

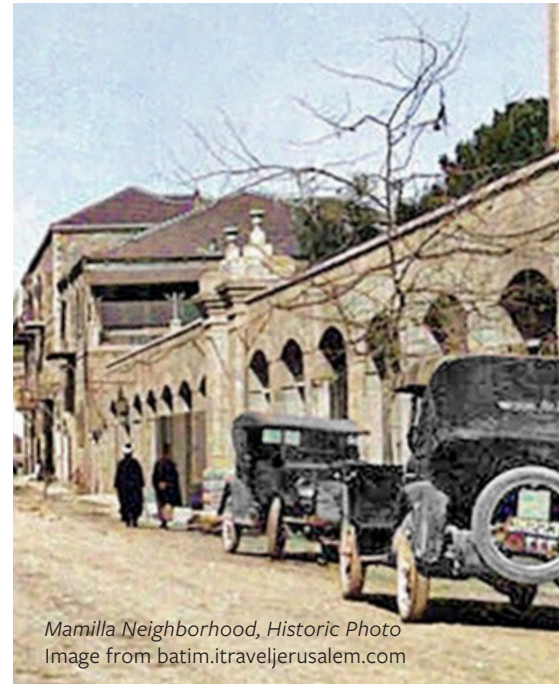
OPEN HOUSES: JERUSALEM FROM WITHIN

Jerusalem, the eternal city, with a history spanning thousands of years, harbors many hidden stories. Have you ever wondered about the impressive building across the street from Damascus Gate? Did you know that historic homes are hiding in Mamilla Mall? Are you curious about where famous poets, writers, and artists lived and worked? All of that and much more is revealed through an annual urban festival “Open House Jerusalem.” For one weekend in the fall, the public is invited to experience the diverse fabric of the city and its rich history through a fascinating program of 132 sites, tours, and activities.

Next time you are in Jerusalem, don't forget to take a good look at the old (and ancient!) buildings and let your imagination transport you to a bygone era. Here are a few of the highlights:

1. PAULUS-HAUS

The impressive building across the street from the Damascus Gate was built in 1908. It was originally built to be a guest house for German pilgrims. From 1917-1948 it served as a British Mandate administration building, and nowadays it is a guesthouse for pilgrims once more. The architect, Heinrich Renard, was also the designer of the Abbey of the Dormition, located on Mount Zion, just outside the walls of the Old City near the Zion Gate.



Mamilla Neighborhood, Historic Photo
Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com



Persian Consul House
Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com



The Make-Believe Consulate
Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com

Open Houses: Jerusalem From Within (continued)

2. WHAT'S HIDING IN MAMILLA MALL?

Mamilla is a sprawling pedestrian mall connecting the new city to the old city of Jerusalem via Jaffa Gate. Opened in 2007, it was transformed from a poor and dangerous neighborhood into a luxury mall. The neighborhood's long and varied history is revealed through old facades and houses that were renovated and are a testament to the people who inhabited it—Theodore Herzl among them. On his only visit to Jerusalem, in 1898, Herzl stayed at the Stern House, which is now a Steimatzky bookstore. In the decades following, it was renamed the “Herzl House,” to commemorate the visit of such an influential figure in Israel's history.

3. THE PERSIAN CONSUL HOUSE

The house in the Abu Tor neighborhood was built at the end of the Ottoman Period, at the beginning of the 20th century. During the British Mandate the house, with a spectacular view from the roof and a beautiful garden, was rented to the Persian consul. After the consul was recalled to his country, the house served as an officers' club of the British Royal Corps of Engineers.

After the establishment of the state, the border between Israel and Jordan ran very close to the house. A kindergarten was opened on the ground floor, and the rest of the house was inhabited by the family of Yehoshua Baruchi, an employee of the JNF, and their nine children.

Today it houses [Kulna](#), a non-profit organization advancing Arab-Jewish coexistence.

This house encapsulates Israel's most recent historical periods: the Ottoman period, the British Mandate, the establishment of the state, and present-day Jerusalem.

During the festival, the house was host to a contemporary art exhibition called, “The Make-Believe Consulate.” The exhibition aimed to revive the feel of the building during different periods of its history, allowing visitors to enter a fictional reality in which the periods exist simultaneously. It featured live performances, art shows, music, video screenings, with audience participation.



Botanical Garden Event Center
Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com



Resources:

- Explore [Paulus-Haus](#) and rejuvenated [Mamilla Neighborhood's](#) history
- Check out the [Persian Consul House](#) and the [Make-Believe Consulate!](#)

Open Houses: Jerusalem From Within (continued)

4. POETS, ARTISTS, AND WRITERS

Several homes of influential artists are included in this year's Open Houses. Here are a few of them:



Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com

[Author Haim Hazaz' house](#)



Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com

[Painter Litvinovsky's studio](#)



Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com

[Bezalel Founder Boris Shatz's House](#)



Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com

[Ceramic artist Gaia Kipnis Smith's House](#)



From "Autonomous Exhibit" at Litvinovsky's studio
Image from batim.itraveljerusalem.com



Virtually "visit" the [other 132 sites](#)