1. History
At the same time when Tlemcen was the capital of the Abdel wadide, another city was built two kilometers West of Tlemcen to compete with the trade point which had received the name of EL MAHALLA EL MANSOURAH “Victorious camp”.
This city was founded by Abu Yacoub Youcef the Merinid Sultan in 1299 at the first siege in Tlemcen.
This city was reduced to its own resources and could not expect anything from the outside, therefore the Merinid Sultan had built a Palace for his residence, a large mosque whose minaret was extraordinary high, caravanserais, buildings for the Court and its services, shops, beautiful gardens, and all that was protected by a wall in pisé (mud mixed with staw), 80 towers and 4 open doors oriented to the four cardinal points, which were completed in 1302 and which gave rise to a city.
From day to day, its prosperity increases, its markets absorb food and traders from the country, meanwhile Tlemcen suffered from all the horrors of famine. This first siege lasted 8 years.
In 1307, sultan Abu Yacoub was assassinated by one of his slaves and the siege was uplifted by the grandson of sultan Abu El Hassan and regained his capital Fes.
Before his departure, he concluded peace with the sultan Abdel Wadide, but this war made more than 120000 victims on both sides and reminded the Tlemceniens the eight years of suffering and famine, at the end she was devastated and ruined by them.
In 1335, thirty years later, the sultan merinide Abou El Hassan began a new siege in Tlemcen, he restored the fortifications, rebuilt the demolished buildings and built his palace of victory which stood to the East of the city, and the
town became his official city. At the arrival of the Zianides in Tlemcen, the sultan seeing too far, signed the beginning of his fall in Spain in the years 1340 and 1342, then he returned from Tunis fleeing to the Maghreb. Abou El Hassan died in 1351 and leaves to his son Abu Inan Fares his power in Tlemcen. In 1352 began a new occupation for seven years, the Zianides returned to the power in 1359 and struck a judgment of death to the town of Mansura and remained only ruins. In 1849 a centre of French settlement was created at Mansourah where they were interested in culture where very fertile and rich land produced several kinds of fruit and vegetables and where vine had great importance attracting more farmers and investors. After Algeria independence the town kept its agricultural vocation.

2. Situation and State of affairs
Tlemcen province is located in the North West of Algeria. The city of Tlemcen, by its privileged geographical situation, prompted several civilizations to set themselves rose according on the events that marked it. Ancient capital of the Central Maghreb and today Capital of Islamic Culture in 2011.
The historical site is located West of Tlemcen:
- South: Boudghene District
- East: Makhokh District
- North: railway
- West: agricultural land

The site is served by national roads, department and communal pathways. It has a trapezoid form of 4,000 metres approximately of perimeter, with an area of 100 hectares. It contains illicit constructions and agricultural plots and walls of an average height of 9.50 meters, a minaret of 45 meters which keeps only 3 of its faces, the fourth had been destroyed, and the right-of-way of the mosque.

The topography of the site shows slopes between 3% and 15%.

3. Construction techniques
   The merinids used several materials namely:
   the earth, brick, stone, marble, plaster, and ceramics in the realization of the historic site of Mansourah.
   1. The earth including the pisé was the main material in all construction.
   2. The brick was the main constructive element of the Minaret, and essential to the masonry and the decor, especially at the levels of the jambs of the doors, the paving of the course, the steps of stairs, walls, vaults and cupolas. It is a clay prepared and molded to solid bricks 25 x 12 x 3 cm and 26 x 13 x 4 cm, and then left to dry, then introduced into an oven firing at a temperature of 900 °C.
   3. Stone has been used in the minaret of Mansourah.
   4. Marble were used to carve the columns and capitals of their mosques, it is the onyx marble.
   5. Plaster, the decoration on plaster abounds in the reign of the merinids, it adorns the Mihrabs.
6. Ceramic, decoration on ceramics was one of the features of the merinid era, it appears on the minaret, and in the porch of Mansourah. The choice of earth was paramount, the older workers used their sense of touch, taste, sight and smell to determine the optimum mixture and the water content suitable for compaction.

Each block of mud was sunk in a formwork wooden (formed in Mansourah, with banches, keys, nails, rope and the white background), which each banche had an average height of 1 m and a length ranging from 1.60 m to 2.50 m. The ground being broken, they start by the lowest parts. On the leveled ground, they fixed the keys and the rope above which, the branches have been installed. Then, head of the mould is laid and the formwork is bound with rope bonds.

They tamped using a pisoir each layer until the shock produced by the groo-
 ming, which in the beginning is a thud, become clear and vibrant. Resistance to the compression of the raw compacted earth grows considerably by desiccation, drying time varied according to the season. Then they moved the formwork progressively as the wall rose, (while providing the intersection of banches in the corner and in elevation), using a scaffold that was built on top the foundations. This scaffold was made of wooden beams through the walls and poles are assembled with each other by strings Beams removed, revealing trunks called boulins that are not always recapped. This technique has many advantages: speed of construction, low cost, economy of wood, good thermal insulation, fire resistance, strength and durability. Nevertheless, the earth compacted regardless of the energy used, is very sensitive to the action of water, for this purpose once wall were finished, it was covered with lime plaster which had the role to hide the joins and gave a good uniform color to the different walls.

4. Pathological study
Mansourah historic site is in a state of advanced sagging, the following statement must establish knowledge of materials, climatic conditions, natural, plant, animal, and also the use and history of the building. The main objective is to find a compatible material that adheres to the old material.

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