## Itay Aviram

The characteristics of the “Israeli family” have changed, transitioning from a fixed and defined nuclear unit into diverse and dynamic familial configurations. The project views this phenomenon, which has been witnessed in every ethnicity and built environment in Israel, as the rejuvenation of local traditions and values as well as a mechanism to withstand current social and economic challenges.

Despite their prevalence and contributions, such changes have yet to be addressed by the local planning authorities, who still follow design paradigms that view the nuclear family apartment as the exclusive building and social unit. The proposed project seeks to challenge this approach and view the family more broadly as a social resource that provides a foundation for a new local residential and architectural urban entity.

Through the examination of both traditional residential complexes, which may be suited for extended families, and contemporary local typologies, the project derives principles for designing diverse familial dwellings.

These principles are implemented in an urban context through a proposed residential complex located in southern Tel Aviv. The design forms the residential block as an open urban system that connects communal amenities and housing and provides conditions for long-term community and occupancy for varied social groups.

## Doreen Abu Nassar

Different regions of Christian significance exist within the Holy Land that attract hundreds of thousands of tourists and worshippers annually from all around the world. Most of these religious sites are managed by international ecclesiastical institutions, which are detached from the local Israeli population in general and the Christian population in particular.

Christian sites in the state embody different types of tension: power struggles between the various ecclesiastical institutions that control the holy places; economic interests of various bodies that seek to maintain the sanctity of the holy places while also seeing them as a source of income because they are focal points and attractions for worshipper-tourism; and cultural conflicts within the local Christian population, stemming from its complex identity that encompasses the Arab, Israeli, and international societies.

The Christian holy sites are distinguished and detached from the local space at the physical and territorial level. These sites are also separate from the local Christian community and its daily life. The project reexamines the sacred Christian sites northwest of the Sea of Galilee and views them as having great potential in creating a Christian-local space that formulates its intersections, activities, and places alongside the dynamic border between the free waterfront line and the holy sites’ borders.

## Ofek Raz: Enhanced Reality

Virtual and augmented reality technology has advanced rapidly in recent years, and with Meta's recent developments in the Metaverse, it is likely that people will spend more time in virtual spaces in the future. Although a great deal of thought, effort, and resources are invested in creating comfortable physical environments, virtual materials could help meet some of our needs and therefore make parts of built physical environments and materials redundant. For example, when a space is reduced due to the existence of virtual materials, it is possible to precisely balance the physical and virtual materials in the space. This principle enables the creation of optimal and healthier environments as well as equal opportunities for all. This project will examine the expected changes in the future of the physical world, considering new virtual materials that may be incorporated into physical spaces, while understanding that the balance between them is subject to change and the boundaries between them may blur.

## Dima Abdu: Under Deconstruction

The project examines the environmental and spatial impact of the construction and deconstruction of buildings in cities. The goal is to introduce a shift from the traditional linear approach to a circular, sustainable model.

Clal Center in Jerusalem was selected as a case study because it is one of many megastructures that create a gap in the city’s fabric. This gap stems from the strict form and immense footprint of the complex that prevent it from adapting to changes occurring in the city.

The project aims to negotiate a form of living in between temporal and permanent by proposing a flexible system that can adapt and change. Taking advantage of the block’s central location, the proposed prototype transforms the building’s specific vision into a dismantlable model that offers varied scenarios and guarantees multiple lives for the building.

## Yonatan Bell: De-assembling the Retail Experience

The commercial street is the backbone of the modern city’s evolution. The project focuses on the changes and upheaval that are occurring in retail spaces and may dramatically affect the urban public spaces and their uses

in the future.

Upheavals within the retail field include urbanization and changes in urban density, the rise in

e-commerce, changes in the urban logistics chain, differences in generational behaviors, and zoning and suburbanization that have been assimilated into modern planning but have not been revisited. By reexamining the commercial street typology and considering the wanderers’ motivation to leave the virtual world, the project sees an opportunity to enrich our public realm by making cities and streets vibrant, social, and experiential. It presents a universal step-by-step guide for designing urban commercial streets and developing a “cluster-scattering” typology.

Neot-peres b’, Haifa, was selected as a case study for the new typology and guides and principles testing.

## Lauren Blumenthal: Metro’Pole

As a response to sustained population growth, thousands of new housing units are built every year in Israel that change the urban topography. In current development plans, streets are often not envisioned as public and social spaces. Moreover, private cars are the favored means of transportation, which fuels a vicious circle wherein streets are further deserted by pedestrians. The new metro lines and the associated public works in the center of the country offer an invaluable opportunity for a reset in our approach to street design. This work puts forth a vision of walkable streets that are integrated in their neighborhoods and contribute to the social fabric of the cities. The work also proposes a way to harmoniously integrate into the city other means of clean transportation, such as bicycles.

## Nardeen Elias: Core Existence

The concept of coexistence, which is sometimes used to embellish the situation in the country, remains in the headlines and does not reflect the daily lives of the residents. The education system is separated and differs from one nation and one religion to another. The residential areas are also sometimes separated, even in mixed cities. In most cases, the languages also do not mix, and a second language is not used, especially during childhood and up until adulthood. These are only some of the factors that cause a distance that limits one’s understanding of others. Many of us are not exposed to different cultures and communities at all and receive most of our information from the media.

Many advantages are realized by coexistence, however. For example, exposing people to different languages and cultures from a young age encourages a different life experience and can reduce social tensions. The berm between the village of Jesir Al-Zarqa and the city of Caesarea was chosen as a case study for a physical and mental barrier between communities, which when viewed from a different angle, can become a critical experiential space.

## Noga Zajfman: PNEU-MATH-TICS

Numerous examples of interesting combinations of science and art has resulted in contributions to both fields. In the past few years, a flurry of research has focused on the impact of exact sciences and technology on architecture.

This project focuses on the process of basic research, which dives into different scientific fields for the sake of discovery. What started as an interest in non-Euclidean geometries expanded into the world of pneumatic structures and continued into a technological integration of the field of exact sciences into the world of architecture.

Unlike many projects, the beginning of the process did not start as an effort to find a solution to an architectural problem but rather a problem that would fit the advantages of non-Euclidian geometries as expressed in inflatable structures.

The result is a technology that allows for the quick, simple, and efficient production of pneumatic structures to produce architectural elements in the urban space.

As part of the research, reduced-scale experiments have been carried out to prove that the technology is viable.

The resulting technology allows for the creation and placement of temporary buildings with rich geometries in cities to host events while minimizing damage to the land and the environment.

## Nuha Kawar: Practice Makes Culture: The Case of Kafr Biri’m

The third generation of the uprooted community of Kafr Biri’m is realizing their grandfathers’ hopes by regularly returning to the village. Their progress toward a collective culture involves a process of mentally connecting the memories passed down from prior generations as they behold the village’s remaining facades and imagine the history they represent. Feeling the ground with their footsteps, they lead their pilgrimage to the top of the hill, where the church stands.

The young Birimites resort to their acquired cultures in order to celebrate their traditions. The project seeks to offer an accessible, stable ground to host the community’s cultural practice, while creating new roofed spaces for evolving programs. Based on a structure of careful conservation, it preserves the tangible and prevents additional regression, while preparing the remains to be a key stone for generations to come.

## Siran Ordekian

Usually, thinking about schools still conjures up visions of classrooms with blackboards and teachers up front doing their best to make the children facing them a little wiser. We think of small narrow concrete hallways, repetitive classrooms, strict rules, and a big wall that disconnects students from the outside world.

