

## UNESCO CHAIR/UNITWIN NETWORK PROGRESS REPORT FORM

Bezalel  
בצלאל  
ביתסלניל



Academy of Arts אקדמיה  
בצלאל and Design  
أكاديمية للفنون والتصميم  
Jerusalem القدس ירושלים  
לאמנות ועיצוב

UNESCO Chair in Urban Design  
and Conservation Studies  
Graduate Program in Urban Design



<b>Title of the Chair/Network:</b>	UNESCO Chair in Urban Design and Conservation Studies
<b>Host Institution:</b>	Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem
<b>Date of establishment of Chair/Network:</b> <i>(mm, yyyy)</i>	May 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2004
<b>Period of activity under report:</b> <i>(mm, yyyy - mm, yyyy)</i>	Academic Years 10.2022 – 9.2024
<b>Report established by:</b> <i>(name, position)</i>	Professor Michael Turner UNESCO Chair in Urban Design and Conservation Studies

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Or by mail to UNESCO, Division for Teacher Development and Higher Education,

Section for Higher Education

7, Place de Fontenoy – 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

Fax: 33 (0)1 45 68 56 26/27/28

### Chairholders:



Prof. Michael Turner

Professor Michael Turner is a practicing architect and with extensive research and publications in urban sustainability, heritage, social inclusion and urban spaces. He is a member of many professional-academic bodies and is special envoy to the World Heritage Centre Director focusing on Culture for Sustainable Development, the Modern Heritage of Africa and the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes.



Prof. Els Verbakel

Professor Els Verbakel is a practicing architect and head of the School of Architecture in Bezalel Academy. Presenting her work internationally, her interests focus on urban renewal and applied architecture through exhibitions and public events. She heads the Academic committee of the Israel Urban Forum. Verbakel has taught at the Technion in Haifa, Columbia University, Princeton University, Pratt Institute and the University of Leuven.

### 1. Executive Summary:

*Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair, including on national policies, in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement\* (between the Institution and UNESCO)*  
(Not exceeding 300 words)

This biennium was characterised by the outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic with extensive on-line presentations and discussions. However, the past year has been stymied by the on-going Israel-Hamas conflict, affecting the faculty and student body.

The UNESCO Chair continues close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre especially in the field of urban heritage and the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation. The global innovative initiatives that were set up during the period of the last report, continue to grow and develop:

- 1- Heritage and the Metropolis – *Heritopolis*: serves as a framework and network for *Anthedon*, a new international peace-building heritage-based initiative for researching the alternatives and future scenarios of the Gaza region.
- 2- Modern Heritage of Africa – *MoHoA*.
- 3- OurWorldHeritage – OWH.

The international research projects are a result of EU Horizon and ERASMUS successes ensuring high-level collaboration between the Academy and equivalent institutions. The impact at the national level has grown with the UNESCO Chair being active in national policies, participating in the cross-country research in densification supported by the Ministry of Construction and Housing. This has been paralleled with a four-year project on Crop Wild Relatives in coordination with FAO, IUCN and ICOMOS addressing cultural and natural heritage.

The recognition of the conservation track in the Urban Design graduate programme by the Israel Council for Higher Education is an important step to ensure higher standards of conservation. It is hoped that this will be accompanied by further professional training programmes which is being strengthened with the participation in the WHITR-AP network of the Category 2 Centre at Tongji University, Shanghai.

- \* **Article 2** The purpose of the Chair shall be to promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation in the fields of urban design and conservation studies. It will serve as a means of facilitating collaboration between high-level, internationally recognized researchers and teaching staff of the Academy and other institutions in Israel and elsewhere in Europe, and in other regions of the world.

