

# MIU - Movement for Israeli Urbanism



## Creating sustainable and humane cities and communities in Israel

**We, the members of "MIU"- the movement for Israeli urbanism, strive to improve the quality of urban life in Israel and actively promote the development of a sustainable and humane urban environment in Israel.**

We founded MIU in order to improve the quality of urban life in Israel by:

- **People-oriented planning that prevents deterioration and atrophy of cities**
- **Promoting sustainable local development that enhances opportunities**
- **Advocating for democratic planning processes**

**MIU** is a part of the community of "environmental organizations" in Israel; yet, **MIU** is the only organization that focuses on changing the **urban built environment**, and which works to develop the necessary professional and practical tools for making this transformation. **MIU** enrolls the planning and development community in making a difference by implementing a holistic planning approach.

### Who are we?

**MIU - the movement for new Urbanism in Israel** is a registered non-profit organization which includes more than 500 members. The members of the organization are urban planners, architects, landscape architects, members of academia, community workers, economists, entrepreneurs, business people, transportation planners, environmental activists, sociologists, lawyers, appraisers, public sector workers and citizens who wish to transform the cities in Israel.

**Israel has limited land and natural resources.** It is among the densest countries of the western world. Yet, Israel has a planning policy that prefers new development and suburban sprawl to the reinforcement of its cities. This policy creates neglect of city centers, wasting of resources and increases in economic and social polarization within society.

**MIU** believes in the creation of successful urban environments which:

- **Are accessible for pedestrians and contain diverse uses.**
- **Are based on a system of public transportation and encourage pedestrian and cycling movement.**
- **Make efficient and ongoing use of land and structures.**
- **Are planned with respect for the local community, cultures, climate and landscape.**

The objective of **MIU** is to demonstrate that it is possible to lead the necessary changes in professional education and knowledge, policy making, planning, building processes and urban management.

### MIU will advance the following activities:

- **Promoting awareness** of its agenda among decision makers, professionals, planners and the public.
- **Studying, analyzing and evaluating** the built environment in Israel as a base for future development.
- **Promoting the rehabilitation and development** of the city centers and neighborhoods in existing communities, mindful of local identity.
- **Advancing the participation** of the community and the various stake holders within it in the planning process of the urban environment.
- **Working for change and updating of public policies** - laws, ordinances, guidelines and professional standards



### BOARD MEMBERS

**Irit Solzi, Chair of the Board**  
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**Ofer Lerner**  
Urban Planner

**Oded Kutok**  
Architect

**Avner Shelem**  
Engineer



### Projects:

Developing models of urban renewal in city centers and existing neighborhoods by use of participatory planning processes which include the residents, stakeholders and representatives of the planning municipalities. Within this framework we have been promoting the following projects:

- **Kiryat Shmona:** A charrette for the city commercial center with the participation of residents and stakeholders was held in December 2007.
- **Vadi Nisnas, Haifa:** The creation of a humane space for the residents of the neighborhood while preserving its unique character – throughout 2008.
- **Ein Hayam, Haifa** – Development of open spaces in the neighborhood was completed in 2007.
- **Hadar Carmel, Haifa** - Rehabilitation of a neighborhood park with the participation of youth and residents of the neighborhood –throughout 2007-2008.

### Conferences:

- **Third conference, Bat-Yam 2008: "The Quality of Density"** A two day conference dealing with urban density that included workshops, master classes and lectures by professionals from Israel and abroad, as well as a student competition relating to different urban spaces in the city.
- **Second conference, Haifa 2006: "Urban action"** The three day conference combined lectures of MIU members with lecturers from professionals from Israel and abroad about "Tools for new urbanism". Simultaneously, four public participatory planning workshops were held, one about Haifa's strategies and three neighborhood workshops.
- **First conference, Beer-Sheba 2005: "Urban Renaissance in Israel"** The two day conference included lectures by professionals from Israel and abroad on new urbanism, as well as participatory workshops and charrettes with the residents and stake holders of three of the cities' neighborhoods.

### Think Tanks:

- **"Toolbox for Israeli Urbanism"** - development of a set of guidelines, with examples and test cases for implementing the principles of the MIU Charter. This toolbox will utilize existing information from Israel and abroad in order to build a guide which exhibits solutions for a development of a renewed, harmonious, humane and sustainable environment.
- **Seminars**- developing seminars for government and municipal planners on new urbanism in Israel.
- **"Urban Mix"** - a studio for young, talented and creative professionals and artists from diverse fields in order to build a second generation of urban leaders for MIU. The group had exhibited an installation on the Bat-Yam Biennale 2008.

### Exhibitions:

- **"Our streets" –Tel-Aviv Jaffa, July 2006.** The exhibition introduced the MIU Charter to the public for the first time, while showing works by architects, planners and students of Israeli urban planning which correlate to MIU's Charter.
- **"Urban Concern" - Tel-Aviv Jaffa, May 2005.** The exhibition included works of architects, planners and students on Israeli urban planning with correlation to MIU's agenda.

### Co-operations:

- **Governmental Planning and Municipal Authorities:** Ministry of environmental protection, Ministry of construction & housing, Ministry of interior-planning administration, Ministry of transportation, the Union of Local Authorities, the Israel Land Administration.
- **Environmental and Social organizations** - "Life and Environment" - the Israel union for environmental NGO's, SPNI, Sustainable-Negev, Bimkom, IVN, Shatil, Transportation T&T, Israel Bicycle Lane Movement".
- **Patronage** with construction and development companies.