As the interest in more individualized education increases, so does the spatial complexity of school buildings. The school must be an ever-changing, simulating environment that offers choices, as in a shop where everything is laid out for you. Not only that, but children also must contend with other children, learn to do things together, take others into account, and work out solutions together.

When entering the school, young children are confronted with a lot of new phenomena in a new environment and community that functions like a miniature city, a potted version of the world, the world in a nutshell.

Not only does a school become like a city, with learning expanding beyond the school curriculum, it is important that the entire environment is educational. Then, not only will the school become a small city, but the city will become an exceedingly large school.

## Adan Farhat: Re-destruction

Reconstruction is often imagined as the counterpoint to destruction. In the daily reality of the Gaza Strip, an ongoing conflict area, however, these moments are cyclical. Even when reconstruction occurs, an event that is supposed to conjure images of safety and stability, there is no guarantee that it won’t get destroyed again in a vicious circle of strikes, destruction, ceasefire, and reconstruction, followed again by war and destruction.

This re-destruction has the potential to produce a new **socio-cultural identity** and a different sense of local collectivity. With every cycle of destruction and reconstruction, an identifiable context is erased by the recomposition of urban space and the accumulation of debris in the cityscape, which in turn negates and fragments the **collective memory** among the people.

In such cases, in an area that faces the imminent threat of another war, *How can the collective memory and social identity be sustained in the cycle of daily reconstruction?*

The project aims to mitigate the suffering of the Gazans and prevent another cycle of unthoughtful residential reconstruction by rearranging the power dynamics, giving Gazans dwellings, and accelerating the speed and quality of reconstruction.

A new mechanism can be an opportunity to take control and shape a new social structure of one’s community, which will lead to reclaiming independence and dignity through the agency of space. The reconstruction will preserve a sense of community and social identity, sustaining the collective memory of people, even when resources are scarce.

## Reut Ben-Tuvia: The Urban Vertical Farm

It’s the beginning of the third decade of the third millennium, and humanity has taken God’s command to populate the Earth a bit too literally. Earth’s population is more crowded than ever, and barring a huge disaster, it is likely to keep growing. As humans “progress,” there are more people, and each uses more natural resources, more than the planet has to offer. One such resource is land, particularly arable farmland. We are reaching a point where there will not be enough farmland to feed the world’s population.

Vertical farms are no longer science fiction. In the last few decades, the concept has been discussed not only in the fields of architecture and urban planning but also sociology, economics, and of course, ecology and sustainability. These farms can greatly increase yield compared with the same area of traditional farming. The ability to control the environment inside buildings combined with new technologies that free plants from their traditional requirements, like soil and sunlight, allows for the design of stacked farms and maximizing an area's yield.

As a country girl, with constant dirt under my fingernails who is currently experiencing Tel Aviv city life, the transfer of plants from the ground and into buildings gets my imagination running. It opens up numerous opportunities regarding the farm’s location and urban advantage. Benefits include reduced food miles, new jobs, and creating a self-sustaining city with a “green lung.” This project will test that idea.

The project will focus on how to plan optimal vertical farms by using computer tools to analyze and take advantage of natural sunlight and other environmental resources. The advantages of an urban setting will be explored as well as other usages of and activities in and around the building that may benefit from it. The way the farm connects to the urban context will allow it to produce while enabling urban dwellers and the building’s users to enjoy it.

## Joseph Dahoud: Levitating Den-City

Family ties in the Arab communities are strong; they are evident in their way of life and ways of providing shelter and housing for their immediate family. Intimate family life has called for smaller spaces, with adjacent living areas differentiated by separate entrances for each home. This situation preserves the feeling of living with one’s immediate family while maintaining common open spaces for meetings.

Thus, the building process was driven by need rather than form or function. That is, the need to live next door to the immediate family in Arab communities has led to the densification of villages and towns. However, each addition has minimized the open public spaces in neighborhoods, creating the existing natural structure of the urban fabric.

The case of Kafr Kanna reflects this but is more unique. On the one hand, the village has vast open lands, but on the other hand, they are agricultural lands that serve the citizens’ economic and cultural wealth. Kanna also incorporates a broad main street that expands on a substantial portion of land intended for vehicle transportation. The street splits the town in two, limiting pedestrian circulation from one side of the village to the other.

A proposed new housing typology offers experimental highly densified residencies with little to no parcellation while providing inhabitants with private and shared open spaces. The new housing typology soars above the existing road, coalescing the former into the existing urban fabric and utilizing the latter as a site for residential development without using any farmland.

The project aims to meet the need for residential development while preserving the existing agricultural lands from future building developments. In addition, the project seeks to reduce vehicle circulation through the main road so it can continue to serve as a public and financial spine for Kafr Kanna.

## Gal Ela Levy: Asea

As the source of life for humans, agriculture, and transit, water was a primary feature of human’s first settlements. Hence, significant events in human evolution occurred near the world’s water sources. Until the 20th century, the synergy between human and port developments led to the optimization of their relationship and mutual enrichment between port and urban activities. Changes in the 20th century led to a gradual decline in the reliance on maritime trade and transportation, causing many closures and abandoned facilities in port areas due to large migrations to the suburbs. This phenomenon drastically changed the way ports were perceived: historical port areas turned from a symbol of prosperity to economic deterioration.

Whereas pre-19th-century ports were a part of the urban fabric, the industrial revolution caused ports to evolve beyond the city’s borders, developing a direct relationship with heavy industries and expanded operational areas, all of which required parceling massive domains and demarcation.

More recently, it’s been concluded that the idea of moving these domains out of the city is an antiquated approach that doesn’t justify the environmental, social, and economic consequences. Thus, many cities choose to embrace a conversion model, converting such areas to touristic and retail functions as a tool for reputation improvement and to leverage the industrial and port areas’ economic resources. However, power struggles between landowners are difficult to reconcile, making some such urban renewal projects nearly impossible.

As a pre-urban-renewal port city, Haifa faces these challenges, as one of the only port cities in the world with no boardwalk along its harbors. The administration’s lack of power, and the failure of the current situation have led to a need for a new planning approach.

Positioned at the border between the city’s east side and the industrial bay, the project seeks to examine the ability of the shoreline revisioning to generate an interface between the city and the sea. By embracing the conversion model of the industrial and port areas, it seeks to create a spatial and perceptual transformation in a modern port city.

## Danielle Peled: De-terio[AIR]tion

Constant changes in a city's skyline are a symbol of progress and pride and one of the main signs of a city’s growth and renewal. In the past few years, we have witnessed the vigorously rate of development among large cities in Israel. The intensive development rate is one of the by-products of the population’s growth rate and its role, among other things, is to provide infrastructures, such as residential buildings, workplaces, and leisure areas for the residents. As with any progress, human or technological, the growth of the construction industry has brought about both positive and negative charges. Aside from the monotonous developed landscape the most negative impact of constant construction is on our air quality, especially in dense cities.

In Tel Aviv, the extensive construction in the urban centers harms the quality of life of nearby residents. As the public space shifts into a destruction zone, there is a reduction in green areas and emissions of large amounts of dust and noise. Such nuisances have become commonplace for local residents. The project focuses on the processes of dismantling and building residential buildings within dense residential neighborhoods. It offers as an alternative a new typological construction method that aims to streamline the construction processes on the site in order to improve air quality.

