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Montazah site, known since Antiquity, was rediscovered and developed in the 19th and 20th centuries to become Egypt’s royal summer retreat. Khedive Abbas Hilmi, fascinated by the natural beauty of the site, decided to build a summer retreat there, the Salamlek, in 1899. King Fouad, later in 1927, built the Haramlek, and King Farouk added more dependencies including the Tea Pavilion and bridge. Following the 1952 coup d'état, the gardens and the beaches were opened to the public, yet still most of the site was reserved for Egypt’s elite society. An Italian company developed and managed the site and its beach facilities, while the royal residences were transformed into a hotel and casino. More transformation followed with the addition of the Palestine Hotel in the late 1960s, while casinos, clubs and entertainment facilities were added successively. This brief historical account is meant to document the history and development of the site, and serve as a guide to its resort and recreational facilities.
1. THE SITE IN ANTIQUITY - نبذة تاريخية عن الموقع
Montazah in Antiquity

Ancient remains discovered in Montazah testify to the existence of the site since Antiquity. Scholars associate Montazah with the ancient site of Taposiris Pavra, named in contrast to Taposiris Magna, west of Alexandria in the modern site of Borg El Arab.

According to purely literary sources, the site was believed to have contained the tomb of Osiris facing that of Idothoee (or Isis) in Acra-Lochias (modern Silselah).

Early evidence of existing archeology was documented by Botti as early as 1900, and cemeteries dating from the Roman period were later discovered by E. Breccia in 1926 when the Haramlek Palace was under construction and Italian architects and contractors were in charge of its building. Fragments of a crown of a colossal statue of Isis, Corinthian capitals and a granite altar were recovered and displayed as part of the garden landscapes of the palace.

Breccia also mentioned the possibility of the existence of summer villas, since pottery sherds, anchors and other fragments such as column capitals were discovered on the Tea Island which indicate, together with the naturally formed ports, the possibility of the use of the site in Antiquity as a summer resort. This is further emphasized with other discoveries on the adjacent Meanourah site, near land belonging to Prince Omar Toussoun and all along the coast eastwards to Canopus (nowadays Abu Kir).

Montazah in Antiquity

The site in Antiquity

In the Antiquity era, the Montazah site was known as Taposiris Pavra. It was believed to be the site of the tomb of Osiris facing that of Isis in Acra-Lochias. The site was first documented by Botti in 1900, and later excavations by E. Breccia in 1926, when the Haramlek Palace was under construction, revealed cemeteries and architectural remains dating from the Roman period. Breccia also mentioned the possibility of summer villas on the Tea Island, which has column capitals and other artifacts, indicating the site's use as a summer resort. Further discoveries on the Meanourah site, near Prince Omar Toussoun's land, and along the coast to Canopus, reinforced this. The site was also believed to have included summer villas and ports, as pottery sherds, anchors, and column capitals were found on the Tea Island.
Above: Rock cut tombs as documented by Breccia in 1926.
Opposite: Archeological finds displayed in artificial grottos in the garden-landscapes of the Haramies.  

Discoveries of the Necropolis of Montazah are also mentioned in Ramleh by Archduke Ludwig Salvator who provides an extensive historical and modern account of the Ramleh district in Alexandria’s environs.
Fragments of inscriptions, a capital, altar and a crown of a statue of Isis documented by Breccia, 1926.
2. THE SALAMLEK: A KHEDIVAL RETREAT - السالمليك: خيمته الاميرية الفدرالية
Khedive Abbas Hilmi II was accustomed to driving his own private locomotive to Ramleh. On one of his trips in the region he stopped in an area he greatly admired for its exceptional natural beauty. On that spot there was a small cabin that belonged to a certain M. Zorié who abandoned the property in favor of his sovereign. The Khedive then went about buying the adjacent lands, increasing his private property.

Influenced by his education in the Theresianum Academy in Vienna, Austria, Abbas instructed his architect Dimitri Fabricious Pasha, then architect of the khedival palaces, to build him a palace inspired by Austrian hunting lodges in a forested landscape. In 1892 Dimitri Fabricious conceived the palace in eclectic Austrian Baroque style and Khedive Hilmi took personal interest in developing the forest and garden estate of the surrounding palace to suit his own personal tastes and please his beloved Hungarian Countess May Torok von Sandoro later to become his second wife. Their marriage took place secretly at Montazah Palace, and was attended by two sheikhs. The official ceremony took place on 28 February 1910, presided by the Grand Mufti, and the new wife of the Khedive of Egypt, who converted to Islam, was given the name Princess Djavidan Hanem.

According to Djavidan Hanem, both she and the Khedive considered Montazah as their favorite residence.

Ekbal Hanem was Khedive Abbas Hilmi's first wife and the mother of his six children.

The Salamlek: the Khedival Retreat

Khedive Hilmi II visiting the site, in his famous train

Khedive Abbas Hilmi II, Countess May Torok von Sandoro

H.R.H Prince Abd El Moneim and Princess Nazli Shah with their children Prince Abbas and Princess Ekbal in their garden.

