



BĪRŪNĪ

BĪRŪNĪ, the public or male quarters of wealthy households, used for the conduct of business, male religious ceremonies (such as *sofra dādan*), and parties for men. The *bīrūnī* was less furnished than the *andarūnī* or women's quarters and had separate (if smaller) courtyards planted with fruit trees, shrubs, and flowers and set with pools and fountains. It contained a guest room for visiting male family members or for dignitaries and a small pantry, called *ābdār-kāna*. When food was needed, a messenger would be sent to the *andarūnī*, where the kitchen, pantry, and storerooms were located. The *bīrūnī* was sometimes separated from the *andarūnī* only by a covered entrance, indicating that male outsiders should proceed no further.

See also [andarūnī](#).

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