The proposal includes a method that allows for the dismantling and construction of a building within a closed environment. I developed a shell, built from hollow cubes, using precast fabricated constructive elements. Each cube connects to a membrane that makes it airtight. By stacking cubes one on top of the other, a protective shell can be built around an existing building so it can be dismantled within, creating a buffer to protect the outside from the construction noise and debris inside. The concept is to use the preconstructed shell as the constructive infrastructure for the next planned building. The height of the shell depends on the height of the desired building, and it can also be thickened according to project specifications. After the building is dismantled, the membranes are disconnected from the construction. At the end of the anchoring, we can bring the pre-cast apartments to the site and start assembling them.

## Daria Manor: Across the Road

Israel’s rapid population growth has led to unrestrained urban sprawl and to the acceleration of suburbanization processes. Meanwhile, the central business district in Gush Dan has continued to grow, resulting in increased commutes and dependence on private cars. These processes have led to a significant expansion of transportation infrastructures, which is reflected in the growing number of both roads and vehicles. Private car dependency causes far-reaching spatial implications as a result of road paving. These include taking over green spaces, damaging ecological systems, creating urban barriers, and creating visual obstructions. Despite the physical connections that roads create on a national scale, the way they meet spaces on a human scale introduces a phenomenon of separation due to their linear nature. In addition, their spatial layout creates a continuous space of suburbs "fortified" by asphalt and acoustic walls.

The project encourages a renewed look at how transportation infrastructures meet urban spaces and seeks to respond to the phenomenon of separation roads create. It examines the architecture of the road, its linearity and the space it creates, in order to find opportunities for intervention. The project aims to change the space in a way that weakens the road's place in the spatial hierarchy and to obscure its unequivocalness, both morphologically and programmatically. The project perceives the road as a “wound” in its surroundings and tries to heal the damaged urban fabric.

The project deals with route 531, an east-west suburban highway in the Sharon district that connects the national highways 2, 4, and 6. The highway was paved on agricultural land and has led to a spatial disconnection between Ra'anana, Givat Hen, and Herzliya due to its ground excavation and the construction of acoustic walls along both sides. Consequently, the purpose of the project is to reestablish the connection that was cut off, while still allowing the road to exist. In order to do this, the planning strategy includes the crossing of the main axes on both sides of the road so that the contour lines created for the intervention "stitch" the wound. The vertical shifting of these lines creates three-dimensional ground folds that compose new surfaces above the road that alternately cover it.

The planned composition serves as a new public space consisting of varying slopes, which both distort the space and provide a rich and diverse experience. The upper parts of the ground folds function as green roofs, and their inner parts contain a sequence of excavated and hidden spaces used for public programs, which echo the linearity of the road. Along the new environment, there are several interface points that allow the passage from one side of the road to the other, helping to heal the damaged urban fabric, both physically and metaphorically. The spatial change caused by the ground folds that cover parts of the road reflects the desire to weaken its presence in the space, and the result resembles a scar. The design changes the movement patterns in, use of, and experience in the space and serves to change the perception of the road’s identity.

## Tal Zernik: Line 210 (+)

The processes of urbanization have led to an increase in the distance between man and nature, and population growth and increasing density have led to the spread of cities at the expense of open spaces. However, due to their proximity to the urban area, these spaces are today perceived as areas in which "urban nature" takes place.

Urban nature embodies an internal contradiction that stems from changed circumstances and not from intentional urban planning. The lack of planning as it relates to the interface between the city and nature has resulted in no clear connection between them. This has caused the focal points of urban life to move away from the urban nature in its vicinity. As these areas remain abandoned and neglected, the connections between man and the environment weakened, causing missed opportunities.

The project uses the Haifa Carmel alongside the wadis as a case study and offers an urban structure based on a line that establishes a clear boundary between the city and urban nature. It focuses on the various sides with an emphasis on the space between.

This elevation line +210 serves as a continuous route that passes through the Carmel neighborhoods and connects them to the wadis and to each other. The character of the line and the intervention in it changes according to the different situations.

## Yifat Rozenshein: Rainduct

When rain falls over the city, some of the urban vitality disappears. How can architecture evoke the city during rainy days?

My starting point is to change attitudes toward common rainfall. Instead of focusing on the negative effects of rain, the project focuses on the benefits of rainwater harvesting. An urban infrastructure will collect the rainwater from rooftops, without reliance on topography. The idea, based on the ancient Roman aqueduct infrastructure, translates it into a modern design. The rainwater will be collected into a collective water reserve that can supply water for public uses, according to the limitations of the water law in Israel.

The project site is based in the Hatikva neighborhood in Tel Aviv, located on the east side of the city. This area has often dealt with flooding events. In addition, Hatikva has a low reputation compared with other areas in Tel Aviv, and the dwelling’s lands aren’t registered properly and are undergoing a process of re-parcellation. Therefore, the project relies on the unique urban structure of that neighborhood as a permanent base.

The path of the rainduct will provide a sheltered walking road, which will also function as a modern boulevard with climber plants. The edge point of the rainduct at the water reserve includes a public square that functions as an attraction point. The project aims to create a special urban experience during rainfall, in which the rain will revive the city instead of threatening it.

## Lior Hudesman-Shitrit: How to Bury a Building?

Like a living organism, cities develop and change their textures. Along with the acceleration of development processes, the fear of the disappearance of historical and cultural properties is increasing. The project examines the processes of urban renewal in Haifa's lower city and how historic buildings are being preserved.

In the same way that archaeological site preservation can reveal the extent of an excavation, the project covers buildings with a burial structure made from crushed construction waste that comes from the construction site of the central business district that is emerging in front of them. By filling in the atmospheric layer on the site, it creates a protective cover for the existing buildings. Using this conservation-critical tool, I reveal the buildings’ unique structures and allowing for a last look at them before the final covering.

## Michael Vedenichev: Haifa’s Holy Trinity

## Sivan Levy zafrani: FORM FOLLOWS INFECTION

## Rawd Jaber: Rural Level

Adolescence is an intermediate state characterized by an active process of forming a personal identity. This active process is expressed with the demand for a sense of anonymity that allows the adolescent to act and think freely and engage rebelliously. This involves a search for spaces unsupervised by adults in general and family members in particular as well as a desire to socialize with their peers. The mutual connection that exists between individuals and the social environments in which they live emphasizes the importance of the physical environment and space in the eyes of adolescents.

These needs explain the presence and gatherings of youth in the public spaces that are relatively disconnected from the private environment and generally mixed with a variety of different people, such as the neighborhood and the residential block. From the adolescent’s point of view, the public space is a potential and suitable environment to implement their active process.

In the Arab villages, however, there is a serious lack of public areas as a result of their development. These villages are gradually moving from a distinct rural texture to a dense urban texture. Most of them are doing so in an organic manner that is not accompanied by prior planning or a guiding hand.

In order to meet their spatial needs, free and unguided interventions are made by the residents in their private spaces, a phenomenon manifested by illegal structures. This situation has led to blurred boundaries between public and private spaces. It has also given these localities the appearance of a built-up and dense continuum, while eliminating the potential space for the development of public spaces. As a result, there is a shortage of public spaces in Arab villages.

The spatial composition created in the Arab villages directly affects the developmental processes of adolescents. The blurred boundaries between the public and private spaces has reduced the sense of anonymity throughout the village, and public spaces in the village have become monitored and overlooked by the private spaces.

The project aims to examine how it is possible to plan public spaces that meet the needs of adolescents in an Arab village with a built-up and dense continuum.

