



PALACE OF FLOWERS (1932-1958) HISTORICAL STUDY

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 7 th May 2024 Accepted: 4 th June 2024	Royal palaces receive great attention due to their significant presence in various fields, especially in the tourism sector. The palace is the heart of state administration, a center for receiving delegations, and a residence for the king and his family members. Therefore, countries in general have worked on maintaining their palaces, choosing the best locations for them, designing the best plans for their construction. One of the most important royal palaces is the Palace of Flowers, which was built in the 1930s to serve as a residence for the royal family in Iraq. Our study discusses the construction of this palace, the architectural style used in its construction, as well as the floors and contents of this palace.

Keywords: palace of flowers , Architecture, King Ghazi

INTRODUCTION:

The Palace of the flowers, built between 1932 and 1958, was a historical architectural masterpiece blending Arab and European styles. Its history spans the important period between the World Wars, serving as a stage for numerous cultural and political events. This research study will review the evolution of the palace over the years and its role in enhancing national identity, focusing on key events and personalities that shaped its history. The significance of studying the Palace of the flowers lies in it being the first royal palace in Iraq designated for the residence of the royal family. It was constructed during the reign of King Faisal I and completed in the 1930s. This palace was a source of spreading the spirit of resistance and enthusiasm among the Iraqi people through its radio broadcast (the Palace of the flowers Radio) and also served as a stage for many important political events, the reason for choosing this topic is that it adds new knowledge about the events that the palace went through. During the period (1932-1958), the Flower Palace was built and a revolution that toppled the royal regime occurred. The period (1932-1958) serves as a witness to the passage of time and the blending of cultures, making it a unique place that combines history and art, reflecting its interaction with social and cultural transformations. The deep roots that this archaeological structure deals with emphasize the importance of documenting its history and enhancing its role in promoting national identity and cultural understanding. The research includes an introduction, three chapters, and a conclusion. **The first chapter** discusses the Flower Palace, its origins and development until 1958, talking about the establishment of the Flower Palace, its location, and design. **The second chapter** discusses... (The art of architecture in building the Flower Palace until 1958) talked about the building and entrance of the Flower Palace, the grand halls, palace rooms, the establishment of the Flower Palace radio, and the guard towers of the palace. It included an analysis of the architecture and interior decoration of the palace, focusing on details that reflect artistic taste and modern spirit, as well as understanding the depths of the history of the Flower Palace and its cultural importance during a vital historical period. As for the **third topic:** it discussed the Flower Palace's stance on internal developments in Iraq until 1958, touching on the challenges faced by the Flower Palace.

The researcher followed a descriptive narrative method in recounting these historical events, and the study relied on several important sources such as unpublished documents at the National Archives, notably the royal court documents. Journals, letters, and these were also of great importance in obtaining information about the Flower Palace.

The first topic

The establishment and development of the Palace of the flowers until 1958

First: The establishment of the Palace of the flowers:

After the coronation of King Faisal, I on August 23, 1921, King Faisal I made strenuous efforts to form the Iraqi government. After King Faisal succeeded in forming the Iraqi government and conducting elections for parliamentary councils in Iraq, the Iraqi government began to carry out its administrative duties. In this regard, the Iraqi government established a palace for the royal family (Al-Sultani,1980,67; D.K.W., without date, 121) in Iraq in 1927. Based on this, the Iraqi government purchased lands in Baghdad, specifically in the Al-Harithiya area, which were farms, and made great efforts to establish it as a palace for the royal family, it is worth mentioning that King Faisal I and his family lived

in one of the ancient palaces that existed in Iraq, known as the (Al-Hareem Palace) (The **Harem Palace**: It is a very old palace dating back to the Ottoman era. King Faisal I and his family moved in temporarily until the completion of his palace (Palace of Flowers))(Al-Sheikh Ali,2014,225; Ahmed,2009,2). Those who lived with him in this palace were his family members including Prince Ghazi, Princess Rajeha, Princess Azza, Princess Rafiqa, Sharif Hussein bin Nasser, and Sharif Ali bin Nasser (Queen Hazeema's siblings). They remained residents in this palace until the construction of the Palace of the flowers was completed (Al-Husseini,2014,123)

