

**Monitoring according to Paragraph 169**

**of the Operational Guidelines**

**Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (148)**

**Nominated 1981**

**State of Conservation Report 2014**



**Presented to**

**The World Heritage Committee**

## Introduction

Monitoring the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site of the Old City of Jerusalem is an obligation that follows the directives appearing on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Local authorities and agencies carry out initiatives which are consistent with the principles and policies set out in the strategic plan for revitalization and conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Actions performed through 2014 portray continuing efforts to improve access to the Old City for both locals and tourists and to enhance the lives of the inhabitants by improvement of the infrastructure and public facilities, all in compliance with sustainable safeguarding of the outstanding cultural values, authenticity and integrity of the Old City.

The annual monitoring report relates only to new actions taken or ongoing processes in the areas inside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem – *Intra Muros* sites – as per the UNESCO declaration.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. TOWN PLANNING</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.1 LOCAL PLANS</b>	<b>6</b>
a. 13538 Local Plan for the Old City	6
b. 166249 and 166256 Residential Blocks Plans	6
c. 195990 New Scheme for the Jewish Quarter	7
<b>1.2 DETAILED SCHEMES IN THE OLD CITY</b>	<b>8</b>
a. .Scheme 11053 - The Liba (core) House	8
b. .Scheme 62950 - Tifferet Israel	8
c. .Scheme 5306a – Armenian Church	9
d. Scheme 13771a	9
e. .Scheme 193482	9
f. Scheme 105536	9
g. Scheme 188995	9
h. Scheme 201657	9
<b>2. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE: DESIGN AND EXECUTION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2.1 UPGRADING OF INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>9</b>
a. Bab Huta neighborhood	9
b. Hagai (El Wad) Street	9
c. The Christian Quarter	9
d. The New Gate and Damascus Gate	10
e. Galicia roofs	10
f. The Armenian Patriarch street (Armenian Quarter)	10
g. Dung Gate	10
h. Storefront Upgrading	10

i. Lighting	10
j. Interpretation and Orientation Signage	11
<b>2.2 MAINTENANCE AND SITE MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2.3 DANGEROUS STRUCTURES</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2.4 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2.5 ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>3. ARCHEOLOGY</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY ON TEMPLE MOUNT</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>3.2 CONSERVATION ACTIVITY</b>	<b>13</b>
a .The Western Wall Compound	14
b . The Church of the Holy Sepulcher	14
c. Along the Old City Walls	14
d. Other conservation work in the Old City	14
<b>3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN THE OLD CITY AND ALONG THE WALLS</b>	<b>15</b>
a. Research Excavations in the Jerusalem Archaeological Park	16
b. The Western Wall Tunnels	16
c. Salvage excavations in the Jewish Quarter	16
d. Salvage excavations in the Moslem Quarter	16
e. Salvage excavations in the Christian Quarter	16

<b>4. TOURISM AND CULTURAL EVENTS</b>	<b>17</b>
a. 'Knights in the Old City '	17
b. 'Light in Jerusalem' event (Jerusalem Festival of Light)	17
c. 'Old City Nights '	17
d. 'The Sounds of Jerusalem '	18
e. 'Open-House' event	18
f. 'Hamshushalayim'	18
g. Jerusalem International Film Festival	18

## **1. TOWN PLANNING**

### **1.1 Local Plans**

#### *a. 13538 Local Plan for the Old city*

The local plan, a derivative of the strategic plan and previous planning initiatives, was set out to determine the methods and terms of preservation of restoration of the Old City monuments and of the public realm. The plan was designed as an interim plan in preparation of more detailed plans to follow. In 2014 the plan was presented to the local planning committee. Due to the parallel advancement of more detailed Residential Block Plans (see below) its discussion is currently being suspended.