## Shani Kenzie: Conservational Genet[h]ics

The preservation of built heritage aims to protect selected properties and their values. We do so to preserve their authenticity and richness for future generations, as tangible evidence of past traditions and common cultural heritage. These are valuable assets in terms of aesthetic, spatial, cultural, and social aspects. Based on 19th-century theories, preservation is expressed in attempts to transform objects from the past into those with supratemporal presences. The practice of conservation deals with consecrating monuments, restoring them, and giving the illusion that the laws of time do not apply to them. This requires the preservationist to play God. Because the action is typically done from the front inward, it ignores the surrounding ambience and results in the preservation or destruction of binary space.

The city of Tel Aviv has the largest concentration of buildings for preservation (about 2,300) in Israel, of which about 400 buildings are designated for strict preservation, on which no additions or other changes are allowed. Therefore, it can be argued that the conservation practiced in Tel Aviv is akin to museum conservation, freezing objects in space and time while removing them from the urban story of change and development. On the other hand, the Tel Aviv Municipality views designating a building for preservation, and especially for strict preservation, as imposing excess financial costs on the developers. For that reason, the municipality offers economic incentives in the form of additional construction rights and possibilities to move construction rights to another site. To justify the economics of the preservation operation, towers are often constructed above the objects that are to be preserved, and it is permissible to divert/lift/dismantle/destroy the protected object and return it to its place after the tower has been constructed. Actions like these, which conflict with accepted international conservation standards, are the result of pure economic constraints, produce absurd spatial situations, and thus disrupt the conservation message.

The project focuses on the conservation activity in Rothschild Boulevard, the epicenter of Tel Aviv's conservation. An alternative method for identifying properties for conservation is explored by examining how new boundaries for conservation may change the spatial qualities of the urban environment. It involves mapping the city's genome at different scales and designing a random scheme that is imposed on the space and sample fragments for preservation. Fragments of these genomes, which have been pulled from their original location, are repositioned in the space as a random conservation field that pursues the idea of hierarchy and sanctity.

## Gali Vardi: Resilient Path | Strategic Planning for Wildfires in Jerusalem Mountains

Due to the climate crisis, extreme fire incidents are increasing all over the world. In August 2021, a destructive wildfire erupted in the Jerusalem mountains. This fire forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

From the analysis of the fire, it shows that the firefighters could have stopped the fire from progressing toward the settlements if they had used the existing forest buffer zones. This emphasizes the need for a systemic evaluation of the buffer zones. The project strategy is to design a new resilient path that will raise awareness about a sustainable forest rehabilitation process.

The resilient path will connect the settlements around the forest and integrate the buffer zones into a structured system. In the event of a fire, the path will function as a buffer, using fire-resistant vegetation and connection points for water supply. On ordinary days, the path will serve as a hiking trail that will expose its travelers to the forest restoration process. The restoration will be ecological by promoting a transition into a sustainable forest and historical by revealing ancient terraces that were once covered by the pines. The path will pass through four observation towers, which were used in the past to detect fires. By walking on the path and through the observation points, visitors will reconnect to their surrounding landscapes. They will learn about the transformation of the forest, a mosaic of forest formations that creates a resilient system to preserve our nature from fires.

## Tal Shulman: Disappearing Habitats

Saadia Creek is one of the last natural resources in the Haifa Bay industrial landscape, and it serves as a freshwater ecosystem, containing unique habitats. The creek is confined by highways, train tracks, and industries; suffers from severe pollution; and is threatened by future development. The project offers a holistic approach to Saadia Creek, transforming it into an integral part of the city and turning a vulnerable space into a harmonious landscape that benefits both the city and nature. This will be done by recreating connections to ecological corridors, preserving and restoring the complexity of the creek’s channel, and creating vital public spaces. The health of the ecosystem will be controlled through constructed wetlands with local vegetation functioning as a biofilter and preventing pollution of the creek’s vicinity. In addition, a new proposal for future development will be suggested, combining employment and commerce to produce daily urban activity around the restored creek. The Saadia area will be transformed from a detached and hidden place into a public, diverse, and complex natural landscape, bringing people closer to nature and strengthening urban resilience in the face of tomorrow’s challenges.

## Yuval Ophir: Refill: Revitalization Strategy for Zalmon Stream and the Kinneret Shoreline

Lake Kinneret, the only natural freshwater lake in Israel, is drying out due to an increased demand for fresh water and climate change. As a mitigation strategy, the Israeli government designed the Reverse Water Carrier, an innovative project to prevent the decline of water levels at Kinneret. The goal of this project is to pump desalinated water from the Mediterranean Sea through the dried-out channel of Zalmon stream to refill the lake. The main challenge of this action is the unknown influence of desalinated water on the Kinneret ecology. Also, the Zalmon stream should be redesigned to accommodate the new flow volume and velocity.

The vision of my project is to take advantage of this unique opportunity by utilizing the proposed water flow to rehabilitate the Zalmon stream and the Kinneret shoreline. The site plan and the redesigned Zalmon stream will allow us to investigate the effects of desalinated water on the environment and establish resilient habitats. In addition, the interface of the stream estuary with the proposed shore development will be a key point for research, nature, and tourism.

The design framework will be divided into three stages: (1) redesign the Zalmon stream channel and estuary, (2) create connections to and from the new shoreline, and (3) redesign the future hotel development on Migdal beach while considering its environmental and social impacts. The redesign of the stream channel will focus on preparing it for the flow volume and will develop from an investigation of the current situation. For example, expanding the stream channel will prevent flooding and soil erosion. In addition, the restored stream will provide new recreational spaces for the surrounding communities and will allow an ecological connection to the local landscape. The proposed location and design for the hotel on Migdal beach will transform the coast from being vulnerable to human impacts and climate change into a harmonious space, where nature and public thrive next to each other. Through landscape architecture planning and design, this project aspires to restore water balance in the Kinneret, rehabilitate surrounding habitats, create a new and healthy ecosystem, ultimately strengthening social values and embracing the lake’s cultural heritage.

## Maya Cohen: Redefining the Good Life: Sustainable Living in Haifa’s Waterfront

The Haifa port is nestled between the city and the shoreline, disconnecting the coast from the downtown area. Soon, a part of Haifa port will be evacuated, presenting an opportunity to reconnect the neighborhoods with their shoreline and create a vibrant urban waterfront.

This project proposes a new urban space designed for a small carbon footprint lifestyle, utilizing different planning models, such as the kibbutz and the 15-minute city. The goal of the design is to promote good health and well-being. The daily routine of the community is planned to encourage a connection to nature and a sustainable lifestyle. Creating a public park, car-free zones, and shared spaces; implementing green and blue infrastructure; and reusing existing materials and buildings are a few of the strategies used. Nature-connectedness, togetherness, personal growth, sustainable programs, and physical activities are other design layers. This project aspires to transform the Haifa port into a model for sustainability and healthy urban living.

## Miriam Sankovsky: Designing Water in Ashdod: Harnessing Floods to Mitigate Water Stress

As climate change accelerates, some areas are experiencing a reduction in annual precipitation, causing more severe water stress. Precipitation is predicted to be scattered across fewer rainfall events, increasing their intensity. Ashdod, a densely built coastal city, suffers from urban flooding each rainy season.

In my project, I will focus on the oldest of Ashdod’s residential quarters, Quarter Alef, because it is the most prone to flooding due to an old and lacking drainage infrastructure and relatively complex topographical structure.