It is also worth noting that King Faisal I chose the Harithiya area because of its distinguished geographical location (Al-tamimi,2021,113), indicating that this area was the suitable place to build his new palace. Thus, the Iraqi government began the establishment of the palace and supervised its construction, which took about three years to complete (Al-tamimi,2021,113)

The Iraqi government made great efforts and spent a considerable amount of money on the construction of the palace, which cost one hundred and fifty thousand Iraqi dinars. It is worth mentioning that King Faisal I did not live in the palace due to his death in 1933 before its completion (Hattab,2023). After the completion of the palace, King Ghazi and his wife Queen Hazeema (Queen Hazeema: She is the daughter of Sharif Nasser bin Ali, the uncle of King Faisal I. Hazeema was born in Mecca in 1884, where she married King Faisal I and bore him four children: one son, Ghazi, and three daughters, Azza, Rajeha, and Rafiha.)(Alawi,2022,67-68) moved in.

After the death of King Faisal, King Ghazi was crowned on September 8, 1933, as the king of Iraq, and he oversaw the construction of the palace in collaboration with the Iraqi government. The palace was finally completed during his reign. However, King Ghazi's mother, Hazeema, insisted on not moving and living in the Flower Palace because she mourned the death of her husband, King Faisal I, and remained living with her children in the Harim Palace (Al-Lami,2016,76).

Secondly: Location and design of the Flower Palace building:

1- Flower Palace location:

The site of the Flower Palace was chosen by King Faisal I, who selected it in a distinguished geographical location as it is located in the center of Baghdad, specifically on the western side in the Harithiya area towards Karkh on the right side of the street before reaching the Khur Bridge. The palace is surrounded by a large and very spacious garden that delights the viewers as it contains beautiful and colorful flowers that attract the viewers to it, and based on this, the palace was named the Flower Palace. It is worth noting that this garden includes the following (Al-Husseini,2014,123) :

- 1- A large and spacious cinema house as a place for the entertainment of the royal family.
- 2- A swimming pool equipped with all the requirements for the royal family members.
- 3- A large and spacious garage for the cars of the royal family, protection personnel, and important figures in the royal court (Al-tamimi,2021,113)

The Flower Palace contained a very small street leading towards the Tigris River, and this street separated the palace from the royal guard responsible for protecting the royal family. This road ends at the Harithiya Palace, and the Canadian Street is the street that leads to the entrances of the Flower Palace. The most notable feature in the palace is the presence of large and dense trees, and the domes of the palace with their beautiful red color ⁽³⁾(Al-Jaafari,1989,126).

2- Design of the Flower Palace Building:

The appropriate designs for the palace were created by the English architect James Moulson Wilson (James Moulson Wilson: A British architect born in London in 1887 who worked in Iraq from 1918 to 1950 holding various positions, the most important of which was (Director of the Architectural Office) in 1924-1926 and died in 1965)(Smith,1976,5). The design of the palace in the European style resembled ancient European castles with towering heights. The palace design consisted of two floors:

- 1- The first floor: designated for visitors, receptions, and guest rooms.
- 2- The second floor: designated for the royal family's residence (Al-Husseini,2014,123).

When the palace was surrounded by large areas of gardens, these gardens contained many types of beautiful flowers and dense green trees, giving a beautiful view to the palace garden (Taha,1935,46-47). As for the palace towers, their design was in a tapered shape inspired by European designs, making the palace distinctive in its external appearance(Al-Jaafari,1989,126).

Chapter Two

The art of architecture in building the Flower Palace until 1958

First: The building and entrance of the Flower Palace:

The main facade of the Flower Palace consisted of two floors, with the second floor adorned with a very beautiful curtain made of cement, and the columns used to support the palace ceilings were made of concrete. The main facade of the Flower Palace was divided into four sections.

Part One: The first section will be located in the southwest corner, which consists of a wall with a rectangular window.

The window is straight in shape and decorated with ornamentation. Above the ornamentation, there is a window similar to the first one. The architect's touch was evident in building a decorative arch in a semi-circular shape to

add beauty to the main facade. In the same area, the architect placed water channels descending from the palace's roof to the ground.