Khedive Abbas Hilmi visiting the site, in his famous train
Poem on Montazah by the Prince of Poets, Ahmed Shawki Bey

Montazah sketched by Archduke Ludwig Salvator in Ramleh als Winteraufenthalt. Leipzig, 1900.
وعندما أراد الخديوي إنشاء قصر في هذه الناحية الجميلة من الشاطئ، على غرار القصور النمساوية وسط الغابات، التي عرفها حين كان يدرس في الأكاديمية ثريسيانيوم في فيينا بالنمسا. آذى الخديوي إلى مهندس القصور الخديوية، اليوناني الأصلي ديمتري فابريشيوس باشا، بناء القصر الذي كان والده، توفيق الخديوي،يهمن عليه بناءه أيضًا على شواطئ الإسكندرية، خاصة في منطقة "السرايا"، نسبة إلى قصر الخديوي توفيق الذي كان وقتها بانتظاره، فأقامت فيه المليكة عائشة فرحانة، والدة الخديوي عباس حزين، على وفاة زوجها، ومن هنا كانت التسمية بـ "السرايا الحزينة".

فابريشيوس باشا بدأ في تصميم القصر على نمط نمساوي، وانتهى البناء عام 1892، وهدد تصميمه من الطرز النمساوية، ففي الغالب بدأ إخراجه بعدة سنوات، ويبدي التأثر بالطرز التاريخية للعمارة القوطية وعمارة عصر النهضة وخصوصاً الأبراج والقباب المتعادلة.

وكان يبرز أبرز ما يميز حدائق القصر بالإضافة إلى إطلاله على سواحل من الصخور والرمال والجزر والخلجان الطبيعية، جعلها ذات طابع فريد في جمالها بالمقارنة بالقصور الأخرى في مصر المحروسة.

واحتوى القصر ثلاثة طوابق؛ خصص الطابق الأرضي لمكتب الخديوي وقاعات الاستقبال والطعام، وخصص الطابقين التاليين لحجرات النوم والمعيشة الخاصة بإقامة الأسرة.

وقد أطلق على القصر اسم "السلاملك"، أي مكان الاستجمام والراحة باللغة التركية، وبعد فترة قصيرة أقام الخديوى مسكنًا للحريم، وكانت فيلا من طابق واحد خصصت لإقامة أفراد الأسرة وتم إزالتها في عصر الملك فؤاد لبناء قصر عرف فيما بعد بالحرم الملكي القديم.
وعرفت المنطقة منذ ذلك الحين باسم المنتزه تميزة عن المندرة شرقاً، وعندما كان صاحب المندرة الحديوية ينتقل الأسرة باسمها كان ينقل إلى المندرة، وقفت أسوار المنتزه بعد إقامة الأسوار حولها أراضٍ أخرى كانت ملكًا لبعض الأمراء مثل الأمير طوسون، ورأى الخديوى الذي غرف فيما بعد بالمعمورة بعد أن أقام فيها السلطان حسين كامل قصرًا، وسميت بأرض المعمورة.

The Salamlek in the Austrian eclectic style of the 19th century
قصر السلاملك في طرازه النمساوي المختلط
وقد أخذ الخديوي في العمل على تحويل المنتزه إلى أرض مثمرة، بالبساتين والحدائق والغابات، واستقدم لذلك الغرض مهندسين زراعيين من النمسا، وأقام مكتبًا وإدارة لهذا الغرض أطلق عليهما "التفتيش"، ومكاتب أخرى لاسطبلات الخيل وما شابه ومبنى للفنون والطيران.

واستخدم القصر كمقر صيفي للأسرة الخديوية، حيث كان رأس التين هو المقر الرئيسي للحكم، في حين تحول قصر القباري إلى مستشفى الحجر الصحي المحمودية والذي بقي قصرًا للضيافة وضم إلى أملاك الأمير "الكرانتينة"، وقصر نمرة

عمر طوسون، أما قصر الرمل بمنطقة سيدي جابر الذي كان قد بناه الأمير مصطفى باشا فاضل فقد ألت ملكيته بالاستيلاء إلى الخديوي إسماعيل فإنه تحول إلى ثكنة

Montazah Sta. – Close to the station is the summer resort of the ex-Khedive Abbas II, now (1922) being restored and refurnished by King Fouad. Permission to enter should be obtained if possible, for the scenery is unique in Egypt, and of the greatest beauty. The road leads by roses, oleanders and pepper trees. From it a road turns, right, up the hill to the Selamlek (men’s quarters), built by the Khedive in a style that was likely to please his Austrian mistress; on the terrace in front is a sundial and some guns. From the terrace, view of the circular bay with its fantastic promontories and breakwaters; the coast to the right is visible as far as Aboukir, whose minaret peeps over a distant headland; to the left are the Montazah woods; beneath, down precipitous steps, a curved parade. Beautiful walks in every direction, and perfect bathing. On the promontory to the right is a kiosk, and at its point are some remains of buildings, or baths—fragments of the ancient Taposiris Parva that once stood here; some of them form natural fishponds. The woods are Pines Maritimes, imported by the Khedive from Europe, and in the western section, beyond the Pigeon House, the trees have grown high. Various buildings are in the estate; in one corner are the foundations of an enormous mosque. During the recent war (1914–1919) Montazah became a Red Cross Hospital; thousands of convalescent soldiers passed through it and will never forget the beauty and the comfort that they found there.

