## Ansam Abu Ahmad: EDU-SCAPE

Although Nazareth city has a special status and religious, historical, touristic importance and more. It suffers from several problems that affect the quality of life of the residents who live or use it. The project addresses two main problems: the first is related to urbanism and the lack of public open spaces in the city, at the same time as the increasing density. The second is related to education and the way of learning in schools. Already today there is a shortage of public open spaces that serve the city. On the one hand, there are open spaces, but most of them are privately owned by churches, and they are fenced or surrounded by walls, and are not sufficiently accessible or utilized towards society. Alongside this, the education system that exists today does not use the environment, and it takes place inside closed classrooms inside closed school buildings which cut off from each other even from the city. From this, it appears that the commonality between the two problems presented is the lack of public and open space.

The research question is: "In what way can the development of educational environments provide an answer to the open and public urban space in Nazareth"?

The project reinvents the dialogue between school and city. And came to solve the problems through the re-planning of the city as one connected educational city, where you can study in-formally anytime and anywhere, this is by delimitation a number of existing squares and defining them through new buildings that integrates with the existing and demolition, planning new public open spaces that increase urbanity, that serve both schools and city, and creating one system that connects them as an educational strip that integrates into the city.

##

## Lidia Abu Saleh: Of Steadfast Descent

Historically, the Druze people of the Golan Heights are regarded as a steadfast community who resiliently safeguard their land and identity through the cultivation of their privately-owned agricultural fields. However, this resilient collective identity has gradually weakened after the annexation of the region in 1981, most prominently after ample opportunities for higher education were granted to the Golani people. Consequently, a significant generational dissonance is prevalent today among the Druze Golan population.

The project aims to work to restore this steadfast identity through an architectural intervention rooted in education. The intervention proposes a novel educational system where foreign formal education and local traditional knowledge are equally incorporated. While the premise of the intervention is educational, the design functions in a way where the different generations interact through architectural learning, industrial, infrastructural, and social spaces; all of which are located within the agricultural fields between Majdal Shams and Mas’ada. These individual spaces form units which ultimately contribute to a large-scale system scattered throughout the agricultural fields. The center of each learning unit is the existing locally-built water catchments, which are used as functional tools for working and learning as well as spaces of socialization.

##

## Nour Abuelhija: Greening, Growing, and Grounding

A unique charming neighborhood where each building has its own personality. That neighborhood is Wadi Nisnas, the only Palestinian neighborhood which survived the war and destruction, it represents the Palestinian resilience in the city of Haifa.

Giving the history of the people and the uniqueness of the urban fabric as a Palestinian urban space, Wadi Nisnas holds a lot of value and potential. This urban fabric isn’t meeting its full potential with various issues regarding urban infrastructure.

So far, the authorities focused on the Wadi as a tool to attract tourists with little consideration to the locals’ dwelling quality. The touristic activities which happen in the Wadi are implemented by authorities and perceived as a business opportunity for entrepreneurs rather than a space for residents to express their culture and authenticity.

##

## Lour Fahoum: Pixelated Territory: Land-Shaping Mechanisms

The deteriorating condition of the Dead Sea is due to climate change, mainly resulting from the over-exploitation of water sources for development and industrial human activities. This situation significantly affects the landscape, environment, and human activities taking place there. Consequently, the government has decided to assist the local population and regional authorities in addressing these damages and reducing the associated risks, by strengthening the infrastructure and empowering employment, research, and desert agriculture in the region.

The project examines how analyzing ecosystems and physical characteristics in each area can help mitigate the adverse effects of construction on nature and the environment?

Thus, "Pixelated Territory" is an urban design project that aims to present a methodology for analyzing and planning sites more effectively, based on promising approaches that address the challenges posed by climate change and work to improve urban design such as: Landscape Urbanism and Design with Nature principles.

Within the methodology a strategy that analyses hi-resolution data on the desired landscape and infrastructure is proposed to produce simulated scenarios of sustainable urban development. The project recognizes the potential for developing a sustainable planning proposal to promote employment and research in the Dead Sea, by establishing Research Campus near "Masada" touristic and research points, connected to Road 90.