Part Two: It was framed on both sides with a decorative frame in the center of its upper part. The emblem of the Iraqi Kingdom was placed in the middle, with a pole on (Al-Lami,2016,78) which the Iraqi flag was raised. In the center of this section is the main entrance to the Palace of Flowers, if the slogan (Iraqi monarchy) was prominent on it, and at the front of the entrance was a lintel with a height of (seven steps) above the surrounding floor, with a roof supported by four half-vertical columns integrated with the facade wall of the periodic style (The Doric Style: It is a term referring to columns that appeared on the coasts of (Peloponnese, Italy, and Sicily) and derived its name from the Dorians tribes, inhabitants of the northern regions of the Corinthian Gulf around (1000 BC) after they expelled the original inhabitants from the Ionians who settled in Asia Minor, and established provinces for themselves in Sicily and southern Italy)(Ahmed,2008,221; Thuwayni,2005,512). It is worth mentioning that these columns are made of (concrete) and are supported by square-shaped bases covered with black marble, each topped with a periodic "crown"

carrying a balcony in a semi-circular shape. The facade of the first-floor advances and a structural barrier was built for it using bricks covered with (cement) in the form of shoulders enclosing iron grilles that fit between the spaces of the columns on the ground floor facade. The engineer skillfully opened a wall of the flower palace facade on the upper floor to create a balcony, and above this balcony is a small rectangular window (Al-Lami,2016,78).

In addition to this window, there are two large rectangular windows on the top of the wall with beautiful frames. Then we see that the continuation of the facade was in the form of a square tower covering its end with a gable shape made of red-colored tiles (Sharif,2014,618).

The third section resembles the first section in all its details, making the front facade harmonious and beautiful.

The fourth section was a cylindrical tower ending with a band composed of two parts (Sharif,2014,619)

a- The first part: it is small in size.

b-In the second part: slightly larger than the first part, the top of the tower contains red tiles in the shape of a pyramid, and a spiral staircase was built inside the tower. This tower had windows, six in total, with rectangular shapes. The windows varied in height depending on the spiral staircase rotation. Each pair of windows was placed inside a beautiful frame in the shape of a rectangle. As for the top side, it was designed in an (arch) shape to be harmonious and similar in facade decoration. A cornice descended from the sides of the tower from the top to the ground of the Flower Palace.

The north facade consisted of two floors, in addition to the roof wall called the (curtain) this facade was divided into six sections through the advancement and retreat of the walls from the facade wall direction, the first section of it starts from the northwest corner and is rectangular in shape, with a height equal to the height of the two floors and the curtain. This section contains a tower that is a semi-polygon consisting of three walls. The first and third walls are slightly smaller than the length of the second wall. It is important to note that the first and third walls are designed with two windows each. The first window is on the ground floor (Al-Lami,2016,77).

And the second window is on the first floor. The engineer also decorated the space between the windows with a set of beautiful decorations, enclosed within a decorative strip known as "grooves." as for the second wall, it contained a window created on the ground floor with a rectangular frame. On the first floor, a window with a rectangular frame was also created, but later it was changed to create an entrance to the balcony built in the subsequent years of the palace's construction. In this section, the architect worked on building a structure similar to the main facade of the Flower Palace, with a roof supported by six columns in the Doric style. A balcony with a railing similar to the one on the western facade of the palace was built on the first floor ⁽²⁾(The balcony in this section was not present in the architectural plans of the palace nor in some pictures, confirming its addition after the construction of the palace and the completion of its construction finally. For more information)(Al-Lami,2016,79).

As for the second section, it consisted of two floors and a rooftop terrace. The architect worked on opening a very large window in the walls of the ground floor, with decorations (Al-Lami,2016,80) resembling a semi-circular arch above this window, next to this window were two very small windows, as the first-floor wall resembled the ground floor wall. The curtain was decorated with three rectangles, with an Arabic ornament inside each rectangle. In front of the second, third, and fourth sections,

there was a barrier with columns shaped in a convex manner. These columns had a band below and above them, and the material (Nouri,1972,88) used for the columns and bands was cement. As for the third section, it started with a square-shaped tower, and this section ends with another tower resembling the first tower, as the engineer worked on opening an entrance on the ground floor facing a straight contract, and this entrance was decorated from the top with a strip that was (ornate) in the shape of a semicircular arch protruding from the wall direction.

