

Tel Aviv

Unlike the world changing ideas which the prophets of the Bible preached in Jerusalem hardly anybody knows about the idealism of the founders of Tel Aviv.

Their Ideal was twofold; to rejuvenate the land that had been neglected for nearly 2000 years and the nation who had been scattered from their ancient homeland by cruel enemies.

Tel Aviv, more than any other settlement which the idealistic pioneers established, embodies both of these ideas, expressed in the name, Tel Aviv, Hill of Spring, taken from Ezekiel 3:15.

The founders envisioned a city which would be a "Hebrew urban centre in a healthy environment, planned according to the rules of aesthetics and modern hygiene"¹.

So it was only natural that the founders built Tel Aviv according to a plan by Sir Patrick Geddes, a famous Scottish Urbanist influenced by the Garden City Movement¹

This is what makes walking in Tel Aviv so pleasant. Dizengoff Str has beautiful, leafy ficus trees on either side where students sit in sidewalk cafes typing intently on their mini, mobile computers as they sip coffee and nibble pastries, salads and cakes and their dogs lie curled up sleeping peacefully next to them or bark nervously at little boys like Kyle who wake and frighten them.

In Rothschild Boulevard cyclists and strollers moving leisurely along the path separating the tarmac strips of road on either side like a tropical island in the middle of the ocean, hardly notice the passing, noisy cars.

Here too the founding fathers, being full of garden city hope, planted ficus trees, now giants gaily waving at the heavens in their height and

casting primordial darkness in the midst of the most fiery city day so that even the drivers wait patiently in the centre of town traffic because the young people cavorting and strolling on the island paradise next to them, unknowingly entertain them