#### *b. 166249 and 166256 Residential Blocks Plans*

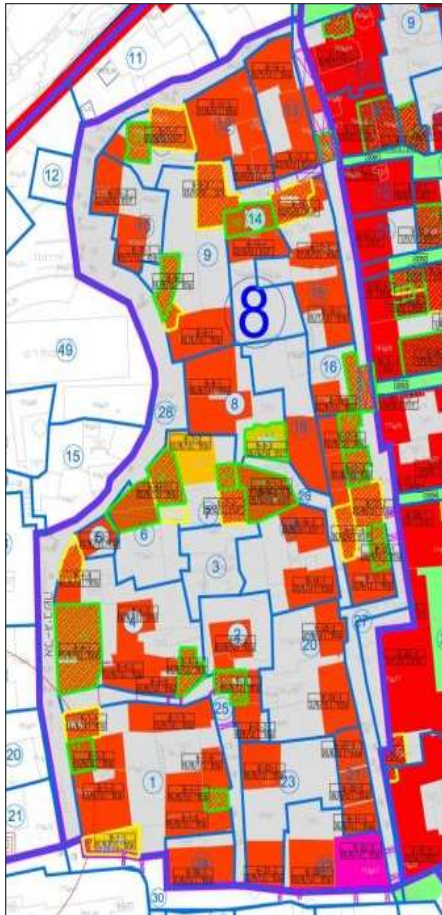
The local plan AM/9 for the Old City of Jerusalem adopted in 1976 is still valid in most parts of the Old City. The Residential Block Plans provide tools of management, conservation and development of the urban fabric and allow the issuance of building permits for local residents.

Out of some sixty blocks defined overall (and 26 intended for improvement), six were selected for the first phase of planning. The plans implement policies and guidelines for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City, the conservation and rehabilitation of historic assets, and facilitate the issuance of building permits in these blocks.

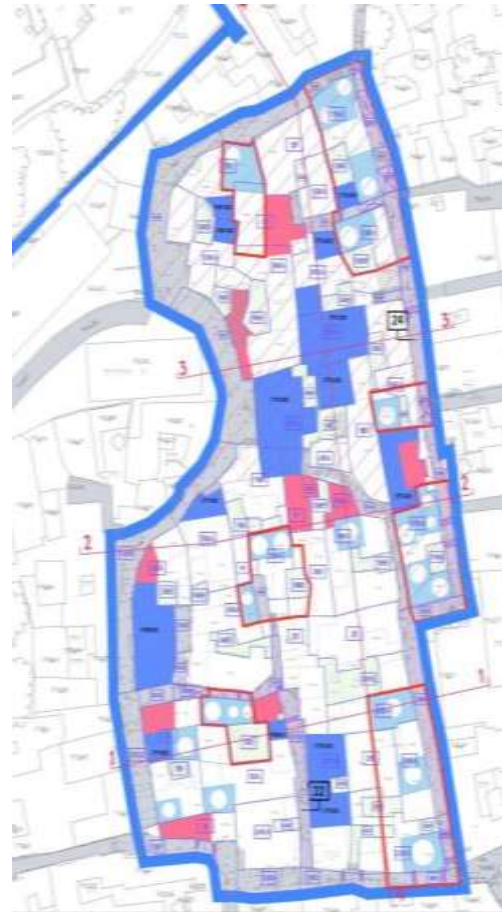
Two residential local plans (Blocks 8 & 9) have been completed (plans 166249 and 166256), being the result of close cooperation between the various professional planning departments at the Municipality and the Regional Planning Committee. They are now being examined for compliance with threshold requirements for discussion before the Regional Committee.

Work is already progressing on the next four blocks.

(see images below)



