

= Mamilla =

Mamilla (Hebrew : מָמִילָה) is a neighbourhood of Jerusalem that was established in the late 19th century outside the Old City , west of the Jaffa Gate . Until 1948 it was a mixed Jewish @-@ Arab business district . Between 1948 and 1967 , it was located along the armistice line between the Israeli and Jordanian @-@ held sector of the city , and many buildings were destroyed by Jordanian shelling . The Israeli government approved an urban renewal project for Mamilla , apportioning land for residential and commercial zones , including hotels and office space . The Mamilla Mall opened in 2007 .

= = Geography = =

The neighbourhood of Mamilla is located within the northwest extension of the Hinnom Valley , which extends from the southwest corner of the Old City along the city 's western wall . The neighbourhood is bounded by the Jaffa Gate and Jaffa Road to the east and north , the downtown and Rehavia neighbourhood above it to the west , and Yemin Moshe 's upward slope along its southwestern edge . Its total area is 120 dunam (0 @.@ 12 square kilometres (0 @.@ 05 sq mi)) .

= = History = =

= = = Ottoman era = = =

In the late 19th century , the area around the Old City walls was barren and undeveloped . It was only notable for the junction of paths that would become Jaffa Road and the highway to Jaffa , with the road to Hebron outside the Jaffa Gate . Among its first structures was the Hospice Saint Vincent de Paul , part of the emerging French Compound . The early building developed as an extension of the adjacent souk along the city walls at the Jaffa Gate as a quarter for merchants and artisans . It became home for commerce and residences that could not find room within the overcrowded Old City , and several of Jerusalem 's prominent modern businesses , like Hotel Fast , were first built here . In 1908 , the Ottoman authorities erected a clock tower above Jaffa Gate . The British removed it a decade later .

= = = British Mandate era = = =

The British arrival in Jerusalem heralded a rational philosophy of infrastructure planning and development . It respected cultural and historic heritage and attempted to preserve such elements within the blossoming construction of the modern city . The city walls were identified as such an element , so British workers acted to clear away the stalls on their perimeter and maintain an open area between the walls and the rest of the New City in the interest of an aesthetically pleasing visual basin . By the same token , planners demolished the Ottoman clock tower to preserve a historic skyline .

Following the approval of the 1947 UN Partition Plan , an Arab mob ransacked and burned much of the district and stabbed some of its Jewish residents in the course of the 1947 Jerusalem riots , one of the events leading to the area 's decades @-@ long stagnation .

= = = Jordanian era = = =

As the 1948 Arab @-@ Israeli War commenced , the neighbourhood 's location between Israeli and Jordanian forces made it a combat zone , leading to the flight of both Jewish and Arab residents . On May 22 , 1948 the US Consul , Thomas C. Wasson , was assassinated shortly after leaving the French Consulate in the Mamilla district . After the signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreements and

division of Jerusalem , the western three @-@ quarters of Mamilla were held by Israel and the eastern quarter became a no man 's land of barbed @-@ wire and concrete barricades between Israeli and Jordanian lines . The active and hostile border subjected Mamilla to Jordanian sniper and guerilla attacks , and even stones thrown by Arab Legionnaires from the Old City walls above . The neighbourhood was one of several border areas in the city to experience a sharp decline , and subsequently became home to families of new immigrants with many children and of weak financial abilities , as well as dirty light industry like auto repair . In Mamilla in this period , the residents were primarily Kurdish immigrants and their Israeli children .

= = = Reunification and urban renewal plans = = =

After the Six @-@ Day War , Jerusalem 's municipal borders were expanded to include the Old City and beyond . Barricades that had lined the border were torn down . Many buildings on Mamilla 's eastern end were in shambles from the fighting and lack of maintenance . Several historic buildings were condemned . One was the Stern House , which housed Zionist leader Theodor Herzl on his 1898 visit . However , popular outcry brought Supreme Court involvement which led to the temporary dismantling and reassembly nearby of this historical landmark .