As for the first floor (Al-Lami,2016,77)

a window was built with a straight contract, decorating the top of the window with a set of decorations in the form of a semicircular curved strip protruding from the wall direction. The end of the tower would be in the shape of a pyramid, covered with red tiles to enhance its beauty. As for the distance between the two towers, an entrance was opened on the ground floor through the wall, facing a circular contract, containing many decorations highlighted in a single strip protruding from the wall direction, with a decorative knot in the middle representing the key of the contract, protruding from the floor of the strip as the architect placed on the entrance sides (Abd al-Rasul,1987,19) two small windows, and between these windows there was a semi-circular arch. These windows contain a band that resembles

the entrance band, and at the front of the first-floor wall, a balcony protrudes. This balcony has a barrier similar to the barrier of the first balcony on the facade, as it has an entrance in its southern wall, and at the top of this entrance there is a rectangular tower, and at the end of this tower, there is a cornice covered (Al-Lami,2016,76) with red tiles.

There are two windows on each side of it, where each window had a straight arch. As for the fourth section, it consisted of two floors, a roof, and a curtain, and this section was similar to the second section of the facade in all its details, while the fifth section consisted of only one floor, a roof, and a curtain, and the beginning of this section had a rectangular external arch, above this arch there is a niche in the shape of a square, with the emblem (Sharif,2014,620) of the Iraqi monarchy in the center. The engineer placed a large window opposite to it, with a semi-circular arch. This window is surrounded by a frame in the form of a decorative strip with exquisite designs. In the center of the arch, there is a decorative strip ornament

that represents the key of the arch. This stands out from the surface of the strip. As for the curtain of the ground floor facade, the engineer designed it to be higher in the center and with a slightly curved

shape (Al-Lami,2016,77)

The sixth and final section consisted of two floors, a roof, and a curtain. This section closely resembles the second section in terms of the main facade. Regarding the southern facade, it consisted of two floors, a roof, and a curtain, divided into eight sections based on the advancement and recess of the walls from the facade wall, the first section of it begins with this section from the southern corner, and its shape resembles the western rectangle in shape and rises to the height of two floors and a curtain. In this section, half of a ribbed tower emerges from the wall's direction, and this tower consists of walls, the number of which is (Al-Husseini,2014,125) three walls, the first wall, and the third wall are much smaller in size than the second wall in terms of length. The walls are designed to be windowless, and the end of half of the tower is in the form of a half-pyramid, enveloped in red-colored tiles. At the end of this section, the engineer placed an antenna tower (chimney), indicating that the palace's kitchen is behind this section,

with two windows placed on either side (Al-Lami,2016,75) of the ribbed part. The first window has its opening on the ground floor, and the second window has its opening on the first floor. The distance between the first window and the second window was adorned with Moorish decorations, enclosed within a decorative strip shaped like grooves, as for the second section, it stood out from the facade as it contained two windows, with the first window opened on the ground floor and the second window opened on the first floor. The space between the two windows was decorated with ornamental decorations that were enclosed by a decorative strip in the form of grooves. The distinctive feature of this section was the presence of an incomplete pyramid shape protruding from the wall above the first-floor window, enveloped by a series of small pyramids. The third section was rectangular in shape and its height was equivalent to the height of two floors (Al-Lami,2016,76). The curtain resembled the second section but receded inward from the facade. As for the fourth section, it consisted of a pedestal at the front, with a ceiling placed on top of it and supported by six columns of a Doric style. These columns were positioned on all sides of the pedestal, with two double columns placed together in the middle. Three windows were opened in the northern wall of the pedestal, and these windows were crowned with a half-circle ornament, adorned with a decorative strip framing it, which protrudes from the wall's surface. In the center of the ornament is a decorative strip resembling the key of the ornament, standing out from the strip's surface. As for the first floor, a small balcony was placed at its front, containing a barrier between them. The engineer made sure that this barrier resembled all the balcony barriers of the palace, by opening three windows in its northern wall. Each of these windows was crowned with a half-circle ornament surrounded by (Hamid,1985,30-31) a decorative strip that stands out from the wall's surface.

