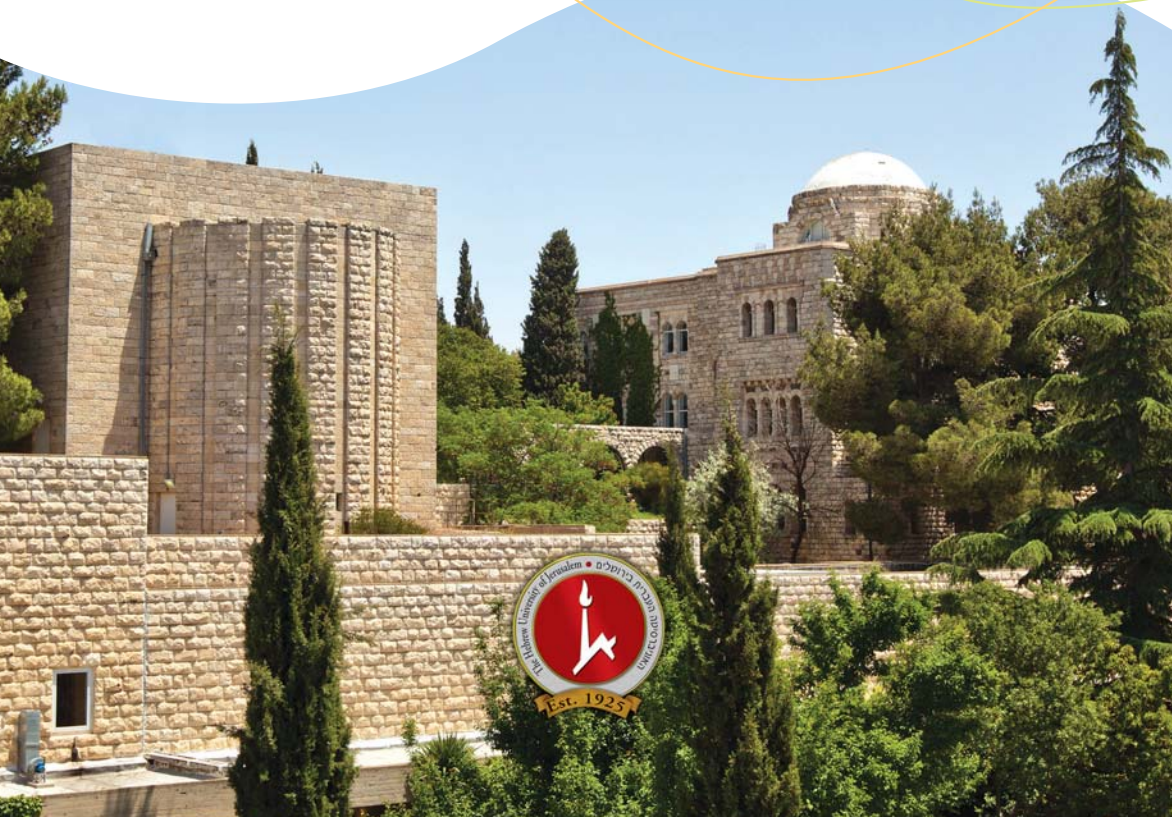


From the Heights of Mount Scopus

Walking tour of the Hebrew University's historical campus



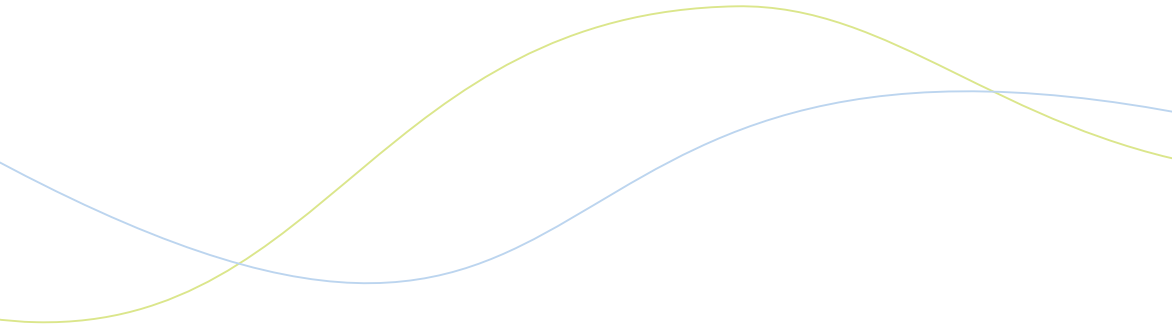
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel's first university, was founded on Mount Scopus in 1918 and officially opened in 1925. The Hebrew University is a world-renowned, multidisciplinary institution of higher learning and research with ties extending to and from scientific and academic communities in Israel and abroad, and whose researchers receive approximately one-third of all competitive grants awarded in Israel. The quest for excellence characterizes the thousands of students studying and conducting research at the Hebrew University, with an emphasis placed on research and study toward advanced degrees and special programs and academic conferences attracting students and researchers from around the world. The Hebrew University awards more doctoral degrees than any other Israeli university and its graduates hold key positions in every area of Israeli society.

