



ארגון המהנדסים
והאדריכלים
העצמאיים
בישראל
I S R A E L
O R G A N I Z A T I O N
o f C O N S U L T I N G
E N G I N E E R S & A R C H I T E C T S

Association of Independent Architects
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS' FORUM
ISRAEL UPDATE MAY 2007

Sustainability

Green Buildings - In the past year, Israel moved forward on issues of sustainability. A new Code for Green Building was formally approved. Five buildings were chosen for a pilot program for the new green building certification process. All these projects will be presented in the Second Conference for Green Buildings next month in Israel.

Competition - The Ministry of Ecology is conducting an architectural design competition of a "Green Building" at a specific location. The criteria for the competition are based on the new green certification requirements.

The newly approved code does not yet apply to Urban Design. Architects, Environmentalists and Urban Planners have formed a powerful lobby in the Israeli Parliament to try and push through a green code for urbanism.

Waterfronts – The Green Movement Lobby just issued a report about waterfronts in Israel. Different concerns were addressed regarding the Mediterranean Sea, Lake Kinneret in the Galilee and the Dead Sea.

Railways – Recently, there have been many casualties caused by train accidents. A significant budget was allocated to separate train, pedestrian and car traffic. Multi level interchanges will be built to prevent disasters, but architectural design issues and friendly public access are fundamental to an integrated solution. In the past, non-architects made major urban design decisions. The main railway stations serving Tel Aviv were disconnected from city activities and urban life. Railway Authorities suggested forming a round table discussion with our organization to improve safety and to address future regional, urban and local design goals.

Sprawl - In Jerusalem, a major campaign against sprawl recently succeeded in forcing the Mayor to cancel a plan to develop homes in a beautiful green forest east of Jerusalem. As a result, thirty thousand people will have to find housing inside existing neighborhoods, while the city center will be revitalized and the forest will be saved.

Technology –Israel was a pioneer in developing alternative energy sources 30 years ago. The use of solar thermal systems is mandatory for residential properties. The Institute for Desert Research in the Negev is at the forefront of solar research and Israel continues to be a large exporter of solar technology.



Tax incentive system – Of concern to our organization is that the Israeli government has not yet created tax incentives to promote sustainability.

Advocate – Our organization continues to push for the advancement of sustainability on many fronts. We constantly furnish updated information about sustainable design while promoting design excellence and global responsibility.

Intellectual property and business rights

The law that protects intellectual property and business rights in Israel was originally created in England in 1911. It has been a relatively protective and useful law for architectural work. However, lately in Israel, Media companies, Newspaper publishers and Records distributors are promoting new legislation in an attempt to own and control these intellectual property and business rights.

“The Bern Treaty” that was signed years ago by countries all over the world, including Israel, is becoming more important in the global village we live in. Due to mobility of architects everywhere and the importance of protecting our legacy, these issues need to be promoted globally.

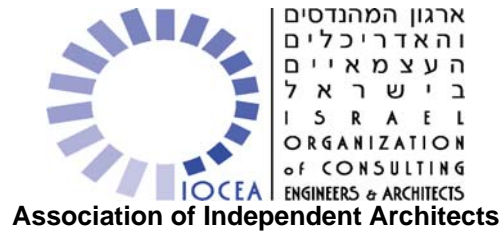
Our organization has created a strong lobby in the Israeli parliament to protect architecture and architects, but still we have to overcome giant economic forces for the sake of the preservation of cultural assets.

Economy

Positive economic growth fueled a 15% increase in real estate property value last year. Within a population of 7 million people there are 8,000 architectural graduates practicing in the country, out of which only 3,000 are licensed. Still, the economic laws of supply and demand are proving true; too many architects are competing for a given project, which in turn has forced many architects to search for work in new markets, including Eastern Europe, India and China.

Export of architectural services

Many architects in Israel have developed offshore work patterns that are convenient for Israeli developers that are involved in overseas projects. In most overseas cases an Israeli team is responsible for the preliminary design and the local team is responsible for the building permits, production and observation on site.



The cultural synergy between Israeli developer and architect promotes success in this kind of joint venture work. Project success also depends upon collaborative work across cultures and sensitivity to local issues technically, the Internet and BIM are essential tools to insure the success of these projects.

The global village is here and our aim at the Israeli Association of Independent Architects is to help Engineering and Architectural services move fluidly across international boundaries with the efficiency and creativity found in international High-tech and Technology joint ventures.

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