



מרכז אוצר צפת
TSFAT LEGACY CENTER

The Source. The ReSource.



Tsfat – *The Source*

Tsfat has always been a source of wisdom and inspiration for the Jewish people.

The Source of Jewish Law and Practice – The definitive compilation of Halacha, the Shulchan Aruch, was written in Tsfat by Rav Yosef Karo.

The Source of Jewish Spirituality, Mysticism and Theology – The seminal teachings of the Kabbalah were revealed and disseminated in Tsfat by the AriZal and his disciples.

The Source of Prayer – The practice and poetry of the Siddur were formulated in Tsfat: From *Modeh Ani* in the morning to *Lecha Dodi* on Shabbat.

The Source of Unity – To this very day, Tsfat is the single spiritual center in Israel – and the world – in which internecine friction is notably absent.

The Source of Inspiration – Throughout the centuries, from Marranos fleeing Spain to American Generation Y, Jews have discovered hope and spiritual, renewal in Tsfat.

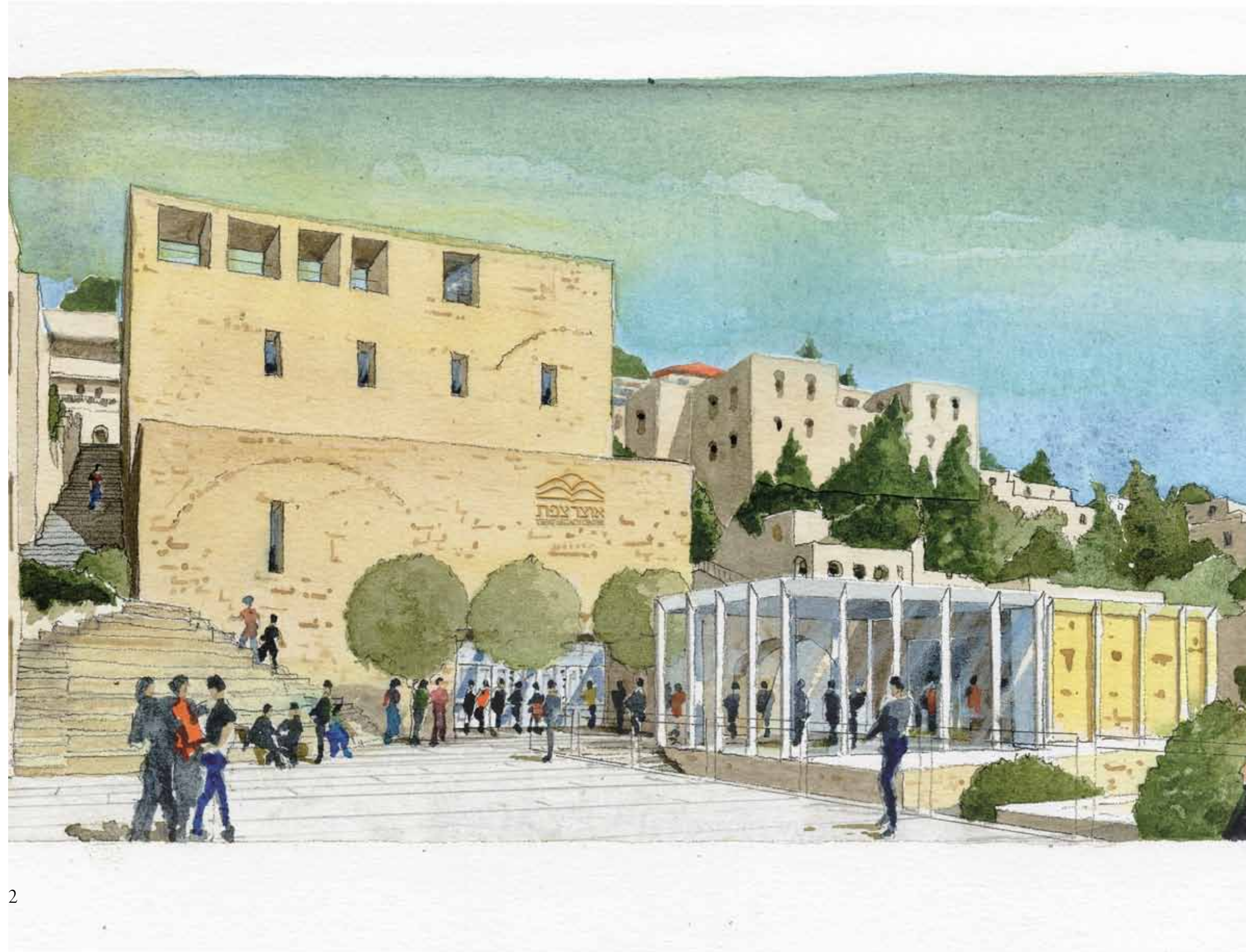
Unrealized Potential

Today, when so many Jews are alienated from meaningful sources of Jewish life and learning, the spiritual legacy of Tsfat has the potential **to nourish the collective Jewish spirit, strengthen Jewish identity and connect Jews to their common source.**

Yet, of the four holy cities in Israel – Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias and Tsfat – only Tsfat remains a mystery to most of the over one million people who visit each year. The visitors come and go – Jews from all over the world, Federation missions, Birthright, Israeli high school field trips – departing after a short, superficial excursion with little more than some snapshots and a trinket or two, and having enjoyed a falafel and Coke in its picturesque market.

