

ocial injustices always have a spatial aspect, and social injustices cannot be addressed without also addressing their spatial aspect" <u>Peter Marcuse</u>

הקליניקה האורבנית

THE URBAN CLINIC

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

## Updates from the Urban Clinic

Summer is just around the corner, and the Urban Clinic is wrapping up another school year packed with projects, tours, meetings, and ideas. This time we'd like to bring to your attention our 'Community Urban Planning' project – a new Clinic initiative that brings together planners, government, and community.

Other updates include: Urban Clinic work on "Urban 95cm" – making cities better for young children (95cm is the height of an average 3 year old), a course training Social Advisors in Urban Regeneration in Jerusalem, Friday Walks, and Israel's National Urban Task Force. For additional materials and Hebrew <u>See</u>.

Too often, there is a disconnect between planners and the neighborhoods they work in. Planners may lack knowledge of what's happening on the ground, and residents can feel powerless to affect change. The Urban Clinic's "Community Urban Planning" project brings together 40 architects/planners and community organizers from 10 cities to develop new tools that bridge the gap.

The first three sessions have explored the Jerusalem model, with community planners embedded in neighborhood community centers; Tel Aviv's new move to a new "Community Authority" aiming to enhance resident engagement; and an innovative "CEO Forum" focused on planning and community in one of Lod's most complex neighborhoods. Each session unearths tools and recommendations for change. Summaries in Hebrew are HERE and see below for a profile of project manager Hani Cohen Caspi.





## Friday Tour Series with the Urban Clinic:

In a highly divided city such as Jerusalem, most residents only end up ever seeing about a third of their city. The ultra-Orthodox stay in their neighborhoods, Palestinians stick to East Jerusalem, while secular/ religious but not ultra-orthoddox and "miscellaneous" Jerusalemites stick to safe, neutral zones. One goal of the Urban Clinic's Friday Tour series is to break some of these ethno-religious/cultural barriers and introduce professionals, students and activists to areas of their city they may have never seen The tours, led by neighborhood planners

and community social workers from the Community Councils, give participants new information and an avenue for direct feedback on local projects.

Upcoming tours include visits to the north-central neighborhood of Shmuel HaNavi on May 19th, and north-east (over green line) neighborhood of Pisgat Zeev on June 6th. Background papers and summaries are available in Hebrew <u>Here</u>.

This year the series looked at expanding access to public spaces and buildings in the central Talbiya areas, dramatic and disconnected neighborhood change plans in Talpiot (online summary in English here), and issues of ownership and identity in Nahalat Shiva, downtown city-center. The walk in Beit Hanina was- for Jewish Jerusalemites – a rare window into the complexities, failures, and undaunted resident-led achievements associated with planning in East Jerusalem Palestinian areas.



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## Training Course for Social Consultants in Urban Renewal

The Israeli government is looking to increase the numbers of homes available in existing urban areas by replacing lowrise former public housing blocs with brand new highrise buildings for middle-income families. While most agree that the densification of urban neighborhoods is preferable to suburban sprawl, and lowincome home-owners will benefit from a major increase in the value of their homes, the demolition can also bring severe social consequences.



<u>הצטרפו</u> לסיורי השישי הבאים שלנו



The government expects that nationally, up to 30% of new housing will be a result of raze and rebuild tactics. In the past, municipalities have often left raze and rebuild projects in the hands of the developer. Recent legislation passed after heated Knesset debates allocates funding for 30 new municipal urban renewal agencies, each of which includes a "social planner" and community organizers. The social planner is meant to be someone trained in the effects of planning on communities, and mitigation strategies to make urban renewal work in the favor of residents.

The Jerusalem Municipal urban reneneration agency took the lead in developing the first a training program to produce a pool of candidates to fill the new social planner positions. The 50 hour course was developed in conjunction with the Urban Clinic. Participants, seen in the graduation photo below, came from the fields of planning, architecture, community social work and informal education. The course materials, developed with the Urban Clinic (see <u>here</u> in Hebrew), is now ready to be scaled up and delivered by other municipalities.



Urban 95: Big Cities for Little Kids

What would you change about the city, if you were only 95cm high, the average height of a three year old? So much thinking is devoted to educating and raising our children, but we tend to ignore the fact that the city itself has an important impact on child development.



According to Professor James Heckman, "The highest rate of return in early childhood development comes from investing as early as possible, from birth through age five, in disadvantaged families". How can we plan, build and manage cities in a way that invests in early childhood development? The Urban Clinic is partnering with the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, and professionals across the country, to find out answers, and point the way to change.

40 participants from 10 Israeli cities, several government ministries and leading civil society organizations are meeting monthly, learning together tools to improve playground design and play, urban mobility, public buildings, and new neighborhoods. Videos of the sessions and summaries are available in Hebrew <u>HERE</u>. Additional projects include graduate student courses on urban planning and early childhood at four Universities, a knowledge portal, and, forthcoming, policy papers with recommendations for change.



National Urban Planning Policy in Israel: The Return of Habitat III

In October of 2016, an Israeli delegation of forty five representatives headed by the Minister and Director General of the Housing Ministry of Housing UN-Habitat, attended Habitat III, the United Nations international four-day conference in Quito, Ecuador, and ratified the New Urban Agenda. a new approach to how cities an promote equity, sustainability, and economic growth. The Urban Clinic served as academic advisor to the delegation, and organized the main Israeli event, on "Initiating National Urban Policy", with the participation of the Housing Minister from Paraguay, the director of the Singapore Center for Liveable Cities, representatives from the OECD and Cities Alliance and the director-general of the Israeli Housing Ministry (see the invitation <u>here</u>). Participation in Habitat III and special seminars for the delegation there, further advances the work of the Israel National Urban Task Force, in which the Urban Clinic also serves as academic advisor. After returning to Israel, senior delegation representatives presenting their conclusions for advancing national urban policy in a conference hosted at Hebrew University (poster on right). Among the recommendations for change: Israel needs national policies to promote walkability, public spaces in cities, and ensure that planning advances social equity. More about the delegation, the National Urban Task Force and the Hebrew University conference are here







Chani Caspi-Cohen joined the clinic in November 2016 as coordinator of the "Urban Community Planning" project. Hani received her BA in Geography and MA in Public Policy, both from the Hebrew University. Today, she's an urban planner who specializes in sustainable public transportation, focusing especially on the

integration of housing, social sustainability and transportation in order to create long-term community plans. In the past, she worked for private consulting firms that advised the Ministry of Transport, the National bus company (Egged), as well as municipal Strategic Planning Departments. She believes in the integration of academic knowledge and practical actions, and in the importance of welcoming the community to take part in the planning processes. Contact Hani at: hanic78@gmail.com

The Urban Clinic at Hebrew University is an academic body that works to strengthen creative and socially aware urban leadership in Israel. The Urban Clinic provides state of the art knowledge about what works in housing, urban regeneration and community planning, to ensure that the current and next generation of urban practitioners are equipped with effective tools and skills, to make our cities truly remarkable places for all. Founded in 2013, the Urban Clinic is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University, and linked to the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies there