The University strives to benefit society through the dissemination of knowledge, the advancement of its young people and diverse activities in fields such as law, social welfare and health. The Hebrew University's mission is to serve the State of Israel by training its public, scientific, education and professional leadership; to preserve and research the Jewish cultural, spiritual and intellectual heritage; and to expand the boundaries of knowledge for the benefit of all humanity.

From the Heights of Mount Scopus

An historical tour of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem campus



July 24, 1918 (15 Av 5678), was a festive day for members of the Zionist Organization and Jerusalem's Jewish community. On that day, the cornerstones of the Hebrew University were laid on Mount Scopus. In the years that have passed, both Israel and the Hebrew University have experienced numerous changes.

You are invited to take an historical tour of Mount Scopus. The sites, all within a stone's throw of our starting point, tell the story of the vision for the establishment of the University and its subsequent development through the Mandate period and up to the 1948 War of Independence, during which the University was forced into exile from its mountaintop location.

The tour begins in the lobby of the Sherman Administration Building (adjacent to the Forum) facing the painting of the University's opening ceremony.



Above: Lord Balfour declaims, Pilichowski paints: The opening of the Hebrew University was a central event for the Zionist movement and Jerusalem

Left: Some 10,000 people made their way to Mount Scopus to participate in the historic event

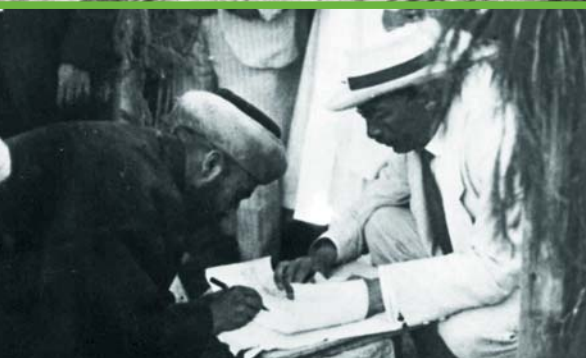
Capturing the Moment

The painting documents the Hebrew University's official opening ceremony on April 1, 1925. The ceremony, attended by thousands, was one of the most significant Zionist events during the Mandate period.

Discussions about creating a Jewish university had begun in the 1880s, with influential advocate Prof. Hermann Zvi Schapira proposing the establishment of a centrally located house of study (*beit midrash*) called Takhkemoni. The proposal, which had already been presented at the first Zionist Congress in 1897, determined that a university would play a central role in the Zionist enterprise. This view was reinforced in "A Jewish School of Higher Learning," a pamphlet published in 1903 by Chaim Weizmann, Martin Buber and Berthold Feiwel. The idea of the University's establishment was formulated in this pamphlet, with its authors perceiving it as a seminal step that would bring modernization to the Jewish nation. On the eve of the First World War, a plot on Mount Scopus was purchased for the University from the Gray Hill family. Due to the war, its establishment was delayed.

In his painting, the artist Leopold Pilichowski captured Lord Arthur James Balfour's speech for posterity. In concluding his speech, guest of honor Lord Balfour declared: "...with supreme confidence in its future, the University of Jerusalem to be opened." Work on the painting carried on for some two years, and a number of myths surround it. According to one, Pilichowski himself was not present at the ceremony, came to the city only two days later and painted the ceremony scene based on black and white photographs. He was scrupulous about painting the stage in great detail and it is thus possible to identify many important people who participated in the event. The figure of the artist, engrossed in his work, can be seen in the audience.

Before describing the establishment of the University's buildings, institutes and faculties, we will visit the place where it all began: the site of the University's cornerstones. The site is located in the garden by the entrance to the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design (east).



Above: The idea of the cornerstones monument was conceived by Patrick Geddes, the first architect to work on the plans for the new University

Left: The Hacham Bashi of Jaffa Rabbi Ben-Zion Meir Hai Uziel signs the University's founding charter

Site of the Cornerstones

Here, overlooking the desert, at the edge of the plot of land purchased by the Zionist Organization, the cornerstones for the University were laid. Directly after receiving the British military government's approval, work on planning the event was placed in the hands of an organizing committee headed by writer and Zionist activist Mordechai Ben-Hillel Hacohen. Instead of one cornerstone, it was decided to lay 12 stones symbolizing the Tribes of Israel. Due to pressure from Jewish settlement organizations, more stones were added.

