



Tagor Farm is a new urban hybrid typology of student residence, combining living, learning, socializing and giving back to the community. As cities in today's world are becoming densely populated, the need for new farming lands is a growing problem. With constantly growing population, that consume more and more food, natural open lands are destroyed for new farm lands. Construction, transportation cogs and plastic packaging continue to pollute our planet. Thus, we must find new ways to inhabit and feed city dwellers. Urban farming is the ideal solution for a sustainable future – people growing their own food in communal spaces or in their home, meeting their community, working together to create a brighter prospective and reduce waste and pollution.

The project is located in Ramat Aviv, a northern neighborhood of Tel Aviv. This residential neighborhood, whose urban plan was designed by architects Robert Bennett and Yitzhak Perlstein in 1959, is home to Tel Aviv university. Thus, it became home to a large student community. TAU students live in various ordinary dorms spread throughout the neighborhood or in rented apartments. The neighborhood's architecture is made of low density modern shared buildings, spread on vast open green lots, inspired by La Courbousier and the European modernist movement.

The site, Tagor 4, designed by Perlstein himself, is part of a modernist four-story building complex, made of five building positioned across from one another in a large open lot. The typical floor plan contains twelve separate apartments gathered around an open courtyard and an open ground floor. In its existing state, the courtyard is split in two by stairs leading to the apartments, and the functions turning to it are the bathrooms, hence the courtyard is left poorly maintained and un-used. We decided to keep the modernist framework and facades as the bones of the project, projecting on ideals of the modernist movement concerning socialism and shared living and remove everything else – floors, interior walls and circulation system.

The project offers an opportunity to refurbish the existing structure and create a new student residence typology, redefining private and public spaces, and exploring the field between them. When defining the two, we characterized a new type of space - *the social space* – a sphere where random encounters can occur and bring a new, invigorated life to an area. Our goal was to approach all our decisions from this thinking, and so forth we made the courtyard the social heart of the project. We removed the existing stairs from its center to enlarge it, and created a circulation system rotating around its center, allowing the *social space* to take place.

The open ground floor, along with its large vacant lot, is hardly used in the existing condition. There for, it will be turned into farming lands for both the students living in the building, and the community members living in the neighborhood. The community farming lands will allow for the residences to grow their own food, communicate with one another and even sell their produce in a small 'give & take' market on the ground floor. The new identity of the building as an urban greenhouse gives it a new second skin – a large white net enclosure allowing for plants and vegetation to grow on its facades and communicating to its environment what it is.

Planning the different programs, the entrance through the open courtyard makes the lower floors more suitable for private functions, while the public ones are on the higher floors. We created six shared bedrooms, each containing four beds, a bathroom and storage. In order to create privacy in these shared rooms, we designed a cupboard where the bed is partly hidden from the space, and behind it is a closet for all personal belongings. Each room also includes a bench with a large planting area behind it and an exit to the new net exterior. On the second floor, we placed the conference hall with double height ceilings, more appropriate for a large gathering space. The third floor includes a classroom, a laboratory, a kitchen and a dining hall. To ensure a connection between spaces, we opened the laboratory to the conference hall, creating the ability to combine the use of the spaces. On the roof level, we added a living room which connects to the kitchen and dining hall through an open two- story space. The living room is the only closed space on the roof, while the rest of the floor is used for different planters and socializing areas.

The different materials and details are what makes the spaces even more unique. We chose to leave the building in exposed concrete, with the white net reflecting on its new modernist white façade and vegetation intertwined. Inside the courtyard, we designed details for the stairs and its railings, creating a railing that emphasizes the views throughout the social space, framing each view in the open passage with a natural oak frame and black steel bars. The bedrooms were designed with a warmer space in mind, utilizing hardwood flooring and solid, warm colors for the cabinets.

Our project aims to create various spaces, all having the ability to provide different levels of intimacy and social interaction. Being students ourselves, we understand that student life is not only going to university or getting a degree, but rather a time in one's life where you can truly explore, think, share ideas and develop your own way in the world. For that reason, we believe a home for students should provide a holistic experience of society and a view for a greener, more sustainable future for our planet.

Thank you,

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