The proposed design is focused on a smaller, more zoomed-in scale, to represent the architectural output of the suggested large-scale planning methodology. The ultimate goal is to utilize natural resources to minimize the negative effects of human interference in the landscape.

##

## Juman Ayoub: Maktub

In a space uniform in its features, which an uncritical eye might perceive as one, a straight boundary line, based on no spatial criterion, divides the land into two separate spaces. This indiscriminate line passes by neighboring houses and separates them. It carves up a land that was once whole, gives and takes away rights and separates generations of families without responsibility or consequences.

In the case of the village of Al-Walaja, it is a space with a population that belongs to a complete functional space that contains extended families, often divided between the two areas of Walaja Jerusalem and Walaja Area C. The same families live in both areas. Nevertheless, they do not have the same administrative affiliation because a line dictates that.

Although Al-Walaja Jerusalem is a residential neighborhood and not an open area, and although there is no intention to build infrastructure there, the Land Enforcement Authority inspectors come to the village very frequently and issue demolition orders, which are carried out immediately unless there is an objection to the execution of the order. About forty percent of the houses in the village under the jurisdiction of Jerusalem are slated for demolition. In the absence of an outline plan, the petitions filed are dismissed one by one, and the demolition orders are executed shortly after the verdict is issued.

The project explores how the arbitrary boundary line imposed on the village can be critically used as a spatial tool for the physical presence of the absurd situation in which its inhabitants have found themselves.

Maktoob project provides a platform for the realization of the rights of the residents of Walaja Jerusalem, and at the same time brings the realization of the physical expression of the almighty boundary line that carves up the land on its own divine whims.

##

## Shira Beery (Kinar): Sense & Sensibility

Our hearing capability is always activated, and we have no biological ability to turn off our ears even when we are asleep. What has placed the sense of hearing in general and the act of listening in particular as an important and even more influential element in human experiences the way we perceive, feel, and remember places.

One of the human factors responsible for activating our hearing and its influence on us is the field of music. The development of music in all its genres has spread throughout human history and has brought with it spirits of cultural changes and influences on human life and its built environment.

The common guiding line for all genres is the structures that lead to the creation of a musical work. In other words, the structural rules of music are an equal point to how we perceive the process of building a foundation through the course of of architectural design.

Like the effect of listening to a song on a person, the role of space or architectural space is to convey the visitor into a process, to move something within him. Its role is to create a platform for connecting people, developing different interpretations to a space, provoking discussion, arousing emotion, and above all activating the collective of senses. But the way in which every day spaces are planned in the Israel today, that is, the spaces between the residential buildings in the neighborhoods, lack the complete experience that architecture could give, if only given it breathing space for creative and sensual planning.

The existing situation does not encourage a feeling of belonging nor does it encourage spaces for creating new interactions and experiences between the resident and his surroundings. This places us, architects and users as one, in the reality of the architecture of monotony, of emptiness and of the loss of a broad sensory potential.

Therefore, in my project, I present how the values, history and foundation on which music is based can be combined in order to waken the hibernation state neighborhood planning is at.

The design of spaces was created by the process of translating musical building blocks into physical and architectural meanings. In this way, music is used as an instigator for planning and not just as an inspiration for all that implies. The spaces are adapted to the neighborhood in which they are located and fill the shortage in the public programming framework of the place and as a result they allow a platform for experiential and sensory revitalization and human connection. The overall design produces a renewed intersection of values between the two worlds and pours into conventional and everyday architecture multilayered senses experience that have already been forgotten in the Israeli design atmosphere.

##

## Shani Drori: Tabula Plena

The state of Israel, since its founding, has been facing a housing crisis. This means that there is a constant need for the construction of new apartments, and quickly. This fact, combined with social, economic, and political interests – even though they have changed over the years – has led to the monotonous and repetitive Israeli suburban landscapes. This repetition, which manifests from the neighbourhood level all the way through to the single building, creates a sense of a non-place. Since these resulting buildings and streets exist simultaneously in each of these new residential neighbourhoods across the land, it is almost impossible to determine whether you are in Akko, Netanya, or Ashkelon.