Missed Opportunity

What they don't take with them is an appreciation of the centrality of Tsfat to whom we are as Jews; indeed, to the very fact that there is Jewish life at all. They are missing Tsfat's golden opportunity to discover the priceless treasure in which they find themselves.



The Tsfat Legacy Center – *The Resource*

World Jewry lacks the key to unlock the treasures of Tsfat.

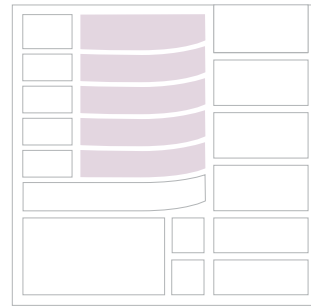
The single resource founded on a vision of renewing Tsfat's historic role as a global capital of Jewish life and learning.

The single resource poised to leverage Tsfat as a strategic educational asset of the Jewish people.

The single resource pursuing a mission to infuse the Tsfat experience with profoundly relevant content drawn from the treasury of the Tsfat masters.

The Tsfat Legacy Center will be that Resource. A dynamic platform to engage, inspire and educate world Jewry through the ideas, ideals and practices that emanated from Tsfat.

The Tsfat Heritage Library



The Center's heart will be the Tsfat Heritage Library, a treasury containing the definitive collection of teachings of the Tsfat masters through the ages. It will include all the legal, mystical and liturgical works written in Tsfat over the course of half a millennium, as well as the thousands of volumes of commentary and elucidation which are rooted in these seminal writings.

This core collection will be complemented by a remarkable collection of general Judaic books, making the Tsfat Heritage Library one of the largest Judaic libraries in Israel, housing over 100,000 volumes.

Tower of Wisdom

The Library's collection will be housed in the dramatic Tower of Wisdom – the world's first and only showcase of the Torah's Oral Tradition (Torah She'Baal Peh). Where else can the uninitiated Jew encounter the complete treasury of Jewish

wisdom, connecting him to generations of Jewish life and learning? The six story tower is being designed to arouse wonder, inspiration and pride at the rich heritage which has made the Jewish people “the people of the books”.

Rare Book Room

From its inception, the Tsfat Heritage Library will be actively engaged in an ongoing global search to acquire manuscripts and first editions of all works originating in Tsfat. These precious treasures will be housed in a unique rare books chamber, designed to, not only to protect them, but also to share their educational impact with multitudes of visitors.

Digital Collections

The Library's collection will not be limited to printed works and manuscripts. It will likewise house recordings of music originating from Tsfat – both Ashkenazi and Sephardi – as well as a comprehensive





database of lectures given by Tsfat rabbis and scholars in modern times.

