

Said on part of the site in 2005!



**Summer 2017.** There have been many positive changes in our plans:

We have new talented members in our team: Brian and Gwenda Mark to guide us through the best options to make the buildings more sustainable; Salima Naji, a renowned female Moroccan architect to assist when we need her with her wealth of experience and passion for buildings in earth; and Mustapha Kadaz, a young local Moroccan architect who understands green building design and will submit the final plans to the authorities soon.

We are delighted to announce that we are beginning to develop further our initial plans for the long-awaited new guest house. It's on a **fantastic, spacious half hectare site – easy to find with good access**; it is closer to the souks than the current guest house, has **amazing views** over (what will be) our gardens onto the town walls & the High Atlas peaks beyond.

Our primary aim is to create a building that **showcases best sustainable practice** as well as being **a delightful and comfortable space for our guests and staff**. To this end the main **building material will be earth**, and the property will be **single storey** (with a roof terrace). It will include the following features:

- a dedicated inside space for a group activities
- an outside activity area on the roof terrace above
- lovely spacious gardens including edible and drought-resisting, insect-attracting plants, places in sun or shade (pavilions, pergolas and traditional tents)
- bedrooms with views of the gardens, good storage, a desk and an en suite bathroom (14 rooms)
- an unchlorinated swimming pool
- large kitchen with adjacent herb garden and space for cookery lessons; small kitchen for clients

- an inside and outside dining area and activity room opening onto a south-facing courtyard with an ornamental pool (storing processed grey water) and fountain

...in other words, a dream come true. We opened our current guest house in 1997 and I have wanted to build in earth since before that! We bought the land for the current project in 2004.

## **DETAILS**

We are discussing these during my visit in late Sept 2017. Most rooms will have windows to the south with a shaded area in front of the windows; this will allow maximum heating by the sun when it's low in the sky in winter, whilst in summer when it's high in the sky it will be kept shaded. Building materials will be primarily earth, mostly excavated from the site to create the pool and the sunken gardens. The quietest zone will be furthest from the road (since the site is 125 metres long, it should be very peaceful at the far end). The plot width varies; the average is about 35 metres.

**BERBER STYLE OF CONSTRUCTION** – for all rooms up to 4 m wide (cypress beams). Roof & floor insulation.

**14 Bedrooms, each looking over a 6-metre-deep garden** (each room about 5 m long by 4 m deep by 3.2m high) has: sitting area facing the full length wide glass door. External shutters to keep heat in or out, depending on season; curtains by door; space for desk and luggage stand.

Hot water from solar panels on roof.

**Bathrooms** about 4 m x 1.5 m with washbasin (plenty of storage both sides of and below), spacious shower and tall high window for good ventilation, light and privacy. Walls – natural colour tadelakt around shower & washbasin wall. Washbasins simple round porcelain set on a Moroccan marble counter.

**Massage room** and a **small hammam** heated by underfloor solar-heated water.

**Dining Room 8 m x 8 m door to Meeting/Activity Room 8 m x 8 m**  
Stairs at rear to terrace above for private sunbathing. **Kitchen & adjoining store** 17m long . Full length glass doors and wide eaves on south side. Pergola on south side.

**Reception** 2m x 3m & adjacent **office** of a similar size

**Library** 2m x 3m

**Store for suitcases etc** 2m x 3m

**Staff toilets & bedroom & changing/prayer rooms.**

**Laundry** 3m x 2m

**Store for towels and bedding**

**Cold Room**

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