

ARCHITECTURE

KIMMEL ESHKOLOT ARCHITECTS

[Link to photographs and renderings](#)

Respecting the Past while Building for the Future

How do you create an accessible, engaging interactive museum in an ancient citadel filled with archeology from Jerusalem's long and colorful history?

The citadel of Jerusalem is an architectural jewel, providing a continuous testimony to the city's defensive fortification from Biblical times until the present. The most ancient ruins are from the 8th century BCE, the time of King Hezekiah's reign. Several hundred years later, the Hasmoneans built here a complex of fortified watchtowers; and still later King Herod erected his beautiful palace on the same spot. Written documents from the Byzantine Period tell of monks who lived in this spot. During the early Moslem Period, an impressive citadel was built which would be improved in the Middle Ages by the Crusaders and then the Mamelukes. The last ones to build onto the walls of the Citadel and beautify them, were the Ottomans who ruled the city from the 16th century CE. [Kimmel Eshkolot Architects](#) planned the ambitious renewal of the Tower of David Jerusalem Museum.



Kimmel Eshkolot Architects:

The two biggest challenges were firstly how were we going to be able to [make an ancient citadel accessible](#) without harming the original structure and secondly how would we build a [multi-level entrance pavilion](#) between the ancient citadel walls and the magnificent Ottoman built walls of the city. And if that wasn't challenging enough, according to the building laws of the Old City – whatever building we could

do, could not rise above the Old City walls and change that silhouette. That would have allowed us only 2 meters in height! Our only option was to dig down 17 meters – and so today you have a multi-level accessible entrance pavilion nestled between the Citadel and the walls of Jerusalem, and no walls came tumbling down ...!

Etan Kimmel, Founder, Kimmel Eshkolot Architects

When we were asked if we would plan the renewal of the Tower of David, it was if a child was asked if they wanted to enter a candy shop. **The opportunity to bring the 21st century to this ancient iconic site is both a huge responsibility and an honor.** We were set the task of renovating one of the earliest and most important architectural treasures of Jerusalem. Working in this archaeological environment was a complex challenge which required architectural sensitivity and pushed us to find unconventional solutions for all Museum needs - creating the exhibit spaces within archaeological spaces and finding solutions for accessibility, lighting, heating and air conditioning.





First and foremost, the physical building itself - the Crusader Citadel at the entrance to the Old City at Jaffa Gate by definition is a fortified military building. It was not constructed as an accessible building and certainly was never designed to be used as a museum. **Our challenge boiled down to our ability to find solutions to preserve the ancient stones which represent Jerusalem's past without compromising their historic value all the while planning new architectural structures using modern materials to create a fruitful, interesting meeting between the new and the old. Ever present in our planning was our respect to this ancient structure. We needed to find the ways to bring modern technology and infrastructure without disturbing the beauty of the ancient stone walls and ceilings.**





SUSTAINABILITY

**Ancient stones and modern architectural design create a more sustainable museum
- Drahi Entrance Pavilion and the Citadel**

Yotam Cohen-Sagi, Lead Architect, Partner, Kimmel Eshkolot Architects

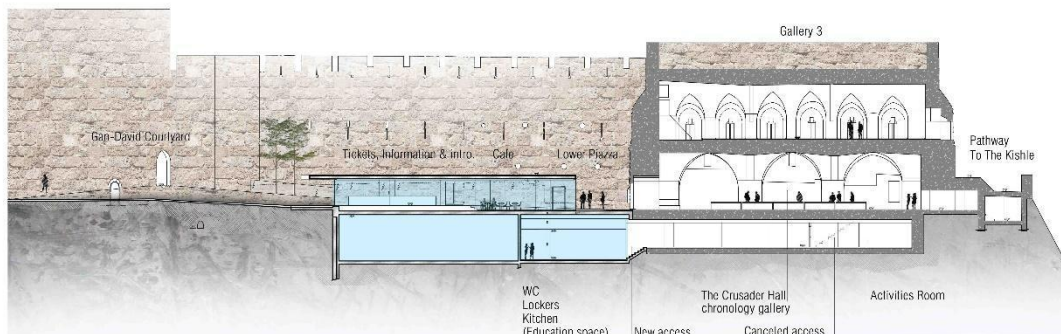
The Drahi Entrance Pavilion at the base of the walls of the mighty Citadel is itself our most significant architectural combination. The modern, modest building is built submerged into the stone courtyard. This design maintains the citadel's iconic structure and its magnificent view of the city. At the same time, the design significantly lessens the amount of energy required for heating/cooling of the building. Additionally, the facade of the building is covered and will be made of glass. It faces the high walls of the Citadel, and thus, will be constantly shaded. All the old flagstones were reused which lessened the amount of building refuse and the amount of "damage" to natural resources.

The Citadel itself - an historic building with very thick, stone walls, has a large benefit as far as energy rating over a modern building. All the doors and windows of the citadel have been changed in order to improve thermal insulation. With this in mind, the newly fitted heating and cooling systems are based on very efficient, innovative energy systems of under floor heating/cooling."

