

= Zvi Hecker =

Zvi Hecker (Hebrew : זבי הֶכְר ; born May 31 , 1931) is a Polish @-@ born Israeli architect . His work is known for its emphasis on geometry and asymmetry .

= = Biography = =

Zvi Hecker was born as Tadeusz Hecker in Kraków , Poland . He grew up in Poland and Samarkand . He began his education in architecture at the Cracow University of Technology . He immigrated to Israel in 1950 . There he studied architecture at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology , graduating in 1955 . At the Technion , Eldar Sharon was a classmate , and Alfred Neumann was their professor . Between 1955 and 1957 , he studied painting at the Avni Institute of Art and Design , before beginning his career as an architect . Between 1957 and 1959 , Hecker served in the Combat Engineering Corps of the Israel Defense Forces .

= = Architectural career = =

After his military service , he founded a firm with Eldar Sharon (until 1964) and Alfred Neumann (until 1966) . The physical and economic conditions in Israel at the time , allowed them to complete a fair number of works in a relatively brief period of time , which brought international attention . Their joint works include the Mediterranean Sea Club in Achzib (1960 ? 1961) , Dubiner House (1963) , the Chaim Laskov Officer Training School (1963 ? 1967) Bahad 1 , the main officer training school of the Israel Defense Forces , just later the synagogue (1969 ? 1971) at the same academy , and the Bat Yam city hall (1963 ? 1969) . Their designs shared aspects in common with the metabolist movement , borrowing metaphoric shapes from nature for use in planning morphological structures . The modularity of these works , such as the Dubiner House , provided an architectural precedent for the Habitat 67 project by Moshe Safdie .

Hecker resides in Berlin and Tel Aviv . He has been involved in planning projects for the German Jewish community as well as other international projects .

= = Academic career = =

Hecker taught in Canada , the United States , Israel , and Austria at the Université Laval , University of Texas at Arlington , Washington University in St. Louis , Iowa State University , Technion ? Israel Institute of Technology , and the University of Applied Arts Vienna . Zvi Hecker writes about his work periodically , co @-@ authoring books with Sir Peter Cook , John Hejduk , and others .

= = Projects = =

The early projects of Zvi Hecker , designed in partnership with Sharon and Neumann , have architectural qualities that were developed later in his career . The officer school (Bahad 1) was built to give a respectable living environment to soldiers in the Negev desert , and special emphasis was given to the large spaces between the structures , in order to form a micro @-@ environment there , separating the people inside from the harsh desert outskirts . Raw concrete was chosen because it did not require constant maintenance and renovation in light of the strong sandy winds . About the school , Hecker said : " The location of the base has a special relevance to the vision of David Ben @-@ Gurion . To build such an important school in a place which isn 't the center of the country ? in my opinion , that 's the positive side of the State of Israel " . The academy was supplemented later with a synagogue , whose form was complementary and contrasting . The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture says of the architect 's approach to its design , " Eschewing the right angles of international modernism , he turned to crystalline geometry found in nature [...] "

Another of the Zvi Hecker 's projects in partnership , the Bat Yam City Hall shows the recurrence of

geometrical invention that exists throughout his work . One architectural significance of the Bat Yam City Hall- its formal concept , is that it is an inverted pyramid . It is linked to other works of architecture such as Boston City Hall through this form , in addition to their program , similar materials , and time period . The building is patterned on a diagonal grid with concrete , which provides both its structure and aesthetics . The importance of this building was recognized in 1975 with perspective and section illustrations on a postage stamp in the Architecture in Israel series . As of 2003 , Bat Yam City Hall was removed of its signature light shafts , rather than having them renovated . This was because of a perceived structural instability due to weathering over time . Of this removal Dr. Ami Ran wrote , " From an architectural standpoint , removing them is equivalent to dousing the Statue of Liberty 's torch . "

Among several projects for memorials , Zvi Hecker designed the solemn Page Memorial (1996) with Micha Ullmann and Eyal Weizman . This site @-@ specific memorial commemorates the Jewish community of Kreuzberg , and their Lindenstrasse synagogue which was designed in 1891 by architects Cremer & Wolffenstein . What was once one of the largest religious buildings in Berlin , with a capacity of 1800 ; was ruined by the Nazis in the 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom . On the original floor plan , the benches of the synagogue were recreated in concrete , and where the bimah stood , trees are now planted . The designers conceived of the benches as sentences on the pages of the Talmud .

= = Architectural style = =

Zvi Hecker architecture has continued to emphasize geometry and modularity , but with increasing asymmetry . Ramot Polin (1972 ? 75) is a rare prefabricated apartment complex with 720 non @-@ rectangular components . The apartments were expanded later , incorporating more cubic rather than pentagonal components . The design idea of this neighborhood may seem to be the more purely geometrical , however it is likened to a chemical structure , and in plan view to an open hand , and a leaf- therefore imparting it with metaphorical qualities . More examples of advanced geometry in Hecker 's work are the Spiral Apartment House in Ramat Gan , (1981 ? 1989) , and the Heinz @-@ Galinski @-@ Schule (1992 ? 1995) in Berlin , noted for their high degree of complexity . The Heinz @-@ Galinski @-@ Schule won Zvi Hecker the Deutscher Kritikerpreis in 1995- it was stated that the decision of the jury was based on their appreciation of the " expressive geometry of his construction . " The Spiral Apartment House is located adjacent to his earlier Dubiner house , providing a juxtaposition of two important moments in his career . The work of Zvi Hecker has been compared to that of Antonio Gaudi , for expressiveness and expanding of architectural ideas .

More of his later works are the Jewish community center in Duisburg (1996 ? 1999) , and with Rafi Segal , the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv (1995 ? 2000) . The Duisburg Jewish community center is located on a park , the Garten der Erinnerung designed by Dani Karavan . The community center shares a similar concept to the Page Memorial in its likening to the open pages of a book , and symbolically the Torah of Moses . The Palmach Museum has an angular zig @-@ zag plan positioned around the preservation of trees on the site . It is clad in a local sandstone that was found in excavations for the project . It was exhibited at the Venice Biennale .

= = Museum exhibits = =

Hecker was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Israel Museum in 1976 . He had solo exhibitions at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in the 1980s and in 1996 . He also took part in the Jewish Identity in Contemporary Architecture at the Jewish Museum Berlin in 2005 , and has participated in the Venice Biennale on a number of occasions .