Design: Adjaye Associates

Batsheva's Arts Campus

The Next Culture Hub of Tel Aviv-Yafo

Opening: 2028

בת־שבע
Batsheva
باتشيڤع

תל אביב יפו
TEL AVIV YAFO

Design: Adjaye Associates

PROJECT BRIEF

In a joint venture with the Municipality of Tel Aviv – Jaffa, the internationally acclaimed Batsheva Dance Company is establishing an Arts Campus at the historic Old Central Bus Station in southern Tel Aviv. The Campus will transform the compound into a green and shaded public square interspaced with state-of-the-art facilities, offering a variety of communal spaces for the diverse communities of Tel Aviv–Jaffa to relax, engage and interact. It is conceived as an open model for a public cultural institution of our times, in recognition of the deep and essential role of arts and culture for the individual and for society at large.

Batsheva will be the resident company on campus leading a contemporary international program across the diverse disciplines of the arts and will also operate a sophisticated International Dance Center dedicated to all facets of dance practice and education.

MAYOR RON HULDAI:

"The Municipality of Tel Aviv–Yafo has made great efforts in recent years to stimulate urban revitalization in Neve Sha'anan, and sees culture as an important catalyst for such growth. We trust that the establishment of the Neve Sha'anan Campus will serve as a home for Batsheva Dance Company, one of the city's prominent dance and cultural institutions. The new Campus will generate diverse and international artistic activity of the highest level, alongside social and educational activities to benefit the residents of the neighborhood and the city as a whole."

THE CAMPUS AS AN URBAN CONNECTOR

Situated at an important pedestrian and vehicular junction, the Campus is a strategic urban connector with a significant role in the municipal master plan for the revitalization of the southern neighborhoods. It is located within a sequence of open public areas, community gardens and pedestrian walkways, connecting Har Tsiyon Boulevard and the Neve Sha'anan neighborhood to the heart of the city.

Entire Campus Site: 11,000 SQM

Campus Structures: 13,500 SQM

Project Management: Ezra & Bizaron Housing Co Ltd

Budget: 85M USD. Funded by the City of Tel Aviv-Yafo and private donations from Israel and abroad

Inauguration: 2028

Lead design: Sir David Adjaye OBE, Adjaye Associates, UK

Architect of Record: Auerbach Halevy Architects, Israel

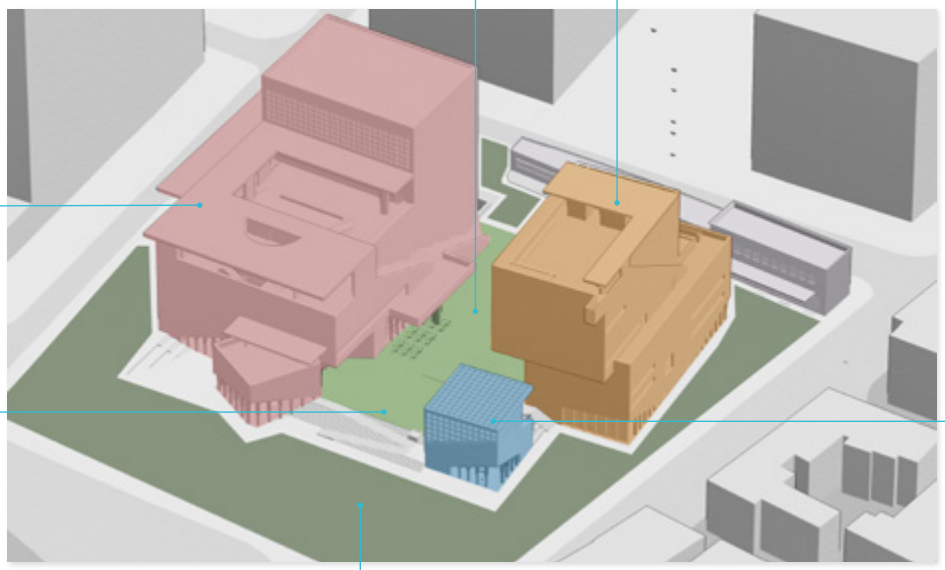
Landscape design: Lital Szmuk, TeMA Urban Landscape Design, Israel

PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS

The Main Theater
5,500 SQM

Main Piazza
1,500 SQM

The International Dance Center
4,000 SQM



The Pavillion

Underground Black Box
2,500 SQM

The Gardens

Design: Adjaye Associates

THE MAIN THEATER

TOTAL BUILT AREA: 5,500 SQM

DESIGN: ADJAYE ASSOCIATES

Facilities

- A 550-seat proscenium theater with sophisticated stage systems and state-of-the-art technical equipment, suitable for all disciplines of the performing arts
- A spacious public urban salon at ground level
- A spacious upper foyer with access to canopied balconies open to the public throughout the day and during evening shows
- A spacious studio for rehearsals and education

Uses and Program

The Main Theater joins the leading cultural venues in Tel Aviv-Yafo. It will be the home theater for Batsheva Dance Company, it will also host other dance, theater, and music performances, screenings, conferences and lectures.

Special attention has been given to the quality of the performance experience for both artists and audiences.

OHAD NAHARIN

"This is a combination of content and form in its pure and sublime expression. For 30 years, I have been exploring what an ideal space for performing arts would look like. Having traveled and worked across five continents and with hundreds of performing arts centers, I have been given this one-time opportunity to contribute to the creation of a theater that will facilitate an optimal encounter between artists and their audience, and establish new codes that will advance the arts."

