

**“I hope this plan finds itself in  
the dustbin of history.”**

**David Kroyanker, architect, urban planner and  
architectural historian of Jerusalem**

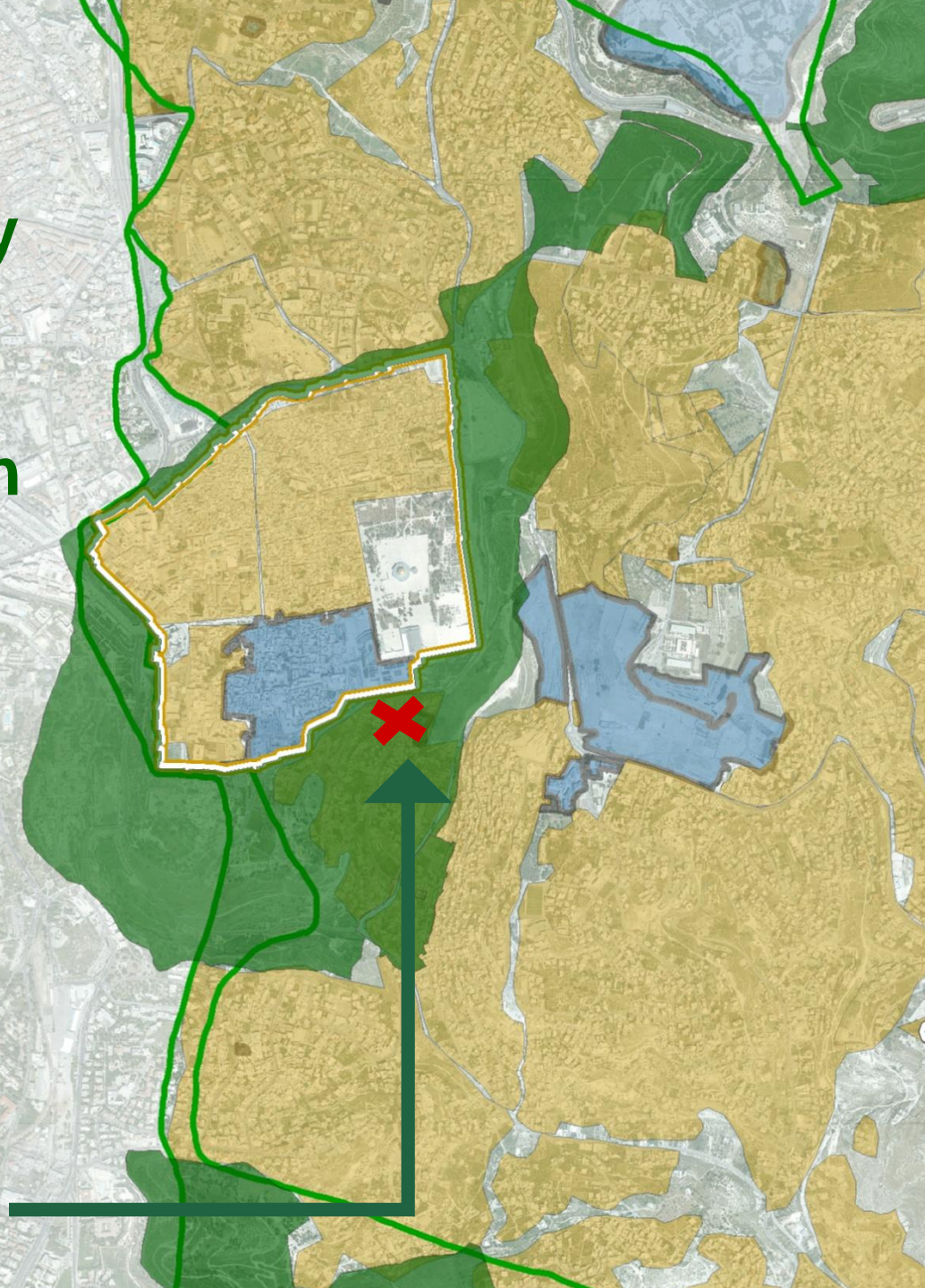
**Have you heard of the  
Kedem Compound?**



**The “Kedem Compound”, potentially the most ostentatious structure built in the area of the Old City in a hundred years, is slated to be built opposite the Temple Mount/Haram al–Sharif, steps away from the Old City walls, in the heart of the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan.**



The structure will be erected a mere **20 meters** from the Old City walls, in violation of planning principles that have been maintained in Jerusalem since the British Mandate Period and which were incorporated in the Jerusalem Master Plan. These principles forbid new construction within a distance of 75 meters from the **Old City walls**.





