

Between chlorophyll and concrete: the relationship between urban nature poetry and urban planning

Vered Tohar and Adi Wolfson

—ABSTRACT—

This article focuses on a fairly new literary sub-genre — urban nature poetry. The assumption we make here is that urban nature poetry is poetry that maintains a dialogue between the fruit of human creation and the fruit of Nature itself, and attempts to decipher Humanity's place between the two. As such, we present the readings of six poems by contemporary Israeli poets, that represent the different aspects of the human/environment relationship and propose a new model that enables us to place urban nature poems along a spectrum, somewhere between an 'urban poem' with some natural elements and a poem dealing especially with an 'Urban-Nature' theme. Reading the poems and their characterization can serve as inspiration and as a conceptual and emotional basis for intelligent urban planning, and constitute a new participatory tool for urban planning based on the personal experience of the citizens.

Keywords: urban nature, nature poetry, ecopoetry, urban planning, Israeli literature, hebrew literature

*Dr. **Vered Tohar**, Head of the Department of Literature of the Jewish People at Bar-Ilan University, is a lecturer, editor and scholar of Hebrew and Jewish literature and culture. Tohar has published two books, edited five books and published dozens of articles, essays and columns in Israeli and international forums. She is the author of a bilingual prose book and two poetry books. Vered.Tohar@biu.ac.il*

*Prof. **Adi Wolfson** is the Head of the Master's Degree Program in Green Engineering at Sami Shamoon College of Engineering in Be'er Sheva. Wolfson is also a poet, environmental activist, expert in sustainability and a professor of chemical engineering. In addition to his academic activities, he voluntarily takes part in a variety of frameworks and forums to promote sustainability in Israel. adiw@sce.ac.il*