

**THE PAPERS
OF
Gedalyahu Wilbushevitz (1865–1943)**



JNF Director M. Ussishkin and wife visiting the “Ussishkin House,” designed by Wilbushevitz
(standing fourth from the right)

The Architectural Heritage Research Center

Department of Architecture and Town Planning

The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

(Arrangement & Description by Shira Wilkof, July 2017)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY	3
2	BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE	4
3	SCOPE AND CONTENTS.....	5
4	CONTAINER LIST	6
	SERIES I: MANUSCRIPTS	6
	SERIES II: PROFESSIONAL WORK.....	6
	Subseries I: Projects (subject folders).....	6
	Subseries II: Other Professional Material	7
	SERIES III: HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION ON WILBUSHEVITZ	7
	SERIES IV: PROFESSIONAL WORK BY OTHERS	7
	Subseries I: Projects by Ze'ev Pollak and Chaim Fruchter	7
	Subseries II: Projects by Ze'ev Pollak	8
	Subseries III: Assorted Projects	8
	Subseries IV: Other Professional Work.....	8

FINDING AID

1 DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Creator: Gedalyahu Wilbushevitz (1865–1943)

Title: The Papers of Gedalyahu Wilbushevitz

Dates: ca. 1920s–1985 [bulk: 1920s–1930s]

Abstract:

The materials in this collection reflect a small part of the activities of Gedalyahu Wilbushevitz, a Russian-born, German-educated engineer and architect, and a pioneer of Zionist industry and construction. Holdings include W.'s professional work in Palestine, mainly during the 1920s and 1930s. It contains visual and textual materials concerning W.'s construction projects, including residential, public, commercial and industrial projects, in addition to a small collection of his published manuscripts. It also includes various materials on and by W., collected in the late 1970s and early 1980s as part of a historical study on W. at the Technion. A different part covers projects designed in the 1960s-1980s by landscape architects **Chaim Fruchter** and Ze'ev Pollak, as well as some other individuals. The presence of these materials seems to be related to the fact that W.'s materials were maintained by Pollak prior to their reception at the Technion's Architectural Heritage Research Center. An additional collection of W.'s papers can be found at the Central Zionist Archives.

Subjects:

Jews -- Germany -- History -- 20th Century ; Jews -- Colonization -- Palestine -- History -- 20th century ; Architecture, Modern -- 20th Century -- Europe ; Architecture, Modern -- 20th Century -- Israel ; Jews -- Europe, Eastern -- History ; Palestine -- Emigration and Immigration -- 20th Century ; Zionism

Languages: German; Hebrew; English; Russian

Quantity: 1 Box (20 Files)

Repository: The Architectural Heritage Research Center, Department of Architecture and Town Planning, The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

2 BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE



G. Wilbushevitz

W. was born near Grodno, Belarus in 1865. He was trained as a mechanical engineer at the *Technische Hochschule* in Berlin-Charlottenburg between 1884 and 1888. Coming from a prominent Zionist family, W.'s younger sister was **Manya Shochat**, the Zionist socialist leader.

W. immigrated to Palestine for the first time in 1892 as part of the "First Wave" of Zionist Immigration (*Aliyah Rishona*), but he left in 1894. In 1912 he immigrated a second time, and assumed pioneering roles in developing local construction and heavy industry. This included importing machinery and founding factories for the processing and manufacturing of iron, cement, oil and industrial equipment. During the First World War he was appointed

by the Ottoman ruler as the director of public work in Jaffa, in which capacity he supervised the construction of the Jamal Pasha Boulevard (currently Jerusalem Boulevard). Later, he was appointed as a municipal engineer of Damascus.

W. settled in Haifa in 1922. He collaborated with architect **Alexander Baerwald** in the construction of the Technion, serving as the project's engineer. Other notable buildings built by W. in Haifa include the Electricity Company building, the Haifa-Center train station, and the Eitin House. From 1932 onwards W. was a member of the **Technion's steering committee**, where he also served as an instructor in areas related to construction and building in Palestine. Throughout his life, he published on issues related to the construction in Palestine, and was engaged in the promotion of research and professional training. He died in Haifa in 1943.

Further Reading

"Gedalyahu Wilbushevitz." *Encyclopedia of the Founders and Builders of Israel*, vol. II, 1949, p. 939. <http://www.tidhar.tourolib.org/tidhar/view/2/939> [Hebrew].

3 SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The collection reflects a small part of the professional work of W. in Mandate Palestine (mainly during the 1920s and 1930s). There is no record regarding the receipt of the collection in the archives. However, given the physical folder system and nature of materials found in this collection, it seems likely to assume that W.'s papers were maintained by landscape architect Ze'ev Pollak. The original filing system has been mostly kept intact. The collection contains only a small part of W.'s complete oeuvre.