In the center of this ornament is a decorative strip resembling the key of the ornament, which stands out from the strip's surface. The end of this section was adorned with red-colored tiles. The fifth section is a square-shaped tower, with an entrance opened on the ground floor of the palace. This tower is topped with a straight-shaped ornament, with decorations in the form of a curved strip (Al-Asiya,1985,361) at the top of the entrance

the text highlights a decorative strip in the middle of the knot, with the key of the knot protruding from the floor of the strip. As for the upper floor, it contained a window opening with a straight arch, and the top of the window was adorned with a curved semicircular strip decoration that protrudes from the wall. The decoration represented the key of the knot prominently above the floor of the strip. It worked to enclose the end of the tower in the shape of a pyramid made of red-colored (Al-Lami,2016,74) bricks. As for the sixth section, it contains a portico (Tarma) on the front side, with a roof supported by two vertical columns and half-columns on the sides. Several windows were opened in the wall on the northern side, totaling only three windows. Each of these windows was crowned with a semicircular knot surrounded by a very beautiful decorative frame in the shape of a strip that protrudes from the wall. In the middle of this knot, there is a strip of decoration representing the key of the knot, standing out from its floor, as for the first floor (Ma'roof,1976,365) it consists of a balcony with a barrier in front of it, similar in appearance to all the balcony barriers in the palace. Several windows were opened in its northern wall, totaling only three. Each of these windows was topped with a straight-shaped cornice and surrounded by a beautifully decorated frame in the form of a prominent strip from the wall. In the center of the cornice decoration, a key-like design stood out from the surface of the strip (Al-Lami,2016,75).

This section was enclosed with a series of red-colored tiles. As for the seventh section, it protrudes from the southern facade of the palace front. This section contains two windows, with the first window opened on the ground

floor and the second window opened on the first floor. The space between the first and second windows was adorned with intricate decorations, featuring a decorated strip in a grooved style this section is characterized by several features, the most important of which is the presence of an incomplete pyramidal shape protruding from the side of the wall above the window (Al-Lami,2016,76) on the first floor, and it is covered with many red-colored tiles As for the last section of the facade, it is the eighth section, as this section consists of a half tower in the shape of a polygon with three sides, the first and third sides are equal in distance and similar in terms of windows and decorations. The engineer worked on opening a window on the ground floor of the palace. The window is rectangular. As for the window on the first floor (Al-Lami,2016,77), it is semi-circular and surrounded by a strip of colored decorations in a curved semi-circular shape that stands out from the wall. In the center of the design, there is a decorative strip representing the key of the design. The second side also has a window on the ground floor of the palace, with a rectangular design. Another window on the first floor is semi-circular and surrounded by a curved decorative strip in a semi-circular shape, standing out from the wall. In the center of the design, there is a decorative strip representing the key of the design, standing out from its surface (Sako,1978,343)

However, at the top of that decorated strip, it takes the shape of a square and is enclosed within it with Assyrian decorations. As for the surface of the palace, it has been tiled with cement tiles (Shattakir), and the surface floor was paved with (Miyazib) distributed on all facades of the Flower Palace. Finally, the outer wall of the palace was surrounded, and that wall contained a large main gate located on the western side of the palace wall (Al-Lami,2016,78).

Secondly, the grand halls and rooms of the Flower Palace:

As we mentioned earlier, the Flower Palace consists of two floors, and here we continue with its details. The first floor represents the ground floor, consisting of three large halls. The first hall, which is dedicated to official ceremonies, was used to receive important guests from significant figures in the Kingdom of Iraq. Directly after this hall is the King's hall, also known as the Throne Room, and this hall is designated for the king only, it is very spacious and decorated with beautiful decorations. The ceiling of this hall is adorned with shell-shaped decorations, and in its northern side, there is a special place (for the throne) where the king sits (Amin,1934,107) Directly after this hall, there is a dining hall, which is large and spacious, containing dining tables with chairs totaling one hundred, these three halls are connected to each other by entrances (Al-Lami,2016,77)

As for the second floor, it represents the upper floor of the palace, dedicated to the royal family. This floor consists of eight suites, each suite containing a sitting room, a bathroom connected to the sitting room, and a large room designated for the kings' sleeping (Al-Lami,2016,78;Al-Husseini,2014,123)

