

Abstracts

Her research mediates between diverse practices of production of space and reciprocal relations between policy processes (planning), physical design (architecture) and practices of daily life.

Backyards in Tel-Aviv

Anat Goldman, Juval Portugali and Itzhak Omer

A backyard is an actual place in a city, located in the hidden part of the building's plot, away from the eyes of passersby. This article presents a study evaluating the backyards of Tel-Aviv, an area in the urban landscape that despite its scope remains mostly hidden (backyards occupy over 25% of the average urban block). The article has two main objectives. Firstly, to locate the various backyard types in the city and to categorize them according to their morphological structure and their function. Secondly, to examine the circumstances that led to the backyard formation and the process of its change throughout the years.

The research was in two phases: 1) Developing a typology mapping the backyards in the entire urban area, weighing the correlation between built up and available space in the urban blocks. 2) Particular reference to the backyards of multiple dwelling buildings in Tel-Aviv was based on a survey of land-uses found in 150 different backyards, examining their uses and their morphological connection to the building and its surroundings.

The research shows the vast range of uses in the backyards: besides neglect, the backyard space enables diverse possible uses, e.g. appropriation, parking and gardening. This variety of uses is not evenly spread through the urban landscape: different neighborhoods have a unique distribution of backyard land-uses. The specific land-use mix for each neighborhood expresses the reciprocal relations between the residents' needs and the specific mix of surrounding open spaces. The study's findings express the backyard's adaptive capability, its significance in creating a vital and active urban fabric, and its contribution to the urban evolution process.

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Dynamic and flexibility in a planning NGO

Tommer Dekel, Rachel Kallush and Nurit Bird-David

The non-governmental planning organization (NGPO) *Bimkom* is described and discussed based on interviews with and observations of its planners. Their ongoing professional struggles in the name of disenfranchised communities demonstrate how they defy the dichotomy between professional planning and spontaneous non-governmental planning. We present *Bimkom* as an example of a non-governmental agency using professional tools and expertise to promote what is, in many respects, radically democratic planning. We examine this praxis that moves flexibly and dynamically between routes of action, methodological principles and socio-professional agendas. Relying on Bourdieu's theory of capital and neo-pragmatic planning theories, we argue that this flexibility and dynamism are key attributes for NGPOs interested in promoting ideologies opposed to state hegemony.

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