The project mitigates flooding events and harnesses the rainwater by reinforcing and expanding the existing infrastructures (drainage and green spaces), creating filtration, and building detention infrastructures. These strategies form a set of spatial tools including green roofs, additional parks, and a dense network of street trees planted in infiltration trenches.

By solving the flood mitigation issues the neighborhood faces, the project will allow for water filtration and collection as well as create new recreational spaces, connecting well-established unique neighborhood sites.

## Noa Weinberger: Seeing the Sea | Creating a Resilient Coastline in Netanya

The sandstone Kurkar cliffs and the sand dunes are unique landscape typologies that exist in the Israeli coastal plain. However, the climate crisis and the intensive urban growth along the coast and on the cliffs are causing the coastal environment we know it today to change. This process has recently been accelerated due to the climate crisis. A rise in sea level and ocean temperature, changes in wave regime, and the decline in sediment transport are causing drastic coastal environmental changes.

Netanya is one of the most sensitive cities experiencing these problems. Its long and narrow-shaped stretches along most of the Sharon cliff and the coast has various uses. Current urban and tourist development in Netanya further threatens the dunes and cliff, reducing the remaining natural habitats and limiting public access. To protect the shoreline, the city of Netanya suggests installing artificial structures such as walls and breakwaters. These solutions lack an integral approach and can potentially harm the surrounding areas. Artificial beach widening in the breakwaters area is increasing the rate of erosion in another area. Protecting walls at the cliff base will make the cliff more stable but increase coastal erosion.

My vision is to create a resilient coastline that responds to climate change and the growth of Netanya, while allowing ecosystems to thrive by creating a new relationship between the city, people, and the sea. What will happen if we restrict construction close to the cliff and the beach and allow natural processes to take place? My framework suggests shifting the approach from engineered to nature-based, generating holistic solutions to mitigate climate change impacts on the coast of Netanya.

## Amit Seren: Beat the Heat: Designing a Framework for Climate-Resilient Beersheba

Adaptation to excessive urban heat is especially relevant for arid cities, where local

climate further aggravates heatwave intensity and increases their length in comparison to more temperate

environments. Beersheba, Israel’s largest arid metropolitan area, exhibits a 1950s globally dominant design paradigm that lacks any consideration of local climate characteristics.

Focusing on the case study in the Dalet neighborhood, a low-income area that serves as

the main city entrance and is home to several distinct demographics, this project offers a

new urban system that is based upon existing underutilized open space and architecture,

simultaneously considering future densification efforts. By making use of shading

patterns within the urban fabric and enhancing them, this system suggests a different

set of connections between major neighborhood locales, aiming to better everyday life

for the area’s inhabitants while securing the continuous functionality of community and

personal affairs during consecutive days of unbearable heat conditions.

## Ran Zagagi: Breaking the Firebreak: Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Wildfires have shaped the Earth's landscape for millions of years, but their severity and frequency increase as climate change makes areas warmer and drier. The fire season, which was previously limited to the summer months, now continues through most of the year, causing large emissions of CO2 and damage to natural and built environments. As the problem worsens, more communities find themselves under immediate fire danger.

In Israel alone, there are about 450 cities under fire risk. This project will focus on Kiryat-Tiv'on, which has about 20 km of contact line between the urban area and the open areas, including areas of Mediterranean forests, natural oak forests, and planted pine forests. Past attempts to propose a fire protection plan for Tiv'on failed. They followed the National Fire and Rescue Authority’s regulations, proposed a uniform solution for the entire town's edge without considering the characteristics of the various areas, and focused on massive tree removal. Tiv'on's residents, a strong community with a high environmental awareness, opposed the plan and managed to prevent it.

As part of the project, I will examine the Israeli regulations for protecting communities near forests from wildfire and the factors that influence the development of a fire. Accordingly, I will offer a renewed look at the concept of "firebreaks" and the planning of the town’s edge in a way that combines fire protection considerations with those of nature, landscape, and community aspects. The main challenge is developing different strategies to deal with fires in different areas around the town, accounting for their physical characteristics, vegetation type, and social situation. The proposed firebreak will play a dual role and be used by the area's residents both in times of emergency and as a place for public programs. The proposed plan will strengthen the connections between the town and the open areas through a network of roads, connecting the town's public spaces with the forest around it. Success in the implementation of the project can be a model for edge planning in other cities near forests.

## Alona Lachmish: Renewable Spaces

In the last few years, the old neighborhoods in Israel, which were built in the years after the establishment of the state, are undergoing a process of urban renewal. The current approach mostly focuses on increasing the number of housing units in a building or a single cluster of buildings, and thus it ignores strengths that exist in the old neighborhoods, such as their abundance of open public spaces. The planning of these areas was influenced by models that aspired to create a natural and communal environment, in contrast to the alienation of the industrial city. These ideas ultimately failed due to their incompatibility with the climatic conditions in Israel and the need for intensive maintenance.

Today, these areas are often neglected and do not fulfill their social and environmental potential. The project examines the Kiryat Nordau neighborhood, one of the oldest and largest neighborhoods in Netanya, which was established in the 1950s to accommodate immigrants and has since expanded. Today, its condition is often neglected, and it is perceived as a poor enclave in the heart of new and strong neighborhoods. In addition to being disconnected from its environment, the neighborhood is not cohesive within itself. The project focuses on open public areas in the heart of the neighborhood and offers spatial renewal that creates access to the open public area and includes mixed-use facades that offer a diverse mix of housing combined with the open public area to create a heart that captures the neighborhood and reconnects it to its surroundings. The landscape design is adapted to the existing mature trees and active urban facades directed to the open public space.

## Amara Sabag: Flexible Borderline

The word “border” speaks of an edge or an end and can be embodied in a physical, spatial, or mental way. The mere creation of a physical border affects its environment and in turn creates conflict because of its dichotomy, stemming from the inhabitants or a different political power. It’s hard to predict what the reaction to this border will be or how much it may enhance the feeling of conflict in the environment. This project addresses living environments in the margins of or near a political boundary and poses the question, how can day-to-day architecture redesign a physical-political boundary?

The state of Israel is surrounded by political borders that are physically embodied due to territorial-cultural and military-related conflicts. As a case study, this project explores the town of Majdal Shams, located north of Israel’s border with Syria. In the northeastern part of the town, a high barbed-wire fence was built after the Israeli occupation in 1967, alongside of which the town was built and has grown. In between the town and the metal fence is a deserted strip of land that the town has turned its back to as it developed west. This has turned the political conflict into a territorial conflict. As a resident of the town, I don’t feel that that land is part of town, especially since all daily, cultural, and social needs are met in the west part of town.

The project proposes an intervention in this area of conflict in which the border is redesigned and reconstructed into a three-dimensional entity that encapsulates public functions that meet the residents’ daily needs and provides space for cultural and touristic activities. The proposed built environment clings to the existing border and withdraws in a way that frames clear and uninterrupted views from Majdal Shams to Syria. The proposal is similar in proportions to the volume and height of the surrounding built environment but differs in technology and construction methods.

The linear intervention that accompanies and echoes the border line creates a front for commerce and tourism, which inevitably turns the once-deserted road tangent to the border into a lively avenue in the neighborhood. As a result, the current residential front turns into an active commercial facade due to its connection with the intervention site.

The project has dual functions; it contains open balconies with a breathtaking view of Syria’s famous Shouting Hill and provides a flexible physical-spatial border that differs in the ways it reacts throughout the intervention sites between the border and the society it attracts. The other side of the three-dimensional façade, which faces Syria, has the ability to change and morph, to be flexible so it can adapt to the town’s timeline and generate a front on its Syrian side. In that way, it addresses the fact that borders are not permanent and perhaps the future could bring about change.