King Ghazi and his wife Queen Alia moved to the Flower Palace in 1933 and welcomed a child on Thursday, May 2, 1935, at 8:30 in the morning in

a room located on the left side of the second floor of the palace (D.K.W.,1935,1; Sharif,2011,9). A place was designated for the little king Faisal II, which consisted of a suite of five rooms. The first room was for his sleep, the second room was for his meals, the third room was for his education, the fourth room was for his entertainment and play, and the fifth room was for receiving the king's guests and visitors. This suite was surrounded by a large and beautiful garden (Al-Qudsi,1948,2). After the death of King Ghazi in 1939, Queen Alia continued to live with her son, the young King Faisal II. (Al-Husseini,2014,124)⁽³⁾

Thirdly: Establishing the Palace of Flowers Radio:

King Ghazi ordered the establishment of a private radio station for the Kingdom of Iraq, to be located in the Palace of Flowers. In this regard, a radio station was established in the Palace of Flowers on June 15, 1936. This radio station operates in Baghdad, starting from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM. After a short period of time, King Ghazi felt that this radio station did not fully meet his aspirations, so he ordered the creation of a second radio station on December 20, 1937. Then, in April 1938, King Ghazi worked on establishing a third radio station for himself, which made the Palace of Flowers radio station have three stations under the palace, instead of just one (Al-Rawi,2010,193; Radi, without date,10).

Thus, the flowers Palace radio station started broadcasting speeches and programs related to King Ghazi (Safwat,1969,36)from its location. In addition, the flowers Palace radio station represented a place where King Ghazi demanded all the rights of the Palestinian people. He also demanded the return of Kuwaiti lands to Iraq, and called through the radio station for the liberation of Syria and for closer ties with the Germans and Italians (Al- Zubaidi,1989,282)from the above, we can conclude that the radio station had a national and patriotic echo among Iraqis and Arabs.

Fourth: flowers Palace Guard Towers:

flowers Palace was surrounded by an outer wall on all sides, as mentioned earlier (Al-Lami,2016,82)this wall contained six guard towers used to protect the palace, and due to the deteriorating conditions inside the palace, the guard towers designated for protecting the palace decreased, and there were four guard towers, each tower had five soldiers carrying (Al-Jaafari,1989,126)firearms (rifles) and they only left the guard tower during their rest time. As for the guards inside the palace, they were distributed on two sides, the first side was at the main gate and the second

side was at the back gate of the palace overlooking the river. In addition, there was one patrol working on guard duty during the day, and there was also a group of soldiers riding horses carrying spears and swords. Their task was to protect King Ghazi and the Crown Prince when they were in the palace. These soldiers and cavalry would withdraw at night and be replaced by another group of soldiers carrying rifles, supported by another infantry patrol at night to protect the royal (Al-Jaafari,1989,130) courtyard gardens. They had a designated place for these soldiers and guards, with private baths for them to bathe in, as the construction of these baths cost approximately 104,026 dinars. (D.K.W.,1940-1941,7)

Fifth: Servants and Attendants' Rooms:

The architect worked on creating special rooms and chambers for the servants and attendants of the palace, and the location of these rooms and chambers was on the eastern side of the Flower Palace. This side consisted of a wide courtyard surrounded by rooms and chambers for the servants and attendants, which was called the "Palace Annex." (Al-Lami,2016,82) Salaries and wages were allocated to these servants and attendants according to the nature of their work, and they were paid from the palace treasury (D.K.W.,1949,2). Some of the palace servants and workers were assigned the task of planting mulberry trees in the palace and were paid a sum of money amounting to 8,270 dinars for their work (D.K.W.,1949,4). Others were tasked with cleaning the palace pump and were paid around 4,080 dinars. In exchange for any work they did, they were paid from the Flower Palace treasury. (D.K.W.,1949,6)

The third topic

The position of the Flower Palace towards internal developments in Iraq until 1958

