XS TO XXL:
From micro-urbanism to the region

Civil Society as City Maker

The Israel Urban Forum

Tel Avir | Elissa Rosenberg | September 13, 2016

XS:

“Micro-practices”-
“Micro-urbanism”

Bottom-up design
Activism
DIY (do it yourself) urbanism
Urban acupuncture

what is “micro-urbanism”?

small-scale, informal interventions often carried out by citizens.

- **Emphasis on the local, small- scale or single project**
- **Temporary (vs. fixed, long-term) intervention**
- **Flexibility and/or improvisation;**
- **open-ended planning and adaptation**
- **Informal (vs. formal) practices**
- **Participatory decision-making processes, activism, entrepreneurialism**

- temporary installations and pop-ups
- appropriating urban spaces for unintended public uses,
- establishing alternative economies.

- new practices and tools
- empowers new groups
- Experimentation

- can be realized relatively simply, quickly and cheaply

- site-specific approach to urban space that responds to local needs
- flexibility and adaptability within cities that are facing rapid political, economic, and cultural changes

What is “urban acupuncture”?

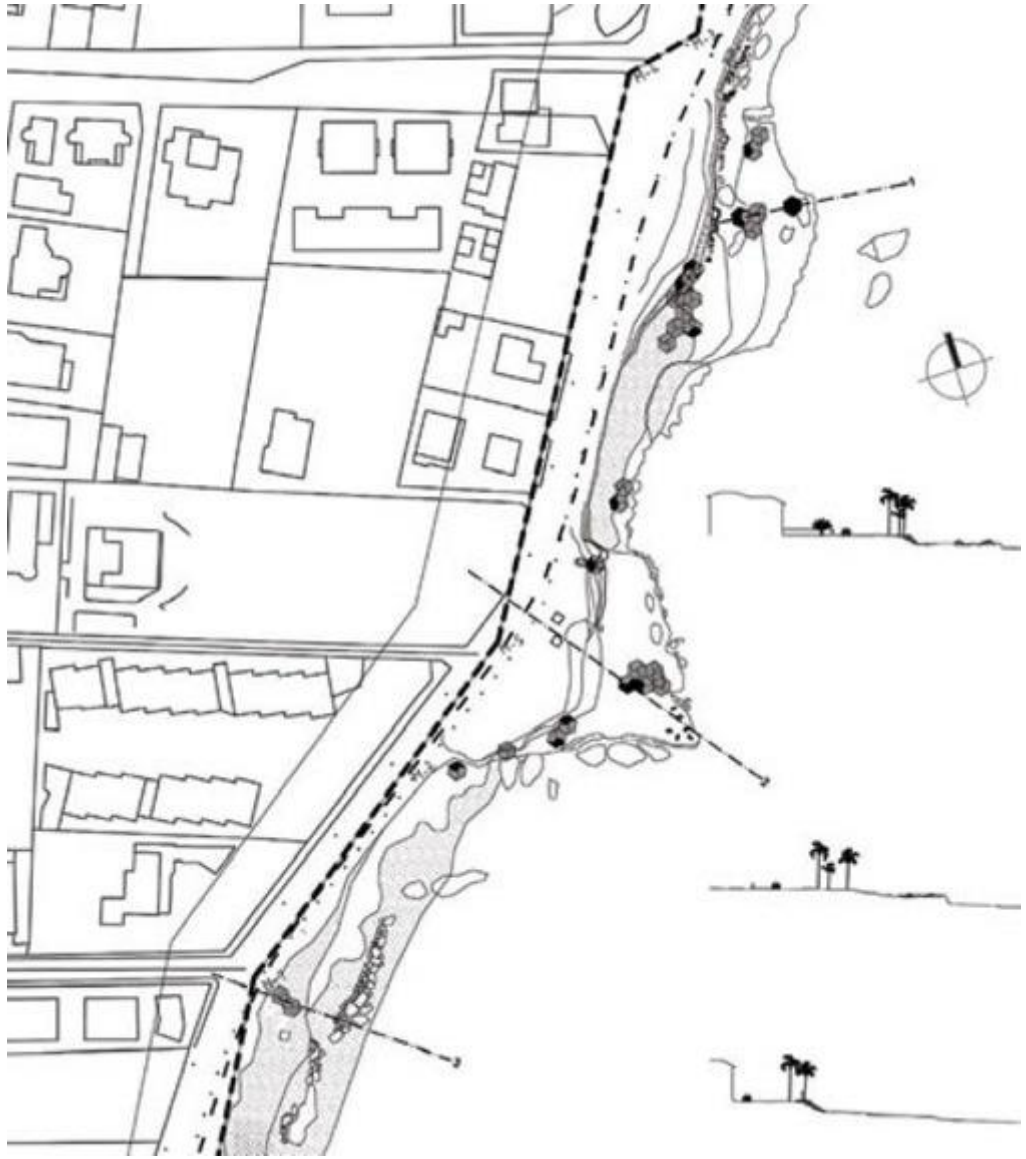
localized interventions at strategic pressure points to achieve a healing effect on the whole body