These new neighbourhoods are being built on the periphery of the existing cities, on lands that were once open – whether they are agricultural fields or natural uncultivated lands. Such spaces do not contain any values or characteristics deserving preservation or consideration by planners. So, it is relatively easy to approach such environments as empty, clean slates. The planning approach of “Tabula Rasa”, which essentially disregards or erases the existing environment, is even more easily done in those empty open land reserves. This approach, instead of creating unique and groundbreaking residential spaces, encourages and allows for repetition and duplication, blocking any local characteristics of the Israeli residential environments.

But are those reserves really empty?

It can be argued that this “No Man's Land” contains spatial and unique qualities that can be the foundation of singular and unique planning. In my project, I demonstrate this new evaluation of those reserves, focusing on the area of hr/2200 for the development of the land reserve south of Herzliya. By implementing advanced methods of parametric evaluation of the ground, I showed how even the smallest nuances of the land can be translated into a higher-quality residential neighbourhood

An environment that offers all the needs of modern lifestyle on one hand and harnesses local specific values to achieve a unique habitat and a richer residential experience than that of the repetitive and monotonous space we live in today, all while substantially increasing the number of residential units.

##

## Esther Guershon: [missing]

At the dawn of history, the existence of life in general depends on water.

Water originates from rainfall which is divided into visible water - with visual and physical expression above the surface such as lakes, springs and streams, and hidden water - without visual expression and located below the surface - groundwater.

At the beginning of human history, he settled around those water sources, and with the development of technology, he learned to channel the water and thus separated his residences and agricultural areas from the natural water sources. With the help of technological means, man led the water to distant and different regions, and alongside natural water sources, "man-made" water sources were created, often hidden from view and far from awareness, being infrastructures behind a fence with no access or observation.

The project proposes to tell the contemporary water story, and tie everything together into an integrated system: the visible and hidden water, the natural and the artificial.

Revealing the story of water in the state of Israel, which is known to be arid, will bring back to the forefront an important issue that we depend on for our existence. Especially in a country that is becoming more crowded and people's exposure to open spaces and nature is reduced, the green and "blue" areas have many advantages both in the ecological and environmental aspect and in the human aspect, human "well-being and mental health".

The project deals with the discovery, dissemination and exposure of the moshav water transportation system between Gush Dan and the Negev while appropriating man-made resources as part of green areas. The project proposes the creation of axes that connect natural and man-made water from north to south, and pass through sewage and effluent reservoirs, streams, water technologies, local, productive and historical nature and connect center and periphery.

##

## Hamada Haidar: One city for two nations – Agonistic spaces

The project is based on the research of Prof. Chantal Moff, a political science researcher who discusses the concept of agonism, a political philosophical concept that sheds light on the importance of conflict and its presence in the political system, while any attempt to actually solve this conflict, will cause negative consequences and architecture can not deal or solve conflicts, so at least we can plan and desig spaces where this conflicts can be expressed.

The project deals with conflict spaces , and took as a case study the city of Lod, a mixed city with layers of national and historical and spatial conflict, a city with a Palestinian Arab minority that has been suffering from racism and oppression for decades. The city got out of control during "Shumer humot",series of events that led to many cases of violence between Arabs and Jews, which led to the murder of Musa Hasona.

 Following the May events, many tensions that existed in the city surfaced and became more visible than ever, which raises questions about how architecture should intervene, and how it can deal with the new situation. So how can we create a fabric of agonistic protest spaces, spaces that represent the conflict and give it a platform to be expressed , as a way of dealing with the national-political crisis in the city of Lod, and , how can protest spaces actually be the main generator of urban planning?