An aerial photograph showing the massive, multi-tiered stone walls of the Old City. In the foreground, a large, green, semi-transparent architectural rendering of a proposed building complex, labeled 'Kedem Compound', is overlaid. The rendering shows a long, rectangular structure with internal divisions and a flat roof. A red horizontal line is drawn across the image, passing through the top of the green rendering and the lower part of the city walls. The text 'Height of the Wall' is positioned above this line on the left side. Below the rendering, a block of white text with a black outline provides context about the project's height and its impact on the city's heritage.

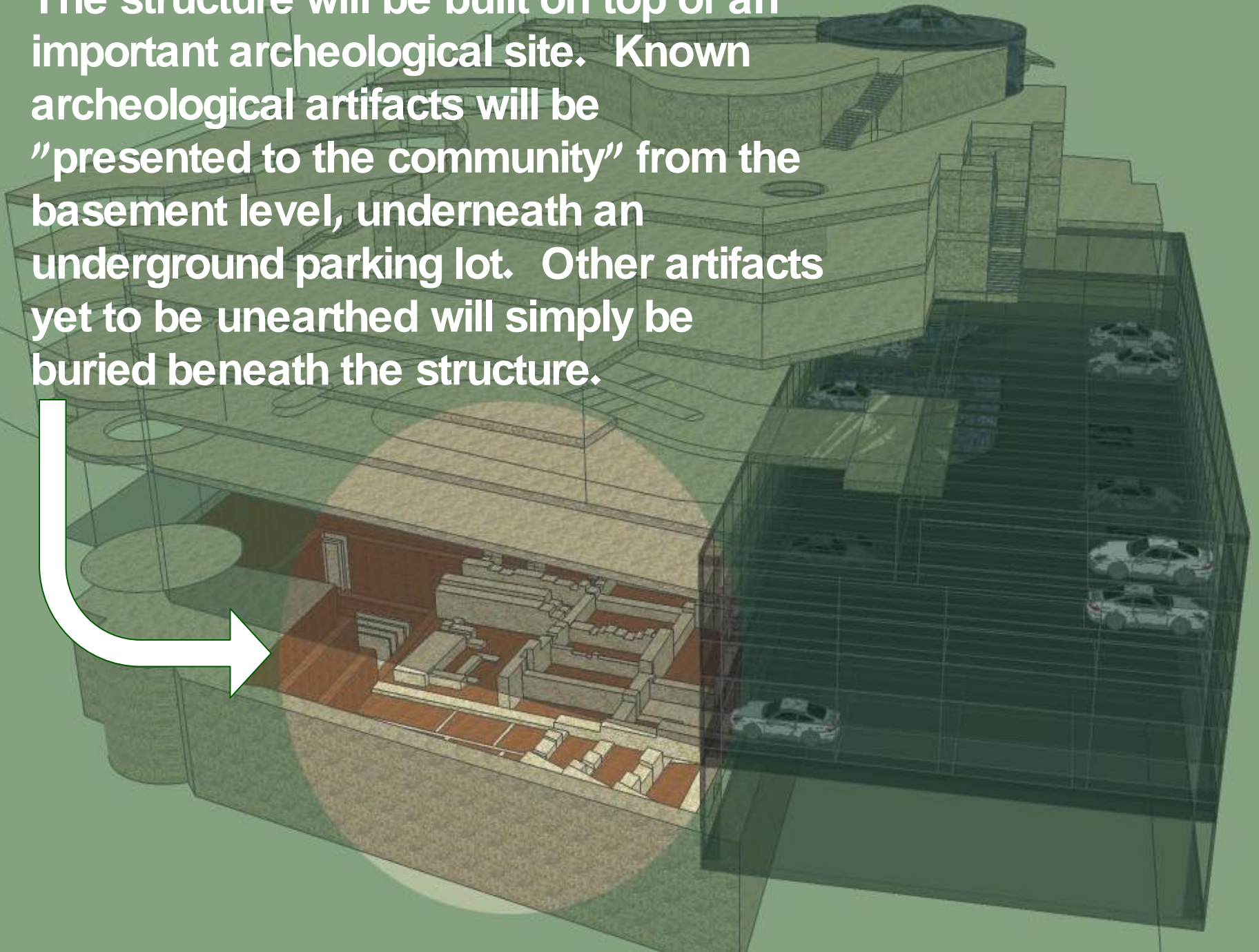
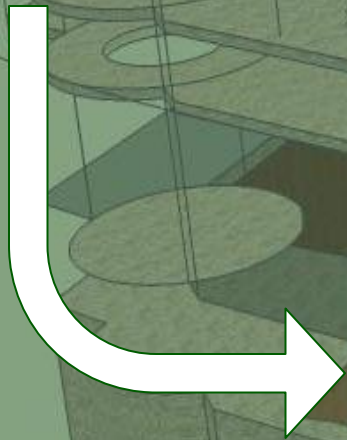
## Height of the Wall


