

## THE URBAN CLINIC NEWSLETTER

# Spotlight on Jerusalem

This issue of the Urban Clinic newsletter highlights activities in Jerusalem, the complex and endlessly fascinating city that is home to the Hebrew University.

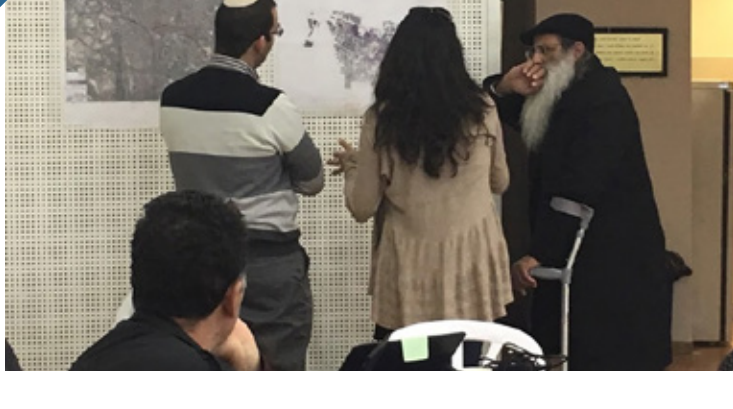
## Jerusalem Community Urban Planners and Public Space:

The Jerusalem model of neighborhood planning is unique in Israel, with ‘community urban planners’ embedded in nearly thirty neighborhoods around the city, East and West. The community urban planners are responsible for getting resident input on urban design and management: what should change, what should remain, where and when and how. Many of these community planners are graduates of the Hebrew University MA program in urban planning, and have worked with the Urban Clinic leading Friday walks, placemaking projects, studio courses, and urban regeneration plans. This year, for the first time, we are working with the full group, leading a series of capacity-building workshops.

Delivered in close partnership with the Israel Council of Community Centers and the Jerusalem municipality urban planning and architecture departments, the “*Neighborhood Connects*” workshops help the community planners to identify the public space network in and, importantly, across neighborhoods. The photos below show the iterative process of learning, drawing, presenting and redrafting the neighborhood maps. The project is expected to culminate in a city-wide exhibition for decision makers and resident-activists, and may provide important input in updating the Jerusalem masterplan.



Community Urban Planners in Jerusalem: learning by mapping and challenging



## Urban Planning and East Jerusalem:

In May 2018, the Israeli government decided, for the first time, to allocate major budgets for improving the quality of life of Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem. Government Resolution 3790 allocated 2.5 billion NIS over five years for education, economic development and infrastructure in East Jerusalem. These new budgets could greatly improve daily life, particularly in the public realm including parks and public spaces, roads and transport, and commerce and local economics. One major obstacle is of course political: the resolution explicitly aims to enhance ‘Israelification’ of the Palestinian population in Jerusalem, and perhaps also linked to an agenda to change the municipal borders. The second obstacle is professional: successful implementation will require new approaches in urban planning, given major differences in land ownership and registration, and much more significant local engagement in order to adapt the plans to the very different East Jerusalem neighborhoods.

In response, the Urban Clinic convened the ‘Platform for Planners in East Jerusalem’- a series of workshops

to develop new knowledge to bridge these gaps. The Jerusalem Municipal Planning Department is a partner in the project, and we also work with the government agencies responsible for implementing the resolution. Over one-hundred professionals registered for the series, about evenly split between East and West Jerusalemites.

By Spring 2019 we have delivered four substantive day-long sessions, on the topics of public space, transportation, land registration, and economic development. We have been gratified to find that it is possible to hold substantive and informative professional discussions, while acknowledging tensions, frustrations and conflicting interests. Each session attracted between forty to seventy participants, responding to government and municipal plans, and working together to generate about thirty feasible ideas for improvement. The full report, including links to all presentations, will be available on our website in the coming months.

MA student Thara’a Kireesh explains the difficulties of bus transport in East Jerusalem.



Urban professionals from East and West Jerusalem.



## “Scholars as Bridge Builders?”

What happens when urban academics from New York City and Hebrew University spend three days together walking East and West Jerusalem, trading thoughts about spatial justice? Where do theories and practices from our region and from the U.S align or challenge one another? When and how can good ideas be adapted and ‘translated’? We

explored these questions in January 2019 together with the NYC Jewish Community Relations Council and young scholars from the Urban Clinic’s “Engaged Academics: Cities, Diversities and Spatial Justice” research group. The full schedule, participant bios, papers and presentations are on the [Urban Clinic website](#).



Scholars as Bridge Builders participants on tour in Jerusalem.

## Walking Tour: Housing Policy and Urban Regeneration in Jerusalem

Delegates from the Washington DC Jewish Federation’s ‘real estate and innovation’ track joined the Urban Clinic for a walking tour on housing policy and urban regeneration. From early State housing for Jewish immigrants to public housing projects, from Project Renewal upgrades to market liberalization and the current reigning ‘Raze and Rebuild’ program for urban densification, the Kiryat Yovel neighborhood of Jerusalem showcases decades of changing approaches to housing and land use planning in Israel. This tour, led by the chair of Kiryat Yovel neighborhood’s planning committee, Hebrew University PhD candidate Michael Ziv-Kenet, and the Urban Clinic academic director Dr. Emily Silverman, is recommended for visitors with an interest in real estate development, affordable housing, and improving the quality of dense urban living in Jerusalem.

Visiting US delegation on a housing policy walking tour in Jerusalem



Updates on the Urban Clinic Website, [here](#)

## 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.