The planning suggest a fabric of agonistic protest spaces, each of which is characterized by a different architectural agenda, some of the spaces deal with the development of the open public space, such as the protest square, others with the preservation and utilization of the existing historical space, such as the Khan Elhilo, others with addition and planning of architectural masses and buildings with Diverse programs, each of which serves a different agenda, such as the city hall that represents the governing power, or the political center building that connects the Arab school with the pre-military college, at different levels. The different spaces are connected by an elevated bridge that derives its shape from the Palestinian infrastructure, a bridge that passes through almost all spaces and provides a third dimension in height to create another layer of spaces and situations of protest.

##

## Sagiv Hemo: [missing]

Industrial zones in Israel have a distinct presence within urban areas, many dating back to the country's early years in the 1950s and 1960s. These zones have transformed over time due to changing economic and societal trends, reshaping their perception and function.Some manufacturing units have relocated from city centers, freeing up significant space that has been repurposed for commercial, office, and leisure activities. Simultaneously, older industrial structures have fallen into disuse. While these zones continue to be important for consumer goods production and urban infrastructure, they often end up neglected, becoming somewhat of an urban “backyard”.

The question of the future direction of these industrial zones sparks varied perspectives, including proposals for their conversion into office and tech hubs. However, Israel's compact urban reality, combined with advancements in industrial technology and transition into circular economy, prompts a fresh reconsideration of the dynamic between production spaces and urban environments.

A novel approach emerges, suggesting a model that integrates the natural environment, agricultural practices, and urban design seamlessly into these industrial zones. By distributing industrial facilities across multiple levels, with nearby residential integration, challenges like noise and odor disturbances can be addressed. Technological innovations from the Fourth Industrial Revolution facilitate this integration, fostering collaborations among industry, academia, and education.Furthermore, the model extends to managing energy and materials within urban settings, emphasizing the significant role industrial zones play in reducing urban waste. The proposal encompasses principles that link waste management with public engagement, spanning diverse manufacturing sectors and Facilitates the conceptual separation between urban activity and the city’s infrastructure.

Kiryat Eitanim in Ashdod stands as a distinctive industrial zone, located next to renewal zones and the city's sports district. The project strives to embody the concept of Industrial Urbanism in Kiryat Eitanim, acting as a link connecting Ashdod's industrial zones, the port, and the city residential neighborhoods. From an urban perspective, the project is based on the spatial structure of Ashdod's quarters, integrating the urban nature of Nahal Lachish and the surrounding agriculture into the green framework of this district. On the quarter level, the project creates a multi-purpose block with an industrial core, including residential spaces, employment opportunities, and mixed-use public activities that incorporate waste treatment facilities. Thus, the project establishes an industrial-urban quarter in Ashdod – iQuarter.

##

## Roni Hillel: Desertification Buffer - A New Desert System

Global warming and sand migration are changing living conditions and the land surface. This phenomenon is mostly caused by humans, due to firewood collection, excessive grazing, and overcultivation, and is called desertification. It resulted in the aridification of once-fertile lands in various regions, including Israel. The shifting aridity line in Israel affects soil fertility and the regional climate, leading to poor harvesting and living. To mitigate desertification, sustainable land management practices are essential. This project explores the climate approach in architecture, where buildings are designed and constructed to suit specific climatic conditions. It emphasizes the importance of using local materials and innovative construction techniques based on traditional ones. Desert architecture, which considers the unique challenges of arid regions, can play a crucial role in addressing desertification. Several strategies have been proposed, including the use of microbial-induced CaCO3 precipitation (MICP) to stabilize local soil and improve soil fertility. The project implements the MICP method in the desert region of Israel to rehabilitate the land through sustainable construction practices. By combining artificial infiltration of water into the soil, sustainable building design, and the use of local soil, the project aims to mitigate desertification and restore the region’s environmental balance. The settlement area proposes various typologies of buildings adapted to the desert conditions, utilizing topography and environmentally friendly construction methods. Through a holistic and systemic approach, the project intends to address desertification while promoting sustainable living conditions in the region.