Kedem Compound

If constructed, the Kedem Compound will reach just 4 meters below the height of the Old City walls. And it will be built with complete disregard for planning principles prohibiting new building that obstructs specified views of conservation areas, including the Old City walls. In an effort to blur this reality, the plan was presented to the District Planning and Building Committee using a visual image created from an aerial view.



The structure will be built on top of an important archeological site. Known archeological artifacts will be "presented to the community" from the basement level, underneath an underground parking lot. Other artifacts yet to be unearthed will simply be buried beneath the structure.



The Old City walls of Jerusalem are recognized by  **UNESCO** as an Endangered World Heritage Site and therefore entitled to protection. However, the head of **UNESCO Israel**, the body entrusted with the protection of the Old City walls, is none other than the architect of the plan for the Kedem Compound, Arie Rahamimov.





Alona Nitzan  
Shifan



Ze'ev Sternhell



Haim Gouri



Agi Mishol



David Grossman

**35 urban planners, Israel Prize winners and cultural figures have signed on to a public objection against the plan. According to these 35 figures, "the plan threatens to create a massive multi-story structure at an irresponsible distance from the Old City walls and foreign to its surroundings...the proposed plan would transform the traditional character of the churches of the Old City and lead to the burial of archaeological artifacts."**





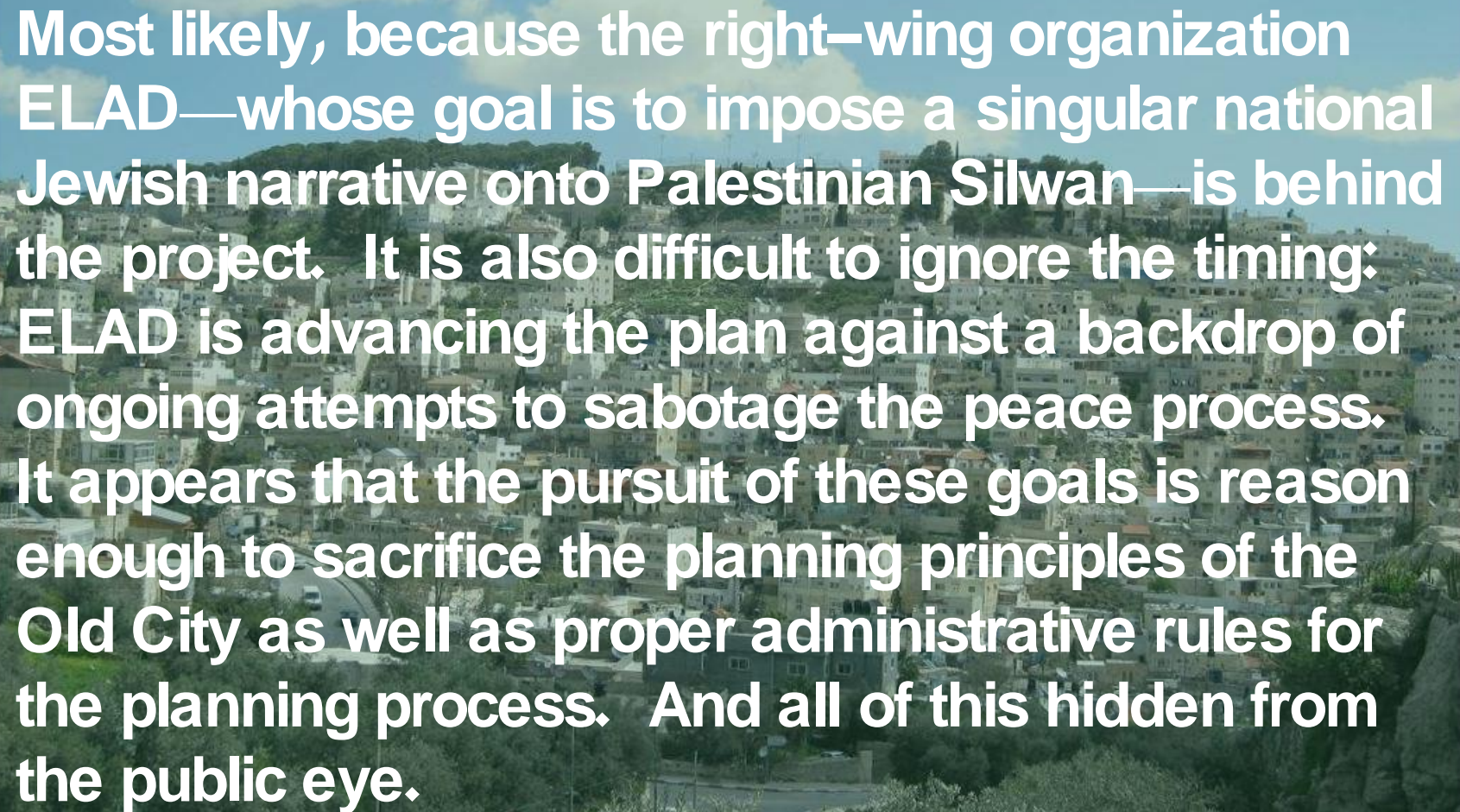
One of the signatories to the public objection is the architect David Kroyanker, winner of the Yakir Yerushalayim Award (Worthy Citizen of Jerusalem) and author of tens of books on the architectural history of Jerusalem. He is also a winner of a Teddy Kollek Lifetime Achievement award for the preservation of historic sites in the city and a previous director of the preservation staff for the Jerusalem 2000 Master Plan. Here is what he has to say:

