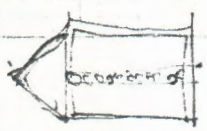
Oct. 15. 73 Nizwa

In the evening we were invited to the house of Naser Rashid a silver smith who we had met earlier in the day while he was working on rebuilding his house. He was replacing each element of his mud brick house (which had been extensively damaged during rain & was now being built on top of). He was now using concrete block. This evening we met him at another of his houses ½ mile north of the main town of Nizwa in the Palm Groves (likely his summer house), this was a single story mud brick house. (His Nizwa house was 2 stories). This evening we found Nasser & two young boys in his majalis studio. His son Salim Naser Rashid 13 and Hilal Saud Hamid 13 friend of Salim (school mate) ~~Hilal~~ Hilal's father had died but was quiet at home in Naser's house both boys helping Naser by cranking the bellows for his jewelers fire and using blow torch (melting down silver coins 18th cent Austrian) to form sort of bars. The majalis ceiling beams painted with while ornament and around windows (arched) and cornice with red and green paint. Some insence in the burner (charcoal as well) pot on for tea.

We shaw a child's painting pined to the wall right under Qabous' portrait. A palm plantation with a helicopter over head. On the other side though was more interesting a story of 4 seens incidents in picture form. Apparently a school homework assignment done by Salim. He had been told to draw an imaginary story. The pictures on one sheet of paper in bright colours separate from each other (each drawing only about 5cm high) starting in the mid bottom right hand corner then to lower left then upper right. Whole story page bordered all round with a 2.5 cm wide band pencil line.
The story was of a young boy about 13 bringing a present home to his mother for mothers day (21 March) The present (a ornate cup) was droped & broken in the next by boy picture. The 3rd picture the mother holding a stick. Salim said that she had beat the boy for breaking the cup. The last picture shows the mother standin beside the house (no boy or stick).
The houses were simetrical 1x centre door 2 windows each side one above other. Second centre door one window on each side. The boy in western cloths shirt & shorts and mother in traditional long Oman red dress. Houses with ~~peaked~~ apparent sloped roofs and ploted out area like garden in front.

The boy said that the story was not true but about a foreigner. The house was lived in by an employer of Scansca the Swedish company which built the hospital. The story was about foriegners because the story would be more beautiful. The plot infront of the house was a step like the step in front of his house. Sloped roof like the one at school.

We then asked the two boys to draw pictures of thei own houses. Hilal drew in my book and Salim on one of the sheets.
Hilal started first looking for a ruler & drawing a frame around the page.
After drawing house outline roof door centre post decora and arched like above, then window seeing his friend draw a rectangular door erased his own and drew a similar one.

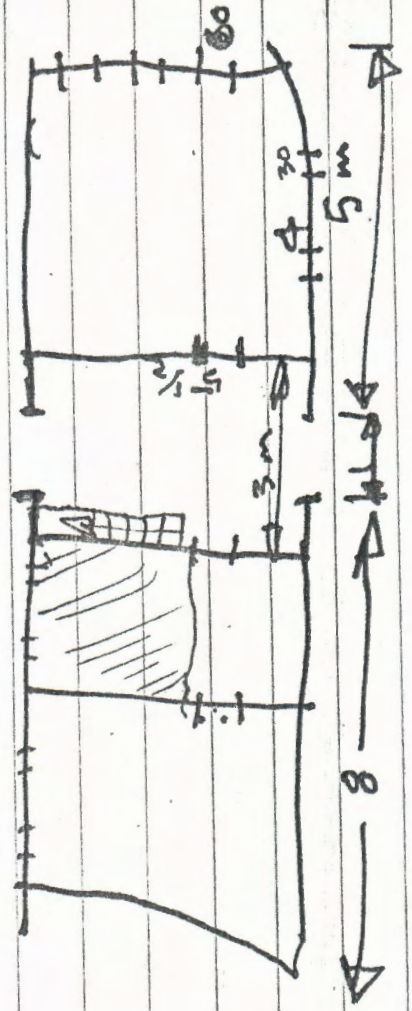


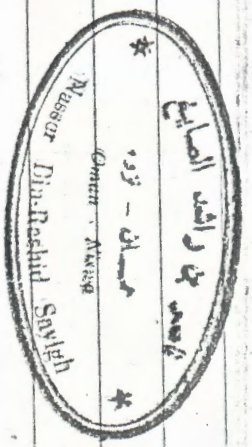
Salim first drew the outline of the house then door then a large window on the left of the door, but Naser, his father, said that this was wrong & there were 2 windows on the right. Salim drew 2 small windows on right & first erased old window. Changed & erased his own door. Naser when seing his son draw window on wrong side found a piece of paper and drew his own drawing (taking his sons pencil).

