

# Light over the Kasbah

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Along the Mediterranean's edge, Algiers presents a grand facade - wide boulevards, stately white colonnades, and neoclassical order. Yet, a single turn inward reveals a different city. As the streets narrow and the buildings grow denser, the structured elegance fades into the labyrinthine Kasbah.

A historic district with roots predating the Ottoman era, the Kasbah embodies Algiers' true essence. Its name, derived from the Arabic «qasba» (fortress), originally referred to the citadel but now represents a living urban fabric. Unlike its North African counterparts, Algiers is shaped by its dramatic topography, cascading toward the harbor in a striking interplay of architecture and landscape.

Historically, the Kasbah was enclosed by a fortified wall, emphasizing its defensive function. Protection has always been crucial for its residents, regardless of the era. Today, the influx of tourists, external gazes, and the adaptation of local services for leisure threaten the identity of this place. The constant flow of visitors not only erodes its authentic atmosphere but also contributes to the physical deterioration of its surfaces and structures, endangering the historical fabric of the city.

The visitor pavilion does not intrude upon the ancient city but stands slightly apart. It is designed to reveal the structure of the Kasbah from above without exposing too much or disrupting the residents space. The pavilion adjoins the ruins of the city wall, visually continuing its form. The main task of the pavilion is to separate the flows of tourists and local groups.

## Algeria & Algiers

Algeria is the largest country in Africa, with a rich culture and history. The capital and largest city, Algiers, is located in the far north on the Mediterranean coast.

Heat, sea breezes, palm trees, sand, rocks - all this creates an unforgettable atmosphere of the city Algiers.



## Kasbah

Kasbah has been classified as World Heritage in 1992. It is a symbol of Algerian culture and heritage. Physical characteristics of the site of Kasbah have influenced its built form; its steep slope forced its builders to rely on stairs and narrow, winding streets. Only pedestrians are able to enter the area.



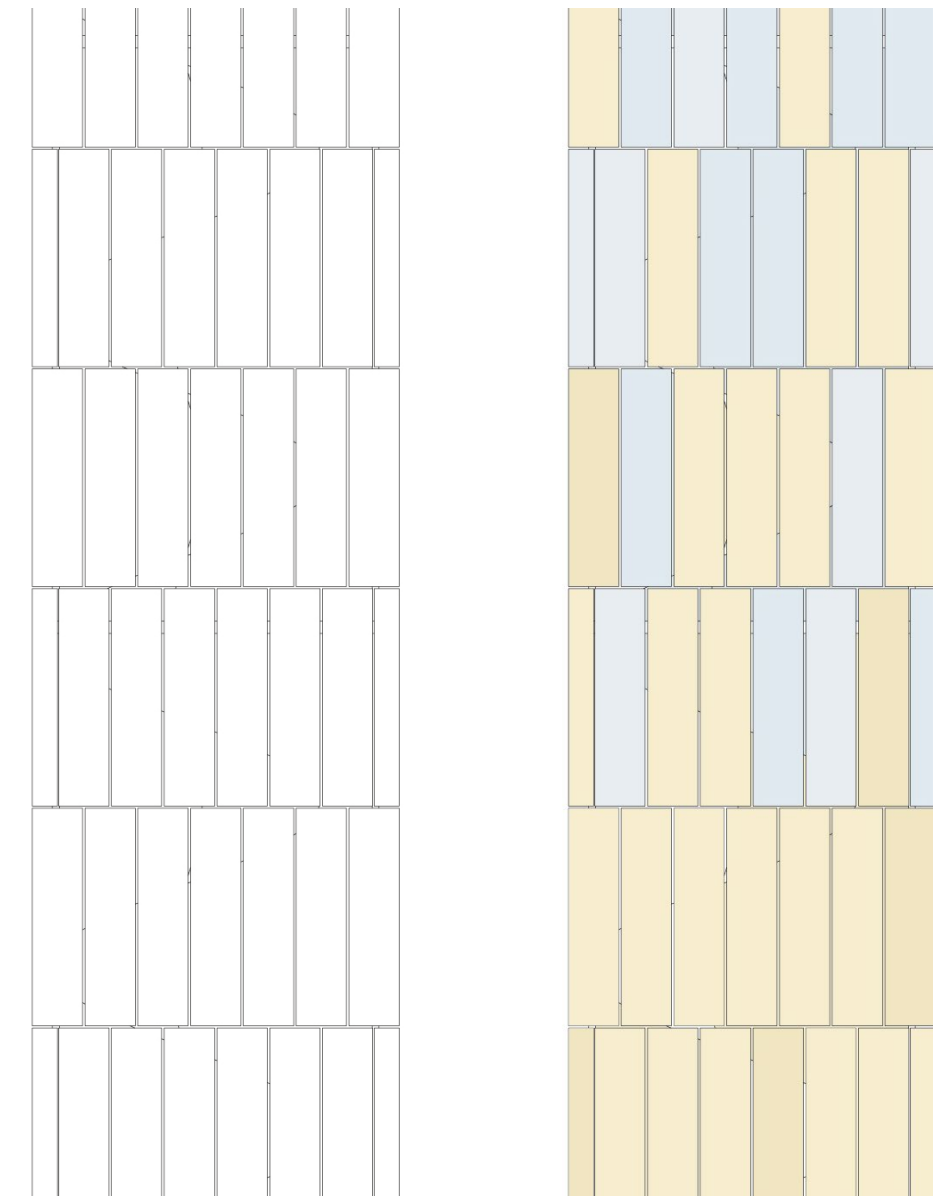
## Enclosure wall

The wall, a testament to the era's masterful craftsmanship, highlights intricate designs and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape, inviting visitors to admire its architectural brilliance. The massive enclosure wall was a symbol of Algeria's independence and pride before French expansion.

