

Concluding report on the facade project carried out by the Sto Foundation at the Max-Liebling House in Tel Aviv

The White City office within the Federal Building Office contacted the Sto Foundation in autumn 2018 to discuss the possibility of a bilateral craftspersons' project to renovate the facade of the Max-Liebling House in Tel Aviv and applied for commensurate funding. As a result, the Foundation Council approved the sum of EUR 80,000 in November. The funding from the Sto Foundation enabled three one-week workshops to be held in **March and April 2019** respectively encompassing a total of 15 third-year trainee plasterers from Leonberg vocational college and the multi-company training centre in Leonberg. A painting workshop from **11 to 20 May 2019** attended by seven participants from across Germany along with senior training instructor Annika Hillegeist concluded the project. During the first three workshop-weeks, the plasterers were respectively supported in their task by up to five Israeli trade professionals from the 'Israel Antiquity Authority', a number of architecture students from the Bezalel University in Jerusalem and other volunteers. Adapting the participants' varying skills in line with a targeted standard ultimately proved to be quite a challenge.



The Sto Foundation provided all participants with green polo shirts that were also printed with the BMI logo

With the exception of the rear side of the facade ('lift side'), Keim fine render was applied to each of the building sides before then being painted with Keim paint.

Apparently, a number of problems remained in relation to approval of the lift, which according to information from Ran Shapira (project manager at general contractor Arco) and Shlomo Dagan was due to be installed by the end of July, whereupon this side of the facade would then be addressed. Together with his trainees, senior plasterwork instructor Jochen Drescher not only repaired cracks and applied the render, but also reinforced all the balconies and plastered and repaired the small rooftop building.

The scaffolding was dismantled on 24 June 2019 after Lior Sinai, the scaffolder and contractual partner from Layher in Germany, had given the go-ahead for the scaffolding to remain in place without charge for an additional week in order to give the new city engineer Ehud Carmely and a delegation from his department an opportunity to inspect the scaffolding erected as per the EU-standard. Indeed, he was extremely interested in a tour of the building and is keen to see the continuation of such bilateral projects.



Tour of the Liebling House with Ehud Carmely (fourth from left), the new city engineer and successor to Oded Gvuli in this office and on the board of trustees.



New lustre for an old building

So far the fine render applied by Jochen Drescher is flawless; but there are still a few small areas of weakness:

- Transitions between the Drescher render and the Arco render are clearly visible on the non-sea-facing side as a partial lack of scaffolding in this area makes rendering and painting more difficult. Arco is set to rectify the problem.
- Much has been done to the balconies, but a number of ceilings are missing and floors have not yet been completed.
- Terrazzo covers on the roof remain in need of renovation.

Outlook:

Possibility of a further painting workshop funded by Sto in April 2020

In the event of any further workshops, welcome management will need to be agreed with the Liebling House team. Initial discussions to this end have already taken place with Director Shira Levy-Benyemini. The Sto Foundation is keen to see continuation of the workshops. In light of the fact that, under current planning by the Liebling House team, the interiors of the second and third floors are not due to be repainted before the building opens in September, this could happen in Spring 2020 after the Ha'avara Agreement exhibition has vacated at the end of March 2020. One option would be the two weeks following Easter (beginning 18 April 2020). A possibility would be a theoretical induction week, primarily to show the Israeli volunteers the ropes, and then a week of practical work - whereby two floors would be refurbished.



Third plasterers' workshop with Jochen Drescher (pictured far left) and Walter Söhner from the Leonberg vocational college (front row, second left)



The painting workshop with senior training instructor Annika Hillegeist

On the first day, all those involved were given several hours of safety instruction regarding working on scaffolding. The Sto Foundation covered the cost of accident and travel

insurance. After five days of work, each of the workshop groups headed off on a three-day cultural trip (old Jaffa, Masada fortifications, Dead Sea, Jerusalem old town and visit to Yad Vashem) to add cultural insight to the craft training. Training exchange, gaining intercultural experience and technology and knowledge transfer at a craftsmanship level were the primary project objectives that, according to statements from the participants, were ably fulfilled.

Documentation

Yael Schmidt, the WCC 'in-house photographer', joined each of the workshop weeks on three working days to compile participant profiles, details of the damaged spots and group photos. Her efforts were similarly financed by the Sto Foundation. The result is a whole host of high-quality images that are freely available for use by the Sto Foundation and the PR agency involved (to send to journalists, print in brochures, post on the Internet).



Artist's impression: The construction site mutates into a show set

Sharon has been given the task of creating a documentation/best practice manual upon conclusion of the workshops and further renovation. In addition to the photographer, the Sto Foundation also commissioned a video producer to create a number of video clips and interviews.

The facade project in summary

The facade project brought together 22 German craftspeople, two training instructors and 15 young Israeli protagonists/trade professionals/students. The targeted objective was achieved, bringing a new lustre to the facade of the Liebling House. Accidents and downtime were completely avoided. Moreover, the Federal Building Office would be delighted to organise a further workshop (interior of second and third floors of the Liebling House) in Spring 2020 in cooperation with the Sto Foundation. A commensurate application is set to be promptly implemented once the various scheduling aspects have been discussed with the Israeli partners.

Links to publications are bundled here:

Interview with State Secretary Wanderwitz in Deutsches Architekten-Blatt (originally attributed on our part to Mr Adler):

<https://www.dabonline.de/2019/06/26/endlich-wieder-weiss-bauhaus-tel-aviv-weisse-stadt/>

In Deutsche Handwerks Zeitung:

<https://www.deutsche-handwerks-zeitung.de/fassadensanierung-in-tel-aviv-neuer-glanz-in-der-weissen-stadt/150/4562/390902>

Handwerksblatt:

<https://www.handwerksblatt.de/15-unternehmensfuehrung-uebersicht/5006325-max-liebling-haus-erstrahlt-in-neuem-glanz.html>

In FAZ:

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/stil/mode-design/bauhaus-in-tel-aviv-weisse-stadt-15972959.html>

Malerblatt:

<https://www.malerblatt.de/bildung-karriere/nachwuchs/hand-in-hand-in-tel-aviv/>

Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5VRnc9pLl4jxa0TE_pJGPQ/playlists?disable_polymer=1

https://www.mappe.de/bauhaus-sanierung-ein-voller-erfolg/?utm_source=CleverReach+GmbH+&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MA_NL_KW_22&utm_content=Mailing_11398432#5A8A2299-631x440