

Awards & Competitions

The competition for the new building of the National Library has quite stirred up the architecture community here. Those who saw the half full cup blessed the chance to compete against one another for the right to compete against several architects who had jumped into the second stage without going through the exams. Those who saw the half empty cup felt discriminated against, and not without reason. In a situation where the status of the architects is at a nadir, it isn't surprising that somebody else does the deciding of whom to praise.

The important building is to be located in the National Domain, thus reinforcing its national status, and the Rothschild Foundation's holding over the domain and its dwellers - having sponsored the Supreme Court as well. The best evidence for that is the mandate the Foundation received from the government to decide on the format of the competition, in other words - to influence its content, form and function.

The competition will be carried out in two stages, similarly to the process that took place in the case of the Supreme Court: four architects will go from stage 1 to stage 2, where 8 invited competitors will await them - 4 from abroad and 4 from Israel: Bracha and Michael Hyutin; Ganit Maysliks-Kassif and Udi Kassif; Ada Karmi-Melamede; and Karlos Prus from Israel; and from abroad: Moshe Safdie, David Chipperfield, Peter Bohlin, and Shigeru Ban (see the editorial).

An "entrepreneurs' choice" competition has been announced for the Jerusalem Nature Museum. The judges are: architects Dan Eitan (Chair), Shlomo Eshkol, Eitan Kimmel, and Maya Halevi, with Prof. Yigal Erel, Dalit Zilber, Anat Zur, and Daniel Mimran. Last date for submission: Wednesday 21st March till 16:00. www.isra-arch.org.il/hebrew/Article.aspx?Item=1344 +972-03-5188234

The Kalush-Chechick and Kimmel-Eshkolot offices jointly won the competition for the Netanya Municipality, out of 39 submitted entries. Their proposal is made of a 27-story glassed tower, with two 3-to-5-story buildings beside it - one for the council hall, and the other for functions requiring public reception. To be located near the culture hall and the court-house, the new building will also convey green planning - green rooftops, double facades and lots of shading devices.

The two second places went to TheHeder Architecture together with Annie Balitski, Tomer Harary and in cooperation with Madanes Architects, proposing a tower with a public veranda at its upper floor; and Zarhy Architects with David Zarhy, Daniel Zarhy, Shlomo Tagger, Nimrod Serok, Nahalal Serok, Chen Natan, Ben Saragoussi, Ayala Evan-Zohar, who proposed a 5-story peripheral with a public piazza inside.

Livay Dvoriansky Architects won the competition for the Water Piazza in Be'er Sheva. At the center of the proposal is a spiral waterfall with a perforated stainless steel fountain. The floor is made of broken ceramic pieces - LED lighting will turn the sculptured element at night into a dynamic light body.

Noam Shoked, an Israeli architect residing in New York, received an Honorary Mention for his entry to the AIDS Memorial Park Design Competition, among the 475 entries submitted. Judging panel included Michael Arad, Kenneth Cole, Whoopi Goldberg and Barry Bergdoll. Well done.

SHAGAL iodaa of Switzerland have announced a student competition for two practice-oriented fellowships of 20,000\$ each, in addition to a fellowship post with a nine-month commitment. CV + academic or school recommendation + research project in art, design or architecture should be sent in PDF format up to 8 MB. fellowships2012@shagal-iodaa.net +0041(44)9137070

Events & Exhibitions

The documentary film about Jewish architect Erich Mendelsohn was screened at the inauguration of the Tel Aviv Cinemateque's new wing. Depicting the architect's personal relations with his wife as well, the film follows some of his iconic buildings: in Germany - the Einstein Tower in Potsdam; the Schoken department-store; and the chain of commerce buildings of Zalman Schoken, Mendelsohn's best work provider. In Israel he planned the house of President Haim Weizman in Rehovot; Zalman Schoken's villa in Jerusalem; Schoken Library in Rehavia, Jerusalem; the Anglo-Palestine Bank in Jerusalem; Haddassah Hospital on Mount Scopes; and Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Mendelsohn was a thinker and innovator, planning with his free-hand sketches geometric shapes that always preceded his time.