The Iraqi people suffered from very difficult internal conditions, as there was no political stability due to the increase in conspiracies and personal alliances among political leaders. The goal was to reach the helm of power and authority. Additionally, during that time, Britain controlled and manipulated Iraq as it pleased. Despite the promises made to the Iraqi people for independence and the signing of the 1932 agreement, Britain did not fulfill all its promises and continued to control Iraq and its foreign and domestic policies. On the other hand, the relationship between Iraq and its neighbor Iran deteriorated due to the lack of final demarcation of borders between the two countries(Al-Atabi,2015-2016,18). In the midst of this crisis and difficult situation, the situation was exploited by a group of individuals who were called "the Assyrians".(The Assyrians: They are refugees from Turkey and Iran who entered Iraqi territories. They lived on aid and settled temporarily in northern Iraq under the protection of the mandate authority. The issue of the Assyrians was one of the problems related to the Iraqi minority and the difficult religious issues that King Faisal faced)(Mansi,1990,37) those were supporters of the British government who incited them to stage a coup and rebellion against the northern part of Iraq. The Iraqi army managed to defeat and suppress this rebellion by force, led at the time by the cunning commander Bakr Sidqi Pasha, who received directives from the palace of flowers and supported by the Prime Minister Rashid Ali Al-Kilani. The year 1934 marked the beginning of the establishment of a party called the Communist Party in Iraq,

founded by two Assyrian youths, Youssef Salim (Fahd) and Peter Basil, along with a group of intellectuals who participated in founding this party (Dib,2013,32 Al-Ghuraiy,1989,92). In 1935, new movements and rebellions emerged against the Iraqi government, known as the movements of central Iraq, which contributed to the worsening of the situation, by the beginning of 1937, the Iraqi government worked on forming a quadrilateral pact that included four countries from the Middle East: Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Iran. The aim of this pact was focused on protecting the borders of the signatory countries (Hamoudi,2015,150) and preserving their security, later known as the Saad abad Pact (Qadura, without date,145-146).

King Ghazi also used his radio station at the Palace of Flowers as a means to instill enthusiasm and resistance among the Iraqi youth through national broadcasts and speeches these speeches were directed against the British and French occupation, and he assured the Iraqi people through his speeches. He also urged the youth through the radio to resist, and the king assured Iraqi nationalists that he supported, helped, and cooperated with them in collaboration with Arabs in all countries. This national stance made King Ghazi hated by some loyalists to the British government(Safwat,1969,136).

King Ghazi's national positions in his palace led the Kuwaiti Legislative Council to decide to join Iraq, which faced opposition from Britain. This decision was completely rejected by Britain, leading to British forces suppressing an armed revolution that took place in Kuwait

in 1939, with the goal of joining Iraq. Britain also executed the leader of the revolution, Hamad Al-Manis, when Britain learned (Shakir,2015,7) that King Ghazi had entrusted an administrator to invade Kuwait, they plotted an assassination operation against him. However, sources differed on this opinion, and the relationship between (Saadi,1998,288)Rashid Ali Al-Kilani and King Ghazi was intimate. Rashid Ali Al-Kilani confronted and fought against Britain, and in light of that, King Ghazi chose Rashid Ali Al-Kilani to be the head of the royal court. Sadly, in 1939, the Council of Ministers mourned the death of King Ghazi. The cause of his death was his exit from the Flower Palace, heading to the Harithiya Palace, driving his car at high speed with one of his private slaves named Eid. His car collided with an electric pole, causing the pole to fall on the king's head, fracturing his skull. Britain was accused of this incident, and King Ghazi died. His body was buried and a large crowd of Iraqi people participated in the funeral ceremonies. He was buried in the royal cemetery next to his father, King Faisal I, after the death of King Ghazi, the role of the royal family in Iraq (Hussni, without date, without page)ended. As the son of King Ghazi, Faisal II was young, and his uncle

Abdul Ilah represented him, becoming the regent of Iraq after King Ghazi. He would reign without powers for fourteen years, from 1939 until King Faisal II ascended the throne in 1953. During this period, Iraq was without a king, with Prince Abdul Ilah as the regent and Nuri al-Said dominating all the country's resources (Kamel, 2008, 544) ⁽⁴⁾.

King Faisal II turned eighteen on May 2, 1953, marking the end of the regency period according to Iraqi law.