**Archaeological survey, block 8**



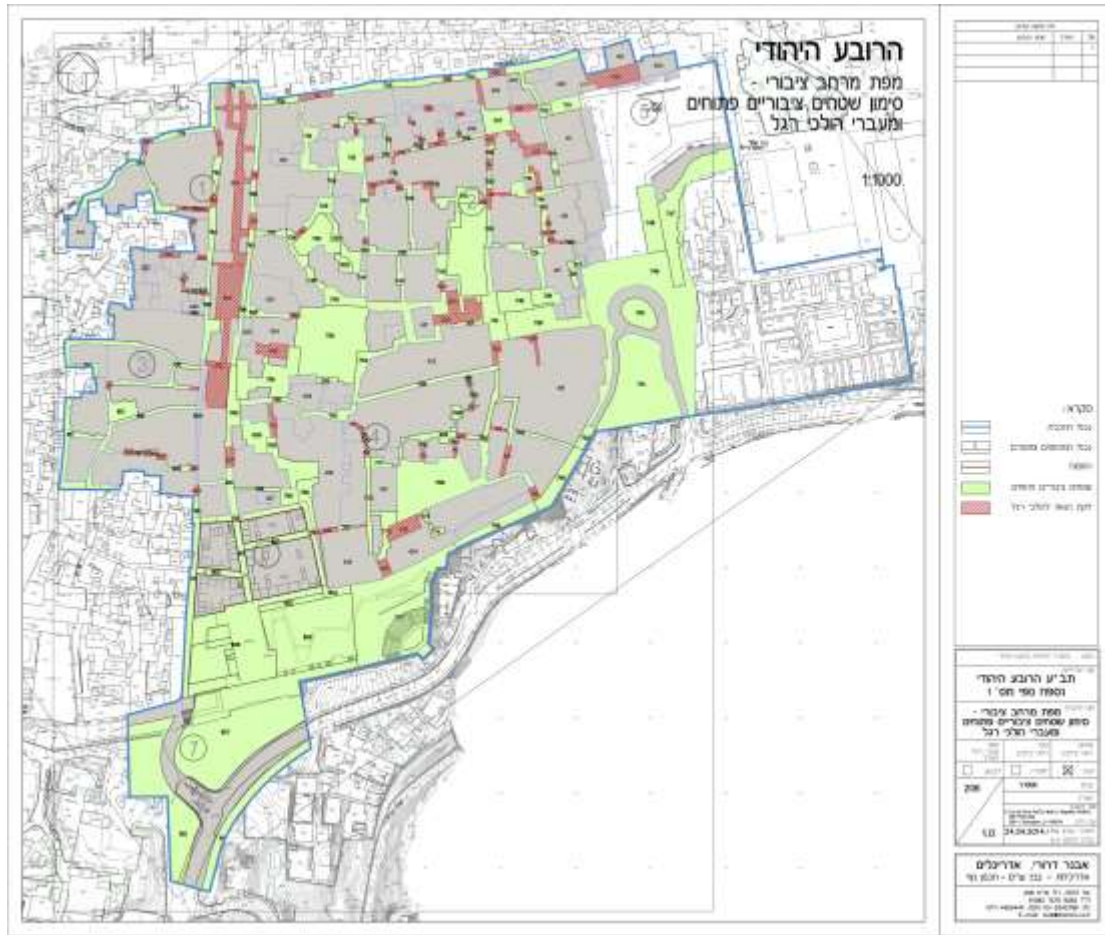
**detailed building instructions, block 8**

*c. 195990 - New Scheme for the Jewish Quarter*

A new Comprehensive Local Plan for the Jewish Quarter in the Old City is being developed, intended to set guidelines for the preservation and development of the Jewish Quarter. The main goal of the plan is to enhance the value of its cultural, historical and archaeological assets and turn it to a distinctive and attractive urban environment for both residents and tourists.

The plan will update land use allocations and accommodate future infrastructure needs. Other than regulate future changes to the public realm, it will concentrate on three compounds: the Jewish Quarter designated parking lot; the Cardo; and the Hurva Synagogue piazza.

The plan has been submitted to the Regional Planning committee, now being examined for compliance with threshold requirements for discussion before the Regional Committee.



## Public spaces in the Jewish Quarter

### 1.2 Detailed Schemes in the Old City

#### *a. Scheme 11053 - The Liba (core) House*

After a discussion at the Regional Planning Committee on 9.1.2014 the plan was returned to the planners asking for further details to the suggested alternative.

#### *b. Scheme 62950 - Tifferet Israel*

In July, 2014 a petition has been filed against the Regional Planning Committee's decision by an adjacent shop, regarding the entrance to the building.

#### *c. Scheme 5306a*

A rehabilitation plan for an Armenian Church in the Christian Quarter has been approved on 27.9.2014.

#### *d. Scheme 13771a*

A plan for additional spaces to the Western Wall elevator has been approved.



*e. Scheme 193482*

The plan for an addition to an existing residential building has been objected to by the Local Planning Committee and passed on to the Regional Committee with recommendations accordingly.

*f. Scheme 105536*

A plan for the expansion of an existing housing unit has been submitted.