E.M. Forster 1916.

Correspondence of E.M. Forster writing to Dickinson (1916) cited in Michael Haag, Alexandria: City of Memory. p. 32.

Montazah, as E.M. Forster wrote to Dickinson on 28 July, "offered a glimpse of earthly paradise among its tamarisk groves and avenues of flowering oleander on its reefs and fantastic promontories of rocks and sands, hundreds of young men … go about bare chested and bare legged".

Forster organised concerts to entertain the convalescent soldiers during World War I (1914-1918).
Sultan Hussein Kamel, Sultana Makta, and their daughters Princesses Samiha and Kadrieh

The Maamourah Palace in Turkish eclectic style

السلطان حسين كامل والسخنة من والاميرة قدرية وسميحة حسين كامل

قصر المعمورة على الطراز التركي

The Maamourah Palace in Turkish eclectic style

قصر المعمورة على الطراز التركي
3. THE HARAMlek: A SUMMER ROYAL RESIDENCE - 

الهراَمِك: العُمر الصّرْمِي الفَخْرِي -
في بناء قصر فاخر جديد على غرار القصور الملكية الإيطالية والتي كان قد أعجب بها الملك فؤاد سنة 1926 عند رغبته في بناء نازلي في إيطاليا. شرع في هدم الحرملك القديم وإقامة قصر جديد على أن تقوم الحكومة المصرية بتجديده وتجميله وتزويده بالأثاث الفاخر وإعادة تخطيط الشواطئ وتنسيق البساتين والغابات.

وعهد الملك فؤاد إلى أحد المهندسين الإيطاليين أرнести نازلي، مهندس القصور الملكية في إيطاليا، بناء القصر الجديد وتسيير المواقع حوله. وكان الإيطاليون محاطين بحاشية الملك وكان لهم تأثير قوي في بلاطه ومجرياته العامة. وقد تمكنوا واستحواذهم على صناعة وتجارة البناء في مصر وبناء وتجديد القصور الملكية لأفراد الأسرة العلوية في أنحاء مصر.
Views of the Haramlek at Montazah
قصر الحرملك

ل المنام

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One summer evening as night was falling, Fouad was taking his customary stroll in the palace Gardens of Montaza, with his aide-de-camp following at a discreet distance. Suddenly, inexplicably, an old woman appeared before him. The aide sprang forward to pull her away, but very calmly she told Fouad that she meant well, that she would tell him his fortune, his destiny. She spoke of many good things to come for him, his Dynasty and his people, provided that he and his family remained faithful to Allah and the commands of the Book, and that they used the letter F—the first letter of his name—as often as possible…

Fouad was impressed by the words of the old soothsayer. He ordered that she be given a gold dinar and be well fed before leaving. It happens that my father—may his memory be eternal—who, as I have told you, was head gardener at Montaza, was near at hand and witnessed what was said…

People heard about what had taken place. At the palace everyone was whispering about the F…

A few days later, before leaving for his other Palace in Alexandria, at Ras al-Tin, Fouad ordered some Italian artists to decorate Montaza with huge calligraphic Fs. Why did he choose the F of the Latin alphabet? Perhaps out of vanity, to imitate Napoleon, who decorated everything with his monogram, N.

So "F" was carved grandly on the outer walls. F was painted on the gold-inlaid halls. F on the liverware, F on the fine porcelain crockery. F here and F there, F everywhere…

Shortly afterwards, Fouad's first daughter was born and he gave her a name beginning with F—Fawziya. His second daughter he named Fayza, the third Fata, the fourth Fahra. Fouad was the fifth child, a son and heir, the pride and joy of the King.

The years went by, Fouad passed away. Farouk was crowned King and continued the devoted use of the letter F that dominated all the palaces. He married Safinaz and immediately changed her name to Farida. Farida gave him three daughters: Ferial, Fawziya, and Fadia…

Things started to go wrong for Farouk in 1951; after his divorce from Farida, he took a new wife, Nariman, but he did not change her name…

But the worst part, the bookseller went on, incensed, "was that a year later when Nariman gave Farouk their first son, an heir to the throne, they did not name him after his grandfather. Instead of calling him Fouad they named him Ahmed Fouad. The devil had succeeded in befuddling the King's brains…

From then on, everything went wrong…

The abdication of Farouk in July of 1952, the proclamation of the newborn Ahmed Fouad as King, the exile of the Royal Family…"

“We went ashore in darkness in a large motor launch belonging to the Egyptian navy and landed at the water gate of a palace plunged in utter darkness; then, after much chattering, somewhere a switch was thrown and a sort of combination of Taj Mahal and Eiffel Tower blared out upon the night. It was my first exposure to Egyptian Baroque, so the simile is surprisingly apt. To blare, to bray—so much light in so many mirrors of so many colours—the effect was polymorphous perverse, so to speak ... I realized that I was going to fall in love with the place—I saw that it was a huge temple of inconsequences.”