<p><b>2. Activities:</b>  <i>Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period</i></p>	
<p><b>a) Education/Training/Research</b>  <i>(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)</i></p>	
<p><b>i) Education</b>  <b>(leading to certificate)</b></p>	<p>The Israel Council for Higher Education approved a Conservation Track in the post professional Urban Design Graduate Programme. Since the opening of this conservation track, two students have finished their master's degree with conservation and heritage proficiency in 2003 and two others in 2024.</p>
<p><b>ii) Training</b>  <b>(short term)</b></p>	<p>A critical conservation course has been added to the curriculum of the master's degree in Urban Design during the 2023-2024 academic year which is open to professionals.</p>
<p><b>iii) Research</b></p>	<p>Within the School of Architecture, the UNESCO Chair has initiated the following research projects:</p> <p><b>EU Research</b>  ERASMUS – EDICULA - <a href="http://www.edicula.eu">www.edicula.eu</a> (completed in 08.2023)  Marie-Curie – HERILAND - <a href="https://www.heriland.eu/">https://www.heriland.eu/</a> (completed in February 2024)  Marie-Curie – CONSIDER - <a href="https://considerproject.eu/">https://considerproject.eu/</a> - ongoing</p> <p><b>Fulbright</b>  During 2024, the chair has prepared the successful nomination of a post-doc Fulbright scholar, Shuyi Yin, for the years 2024-2026. Completing her PhD at Columbia University in heritage and documentation she will focus on new mechanisms for urban heritage.</p> <p><b>National Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Densification in Israel in cooperation with Ministry of Construction and Housing - ongoing</li> <li>• Crop Wild Relatives – Vegetation, Culture and Cultivation - ongoing</li> <li>• Israel 100 – completed 2023</li> <li>• Heritage for Spatial Sustainability in the Tel Aviv Metropolis – initiated in 2024 with the Tel Aviv Municipality</li> </ul>

## b) Conferences/Meetings

(key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)

### i) Key conferences and meetings organised by the Chair:

- May 2023 - Urbanism in the Expanded Field, international urbanism conference held at Bezalel with participation of experts, UN-Habitat Nairobi, Rwanda, the Netherlands and Korea; Jerusalem.
- *Heritopolis* - steering committee periodic meetings, conferences.  
July 2024 – *Anthedon* international expert scoping session; Paris

### ii) Other conferences/organizational activities to which the Chairholder contributed:

- October 2022 - Heritage Dissonance - managing social conflicts. Presentation for Transnational dialogues for 'New Approaches, Our World Heritage' (online).
- October 2022 - Heritage and the metropolis - Heritopolis, the historic Urban Landscape, Sustainable Development Goals, The new urban agenda. Presentation for World Metropolitan Day Lectures, Center for Sustainable Habitat, Amritsar(online).
- October 2022 - Modern Heritage in the Anthropocene is part of the MoHoA global collaborative conference at UCL – joint presentation.
- November 2022 - World Heritage - beyond the city. Presentation for the online conference hosted by Tonji University, WHITRAP Shanghai, the Urban Planning Society of China, and Icomos China (online).
- February 2023 - The next 50: Heritage as a source of Resilience, Humanity and Innovation (online).  
- The Role of Cultural and Natural Heritage to meet the increasing environmental and social challenges of our times. Presentation and paper for UIA - Heritage group.
- March 2023 – Panel of ICOMOS Israel at the Closing discussion - 'Erich Mendelsohn: Outstanding Universal Value' at the Erich Mendelsohn initiative, Built Heritage Center, Technion conference
- March 2023 – 3rd TMM\_CH International Conference on “Transdisciplinary Multispectral Modelling and Cooperation for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Recapturing the World in Conflict through Culture, promoting mutual understanding and Peace” Michael Turner and Adi Sela Wiener – Athens, Greece
- June 2023 - Tracing Origins of Civilization, Enhancing Heritage Conservation, Building Model Cities. Presentation for the fourth conference "Shuzou: The Epitome of Jiangan" Academic Forum Agenda (online).
- June 2023 - Reconstruction of Jewish heritage in post WWII in Europe. Presentation given at the international seminar in heritage interpretation and presentation for future generations, OurWorldHeritage, Amsterdam (online).
- July 2023 - The future of ancient cities exploring common prosperity. Presentation + paper for the Shaoxing Ancient City Protection Day theme activity & Shaoxing Ancient City Innovation Expo (online).
- August 2023 - On the shoulders of giants. Presentation + workshop for Suzhou conference (online).
- September 2023 - *Heritopolis* - Beyond the historic urban landscape in the age of the metropolis. Presentation for the International Conference on Urban Heritage Conservation and Design for Sustainable Development and International Network for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions. WHITRAP, World Design Cities Conference. Tonji University, (online).