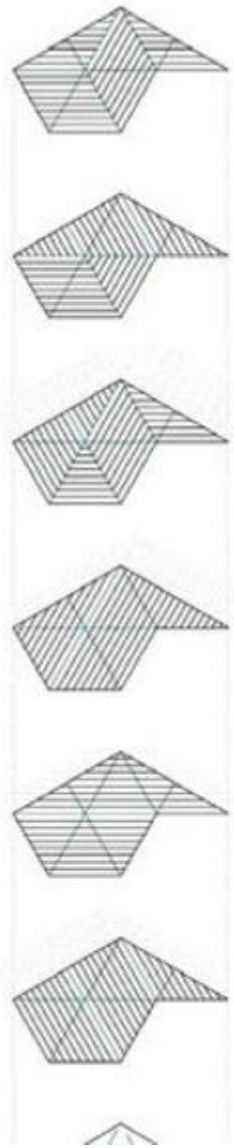
“I believe that some medicinal “magic” can and should be applied to cities, as many are sick and some nearly terminal. As with the medicine needed in the interaction between doctor and patient, in urban planning it is also necessary to make the city react; to poke an area in such a way that it is able to help heal, improve, and create positive chain reactions. It is indispensable in revitalizing interventions to make the organism work in a different way.”

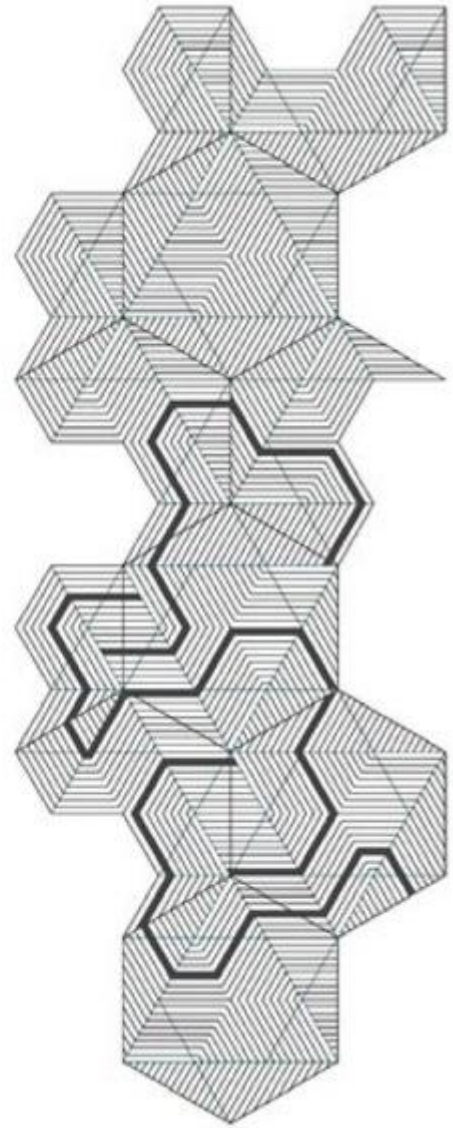
– Jaime Lerner, former Mayor of Curritiba, Brazil *Urban Acupuncture* (2014)