Lawrence Durrell, Constance: The Avignon Quintet
بعد أن قام فيروتشي سنة 1924 بتجديد وتطوير قصر رأس التين على طراز الباروك الإيطالي واستعان في التصميمات بالمهندسين والمقاولين والصناع والمواد المستوردة من إيطاليا، واستند في تصميمه للقاعة العرش إلى الطراز الإسلامي المستحدث بخبرة المهندس ماريو روسي والذي يرجع له الفضل في تصميم العديد من المباني والمساجد الإسلامية من إيطاليا، ومنها في الإسكندرية مسجد المرسي أبو العباس والقائد إبراهيم والسيد محمد كريم وسيدي التمراز. قام فيروتشي بتصميم قصر الحرملك على نمط إحياء الطرز القوطية للقصور والقلاع الإيطالية مقلدًا بشدة قصر ماكينزي سنة 1927 في فلورنسا.

ومن أهم خصائص التصميم الداخلي لقصر الحرملك الحوش الداخلي المسقوف بالزجاج الملون والذي يجمع حوله الفراغات والسلالم الداخلية لعناصره وتبرز التراسات الخارجية والسلالم والأبراج في تشكيلات بارزة في الواجهات الخارجية مع التنوع في استخدام طوب السورناجا والبياض وكذلك القيشاني الملون من تفاصيل دقيقة ومتنوعة من الزخارف والعناصر المعمارية القوطية والتي تشكل العمارة المميزة للقصر.

وقد عهد بناء القصر إلى شركة دي فارو الإيطالية وافتتح الملك في الثاني من مارس سنة 1926. وتميز القصر من الداخل الرومانسية وكان من المثير للاهتمام في المباني الإسلامية المعتادة. وتم تشييده على نمط إحياء الطرز القوطية للقصور والقلاع الإيطالية مقلدًا بشكل خاص قصر ماكينزي 1927 في فلورنسا.

ومن أهم معالم القصر قصر الحرملك في الخصائص المعمارية القوطية، مثل الواجهات والسلالم الداخلية والغلاف الخارجي. يشتهر القصر بجدرانه الزجاجية الملونة، والتي تعيش فيه الفنون الجميلة والفنون الشرقي. وتم تصميم القصر على النمط الإسلامي والباروكي الإيطالي، حيث يتميز القصر بأساليب معمارية إيطالية مع وجود النقوش الإسلامية المميزة. وتشتمل القصر على الديكورات الفنية والفنية الفريدة المستوحاة من الفن الإسلامي والمسيحي، مما يجعله إحدى أهم المعالم المعمارية في مصر.

وقد تضمن القصر العديد من المعالم المعمارية الفريدة، مثل الجدران الزجاجية الملونة، والصخور واللويحات النحاسية، والزخارف المعدنية، والخشب الطبيعي. ويتميز القصر بتصميمه الرفيع والملائم، حيث يتميز بكونه مكتئبًا و分辨率ًا، مما يجعله مكانًا رفيعًا ومثيرًا للإعجاب.

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والقصر يشتهر بديكوراته الفنية الفريدة، مثل النقوش الإسلامية المميزة، والزخارف المعدنية، والزخارف النحاسية، والخشب الطبيعي. ويتميز القصر بتصميمه الرفيع والملائم، حيث يتميز بكونه مكتئبًا و分辨率ًا، مما يجعله مكانًا رفيعًا ومثيرًا للإعجاب.
The main reception areas and salons are treated in the Baroque style, their furniture in French Louis XV style. In the main salon are two desks decorated with applied female bronze figures. The same gilted bronze figures also appear on the marble fireplace mounted by a wall arched mirror which complements the arched setting of the fenestrations and wall decorations. The furniture includes a library chair upholstered in gros and petit point needle work. One secretaire in mahogany marqueterie appears uniquely in the arrangement, slightly bombé in Rococo style with gilted ormolu bronze mounts. The oak parquet floorings are covered with Persian Herat carpets, while the chandeliers and appliques in gilt bronze are cast in the Regency style.
Remarkably imposing, dominating the general layout of the Palace is the central hall in the Baroque style. Its walls and surrounding galleries are treated in white Italian Arbescato marble and policolor glass is applied to its fenestration and sky roof, overshadowing any furniture or works of art which are hardly noticeable in the interior space arrangements.

