



"WHITE CITY"

TEL AVIV – YAFO

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"THE WHITE CITY" OF TEL AVIV-YAFO A UNESCO WOLD HERITAGE SITE

The White City is the name of a cluster of white cube-shaped buildings inspired by the International Style architectural movement, also known as Bauhaus, popular in Tel Aviv since the 1930s. The International Style suited the spirit of modernism and was notable for its simple and functional designs, it allowed construction that was quick and inexpensive. Among the hallmarks of the International Style were white walls, flat roofs, construction on columns, "ribbon windows", and in many cases balconies that constituted an important part of the building. The need to adapt the International Style to the local culture and climatic conditions in Israel resulted in a rich local architectural language.

The Bauhaus School, the German school of architecture and design founded on the principles of modernism, was shut down under pressure from the Nazi regime in 1932, and many of the architects who had studied there or had been influenced by its ideas had to leave Europe. Those who arrived to Tel Aviv quickly joined the local construction boom, the result being a disproportionately high concentration of Bauhaus-style buildings. To this day, the city boasts some 4,000 buildings built under the influence of the International Style, and thanks to this unique architectural fact, in 2003 UNESCO – the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – declared the **White City of Tel Aviv – the Modern Movement** a World Heritage Site. The inclusion of Tel Aviv on the list of World Heritage cities expresses the White City's unique yet universal value and requires that it be preserved for the benefit of future generations.

Tel Aviv was founded in 1909 as a suburb of Jaffa, and flourished during the British Mandate (1920-1948). The part called the White City was mostly built from the 1930s until 1948 on the basis of an urban outline planned as a garden city by Sir Patrick Geddes, a pioneer of modern urban planning in the twentieth century. In addition to the Geddes outline, it was Ya'akov Ben-Sira (previously Jakob Schiffman), Tel Aviv's city engineer at the time, who championed the spirit of the International Style and led to the formation of the White City. Inspired by the modern architectural language, Geddes's plan and Ben-Sira's execution created a city unlike any other.

The White City has three areas included in the World Heritage Site designation: Area A – Dizengoff Square and the northern part of the city; Area B – Rothschild Boulevard from Nahmani Street to the Habimah National Theater; and Area C – the Bialik Complex.

Recognizing its historic, architectural and national significance, the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo works tirelessly to preserve the White City. The Municipality has adopted a comprehensive conservation program that encourages landlords to preserve their buildings.

In 2018, the Municipality will inaugurate a unique White City Heritage Center in the Liebling House at 29 Idelson Street, a joint project of the Municipality and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

Research and writing: Shula Vidrich, a historian specializing in the history of Tel Aviv.
Architectural guidance: Sharon Golan Yaron – Program Director of the White City Center.

1 3 Yael Street

1935. Architect: Oskar Kaufmann
A residential building placed on a raised platform, characterized by its special floral-patterned plaster and festive balconies facing Ruth Garden. The interplay of volume and shape is toned down by the rounded corners. The protruding windows, the stairs and detailed railings imbue the building with majesty

2 Zina Dizengoff Square

1934. Architect: Genia Averbuch
The first urban space built on the basis of the Geddes plan. Genia Averbuch created uniformity for the buildings surrounding the Circle using a wall that served as a "wrapper", slit by means of long balconies with openings that created both a circular and a horizontal flow

3 8 Beilinson Street

1938. Architect: Joseph Neufeld
Planned as a public building serving the central offices of the Kupat Holim healthcare service, and built in an arc running parallel to the rounded line of the Circle behind it. The dominant horizontal line is created by the sequence of windows constructed differently on every floor. The administrative floor is emphasized by means of the long, protruding balcony

4 11 Aharonovitch Street

1937. Architect: Shlomo Gepstein
A residential building constructed on top of a partial foundation of columns where there is a garden complete with opulent lawn furniture, including a bench, integral planters, and a ceramic tile-clad entranceway

5 42-44 Hovevei Zion Street

1936. Architects: Kaminsky and Blumenfeld
A residential building setting off a street-facing garden with a green-tiled fish pond. The building is replete with beautiful detailing and is clad with two shades of plaster that clearly delineate the different floors. The plaque bearing the architects' names can still be seen on the ground floor

6 53 Hovevei Zion Street

1937. Architect: Jacob Ginsburg
A residential building, a twin of number 51. The garden underneath the columns is beautified by a ceramic tiled pond and access paths set off by sandstone planters