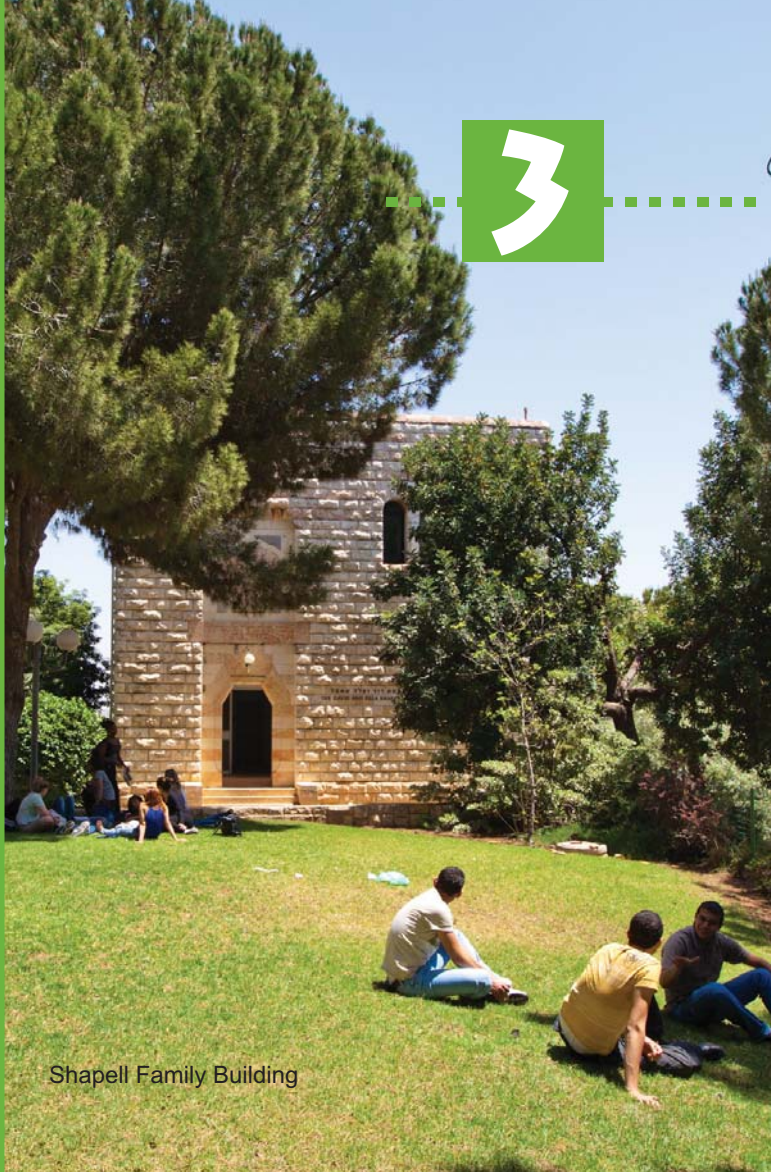
Towards five o'clock in the afternoon, the appointed time of the ceremony, thousands of people from all over the country, including the Mufti of Jerusalem and General Edmund Allenby, gathered. A Jewish Legion honor guard received the distinguished guests. To the sounds of a choir, Chaim Weizmann descended to the excavation site and laid the first cornerstone in the name of the Zionist Organization. When all the cornerstones were laid, the University charter was placed upon them. Afterwards, Weizmann gave a speech and congratulatory letters were read.

Although the cornerstones' significance was recognized and a monument commemorating the event was erected (1920), by the second half of the 1920s not a trace of their existence was left. No one knows if they were dismantled in order to expand the campus, used for the foundations of new buildings on the mountain or, perhaps, stolen.

Now proceed to the site of the University's opening ceremony (1925), heading up towards the Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry buildings and the surrounding pine trees. This was the location of the estate of the Hill family, from whom the land for the University was purchased.

Right: The Gray Hill estate, and additional new buildings, housed the University's first research institutes which would provide a basis for the Faculty of Science. The Shapell and Gaster Buildings today house the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry

Below: The Einstein Institute of Mathematics, the first to combine research and teaching



Shapell Family Building

From Family Estate to Academic Institute

The University's first institutes were housed in buildings belonging to the Hill family from Liverpool, England, and in others built on the estate grounds.

At the end of the 19th century, the Hills had built a summer estate and spent time there every year. On the eve of the First World War, Dr. Arthur Ruppin of the Israeli Land Office determined that the property was suited to the establishment of a university. Using a donation from philanthropist Yitzhak Leib Goldberg, acquisition activities began but were not concluded until after the First World War, in July 1920.