The private salons are also treated in the Baroque style. The French style gilt canapé and bergère in the Louis XV style, surround the space arrangement. Two pier wooden gilded tables carved in the Baroque style with marble tops appear in the center of the room.

The parquet floors are covered with nearly wall to wall Turkish Ushak carpets, while the crystal chandelier is in the corbeille Louis XVI style.
Main dining room in the eclectic Baroque style: the dining table, chairs and fire place are in the Byzantine revival style.
Aerial view of the site from the Dores collection album

صور من أرشيف دوريس تفصيلية من الطائرة

THE HARAMlek: A SUMMER ROYAL RESIDENCE 

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The Palace gardens and pathways

Bathing cabins on the beaches

حدائق القصر والمتنزهات

كابين الاستحمام على الشاطئين
Above: the Cactus Garden facing the Haramlek Palace
أعلى: حديقة الصبار أمام قصر الحرملك

Right: Princesses school on the Port Bay
يمين: مدرسة الأميرات على خليج الميناء الملكي
“the Montazah woods; beneath, down precipitous steps, a curved parade. Beautiful walks in every direction, and perfect bathing.


The Port hosted the Khedival and Royal yachts Safaa El Bahr and El Mahroussa.
K.M. Queen Nazli with her children in a royal carriage
"الملكة نازلي مع أطفالها في نزهة بالكارتة الملكية"
The Prince and Princesses at Montazah
الأمير والأميرة في حدائق المنتزه
The Prince and Princesses playing at Montazah.

الأمير والأمّات في حدائق المنتزه.

THE HARAMlek: A SUMMER ROYAL RESIDENCE
The Princesses Fawzia, Faika, Fayza and Pathia sisters of H.H. Prince Farouk at Montazah

The Princesses in the company of their British nannies

الأميرات مع العبيد المصريين

SISTERS OF H.H. PRINCE FAROUK AT MONTAZAH
The young Princesses and their British governesses at Montazah.

الأماني مع المربيات البريطانيات في المنتزه.
Young Prince Farouk at leisure and sports at Montazah
الأمير فاروق الرياضي في المنتزه
Prince Farouk and the Princesses driven to school
الأمير فاروق والأميرات في الطريق إلى مدرسة الأمراء

Prince Farouk driving a convertible MG escorted by his sisters, the Princesses
الأمير فاروق تودع مدرسة "إم ج" مرفقة الأميرات في رحلة الصيف

HARAMlek: A SUMMER ROYAL RESIDENCE
montazah
Young King Farouk I of his desk
Among the few additions to the Palace during the reign of King Farouk were the bridge, water tower, police and train stations, and the Tea Pavilion, all designed by the Egyptian architect Mostafa Fahmy Pasha.

Rare photograph of the architect Mostafa Fahmy Pasha who designed the bridge linking the Tea Island with the mainland.

The Tea Pavilion on the Island designed by Mostafa Fahmy Pasha in the Neoclassical style.
The Royal train station by Mestoudjian Contracting

Water tower

Entrance gate
The young King at Montazah

 الملك الشاب في باني الاستحمام
The Shoes of Happiness

The story goes that Theodoros Bárvas, a poor Greek shoemaker with a modest shop at the corner of El Falaki and Sherif Street, Alexandria, heard a little girl crying outside his shop because a stitch in her sandal had broken. He invited the little girl and the accompanying lady to enter his shop. It took minutes for Theodoros to repair the sandal; that made the little girl happy and smiling. When he was offered remuneration, he refused saying that he had done very little. The accompanying nanny insisted that he had in fact done a lot: he had made the little girl smile which she never did, as by nature she was always sad. So she wrote a telephone number asking Theodoros to call the girl’s mother who would be glad to invite him for a cup of tea.

To the shoemaker’s surprise the telephone number was of that of the Montazah Palace and the little girl’s mother was Princess Fawzia, Farouk’s sister.

Theodoros was all confused but accepted the invitation as apparently the little girl wanted to see him again. When he met the Princess he was asked to produce a large number of women’s shoes for the next ball. It was the “pink ball” and all the ladies would wear pink dresses and new pink shoes; so Theodoros had to take the measurement of some one-hundred distinguished feet. The next ball was the “green ball” and all the shoes ordered were to be green. The balls kept repeating, and more and more shoes were ordered, so Theodoros acquired a reputation as provider for the Royal Palace and then opened a respectable shop that kept him prosperous for the rest of his days.

Cited by H. Tzalas in Alexandria Mirage, Athens, 2013

Aحذية السعادة – قصة قصيرة عن المصري

حكي الروائي هاري تزالس عن صانع أحذية يوناني الأصل بالإسكندرية (ثيودروس برفاس) أسعد فتاة صغيرة حين قام بإصلاح حذائها. فما كان أن تمت دعوته إلى الشاي في قصر المنتزه ولدهشته كانت الصغيرة والتي سعدت بلقائه مرة أخرى هي كريمة الأميرة فوزية.