*g. Scheme 188995*

A plan for approving a building deviation in an existing housing unit has been submitted.

*h. Scheme 201657*

A plan for the enlargement of an existing residential unit has been submitted.

## **2. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - DESIGN AND EXECUTION**

### **2.1 Upgrading of Infrastructure**

*a. Bab Huta neighborhood*

The residential neighborhood has been undergoing comprehensive infrastructure improvements. In 2014, the first phase of the project was completed, including: the replacement of underground infrastructure; street lighting and furniture; pavement and provision of accessibility. Special care is taken to preserve the authenticity and integrity of the neighborhood and to minimize obstruction of daily activity throughout the works.

*b. Hagai (El Wad) Street*

The work along one the main commercial and touristic streets crossing the Old City includes infrastructure improvement, comprising of new and uniform paving of the road as well as carrying out an extensive conservation survey of the street frontages. It also includes the installment of underground infrastructure, accessibility improvement and conservation of Mamluk landmarks which appear on the list of the Old City Monuments. The works have been conducted with special attention to minimizing disturbance to daily activity and through dialogue with the local residents and shopkeepers. During 2014, work has progressed immensely, including the completion of the accessibility of the street along its complete length, as well as the approaches to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall and Haram al-Sharif.

*c. The Christian Quarter*

A streetscape improvement plan for the Christian Quarter, including the Muristan plaza and the routes to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is in the final stages of design. The

integration of new traffic arrangements, renewal of street paving, furniture and lighting, replacement of underground water utilities and improvements in accessibility have been mostly completed; still in progress is the upgrading of storefronts. Additionally, a detailed plan has been prepared for the Muristan plaza, with special attention given to an archaeological survey of the fountain and its rehabilitation.

#### *d. The New Gate and Damascus Gate*

Streetscape improvement plans have been designed for the area within the New Gate and within and outside of Damascus Gate. This includes regulation of traffic (limiting entrance, as already done in Jaffa Gate), improved accessibility, and the upgrading of storefronts. The facade improvement and lighting are expected to be completed in 2015. The new designs follows the recently published streetscape design manual for the Old City.

#### *e. Galicia roofs*

The complex is composed of the roofs of buildings in the intersection between the Jewish, Moslem and Christian Quarters. It serves as an important open space in this dense area as well as providing access for inhabitants. The plan's main target is to provide a safe access to the complex as a whole and the mapping of dangerous roofs.

#### *f. The Armenian Patriarch street (Armenian Quarter)*

The street, which connects Jaffa Gate to Zion Gate, crosses the Armenian quarter. It is a narrow street which is currently shared by pedestrians and vehicles, including the only bus route which enters the Old City. A new plan is devised for the overall improvement of the street's infrastructure as well as the regulation of traffic and easing on handicapped access. The new design follows the streetscape design manual for the Old City, recently published.

#### *g. Dung Gate*

Works have been conducted in the inner piazza, composing the main access to both the Western Wall and Haram al-Sharif, include improvement of accessibility and shading.

#### *h. Storefront Upgrading*

A manual for the orderly upgrading of storefronts has been prepared and published in 2014 in both Hebrew and Arabic. The manual is based on a similar procedure done in the center of Jerusalem and adapted to the special terms and requirements of the Old City, following a lengthy survey. Special attention was given to maintaining the unique character of the market streets.

#### *i. Lighting*

Implementation of the Old City Lighting master-plan is continually conducted, enhancing the appearance of cultural heritage landmarks in the Old City and its vicinity. Installation of lighting infrastructure is incorporated in the street improvement projects. The Monuments' lighting project is carried out under collaboration with the stakeholders. In 2015, completion

is planned for the Mount of Olives and the Horva Synagogue. Completion of the project is expected by 2016.

#### *j. Interpretation and Orientation Signage*

Interpretation panels at tourist sites, as well as way-finding and orientation signage contribute to the enrichment of the tourist experience. These include regional maps in major areas, direction to the three main tourist sites (The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Haram al-Sharif and the Western Wall), information pointing towards public toilets and police stations; and local signage with short information regarding specific sites. Other goals of this project are to provide a uniformity in signage and reduce the multiplicity of street elements. The process for the design and deployment of a system of way-finding and orientation signage in the Old City has been completed. The pilot has been completed and the project has been extended to rest of the Old City. A tender for the installation of the signage was recently published, and is currently at the stage of the submissions' review.

