush to outside of wallWindows: iron, flush to outside of wall with adjustable louvres

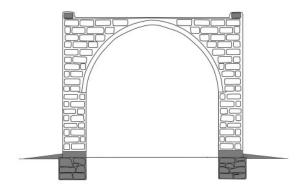


#### **INTERNAL DOORS**

> Iron

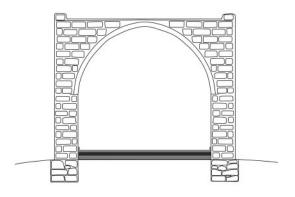
### 2.3 CHOICE OF QUALITY OF FINISH

#### **COMFORT VERSION**



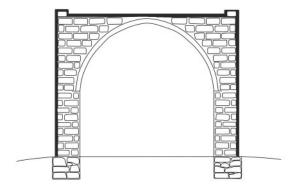
#### **WALL FOOTINGS AND HEADERS**

- > Foundations of rocks and earth mortar+ damp proofing + rammed earth periphery
  - > Rampart of adobes + concrete slabs
  - > Rampart 15cm concrete blocks + top slabs



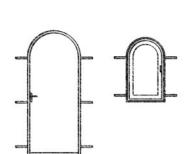
#### **FLOOR**

Backfill: earth or compacted rubbleFinish: reinforced concrete slab + floor tiles



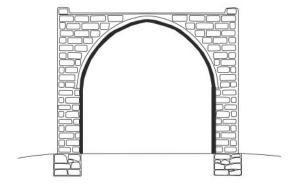
#### **EXTERNAL RENDERS**

> Walls: sand - cement tyrolean finish or mud - sand - bitumen with paint finish > Roof: mud - sand - gravel - bitumen



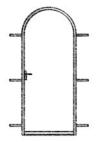
#### **EXTERNAL DOORS AND WINDOWS**

> Doors: iron, flush to inside of wall wall > Windows: iron frame, aluminium window , flush to iinside of wall



#### **INTERIOR RENDERS**

Vaults: Mud - sand lime wash finishWalls: sand - cement paint finish

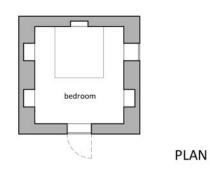


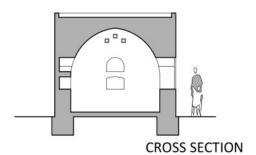
#### **INTERNAL DOORS**

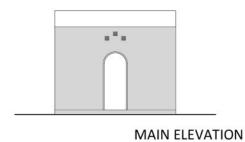
> Doors : frame and door iron, or iron frame with wooden door

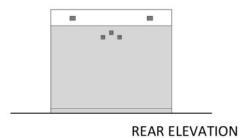
### 3.1 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS HALF MODULE / OPTION 1

Bedroom 12 m2 habitable space (3m60 x 3m30)



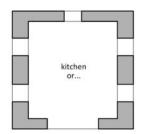




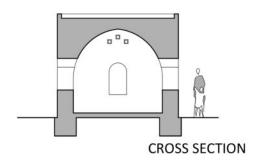


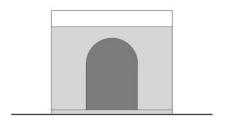
### 3.2 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS HALF MODULE / OPTION 2

External kitchen or veranda .. 12 m2 habitable space (3m60 x 3m30)

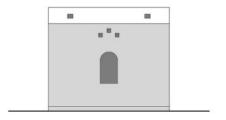


**PLAN** 





MAIN ELEVATION



## 3.3 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS HALF MODULE / MATERIALS QUANTITIES

12 m2 habitable space (3m60 x 3m30)

	LOW COST bitumen render on walls	BASIC sand-cement render on walls	COMFORT sand-cement render on walls
Rocks	8,5 m3 48 carts	9 m3 50 carts	9,6 m3 54 carts
Gravel	0,7 m3 4 carts	2 m3 11 carts	3,4 m3 19carts
Sand	3,75 m3 21 carts	4,8 m3 27 carts	6,3 m3 35 carts
Water	22 m3 120 barrels (200L)	21 m3 105 barrels (200L)	20,5 m3 100 barrels (200L)
Earth for mortar	23 m3 128 carts	22,5 m3 125 carts	20 m3 112 carts
Bricks 38x17x15	1 955	1 875	1 875
Bricks 28x17x15	345	330	330
Brickettes 25x15x5	1 800	1 800	1 800
Cement	70 kg 2 X 50 kg bags	1 800 kg 36 X 50 kg bags	2 400 kg 48 X 50 kg bags
Bitumen	82 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Plastic film	40 metres	40 metres	40 metres
15cm breeze blocks	-	100	100
Claustras	18	18	18
Wire mesh (if used for render)	-	45 metres	45 metres
Rebar - iron rods	12 kg	65 kg	65 kg
Floor tiles (30x30)	(7)	-	15 m2

