

Tel Aviv Port Public Space Regeneration

Location: Tel Aviv, Israel **Designer:** Mayslits Kassif Architects **Photographer:** Daniela Orvin, Adi Branda, Galia Kronfeld, Albi Serfaty **Completion date:** 2008
Site area: 55,000 sqm



1. Existing Hangers
2. Parking Park
3. Undulating Deck Surfaces

Situated on one of Israel's most breathtaking waterfronts, the Tel Aviv Port was plagued with neglect since 1965, when its primary use as an operational docking port was abandoned. The recently completed public space development project by Mayslits Kassif Architects, managed to restore this unique part of the city, and turn it into a prominent, vivacious urban landmark.

Remarkably, despite city planning being dominated by market forces, and because of its immense popularity among the public, the project has been able to circumvent massive development schemes intended for the port's 50,000 square metres area. The suspension of all the area's rezoning plans set a precedent for creating an urban transformation not propelled by building rights, but by an alternative design strategy gearing towards the public space.

The design introduces an extensive undulating, non-hierarchical surface, that acts both as a reflection of the mythological dunes on which the port was built; and as an open invitation to free interpretations and unstructured activities. Various public, political and social initiatives – from spontaneous rallies to artistic endeavors and public acts of solidarity – are now drawn to this unique urban platform, indicating the project's success in reinventing the port as a vibrant public sphere.

Award description:

2011 Winner of Domus Russia ARCHIP Prize
 2010 The Rosa Barba European Landscape Prize – Nomination as One of the 9 Finalists of the 6th European Biennial of Landscape Architecture
 2008 Israel 'Rechter Award' for an Outstanding Architectural Achievement by the Israeli Ministry of Culture
 2007 Israel 'Ot Haitzuv Award' for the Best Urban Architectural Project in Israel

Right: Wooden deck ©Adi Branda

