

Voyage into the Known: Israel 2020 as a Planning Turning Point

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In "Israel 2020" the depletion of land resources is the main problem facing the planning system. This implied several basic principles, chiefly directing most development to the cities and preserving green barriers and open spaces. The results of this turning point are visible today, but the revolution has not yet been completed. In some parts of the country, especially in the periphery, there is still a sense of abundant space, and wasteful suburban construction is practiced there, as well as in the center of the country. The "Israel 2020" plan was the first to see open spaces as valuable in themselves, worth preservation and cultivation, and not necessarily an opportunity for development. The open space system and sustainable development policy won their own volumes, and considerable attention. The plan highlighted open spaces as embodying social, heritage and cultural values, historical memory, and leisure and recreation, beyond their "classic - nature conservation" values. Initiating the concepts of open space continuity and its ecological importance, the plan established additional dimensions for open space protection and cultivation. Following the "Israel 2020" plan, there was a change in planning institutions' and the general public's attitudes in relation to open spaces, but also in relation to "returning to the city", when they understood that the urban quality of life is the key to environmental and nature preservation in Israel.

The Birth of a Plan: The Story of Israel 2020'from Personal Involvement

Rachel Alterman

"Israel 2020 plan" is the most ambitious national planning document ever compiled in Israel, and can occupy a respectable place even on an international scale. Adam Mazor's initiative was propelled by a single factor: His calculation that Israel doubles its floor space every 20 years. Today, this figure is well known, but at the time, it constituted a revolutionary thought and succeeded in subduing the ethos that Israeli development policy should maximize population dispersal. The contribution of the Israel 2020 plan is its multidisciplinary, long-term thinking. Its conclusions were incorporated not only into the large statutory plans that followed, but also seeped into the perceptions of decision makers across public institutions and deeper yet into the general public discourse.