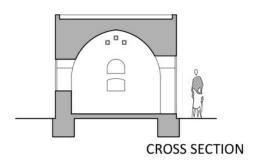
,
Could be collected by the client or beneficiary
Could be made by the client or beneficiary
Could be collected by the client or beneficiary  Could be made by the client or beneficiary  Obligatory purchase

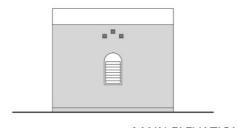
3.4 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS **SINGLE MODULE / OPTION 1** 

Salon 20 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30)



**PLAN** 





MAIN ELEVATION

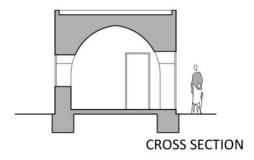


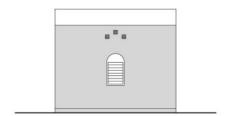
### 3.5 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS SINGLE MODULE / OPTION 2

Bedroom + salon 20 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30)



PLAN





MAIN ELEVATION

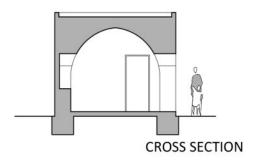


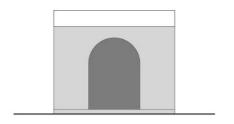
### 3.6 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS SINGLE MODULE / OPTION 3

Salon + veranda 20 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30)

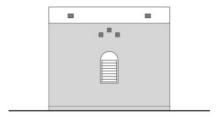


**PLAN** 



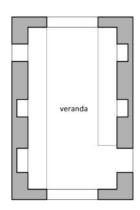


MAIN ELEVATION

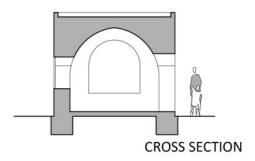


### 3.7 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS SINGLE MODULE / OPTION 4

Veranda 20 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30)

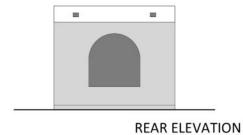


**PLAN** 





MAIN ELEVATION

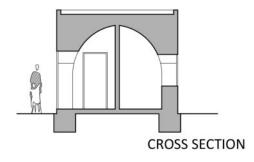


### 3.8 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS SINGLE MODULE / OPTION 5

Entrance + bedroom + bathroom 20 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30)



**PLAN** 





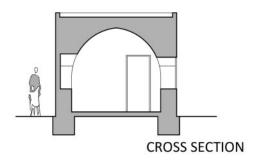
MAIN ELEVATION

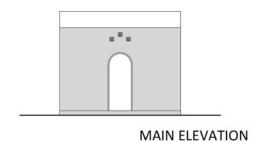


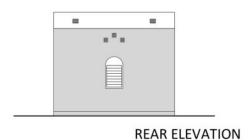
### 3.9 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS SINGLE MODULE / OPTION 6

Bedroom + bathroom 20 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30)









## 3.10 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS SINGLE MODULE / MATERIALS QUANTITIES

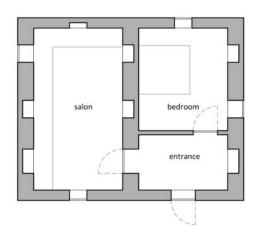
20 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30)

	LOW COST bitumen render on walls	BASIC sand-cement render on walls	COMFORT sand-cement render on walls
Rocks	11,5 m3 64 carts	12,5 m3 70 carts	13 m3 / 73 carts
Gravel	1 m3 6 carts	4 m3 22 carts	5.8 m3 / 33 carts
Sand	5,5 m3 31 carts	8 m3 45 carts	10 m3 56 carts
Water	31 m3 155 barrels (200L)	30,5 m3 153 barrels (200L)	30 m3 150 barrels (200L)
Earth for mortar	33 m3 184 carts	32 m3 178 carts	27,5 m3 153 carts
Bricks 38x17x15	2 790	2 590	2 470
Bricks 28x17x15	495	460	435
Brickettes 25x15x5	2 970	2 970	2 970
Cement	80 kg 2 X 50kg bags	3 050 kg 61 X 50kg bags	3 900 kg 78 X 50kg bags
Bitumen	110 kg	45 kg	45 kg
Plastic film	60 metres	60 metres	60 metres
15cm breeze blocks	-	240	240
Claustras	18	18	18
Wire mesh (if used for render)	ψ.	56 metres	56 metres
Rebar - iron rods	15 kg	102 kg	102 kg
Floor tiles (30x30)	-	-	23 m2

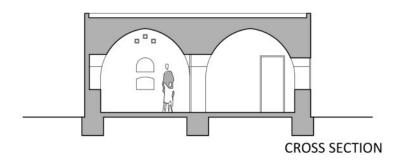
Could be collected by the client or beneficiary
Could be made by the client or beneficiary
Could be collected by the client or beneficiary  Could be made by the client or beneficiary  Obligatory purchase

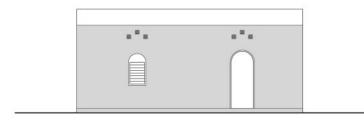
### 3.11 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS DOUBLE MODULE / OPTION 1

