

## Special Section: New Aspects of Israeli Housing Policy

### *Each One Counts Differently: A Critique of the National Strategic Housing Plan*

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The 2014 "Law to Promote the Construction of Priority Housing The national strategic housing plan is the main driving force behind the current Israeli planning efforts. The Planning Administration is advancing a widespread effort to meet the goals set by this plan. However, the assumptions and data underlying this plan have never been made public. Moreover, the plan did not undergo any public or professional scrutiny. In this paper we try to identify the data and assumptions that underlie the national strategic housing plan. Then we discuss it critically.

The national housing strategic plan sets housing "needs" way above previous plans, and critiques National Plan # 35, the national physical masterplan. Yet, in contrast to National Plan #35 the housing plan makes no provisions for employment or infrastructure considerations. It thus returns to practices which were common before the 1990s, undoing the advances made in planning practices since. However, the most problematic aspect of the national strategic housing plan is the excess residential units that are planned to fulfill it. These plans far exceed demand and thus by the time they will be built they will be outdated, thereby limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and desires.

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