**“I have been studying Jerusalem urban planning for almost 45 years and never have I encountered such an audacious plan with such destructive potential...there is a question of precedent here. This is an injury to the principles of national park planning, and for that reason, it is an insult...I hope that this plan finds itself in the dustbin of history.”**



A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a light-colored shirt and a patterned jacket, speaking into a microphone. The image is slightly blurred and has a grainy texture. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**The Jerusalem Municipality  
generally prides itself on its  
projects. So in this particular  
case, why has it remained silent?**



Most likely, because the right-wing organization ELAD—whose goal is to impose a singular national Jewish narrative onto Palestinian Silwan—is behind the project. It is also difficult to ignore the timing: ELAD is advancing the plan against a backdrop of ongoing attempts to sabotage the peace process. It appears that the pursuit of these goals is reason enough to sacrifice the planning principles of the Old City as well as proper administrative rules for the planning process. And all of this hidden from the public eye.



The Kedem Compound is one more link in a chain of properties and compounds the State has privatized and passed into the hands of ELAD, including the City of David National Park. Today, a contract to award ELAD management of the Davidson Center archaeological park adjacent to the Western Wall Plaza is currently in the advanced stages of negotiation.

## המדינה תעניק שליטה בחלקים מהכותל לעמותת הימין אלע"ד – ללא מכרז

העמותה, הפועלת לייחוד מזרח ירושלים ומנהלת את עיר דוד, תנהל גם את הגן הארכיאולוגי הכולל את חלקו הדרומי של הכותל



שמונהלת היום את הגן הלאומי עיר דוד ופועלת לייחוד הכפר סילוואן, זו הרחבה משמעותית ביותר של הפעילות הכלכלית והתיירותית והורמנות ליצור חיבור חזק בין עיר דוד לכותל המערבי.