Entrance + bedroom + salon 40 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 2)

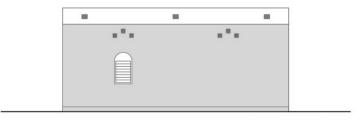


**PLAN** 





MAIN ELEVATION

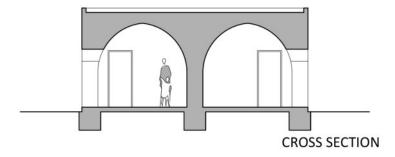


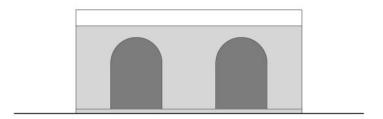
### 3.12 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS DOUBLE MODULE / OPTION 2

2 verandas + 2 bedrooms 40 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 2)



**PLAN** 



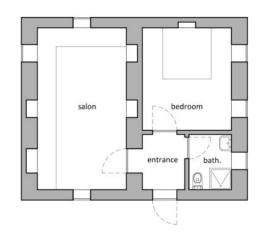


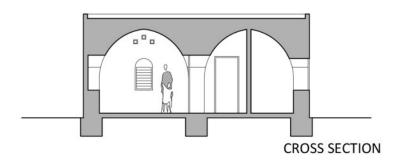
MAIN ELEVATION

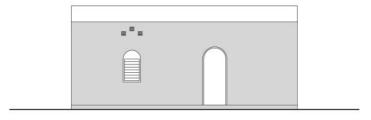


### 3.13 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS DOUBLE MODULE / OPTION 3

Entrance + bedroom + salon + bathroom 40 m2 fhabitable space (6m x 3m30 x 2)

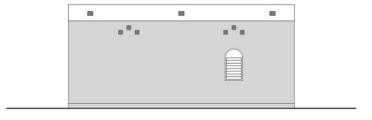






MAIN ELEVATION

**PLAN** 

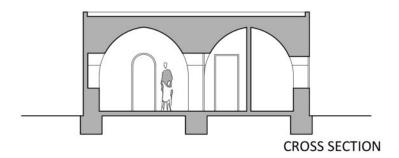


### 3.14 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS DOUBLE MODULE / OPTION 4

Veranda + bedroom + salon + bathroom 40 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 2)

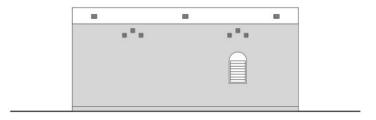


**PLAN** 





MAIN ELEVATION



## 3.15 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS DOUBLE MODULE / MATERIALS QUANTITIES

40 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 2)

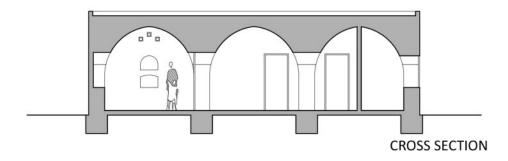
	LOW COST bitumen render on walls	BASIC sand-cement render on walls	COMFORT sand-cement render on walls	
Rocks	18,7 m3 104 carts	19,5 m3 / 109 carts	23,5 m3 131 carts	
Gravel	1,8 m3 10 carts	5,7 m3 32 carts	9,2 m3 53 carts	
Sand	9,2 m3 51 carts	11,8 m3 66 carts	15,8 m3 89 carts	Could be collected by the client or beneficiary
Water	55 m3 285 barrels (220L)	54 m3 270 barrels (220L).	53,5 m3 265 barrels (220L).	
Earth for mortar	57,5 m3 320 carts	55,5 m3 309 carts	49 m3 273 carts	
Bricks 38x17x15	4 725	4 485	4 285	
Bricks 28x17x15	835	795	755	Could be made by the client or beneficiary
Brickettes 25x15x5	5 895	5 895	5 895	
Cement	120 kg 3 X 50 kg bags	4 300 kg 86 X 50 kg bags	6 050 kg 121 X 50 kg bags	Obligatory purchase
Bitumen	175 kg	85 kg	85 kg	
Plastic film	100 metres	100 metres	100 metres	
15cm breeze blocks	-	285	285	
Claustras	28	28	28	
Wire mesh (if used for render)	-	75 metres	75 metres	
Rebar - iron rods	22 kg	195 kg	195 kg	
Floor tiles (30x30)	-	-	46 m2	

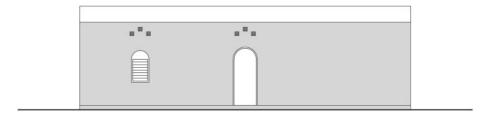
## 3.16 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS TRIPLE MODULE / OPTION 1

Entrance + 2 bedrooms + salon + bathroom 60 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 3)