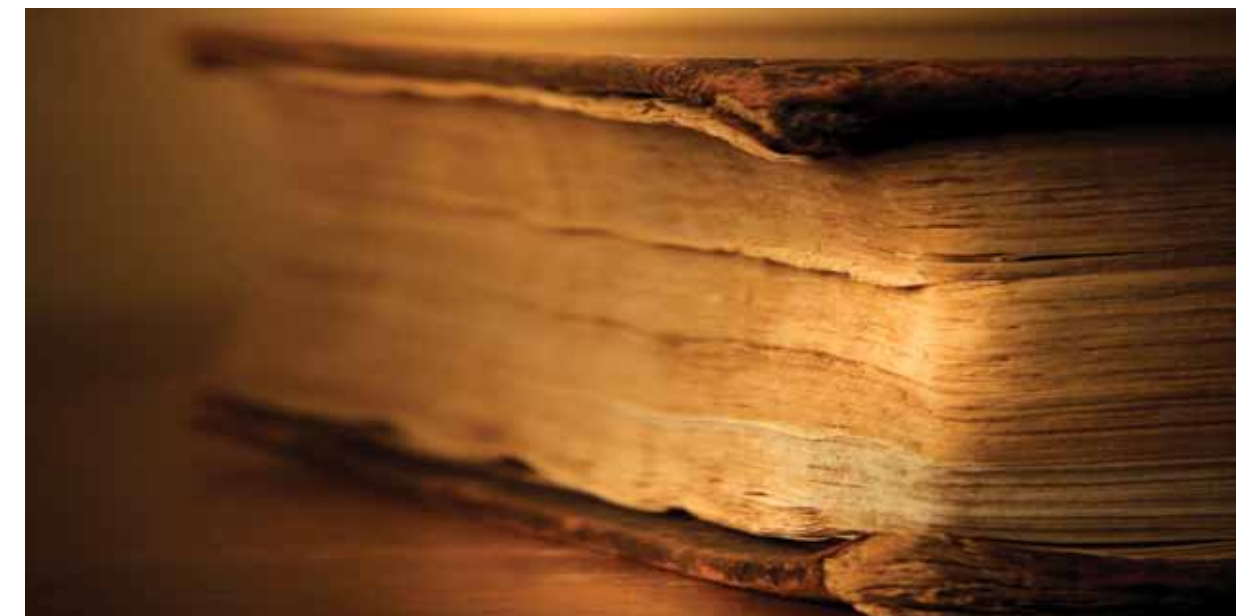
Ideal Resources

The Library will be user and visitor-friendly; open to all. It will be equipped with the most advanced digital search and research utilities to facilitate anyone's needs, from casual visitors to renowned scholars in residence. It will be an ideal resource where scholars and students alike can come to conduct the research needed for their books, dissertations and papers.

The Library will offer collaborative study rooms for teams of scholars, and private research rooms for solo researchers.

An Anchor

In an era when the library is being re-invented, The Tsfat Heritage Library will transcend the library's traditional role as passive repository of books and will serve as **an anchor and authentic platform for the diverse and dynamic programs of the Tsfat Legacy Center.**

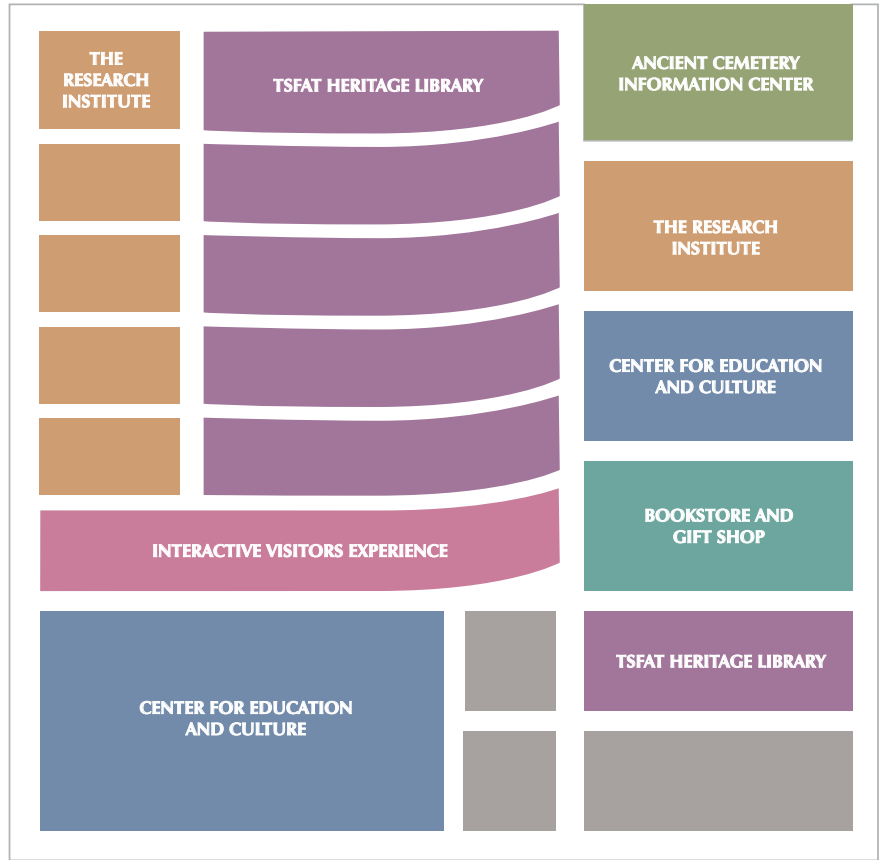


Programming Mission: *Engage, Inspire, Inform*

Four hubs of programming will draw from the Library to actively engage, inspire and inform Jews of all ages, affiliations and backgrounds.

- Interactive Visitors Experience
- Tsfat Research Institute
- Center for Education and Culture
- Ancient Cemetery Information Center