##

## Amir Kaadan: Metro-ship the stitched city of Rehane, Wadi Araa area

Trapped between a system of heavy infrastructure layouts , the northern triangle area( wadi a’ara ) hosts more than 200 thousand people . surrounded by the separation wall from the east , wadi a’ara highway (65) from the north & the biggest highway in the country from the west , the cities which inhabits these people are suffocated and lack major land development projects .

the proposed urban development project for the Northern Triangle area demonstrates a strategic approach to addressing challenges posed by infrastructure and separation walls. The region's resilience has led to a unique ecosystem of cultural identity and specialization. By investing in urban development tools and spatial layouts, this project harnesses local strengths to create a network of connectivity that promotes sustainability and social collectivity.

Designing a sustainable metropolis in Wadi A'ara is intricate due to the politicized infrastructure. However, leveraging existing resources and integrating diverse communities can overcome challenges. By embracing the region's natural attributes and carefully considering the impacts of infrastructure, a holistic approach can lead to a metropolis that promotes cohesion, sustainability, and economic growth.

Planning a metropolis in Wadi A'ara must balance urbanization with the preservation of natural resources and heritage. Incorporating green spaces, renewable energy, and efficient transportation can create a livable environment. Providing diverse public functions enhances community well-being. The integration of modular architecture maintains cultural heritage while adapting to modern living.

The progressive stages of development, from healthcare and education to sports and commerce, form a transformative vision. This comprehensive plan intertwines infrastructure and social progress, fostering unity, innovation, and shared aspirations. Ultimately, it aspires to create a harmonious metropolis that transcends conflicts and cultivates a united and prosperous community.

##

##

## Christina Kotov: Between Screen and Reality – Simulations as a Planning Aid

In the virtual era, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic, various domains have undergone transformations that have changed the way we operate. These changes have not bypassed the realms of planners and landscape architects. In my opinion, there is currently an underutilization of the available tools in the interface between planning and the digital world. These changes led me to question how the new tools offered by the virtual world can be better leveraged. From this broad field, I chose to explore how pre-execution planning can be examined to meet the needs of the target population.

The project "Between Screen and Reality" combines virtual reality (VR) technologies and intelligent virtual agents. These technologies, drawn from software development and game design, are integrated with the knowledge from the field of landscape architecture. This integration creates an innovative tool that, from its inception, precisely, interestingly, and swiftly examines the effectiveness of planning. Additionally, the tool allows planners to understand how people interact with physical space – where they prefer to go, to which points they are drawn, where they linger, and where they encounter difficulties in usage. For example, due to mobility limitations or visual impairments.

I chose to examine the use of the tool in the environment of "Parents' House" in the new northern neighborhood of Tel Aviv. This environment contains other public buildings, with the Parents' House located adjacent to a hospital. The majority of the population in Parents' House is characterized by various physical disabilities. The ultimate goal of the project is to demonstrate that through the use of the tool, a more accommodating environment can be created for the target population.

##

## Amiel Libling: The Leftover Network

Food, the consumer product that we all love, can't live without, and are surrounded by from the moment we are born, accompanies us through various aspects of life: cooking for an upcoming holiday meal, shopping at the market, or even in the daily act of throwing it away. Food has played a vital role in the development of human civilization, and prior to the modern era, it was also a generative force in urban environments. Living spaces were shaped around agricultural fields, supply areas, and food reception spaces, all of which became integral components of the city's infrastructure. The city itself has evolved into a tapestry that encapsulates the stages of food within its open spaces, giving rise to an urban identity forged at the intersection of sustenance and physical space.

Modernist planning, advocating for the separation of functions, gradually pushed the food chain to the outskirts of cities. Today, the last vestiges of this history can be observed on crowded supermarket shelves or within the confines of backyard trash cans.

In this project, inspired by architect Rem Koolhaas' concept of "garbage space," I seek out spaces originally designed as integral nodes of the food chain. However, these spaces now primarily consist of vast, enclosed commercial areas with surroundings lacking identity, relegated to residual status. Termed "urban garbage spaces," these inter-building areas have been neglected over time. I leverage this as a foundation to establish a new urban network, unveiling the urban food chain through both leftover sustenance and abandoned spaces. The innovative network comprises a range of volumetric interventions that underline the significance of the backyard by introducing programs and structural modifications within these "garbage spaces."