وقد طلبت الأميرة فوزية من صانع الأحذية أن يقوم بصناعة أحذية وردية اللون لحفلة في القصر وتبع ذلك حفلات أخرى متتالية، وعرف منذ ذلك الحين بصانع الأحذية الملكية وكانت هذه الحادثة سببًا في شهرته وثروته.

Cited by H. Tzalas in Alexandria Mirage, Athens, 2013

Music program of the Royal Band

البرنامج الموسيقي للفرقة الملكية

ابناء الأزمة: تحميل الصورة إلى المكتبة
Queen Fatima and young Princess Ferial at Montazah

Princess Ferial's bedroom at Montazah

Queen Farida and young Princess Ferial at Montazah

Princess Ferial's bedroom at Montazah
El Mahroussa “El Horeyah”
The Khedival yacht El Mahroussa was built by Samauda Bros, London, in 1865, and subsequently was given two complete facelifts: one in 1906 in Glasgow when two steam turbines replaced its oscillating steam paddle; and the second in 1950, in Italy, touched its upper deck and tunnel. El Mahroussa is considered the oldest Royal steam yacht in the world, moored in front of Ras El Tin Palace, and is still in service for the Egyptian Navy. The yacht was renamed “El Horeyah” after the 1952 coup d’état, and renamed again “El Mahroussa” by President Mubarak.

Safaa El Bahr “Ithaca”
The yacht was ordered by Khedive Abbas Hilmi II. Built in 1894, by A & J Inglis of Glasgow, she had two masts but depended on a triple expansion steam engine, was steel built and had a single propeller, cruising at a speed of 14 knots. The yacht was used mostly on the Turkish coasts and the Sea of Marmara. Later during 1915–1919 she was hired by the Egyptian Navy as a patrol vessel. In 1920, it was sold to Dracoulis and renamed “Ithaca”; and in 1929, she was resolded to Hellenic Coast Lines. Bombed and sunk in 20 April 1929, off Suda Bay.

Fakhr El-Bihar – Intesar
It was built for Prince Youssef Kamal, in 1930, by Ramage and Ferguson (85 meters) and bought by King Farouk in 1940, who sold the yacht to the Government of Egypt in 1949. It is operational with the Egyptian Navy.

King Farouk and Queen Nariman on board El Mahroussa

El Mahroussa yacht

Fakhr El-Bihar – Intesar

The King on board Fakhr El-Bihar

Safaa El Bahr yacht

El Mahroussa yacht

King Farouk and Queen Nariman on board El Mahroussa
The Visit of a Lonely King

One summer night, awakened by the sound of voices, Judge Brinton recalls how an unexpected guest at a party in his home in Glymenopoulo was King Farouk himself. Rather than returning to Montazah Palace, Farouk had asked if he could spend the night remarking “You know I have no home”. Judge Brinton reflected “And what kind of a home, for a man without a wife or family, his family life had broken up, was the immense establishment of Montazah compared to our own friendly household, full of youth, liveliness and warm welcome”.

A short-lived second marriage and heir to the crown
King Farouk I and Queen Nariman carrying their newborn son Ahmed Fouad.
ملك الملك فاروق الأول والملكة ناريمان مع الطفل الرضيع أحمد فؤاد.

Quoted in Michael Haag, Alexandria: City of Memory. Judge Brinton was an eminent member of the American community and the Mixed Courts.
4. REVOLUTION: THE PEOPLES PUBLIC PARK AND BEACHES - ՔԱՂԱՐԱՅԻՆ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՊԱՐԿ ԵՎ ՖՈՆՏԱՎԵ
The Montazah resort, developed and managed by an Italian company, was designed by Pietro Porcinai. The works on site were supervised by the resident architect Pietro Verbinscak.

The process of Montazah site development post-1952 involved the transformation of both the Haramlek and Sabarmilek Palaces into a hotel and casino, and about 580 cabins were implanted on its coastal beaches named Aida, Nefertiti, Cleopatra and Semiramis; while the Palestre Hotel was built to host the Arab Summit in 1964. More recently, the Haramlek has been used as an official guest house; and other recreational facilities were added such as a sports club and marina.
The sale of the Palace collections in 1954 and 1958
Presidential visits of the Palestine Hotel
زيارات الرؤساء لفندق فلسطين

Palestine Hotel designed by the Military design office in 1964, completed in record time to host the Arab Summit in 1964
فندق فلسطين تصميمه ومتابعته بواسطة مكتب الأشغال العسكرية استعدادًا لتستضيء مؤتمر الرؤساء العرب في 1964.
Unlike President Nasser, who preferred spending the summer months at his villa in neighboring Maamourah, Sadat occasionally used his Montazah cabin and spent more of his summer holidays in his villa retreat at Borg El Arab on the West Coast of Alexandria. President Mubarak followed the same preference for the North Coast.
5. THE HISTORIC PARK AND PALACES TODAY - الفنون والآثار والمعارضات
5.1 SITE AND AERIAL VIEWS
Montazah Site Plan