Schematic Diagram of the Center's Functions

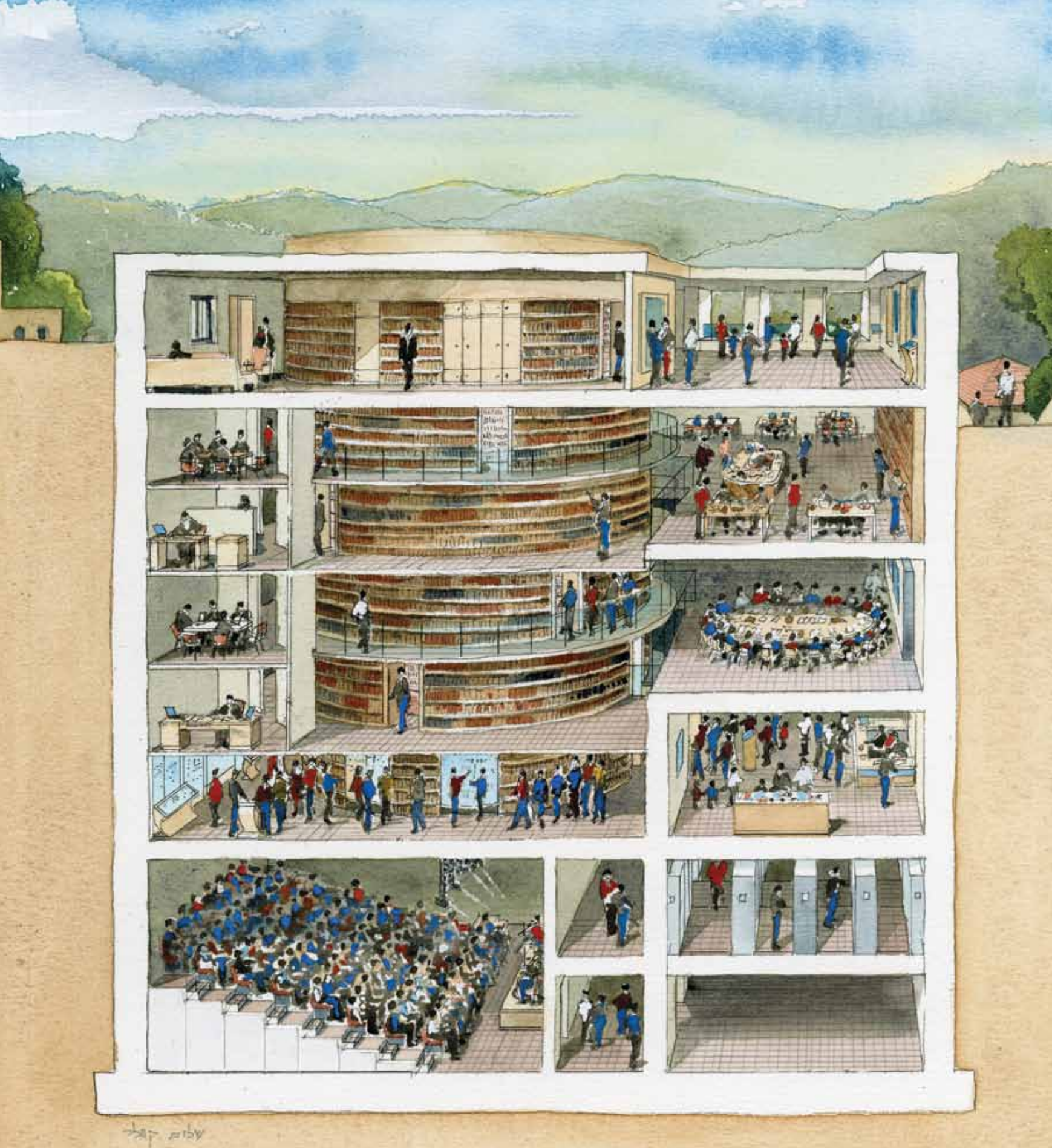


Tsfat – The Source

500 year legacy
250 master scholars and mystics
10,000 volumes of teachings
1,200,000 annual visitors

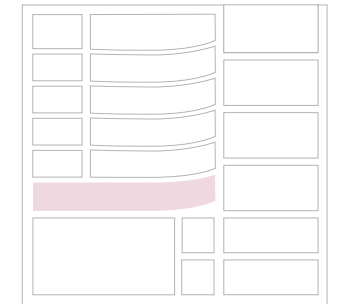
The TLC Building – The Resource

7 floors
2200 sq.m
500 year design
120,000 volume library
250,000 users per year





The Interactive Visitors Experience



In order to deliver maximum impact in a condensed timeframe, The Center's Interactive Visitor's Experience will empower visitors to encounter the Center's treasures in a meaningful and relevant way. The experience will move audiences by bringing the teachings and texts of Tsfat to life through seamlessly blending technologies, design, and installations. Use of web based applications will enable visitors to build on this initial glimpse through future interaction.

Second Story Interactive Studios

The Center is collaborating with Second Story Interactive Studios, an internationally renowned developer of interactive educational experiences that feature "immersive media". The Second Story team is famous for developing a state-of-the-art interactive system for the United States Library of Congress, among other media installations, and is especially

excited by the unique challenges of the Tsfat legacy.

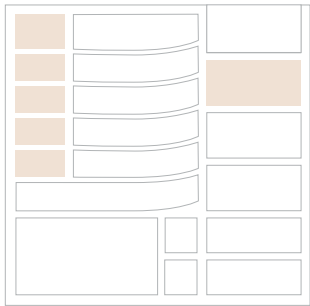
Exhibitions

The Visitors Center will also feature changing artistic and photographic exhibitions in its gallery, plus a permanent display including, for example, the first printing press in Israel (and the entire Near East) which was located in Tsfat, as well as first editions of the books printed on that very press.





