Sour Magra Al Oyoun
Water transport Method

Location: Extends from banks of Nile at Fum al-khalij to al-Sayyida Aisha Square close to the Citadel of Salah al-Din.

Date:
Inaugurated: 712 AH - 1312 AD
Renovated: 914 AH - 1508 AD

Patron(s):
Sultan al-Nasir Muhammad Ibn Qalawun.
Sultan al-Ashraf Qansuh al-Ghuri.




Description:

The idea of building an aqueduct to carry water to the castle dates back to the era of *Salah al-Din al-Ayyoubi* who erected Cairo's city wall at *al-Fustat.* A Canal to convey water was constructed on top of the wall. Water was lifted using a series of waterwheels from one of the wells, flowing to the citadel.
In 1309 AD *Sultan al-Nasir* ordered the construction of a great hexagonal tower containing four waterwheels in the region of *Fum al-khalij*. The waterwheels raised water about 25 metres in clay buckets to a canal system (an aqueduct) located on top of a series of raised arches supported on approximately 356 piers of varying height and completely covered to preserve water.. The structure was designed to form a slope in order to connect it with the aqueduct *Salah al-Din* had earlier constructed. Water ran by gravity feed into the heart of the vicinity of the citadel, where it was stored in giant wells inside the castle. The bricks used for the aqueduct were chiseled from limestone slabs into 10 by 10 by 16-inch pieces with smooth faces. The approximate weight of the stones and footings is about 120,000 Tons. The pumping station lifted water from the Nile with six oxen. About 10,000 barrels of water flowing into the castle each day.
In 1506 AD. *Sultan Qansuh al-Ghuri* ordered for renovations to the aqueduct. A water pump containing six waterwheels was built near *al-Sayyidah Nafisah* and connected to the original path. The water system was also updated so that water would pool in the square at the foot of the palace before being raised by waterwheels about 10 meters to be stored in water cisterns inside the castle.

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