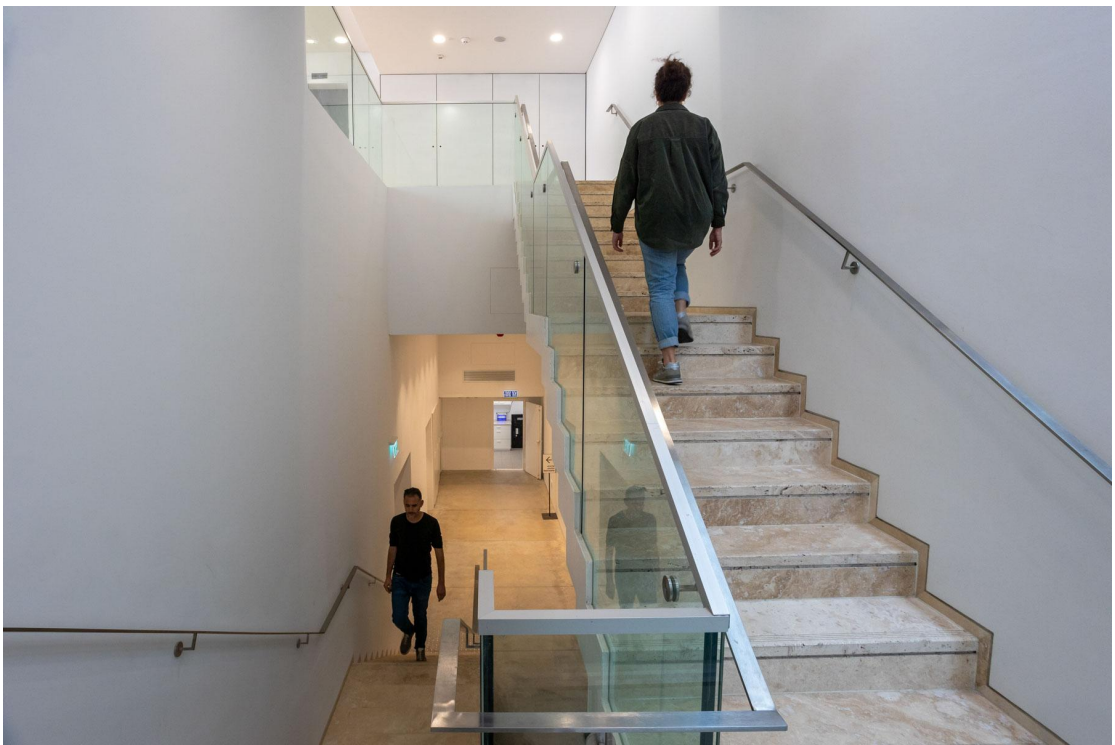
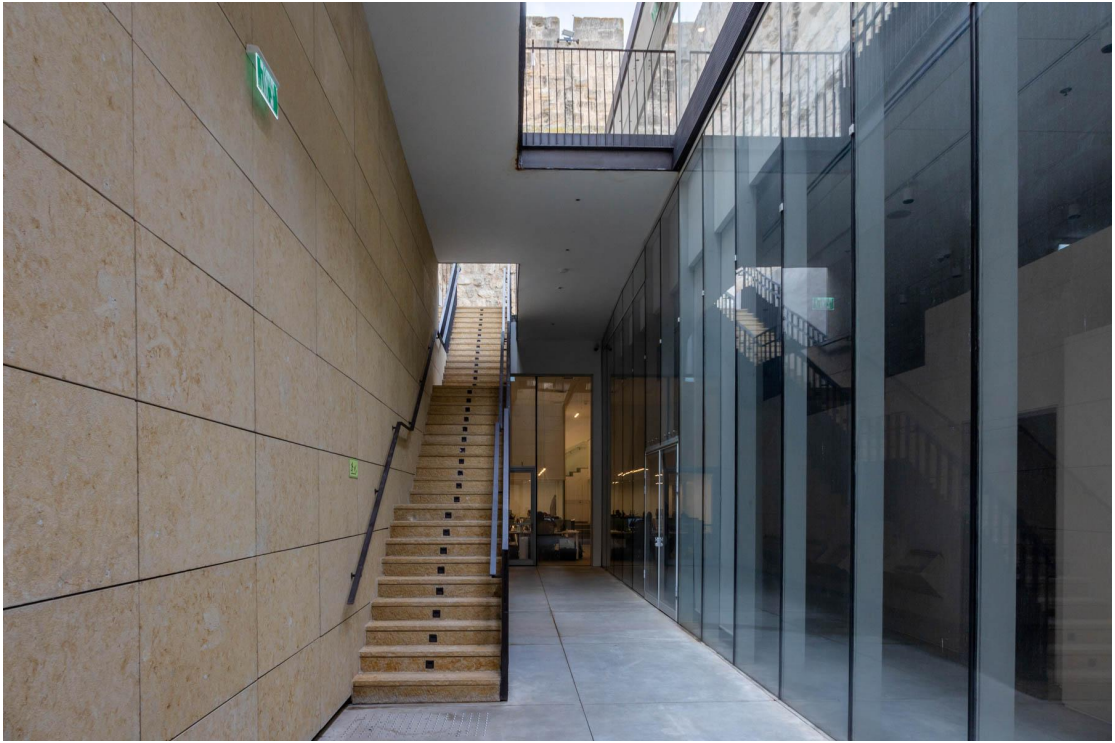
Eilat Lieber, Director and Chief Curator of the Tower of David Jerusalem Museum.

"We treasure this ecosystem and we tried to ensure that the least amount of disruption took place to the ecosystem during the renewal and building process".





חתך ימין







הבניין המצויץ ממוקם על הר הבית
הקדום של תל אביב. המבנה
החדש נבנה על גבי המבנה
הקדום. המבנה החדש
הוא מבנה מודרני, עם
קירות עשויות אבן, וקומות
רבות. המבנה החדש
הוא מבנה מודרני, עם
קירות עשויות אבן, וקומות
רבות.

Kimmel Eshkolot Architects are the lead architects in the renewal of the Tower of David Jerusalem Museum and the of the Drahi Entrance Pavilion. Kimmel Eshkolot is an international award-winning firm of architects responsible for among others the original rejuvenation of Neve Tzedek as well as the Herzl National Memorial that won the prestigious International Award for Excellence from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and joined RIBA's list of 20 best buildings in the world in 2018.