The Tsfat Research Institute



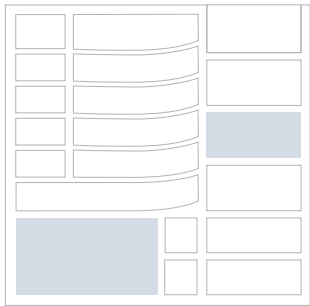
The institute will seek to deepen and enrich our knowledge in the fields of Halacha, Kabbalah, Liturgy and Hasidism. The Institute will direct its own staff of research groups according to relevant themes who publish their findings and conclusions.

Emphasis will be placed on publishing new editions of the works of the Tsfat

Masters, some of which have never been printed.

The Institute will feature a scholar in residence program, whereby scholars, rabbis and leaders of international renown will spend time in residence, conducting their own research while giving lectures to local and visiting scholars and laypeople.

The Center for Education and Culture



The Tsfat Legacy Center will house a Center for Education and Culture. This department will be responsible for a dynamic calendar of classes, lectures, and concerts drawing from the treasures of the Library.

Highlights of the Education and Culture program will include:

1. **Conferences and Webinars** focusing on topics critical to Jewish life with a Tsfat-oriented perspective. The program will be designed to

attract scholars and interested lay people from throughout Israel and overseas.

2. Guided “**Letters and Stones**” tours. These ‘off the beaten track’ tours will go to relevant sites, and will combine on-site study of the works of Tsfat’s luminaries in their original context. For example:
 - Studying the works of the Alsheich on the weekly Parsha in his normally inaccessible synagogue.

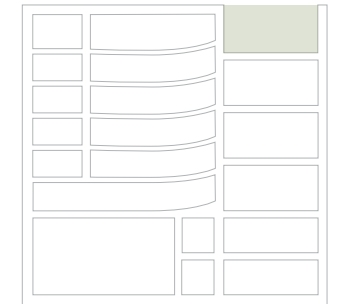


- Learning a halachic ruling by Rav Yosef Karo, author of the Shulchan Aruch, in the very chamber of his Beit Din where he adjudicated legal cases.
- Discovering an inspirational passage from the Arizal's teachings in the very place he revealed it-the cave adjacent to his synagogue.

3. **The Rooftop Sunset Concerts** – an annual concert series of liturgical compositions originating in Tsfat and featuring local and international artists. These sunset concerts will take place on the Center's roof overlooking the magnificent western vista, and will be broadcast live as well as recorded for global distribution and inspiration.



The Ancient Cemetery Information Center

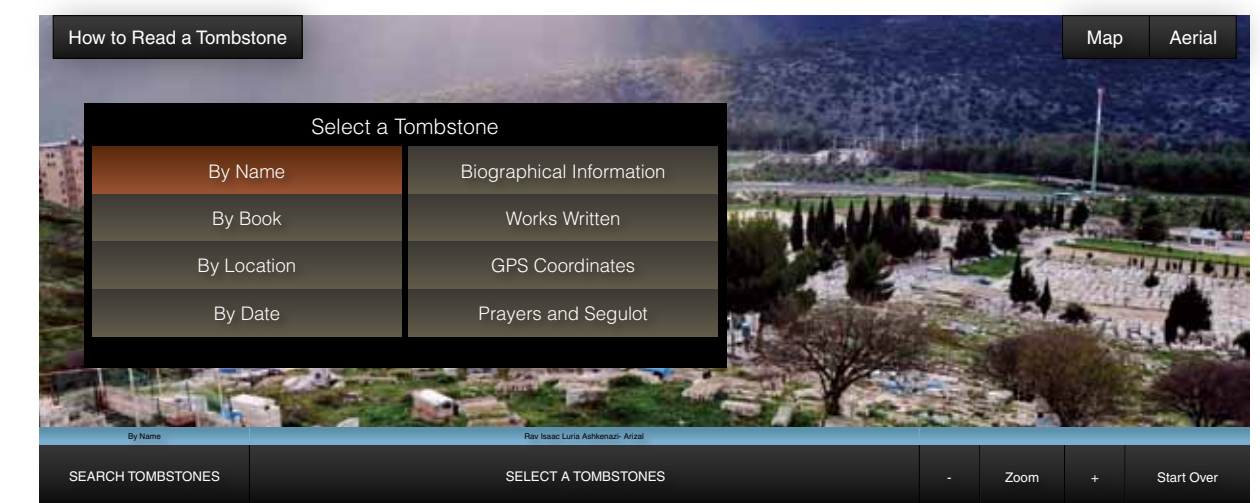


One of the most remarkable and least understood pilgrimage sites of Tsfat is its ancient cemetery. It is unparalleled as the known resting place of some of the greatest luminaries of the past 500 years. Yet to the uninitiated, the cemetery is a confusing necropolis made all the more so because of the devastation of repeated earthquakes and vandalism.