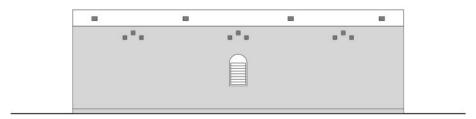


**PLAN** 



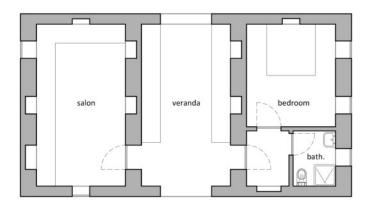


MAIN ELEVATION

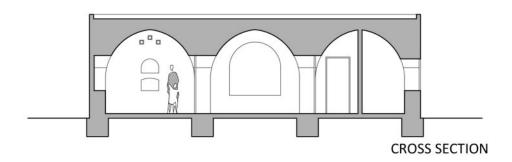


### 3.17 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS TRIPLE MODULE / OPTION 2

Veranda + bedroom + salon + bathroom 60 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 3)

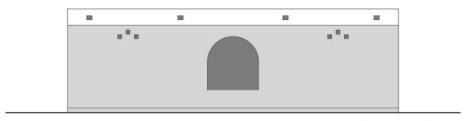


**PLAN** 



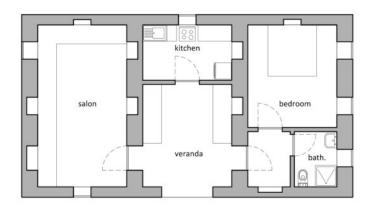


MAIN ELEVATION

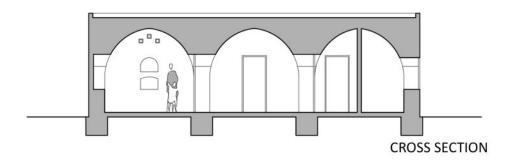


### 3.18 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS TRIPLE MODULE / OPTION 3

Veranda + bedroom + salon + kitchen + bathroom 60 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 3)

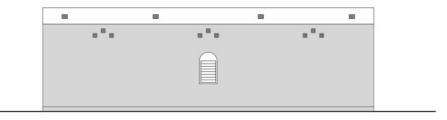


**PLAN** 





MAIN ELEVATION



### 3.19 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS TRIPLE MODULE / MATERIALS QUANTITIES

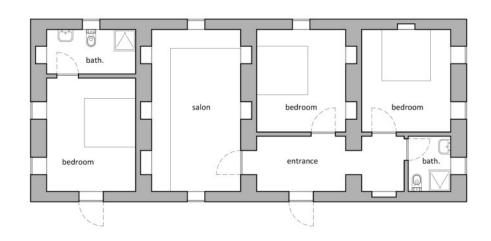
60 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 3)

	LOW COST bitumen render on	BASIC sand-cement	COMFORT sand-cement
	walls	render on walls	render on walls
Rocks	25,8 m3 144 carts	27 m3 150 carts	32,8 m3 183 carts
Gravel	2,6 m3 15 carts	8,7 m3 49 carts	13,5 m3 75 carts
Sand	13,2 m3 74 carts	17,5 m3 98 carts	23,2 m3 129 carts
Water	78 m3 390 barrels (200L)	76,5 m3 390 barrels (200L)	75 m3 375 barrels (200L)
Earth for mortar	81,5 m3 453 carts	78,5 m3 436 carts	69,2 m3 385 carts
Bricks 38x17x15	6 560	6 150	5 870
Bricks 28x17x15	1 160	1 085	1 040
Brickettes 25x15x5	8 865	8 865	8 865
Cement	180 kg 4 X 50 kg bags	6 400 kg 128 X 50 kg bags	8 600 kg 172 X 50 kg bags
Bitumen	235 kg	120 kg	120 kg
Plastic film	150 metres	150 metres	150 metres
15cm breeze blocks	-	455	455
Claustras	48	48	48
Wire mesh (if used for render)	-	95 metres	95 metres
Rebar - iron rods	27 kg	290 kg	290 kg
Floor tiles (30x30)	-	-	70 m2

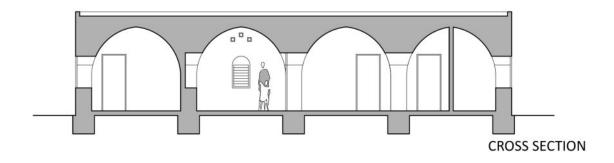
Could be collected by the client or beneficiary
Could be made by the client or beneficiary
Could be collected by the client or beneficiary  Could be made by the client or beneficiary  Obligatory purchase

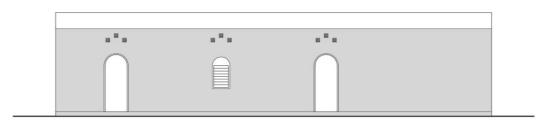
### 3.20 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS QUADRUPLE MODULE / OPTION 1

Entrance + salon + 3 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms 80 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 4)