Further plans include the installation of QR codes on the signs for quick and easy internet access to the various levels of information. The project is expected to be completed in 2015.

Additionally, in 2014 the process of street numbering of over 4000 shops and residential homes throughout the Old City has been completed.



## **2.2 Maintenance and Site Management**

- a. Enhanced cleaning and maintenance services in the Old City is provided through an outsourcing contract. The four-year contract has been renewed recently.
- b. A special project is being carried out for deploying central garbage collection spots throughout the old city. This is done in close cooperation with the inhabitants.

## **2.3 Dangerous Structures**

In the course of 2014 engineers identified structures that carry a potential risk to public safety and have declared 7 buildings within the Old City as dangerous structures. The owners and tenants were notified of the measures required to eliminate the danger.

## **2.4 Traffic and Transportation**

A new traffic scheme intended to minimize vehicular movement through the Lions Gate and the New Gate is being prepared. The daily operation of a new public minibus service has begun in 2014, including a shuttle circulating the Old City and operating daily, departing from "park and ride" facilities.

## **2.5 Accessibility for the Disabled**

The accessibility master-plan for the Old City, published in 2011, determined the key projects being implemented around the Old City today, and its guidelines are integrated in the various urban improvement projects. Initiatives are in place to improve accessibility in the public domain on various streets and thoroughfares in all four quarters.

Accessibility improvement works and installation of directional signage for accessible routes have continued through 2014, emphasizing the flat part of Via Dolorosa, which has been made completely accessible. Each action is pre-coordinated with the IAA and every measure is taken to protect the authenticity and integrity of the treated sites.

Presently, planning of five accessible tourist routes is being prepared and will be carried out in the coming months. Additionally, in 2014 more emphasis was put on compounds rather than streets, where accessibility improvements were integrated within the infrastructure improvement schemes in the Latin Quarter (around the New Gate), Lions' Gate (both inside and out) and Damascus Gate.

Further measures are taken to ease the access of the disabled by enhancing the signage system, including a map which has been prepared, and can be accessed on-line and easily updated. Furthermore, three-dimensional models for the visually impaired are planned to be installed in major gates. Finally, testing is being carried out using 'step-hear' technology, presenting vocal information at major locales, which is activated upon approach.

In 2014, two tours were conducted with disabled persons, both professional and others, in order to examine the routes already available. The tours have yielded significant insights which are being embedded in future projects.



### 3. Archaeology

#### 3.1 Archaeology on Temple Mount

- a. Dome of the Rock: Ongoing conservation works continued through 2014. Preservation of dome mosaics and marble tiles cladding in the inner walls is conducted by Waqf employees and Italian conservationists.
- b. Digging for the repair of fire hydrants and leaking water pipes, which required shallow excavation, was conducted under IAA supervision.
- c. Solomon's Stables: Ongoing conservation work of the seventh vault in the complex was conducted under IAA and engineering supervision.
- d. The Eastern Wall: Conservation works on the eastern side of the wall were completed under IAA and engineering supervision.
- e. Generator complex: The installation of a stone fence surrounding an electric generator complex was completed under archaeological and engineering supervision.
- f. Four of the wooden doors of the al-Aqsa Mosque were replaced by the Waqf.

#### 3.2 Conservation Activity

This chapter describes the conservation works undertaken in the Old City by the Israel Antiquities Authority or under its supervision during 2014. All work was carried out by IAA unless otherwise specified.

#### *a. The Western Wall Compound*

a. Archeological site beneath the Ohel Yitzhak Synagogue - the vault structure located east of the synagogue is dated to medieval times. The structure was threatened by water and sewage seepage from the Muslim quarter. The structural works done were required to stabilize the piers of the structure. This is one of the most complex and expensive conservation projects to have been undertaken in Israel. The solutions were designed by a group of Israeli and non-Israeli engineers. Towards the end of 2014, the site was opened to visitors.

b. Strauss building - Salvage excavations continued during the construction site of an additional wing. The excavations are concurrent with the construction of the building itself. The excavations are being accompanied by a group of conservationists, who supervise stucco stabilizing of the walls.

c. The Little Western Wall – at the beginning of 2014, limited conservational work (supervised by engineers) was carried out to remove danger.

