

BARJEEL

TRADITIONAL WIND TOWER

Al-Bor Al-Kashteel, wind-tower, was used in many parts of the Gulf region. It was a tall structure with vertical openings in all directions; with internal walls arranged diagonally so that any breeze is forced downwards and up again before it can escape. This creates a circulation of air in rooms used in the summer. Rooms used in winter were not provided with wind-towers.

Wind-towers are square in plan, showing an X configuration of interior planes. They were built around an armature of wooden poles, which stabilize and reinforce the structure, and whose projecting ends were usually left to serve as scaffolding for cleaning and maintenance. The top half of the wind-tower was an enclosed funnel that accelerated the descending air into the room below. Al-Barjeel became a symbol of architecture in the Gulf region, and provided a satisfactory solution for bringing air inside the rooms while being protected against the harmful sun.

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