In February 1923, within the framework of his journey to Israel and promoting the idea of the creation of the University, Albert Einstein visited the designated site. Here, he spoke in French about his General Theory of Relativity but not before apologizing to the audience for the fact that he did not speak Hebrew. His talk was the first scientific lecture given at the Hebrew University.

The main building on the Hill estate underwent architectural changes to adapt it for use as the Institute of Chemistry. In time, the building was expanded and the Institute of Microbiology, the Institute of Mathematics (whose building can be identified by the Pythagorean Theorem etched in stone above the entrance door) and the Institute of Physics (today integrated into the Bezalel building) were built nearby. The establishment of these institutes reflected the new University's scientific approach as a research institute, based on the traditional European model.

Now proceed to the site of the University's opening ceremony. Just before the covered pathway leading to Beit Hillel, turn sharp left, go down the stairs, turn left at the foot of the stairs and head towards the gates of the Rothberg Amphitheatre where you can enjoy the spectacular beauty of the site and its desert view.



Above: The Rothberg Amphitheatre today. Here, facing east, on a temporary wooden stage, the University was declared open

Left: Several years after the opening ceremony, the temporary terraced seating area was replaced by a permanent structure with benches, a stage and halls

The Rothberg Amphitheatre

As at the cornerstone laying ceremony, the desert landscape was chosen as the backdrop for the University's official opening. The ceremony was scheduled to commence in the afternoon when the sun tilts westward. Terraced seating was built all along the slope and at its foot, the wooden stage. In the course of preparations for the ceremony, several young people were sent to dance on the stage to test its stability.

On the stage, without the benefit of a microphone or any other means of amplification, speeches were given one after the other by the Chief Rabbi of British Mandate Palestine Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaCohen Kook, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Lord Balfour, the High Commissioner of Palestine Sir Herbert Samuel, and the poet Chaim Nachman Bialik. In the name of the Jewish National Council, Bialik offered congratulations, saying: "The windows of this house will be open on every side, that the fairest fruit produced by man's creative spirit in every land and every age may enter."

This site was initially designed by architect Fritz Kornberg. Several years later, permanent benches and a Roman-inspired stage were constructed at the foot of the slope (designed by architect Benjamin Chaikin). Above the stage, which was named for Minnie Untermeyer, the University's name is displayed and below it are halls and warehouses.

With the exception of the 19 years during which the city of Jerusalem was divided, from the opening event in 1925 until the present, the Rothberg Amphitheatre has served as the central location for University gatherings. On June 28, 1967, shortly after the end of the Six Day War, the Amphitheatre was host to the convocation awarding doctoral degrees and honorary doctorates, a ceremony at which an honorary doctorate was conferred upon Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Yitzhak Rabin.

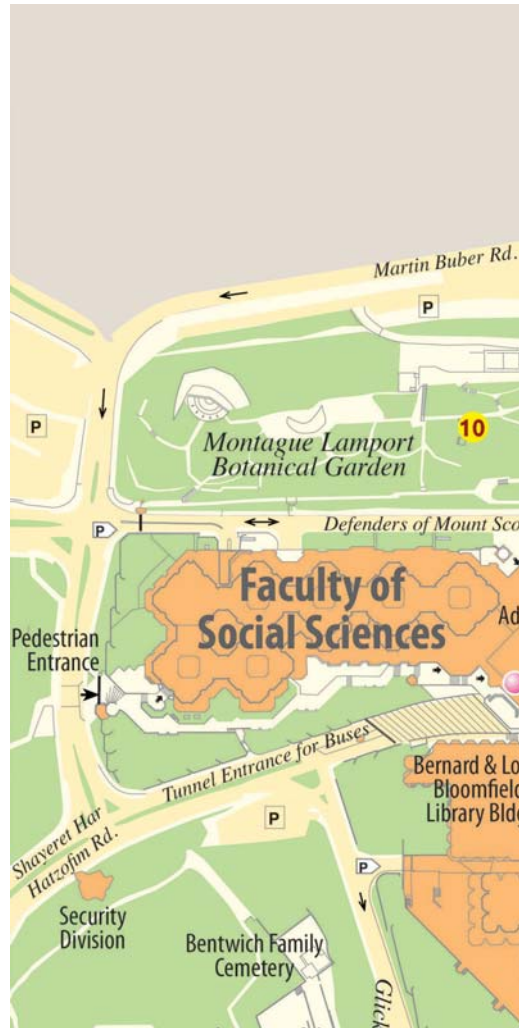
Now head toward the Nancy Reagan Plaza. Next to the Beit Hillel building on the left is the Institute of Archaeology with its sign (in Hebrew) "Museum of Jewish Antiquities." The building was situated alongside the historic route leading to the Mount of Olives.