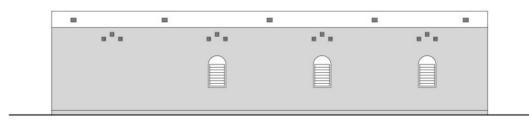


**PLAN** 



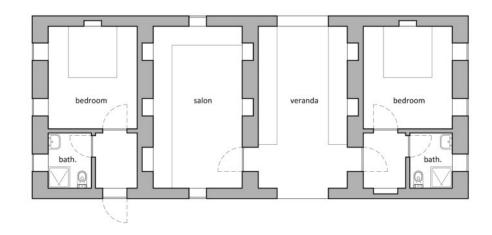


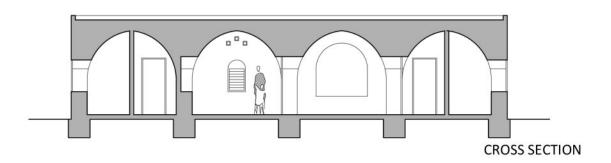
MAIN ELEVATION

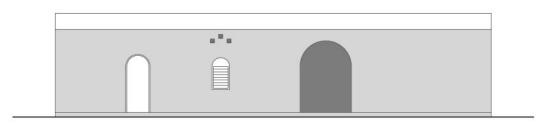


### 3.21 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS QUADRUPLE MODULE / OPTION 2

Veranda + salon + 2 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms 80 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 4)

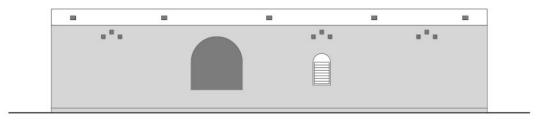






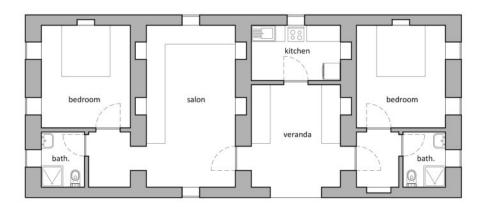
MAIN ELEVATION

**PLAN** 

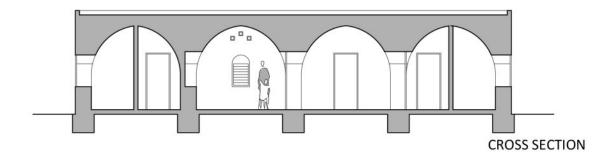


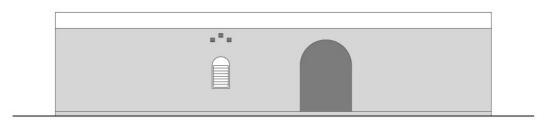
### 3.22 CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS MODULE QUADRUPLE / OPTION 3

Veranda + salon + 2 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + kitchen 80 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 4)

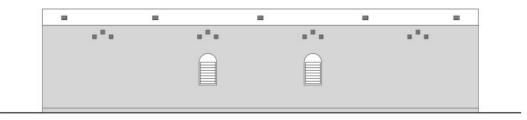


**PLAN** 





MAIN ELEVATION



#### 3.23

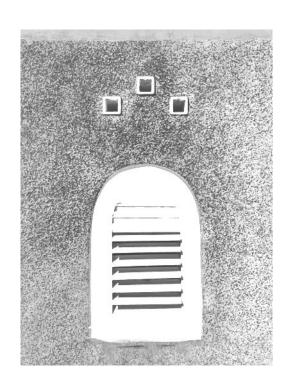
### CHOICE OF MODULES AND LAYOUTS **QUADRUPLE MODULE / MATERIALS QUANTITIES**

80 m2 habitable space (6m x 3m30 x 4)

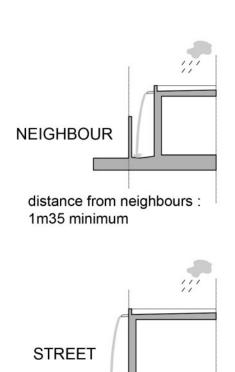
	LOW COST bitumen render on walls	BASIC sand-cement render on walls	COMFORT sand-cement render on walls
Rocks	33 m3 184 carts	34,5 m3 192 carts	42 m3 234 carts
Gravel	3,4 m3 19 carts	11,3 m3 63 carts	17,6 m3 98 carts
Sand	17 m3 95 carts	22,8 m3 127carts	30,2 m3 168 carts
Water	100 m3 510 barrels (200L)	98 m3 495 barrels (200L)	97 m3 490 barrels (200L)
Earth for mortar	105 m3 584 carts	101 m3 562 carts	89 m3 495 carts
Bricks 38x17x15	8 360	7 810	7 460
Bricks 28x17x15	1 475	1 380	1 320
Brickettes 25x15x5	11 785	11 785	11 785
Cement	210 kg 5 X 50 kg bags	8 300 kg 166 X 50 kg bags	11 250 kg 225 X 50 kg bags
Bitumen	295 kg	160 kg	160 kg
Plastic film	185 metres	185 metres	185 metres
15cm breeze blocks	-	595	595
Claustras	67	67	67
Wire mesh (if used for render)	-	115 metres	115 metres
Rebar - iron rods	33 kg	380 kg	380 kg
Floor tiles (30x30)	-	-	92 m2

