

# sabourjian the genius from iran



## editor's note

An item in the Daily Telegraph caught my attention. Caught and caught until it softened my heart and I decided to use it here as the lead. The story is about the discovery of Ahmadinejad's real name - Sabourjian - a common Jewish name in Iran meaning "weaver of praying shawls".

At first I assumed that someone had made a mistake and confused the E with an A... but when you consider the brilliant ideas of this man, who has succeeded in swindling the gentile world for years, it makes sense. His classmates say that one of his childhood dreams was to learn to fly, buy a plane, invite all his Jewish friends on a trip to the States, and jump with a parachute above the ocean, letting God transform their form.

Whether the story is true or not, the Iranian genius leaves his fingerprints on every aspect of our life, dictating our economy, and mostly, convincing us that we have to accept a coalition which manipulates us as if we were soldiers on a chess board. A board upon which it is permitted to ignore the hungry class "because there are no free meals", to pass sentence just because someone in the treasury department forgot to add a few zeros to the budget, to expel helpless refugees "because there are also Israelis who are willing to clean hospital toilets", to ignore the protests of the middle class because "look at what happened in Greece" and to shut up the media so government ministers and members of the Knesset can do what they do. And, with some imagination we can say, that Sabourjian's dream to transform his friends' "form" actually touches the very essence of human culture, i. e. - to give a concrete form to an abstract idea.

I won't bother you with trite expressions that have always been at the heart of the architectural debate, such as: "Form Follows Function", "Less is More", and "Less is Bore". But, for whoever hasn't heard them, has certainly heard of "clever and pleasure" - or the new version - "appropriate and efficient", namely - if one is nice looking and works well, one is most likely a foreign worker.

Admittedly, were we not living in something resembling a democracy, I'm sure that in one of my dreams I would learn to fly, buy a parachute, rent a plane and invite all the annoying phenomena on a trip overseas, so they can bother the gentiles as well - and I'm not referring to the unbearable flies, mosquitoes, jellyfish or cockroaches.

I'd then return with all the ones we have lost on the way: the handsome and courageous fallen, the little prince from unit B, the girls with the ponytail and jumper, the deported foreign workers, the academic minds we drove away, Kohelet who would tell us that everything is just vanity, Alterman who would write us real poetry, the proud Israel, and if possible, Begin, Rabin and Sadat, who would bring us some peace and serenity. Oh Well.. with the deformed form of architecture... we'll make do somehow - after all, it is the subject of this celebratory issue - 90 in count.

**Architect Dr. Ami Ran**

# quality & qualification

## talent and skill in the CAD regime

Ami Ran

The starting point of planning a building - like a poem, like a painting, like an article - is influenced by many factors such as: needs, objectives, rules, laws, time and space. However, the first image that comes to our mind appears as a certain form, which then accompanies the process to its very end.

Needless to say, creation is about giving an abstract idea a tangible form. Hence, the human inclination to give an idea a certain form, has no negative effect on the creation, unless it does... when it overtakes the whole process.

One of the basic criteria for professionalism is the ability to prevent the insignificant from dominating the significant, because being professional is about achieving the best result in the shortest time.

I remember when I was asked to design my first house, and the vast amount of time it took me (for which I obviously billed my client) forcing me to charge a ridiculous price. Today I can come up with a much better result in only a few hours, in comparison to the months I had to invest back then.

In order to investigate professionalism a little more deeply, I suggest we look at the difference between 'quality' and 'qualification' or in other words, 'talent' and 'skill'. While talent is something you are born with, skills can be obtained through learning or some experience.

So the question raised is: does one need to be born an architect in order to design a building, or a writer to compose an article?

Not always. While in technical professions like fixing washing machines, plumbing or electricity, skills can be achieved by several years of studying and a few electrocutions - creative professions require first and foremost a little bit of talent.