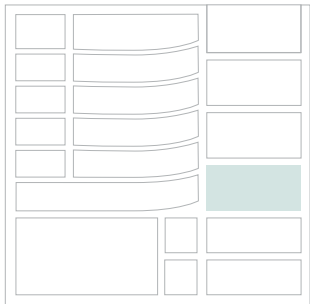
Working in conjunction with the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Tsfat Legacy

Center will house a user-friendly, interactive system and guide to the famous and less famous who are buried there in order to restore it to its rightful place as a meaningful and sacred treasure of the Jewish people.

This Center will overlook the cemetery through a glass wall with touch screen technology and augmented reality, enabling instant connectivity between those who are interred and their living legacy in the Heritage Library.



Bookstore and Gift Shop



The Tsfat Legacy Center would be incomplete without its own bookstore and gift shop. The shop will carry all the Center’s publications, recordings and videos, as well as a comprehensive inventory of books, mementos and artistic pieces that are

either created in Tsfat or have direct relevance to the Center’s raison d’etre. Aside from serving as a vital source of revenue for the Center, the array of appealing and relevant merchandise will allow visitors to “take home” their Tsfat experience.

About the Architect

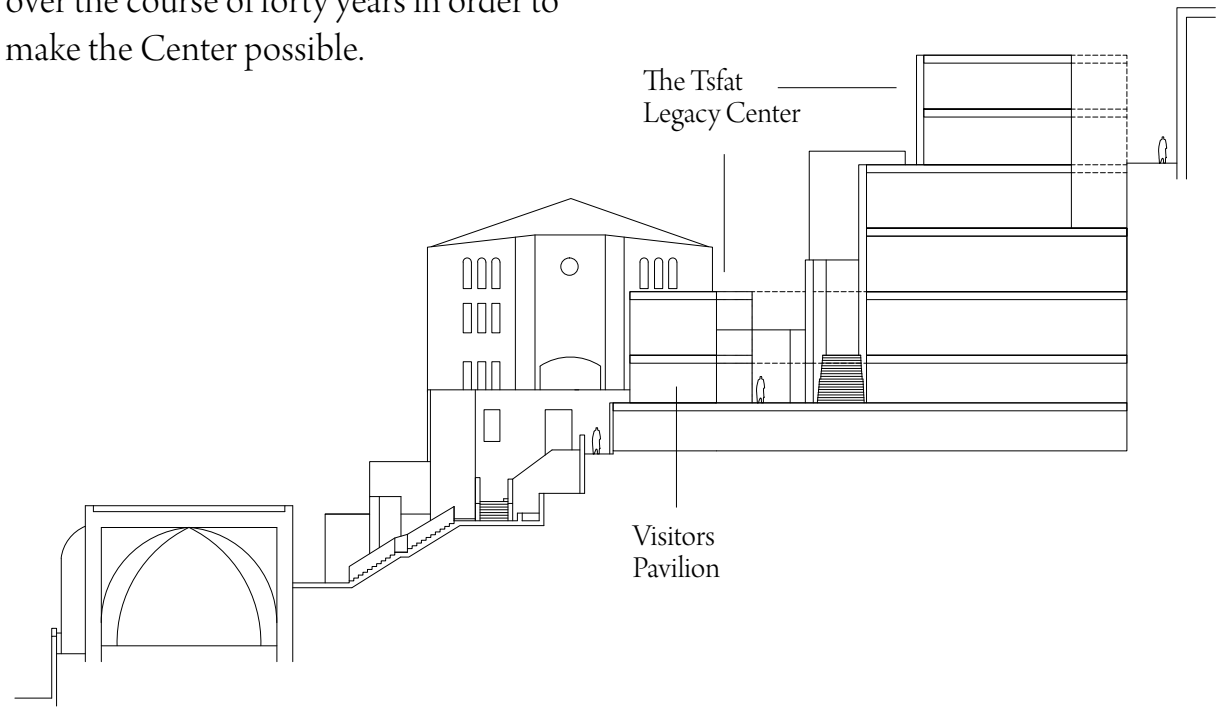


Winner of the 2003-2004 Jerusalem Quality Building Competition, Buenos Aires born Carlos Prus has been one of Israel’s leading architectural lights for over 35 years. A long-time collaborator with Moshe Safdie, he was for many years a principal and head of the professional team of Moshe Safdie Architects in Jerusalem. Among the projects which bear his imprint are the Hebrew Union College Campus, the Abramov Library, the Shimshon Center, and the Mamilla commercial and residential areas. More recently he was chosen to design the government’s new urban plan for the Old City of Jerusalem as well as to restore the 150 year old Tiferet Israel Synagogue which was destroyed there in 1948. In addition to his long list of credits for public buildings, residential complexes and commercial centers, Carlos Prus is renowned for his expertise in restoration, preservation and urban planning.

An Architectural Masterpiece

The Tsfat Legacy Center is being built from indigenous Galilee stone and glass on virtually the last open parcel of land in the historic old city of Tsfat. The site is a sloping hillside at the very epicenter of Tsfat during its golden era. The land was painstakingly assembled and rezoned over the course of forty years in order to make the Center possible.