Could be collected by the client or beneficiary
Could be made by the client or beneficiary
Could be collected by the client or beneficiary  Could be made by the client or beneficiary  Obligatory purchase

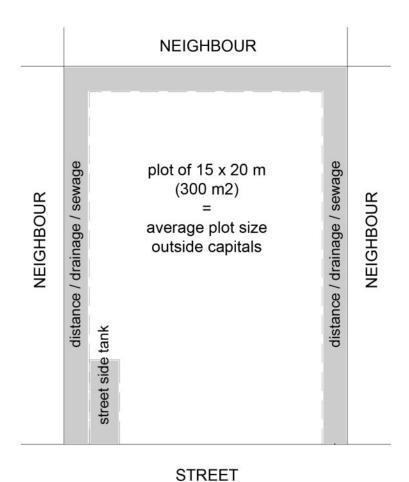
## PROGRESSIVE EXTENSIONS WITHIN A PLOT: AN EXAMPLE

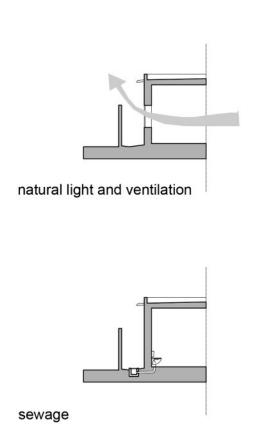


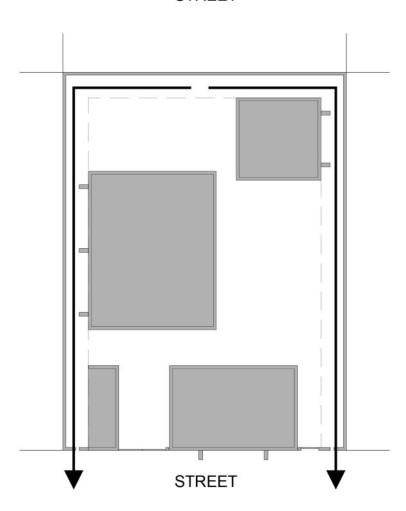
#### PRINCIPAL RULES TO RESPECT



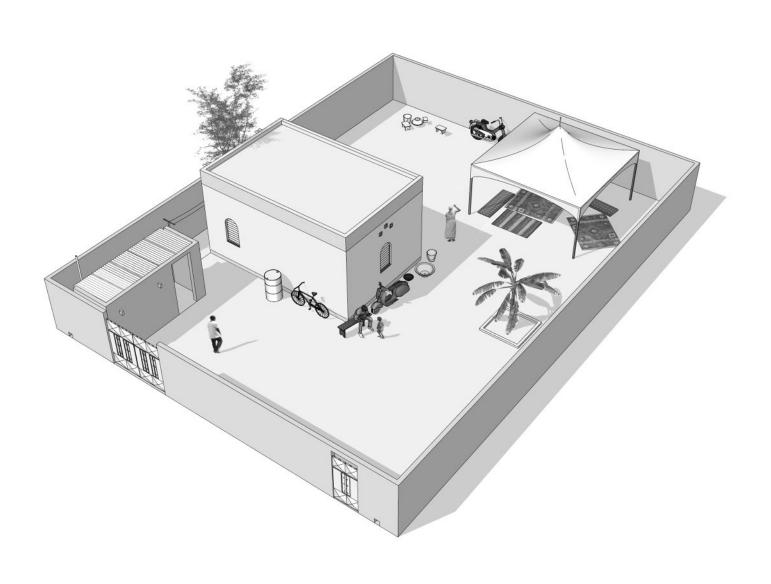
alignment to street possible

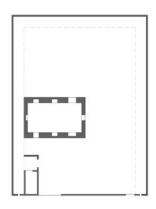