7 33-35 Frishman Street

1934. Architect: Arie Sharon
A workers' cooperative housing constructed around a large courtyard allowing the construction of other buildings in such a way as to allow air and light into all the apartments. The ground floor was planned as a space for social activities, which went hand in hand with the ideology of equality and communalism. The façades were designed to reflect modesty and simplicity

8 Meir Garden

1933. Landscape architect: Aaron Halevy
The park was designed in 1933 to honor the 70th birthday of Meir Dizengoff, Tel Aviv's first mayor, but planting was delayed until 1941. After changes were made to the original plans, the park was finally inaugurated in 1944. In 2002, the park was renovated by Moria-Sekeley Landscape Architecture. Today the municipal LGBT community center is located in the heart of the garden

9 18 Bialik Street

1936. Architects: Friedman Brothers
A residential building consisting of two wings bordering a garden. The clash between the two wings – one resembling a cylinder and the other a cube – provides the structure with an impressive interplay of volumes. The horizontal flow is broken by the vertical stairwell windows separating the wings

10 29 Idelson Street

1936. Architect: Dov Carmi
A residential building, also known as the Liebling House, which is currently being converted into the White City Heritage Center: a joint project of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality. The building is notable for its balconies with their long, narrow, horizontal openings along the façade that shade the rooms. The entryway to the building is covered with a wooden pergola running from the street to the entrance

11 25 Idelson Street

1931. Architect: Richard Kaufmann
A residential building also housing a clinic. The foundation floor is decorated with horizontal plaster stripes, and the stairwell window serves as a vertical axis connecting the façades featuring wide sun shades

12 65 Sheinkin Street

1935. Architect: Lucian Korngold
A residential building with some elements typical of ships. The clash of forms among three different blocks with horizontal accents creates an imposing presence amplified by built-in planters and a sophisticated drainage system. The entrance is flanked by a row of round columns in front of an elegant stairwell

13 89-91 Rothschild Blvd.

1935. Architect: Pinchas Hitt
A pair of twin buildings mirroring one another. Each of the buildings consists of two wings enclosing an inner courtyard. The balconies of the front block are angular, whereas those of the rear block are rounded

14 84 Rothschild Blvd.

1933. Architect: Ze'ev Rechter
The first residential building in Tel Aviv built on top of columns. The building, which showcases most of the principles of the International Style, features the interplay of volumes as well as of light and shade, using white plaster, protruding window frames, and hollow balcony openings

15 82 Rothschild Blvd.

1933. Architects: Joseph and Ze'ev Berlin
A residential building notable for its horizontal lines flowing from the vertical stairwell window. The building alludes to the intersecting streets by accentuating elements on the corner of the building, such as a triangular sun shade

16 24-26 Balfour Street

1935. Architect: Lucian Korngold
A large residential building with two entrances enriched with details such as glass and porcelain walls, a fountain and a green-tiled pond. A concrete pergola hovers over the roof, and the façade features long balconies with shade aprons and ventilation slits

17 13 Mazeh Street

1934. City Engineer Ya'akov Ben-Sira
A public building constructed as a Magen David Adom station (the local version of the Red Cross), notable for its austere utilitarianism. In 2015, the building was repurposed to serve as classrooms

18 3 Strauss Street

1935. Architect: Ze'ev Heller
A residential building in which the wall facing the side is constructed as three arches protruding from the line of the building – a feature that exposes the building to the street in a unique manner

19 1 Huberman Street

The Bronfman Auditorium 1951. Architects: Ze'ev Rechter and Dov Carmi
The auditorium is the permanent home of the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra. The three-story building is built with walls of marble and transparent glass. In 2013, the auditorium's refurbishment was completed, the acoustics were enhanced, and rehearsal and dressing rooms were added under the entrance level

White City Free Tour Offered by the Tel Aviv – Yafo Municipality

Every Saturday at 11:00 from 46 Rothschild St. Free two hour walking tour of Tel Aviv from the first neighborhood to the White City

The tour is sponsored by the Bauhaus Center, that offers tours, books, exhibitions and merchandise of the White City.