#### *b. Church of the Holy Sepulcher*

a. Various works of construction, restoration and maintenance were carried out in the St. Abraham convent, in the eastern wing of the Church, and on the rooftop, all conducted by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchy of Jerusalem.

b. Chapel of the Franks (Church of the Holy Sepulchre): as part of the preparations for the visit of Pope Francis, the front of the Chapel, as well as the wall frescoes in the Franciscan compound underwent cleaning. The work was done by a team from the Custodia di Terra Santa, and supervised by IAA.

#### *c. Along the Old City Walls*

b. Graffiti cleaning along the walls was undertaken by a team of IAA conservationists.

c. The Bet Shalom Promenade: Maintenance of the site, along the southern city wall, mainly weeding and stabilizing loose stones was undertaken.

#### *e. Other conservation work in the Old City*

a. The Steps Pool, the Jewish Quarter - Remains of a *mikveh* (ritual bathing pool), dated to the Second Temple Period, exposed in the 1970s are incorporated in the basement of a modern building. Preliminary conservation actions were conducted, intending to develop the space as an information center. Ongoing works include stucco stabilizing, removal of risk elements and partial archeological excavations.

b. Bab Huta neighborhood: The IAA closely supervises the upgrading of the infrastructure systems in the neighborhood, which has been carried out for the last three years by JDA (Jerusalem Development Authority).

c. Hagai (el-Wad) Street: The vast infrastructure upgrade project along Hagai (el-Wad) street stretching from Damascus Gate to The Western Wall plaza has been closely supervised by the IAA.

d. The Citadel "Kishle" - Removal of the evacuation spoil continued into 2013, coordinated with, and inspected by, the IAA. The site has now been developed into a visitors' center, run by the Tower of David Museum.

e. Hamam beneath the Jaffa Gate: This impressive site was excavated in the 1990s, revealing remains of a Byzantine bathhouse, a major road and a row of shops. The process of development and conservation of the site was completed in 2014 in coordination with the IAA.

f. Haldiah-el Kirmi dangerous structure: the Mamluk Madrasse, currently used for dwelling, has been surveyed. In September 2013, new cracks appeared in the surrounding walls. Immediate measures were taken and temporary retaining buttresses and metal beams were constructed. Work was completed during 2014. The Waqf is preparing a structural and conservation plan for the compound under professional supervision.

g. Turbat Seadia: Restoration and conservation works in the Mamluk burial site (currently used for dwelling) have been completed by a constructor appointed by the Waqf. Works are supervised by IAA.

h. The Mahkamah building: Ongoing conservation works of the building, bordering the Western Wall plaza, include treatment of deteriorated stone and structural stabilization. The building currently serves as a police station.

g. Sabil Hamam el Ain: Conservation work conducted as part of the Hagai (el Wad) street infrastructure upgrading project was completed. The work involved cleaning and stabilizing components of the architectural monument.

h. Jewish Quarter, Birkat Torah Yeshiva – As part of reconstruction work in the Yeshiva, salvage excavations and conservation were carried out by IAA.

l. 46 Maalot Hamidrasha Street: Conservation work, carried out by the Waqf and supervised by the IAA, is currently taking place at Ribat Bairam Gauish.

j. Othmania Madrasse: Restoration and conservation works of the madrasse (used for dwelling) is carried out by the Waqf and supervised by a team of IAA conservationists and archeologists.

### **3.3 Archaeological Excavations in the Old City and along the Walls**

In the course of 2014, several salvage excavations were undertaken prior to implementation of civil infrastructure and rehabilitation works. All excavations were managed by archaeologists from the IAA unless otherwise noted.

#### *a. Research Excavations in the Jerusalem Archaeological Park*

a. Western Wall foundations: an excavation along the foundations of the Western Wall, built on bedrock, revealed ruins of earlier facilities which will help understand the building procedure of the Temple Mount during the Second Temple period.

