



MADATECH
THE ISRAEL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SPACE

Historic Gardens

EINSTEIN PLAZA





Historic Gardens

EINSTEIN PLAZA

Executive Summary

*M*adaTech - The Israel National Museum of Science, Technology & Space - Haifa, proposes to develop the Historic Gardens - Einstein Plaza, in the two-and-a-half acres fronting its handsome exhibition building, reviving magnificent gardens—created in the early 1920s by renowned German-Jewish architect Alexander Baerwald.

The Historic Gardens will incorporate echoes of the original gardens, now somewhat neglected, which graced the landmark building when it was originally home to the Technion, Israel's first institution of higher education. The Gardens will maintain their original flora, among which are two palm trees planted by Albert Einstein and his wife Elsa, on their only visit to Israel (Palestine) in 1923.

The Gardens will make for a green area of reflection, meditation and respite, in the midst of the somewhat depressed, lower middle-class neighborhood of Hadar Hacarmel. Open all day to the general public, they will offer an assembly area, as well as a leafy rest and recreation spot, for individuals and groups, including school classes.

The Historic Gardens may also showcase Israeli innovations in the field of green energy and environment, pertaining to smart watering systems, solar energy and the like.

While Israel is a leader in the development of alternative energy sources; and issues pertaining to a sustainable environment figure increasingly in the country's public discourse, Israel lags somewhat behind its European and American counterparts, in introducing

environmental-friendly measures and in stimulating change on environmental—a situation which renders the Gardens' mission ever more vital.

An island of beauty and serenity, the Gardens will demonstrate the benefits of an ecological environment: silence, an enhanced ability to concentrate, to breathe in fresh air; and the ability to communicate more effectively with the surrounding environment and people. They will heighten awareness of the need to contribute to conserving our surroundings;



The Historic Gardens will enable visitors to experience some of what they learn and test at MadaTech's Center for Green Energy, Environment & Sustainable Development.

and encourage visitors to play a personal role and assume individual responsibility toward that end.

The Historic Gardens will be visible from Balfour Street, the major thoroughfare which sides it; and from the landmark MadaTech Building Exhibition Halls.

The Gardens in Historic

Building the Future



1909

The original building and gardens fronting it were designed by Alexander Baerwald in 1909.



1912

The cornerstone for the major building was laid in 1912, when camels were the major mode of transportation. Construction was halted several years later, due to the outbreak of World

War I, accompanied by an internal, ideological war, as to whether studies at the Technikum, as it was initially known, should be conducted in German, the language of the German Jews responsible for its establishment, or in Hebrew.

1916-1919

World War I and its aftermath played a direct role in the building's imposed: temporary functions, a delousing station and abattoir for German soldiers (1916); a hospital for wounded British soldiers on the eve of the British Mandate takeover of Palestine (1917); an outpost for British and Australian army tents (1919); and a Haganah arms slick.

1923

The Technion, as it came to be called, opened its doors in 1923. The original gardens fronting the building were divided down the middle by an avenue leading directly down to Haifa's Mediterranean port, in an era where there were no buildings between the Gardens and the port.

1953



Perspective

on the Past



The historic Technion campus, in which MadaTech is situated is replete with fascinating tales and usages.



Beginning in 1953, the Technion gradually shifted its faculties to a new campus on the Carmel slope. The Faculty of Architecture was the last to move (1985).

1985

1986

In 1986, the building reverted to the Israel National Museum of Science. Its meticulous restoration won it the prestigious Israel Council for the Preservation of Buildings & Sites Award.



2011



The MadaTech campus is undergoing extensive expansion, which has created a seamless contiguity of splendid landmark buildings with state-of-the-art facilities; and green areas, such as the Science Park and the Historic Gardens, combining beauty and aesthetics with cutting-edge science and technology.