This intervention strategy is applied to the heart of Afula city, serving as a case study for a city that initially flourished as an agricultural center, where food held profound cultural importance. However, as the city expanded, food-related zones migrated outward, replaced by expansive supermarkets belonging to major food chains. Executing a series of interventions around and within these "garbage spaces," I aim to unearth the historical food fabric of the city and its streets, weaving a new tapestry of public spaces and supplementary programs. This holistic approach will enable the city's resurgence, facilitated by the revitalization of its "residue fabric."

##

## Alaa Mansour: Elshikonat

The project in Tira, Israel, aims to create a housing planning method for young Arab couples that reflects their traditional cultural living patterns. By integrating the significance of land and place, the project encourages these couples to view the housing approach as a lasting home rather than a temporary dwelling. The challenge is: How can the housing typology in Arab society be effectively adapted to align with the patterns of their daily life and address the challenges posed by land shortage?

##

## Juan Marjieh: Off “shelf buildings”, and the open public realm effect

High-rise structures have become increasingly common in Israel and urban areas worldwide, driven by their capacity to maximize land use and provide living and working spaces for growing populations. However, this surge in a specific type of building design aimed at maximizing residency and workspaces in minimal time has raised concerns about its negative impact on the microclimate and the overall surroundings of neighboring regions. In response, a novel concept has emerged: "Shelf buildings" – pre-designed structures listed in a building catalog, capable of rapid and widespread construction. This study delves into the intricate relationship between wind, sunlight, and buildings, investigating their effects on the microclimate of public open spaces. It seeks to understand how they influence the built environment, enhance thermal comfort, and shape both internal and external spaces. To enhance comprehension during the initial design stages, a comprehensive methodology has been developed, integrating cutting-edge tools like computational fluid dynamics (CFD), Grasshopper, and Ladybug. This integrated approach enables the climatic optimization of wind, sun exposure, and thermal comfort within urban spaces, effectively transforming the external climate into a proactive planning tool. By utilizing advanced technologies capable of analyzing, converting, and testing external climate data, the planning process gains a powerful new dimension. The outcomes of this optimization process have informed the development of an innovative architectural typology that harnesses the site's climatic strengths. A meticulously designed complex showcases achievable values and novel architectural prospects within this emerging typology. Consequently, it prompts a reevaluation of the symbiotic relationship between outdoor climate and the design of residential and urban environments.

##

## Uri Michaeli: The seam: an opportunity to change perceptions and relationships in the space between West and East Jerusalem

The relations between Jewish Israelis and Arab Palestinians in Jerusalem are characterized by pessimism and extremism, alongside daily life in spaces of contact used by both populations. Although the city advocates spatial differentiation, the multiplicity and diversity of the population, alongside urban densification, create increased friction between the different communities, which meet together in the public-urban space. This meeting may heighten the conflict and be hostile and explosive, and on the other hand it is an opportunity to see the other and positively change the perceptions of the residents and their attitude towards each other.

Since the occupation of the eastern part of the city in 1967, a physical and mental seam has formed between the Jewish and Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem. In addition to a huge functional and socio-economic gap, it is a legal-political seam characterized by neglect and feelings of discomfort, fear, and foreignness. It is an obstacle to human and urban activity but given its high accessibility and its special identity in the eyes of the residents from both sides, it has great potential for rectification and improvement of inter-community relations.

The project aims to create a common and active space along the seam; it seeks to expand and deepen the connections between the east and the west parts of the city, to increase the sense of security and inclusion, and to enhance the well-being of both sides through commerce, leisure, and traffic services near the home. In order to create relaxed and positive interactions, the intervention in the designated space aims to balance between the sense of the place and the preservation of its cultural assets and intensive development and the integration of elements that generate activity.