- October 2023. - The Heritage of Spatial Sustainability. Presentation for the *Heritopolis* Shanghai Conference on the world metropolitan day, Shanghai
  - October 2023 - Ancient Silk Roads-Routes and World Heritage, urban and architectural exchanges. Presentation + paper for expert workshop for the 2023 OWHC-AP Academic Symposium and Experts workshop. Gyeongju, Republic of Korea
  - January 2024 – Faro Convention International Conference – Participatory heritage practices tackling urban challenges. Workshop leading, lecture and poster presentation by Adva Matar. University of Porto, Portugal.
  - June 2024 – International workshop, London National Park City: integrating natural and cultural heritage to build metropolitan resilience in the face of climate change, organised by *Heritopolis* – The case-study of Tel Aviv presented by Els Verbakel
- iii) Local conferences/organizational activities to which the Chairholder contributed:**
- November 2022 - "Heritage protection and the common good", Invitational lecture at the Liebling House residency
  - January 19, 2023 - Preparation Day for the 3rd Periodic Report to UNESCO on World Heritage, - Migdal Tzedek National Park
  - August 1, 2023 - The 3rd Periodic Report to UNESCO on World Heritage, Summary Day - Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, School of Architecture
  - September 2023 – ‘Sane Construction in Jerusalem’ seminar, Jerusalem
  - May 23, 2024 - Meeting on the 3rd Periodic Reporting to UNESCO on the Israel World Heritage Site Managers Forum, - Tel Megiddo

**c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships**  
*(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)*

The principal exchanges and partnerships are in the joint research consortia, which benefit from the UNESCO Chair networking for successful working.

There are EU-ERASMUS agreements between the Bezalel Academy and over 100 equivalent institutions in the fields of architecture and urbanism.

The UNESCO Chair joined the Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions International Network for Education, Research and Action (UHC-HEI Network) Framework - WHITRAP-Shanghai and Tongji University.

See other paragraphs

**d) Publications/Multimedia Materials**  
*(major publications and teaching/learning materials)*

<i>Please tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:</i>	[tick]	[no.]
<b>Books</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Books (edited)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
<b>Books (chapters)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
<b>Monographs</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Research Reports</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Journal Articles (refereed)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1

	<b>Conference Proceedings</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Occasional Papers</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Teaching/Learning Materials</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Multimedia Materials (Video)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Multimedia Materials (Other)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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*Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.*

- i) **Theses** – Completed and ongoing in cooperation with UNESCO Chair at TUDelft
- Adaptation of urban heritage in a multi-cultural society – Acre  
Ana Jayone Yarza Perez – *EU- Marie Curie - Heriland*  
Presentation of the Phd held in Delft in February 2024.
  - Datascape methods for heritage planning professionals – Jaffa  
Komal Potdar - *EU- Marie Curie - Heriland*  
To be handed in March 2025, defence June 2025.
  - The role of heritage planning in the evolution from garden cities to green metropolis  
Adva Matar – *with UNESCO Chair at TUDelft*
- Theses** - Ongoing in cooperation with La Sapienza, Rome
- CSMs | City Scape Materials and Materiality  
Redefining urban heritage materiality: a conceptual study of Jerusalem  
Adi Sela Wiener – *EU ERASMUS | EDICULA*
- ii) **Publications – Book/Chapters**
- Turner, M., 2023. Heritage and Conservation of the Historic Urban Landscape. In: C. Cameron, ed. *Evolving Heritage Conservation Practice in the 21st Century*. Singapore: Springer, pp. 19-31.
- Turner, M., Paskaleva, E., 2024 [in print]. Urban and Architectural Exchanges along the Silk Roads, UNESCO publication.
- Turner, M., Zin Y., 2024. [in print] Compounds in Jerusalem: Spatial Attributes of Spiritual Places, Krakow International Cultural Center.
- iii) **Publications – Journal**
- Turner, M. & Gak-Vassallo, D., 2024. The Colonialism of the Modern Movement and the Post-USSR Reaction in Central Asia. Curator: *The Museum Journal*, 67(1), pp. 183-193.