Science Education for All

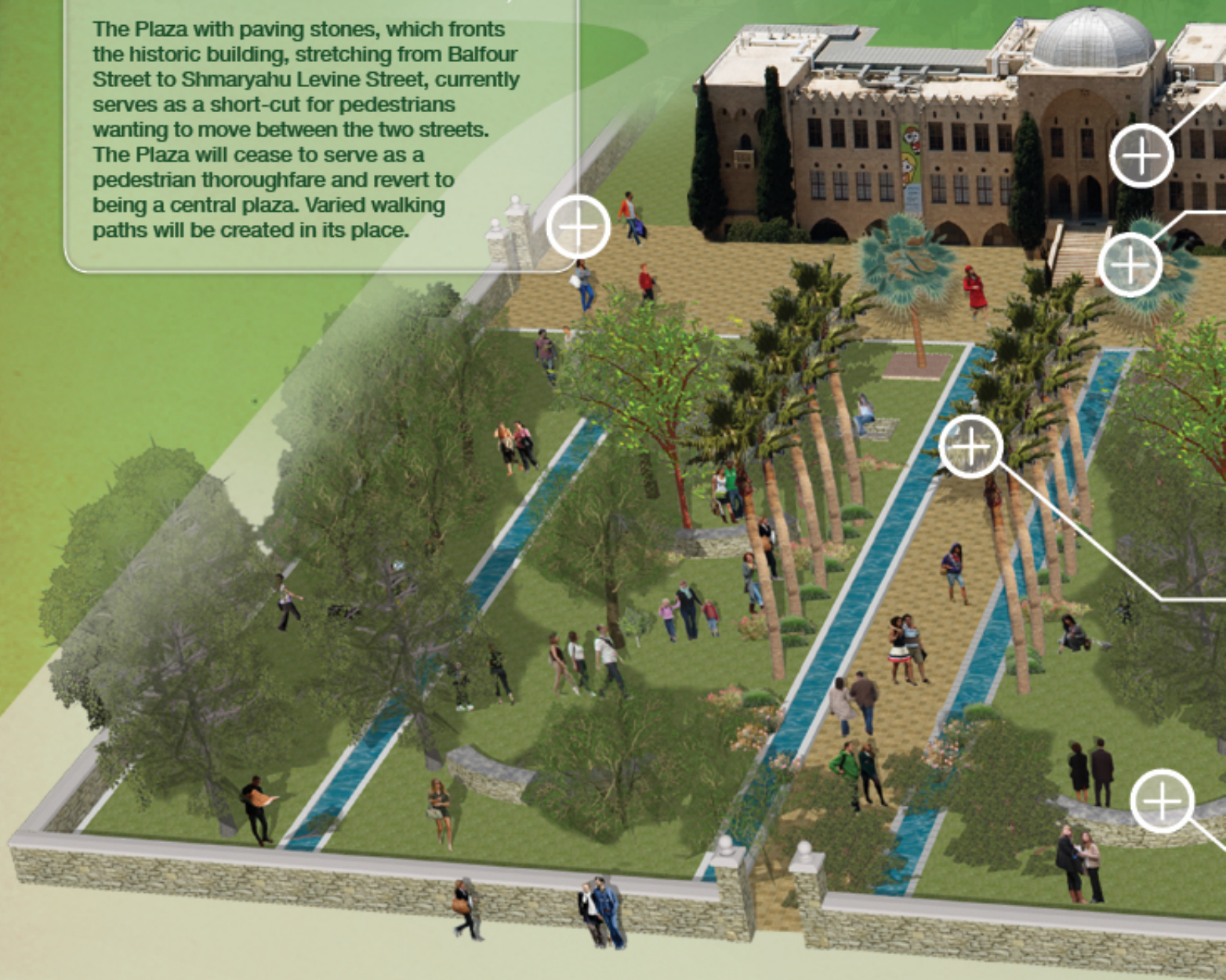
When Alexander Baerwald first constructed the original Technion Building and Gardens, he sought to differentiate the campus from its environment, as a single intellectual atom in the form of an elite institution for the talented few.

MadaTech's approach is precisely the opposite: to climb down from the ivory tower and open science and technology to the broad public countrywide; and to create and project more inviting and attractive science that appeals to people everywhere and demonstrates greater sensitivity to public aspects and concerns.

The Gardens: Historic &

Plaza Fronting the Landmark Historic Technion Building

The Plaza with paving stones, which fronts the historic building, stretching from Balfour Street to Shmaryahu Levine Street, currently serves as a short-cut for pedestrians wanting to move between the two streets. The Plaza will cease to serve as a pedestrian thoroughfare and revert to being a central plaza. Varied walking paths will be created in its place.



T

The Historic Gardens will be restored, while maintaining their historic flavor, evoking the glory of a bygone era and preserving the historic character of the building's facade and gardens.

Living Elements

Historic Landmark Building Surrounds

The two cypress trees adjacent to the historic entrance to the Landmark Building, which have become its identifying mark, will be preserved.

Einstein Plaza

Creative use will be made of the two 85 year-old palm trees planted by Einstein, as well as the tree planted by Neil Armstrong, and in future, other scientific luminaries.

This may take the form of a lively presentation of Einstein's personality and scientific activities, which serves to humanize him, including entries from his diary, made on his 1923 trip to Haifa; a video of Neil Armstrong's exchange with kids at the Museum, as well as shots of his moon landing and an explanation of its significance; and more.



Neil Armstrong at MadaTech, 2007

Avenue of the Palms

The Gardens' central avenue of Cypress and California Fan Palm trees, running from its top to its bottom, will serve as the Gardens' main axis. The avenue's statuesque palms, which lend it an aura of formality and importance, will be rehabilitated and restored.