## Dana Taub: Sweet Dreams and Green Fields

Maintaining our planet’s natural resources is increasingly challenging as cities are taking over open landscapes as part of the accelerate urbanization process. Open landscapes are limited resources that are essential for preserving biodiversity and reducing the ecological damage caused by construction and urban development. Israel is part of this global urbanization phenomena and acting to enlarge cities by spreading over natural landscapes. Enlarging urban areas at the expanse of open landscapes is easier to achieve than increasing the density of built areas, and it has been at the foundation of Israel’s development approach since its establishment. Over the years, cities have expanded without preserving nature or its quality. The standard solution to prevent the loss of open landscapes is to increase the density of built areas and limit their expansion. However, this action intensifies the disconnection between the city’s population and nature and deepens the fundamental separation between the inside and outside of the city.

I believe that urban development could be the foundation of the connection between nature conservation and man as a way to integrate nature into everyday city life. Therefore, the project suggests preserving natural landscape while strengthening the relationship between the city’s population and nature. My case study is an area around the main road that stretches from my hometown, Rehovot, to the nearby town of Ness-Ziona. The area is a braking point between city centers and between the business district and green fields. Furthermore, it prioritizes motor vehicles over pedestrians. Today, the areas are characterized as urban and human wilderness with future plans to expand construction over the open landscapes. The project addresses urban development needs while maintaining significant and sequential natural open areas bordering the urban area. The project is based on encouraging foot traffic: Naturebility, which is a stroll between the city’s landscape and nature while creating a new kind of experience by planning green landscapes accessible by a few minutes’ walk from every area inside the city.

## Tal Arkind: Market Station

As part of the urbanization process and due to the lack of free spaces, many cities are forced to build essential infrastructure underground. Among these, a significant change to the high-passenger transportation infrastructure will be the introduction of the metro and light rail. These infrastructures create both engineering and legal difficulty because they pass under built structures, which raises the need to rethink the multilayered urban space.

The project examines the impact of building an underground infrastructure in an existing structure. It specifically focuses on the metro system that will be built in Gush Dan. The metro is a continuous underground train that will meet the ground level only around its stations. For this purpose, the construction of the station sometimes requires the destruction of old structures and the destruction of the scenic space. But is it possible to use the process of destruction for the benefit of the city? The project examines the station that will be built in Magen David Square in Tel Aviv, which will lead to the destruction of the historic Bezalel Market and an avenue of buildings on the side of King George St. The project claims that the construction of the station contains diverse opportunities for renewing the existing fabric and creating a local station that integrates with the uniqueness and character of the place.

## Miryam Srour: A Civic Center Reconstructed

The centers of Arab towns and villages in Israel currently present a spatial and planning challenge because they suffer from spatial disorder, which stems from historical and social reasons such as their informal development and lack of comprehensive planning as well as a policy of demarcating the towns after 1948 to limit their spatial expansion. Before 1948, traditional centers in Arab towns were usually courtyards surrounded by buildings. There were an integral part of the village that gave a sense of place and encouraged walking.

Today, one can easily notice the spatial disorder in the centers of the Arab settlements, which is expressed in high building density and a lack of variety in the type of construction. These characteristics are particularly noticeable in the civic centers that formed around or along a main commercial axis in the town. Such areas are usually characterized by a density of residential buildings with a commercial ground floor and a lack of public parking and open public areas. These are factors lead to disorder that creates a space that does not encourage walking.

The project therefore asks how planning principles that encourage walkability can help in the reconstruction of Arab village centers in Israel.

The village of Eilaboun is located in the northeast of the country, contains about 5,000 inhabitants, and is characterized by a changing mountainous topography. The village’s civic center is spread over two main streets: one is the commercial axis in the village, and the other is a street containing several public functions. However, there are many unplanned areas in the street.

The second street is a serious challenge in terms of walking because of its sloping topography that varies about twenty meters. In addition to a lack of commercial facades that can establish contact with the street, there are several high retaining walls that divide the space and a significant lack of public open areas and street shading. With the expansion of the village to the north and east, the importance of this civic center has increased, and it must be designed and condensed according to the needs of the public.

The project deals with how to build a significant public space that bridges the problematic topography, is walkable, and offers the village residents a real public-civic space.

## Noy Lasry: Tikva in the Neighborhood: A Unique Urban Renewal in the Tikva Neighborhood, Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv was recently labeled the most expensive city in the world. When the supply of apartments does not meet a city’s demand, housing prices rise and it gradually becomes a place only for the rich. Alongside the existing shortage and the expected population growth, there is a need for urban renewal in the built-up space in Tel Aviv to expand its housing supply and adapt the area to the population growth. Urban renewal as it is carried out today in Israel has become an economic engine that is driven by the profitability of the project entrepreneur. Profitability drives decisions regarding the potential location for renewal, the type of construction, and even the target population that will inhabit the project. Such renewal is sometimes contrary to the needs of the place, its character, and the local population, which in many cases is pushed out by the renewal process. The project asks, how can urban renewal enhance the diversity of the city's population, given the rising cost of living?

The project focuses on the Tikva neighborhood in Tel Aviv, which the market forces have not yet taken over due to bureaucratic barriers caused by the "Musha," or joint ownership of large areas. The neighborhood is not financially sufficient for investment and renewal and, as a result, has suffered from stagnation and neglect for decades. Today, the municipality is promoting a process of reparcellation in the neighborhood, which will solve these obstacles and make it economically viable for renewal. This raises questions about what will happen in the neighborhood after the subdivision and how the neighborhood, which could become a real estate gem, will maintain its character and allow for a variety of populations in a city that no longer allows for diversity.

The project generates hope in the Tikva neighborhood for a different kind of urban renewal that is adapted to the place, its characteristics, and its contemporary needs while creating human diversity and integration between populations. The project adds to the neighborhood a green layer of open spaces in a built-up and dense area that suffers from a lack of vacant spaces. In addition, the project builds out an existing building while still maintaining the scale that characterizes the building in the neighborhood in its current state. The new residential block will unite the local population and a new population in shared housing, with an allotment of affordable apartments and long-term rentals. The block produces a mix of uses that allocates the ground floor and the underground to public functions, commerce, and employment, with the aim of revitalizing the space and enabling an incentive for the entire project. The project is an engine for the renewal of the neighborhood space and is a focal point that ensures a place for everyone in a city that is becoming only for the rich.

## Amit Damari: UpDown Town

The housing crisis in Israel and worldwide started during the Industrial Revolution with urbanization. Rethinking of the city as an urban planning issue created new urban models that have tried to combat the problems the cities posed: density and morbidity. These models created generic and repetitive cities that separated work and living, a separation that resulted in a reliance on vehicles and asphalt roads. With the development of contraction technologies, especially the elevator, the skyscraper was also invented in the USA. Skyscrapers allowed cities to expand upward, with every floor being a new, virgin site, thus creating a city within a city. However, the massive size and the functional flexibility created a conflict with the ground floor and the connection to the city.

The conflict brought up criticism, a rethinking of the city, and the understanding that a city isn’t just for living. The city street can offer diversity and flexibility, things that many modern cities haven’t able to create. However, due to the ever-growing need for buildings, the skyscraper continues to be the main solution, and post-modern cities continue to lose the connection between the person and the street.