The path to an existential alternative in Jerusalem involves the continuation of daily contact between all its residents and requires spatial solutions to encourage coexistence and improve life under one urban roof. Due to its physical and mental location, the seam space is an opportunity to create an infrastructure for contact between the city's populations and to shape their perceptions of each other.

##

## Shireen Saad Dawahry: Between Hod and Hud

Yearning, Longing for home, and the desire for the homeland is a recognized global phenomenon that usually stems from political, national, and social conflicts.

In Israel following the 1948 war, more than 500 Arab villages were emptied and destroyed, and their inhabitants were deported. The destruction of the villages helped dictate a new collective memory upon which the State of Israel was founded. The village of Ein Hud is a unique and unusual case study, which after the deportation of its inhabitants, the village's buildings and texture were preserved and turned into an artistic space that serves Israeli artists - members of the Dada movement. Once full of life, the facilities have become scenery, and their original residents have become refugees a kilometer and a half away from their homes.

The original Ein Hod became Ein Hod, and their new settlement took the original name Ein Hod. While the spatial, physical expression of their identity and culture remains in Ein Hod, the original inhabitants fought for their existence in Israel and faced many challenges over the years.

Today, Ein Hod is a village without basic urban infrastructure, limited in development areas, suffering from illegal construction and daily observation of their abandoned houses. Although Ein Hod is supposed to be a continuation of Ein Hod, it stands today as a levee - dark and far from attention.

In light of this, the question arises, how can a public system be created that makes the story of the original residents present brings back the abandoned ones, and fills the existing lack in the fabric of the village of Ein Hud?

##

## Haya Sarsur: The Web | The potential versus the challenge in the development of Kufur Qassim

Over the years, the Arab towns in Israel have gone through a gradual process of development going from a rural texture to a dense urban texture. In most towns or cities, the mentioned process was not based or guided by proper planning, instead they grew and expanded randomly from a dense historical core.

The Arab population in Israel grew sevenfold during the first 50 years since the establishment of the state. Despite this, in national and local master plans, the scope of the lands designated for residential use remained with no change, and the restriction actions on them increased through different methods, whether it is by land expropriation, the imposition of significant borders and barriers, and reduction in the designations of the areas and land uses.

When speaking of Kufur Qassim, my hometown that is located in the central district, making it a very strategic location. The land use restrictions lead along several spatial, economic, social and environmental issues, all of which have negative impacts on the development of the city.

The project suggests a vision that utilizes the potential of the city's lands and its unique characteristics and shows an option to face the challenge of its expansion, while taking into consideration Kufur Qassim’s cultural and natural values, and creating a base for an orientation system to enrich the uses and empower the community.

To deal with these challenges the Web project implements it’s vision using the concept of “Landscape of Recognition”. The vision presents an approach to revitalize the urban fabric through identifying and bring presence to the local values, it also emphasizes significant traffic axes, develops public centers and utilizes the olive groves to make them part of the whole web in general and of the open spaces network in particular.

The project proposes a network of accessible public spaces that extends throughout the city and ranges through different stories and statements along the “recognitions” axis, from returning expropriated lands to their owners, strengthening and revitalizing the existing urban fabric, retrieving presence of natural and environmental values and the planning of a whole new area for urban development.

##

## Gali Schechner: Between cities and fields

Israel faces these days a critical problem due to being a small country with a rapidly growing population. By 2050, the country's population is projected to nearly double, pushing it into the ranks of the world's most densely populated countries. This population growth necessitates a substantial increase in housing supply. Alongside, there is a corresponding need for Israeli agriculture to ramp up production in order to meet the demands of this expanding population. The country's land resources are limited and there is a need to preserve open lands. Therefore, to address the housing demand, urban areas must be densified. The same goes for the agriculture land, it must product more food with the same amount of land resources.