Seating Area

The seating area will enable visitors to sit and relax in the shade. It will also constitute an assembly and congregation area for classes, where they can get an overview of the historic campus and discuss what they will be doing on their MadaTech visit; as well as for individual visitors of all ages and families.

- **Stone Elements** - The Gardens boast a number of stone elements, paths defined by paving stones, stone benches, a stone fence and gate columns—all of which will be restored to their original beauty;
- **Fence** - An attractive fence will surround the Gardens;
- **Pools** - A number of shallow pools will be introduced as aesthetic features;
- **Bird Sanctuary** - Bird nests will be perched on poles and trees, surrounded by attractive seating areas;
- **Trees, Plants & Shrubbery** - The Historic Gardens' original trees will be restored and preserved, including the Ficus, Carob, Jerusalem Pine, Citrus Cypress and Arizona Cyprus, California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia Filifera*) and more. These

will be complemented by diverse vegetation and greenery that conform to the historic garden configuration, as well as fruit trees and an herb garden;

- **Irrigation** - Irrigation water will come from the MadaTech water reservoir situated under the steps of its historic building;
- **Lighting** - Solar collectors, or comparable, that amass energy, will be used to light up the Gardens at night;
- **Sculptures** - Kinetic and other sculptures—where possible constructed from recycled materials—as well as exhibits pertaining to music, sound and waves, will dot the Gardens;
- **Green Energy** will be used throughout the Gardens: solar energy, water recycling, production of fertilizers from tree cuttings and more.



Garden Uses & Activities

public events
outdoor concerts
dinners under the stars
gala openings
festive occasions
guided tours
gardening squads



The Historic Gardens will serve all Museum visitors and also the residents of Hadar Hacarmel, as well as the adjacent Reali School students and Scout kids. It will accommodate public events, including outdoor concerts, dinners under the stars, gala openings and other festive occasions.

Visitors will be offered on guided tours of the Gardens that will focus on their historic heritage and architecture.

One can envisage groups also listening to scintillating presentations on the absolutely fascinating history and unique uses of the grand landmark Technion building standing before them.



The residents of the Hadar neighborhood, which surrounds MadaTech, will be given special access to the Historic Gardens. They may form Gardening Squads that undertake Garden maintenance activities and grow plants, including vegetables that they then replant in other areas in Hadar. Every tree replanted outside the Gardens will have a small sign stipulating that it emanates from the MadaTech Historic Gardens.



About MadaTech

As Israel's premier institution of informal science education, MadaTech - The Israel National Museum of Science, Technology and Space (est. in 1983) is dedicated to enhancing science literacy among Israelis of all ages.

Most particularly, it fosters a love of science among Israeli children and youth--of all backgrounds--cultivates excellence among them and motivates them to pursue higher education and careers in the sciences.

Through innovative and exciting hands-on programs, MadaTech seeks to narrow gaps in access to science and technology between diverse Israeli populations: boys and girls; youngsters from the center and periphery; Israeli-born and new immigrants; secular/traditional and orthodox; and Jews and Arabs.


MadaTech program frameworks range from structured half-day class visits; to afternoon workshops; to outreach activities: Mobile Labs that travel to outlying schools countrywide; and the OlympiYeda Annual Science Competition; to programs, specially-

tailored to the needs of specific populations: students of Ethiopian origin; new Russian immigrants; disadvantaged students from the periphery; excelling girls; and gifted students.

In 2010, close to half a million visitors, of all ages, backgrounds and locations, took part in MadaTech hands-on science activities—a large number of them, K to 12 students, who enjoyed a range of interactive programs in basic and advanced fields of science & technology at the MadaTech Institute for Education in Science and Technology.

MadaTech is led by a 21-person Board, chaired by Leon Recanati, one of Israel's leading business persons; and is directed by prominent science educator & physicist, Dr. Ronen Mir.

MadaTech activities are under the auspices of the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. An Academic Steering Committee, comprising leading experts from diverse scientific fields, oversees all its educational programs and exhibitions.



MadaTech offers over 650 mostly interactive exhibits, illustrating the evolution of science and demonstrating principles underlying technological advancements that permeate every facet of modern life.





MADATECH

THE ISRAEL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SPACE
DANIEL & MATILDE RECANATI CENTER (na)
Museum activities under the auspices of
the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

www.madatech.org.il

25 Shmaryahu Levin St. / 12 Balfour St.
P.O.B. 44927, Haifa 31448, Israel
Tel: +972-4-861-4444 Fax: +972-4-867-9103



MadaTech activities are under the auspices of the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, and with the support of the Municipality of Haifa, the Ministry of Culture & Sport and the Ministry of Education.