

THE URBAN CLINIC NEWSLETTER 2020



הקליניקה האורבנית
THE URBAN CLINIC
عيادة التخطيط الحضري



FIVE YEARS OF THE URBAN CLINIC

This issue of the Urban Clinic highlights five years of the Urban Clinic, updates on our capstone Internship course and academia, and The East Jerusalem Planners Platform.

What have the Urban Clinic and its members done to promote more just and inclusive cities? How have we addressed the national scarcity of Arab planners? How do we view Israel's approach to urban regeneration?

The Clinic's work, projects, and courses include place-making and community planning, conducting urban regeneration and affordable housing research, promoting welfare in planning spaces, and advancing tools and knowledge for urban planning in Arab society in Israel and East Jerusalem. An important aspect of our work is in dialogue with social urbanism practices internationally.

A central aspect of our program is full-tuition scholarships for outstanding Arab graduate students in urban planning, with over 20 graduates over the last five years.

We also provide fellowships and teaching assistantships for Jewish and Palestinian students working on related topics. Key partners include the Arab Center for Alternative Planning, the Truman Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at the Hebrew University, the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research, and the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv municipalities.

In an event celebrating the Clinic's 5th anniversary, we screened this short clip and invited supporters to reflect together on the progress and challenges for social urbanism in this region. The participants' energy and insights are summarized in the report: Setting the Agenda for Social Urbanism, and point the way forward for the next five years.



Setting the Agenda for Social Urbanism



Presentations during the celebration. Credit: The Urban Clinic



THE URBAN CLINIC INTERNSHIP COURSE



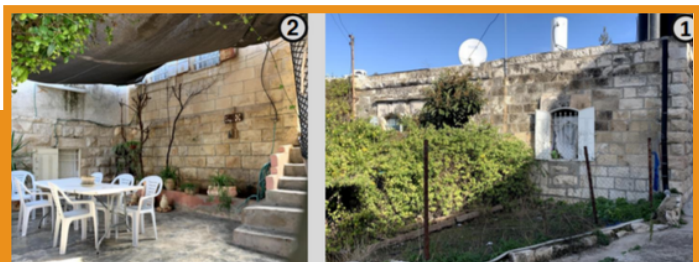
Envisioning Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus main entrance. Credit: Tharaa Kirresh

The Urban Clinic Internship Course allows graduate students in urban planning to develop a real-life project with individual hands-on guidance from academics and practitioners. Architect Tharaa Kirresh chose to work on place-making as a tool for making the Mt. Scopus campus more inclusive for both Arab and Jewish students. She used her knowledge as lead municipal place-maker in East Jerusalem and studied interventions on campuses in conflict situations internationally to design an on-campus place-making course aimed at bringing Arab and Jewish students together. The course was then awarded funding from Hebrew University's Multiversita project (information in Hebrew), and Tharaa and her supervisor, Dr. Yaara Rosner, have now co-taught it for two semesters.

The Urban Clinic Internship Course also solicits project briefs from potential clients. The Jerusalem municipal planning department requested that Architect Yasmin Abu-Arafah investigate guidelines for historic preservation in the Arab neighborhood of A-Tor, adjacent to the Mount Scopus campus. A private-sector Jewish urban planner had already identified the important monuments worthy of preservation, but Yasmin was able to identify historic codes and patterns in residential buildings and make sensitive recommendations that will both preserve the neighborhood's architecture and identify potential for additional new housing through densification and urban renewal. Her work also demonstrated the need for Arab architects and urban planners within any master planning team in East Jerusalem.



Assessing potential sites for historic preservation. Credit: Yasmin Abu-Arafah



THE EAST JERUSALEM PLANNERS' PLATFORM



Presenting the Platform. Credit: The Urban Clinic

In May 2018, the Israeli government resolved, for the first time, to invest significant budgets to improve social and economic life for Palestinians in East Jerusalem. GR 3790 allocated 2.1 billion NIS to improve transport, infrastructure, education, and employment over five years, and the government and the municipality began setting up professional teams, mapping, and developing work plans.

But Palestinians from East Jerusalem were, for the most part, not involved in these plans, and the Jewish planners lacked crucial local knowledge. Our graduate students asked whether the Urban Clinic could help inform and involve East Jerusalem professionals.

We initiated a partnership with the Jerusalem municipal planning department to deliver a series of professional workshops for public and private sector planners. Over one-hundred professionals, about half Palestinian, attended the five full-day sessions.

Each session was devoted to one of the key planning-related topics in the government resolution, including improving public space; developing roads and public transport;

land registration and ownership; and employment and economic development. Participants learned about the plans, addressed obstacles, and brainstormed new ideas for implementation. We also hosted a session learning from the [post-Hurricane Sandy Rebuild by Design](#) program. Our summary report on the findings was presented online and has been translated into English; it is available [here](#). See the [Ir Amim monitoring publications](#) and policy reports from [Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research](#) for further information.



Understanding transportation challenges in East Jerusalem. Credit: The Urban Clinic

THE URBAN CLINIC

We are an academic body that works to strengthen creative and socially aware urban leadership in Israel. The Urban Clinic provides state-of-the-art knowledge about what works in housing, urban regeneration, and community planning to ensure that the current and next generation of urban practitioners are equipped with effective tools and skills to make our cities truly remarkable places for all. Founded in 2013, the Urban Clinic is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University and linked to the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies.

