

Additions to Conservation Buildings, Layer 2.0 - The Cultural Significance of a Multilayered City

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Research Summary

Background: Tel-Aviv-Yafo is currently home to around 2300 heritage buildings, defined in various plans ranging from the late 1980s until today. The vast majority are permitted to have additions, and from the early 1990s onwards, several hundred extensions have indeed been added to heritage buildings in the city. Tel Aviv-Yafo is, in this respect, a unique phenomenon worldwide, constituting a living laboratory for the subject of heritage building extensions. Now, after almost 30 years have passed, it is time to investigate these extensions in order to learn from what has already been done and to provide guidelines for future operations.

Cultural significance

The research focuses on, and attempts to read, the cultural significance of heritage building extensions and to examine their role in the layered development of the city. These extensions can be seen as a conduit for an open dialogue between the original architect's ideas and period, and those of the extension's architect. Such intergenerational dialogue allows us to consider how the values of our time resonate with and compare to the values represented within the original structure, and what can be inferred from this encounter about our contemporary culture and our approach to its past.

Analysis

In the framework of this study, 40 buildings and 20 broad topics have been selected for detailed investigation. We will use these to exemplify various approaches and types of dialogue that architects developed over the years. We will examine the ideas they aimed to express and how these reflect their relationship to the original structures. The ways and means by which the architects expressed their ideas will be studied, in order to connect the ideas in question with their physical expression.

The extension architects

In light of the central role played in this study by the extension architects, we are interested in bringing them into the picture and hearing their views on a variety of topics related to the planning of

extensions and heritage buildings. To this end, they will be asked to give their opinions on a variety of topics, ranging from describing the planning process for an extension to their opinion on the role of regulation in this area.

Toolbox

The aim of the study is to provide a broad view of what has been carried out in the field to date, and to create a useful toolbox, based on the knowledge and experience accumulated, for both the Tel Aviv Conservation Department and the extension architects. This toolbox can strengthen the connection between the ideas and their physical expression, and can create a more profound and precise dialogue between the Conservation Department and the planners.

Research Status

The research began in 2018, and is currently in the data analysis final phase. Its anticipated completion date is of 2020.



Photo: Mikaela Burstow