- Historical Building
- Mosque
- Gate
- Clinic
- Public Gardens
- Restaurant
- Private Gardens
- Parking
- Tea Island
- Tea Pavilion
- The Lighthouse
- Water Sports Club
- President Sadat’s Cabin
- Montazah Palace
- El Morrosiek
- El Meemoura
- El Prince
- Royal Guest Palace
- Royal Court Quarters
- The Winsome
- Patisserie Sable
- Greenland Club
- Montazah Company
منظر عام للموقع

Birds-eye perspective of the site
Aerial views of the site
صور بالأقمار الصناعية وصور عامة للموقع
5.2 THE GARDENS AND BEACH LANDSCAPES - امتدادات الشواطئ وتنسيق المواقع
Standing Classical column in the Cactus Garden
عمود أثري في موقع حدائق الصبار
Archeological remains on the site

بقايا أثرية في مواقع متناثرة بالموقع
The recent discoveries of anchors in limestone suggest a mooring post at Montazah.

Antique amphoras discovered in great numbers lying at the bottom of the Sea on the Eastern shores of Tea Island testify to commercial maritime activity at Montazah in Antiquity.


Beach cabins in Nefertiti Beach

The Haramlek Palace and dependencies
The Haramlek and Water Tower in by palm tree forests
قصر الحرملك وبرج المياه تحيطهما غابات النخيل
Montazah Park

Today, the site occupies approximately 200 feddans, and contains 60 feddans of forest and 58 feddans of palm trees, presently maintained by 205 staff members under the supervision of 15 horticulturalists and landscape architects. Originally, the site included fruit trees, a poultry and dairy farm, and a gazelle grotto which have been removed.

حدائق المنتزه:

تتكون حدائق المنتزه من حوالي 200 فدان من الحدائق والمساحات الخضراء، يشمل الفدان من الحدائق حوالي 60 فدانًا من غابات النخيل و58 فدانًا من الغابات، ويعمل في صيانة تلك الحدائق حوالي 205 أشخاص يشرف عليهم حوالي 15 مهندسًا زراعيًا ومهندسًا لандسケaping. وكانت الحدائق تضم في السابق أشجار الفاكهة والفاكهة (مثل المانجو والبرتقال والكمثرا والجوافة ...إلخ) كما كانت تضم مجمعاً للألبان و хозяйلات الأغنام والطيور وحوضاً للغزال تم إزالتها والاستغناء عنها.
Above: The rocky landscapes and palm tree gardens

Right: Gardens of the palm trees Phoenix dactylifera and Acalypha wilkesiana

يمين: حدائق تضم نباتات نخيل البلح وأكاليفا

أعلى: الحدائق الصخرية وحدائق النخيل العامة

Above: The rocky landscapes and palm tree gardens

Right: Gardens of the palm trees Phoenix dactylifera and Acalypha wilkesiana

يمين: حدائق تضم نباتات نخيل البلح وأكاليفا

أعلى: الحدائق الصخرية وحدائق النخيل العامة
Garden alleys of Ficus nitida and Bougainvillea
ممرات المشاة في الحدائق تضم نباتات فيكي نيتيدا والجهنمية
Flower garden and Cupressus macrocarpa trees

Alcea rosea (Malvaceae)
19th century cannons from the Mohamed Ali period surrounded by Phoenix dactylifera and Acokanthera spectabilis.
The Gardens and Beach Landscapes

Granite lion in the decorative style

أسد من الجرانيت في الطرز الزخرفية

Marble lion in the Renaissance style

تمثال أسد نائم من الرخام
في طراز عصر النهضة

Entrance road

طريق المدخل الرئيسي

Kiosk in the garden

كشك داخل الحدائق

Granite lion in the decorative style

أسد من الجرانيت في الطرز الزخرفية
Aida Beach
Semiramis Beach
Marina Beach
Bridge and neighboring Maamourah
THE GARDENS AND BEACH LANDSCAPES

Aida cabins

Semiramis Bay

Silent Semiramis

Private villas

Montazah

Semiramis cabins

Cabins at Agada
The Gardens and Beach Landscapes

Montazah

Tea Island
Natural pool

Rock formation fish ponds
5.3 THE SALAMLEK HOTEL - ضنالی السالملک
Salamlek Hotel and Casino

First floor plan

Ground floor plan

Basement plan
Main Elevation
Flambées Royales  
Flamed by your table

Crevèelles du Roi Farouk  
Royal prawns  
served with brown rice  
85.00

Crevèelles du Roi Fouad  
Sautéed shrimps  
served with white rice  
80.00

Pissaladière de la Reine Nazimah  
Sautéed shell cutlets  
served with mashed potatoes and fresh peas  
60.00

Steak du Sultan Hussein  
Twin flat steaks  
served with mushrooms, mashed potatoes and asparagus vegetables  
60.00