Reported: Prof. Siona Shimshi

Hundreds signed the Environmental Justice Covenant at a convention in Beer Sheva, under the auspices of Adam Teva Vedin, and supported by environmental encourager Mayor Rubik Danilevitch.

Hyuli Architects - Jonathan Ollech, Amir Tomashov and Sagi Rechter - has been chosen to plan the Israeli pavilion at Expo, opening in South Korea in May. The architects' aim was to emphasize the creative side of the Jewish people, the humanity, sanctity of life, compassion, art, culture, science...in short - an uplifting vision full of hope, and well-needed. The Israeli pavilion will introduce the visitor into the wondrous unknown world of the sea, through a dynamic installation imaging the movement of seaweed. It sounds relaxing, although the connection between Israel and marine ecology research, of all things, seems a bit tenuous.

"Without Photoshop" is a photography exhibition presenting top Israeli models of the 60s-80s as photographed by Mula Eshet (Studio Mula-Haramati) - a daring photographer of the era. Hamishkan Gallery, Beit Meirov, Holon. Closing: 17.3.12
31 Hartzfeld St. Holon 03-651-6851, Admission free

The exhibition "10+", opening at the Holon Design Museum over Pesach, will display 40 works of Israeli designers from various fields, who graduated a decade ago. In honor of the event, dozen of international designers have been invited, giving the Israeli ones a chance to expose their works to the wide world. Closing: end of May 2012.

Outdoor exhibition "Muse", at the Elrov-Mamilla Center in Jerusalem, is devoted to musical instruments and musicians, displaying 120 sculptures of 60 artists from Israel and abroad. Closing: 31.12.12

"Ice City" is a multi-facet installation to be constructed at the Jerusalem Train-Station Domain, within the first international ice festival, displaying scores of ice-sculptures, alongside a skating rink - all this meant to attract thousands from the country and abroad. The visitors will be given jackets at the entrance, but it isn't clear if they are to be returned at the exit - and how many wearings do they undergo? 6-10/4/12

Projects

The entrance domain to the Children Village Kohav Hayarden has been completed. Affiliated to the Hole in the Wall Camps Organization initiated by Paul Neuman, the village has been built for dying kids. Covered in a membrane, the building was planned along the morphology of shells and other sea creatures. The Israeli village was established with the support of actor Haim Toppol, who is active in the organization.

OVAL Design - Michael Mikulsky

Students

Two student exhibitions from Ariel are now being shown in Holon. One, at the Hava Gallery - "Dissemble, Assemble, Etc", displays practical products made of recycled materials. The second - "Soundless", is exhibited on Dov Hoz Blvd., dealing with "dark corners of Israeli society". 27/1/12 - 17/3/12

Curators: Yoav Kamish, Rinat Sofer-Greenfeld, Amit Shamis

The exhibition "Zero Point" is being shown at Holon Theater Gallery till 17.2.12. The subject matter - graphic design combined with kinetic art in perpetual movement of color - presents fractures assembled and dissembled in hourly cycles, leaving the starting point unknown. Concept: Ariel Avraham, 4th year engineering student at Ariel.

Books

The book "Nahum Zolotov - Architect and Town Planner", edited by architect Tula Amir, deals with the works of one of the most important architects in the annals of Israeli architecture. The fascinating journey into Zolotov's work begins in the 50s, demonstrating his individualist thinking, full of imagination and innovation, in a period when Israeli architecture was searching for future directions of development. At the center of the inventive architect's work is the human-being with his daily needs - a message conveyed at every level of planning and implementation, with the budget being his point of departure. 250 pages, including 200 black and white photos.

Design: Michal Sahar. 98 shekels.

That's all for now,

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illustrations ahead