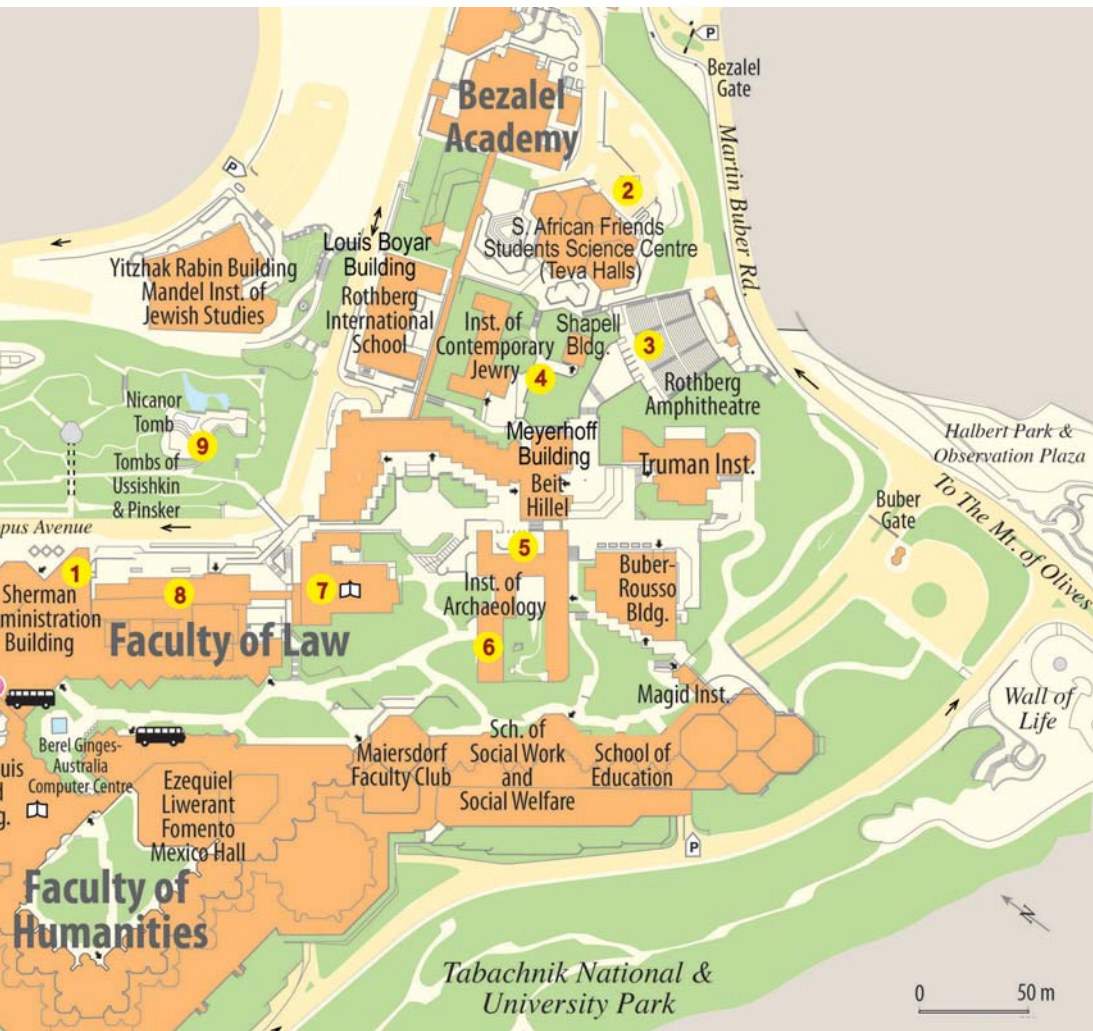


Mount Scopus Campus

- 1 **Painting of the Hebrew University's official opening ceremony**
- 2 **Site of the Cornerstones**
- 3 **From Family Estate to Academic Institute**
- 4 **The Rothberg Amphitheatre**
- 5 **The Museum that Became an Institute**
- 6 **The Students Club**
- 7 **The Library on the Mount**
- 8 **The Humanities Building**
- 9 **The Botanical Garden**

*Map: Tamar Soffer, Department of Geography,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2010*







Above: The Museum of Jewish Antiquities building today. The campus' main road ran along here

Left: The stone from the Third Wall of Second Temple Jerusalem, symbolizing both the building's purpose and the continuation of Jewish life in Jerusalem, can be seen clearly at the foot of the building