Tel Aviv was created as a horizontal city with low buildings and a vibrant street life. However, in the last few decades Tel Aviv is transforming, with a new “Tower City” rising on the Ayalon sides. Rows of skyscrapers with uneven distances, undefined street fronts, and wasted land in between have helped create an abandoned ground floor that isn’t able to function as a proper urban street.

Terminal 2000 has a unique location that connects Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan, and Givataaim. It is in the heart of the Tower City of Dan on the one side and near the horizontal city on the other. The site has multiple public transportation options, and existing plans for the site connect them all in one big transportation center alongside skyscrapers that will continue the Ayalon wall of towers. Thus, the ground floor will continue to be abandoned. The project sees the transportation center as a potential way to reconnect the two cities while still addressing the need for urban densification.

The connection is achieved by building a “Vertical City”: a building that combines many urban functions and creates multiple upper “ground floors.” This is done by creating an Urban Podest: seven public floors that connects to the transportation hub and to the existing horizontal city, with housing and office towers above them. Thus, the roof becomes a second ground floor with public functions and a park that provides urban flexibility while reconnecting the towers with the ground floor.

## Abed Atamna: Resampling of Future-Past

Following wars, thousands of people are forced to leave their homes in search of a safe haven for themselves and their children, leaving behind ruins of memory.

Consciousness is erased, history is written by the strong victor, and over the years, the truth becomes one-sided, and the denial and commonness of the other is premeditated.

The moment a war ends people often want to return to their homeland and the place where they grew up. This is a moment of meeting after a long time of separation and longing. Here there should be a sentence that describes such an abandoned place in general and attributes to its spatial-environmental-architectural aspects.

How do you revive a place destroyed by war, and how do you bring back the spirit of the past?

The village of Lifta, at the northwest entrance to Jerusalem, is an Arab village that was destroyed and abandoned after the Nakba of 48 and is therefore a suitable site for answering this question.

Today, Lifta largely preserves the integrity of its rural texture. It is located on the Jaffa-Jerusalem axis and in 1948 contained about 2,500 residents who worked in agriculture and construction. The houses in Lifta are mostly built of stone and vaults, and over the years, they have adopted concrete and iron construction methods. Thus, the village is a time capsule where you can see a history of development both in the style of construction and in the way of life within walking distance.

Over the years, the village has gone through several incarnations including deportation and settlement. At one point, it was defined as a nature reserve, and in 2006 there were plans to destroy it and turn it into a rich neighborhood of villas and hotels.

The ruins of the village still stand and tell its story — a story that will be passed down to future generations, a story of a people who were expelled day and night, a story of removal and of being forgotten.

My project proposes to establish Lifta as a heritage site to remember the Nakba in front of Yad Vashem and the Israel Museum, thereby producing a narrative fabric of the Palestinian place on the Israeli side. In the project, I propose a path of consciousness that begins with an upper entrance at the historical entrance, passing through a long and darkened canal that symbolizes the exit from darkness to light and from the past to the future. The route passes through the historic spring, which is opened and turned into a public garden. From there, one would walk through the spaces of destruction and memory further down the road.

The project is divided into four areas: the reception and accommodation area, the heritage center area, the ruins and destruction area, and the hotel area.

Due to the unique language of the village and its sensitivity, I decided to preserve the buildings and pour life into some of them. An operation of renovation and reconstruction is done on the spot, and through the programmatic division, I introduce an intervention in the language and material of the past. And in the ruins area, I emphasize the destruction even more and make it stand out by using corten steel to illustrate the wear and tear of a material over time, just like Lifta. The project involves reorganization, renovation, reconstruction, and preservation of the village while strengthening the area’s walkability.

## Roni Galinka: Tel Aviv / 6000

The accelerated population growth of human society in recent decades has led to a significant acceleration in human activities that require energy production, where the cheapest and simplest process is through the burning of coal and fossil fuels. These processes emit various greenhouse gases, which accumulate in the atmosphere, trap heat in the earth, and lead to its warming (the greenhouse effect). Urban spaces are a major cause of warming, with about 75% of the emitted greenhouse gases emitted from cities.

The rapid rate of population growth in Israel has led to a process of urban renewal and massive densification. The renewal process that exists today is driven mainly by economic factors and the interests of real estate entrepreneurs and the private market. As a result, the main goal is the densification of the existing urban space and the addition of housing units, and the ecological and environmental consequences of the city's development are pushed aside and do not form the main basis for urban planning.

The project deals with the issue of how it is possible to replan and repopulate the center of an existing city by responding to the terrain conditions and the changing data. It proposes an "urban acclimatization plan" that outlines new principles for the city's long-term urban planning, which includes multisystem climate thinking as a means of leveraging the urban renewal that exists today. The project focuses on Ibn Gvirol Street in Tel Aviv, which is a main transportation artery in the city undergoing urban renewal in which almost all the buildings on the street will undergo a process of demolition and reconstruction. The demolition of all the buildings on the street is a wonderful opportunity. However, a new plan must place the environment and the person at the center, with the aim of creating a sustainable urban space in the center of Tel Aviv.

## Hana Awwad: Acre: Redefining the People-City-Sea Relationship

Acre’s timeline dates back centuries, and regardless of era, the Old City has always been a resilient stronghold. The sea surrounding the old city peninsula is an integral part of the urban fabric, and the citizen’s lifestyle and culture and has always been the key to Acre’s role. However, the people’s relationship with the sea undergoes constant tension and attempts to sever it.

This project poses a question: How can the people-sea relationship be redefined and embodied in a way that preserves the city’s heritage and carves a new path of sustainable and regenerative design for the Old City of Acre’s future?

Acre’s Old City is uniquely built: a city on top of a city, layer upon layer. The completely obscure and now-underground Crusader city lies under the Ottoman city, which was used as its foundation after the Mamluks period. Atop those cities are more and more layers that were added following the British Mandate period up until today. This project suggests what the next layer to the old city fabric could be.

To the best of my ability, alongside the complexity that accompanies the Old City, I wanted to explore the act of preservation and try to take it a step further into regeneration. Part of my intention is to critique the current commercialization of Old Acre as a tourist city, which inevitably is turning its raw beauty into an artificial aesthetic, causing it to lose part of its identity.

The citizen’s livelihoods and homes are under constant threat, and future plans for the Old City are tourist-oriented rather than benefiting the people of the city. This project offers a community-oriented program in strategically chosen sites throughout Old Acre that utilizes, stores, and distributes wave-power to fully sustain the intervention points’ energy needs and the buildings surrounding each site, while turning them into attractions.

My hope for this project is that it might suggest a new perspective when looking at Old Acre. Some may be skeptical about its ability to succeed, but in my opinion, it is our responsibility to try. This new vision offers programs curated specifically to the needs of the city’s citizens, giving them a say in the planning; resolidifies the city’s identity; and attracts visitors that will hopefully get to know the real Old Acre.

## Hala Rabi: Women Building Society

Palestinian women had played a significant role in the society’s resistance through the years by conserving the Palestinian culture, passing it on to their children, maintaining their faith in God, and being part of the family’s economic development. Furthermore, the women’s traditional role as socializers of children has been infused with new significance in the Palestinian community. Specifically, for Palestinians, identity emerged, and memories were highly valued. In this aspect, the project will examine two different spaces, the Balata refugee camp and the old city of Nablus, and how they have affected women’s lives and their families differently. It will discuss how the public-built space can form a narrative that enhances women’s status and role by expanding it from the refugee camp to an urban scale. Therefore, the project will discuss the opportunities in the architecture of the refugee camp and the old Arabic-Islamic City. It will dive into details about how it can provide a suitable environment for an economical, multicultural, and social women’s network.