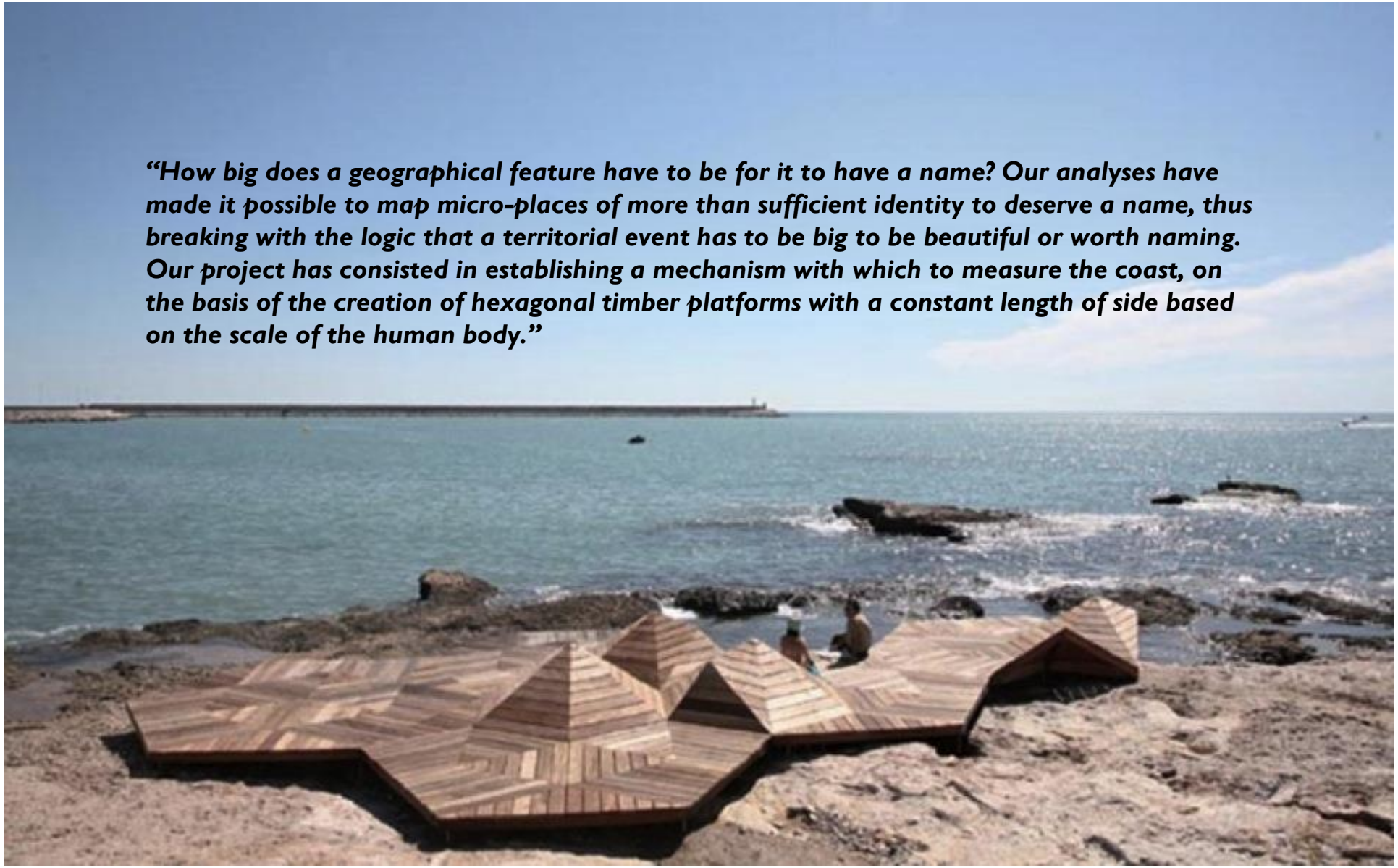
micro-scale

Microcoasts,
Vinaros, Spain
Guallart Architects, 2007








“How big does a geographical feature have to be for it to have a name? Our analyses have made it possible to map micro-places of more than sufficient identity to deserve a name, thus breaking with the logic that a territorial event has to be big to be beautiful or worth naming. Our project has consisted in establishing a mechanism with which to measure the coast, on the basis of the creation of hexagonal timber platforms with a constant length of side based on the scale of the human body.”

“SHOEHORN PARKS”

Peter Harnik, 2009. “Shoehorn Parks”, *Landscape Architecture Magazine*

SCHOOLYARDS
ROOFTOPS
COMMUNITY GARDENS
STORMWATER CHANNELS
CLOSING STREETS AND ROADS
REMOVING PARKING

“Squeezing innovative green spaces into crowded cities requires looking for land in unexpected places”