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The tour is in English

CITY MAP

CITY MARKETS

- JAFFA FLEA MARKET**
A bazaar-style market offering antiques, jewelry, clothing and second hand items (B13)
- ANTIQUÉ & SECOND HAND ITEMS FAIR**
Dizengoff Square. Tuesdays: 2pm-8pm, Fridays: 8am-5pm (E07)
- NAHALAT BENYAMIN PEDESTRIAN MALL**
Twice a week, showcases unique locally made items and crafts. Tue. & Fri. from 10am until late afternoon (E09)
- LEVINSKY MARKET**
Spices, herbs & dried fruit (E12)

- SARONA MARKET**
Indoor culinary complex - 91 shops, stalls and restaurants (H09)
- BEZALEL MARKET**
Open-air bazaar selling primarily clothing (E09)
- THE FARMERS MARKET**
Outdoor farmers market, food and refreshments stands (E03)
- CARMEL MARKET**
Open-air market offering clothing, toys, huge variety of food and groceries (D10)

PLACES OF WORSHIP

- | SYNAGOGUES | | MOSQUES | |
|--|----|--|----|
| Ateret Zvi "Yakar" | 01 | Hassan Bek Mosque | 13 |
| Ohel Israel | 02 | Mahmoudiya Mosque | 14 |
| Yehezkel | 03 | Sea Mosque | 15 |
| Heichal Menachem - Deborah Hotel | 04 | Al Taiyeh Mosque | 16 |
| HaBa'im Yashresh - Ohel Moshe | 05 | | |
| Ihud Shivat Zion | 06 | CHURCHES | |
| Komemut Avraham | 07 | Immanuel Church | 21 |
| Beit El | 08 | St. Peter's Church | 22 |
| Gvurat Israel (Rosh Yehudi) | 09 | St. Nicolas Apostolic - Armenian Monastery | 23 |
| The Great Synagogue | 10 | St. Michael's Greek - Orthodox Church | 24 |
| Ohel Mo'ed | 11 | St. George Church | 25 |
| The Zonana Synagogue | 12 | The Greek Melkite Church | 26 |
| | | St. Anthony from Padua Church | 27 |
| | | St. Anton Maronite Church | 28 |
| | | St. Peter's Anglican Church | 29 |
| | | St. Antonius Coptic Church | 30 |
| | | Russian Orthodox Church | 31 |

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Beit Ariela Library.....H08
- Beit Bialik Museum.....E09
- Beit Ha'ir.....E08
- Beit Lessin Theatre.....E07
- Brodt Center.....H07
- Bronfman Auditorium.....G08
- Cameri Theatre.....H08
- Daniel Rowing Centre.....G03
- Dizengoff Square.....E07
- Enav Cultural Center.....G07
- Eretz Israel Museum.....I02
- Ganei Yehoshua.....J03
- Gesher Theatre.....C12
- Habama National Theatre.....F09
- Hatachana - Old Ottoman Train Station.....C12
- Helena Rubinstein (Contemporary Art).....F08
- Independence Hall.....E11
- Israeli Opera.....H08
- Jaffa Port.....A13
- Mandel Cultural Center.....C13
- Nahum Gutman Museum.....D11
- Noga Theatre.....C12
- Performing Arts Center.....H08
- Rubin Museum.....E09
- Sarona.....H09
- Sportek Climbing Wall.....I03
- Suzanne Dellal Centre.....D11
- Tel Aviv Cinematheque.....G09
- Tel Aviv Museum of Art.....H08
- Tel Aviv Port
- E03
- The Clock Tower.....B13
- Trumpeldor Tel Aviv Cemetery.....E08
- Yad Labanim Memorial.....I04



- GORDON BEACH**
Non-motorized water sports, courts at the beach
- FRISCHMANN BEACH**
- BUGRASHOV BEACH**
- JERUSALEM BEACH**
Blue Flag beach
- AVIV BEACH**
Non-motorized water sports (south)
- CHARLES CLORE BEACH**
Non-motorized water sports (south), dog friendly (center)

THE WHITE CITY

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
Tel Aviv's White City is a collection of over 4,000 buildings that were designed in the unique Bauhauser style. Tel Aviv has the largest number of Bauhauser buildings in the world.

← WHITE MARKED AREA ON MAP

MAP LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Parks & Gardens | Cultural Venue |
| Sandy Beaches | Supervised Beach |
| UNESCO Heritage Site - The White City | Synagogue |
| Street | Mosque |
| Main Road | Church |
| Pedestrian street | Free Parking |
| Train Station | Market |
| Domestic Airport | Port |
| Tourist Information | Tel-O-Fun Bike Rental Station |
| Police ☎100 | Paramedics ☎101 |
| Fire Department ☎102 | |