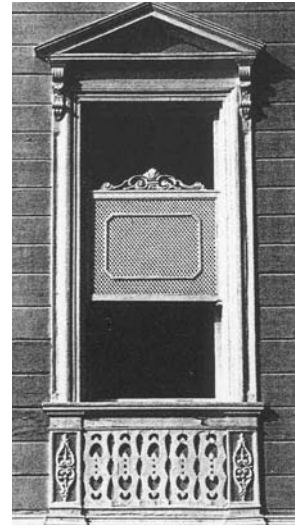
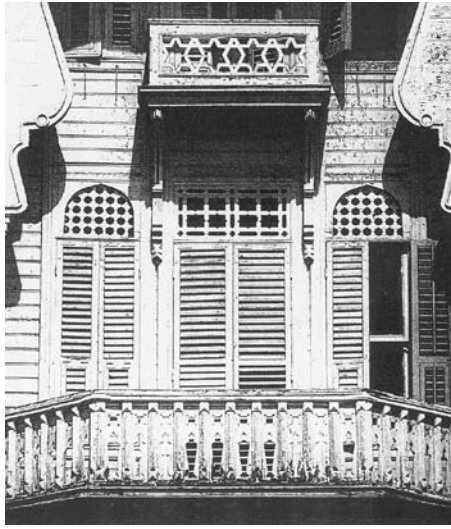


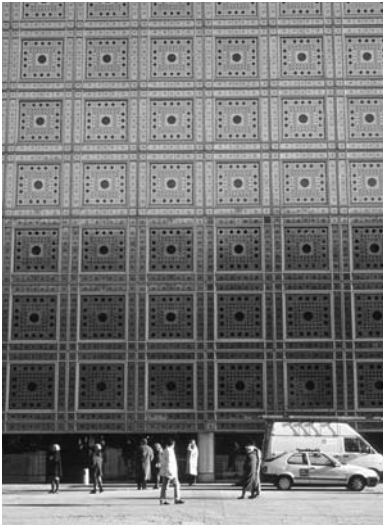
Turkish Shutters and Jalousie.
(Photos by Venturi and Hellier
in *Splendors of Istanbul* by
Hellier 1993, 122.)



steel building designed by Jean Nouvel, the façade is composed of 240 shutterlike apertures that open and close to regulate entering sunlight. From outside, the building appears plain, reflecting the city in punctured squares. But if one stays awhile, the geometry can be seen to change, not in the size of the squares but in the diameter of their perforations. From inside, it becomes clear that what's at work is a system of oculi that automatically expand and contract with the passing sun. The effect is a richly dappled and changing space, transforming rhythmically.

Tents, Toldos, Screens, and Partitions

Movable windows, shutters, and doors change patterns of light and air, thus they alter our perceptions of space. But some traditional shelters actually expand and contract, grow and decay with the rhythms of nature. They do this by means of lightweight and flexible structures.



Arab Institute: Elevation
(Left) with oculi;
(Right) Interior with
moving light patterns.

THE BERBER TENT

Like the Bedouins described in the last chapter, the Berbers of Morocco move from place to place.⁵ Along the way, they adjust their tents to match the season. In summer, wall curtains are thrown up on the roof and the tent becomes an open sunshade where breezes blow through. Living space and view expand outward. Families can look inside the lives of other families. Children can run freely in one side and out the other, from tent to tent.

Then in winter, the wall curtains are dropped and reed mats are put over them to break the cold wind and to insulate a contracted living space. The family, instead of wandering freely, now crowds together. Neighbors can no longer peer inside nor can the family gaze out. Children are constantly underfoot. They make noise, screaming and hollering for attention as children everywhere do. They step into food being prepared on the floor for supper. In order to keep a semblance of order, grandmothers tell stories, reciting favorite ones over and over until the weather warms and the winds subside.

Berber Tent: Summer mode,
open; Winter mode, closed.