The 1970s saw numerous proposals for rehabilitating the neighbourhood , and it was defined as a zone of high @-@ priority for reconstruction efforts . The administration responsible for preservation and construction in the Old City took Mamilla under its jurisdiction as well , both because of its proximity and its possession of many of the same considerations that the British weighed when regulating its development . A 1972 master @-@ plan for revitalising the city centre transferred 100 of the 120 dunams (0 @.@ 1 square kilometres (0 @.@ 04 sq mi)) to Karta , the municipal firm led by architects Gilbert Weil and Moshe Safdie charged with the project , and called for the destruction of almost every building save the French Hospice St. Vincent de Paul . The plan called for a subterranean street system , over @-@ ground buildings for offices and stores , a pedestrian promenade , parking for 1 @,@ 000 cars , and a bus terminal .

This plan evoked massive criticism throughout the city government , although mayor Teddy Kollek lent full political backing to the plan . When deputy mayor Meron Benvenisti commissioned a more conservative plan under architect David Kroyanker based on facadism , the mayor immediately filed it away without any discussion . Karta evicted 700 families , communal institutions , and businesses , placing them in the then @-@ developing neighbourhoods of Baka and Neve Yaakov , and moved the industry to Talpiot , the seed of its current industrial zone . The evictions cost the Israeli government over \$ 60 million and were only completed in 1988 , when Mamilla ceased to exist as a neighbourhood and instead became a " compound " slated for future construction .

The evicted residents were mostly Jewish immigrants from Arab states whose weak financial status left them vulnerable to Kollek 's plan . The following steep increase in real @-@ estate values of formerly depressed areas like Mamilla near the former armistice line and the Old City was perceived by evicted Mizrahi Jews as an injustice . This became a key issue in 1970s Israeli social upheaval and the founding of the Black Panthers movement in Israel .

After 16 years of controversy , during which the half @-@ constructed Mamilla project remained an eyesore in the heart of the city , a revised plan drawn up by architect Moshe Safdie incorporating elements of Kroyanker 's conservative design moved forward in 1986 . The new plan called for the compound to be divided into four areas : an open @-@ air mall with mixed @-@ use 3 @-@ 6 storey buildings and a multi @-@ storey car park , terraced residential housing , and two hotels along its border with the downtown . The British Ladbroke Group plc , which controls the Hilton Hotels Corporation , won the bid to build the project 's main hotel (originally Hilton Jerusalem and now David Citadel Hotel) and its housing , which it built as a luxury gated community named David 's Village (Hebrew : ??????? ?????? , Kfar David) .

Numerous disputes between Karta and Ladbroke led the British firm to exit the project , and its shares were assumed by Alfred Akirov 's Alrov company . However , further objections from many sources ? including religious groups opposed to an entertainment area so close to the Old City and possible operation on the Jewish Sabbath ? kept construction at a crawl . Both Alrov and Karta

accused each other of breach of contract and sued . After years of frozen construction and drawn out mediation , the Jerusalem district court found parts of both parties ' complaints to be justified and ordered 100 million NIS paid to Alrov by Karta , which allowed construction to resume .

May 28 , 2007 saw the opening of phase one of the shopping mall and part of the 600 meter promenade . The completion of the remainder of the promenade , the Stern House rebuilding , and the other construction , including the 207 room five star second hotel , is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2008 .

Like several other luxury neighbourhoods in the city , apartments in the David 's Village development are mostly owned by foreigners who visit for only a few days or weeks a year . Critics contend that this makes it a ghost town in the city centre .

Mamilla is also the location of the projected Simon Wiesenthal Center 's Center for Human Dignity , a controversial project because its construction would require building on part of an old Muslim cemetery .

== Mamilla Mall ==

The \$ 150 million , pedestrian only Mamilla shopping mall has been touted as a luxury destination in the style of Los Angeles ' Rodeo Drive or The Grove . Its commercial space is leased at \$ 40 to \$ 80 per square metre to 140 businesses , including international names like Rolex , MAC , H. Stern , Nike , Polo Ralph Lauren , Nautica , bebe , and Tommy Hilfiger , as well as local chains like Castro , Ronen Chen , Steimatzky Books , and Cafe Rimon . The mall is also slated to house an IMAX theatre . The first Gap store in Israel opened in Mamilla Mall in August 2009 .

== Teddy Fountain ==

The Teddy Fountain opened on the valley slope in 2013 .

== Notable residents ==

Uri Malmilian (born 1957) , football (soccer) player and manager