THE BLACK BOX

TOTAL BUILT AREA: 2,500 SQM (UNDERGROUND)

Facilities

- **An intimate and versatile space for approximately 250 audience members**
- **Varying seating configurations and state-of-the-art technical equipment**
- **Planned to operate independently of the Main Theater**

Program

Nestled in the heart of the campus, the Black Box joins Tel Aviv's leading cultural venues as well as other famous "black boxes" in the world's cultural capitals, which set out to propel artistic innovation.

The Black Box is configured as a flexible venue for dance and performance, music, visual arts, spoken word, video and film, and all possible contemporary hybrid art forms, challenging both the boundaries of artistic expression as well as the relationship norms between artists and audiences.

At the Black Box, Batsheva will spearhead a contemporary artistic program across all genres - local and international - encouraging research, collaborations and co-productions through performances and exhibitions, residencies and public programs.
The Black Box will also serve neighborhood residents, offering a space for diverse satellite activities of the local community centers in the southern borough of the city.

> MICHAL HELFMAN, Artist
> **"This is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary space designed to meet the dynamic needs of global and local contemporary art processes. The versatility of the space enables a format open to definition by creators and audiences alike, as well as an infinitely wide range of exchange and engagement. In its modular architectural features, the space reflects a contemporary flexibility in method and discipline, and invites creators from different fields to interpret it in their own unique way."**

From: Furo by Ohad Naharin, Photo: Gadi Dagon

THE INTERNATIONAL DANCE CENTER

TOTAL BUILT AREA: 4,000 SQM

DESIGN: ADJAYE ASSOCIATES

Facilities

- **A ground-level spacious Community and Education Studio equipped for intimate shows of up to 70 audience members**
- **Three spacious studios optimally designed for rehearsals, training, and community activities**
- **A Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for dancers, artists and the community**
- **The campus' main cafeteria**
- **A wide external staircase with shaded rest and observation stops**
- **A rooftop public garden**

Uses and Program

Batsheva is a central figure in the professional dance world in Israel and around the globe. The company is a destination for young and emerging dancers; some 700 from abroad come to Tel Aviv annually to participate in the company's workshops, attend classes and interact with Batsheva dancers and Tel Aviv's vibrant dance scene. At the new campus, Batsheva will at last have a permanent home with a state-of-the art dance center to serve the company and the international dance community, creating an extraordinary epicenter for research, education and performance.

The Dance Center will be the home of the Batsheva Dance School, annual and seasonal courses for young dance students, master classes with local and visiting dancers, teachers and choreographers, intensives for dancers and dance students, artist residencies, creative processes and dance performances. The expected weekly traffic is 2,000 participants.

THE MAIN PIAZZA

TOTAL BUILT AREA: 1,500 SQM

The Main Piazza is an essential feature of the Campus. Free and open to the public, it will provide a beautiful, multi-purpose space that is designed for gathering and relaxation, as well as for activity and engagement.

Positioned in a sequence of green parks and gardens and located at the heart of the Campus, the Main Piazza is the urban connector in Tel Aviv's Master Plan to link the southern boroughs with the city center.

The Piazza features an open-air canopied pavilion serving as a seated amphitheater for 160 people, and a shaded outdoor café. During the daytime, it will serve residents, passersby and the large community of artists who will work at the campus on a daily basis.

The Piazza if planned with the Municipal Arts Department and Community Administration for mixed public use for all ages – street theater and dance, music and dance shows, large- scale dance and movement lessons, dance balls, seasonal markets and fairs, community assemblies and congregations.

DESIGN: ADJAYE ASSOCIATES

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

Artistic Director, **Lior Avizoor**
House Choreographer, **Ohad Naharin**
Executive Director, **Sharon Bar Lev**

From: Last Work By Ohad Naharin (2015), photo: Gadi Dagon

MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV
"Naharin attracts some of the best dancers in the world...I have never seen such combination of beauty, energy and technique."

BRIAN SCHAEFER
"Mr. Naharin and Batsheva at their apex: frightening, hypnotic, febrile, divine."

Batsheva Dance Company is critically acclaimed and popularly embraced as one of the world's foremost contemporary dance companies. Ohad Naharin, hailed as a preeminent contemporary choreographer, was the company's artistic director between 1990-2018, and currently serves as its House Choreographer. In July 2022, Dr. Lior Avizoor assumed the role of Batsheva's Artistic Director.

Batsheva was founded in 1964 by the Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild, who enlisted the seminal choreographer Martha Graham as the company's first Artistic Advisor. It is Israel's largest dance company, with 40 extraordinary dancers from Israel and around the world in its senior company and the junior Batsheva Ensemble. Batsheva stages some 250 performances annually, with more than 100,000 spectators, tours extensively and offers extensive educational activities for young dancers in its dance school, and through a variety of courses and workshops.

BATSHEVA ON CAMPUS

Batsheva has outgrown its current facilities at the Suzanne Dellal Center and needs a home of its own to fulfill its artistic, educational and social potential. The Company initiated and propelled the project at the Old Central Bus Station, and has worked hand-in-hand with the various municipal departments throughout the planning process, amalgamating the artistic, social and urban needs in a unique project.

Batsheva will be the Resident Company on campus, will perform regularly at the Main Theater and the Black Box and will operate an International Dance Center with educational and community activities.

Special emphasis will be placed on a public program aimed at bringing the general public closer to the art of dance and to the arts in general, though artist talks, open rehearsals, studio visits, lectures and classes.

From Kamuyot by Ohad Naharin, Performed by The Batsheva Ensemble. photo by Ascaf

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

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Sharon Bar Lev
Executive Director

LIOR AVIZOOR
Artistic Director

OHAD NAHARIN
House Choreographer

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