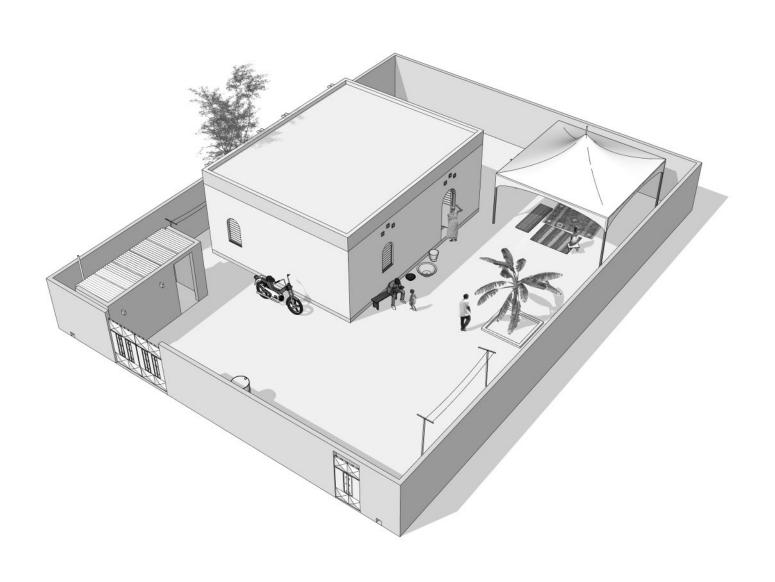


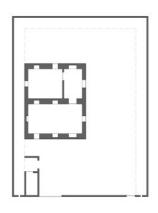
#### PHASE 1 : SINGLE MODULE / 20 m2



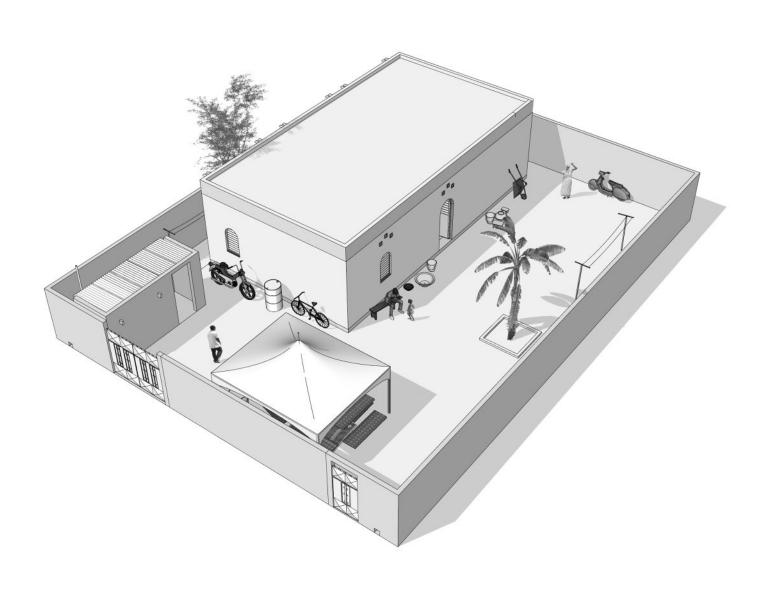


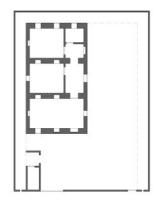
#### PHASE 2: DOUBLE MODULE / 40 m2



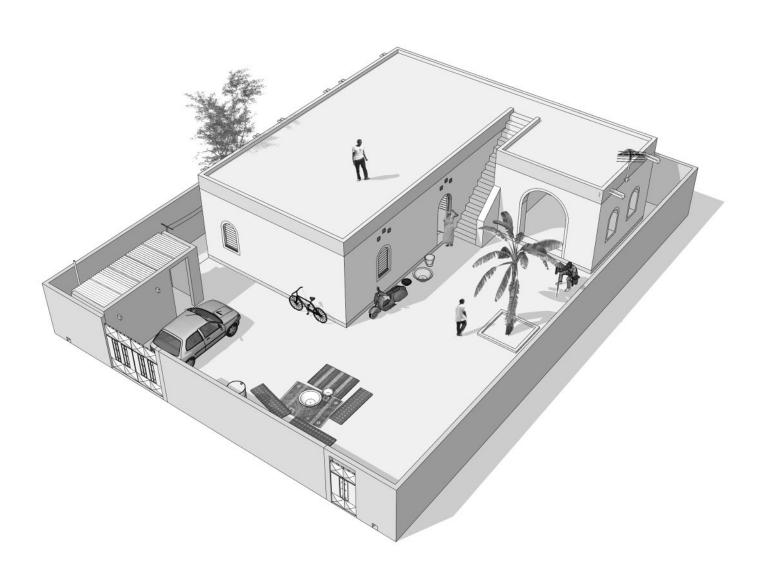


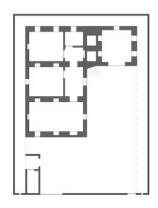
#### PHASE 3: TRIPLE MODULE / 60 m2



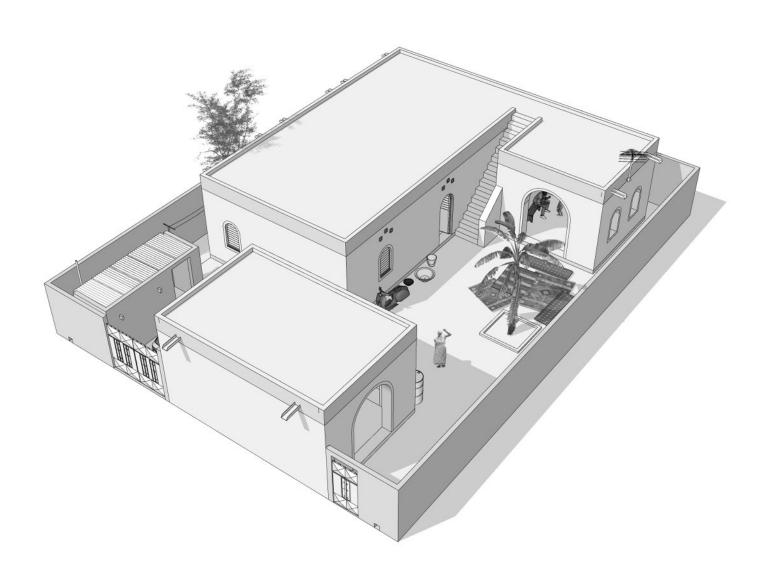


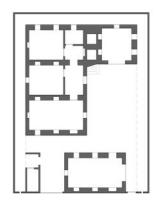
### PHASE 4 : TRIPLE MODULE + HALF MODULE + STAIRCASE / 72 m2