However, the reality is that while the housing stock is expanding, agricultural output remains modest. In response to the rapidly growing population, the nation's planning policy creates a spatial separation between urban areas and the surrounding open landscapes. This separation is physically manifested through the highways and railways. The project examines the opportunities in sharing urban fabric together with agriculture land, instead of separate them from one another. The project claims that cities can benefit from sharing the land with the agriculture and vice versa. The research question guiding this project is: "in which way sharing the land between the city and agriculture can contribute both to the quality of life of the city's residents and to increasing agricultural productivity?"

The planning proposal principles are based on research of spaces where sharing land is already exists. These principles are implemented in Kfar Saba, due to its location within the densely populated Tel Aviv metropolis, and the agricultural lands Kfar Saba is surrounded by. The proposal encompasses both urban and building scales.

##

## Dasha Subbotina: Teaching environment

The typology of a school, which was based on a factory, has not changed significantly since the last century. Despite the changes in the nature of the labor market and the skills valued by employers, the curriculum and even the way it is delivered are not adapted to the young people of the contemporary era. Also, the entire education system is characterized by a physical and programmatic disconnection from society and the city.

The project offers a new educational concept that is based on a connection to the real world - the physical and the human. This concept offers a rethinking of the planning approach of the educational spaces and aims to strengthen cooperation between the students, the teachers and the various professionals who will be involved in the course of study. The project integrates the education system and the city: the two systems grow together and depend on each other. The education strengthens a sense of local belonging through its connection to the city and at the same time, the city allows those programmatic and physical connections, that are necessary for the development of mutual relations from a young age of the students.

##

## Yoav Tebeka: #Unconsumerism

Starting in the 90s, when the eyes were on the suburban planning in the USA, the Israeli mall began to raise its head even more strongly and a dizzying wave of building shopping centers swept the country. However, starting from the beginning of the 2000s, the surplus created in the trading areas along with trends in consumption habits led to the decline and abandonment of many shopping malls. The project will focus on the city of Rishon Lezion, where seven shopping malls were built in two years (1991-1993) of which six are no longer active and they stand as empty boxes surrounded by a parking lot in the heart of the crowded public space of Gush Dan. A strong and unpleasant feeling of "déjà vu" surrounds the launches of new malls in the city in recent times.

The project examines the community and environmental potential inherent in the abandoned complexes and those whose future may be similar to their predecessors and offers new and sustainable thinking for their renewed use. The shopping centers will change their purpose in favor of creating affordable housing, strengthening local trade, and responding to public-neighborhood needs while placing emphasis on strengthening the community. For this purpose, a construction typology was developed that combines residences, trade and crafts and allows the new complexes to be an important layer in the urban sequence and not to cause it to be interrupted as in the existing situation. These will also be integrated into regional infrastructural systems such as Rishon Lezion's drainage system and will add to the city's resilience in dealing with runoff events. The project examines questions concerning the climate crisis, the housing crisis and social crises and offers a basket of planning tools for the sustainable use of similar complexes and similar phenomena in other places in the Israeli landscape.

##

## Timna Zauder Shchori: “Back Streets”

The ”Back Streets” project was conceived out of concern for the safety and vulnerability experienced by pedestrians on the streets of Tel Aviv.

In 2023 the transition from purchasing from traditional stores to online purchases and an array of delivery services (eg Wolt, Yango etc) encompassing all areas of life creates large scale pressure on the city’s infrastructure.

Today the current road network is struggling to accommodate the growing number of tiny vehicles ( micro-mobility vehicles) and two and four wheeled vehicles creating competition for space. As a result rapid traffic accidents involving pedestrians has increased leading to a growing sense or insecurity when using paraments and public spaces on city streets.

To face the challenges the project offers a system that is woven into and complements the existing urban network. Instead of creating competition with the existing streets, this system uses unused areas between buildings which are currently used for parking, storage or illegal construction – in order to create an urban safe and continuous pedestrians environment. It is an environment of intense streets where preference is given exclusively to pedestrians. A kind of “affirmative action” without harming the orderly conduct of the classic streets whilst providing a natural opportunity for the development of processes typical of most cities in the developed world – hyper logistics and digital consumerism.

##

##