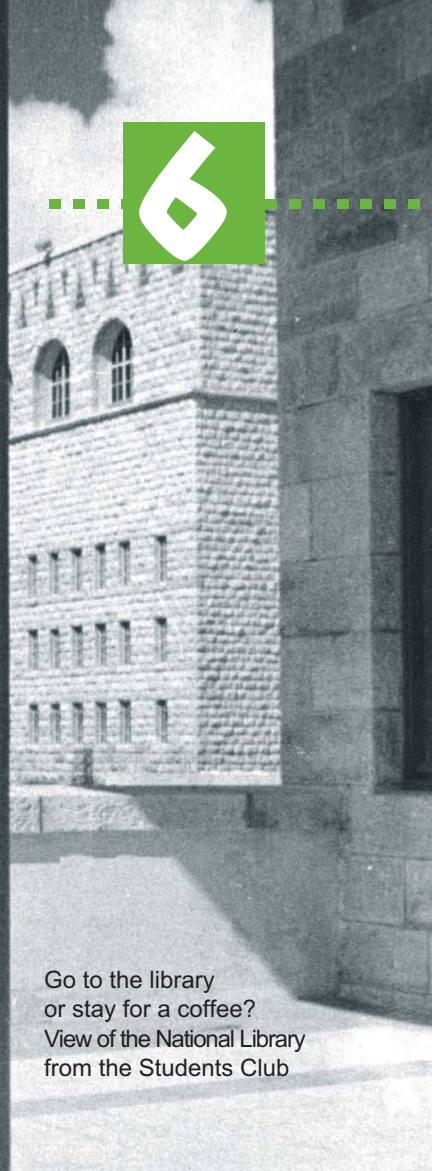
The Museum that Became an Institute

The Museum of Jewish Antiquities, today part of the Institute of Archaeology, was dedicated in 1941. Built with a generous donation from Gdalya (Morris) Kutcher of South Africa, it was intended to house the Department of Archaeology and the museum.

The events of the Second World War, budgetary difficulties and a lack of assistance from the University's various institutions hampered development of the museum. Despite this, Eleazar Lippa Sukenik (later to discover the Dead Sea Scrolls) and his team managed to store many artifacts that are still used today as source material for archaeological research and teaching.

In the garden, beneath the sign with the building's name (the Carasso Archaeology Building), is one of its foundation stones. Symbolically, the stone came from the Third Wall excavations in Jerusalem. On the eve of the War of Independence, preparations were being made for the museum's opening. However, due to the war, the plans were cancelled and the artifacts removed to the city, to be returned only after 1967.

Prior to the museum's construction, a students club (today part of the Institute of Archaeology) was built to its west and is visible by heading north and turning left down the winding path that leads to the buildings of the post-1967 campus. On the left, a building facing east-west with an open terrace on its eastern side can be seen. The circular form of the protruding apertures at the top the northern wall is a trademark of its architect Erich Mendelsohn.




Go to the library
or stay for a coffee?
View of the National Library
from the Students Club

The Students Club



This building, which overlooked the city of Jerusalem, was designed as the University's students club. A fierce debate regarding the site's purpose raged between the students and the University administration. The students wanted dormitories built on the site, while the administration was opposed, fearing it would damage the institution's prestige. A joint committee which deliberated the issue also recommended building student dormitories. Finally, a decade after the University's opening, in July 1935, the club's cornerstone was laid and in February 1937, the building – which included a reading room, a smoking room, a teachers' room and a students' room – was dedicated.



Return to the Nancy Reagan Plaza. On the left (facing northwest) is a stone building crowned by a white dome. Beneath the dome was the University Chancellor's office which housed the offices of its first president Dr. Yehuda Leib Magnes. From his rooftop room, Magnes looked out upon the city and the University. Proceed towards the building and stop outside the covered arcaded passageway which connected the National Library building (on the left) to the Institute of Jewish Studies and humanities building (on the right). These two buildings – built at the end of the 1930s – were the prominent features of the Mount Scopus landscape; today they house the Faculty of Law. The ceremony commemorating the return to Mount Scopus was held on June 9, 1967 – before the Six Day War had ended – in the garden in front of these buildings (facing east).



Above: The National Library, today the Faculty of Law, as seen from the Students Club

Left: View of the gardens abutting the National Library

The Library on the Mount

In 1918, the Midrash Abarbanel Library was officially transferred to the Zionist Organization for redirecting to the National Library. After approximately three years, the Zionist Organization and the Wolffsohn Foundation signed an agreement to establish the National Library with monies from the estate of Zionist Organization President David Wolffsohn. In July 1926, the cornerstone was laid for a building designed by architects Patrick Geddes, Frank Mears and Benjamin Chaikin. Construction, however, was delayed due to the collapse of the "Solel Boneh" construction company and the damages of the 1927 earthquake. In April 1930, the library building with its façade of chiseled stone and its dome dominated the mountain top.