Desserts flambés des Princesses  
Flamed by your table

Tarte Princesse Fawzia  
Fruit pie, flamed and served with prune and caramel sauce  
15.00

Tarte de fraise Princesse Fayza  
Strawberry shortcake  
15.00

Crêpes Princesse Fayza  
Homemade pancakes  
20.00

Crêpes Princesse Fat'heya  
Homemade pancakes stuffed with apple cubes and hearty melt  
30.00

Menu, San Giovanni, Salamlek Hotel  
فلسفة الطعام
Above left: Outdoor garden

Above right: Terraces

Right: Guest rooms terrace panorama

يمين: الخليج من خلال التراسات الخاصة بغرف النزلاء

أعلى يمين: التراسات

أعلى شمال: الحديقة الخارجية

يمين الحدائق من خلال التراسات. فندق لو بريده، الدار البيضاء.
Reception salons
 صالونات الاستقبال
Above right: Entrance hall
لدى اليمين: صالة المدخل
Below right: Dining room
لدى اليمين: قاعة الطعام الخاصة
Gambling casino
Guest rooms
5.4 THE HARAMLEK PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE - المرملك - ضيافة الرئاسة
Haramlek Palace, kitchen, laundry and staff dependencies.
Main façade and entrance
Above: Loggias and tower balconies

يمين: تفاصيل معمارية للبرج

Right: Tower Architectural detailing
Above: Entrance details

يمين: تفاصيل بالعقود

Right: Balcony and loggia details and façade composition
Above: Haramlek Palace and music kiosk
يمين: لقطة ليلية للحرملك
Right: Night view of the Haramlek
منطقة حيارة لمصر
Tower details

Site

Grand Palace

Haramlek Palace

تفاصيل البرج
الموقع العام للقصر
Plan of the music kiosk

-section A-A

-section B-B

THE HARAM LEK: PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE

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Terracotta and mosaic façade details

تفاصيل الصورناجا والقيشاني في الواجهات
Loggias
التراسات الخارجية
F indscribed on the front façade of the Haramlek
حرف الفاء على جدران قصر الحرملك

Haramlek loggias and open galleries
التراسات الخارجية لقصر الحرملك
Loggias and open galleries of Haramlek Palace
التراسات الخارجية لقصر الحرملك
Stucco details, marble parapets and stained glass fenestrations.

الواجهات الداخلية لبهو المدخل من الرخام والزجاج الملون.
Entrance Hall details
التفاصيل المعمارية لبهو المدخل
Corridor details

التفاصيل المعمارية للممرات الداخلية
Fresco details of Medieval Chivalry scenes

لوحات الفريسيك على الحوائط من قصص البطولات في العصور الوسطى
5.5 PALESTINE HOTEL - فنادق فلسطين
Palestine Hotel: Location and site
موقع وحدود فندق فلسطين
5.6 THE TEA ISLAND PAVILION AND BRIDGE - ضريح الشاي والجسر
The Tea Pavilion
كشك الشاي
Tea Island
جزيرة الشاي
The Tea Island
جزيرة الشاي
The Island Bridge

كوبري الجزيرة
THE TEA ISLAND PAVILION AND BRIDGE

The Bridge and Public Beach
الكوبري والشاطئ العام
5.7 THE YACHTING MARINA AND LIGHTHOUSE

مرسى اليوت والضياع
The Lighthouse and Port
المنارة وميناء اليخوت
The Lighthouse and Yacht marina

المنارة وميناء اليخوت
Detailing on the Lighthouse Bridge
The Lighthouse
تفاصيل المنارة
The Lighthouse and Yacht marina
المنارة وميناء اليخوت
5.8 THE ROYAL GREENHOUSE - الصيدلية الملكية
The Royal Greenhouse
الصوبة الملكية
Greenhouse interior including plants such as Nephrolepis exaltata, Cycas revoluta, Pandanus veitchii, Aglaonema commutatum, etc.
Above left: Anthurium spp., Adiantum tenerum
Above right: Spathiphyllum wallisii, Codiaeum variegatum
Right: Chryplectites elegans (palm), Howeia forsteriana (palm), Pteris ensiformis
Paradise Resort (deer cave) and restaurants
منتجع البراديس (جوهر الغزال) والمطاعم

Sports Club
النادي الرياضي
Casino

Mosque

The Clock Tower and shops
برج الساعة - مركز تجاري
The Windmill
الطاحونة

The Water Reservoir
خزان المياه

The Water Reservoir
حراة الماء
Workshops and Administration Offices

الورش ومكاتب الإدارة
5.11 THE ROYAL TRAIN STATION AND GARAGE - مصانع القطارات الملكية والمحازم
Above: Train garage

يمين: محطة قطار المنتزه

Right: Montazah Railway Station
5.12 ENTRANCE GATE - البوابة الرئيسية
Entrance to Montazah
المدخل الرئيسي للمونتازة