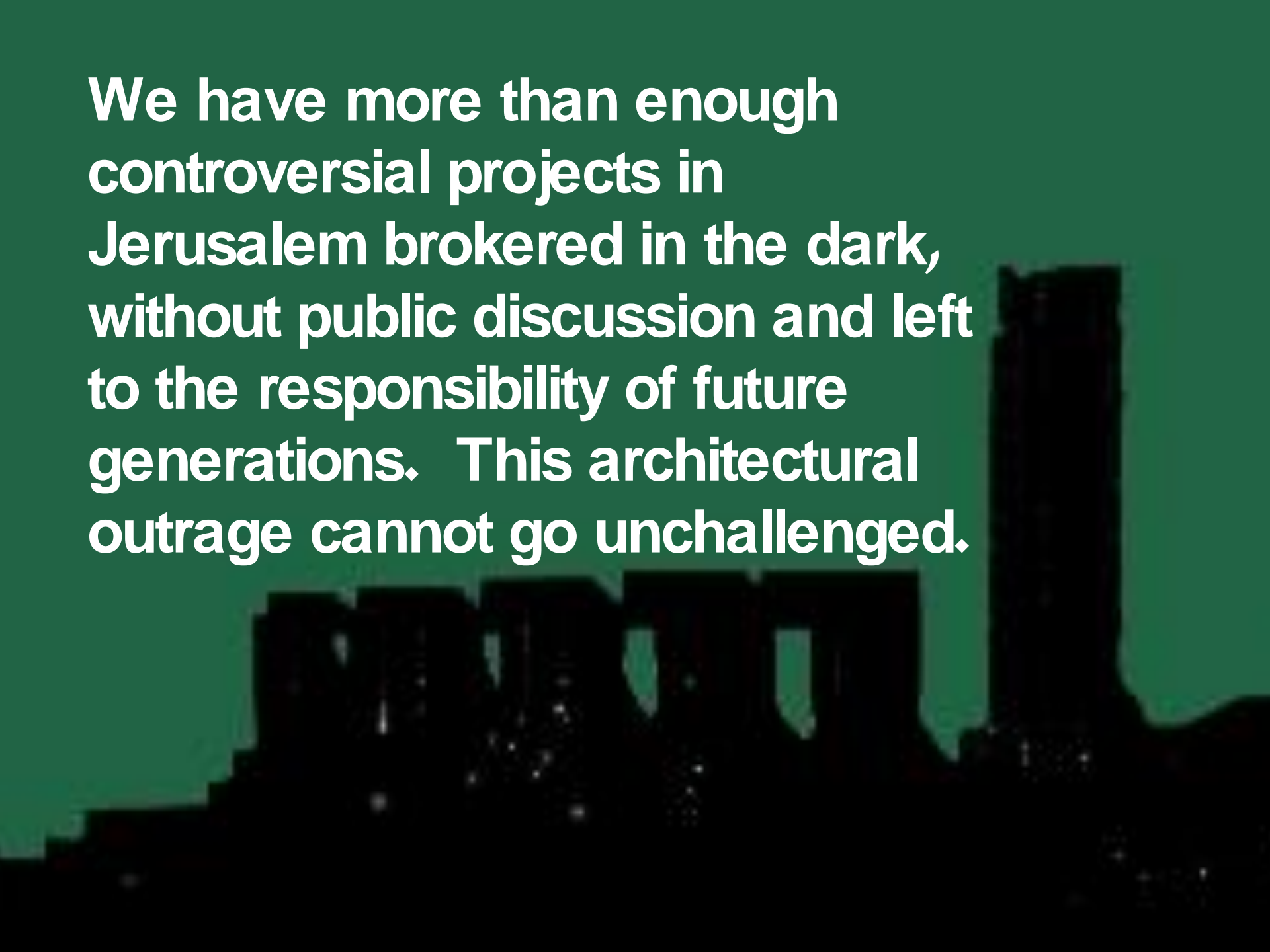
הגן הארכיאולוגי הוקם לאחר מלחמת ששת הימים, כשהכותל חולק לשניים: החלק הצפוני הפך רחבת הכותל והדרומי נותר אתר ארכיאולוגי בניהולה של החברה לפיתוח מזרח ירושלים (פמ"י), חברה ממשלתית שנמצאת בשליטת המשרד לענייני ירושלים (בעבר משרד התיירות) ועיריית ירושלים. לפני כ-20 שנה, בזכות תרומה משמעותית של התורם היהודי-אמריקאי ויליאם דרירסון, הוקם מרכז המבקרים וחורשו הח"פירות הארכיאולוגיות במקום.

