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# Call for Papers

קול קורא להגשת מאמרים

2025 כנס דוקומומו ישראל

מעבר למודרניזם: מבט חדש על מורשת הקיבוץ – אדריכלות, תכנון ונוף

**2025 Docomomo Israel Conference**  
**Modernism and Beyond: Kibbutz Legacy ReVisited — Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture**

**May 13–14**  
**Faculty of Architecture & Town Planning, Technion**

The conference will address the architectural, planning, and landscape history of the kibbutz as a modern social-settlement heritage. It will offer a research-based discussion on the planning challenges of living within this heritage in light of shifting economic-political processes on one hand, and the events of the October 7 2023 attack on the other.

The first kibbutzim established in Israel-Palestine in the early 20th century proposed a unique social model characterized by the creation of a new society, which called for the development of a settlement type to support it. The modernist concept, which links form and function, was fully realized in the kibbutz and granted its architectural, settlement, and landscape planning an ideological status.



Kibbutz Nir Oz, 1960's. Kibbutz Nir Oz Archives

As such, kibbutz members played an active role in shaping this new form of settlement and defining the cooperative principles at its foundation through the design of its buildings, and its landscaping .

The history of Kibbutz planning includes struggles and collaborations between residents, settlement institutions, and architects regarding the design of the kibbutz and its structures — from the establishment of the first kibbutz in Degania (1910) until the present time. This partnership has created an ongoing discourse regarding the cooperative values of this way of life in light of changing realities over the past 115 years. The continuous discussion about the social structure and planning of the kibbutz — most recently expressed at the "Densifying Kibbutzim" conference — reflects the relevance of the modernist principle linking form and content to contemporary design.

Against this backdrop, the 2025 Docomomo Conference seeks to examine the Kibbutz heritage beyond Modernism as not solely a historical period, but also as a means to pose key questions in the study of modern heritage: How can we distinguish between living heritage and preserved heritage? What are the conservation aspects that authentically reflect modern movement values, and how can they be implemented today?

The Kibbutz allows for an in-depth discussion of these questions, since its 20th and 21st century history deals with significant changes that reflect deep social processes. While the kibbutz's built typology — beginning in the 1920s — enabled highly perceived values in the emerging state (such as social equality and prioritizing the collective over individual), architectural and planning changes like expansion neighborhoods reflect a new neoliberal and socio-political order that is reshaping kibbutzim from within. The scattered building pattern in open landscapes, as a visual-spatial representation of an ideology-based way of life, gradually gave way to seeking individual expression for each kibbutz, architect, or even a kibbutz member.

This architectural and planning shift characterizes changing tendencies from centralization to decentralization, uniformity to diversity, collectivism to individualism, and from a collective heritage of the kibbutz, to personal and family heritage. This identity crisis is evident in abandoned public buildings, empty kibbutz centers, struggles over housing allocation rights, and "expansion neighborhoods" — residential areas enabling the dream of the private house in the country all the while reflecting neoliberal values physically and socially disconnected from the foundations on which the kibbutz was built.

The crisis following the October 7th 2023 attack and the ongoing war that followed, amplifies the need for renewed thinking about kibbutz heritage amid rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts in many kibbutzim while reviving their unique way of life.

Researchers in architecture, landscape design, and planning are invited to present new studies on kibbutzim and their heritage at Docomomo Israel 2025. The conference will take place on May 13–14 as part of the centennial events for the Faculty of Architecture & Urban Planning at the Technion, Haifa, supported by the Azrieli Foundation and Technion's Architectural Research & Development Center.

Professor Avi Friedman from the Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture at McGill University (Canada), hosted by Herschel Rich's Foundation, will deliver a keynote lecture titled: **Thinking Outside the Box on Affordable and Sustainable Housing.**

Participants are also invited to attend a research workshop on **Intelligent Dwellings** on May 12 at the Technion, led by Prof. Friedman and Prof. Yael Allweil from the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion.

### Main Themes

- The conference seeks to explore these core themes:
- The kibbutz as a multi-layered settlement model
- The kibbutz as a modern agricultural landscape
- The kibbutz as a planned space in a changing reality
- The kibbutz as a democratic way of life — and its spatial implications
- Heritage & memory: collective vs. individual; history & trauma
- The kibbutz within its environment: physical & ideological
- Conservation: between the living and the preserved Heritage

### Submission Details:

Please submit abstracts (up to 300 words) along with an updated CV to [docomomo.is@gmail.com](mailto:docomomo.is@gmail.com) by April 10, 2025.

As with previous Docomomo Israel conferences — which addressed topics such as industrialized construction for housing, educational building design, and modern landscapes — the proceedings of this conference will be published internationally either as a special issue in an academic journal or as an edited book by an academic press.

**Membership Requirement:** Participants whose abstracts are accepted or those who wish to attend must join Docomomo International. Membership fees and details can be found [here](#).

**Scientific Committee:**  
**Professor Yael Allweil**, Faculty of Architecture & Town Planning, Technion  
**Professor Inbal Ben-Asher Gitler**, Sapir Academic College  
**Ms. Dana Lantzman**

**Advisory Committee:**  
**Dr. Idit Shachnai Ran**, Faculty of Architecture & Town Planning, Technion  
**Dr. Shanee Klingbeil Shiloh**

