

# Introduction

## History of New City Development:

Since the Crusaders concurred the city in the 12th century, the area of today's New City Akko was never more than a small village and at times rulers banned citizens from living outside the walls.

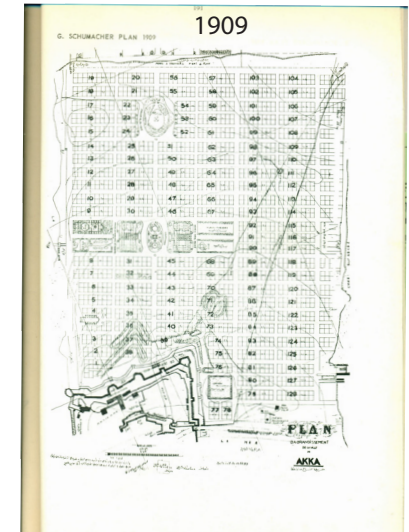
The first attempt to plan the construction outside the city walls was the 1909 Plan by German Gottlieb Schumacher, the district engineer. His formal street grid provided the basis for the current new city roads. In 1918, the British Government formal took control of the Palestine territories. The British governmental rule until 1948 is formally called the British Mandate period. New construction in this period brought about a new style of residential and commercial structures that predates the international style popular in Tel Aviv combining traditional ottoman and British styles.

The establishment of the British prison in acre and the growing number of residents within the old city, brought expansion to acre especially

outside the city walls during the mandatory period. Most of these structures were built in the British Mandate Period Style seen throughout Israel, especially in Jerusalem.

In 1940, the Department of Agriculture approved the Mandatory Plan for Akko's City, which maintained the already developed southern part of Schummacher's plan. In the north, the mandatory plan deviated with the addition of curved roads. The plan also divided the city into commercial and residential zones, and provided a street width hierarchy.

It soon became apparent that their mandatory plan did not fully accommodate the growing new city population, so in 1944 A. Cahane drew the Second Mandatory Plan. The plan created better connections to surrounding areas and more housing, but the plan was never implemented due to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.





The vast number of immigrants that began arriving after 1948 created a desperate need for housing. The government solved the problem by constructing simplistic standardized apartment buildings in mass across the country. In Akko, the British Mandatory style home soon gave way to these apartment buildings.

Today the majority of the British mandate residences still stand, but the most are in rapidly deteriorating condition and some are being torn down for apartment towers and other new construction.

#### Report Explanation:

This report aims to document and categorize 137 historic residential buildings in central new city Akko (for exact region see outline on II. Map) in order to isolate typologies of the British Mandate Period Architecture in Akko, an area with little previous research.

The report is divided up into three main sections; Map, Isolated Typologies and Stylistic Features. The sections have a common numbering system of the categorized structures and links between relevant sections.

The map's main purpose is to geographically locate the 137 structures and provide basis for future historical reference. The numbered buildings are color coded according to their typology or lack thereof. The black line marks the analyzed region defined by the sea in the west, old city and navel academy in the south, and Netiv Hativat Golani Street in the east and north. This area contains the center of the new city (2010) commercial and residential districts. In addition, the map also includes 6 additional maps ranging from 1909 to 2009. Using the bookmark bar, the viewer can see the structures overlaying each of the historic maps. The rectangles show structures on that particular historic map that correlate to a numbered building. The layers function can also be used to further understand the identified structures



and their historic context. When the viewer clicks on the number of a building or the typology name in the legend, he or she will automatically be taken to the page corresponding with that typology.

Isolated Typologies is divided into 6 distinct typologies that were determined through analyzing all 137 examples and their prominent characteristics. typology titles and divisions were not based on any previous research or and are therefore a subjective division. Only 7 structures, not including



small commercial or the 21 structures that too many divisions from the original struction, did not fit into any of the 6 pologies. Although unconfirmed 5 appear older than the British mandate period though they do share common stylistic features with the categorized buildings. These 37 structures can be identified on the map, but are not listed in typologies section since they do to fit.

Of the 100 remaining structures, 27 are angled bay residences, 6 are portico residences, 22 are rectangular bay residences, 8 are full length balcony residences, 4 are multiple bay residences, and 31 are box residences. All the typologies share a high level of symmetry in their most typical form, have a flat roof and were faced with stone, stucco or a combination.

Within the report, the file is divided into separate documents for each of the typologies. Each of the individual typology documents contains a list of identified typical typological features and a sub-categorized picture of each residence included in that typology. On the initial page of each file, the viewer can click of the orange highlighted stylistic features taken to the corresponding page. Residen-

structures that did not fit one of the identified typologies or had had too modern additions to determine original state are not pictured in this tion.

The Stylistic Features contains the documentation of the features used to isolate the building to its time period and typology. The features clude balconies, bays, cornices, decorative exterior decorations, doors, rior façade materials, overhangs, stair shafts, and shutters, overhang supports and windows.



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Like with the typologies, this file also contains an individual document for each of the stylistic features. In each document, the feature is then sub-categorized based on visual differences and laid out according to these sub-categories. The viewer can see up to five examples of each sub-stylistic feature and a list of the examples not pictured. All clearly visible features of all 137 are categorized.

The report also includes historical photos that show the city from an aerial and street level perspective between the years 1918 and 1944. The 1944 Winter's Report photographs are displayed with a map and the a photograph the buildings their current condition. The viewer can click on any of the current condition photographs to be taken to the page where they are listed among the typologies.



In conclusion, the report should provide a clear and concise way to understand British mandate homes in the new city as well a jumping off point for future research into to the subject. The research topic could be continued by:

- Further research into the undeterminable typology structures to try and determine their typology.
  - Collect historic photos and other sources from residents and other locals
  - Add to the map using those historic sources the structures not seen today
  - Connect the Akko typologies with similar period homes through out Israel
  - Research the source of the style within ottoman and British architecture of the time
- Additionally I hope the report will spur more conservation efforts in this relatively modern, but still historically significant period of history and architecture.