Adaptive Re-Use
Women’s center and playground, Beit Iksa, Palestine

Main authors
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Project data
Context Architecture, building and design engineering
Client Women Association of Beit Iksa
Background Public commission
Planning start January 2014

Further authors
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Sustainability concept
This initiative is part of a learning lab for ongoing and future regeneration projects of Riwaj Centre for Architectural Conservation (Riwaj). In 2009, Riwaj set a goal to rehabilitate up to 10 historic centers, Beit Iksa’s “number nine.” Newly introduced measures such as green roofs, greywater filtration, and passive heating and cooling, capitalize on local knowledge in construction combining high-tech features using low-tech means. Traditional building materials on site were tested as alternatives to concrete. Since Palestine is one of the busiest corridors for bird migration in the world, hosting around 500 million birds every season, and Beit Iksa is located along the bird route – part of the project is a decorative bird folly that provides a nesting and rest area.

The project is based on a year-long process with the community prior to its implementation. Women led the way in the training on grey water and green roof installation. The eco-kitchen will support 35 women bread-winners, contributing to long-term economic and social life through the reclamation of the historic space and reintroduction of communal practices.

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Acknowledgement