

1986 supreme court competition winners

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where have they gone

In February 1986, Yad Hanadiv Foundation released the names of the four winning firms in the public competition stage for the Supreme Court design. The four were invited to join the 6 invited architects for the second stage. Ultimately, none of them designed the only Israeli institution that (still) symbolizes democracy. This, due to the fact that the foundation which helped to finance the building traditionally maintains a discriminatory policy towards local architects, and the outrageous events that accompanied the National Library competition in Jerusalem is only further proof of this.

Established by the Rothschild family in 1958, Yad Hanadiv took part in financing major democratic buildings, such as the Knesset; the Supreme Court; Educational Television; the Open University; the Center for Educational Technology (CET); HEMDA Science Education; MANOF Youth Village, Jerusalem; Music Center in Mishkenot Sha'ananim; Institute for Advanced Studies, Technion; Water Research Institute; Fund for Health and Environment; The Israeli Institute for School Leadership; GuideStar NGO's; and, as mentioned, the National Library. Unfortunately, this fact only "assisted" the foundation to become a symbol of non-democratic capital/governing relations.

The Supreme Court was ultimately designed by Ram Karmi and his sister Ada Karmi Melamede. However, the choice of the four winners proved itself, as each went on to gain an impressive professional career.

The Jerusalem architectural firm of KKE, founded in 1982 by Amir Kolker, Ofer Kolker, and Randy Epstein, currently rank eight in size in Israel. The firm that also operates from a Tel Aviv branch includes 57 employees, as well as three young partners. The firm has been among the finalists of every competition in which it participated - in some coming first, the most important of which was the Foreign Office complex - ranked in 2014 by the AIA as one of the "Ten Best Buildings" in the world. The firm served as local architect for A.J. Diamond in the design for the Jerusalem Municipality, as well as for Frank Gehry in the original design of the Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem. KKE has been involved in the design of many neighborhoods, including the new Northwest Tel Aviv quarter.

Professor Hillel Schocken – architect and a sworn theorist who opposes the ills of suburbia - designed a number of worthwhile projects, among them the Science Museum in Jerusalem (with Ari Avrahami) the Haaretz Printing Plant in Tel Yitzhak, the entrance gate structure to the Western Wall (with Moni Lombroso), display spaces at the Tower of David Museum (with Ari Avrahami), Minicom Building in Har Hotzvim, Jerusalem, the Youth Village at the Hebrew University campus, and a detailed master plan for the Water Tower in a Bet Shemesh neighborhood.

During the eighties', Schocken was the chief architect of the Jerusalem Foundation. Then he taught at Bezalel, the Technion, and Tel Aviv University where, until six years ago, he served as head of the Azrieli School of Architecture. In 2000, he curated the exhibition at the Israeli Pavilion in the Venice Architecture Biennale, where he presented his urban theory entitled "Anonymous Intimacy". Schocken participated in several design competitions, among them the new wing at the Tel Aviv Museum, the Bezalel Campus, Camp Rabin (in collaboration with his life partner, Efrat Beredjik), and the Prime Minister's office, in collaboration with Daniel Asayag, in which he was a finalist but, due to some administrative problems, he did not plan it

Roni Seibert studied architecture in Italy, completing his studies at the Technion, and second degree studies in theater lighting design at Tel Aviv University. An active architect, he won the Council prize for the design and conservation of the Gutman Museum and the Writers' House in Neve Tzedek, and second prize in the Landscape

Category of the Project of the Year International Competition, with his La Guardia Interchange in Tel Aviv, in partnership with architects Zvika Tamari and David Eran.

Seibert participated in several competitions, winning first place in an invited competition for the design of a teacher training center in Eilat, the Agam Museum, Rishon Lezion, in partnership with architect David Nofar, a public competition for the Town Square complex in Petach Tikva, and an invited competition for the Savyon cultural center in partnership with Architect Shraga Arnon.

David Shalev is the (seemingly) unknown figure in the competition but has a no less interesting story. Graduating from the Technion in 1960, he began working at Dov Carmi's firm and, in 1963, moved to London where he taught at the AA. Two years later he joined Eldred Evans and together they founded Evans and Shalev Architects, in the framework of which they designed The Truro Courts of Justice and the Tate Gallery in Cornwall and the Library in Jesus College Cambridge.

Shalev served as professor of architecture at Bath University, as well as an external examiner in the formative stages of the Department of Architecture at Wizo, Haifa, and was also a popular lecturer in Berlin, Dortmund in Germany, and Lausanne in Switzerland..