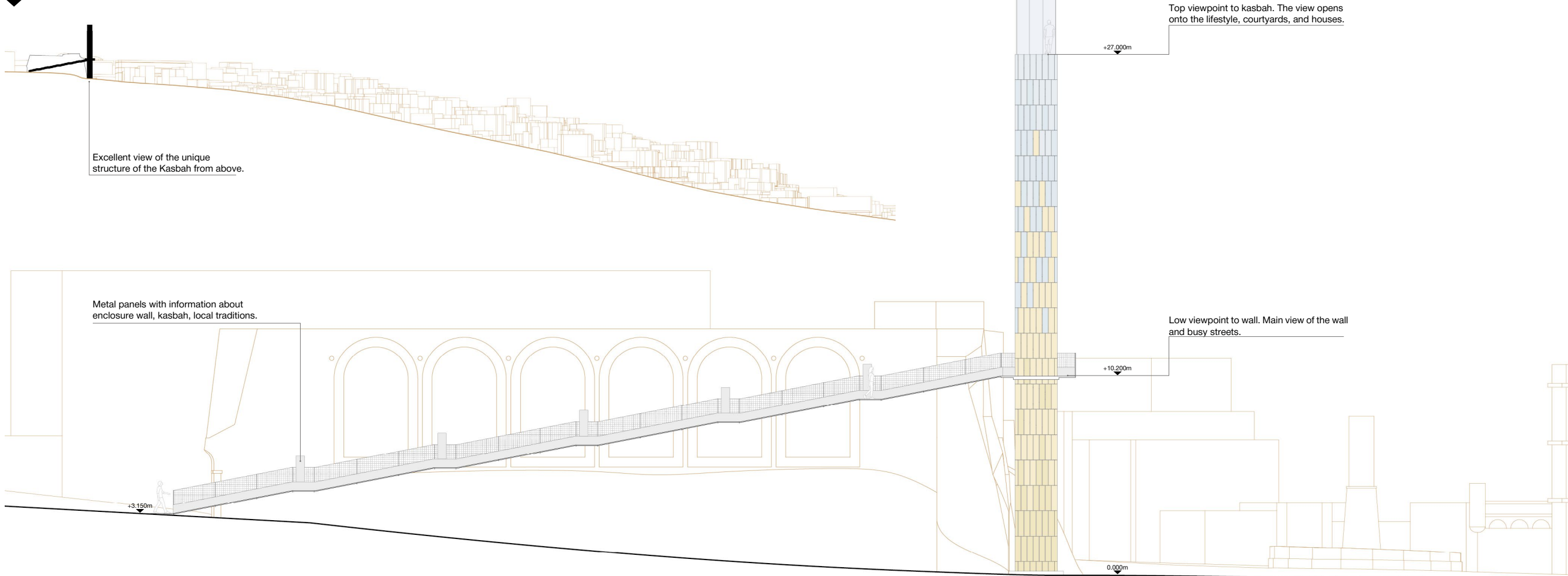


## Facade conception

The pavilion should dissolve in the sunny Algerian sky. It should be a contrast to the historical buildings, thereby emphasizing their originality. The materials selected are as resource-intensive and artistic as possible, so that the surfaces can reflect the facades of the buildings around, slightly dissolving in the city environment.

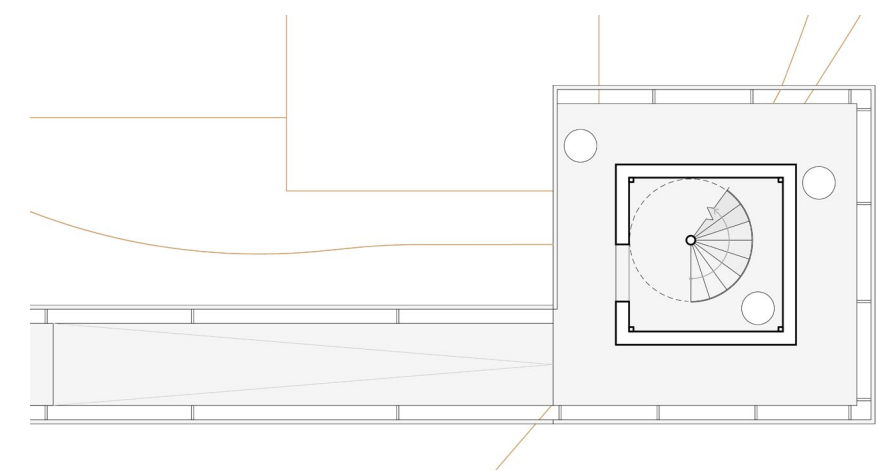


## Section / Facade



## Entrance level plan

The ramp to the low viewpoint has 6 lifts. After that, visitors will want to rest on the benches, and along the way, you can study the masonry of the ancient wall.



## Top viewpoint level plan

A circular staircase leads to the top viewpoint. Residents of the Casbah value their security, including visual security, and access to it should not be easy for outsiders. There is space for 4 people on the top platform.

