Abstracts

Absence of the Palestinians from planning in Jerusalem: the case of Highway 4 in Beit Tsafafa

Kais Nasser

The formal approach to planning frequently conflicts with the planning texture that has developed over generations and years, as shown in the case of Highway 4 South through Beit Tsafafa. This case illustrates how infrastructure planning, with the objective of realizing "national goals" of the State of Israel applying criteria of efficiency and economic feasibility, can be destructive and damage the lives of residents in whose area it is implemented. The highway in this case is the product of an establishment view that is blind to the existing social and physical fabric in the area. Such mega-planning of one dominant element is in stark contrast to the other elements in the neighborhood that suffer from "under-planning". The conflict arising on this background also displays the problematic in the destruction/construction dichotomy, and the failures of rigid planning that is divorced from the public and leaves no room for the flexibility needed to address the needs of diverse population groups.

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Clearance-construction: destroying the past and building the future

Yael Padan

This article deals with the social aspects of urban renewal, a concept that includes different and varying possibilities for improving the built environment, but which today's planning institutions in Israel almost automatically interpret as the platform for clearance-construction projects. Here we present the considerable complexity that characterizes clearance-construction plans: when paper computations show all parties