

The Jerusalem Peace Academy
at the
Chaim Zippori Campus
Jerusalem Forest

A Perfect Place Right at the Periphery of Jerusalem

On search for a fit property I came across a place right at the edge of Jerusalem about a year ago, which immediately appeared to me as the one and only possible choice. It was convincing by the first sight to be the perfect solution for the project by all criteria and in all needs.

The place is situated close to Yad Va-Shem amidst Jerusalem Forest and has certainly its value for itself. By name of “Merkaz Zippori – Communal Education Center”, its approximately 70 dunam (22 acres) property with facilities consisting of three major buildings is owned by the Iriah of Jerusalem (Municipality) and run by the Matnasim – Israeli Association of Community Centers. In personal contacts between Eitan Meir, the General Manger of the Iriah, Michael Ben Avi, Manager of Zippori Center and Dr. Benedikt, the later has declared the unanimous interest of the Board of the Amuta to lease or purchase the Merkaz Zippori promises in order to establish the base of The Jerusalem Peace Academy on its campus.

While most people in Israel knowing the place were ridiculing my efforts to run after it saying that I would never even get a foot into it, I trusted my intuition and inner guidance. And in fact on May 2nd I got the green light from the Manager of the Matnasim for establishing our institution on the Zippori premises. I was offered to start the work right away.

The main buildings are nice stone constructions altogether being in quite a pleasing shape, so it is possible to just move in and start the work – no waste of time with planning, complicated applications for permits and building efforts.

The facilities of the center consist of:

Main Building:	12 offices + reception 4 classrooms (a 15 students) 1 Hall + cafeteria 1 dining hall (app. 120 m ²) 1 classroom/piano bar (winter use) Library 16 guest rooms (32 persons);
Canada Building	6 offices 1 shelter (computer room) 3 classrooms (25/40/65 students) 20 hotel double rooms (40 persons)
13 bungalows	for 52 persons.

Furthermore the premises include
1 big swimming pool
1 sports field,
parking lots, walkways and forests.















Being in need of a bigger Meditation and Conference Hall or Temple, we are presently discussing a couple of alternative designs for a new construction. The new hall should meet the spiritual and technical needs, fit into the landscape and symbolize our intentions and spiritual vision.

One of these models being discussed is shaped in the form of a tent, with twelve angles, resembling the mishkan of Moshe as well as the twelve gates of the New Jerusalem:



Finally I want to conclude this short proposal of our Jerusalem project with the evaluation of an American-Israeli Industrialist: *"Indeed, you are involved in most important work. The whole world is waiting. As we discussed, one of our objectives, in addition to having a successful, profitable project, is to create a vision of an "alternative" future, one that can capture the imagination of people working in government of "what is possible..." I appreciate your support and enthusiasm for that vision."* (Steve Zecher, US)

However, we have chosen proverbs of two heroes of world history as our mottos: *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* (Margaret Mead) *"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."* (Anne Frank)

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