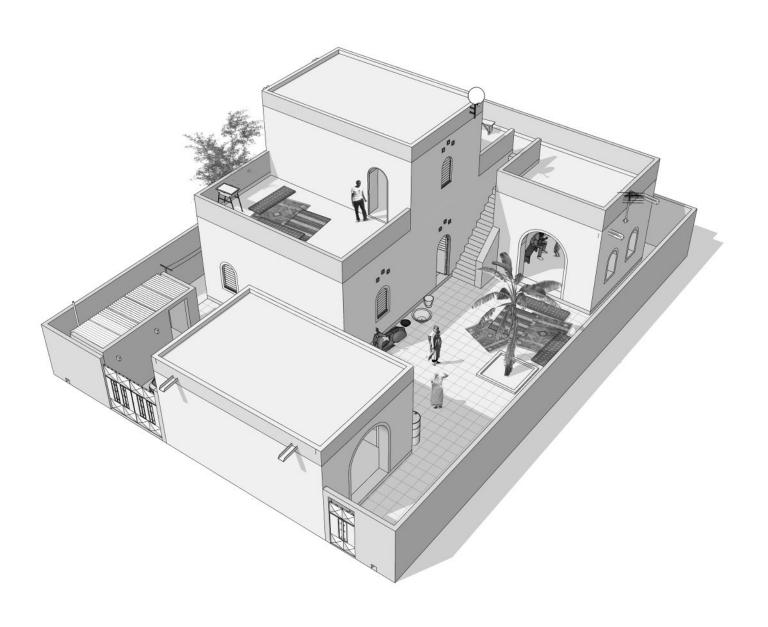


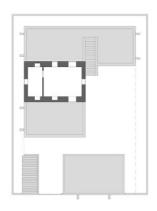
### PHASE 5 :TRIPLE MODULE + HALF MODULE + STAIRCASE + SINGLE MODULE / 92 m2



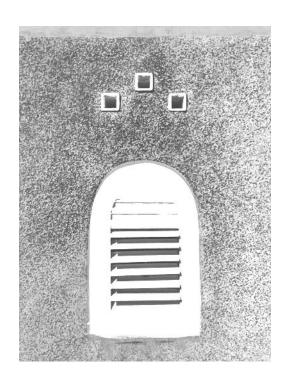


## PHASE 6: TRIPLE MODULE + HALF MODULE + STAIRCASE + SINGLE MODULE + 1st FLOOR SINGLE MODULE + BALUSTRADE / 112 m2





### **NEIGHBOURHOOD INTERVENTIONS**

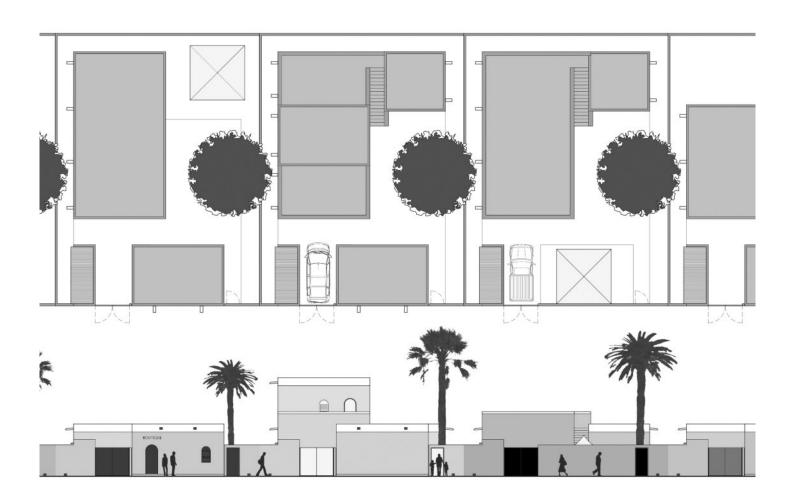


#### **HOUSING ESTATES, ECO-VILLAGES...**

The NV model of affordable, durable and climate-adapted housing was originally developed in response to the needs of rural families in the Sahel to obtain decent, extendable, housing using locally sourced materials and labour (including unskilled labour from family members).

However, it is also possible to use the same model as a basis for projects such as housing estates and eco-villages. Such projects would require complementary operations covering issues such as street access, public space, plot sizes, sanitation, land rights, planning permissions etc.

Such projects would also require the inclusion of innovatory financial and operational tools and systems to ensure that the concerned families are actually able to access, afford and maintain their homes.





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