בשנים האחרונות נקל-עה פמ"י לסכסוך עם תחנה ממשלתית אחת - התורה לשי-קום ופיתוח הרוכב היהודי שב-שליטת משרד השיכון. החברה המוסלמית. באתר גם הוקמה בא-חרונה הכמה שתאפשר לזרמים הלא-אורתודוקסיים, בהם נשות

### ביר חסון

עמותת אלע"ד עומדת לקבל ילדיה את הניהול של הגן הארכיאולוגי ירושלים, הירוע גם כמרכז דרירסון, שכולל את חלקו הדרומי של הכותל המערבי. ב-מים האחרונים הוכנה טיוטת הסכם בין החברה הממשלתית לפיתוח הרובע היהודי, בעלת השטח, לבין העמותה. בירי הח"ברה הממשלתית יש חוות דעת משפטית לפיה היא יכולה להתקשר עם אלע"ד בהסכם ללא מכרז. הגן הארכיאולוגי ירושלים, שנמצא מדרום לרחבת הכותל, כר-לל בתוכו את רוב שטחו החשוף של הכותל המערבי (כשני שלישים), כמה מהאתרים הארכיאולוגיים החשובים שיש בירושלים, בהם קשת רובינסון, אבני החורב, הר-חוב ההרודיאני, "בית התקיעה" (פינת הר הבית שעמדה עליו ותור-קע בתצוגות כימיה בית המקדש) וכן שרידים של מבנים מהתקופה המוסלמית. באתר גם הוקמה בא-חרונה הכמה שתאפשר לזרמים הלא-אורתודוקסיים, בהם נשות

**We have more than enough controversial projects in Jerusalem brokered in the dark, without public discussion and left to the responsibility of future generations. This architectural outrage cannot go unchallenged.**





# These public figures have already signed on to the public objection. Will you ?

Almog Behar

Professor Moshe Halbertal

Professor Ze'ev Sternhell

Architect David Kroyanker

Agi Mishol

David Grossman

Professor Alona Nitzan-Shiftan

Roy Hasan

Professor Zali Gurevitch

Dr. Meron Benvenisti

Professor Elisha Efrat

Larry Abramson

Professor Elhanan Reiner

Dr. Haim Yacobi

Haim Gouri

Ilan Baruch

Professor Yoram Bilu

Professor Yaron Ezrahi

Professor Ayala Ronel

Professor Moshe Margalit

Architect Shmuel Groag

Professor Alice Shalvi

Professor Yossi Ben-Artzi

Architect Omri Eytan

Professor Ronnie Ellenblum

Dr. Gideon Efrat

Architect Yuval Yasky

Professor Tzibi Geva

Benjamin Shvili

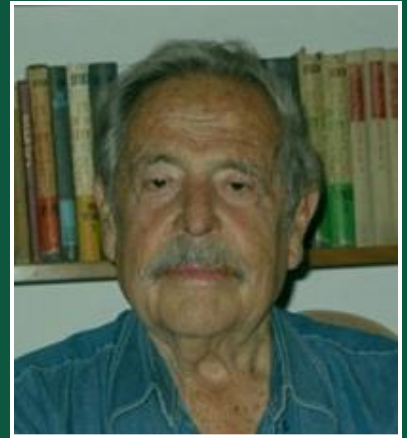
Architect Dov Alon

Professor David Guggenheim

Dr. Gilad Meiri

Professor Menachem Brinker

**“Jerusalem is the three religions and two nations that cling to it; it is such a wondrous city and something like this just cannot be done by the insolence of one side. I am deeply concerned about this [Kedem Compound].”**



**Haim Gouri**, poet,  
author, lyricist;  
winner of the Bialik  
Prize, Israel Prize  
and Sokolov Prize

# Hands Off the Walls !

You can help us halt the Kedem Project by spreading the word. Please circulate this presentation.



Provided  
as a  
public  
service