



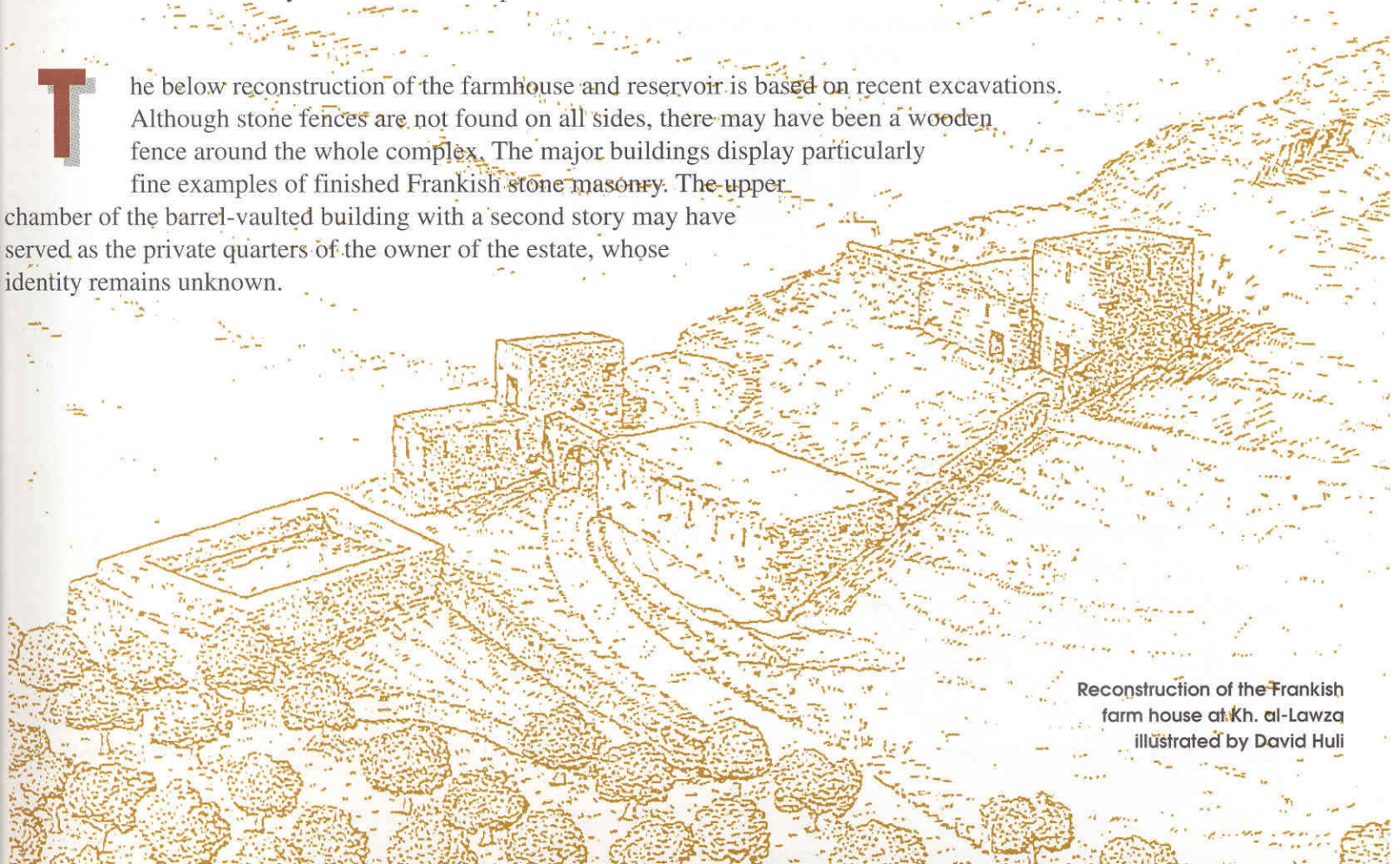
## RESEARCH NOTES: A Frankish Farm Estate

**T**he 12th and 13th centuries brought wave after wave of European Crusaders bent on liberating the Christian holy sites from Moslem domination. Fighting Moslem armies was one matter; permanently holding, controlling and settling large parts of the country - surrounded by a hostile majority population - was quite another. The Crusader solution was the network of forts, castles, fortified monasteries and manors, whose ruins are still a prominent feature of the Israeli landscape. Israel NSF grantee R. Ellenblum and colleagues at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have undertaken the modern documentation of 58 such sites, and have already investigated and documented forty.

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**O**ne of the more interesting sites is the ruins of a Frankish estate at Kh. al-Lawza (Horvat Luz), seven kilometers or so outside of the Old City of Jerusalem on the slopes of a hill halfway between Moza and Nebi Samuel. Several features, including its out-of-the-way, non-strategic location and its lack of fortifications, indicate that it was probably a Frankish farmhouse. Although not near main roads or villages, the well-endowed estate included an upslope spring, whose waters were conveyed by a short aqueduct to a large, square outdoor reservoir below. A large fenced, terraced area, stretching from the spring to the bottom of the valley, was irrigated. The reservoir served both domestic needs and helped further extend the irrigated agricultural area to the east. There were also unirrigated olive or grape orchards on the other side of the wadi from the farm. All were connected by an efficient set of paths.

**T**he below reconstruction of the farmhouse and reservoir is based on recent excavations. Although stone fences are not found on all sides, there may have been a wooden fence around the whole complex. The major buildings display particularly fine examples of finished Frankish stone masonry. The upper chamber of the barrel-vaulted building with a second story may have served as the private quarters of the owner of the estate, whose identity remains unknown.



Reconstruction of the Frankish farm house at Kh. al-Lawza illustrated by David Huli