

awards & competitions

Architect Yoav Messer won the competition for the entrance bridge at the Ariel Sharon recycling park, Hiriya. Constructed from 31 containers, an appropriate language for the park, we will finally gain an elegant bridge that doesn't look like another shot at Calatrava.

Bezalel Academy decided to adopt the recommendation of the committee (that it appointed) to select an architect for the new campus in the Russian Compound, Jerusalem, after they had nonchalantly overturned the results of the open competition they had conducted several years before. The work will be handed over to SANAA, represented locally by Nir-Kotz Architects. The only light in this whole unethical saga is the possibility that instead of the flaky building that won the competition, there is now a chance that some of the buildings at the historical compound will be saved, and the question is of course – why not all of them?

The Rechter Prize for Architecture went this year to Guggenheim-Bloch Architects in collaboration with Mintz-Melamed Architects for the new wing of the School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem. Also, architect Dr. Tali Hatuka won the Young Architect Award for her book about Israeli living space; and - architect Amir Lotan received honorary mention for his project "Foreign Labor" that appeared at the Bat Yam Biennale for Urban Landscape in 2010. Starting as a private initiative by the Rechter family in collaboration with the Architects Association, the Ze'ev and Ya'akov Rechter Prize was issued for the sixth year by the Ministry of Culture and Sport.

Knafo-Klimor Architects won the Eylon Prize for Urban Architecture for their design of the Carmel Academic Center at the Haifa Port. Awarded by the Holon Municipality, the Eylon Prize focused this year on urban renewal. Third place went to architects Mark Topilsky and Joash Yankovic for the Stern Project in Kiryat Ono, and Zarchi Architects - for the Arlozorov 50 Project – which replaced a residential building that until recently served as the offices of the three firms (brothers-in-law) who planned the Hilton, Tel Aviv - Zarchi, Rechter, and Perry.

Knafo-Klimor Architects also won a commissioned competition for the "Rishon-Ayalon" – an urban master plan initiated by the Rishon Lezion Municipality, for a new neighborhood utilizing the lands above transportation arteries that divide the city.

Registration for the restaurants and bars annual design competition is now open. Architects and designers may submit projects designed during 2012. Deadline: 14/4/13 www.restaurantandbardesignawards.com

events and exhibitions

Several important Israeli architects have died this year, among whom - Gershon Zippor who designed the Bezalel Campus on Mount Scopus; Yitzhak Yashar who designed the Dizengoff Center; and David Reznik who designed the Mormon University in Jerusalem. Consolation prize - there will be a few compassionate architects in Heaven as well.

Rafi Segal who won the controversial competition for the National library in Jerusalem, will not be assigned for the job, since he could not resolve some unclear copyright issues regarding his attractive entry, which amazingly resembles a project already designed. It turns out that the disagreements began a few days after the announcement of the winner, when Bing Wang - a lecturer at Harvard, wrote to the National Library Building Company, claiming that she too was a leading team member and, therefore, entitled to a share in the fee of ten million shekels Segal would have been paid had he carried out the job. Later on, some whispered that the entry was just a rough "quotation" of a project designed in China by Hōweler + Yoou, who had even won a prize for it the year before. As Ami's father would say... no matter how much plaster you slap on a building with crooked foundations, it will never appear straight...

The outdoor exhibition "Story of Five Colors", is on display in Dov Hoz Boulevard in Holon until the 9/3/13. Based on the re-branding process of Holon as a city for children, culture and design, the exhibition utilizes architectural elements that have become a landmark in the city, the most prominent of which are the Children's Museum, the Story Gardens, Mediatheque Theater and the Museum of Design.

The Israeli Center for Digital Art in Holon will present the exhibition "We're not alone" from 16/2/13 – 26/4/13. Participating artists include: WochenKlausur, The Center for Urban Pedagogy, YoHa, Arteam, System Ali, Fritz Haeg, Douglas Paulson.
Curators: Mai Omer, Eyal Danon

Additional exhibitions are on the Holon Municipality website. www.holon.muni.il/

projects

A new wing at the Museum for Tractors and Agricultural Tools has opened on Kibbutz Ein Shemer. Placed in a hangar, until recently used as a warehouse for tractors, the agricultural machines are arranged according to their purpose and style. The collection is the result of an ongoing workshop for the restoration and conservation of tractors.

"The Architect's Paintbrush" – an exhibition showing the work of architect Heinz Fenschel (1906-1988), is now on display at Beit Reuben in Tel Aviv. Born in Berlin, Fenschel graduated from the Berlin-Charlottenburg Academy of Fine Arts. Between 1928-1936 he worked as a stage designer in the German Film Studio, where he designed 45 film backdrops. Coming from the film world, Fenschel felt no obligation to the prevailing severe modernist architecture and his unique approach dealt primarily with the question of how we, the "actors", appear on his designed set.

students

Einav Hamami, graduate from the Holon Technological Institute, won first prize in an international competition in Milano for his final project, "SHOES" – a tool for putting on shoes and socks. The subject of the exhibition was "The Third Age".

Student David Levy from the lighting appliances design department at Ruppit College won first place for his lamp that changes shape when turned on. Second place went to Hi-li Bloch and Alon Maori who created a light from a small carpet; and third place went to Alexandra Michalov and Shiri Hajaj.

21 students from the Technion will offer solutions for the rehabilitation of the abandoned quarry in Neshar. The project is the initiative of the Quarry Rehabilitation Fund, the Faculty of Architecture, and the Neshar Municipality.

The award ceremony for the Yithak Yashar prize at the Tel Aviv University was flooded with sweet words of admiration. Fortunately, designer Ron Arad, one of the judges, saved the situation with his witty humor. The prize went to student Anat Bodsar, whose final project related to the most constant issue in this country - temporary building.

That's all for now...
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