#### e) Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices

1. The main cooperation is through the World Heritage Centre:
  - a. World Heritage Cities Programme and the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation
  - b. Support for thematic studies and listing of the Modern Heritage of Africa
  - c. The UNESCO Chair was commissioned to assist the National Commission in the 3rd cycle of the World Heritage periodic reporting exercise. Adi Sela Wiener was appointed national focal point for the UNESCO Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Europe and North America region, with two student scholarship from the School of Architecture and the Master's Programme in Urban Design specializing in cultural heritage conservation.

- d. Member of the Uzbekistan Field Office in the International Advisory Committee for the conservation of the Uzbek World Heritage urban properties.
2. Participation in the Silk Roads Initiative.
3. Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs programme by Elad Persov: Transforming Knowledge for Just and Sustainable Futures. November 2022, UNESCO HQ, Paris.

## f) Other (any other activities to report)

### Initiatives

The current biennium was characterized by developing previous initiatives and continuing partnerships while meeting the challenges of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. Additional details can be seen in previous paragraphs of the report.

1. Heritage and the Metropolis – *Heritopolis* is an open-ended UN-Habitat UNI partnership programme currently with 21 universities including 7 UNESCO Chairs, 3 Category II Centres and 1 World Heritage Studies programme. We have 20 metropolises; 17 with World Heritage status, and 9 on the UN-Habitat Global Sample
2. Modern Heritage of Africa – *MoHoA*. Developed from the Modern Heritage programme, it prioritises Africa, Youth and Heritage through the AWHF Category 2 Centre and the Heritage Hubs coordinated by ICCROM. Assisting in identifying the meanings of African modernity it coordinated with the World Heritage Africa Desk in proposing sites to the World Heritage Tentative List. Participation in the international conferences held in University of Cape Town hybrid and University College London 22.10.2022.
3. OurWorldHeritage – OWH. This movement has been created by concerned citizens who have evidenced the politicization of the World Heritage proceedings and call for more involvement of civil society to achieve the objectives of the Convention in giving “the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes”.
4. Foundation of the Bezalel’s Sustainable Development Hub working together with the UNESCO Chair. Activities underwent in the hub during the period of the report:
  - The Incubator for Sustainable Leadership course for bachelor’s degree.
  - Research proposals for HORIZON EUROPE. Winning grant for research: Engage2innovate – Enhancing security solution design, adoption and impact through effective engagement and social innovation.
  - Joining the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Leading a webinar for the association: Design Thinking for Sustainable Development Education: Practical Toolkit.
5. Establishing a research centre within the School of Architecture at the Bezalel Academy in the fields of urbanism, conservation and architecture. Research activities of the Chair in the School of Architecture will be mainly coordinated through the Research Centre.
6. Under the umbrella of *Heritopolis*, and in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict, ANTHEDON aims to look forward and beyond the current crisis, to envision a future where the conditions leading to widespread suffering are not repeated: envisioning Gaza as an open city as a tri-state metropolis, Egypt, Palestine and Israel, equipped with comprehensive urban services and infrastructures, a sustainable economy, and a thriving society. Culture and heritage can play a crucial role in the reconstruction of civic identity and pride by engaging UNESCO and other UN and World Bank texts.

