UNDER JERUSALEM: THE RELENTLESS MODERNIZATION OF JEWISH ANTIQUITY

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19.00 - 20.00

Ledras 68, 1010,Nicosia
Ground Floor,Exhibition Area
Department of Architecture
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"The Western Wall Tunnels" and "The City of David" are two archeological sites that have been rapidly developed in recent years to accommodate an exponential growth of visitors. This development requires considerable mediation between archeology and architecture, or rather, between the materials of the past and their perception and use in the present. The result is a new set of spaces that preservationists and architects laboriously produce in the archeological digs of Jerusalem, under Palestinian residences, in order to accommodate a new web of inter-connected visitor centers. The talk demonstrates how the evolving relationship between their archeological material, their architectural form, and their cultural and political content is necessary for a more robust development—the intersection of these underground centers with the urban space of the present city and the methods of evaluating its monuments.

ALONA NITZAN-SHIFTAN

Alona Nitzan-Shiftan is an architectural historian and theorist, and an associate professor at the Technion, where she heads the Arenson Built Heritage Research Center. She received her PhD from MIT, and her work was sponsored by CASVA, Getty/ UCLA, and the Frankel Institute at the University of Michigan. Her research on the politics of architecture and heritage, on architectural modernism in Israel and the United States, and on critical historiography has been widely published. She was the president of the European Architectural History Network (EAHN), and the co-chair of its thematic conference, Histories in Conflict. Her award winning book Seizing Jerusalem: The Architectures of Unilateral Unification was published in 2017 by University of Minnesota Press.