#### *b. The Western Wall Tunnels*

a. Strauss Building – Excavations have commenced in the intended building site of the new section. In addition, the building of wooden stilts, intended to carry the floor, was completed. The building of the structure is at an advanced stage. All work is accompanied by constant conservation activities.

b. The Herodian Hall: Salvage Excavations were completed. A large Byzantine cistern was uncovered, as well as the foundations of a Cross-shaped Mamluk structure, which was constructed in the cistern.

#### *c. Salvage excavations in the Jewish Quarter*

a. Tifferet Israel Synagogue: The synagogue was demolished in the course of the War of Independence (1948). Salvage excavations were undertaken prior to the planned reconstruction of the building. The excavations, conducted under the direction of IAA, exposed a unique underground system of ritual baths and remains of medieval walls. These archeological findings will be preserved and integrated into the synagogue building.

b. Ararat road: Excavations beneath a dwelling's basement revealed remains of a late Roman pool and washing basins.

c. Chabad road: Excavations in a private house, following some damage done to antiquities, revealed Muslim and Byzantine remains.

d. Birkat Torah Yeshiva: Salvage excavations were carried out as part of restoration works in the Yeshiva. The excavations revealed Ottoman remains, including a bakery.

#### *d. Salvage excavations in the Moslem Quarter*

a. Kirmi road: Excavations following some damage done to antiquities, revealed remains of an Ottoman structure as well as Abbasid buildings.

b. 60 Saraya road: Excavations following some damage done to antiquities revealed an impressive vault structure, presumably Ottoman, as well as Roman findings.

c. The Catholic Armenian Church, Via Dolorosa: Excavations following damage done to antiquities. During archeological excavations, the building's foundations, dated to Ottoman era, as well as parts of the previous road levels, were exposed.

#### *e. Salvage excavations in the Christian Quarter*

Church of the Redeemer - Salvage Excavations were carried out by Austrian students as part of preparing the planned museum. Findings were limited, dating to the Ottoman era.



#### 4. Tourism and Cultural Events

##### *a. Knights in the Old City*

After successful running five years in a row, in 2014 this festival did not take place. A new festival is being designed for a similar celebration of the unique location, taking into account, as always, the requirements and the sensitivities of the local populations.

##### *b. 'Light in Jerusalem' event (Jerusalem Festival of Light)*

The successful project has taken place this year for the fifth time, drawing some 350,000 visitors, the majority of them from outside Jerusalem. The project, which like others is carried out with great caution regarding the authenticity and integrity of the Old City, is especially sensitive to the needs of the inhabitants and the merchants in the markets as extra effort is made in order to avoid excess disturbance to daily routine.

In 2015 the festival is designed to take place along longer routes, extending into the close vicinity of the Old City, while also enhancing the activities along the exciting routes. This will be accompanied with an enlarged budget for the project as a whole.



**Damascus Gate, Festival of Light**

##### *c. 'Old City Nights'*

The project aims at opening cultural arenas on weeknights, twice weekly. Some of the planned events are repetitive and some are more provisional. This year, the number of tours available as a mobile app. has been enlarged (from 15 to 21). The languages available, now including Hebrew, English and Russian will soon extend to include French.

*d. 'The Sounds of Jerusalem'*

A successful initiation of the festival will hopefully support an annual tradition to evolve. Musical concerts are performed in various sites and spaces across the Old City, offering new ways to experience the place. In 2014, the festival drew some 80,000 visitors.

*e. 'Open-House' event*

This autumn, Jerusalem opened up venues over the weekend, including private houses, urban villas, unique synagogues, architecturally significant public buildings, curious construction sites, plazas and gardens. During the weekend, the public can visit, explore and discuss these sites. New sites in the Old City are being added annually, courtesy of institutional and private proprietors.

*f. 'Hamshushalayim'*

During the winter, over 'Hamshushalayim' weekends, outdoors events take place every evening which are open to the public in several locations throughout the city, including within the Old City Walls. "Hamshushalayim" proves a successful event mainly for the local residents involved in hospitality.

*g. Jerusalem International Film Festival*

For the second year, a cooperation has been established with the long-running Jerusalem International Film Festival. Various sites within the Old City will host special screenings, as always suited to the local sensitivities and existing restrictions.