On this day, an official national celebration was held as King Faisal II ascended to the throne of Iraq and began his constitutional duties after the regent Abdul Ilah declared the end of the regency. During this time, the Iraqi people hoped that King Faisal II would take a stance and work to restore all matters (political, economic, and social) to how they were during his father King Ghazi's reign after the regency period ended. However, Prince Abdul Ilah did not leave the King alone (Al-Hasani, 1988, 24) and interfered in all matters (political, social, and economic), leaving King Faisal II deprived of governance and unable to make any decisions, one of the most prominent political events that took place in the Palace of Flowers was the formation of a United National Front in 1954. This front was composed of political parties that were opposed to the Iraqi government, demanding the release of freedoms and the cancellation of the 1930 treaty. They also rejected all aid provided by the United States to Iraq, aimed at undermining Iraq's sovereignty and working to abolish the privileges of monopolistic companies (Al-Zubaidi, 1980, 87) ⁽²⁾. The greedy countries sought to link the Middle East region, especially the Arab regions, and work on connecting them with their projects and international alliances. Iraq was at the forefront of these ambitions, as the establishment of the so-called Baghdad Pact was announced on April 5, 1955. This pact consisted of Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, and Britain (Mohammed, 2018, 105), when the United States joined as an observer, the alliance chose Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, to be the permanent headquarters of the alliance. However, the alliance was not welcomed, as it faced strong opposition, especially from political parties calling for the alliance to be dissolved and the overthrow of the third government of Nuri al-Said (Abd al Fattah, 1987, 720). In 1957, a formation consisting of the Independence Party, the National Democratic Party, the Communist Party, and the Arab

Socialist Ba'ath Party was formed secretly under the name of the National Union Front. This front issued statements containing key points, including the removal of Nuri al-Said, the dissolution of the parliament, withdrawal from the Baghdad Pact, unification of Iraqi policy with all Arab countries' policies, and the release of all freedoms. As for the Iraqi army, it was not unaware of what was happening inside Iraq, as a group of officers formed an organization known as the Free Officers. (Al-Jaderji, 1971, 110)

Their goal was to change the system of governance in Iraq for the better, so this organization collaborated with all political forces opposed to the regime whose goal was to achieve reform and uplift the country and its development. However, the regime and the political situation during the reign of King Faisal II suffered from internal movements and divisions (Al-Zubaidi, 1980, 185).

It is worth noting that when King Faisal II's father, King Ghazi, passed away, he moved from the Palace of the flowers to the Rahab Palace with his aunt Princess Abidiya. Since their departure from the Palace of the flowers, the palace became a source of bad luck for the royal family, especially from Prince Abdul Ilah's side, due to the death of King Ghazi and Queen Alia there. After the king moved to the Rahab Palace, the Palace of the flowers became designated for hosting senior guests of the Iraqi government, hence its official name as the "Palace of the Great Guests." the Palace of the flowers was not targeted during the attack on the Rahab Palace on the morning of July 14, 1958, and it continued to host official events of the Iraqi government (Hattab, 2023, 7).

The researcher believes that the palace gains its importance from the presence of the royal family. For example, when King Faisal II left the Flower Palace and moved to the Rahab Palace, he managed political affairs

from that place. In addition, the revolutions that occurred around the Rahab Palace did not happen around the Flower Palace, and it did not face any form of political opposition like protests.

CONCLUSION:

After discussing and studying the topic of the Flower Palace, we have reached a number of conclusions:

- 1- The Iraqi government has been working since 1927 to provide a private residence for the royal family, so it established the Flower Palace on agricultural land in the Harithiya area and the Iraqi government allocated a sum of (150) thousand Iraqi dinars.
- 2- The Flower Palace was not designed in the Islamic style, but rather according to European designs, as evidenced by the fact that the design of the palace resembles the tall European castles.
- 3- The palace is named the Flower Palace due to its distinguished location surrounded by orchards and flowers.
- 4- The Flower Palace radio played a significant role in fostering enthusiasm, resistance, and patriotism among the youth of Iraq through its nationalist speeches and statements condemning the occupation.
- 5- The palace was complete in all aspects, with rooms allocated for servants, staff, guards, as well as private bathrooms, and a hall where senior state officials would meet with the king to discuss political matters.
- 6- This historical study has depicted a comprehensive image of the Flower Palace as a historical and artistic landmark reflecting the beauty of the past and its impact on the future.
- 7- The period (1932-1958) witnessed radical transformations in the cultural and social scene.
- 8- The Flower Palace played a major role in promoting national and cultural identity.
- 9- The royal family left the Flower Palace and moved to the Rahab Palace due to their deteriorating mental health following the death of King Ghazi and Queen Alia, and this palace became associated with bad omens.
- 10- The architecture and decor of the Flower Palace tell us the story of artistic taste of different eras.

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