Peter Harnik, 2009. “Shoehorn Parks”, *Landscape Architecture Magazine*

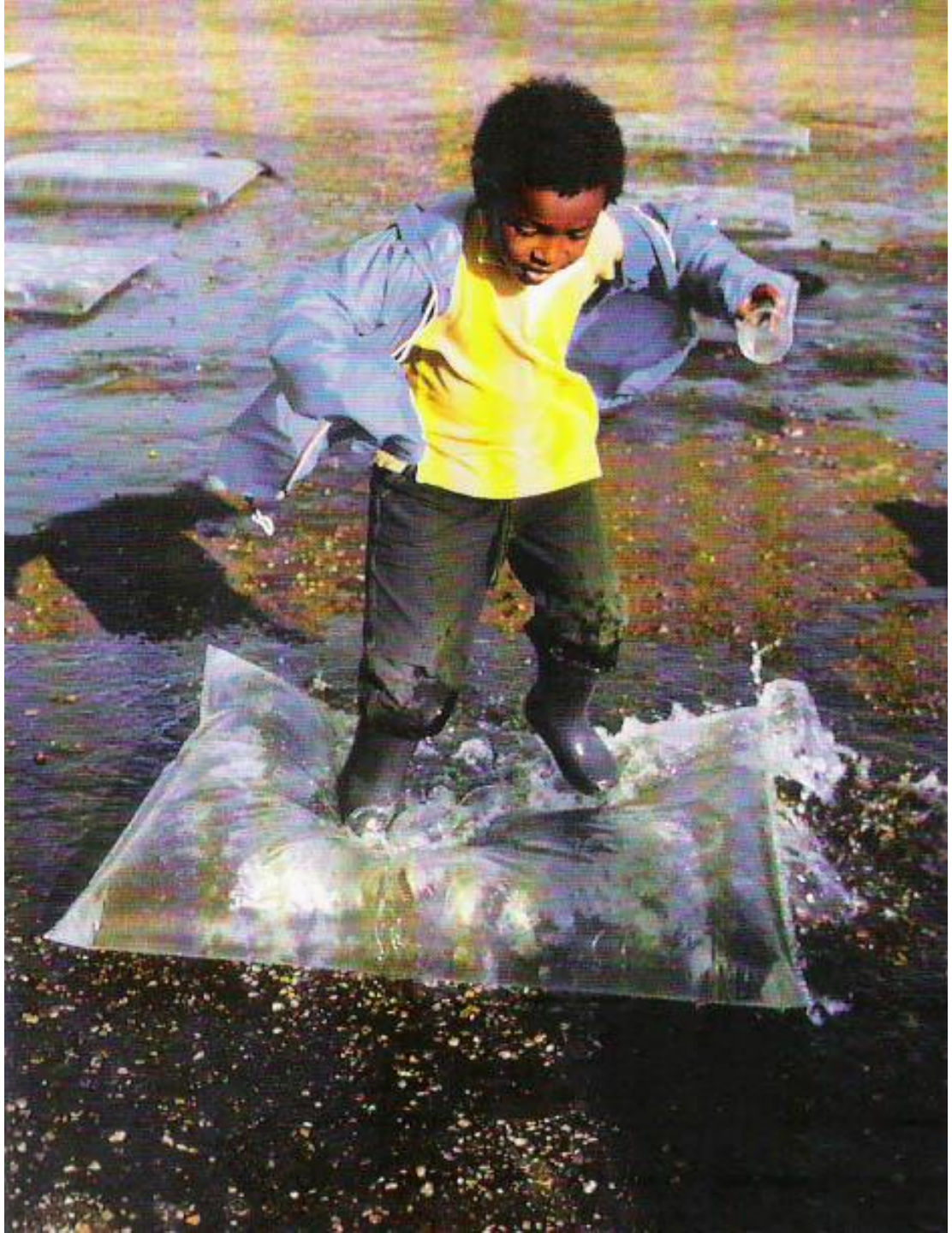
temporary uses/ “meanwhile” uses

Temporary spaces

Park(ing) Day-
Rebar

Pop up *Communi-kitchen*,
Bat Yam Biennale, 2008
Tula Amir, Nicky Davidoff, Naomi Simhoni, Tali Bergel