### **3. Future Plans and Development Prospects:**

*Outline of action plan for the next biennium and short/medium and long-term development prospects. Please do not hesitate to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced (Not exceeding 300 words)*

In the framework of the forthcoming quadrennium, the Chair proposes to establish a forum in the Academy to address relevant issues: 1, based on the sustainability agenda of the Academy, to develop integrative actions in urban design for sustainable development as part of the UN decade of action. 2, continuing involvement in the initiatives especially Heritage and the Metropolis.

Other actions will include:

- Implementation and monitoring of the new conservation track in the Urban Design graduate programme.
- Participating in consortia to apply for EU research funding
- The UNESCO Chair proposes to assist the National Commission in reviewing the National World Heritage Tentative List which will take place in the coming academic years.

The main difficulties are in breaking down the silos of knowledge. This includes the complementary texts in UNESCO and UN bodies, as UN-Habitat, UNDRR and others to ensure a more integrative approach to heritage conservation and addressing challenges of the digital era, notably climate extremes and human settlement.

There is a need for a more pro-active role by the Culture Sector to facilitate networks and the re-convening of the biennial Chairs meeting.

While the use of virtual meetings and conferences has created a new format for research and training, it will need to be supplemented with human exchange 'charging stations'.



## Appendix:

### 1) Human Resources

The UNESCO Chairholders, Professor Michael Turner and Professor Els Verbakel, together with research assistants are active in maintaining the activities of the Chair. Extra human resources are allocated on a project-by-project basis wherever necessary. According to Article 4 of the Agreement, faculty members, Adi Sela Wiener and Adva Matar, doctoral students, and Dr Elad Persov have joined the UNESCOChair activities



Architect Adi Sela Wiener is a lecturer at the School of Architecture and currently serving as acting head of the Graduate Program in Urban Design, and a PhD candidate at Sapienza University, Rome. Adi is a conservation consultant for the Israel Planning Administration.

She is the national Focal Point for the UNESCO World Heritage Third Cycle Periodic Reporting, and the focal point for the Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions International Network for Education, Research and Action (UHC-HEI Network), and chairs the ICOMOS Israel Cultural Routes Scientific Committee.



Architect Adva Matar is a graduate of the Bezalel post-professional Program in Urban Design and a PhD candidate at TUDelft.

Currently, a lecturer at the Department of Architecture and the Graduate Program in Urban Design, she is coordinating the research activities and projects in the School of Architecture and is a member of the *Heritopolis* UN-Habitat UNI research network.



Dr Elad Persov, a senior lecturer, M.Des Industrial Design, and expert in sustainable design management, system design, and sustainable development. In 2005 he founded the Design Management track in the M.Des Program and is founder and Head of the Bezalel Sustainable Development Hub.

He has represented Bezalel at numerous research meetings across Europe and published papers at various peer-reviewed conferences and journals. His PhD dissertation, "Sustainable Design Management: Educating Designers as Roles Change," was conducted at Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Tel Aviv University.

## 2) Financial Resources

Please tick sources of financial contribution and specify the amount in U.S. dollars		[tick]	Amount (\$) per year
		<b>Host Institution</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Partner Institution</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	<b>Government Body</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$40,000 – Including monitoring World Heritage sites
	<b>Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$10,000 – grant projects
	<b>UNESCO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	<b>Other UN Agency</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	<b>IGO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	<b>NGO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	<b>Industry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	<b>Other Private</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

The situation is similar to previous reporting years.

The financial contribution to the UNESCO Chair from the Bezalel Academy includes a component part of the salary of the UNESCO Chairholder and support for research assistants on a project-by-project basis. Specific activities are supported in kind and with funds for expenses.

All office administration and spaces are allocated within the budget of the Graduate Programme for Urban Design and the newly established Research Centre.

The EU funded projects, specific research grants and contracts and for which the Chair is associated, are integrated within the Academy; as were the support given by other agencies. While it is difficult to calculate the exact amounts within the UNESCO Chair activities the rounded amounts are indicated under *Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils)* and represent the value of the input of the UNESCO chair within these activities.

End of the Form 17.9.2024