Hilal 13 (4th year in school) ~~speaks~~ learning English wants to be a Petrolium Engineer
Salim 13 (4yr) want to be a Doctor.
Teacher from Egypt. (as with most teachers in Oman)

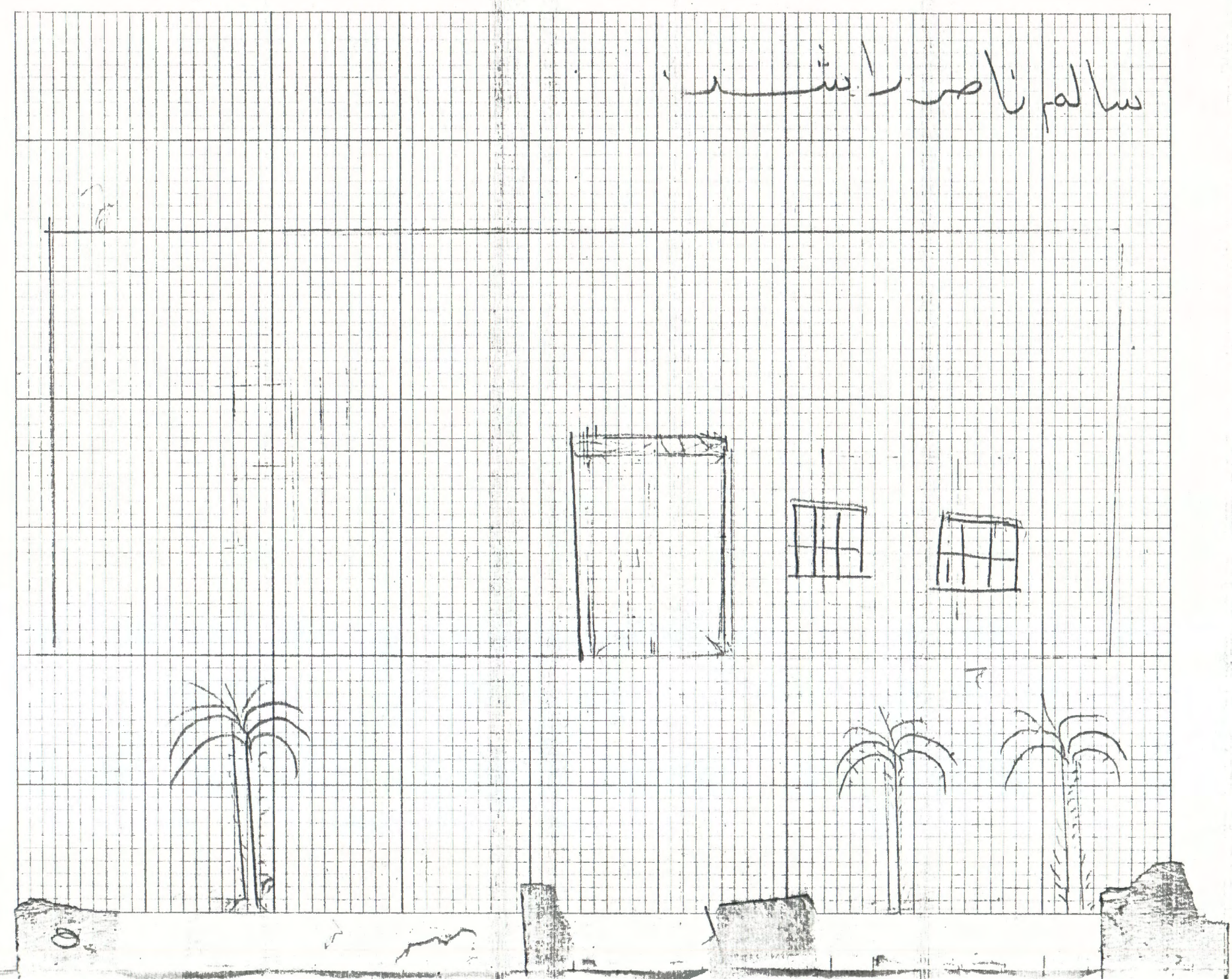
Nasir Rashid - Silver Smith
- Nizwa

Abdulah's house - Saham

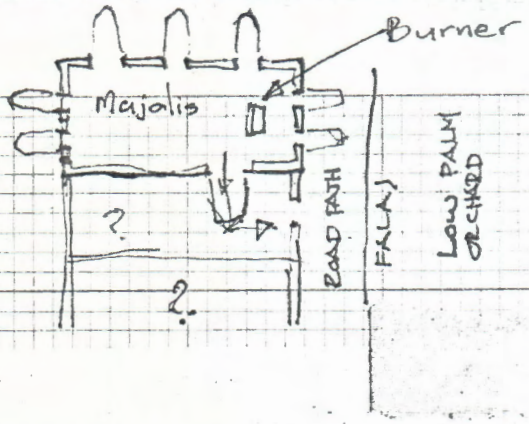




سالم ناصر راشد



Naser Rashid
silver smith
drawing of house.
(plan?)



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SAUD. HAMID

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الإسم: هلال السعود حمد