The Building – An Unparalleled Dedication Opportunity
The size of the building complex will be 24,000 square feet (2,200 square meters) on seven stories, plus an open, panoramic rooftop which will serve as a venue for cultural events. The structure will straddle two sides of the historic alley and will



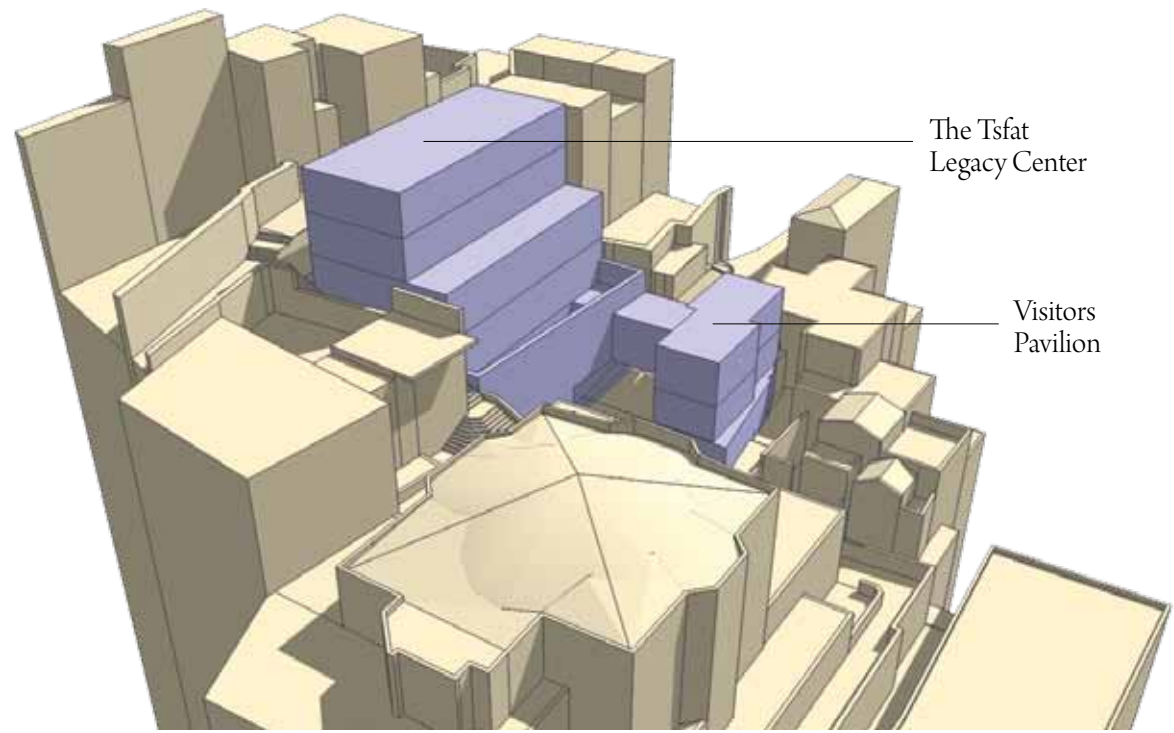
be readily accessible from the newly developed old city parking facility.

The design, by internationally acclaimed architect Carlos Prus, will echo the original Tsfat style in both materials and design in a contemporary idiom that allows it to stand out while remaining harmonious to its environment. The exterior will be modestly elegant, retaining the classic Tsfat sensibility of walled courtyards with their hidden secrets. The interior is designed to showcase the treasures of the Tsfat legacy, shunning the sealed vault approach that is more typical

of libraries. Much of the stone being used is taken from the ruins of ancient buildings in the immediate vicinity that were destroyed by earthquakes, neglect, vandalism and war.

The Site: Prime Location

The 8500 square foot (800 square meters) lot features a panoramic view of Mt. Meron to the West and overlooks the ancient Tsfat cemetery. It is surrounded by virtually all the historic synagogues, study houses and historic edifices that make Tsfat a magnet for visitors, while overlooking the resting place of the



luminaries who made Tsfat what it is. The Meiri Museum of Tsfat History and the Rabbi Yossi Bannah Synagogue (Tsfat's oldest) are the immediate neighbors to the north and south, while to the immediate west are the Ari Sefardi Synagogue – the center of kabbalah

during the golden era – and Kariat Breslov which brought new life and energy to the city. Moreover, it is right on the newly designated tourist route chosen by the Tsfat Municipality and the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. In other words, it is perfectly located to serve its vital function.





The Importance of The Tsfat Legacy Center

*A Letter of Support from the President of the State of Israel
His Excellency, Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin*

Dear Distinguished Devotees of the
Tsfat Masters,

I was delighted to read about your
wonderful initiative, The Tsfat Legacy
Center devoted to revealing and
disseminating the heritage of the Tsfat
Masters.