Enter the Faculty of Law building and turn left into the corridor leading to the library. On the right (west) is a sign with the name of the building and its year of construction; the high standards of the building and its features are clearly visible. Go up the steps leading to the building's main entrance, which today serves as the law library. Although alterations to its internal design have been made, the hall's grand size remains impressive.

The reading room seated 140 people and housed approximately 55,000 volumes. The building also included a special storage area, with space for some 300,000 more books.

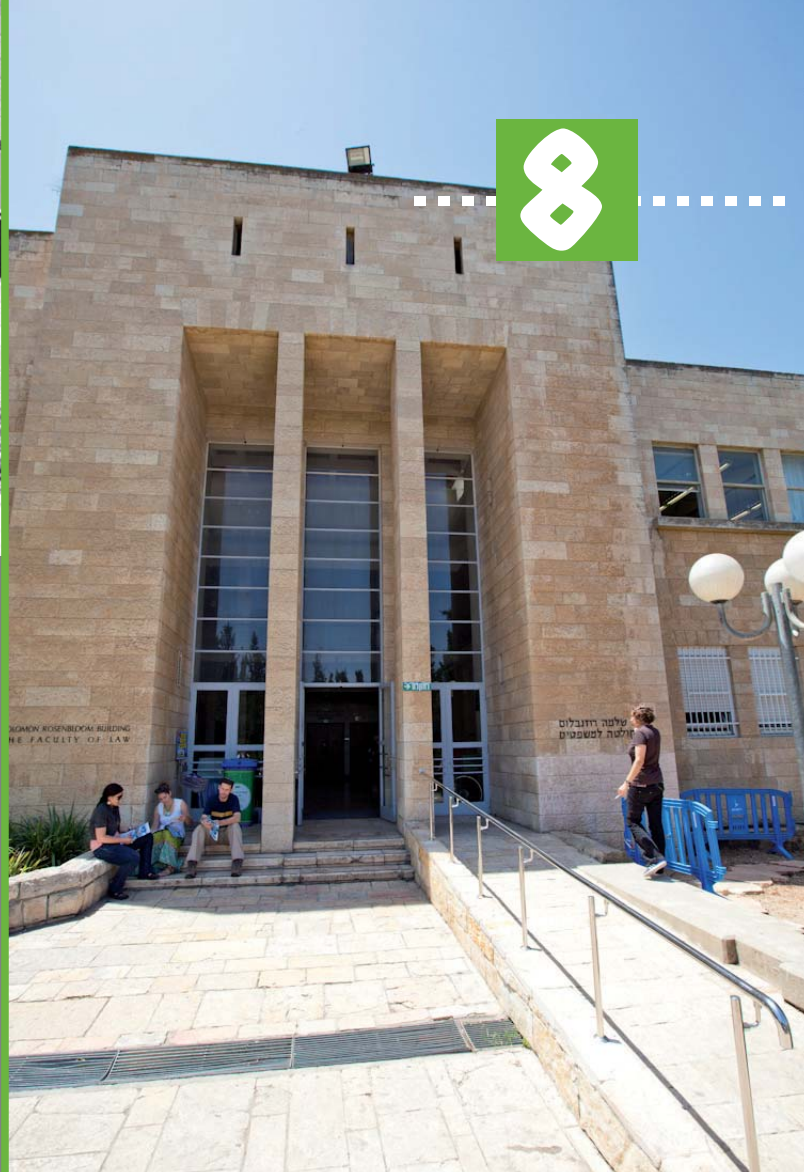
From its very first day, the library's central hall was used for gatherings and events, with ceremonies marking the opening of the new school year held there annually. Between 1948 and 1967, many collections were transferred from the library to other University departments scattered throughout the city and, thereafter, to the new National Library on the Givat Ram campus.

Return via the passageway to the adjacent building – the Institute of Jewish Studies – which was next to the library building. The entrance area is impressive: high ceilings and marble-covered walls. The iron grillwork on the second-floor balcony overlooking the entrance is decorated with symbols of the twelve tribes. The building's central hall was on the ground floor facing the entrance, with the lectern appearing as a curved arch in the rounded wall.



Above: By the beginning of the 1940s, there were just over 1,000 students on campus

Right: The Institute of Jewish Studies building (today the Faculty of Law). The building also housed the Faculty of Humanities and other institutes



The Humanities Building



The Institute of Jewish Studies began its activities in December of 1924, several months prior to the University's official opening ceremony. The building was made possible through the generosity of the Rosenbloom family of the US in memory of their father, Sol Rosenbloom, who had raised funds to establish and develop the Institute, as well as for the establishment of its library.

