

other things, two flagship projects dealing with urban renewal in Arab society and urban renewal along the lines of the public transportation system.

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The "Golden Age" of Water in the Planning System: Recent Developments

Asaf Zanzuri

Water is an essential resource for the health of the whole biosphere, for economic growth, for a strong society and for human welfare. In the last years water has enjoyed broad attention in the planning world, since many aspects of water resources challenge planning in Israel. The planning system has a central role in conserving water resources, but water is still "transparent": the level of protection of this resource in National Outline Plans (TAMAs) is permissive rather than strict. Consequently many water resource elements, e.g. rivers, springs and floodplains, are frequently damaged. It was not for nothing that the State Comptroller leveled harsh criticism of the management of "the most important natural resource in Israel – water." This article reviews the various planning processes in progress at the national level, which aim to cope with the various strata of this resource.

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In the Planning Field

Urban Renewal in Arab Society - A Generative Project in Sahnin

Noa Zarmon Behrendt and Michal Sorek

Urban renewal in Israel depends heavily on private entrepreneurs and private economic investment and takes place mainly in areas of high demand for housing that can generate profit. As a result, urban renewal in the periphery is rare and totally absent in minority societies such as the ultra-Orthodox and Israeli-Arab society. This dismal outcome has led the Israeli Urban Renewal Authority to understand that Israeli-Arab society needs specialized mechanisms to implement urban renewal and increase housing stock. Public spaces in Israeli-Arab society are almost non-existent, and mostly neglected or abandoned. Thus, urban renewal goals in Israeli-Arab cities include creating and improving public space. These cities developed spontaneously without orderly planning processes. Here we describe the work process in five Israeli-Arab cities, offering an innovative urban renewal process tailored for the Israeli-Arab context. The process included an initial planning brief, detailed pre-planning, determining the challenges and barriers in the social, economic, legal and planning domains, and the adjustments required before beginning detailed planning. We present the process carried out so far for the city of Sakhnin, which includes the planning schema, alongside the challenges that the planning team faced, and the proposed solutions. It became clear to the decision-makers that to drive such processes in Israeli-Arab society, an investment of funds is required in order to produce generative projects that will set a successful and positive example and will motivate the local authority, residents and future entrepreneurs.

Architect Noa Zarmon Behrendt holds a bachelor's degree in architecture and a master's degree in urban design from the Bezalel Academy of Art. For the past decade, she has been promoting plans and outlining planning principles in the field of urban renewal. She currently serves as the Director of Special Projects Planning at the Government Authority for Urban Renewal and leads, among