Jardin portuaire
Le Havre 2001
Thilo Folkerts



Dumpster Pool
Park Avenue, NY, 2010
Macro Sea

mobility

350 White Chairs
Rotterdam, 2012
M.E.S.T

mobility

200 Lawn Chairs
Times Square, New York, 2009
Times Square Alliance

Edible Wall
Green Bronx Machine
2009- present

mobile plant walls for high school students in the Bronx – Teaacher Steven Ritz

appropriation

appropriation

Pop up garden
Philadelphia, 2011

Community Garden
Minnesota Blvd
Givat Olga, 2016

The Ramp Garden
Central Bus Station
Tel Aviv, 2016

Onya Collective

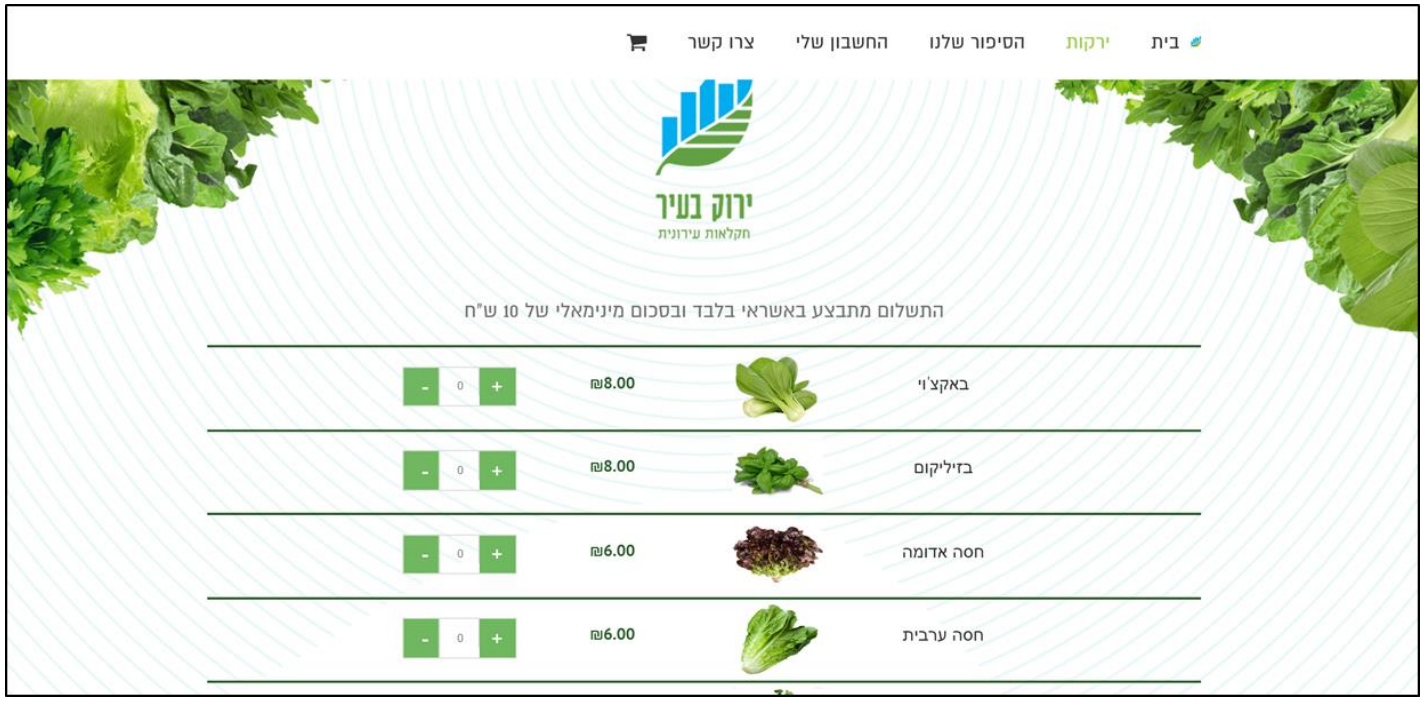
© Gabi Berger Photography

מגדל לוינשטין
בנק הפועלים

© Gabi Berger Photography

נוה שאנן
neve shaanan

Edible gardens, Ahuza Street
Ra’anana, Israel, 2015
Keren Gottlieb, Final Project, Holon Institute of Technology
(Advisor: Sigal Bar Nir)



Living Green- Yarok Ba'Ir
Dizengoff Center rooftop farm, Tel Aviv

Aquaponic farming- Wholesale and retail

reclamation

Side effect Garden,
Bat Yam Biennale, 2010
Amir Lotan

community entrepreneurship/ activism

The Garden Library for Refugees and Migrant Workers
Park Levinsky, Tel Aviv

Yoav Meiri Architects with ARTEAM and Mesila

New partnerships, coalitions and models of practice

1. Community activism
2. Collectives
3. Cooperatives
4. Community Entrepreneurship
5. Academic-community partnerships

thank you!