Through the Stronger Women, Stronger Nations, women break the isolation of war, conflict, and gender discrimination to realize their own power. As they form connections in class, women learn to save, build businesses, understand their rights, improve their health, and change societal rules. They pass this knowledge on to their families and communities, creating a positive ripple effect for generations.

In this aspect, the project focuses on how the camp's architecture has affected women and their families over the years. It also sheds light on the camp's growth, emphasizing the women's impact on today's resilient community. It will focus on the old Palestinian cities' typology that was shaped according to local needs, culture, patriarchy, and religion, in addition to geographical factors. These elements and their interaction have contributed to determining the dominance in women's lives in the city. As a critical study, the project examines the Balata refugee camp in Nablus, which is the largest populated camp of its kind on the West Bank and is impacted by overcrowding and poor infrastructure, and the old city of Nablus.

It will discuss how the public-built space can form a narrative that enhances women's status and role, expanding it from the refugee camp to an urban scale of the Nablus old city.

## Yehia Aburaya: InfraCitizenship

The InfraCitizenship project in Kufr Aqab seeks to reimaging a new form of community governance, with the social practices and infrastructures as the center of urban politics.

In places where a physical wall separates and divides ethnically different communities, it affects the life of the population. Hence, it cannot be ignored and must be experienced by the civilians on a daily life basis. However, this physical form of conflict can be used as a tool for revolutionary planning.

Kufr Aqab lies within the jurisdiction of Jerusalem, yet it is alienated by a wall, obtained from the city rights, and not provided with infrastructure and services. This situation has left the neighborhood with a governing void that has allowed economic powers to shape the urban fabric.

The project wants to break into Ramallah-Jerusalem Street, destruct its monolithic façade, and manifest new urban citizenship. It determines the spatial relations among the urban built mass fragments. The program is based on the commune center services and transforms it into a productive program, integrating the population with infrastructure in order to create an inner waste and water management system as a tool to achieve sustainability and accessibility followed by values of social collectivity.

## Maya Levin: Making a Neighborhood

We live in times where cities and neighborhoods are planned and built as a single unit while completely ignoring the city’s development capabilities and its future needs or those of its inhabitants. The Israeli bureaucratic system and common planning methods make use of overstated building annexes along with mass planning and marketing of lots. This forces a strict, inflexible urban space that is impossible to develop and cannot regenerate over time.

These methods place the focus on private spaces and alienate them from the public realm. Public areas are an afterthought of program constraints and exist as leftover, pass-through areas between the private lands.

Thus, antiurban neighborhoods are created that are centralized, alienated, inaccessible, and unwalkable. Such a neighborhood is a fragmented area in which cars are sacred and humans are neglected.

What does the future hold for these spaces? How can we reprioritize their value, while accepting their existence?

The project is located in the Modi’in neighborhood of Moria, which represents the current Israeli urban planning doctrine. The project deals with creating a new typology of life in a homogenous, repetitive neighborhood while confronting the existing reality and extracting its potential. This is done by augmenting and developing small living residences, supporting facilities in existing retaining walls, and transforming a dysfunctional public space into a living neighborhood.

The project wishes to rethink the current urban hierarchy and place in the center a public space that is fed from and enriches the private realm.

## Marian Bsharat: Uprising: Reviving the Village of Lifta

Architectural ruins created by bombings and abandoned following a conflict serve as a tangible and striking reminder of warfare and violence. Such ruins are usually restored, destroyed, or returned to nature. This study examines a less common category: a site preserved in a state of ruin. – Specifically, the evolution of the village of Lifta in the northwest of Jerusalem has been hindered since it was destroyed in 1948. The village is facing plan 6036, which proposes the demolition of the ruins and the construction of a new prestigious neighborhood as part of plan to demonstrate that Lifta can rise and grow again. However, the project offers the revival by a different method: the right of return to the original owners. The project entails the revitalization of the village's remained building and preserving the village as an open linear museum that connects us and reveals the village's assets, such as architecture, agriculture, the water system, and a picturesque view of the ruins among the mountains. In order to allow the village to exist in the 21st century and to deal with the existing difficulties of the topography and the ancient construction, preservation efforts were completed on the buildings and the road system in order to prevent the buildings from crumbling. With the help of new technologies and materials, it was possible to connect to the existing structure and build within it, on top of it, and around it without damaging the ruins.

## Neta Argaman: Groundification

## The project is in the midst of the city of Tel Aviv in Florentine, a highly dense neighborhood located in the southern part that is undergoing major urban renewal processes as well as gentrification. In that realm, the project seeks to provide a new public space using a future underground metro. The underground can provide both more land to build on and unique spaces with qualities that would otherwise require additional measures to develop, without modifying the scale of the existing neighborhood.

## Anat Moderer: Health Meets City

This project discusses the connection between city and medicine, considering changing trends in healthcare systems that concern the economy, community, and technology.

Throughout history, facilities where patients undergo treatment have changed. However, the distance between the medical environment and the day-to-day life of the patient has remained the same.

Recent technological advancements, and more recently the COVID-19 virus, accelerated processes that better define the connection between health, home, and community. Hence, the human capacity to embrace medial patients in their communities has grown.

Although Israeli Healthcare Services are considered among the best in the world, we can clearly see how private healthcare offers better services than public healthcare, thus surpassing it in growth and public perception. Due to this, we discuss the necessary paradigm shift in the integration of healthcare in the city.

This proposal relies on the development of more intensive intermediate spaces in medicine, specifically the Ichilov Hospital in the city of Tel Aviv. This system suggests breaking the barrier between medicine and the city and integrating medical residence and public spaces.

## Fady Masarwa: Taybeh | The Multilayered City

The Arab town of Taybeh was declared a city in 1990. Over the last few years, the town has developed from a village to a city and spread over almost the entire planned jurisdiction. Today there is a great shortage of land for housing, open spaces, public buildings, and employment spaces in the town.

My project seeks to respond to the development of the Arab town through the growth and renewal of the historic city center. The center, which was abandoned in the process of urban growth, deteriorated and is now inhabited mainly by a limited population. It has a lack of infrastructure and public services, and planning difficulties are mainly due to the land ownership structure.

Taybeh is a case study for other towns in Israel with similar histories trying to deal with common issues. The town is considered one of the largest Arab towns belonging to the Sharon region in the center of the country, with currently 45,345 residents. In recent years, the residents of the settlement have witnessed a change in the appearance of the city led by the local authority. However, these steps were implemented without in-depth planning. There are still missing elements that could bring about economic prosperity and reforms related to land, planning, public spaces, infrastructure, employment, and social and personal security.

## Shaden Khoury: UOTOPIA: A Women’s City

The urban areas in Arab cities are often devoid of spaces that support and incubate women in terms of occupational expression, which results in unequal vision and opportunities dictated by patriarchal authority. The ancient city of Nazareth is an example of how social-gender construction reflects and affects a built-up area. Today the city is incapable of allocating and producing nongendered activity and employment spaces. However, new commercial and employment spaces have recently been developed by female entrepreneurs in the Old City of Nazareth. The project identifies such activities within the Old City as a starting point for developing a system of women employed by women who can grow, develop, and serve the broad female cross-section of society. The aim of the project is to strengthen and give the necessary background and professional basis to every woman in order to ensure her future and life.