Throughout the years, many changes have been made to the building, including additions and renovations to its various rooms. The main hall was not only used for teaching but also for public, national and academic gatherings, for balls, and for the students' cultural activities.

Stroll along the entrance-level corridor and the upper floor.

In October 1940, even before construction was completed, a serious shortage of classroom and laboratory space led the University to start using the building. Until the end of the Mandate period, the Institute of Jewish Studies building housed the Institute of Oriental Studies as well as the Faculty of Humanities, which had been established in 1928. This combination of institute and faculty reflects the changing character of the University during this period – from a university comprising research institutes to a university where teaching activities also take place.

Leave the Rosenbloom Building and proceed down the ramp to the road; the Botanical Garden is on the other side of the road. Enter the garden through the main tunneled entrance facing the Sherman Administration Building (where the tour began). At the water pool at the end of the tunnel, turn right and continue along the path to a large plaza – on its west side is Nicanor's Cave.



Above: Path leading to the Cave of Nicanor. The garden was a unique botanical collection on campus but not the only one. Other such collections exist to this day and are used for research

Left: Sarcophagus found in burial caves on Mount Scopus. The best known of the sarcophagi is that of the Nicanor family

The Botanical Garden

Around the time of the University's opening, plans were devised to plant an "applied science" botanical garden in memory of Montague Lamport whose father had donated the family's plot of land on Mount Scopus for a planted garden. The plan for the garden was postponed due to various difficulties and only after a number of years was a suitable plot for the garden found on University grounds. Botanist Alexander Eig spent six years (from 1932 to 1938) designing the garden according to "Land of Israel phytogeography" whereby the connection between plant groups and the surrounding geographical conditions is emphasized. Eig's followers worked to preserve the "Land of Israel" collection in the garden and continued to plant. Following the Six Day War, the garden was declared a campus "green area", also to be used for research and teaching purposes. In 2007-2008, the garden underwent preservation, development and signage activities. Within Jerusalem's urban landscape, the Botanical Garden on Mount Scopus is a magical corner of tranquility.

In 1902, on land that would eventually become the Botanical Garden, a burial cave was found and excavated, and dated to the Second Temple period. An inscription on one of the sarcophagi in the cave was deciphered and revealed that the tomb belonged to the Nicanor family of Alexandria whose father was known to have donated two copper doors to the Temple. After the University was established, there was a proposal that the cave and the adjacent land be used to create a national pantheon. In 1934, the body of Yehuda Leib (Leo) Pinsker, a leader of the Hovevei Zion (Lovers of Zion) organization, was brought to Israel and interred in Nicanor's tomb. Seven years later, as instructed in his will, Jewish National Fund chairman Menachem Ussishkin was buried in the tomb. During this period, discussion once again turned to the tomb's future and the preservation of its graves. The idea of building a pantheon was shelved when the mountain was abandoned as a result of the War of Independence.

The tour ends in this special garden, where you can relax among the shade of its many trees and enjoy the wide variety of flora.

Facts & Figures

Campuses: Mount Scopus, Edmond J. Safra (Givat Ram), Ein Kerem and Rehovot

Students: Over 23,000 from Israel and 65 other countries

Degrees conferred to date: Over 120,000

Staff: Over 1,000 senior faculty members

Faculties & Schools: Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment, Paul Baerwald School of Social Work & Social Welfare, Jerusalem School of Business Administration, School of Education, Federmann School of Public Policy & Government, Selim & Rachel Benin School of Computer Science & Engineering, School of Nutritional Sciences, Koret School of Veterinary Medicine, Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing, Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Occupational Therapy, School of Pharmacy, Braun Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health & Community Health, Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine Founded by the Alpha Omega Fraternity, Rothberg International School

Research: Approximately 100 research centers and over 4,000 research projects

Discoveries: Exelon® – FDA-approved drug for treating Alzheimer's disease; Doxil® –

medication for treatment of ovarian cancer; cherry tomatoes – hybrids for greenhouse production with improved shelf life, yield and quality

Patents: Over 6,000 patents for more than 1,750 inventions registered by Yissum, the Hebrew University's technology transfer company. Approximately 30 percent of patents have led to products worth over two billion dollars in annual sales

Prizes: Faculty members and alumni have been awarded 8 Nobel Prizes, 1 Fields Medal, 258 Israel Prizes, 12 Wolf Prizes, 18 EMET Prizes and 40 Rothschild Prizes

University founders include:

Albert Einstein, Martin Buber, Chaim Nachman Bialik, Chaim Weizmann, Berthold Feiwel, Hermann Zvi Schapira

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