Each year, Tsfat draws multitudes of
visitors who are drawn to its indigenous
historical content, its flourishing artistic
expressions, and its sacred tombs of the
saints. In recent generations we have been
fortunate to have experienced a renaissance
of Jewish learning and scholarship in Tsfat,
with the establishment of educational
institutions that have deepened the spiritual
roots of the city.

However, it seems that most people have
forgotten that the primary importance
of Tsfat is not in the graves of its scholars
and mystics, but in their living spiritual
legacy. Throughout the generations the

Jewish people have drunken thirstily from
the wisdom and teachings of the Tsfat
masters.

As a scion of many generations in our
land and in the name of the citizens of
the State of Israel, I am moved by your
undertaking to restore the regal crown
to one of the classic and grand four holy
cities.

May we merit together to witness Tsfat
return to its stature as a capital. of Jewish
culture and spirituality in Israel and the
Diaspora.

With Blessings,



Yours,
Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin
Jerusalem



Become a Partner in The Tsfat Legacy Center

*An invitation from the Mayor of Tsfat and
Hon. Chair of the Tsfat Legacy Center*

Dear Friends,

To serve as the Mayor of Tsfat is not only
an honor, it is a responsibility to a 500 year
history of Jewish tradition, and the legacy
of the greatest personalities who shaped
Jewish life as we know it today.

Recent years have witnessed a
remarkable renaissance in Tsfat. To a
great extent, credit for these positive
developments belongs to the Nachal
Novea Mekor Chochma Association of
Tsfat which has successfully initiated and
guided myriad educational and social
projects that benefit the entire city.

Now this same organization is
spearheading the single most important
endeavor – the creation of the Tsfat
Legacy Center. No other group is more
experienced and better prepared to
undertake this vital project.

The Tsfat Legacy Center will provide the
vital anchor to the totality of Tsfat history,

heritage and religious life. It will serve as
both the repository of Tsfat's priceless
legacy and as the beating heart of the
living city itself. Once it is completed The
Center will be the driving force in global
awareness and appreciation of Tsfat, and
will have the power to catapult Tsfat to
the position it deserves as the crown jewel
of the Galilee, and as a galvanizing and
unifying force in Jewish life.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough the
importance of your participation in this
historic venture. Your support is not only
a gift to Tsfat but a gift to posterity, for
which future generations will be eternally
grateful.

Thanking you for your interest and your
support,



Mayor
Hon. Chairperson
The Tsfat Legacy Center

Founder and Builder: Nachal Novea Mekor Chochma



Nachal Novea Mekor Chochma Association was established nearly fifty years ago to resuscitate and rebuild a shattered Tsfat. Rabbi Gedaliah Aharon Kenig, zt”l, spiritual master and renown scholar of the teachings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, singlehandedly took upon himself the task with a deep awareness of the city’s dormant holiness and the global significance of a rebuilt Tsfat. Today, under the leadership of R. Gedaliah’s son and successor, Rabbi Elazar Mordechai Kenig, against all odds, **Nachal Novea** has systematically established centers of Judaism in Tsfat to restore spiritual excellence to the world. These centers are now educating the Jewish people from the inside out.

Educational Excellence

Examples include the world-famous **Tsfat Mikve Women’s Spirituality Center**, Tsfat’s foremost educational group attraction, with a transformative spiritual impact on tens of thousands of women each year. As well, there is the largest Kabbalat Shabbat in Tsfat in the magnificent Breslov Synagogue. Here Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations come together every Friday evening to pray and dance on the very spot where Kabbalat Shabbat was first created.

Founding Director: Rabbi Simcha Mirvis



Passionate about the Jewish People and Tsfat, Simcha Mirvis has devoted his life to engaging and inspiring a diverse range of people as a noted lecturer and mentor in Israel and abroad. A resident of the Old City of Tsfat for seven years, he is dedicated to revealing the city’s spiritual treasures.

Born and raised in Memphis, he studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Alon Shvut, Israel. After being ordained by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, Simcha served as Rabbi of Moshav Sdeh Ilan in the Lower Galilee for over a decade, distinguishing himself in community outreach and pioneering educational programming.

He received his BA in Psychology from Bar Ilan University and MBA from Boston University. He is the former Director of the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers and has worked for the Shefa Foundation of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. In addition to his work with Nachal Novea Mekor Chochma, he is presently an active board member of the Children of Tsfat Foundation.



מרכז אוצר צפת
TSFAT LEGACY CENTER

A Legacy for
The Jewish People
A Legacy for You

*Unique and Unprecedented
Dedication Opportunities*

Otsar Tsfat – The Tsfat Legacy Center

Israel: 100 HaAri Street/POB 520
Old City of Tsfat, Israel 13104
Tel: 972-4-682-0557
Fax: 972-4-682-0669

USA: 711 West End Ave, Suite 1AS
New York, NY 10025
Tel: 1-917-341-2537

Info@TsfatLegacy.org
www.TsfatLegacy.org



***A Project of
Nachal Novea Mekor Chochma***