There are several parts in this collection. The bulk of the materials are W.'s professional work. This includes a partial selection of subject files organized according to W.'s building projects. Especially notable are the materials concerning the JNF head Ussishkin's House and the Shemen oil factory as well as other Haifa landmarks (such as Eitin House and Nahum Wilbush House). Materials include textual and visual materials, ranging from legal documents and correspondence to maps, plans, and handwritten sketches, as well as several photographs.

Another part of the collection includes materials in connection with historical research on W. These contain original documents produced by W. as well as historical documentation on W., including substantial information on his various architectural projects. The collection also includes materials concerning the work of Ze'ev Pollak and Chaim Fruchter's landscape architectural office in the 1960s and 1970s. These include mostly projects in Israel, and also one project abroad: the Rheinpark in Köln. The collection further includes some original materials regarding early works of pioneering Israeli landscape architects from the 1940s and the 1950s such as Shlomo Oren-Weinberg, Lippa Yahalom and Moshe Zur.

Note on the marking of files: File titles with consecutive Arabic numbers all belong to one original folder, which was then separated due to its size. Titles written in quotation marks reflect the original file name given by the creators of the collection themselves and were preserved in this way in order to reflect the original intention and manner of organization.

SERIES I: Manuscripts

This single-folder series contains lecture notes and professional published texts regarding construction in Palestine, such as climatic considerations, housing and construction materials (in Hebrew).

SERIES II: Professional Work

Materials in this series include subject folders containing W.'s building commissions from the 1920s and 1930s for residential, commercial, industrial, and public buildings. The majority of these materials are subject files organized according to W.'s different projects. The folders contain textual and visual material, including original drawings and photographs. Additional folders in this series include documentation and correspondence with various stakeholders regarding different projects, including professional organizations, housing associations and Zionist colonizing agencies.

SERIES III: Historical Documentation on Wilbushevitz

Materials in this series include copies of various records produced by W. and maintained by his family. It also includes collected and secondary materials on W., such as his resume, encyclopedia entries, a (partial) list of his projects, and textual and architectural information on various projects (such as the Technion) in the form of “index cards” with ample photographs. The materials in this series were collected in the late 1970s and early 1980s by students of the Technion-based architectural historian Gilbert Herbert, as part of a research project.

SERIES IV: Professional Work by Others

Materials in this series include an assorted collection of the professional work of landscape architects. These include projects by Ze'ev Pollak and Chaim Fruchter from the 1960s through the 1980s, and earlier works by Lippa Yahalom, Moshe Zur, and Shaul Oren-Weinberg from the 1940s and 1950s. These folders include mostly landscape architectural plans. It also includes a notebook entitled “Arbeit,” including lecture notes and other materials written in German and Hebrew. It seems likely to assume that its author was Pollak.

4 CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I: MANUSCRIPTS

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F1	Articles, Lectures and Explanatory Pages	1930s

SERIES II: PROFESSIONAL WORK

Subseries I: Projects (subject folders)

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F2	Beit Shoham, Beit Mei'ira, Beit Goodman	1920s
B1/F3	Beit G. Wilbushevitz "Yehiel", Beit Nachum Wilbush, Beit Wilbushevitz-Weiss	1920s
B1/F4	Dr. Rosenberg Building, Brin Building, Pollak Building	1927

B1/F5	Ussishkin House, Duchan House, Dr. Yoffe House	1920s-1930s
B1/F6	Meirson House, Mizrahi School for Girls, Mada Building, Shemen Factory	1930s
B1/F7	Bendarli House in Bat Galim, Glickin House, Commercial Center	1925-1935
B1/F8	Unidentified Project Material	n.d.

Subseries II: Other Professional Material

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F9	Documents and Correspondence (1)	1920s
B1/F10	Documents and Correspondence (2) [original folder]	1920s
B1/F11	Professional Material by Others	n.d.

SERIES III: HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION ON WILBUSHEVITZ

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F12	Collected Materials on Wilbushevitz	c. 1977-1980
B1/F13	Historical Records by Wilbushevitz	1920s-1950s

SERIES IV: PROFESSIONAL WORK BY OTHERS

Subseries I: Projects by Ze'ev Pollak and Chaim Fruchter

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F14	Ma'a lot Beit Havraa (Convalescent Home)	1968-1969

B1/F15	Pithat Rafih, Kibbutz Na'an, Augusta Victoria Jerusalem	1967-1976
--------	---	-----------

B1/F16	Rheinpark Köln	1969
--------	----------------	------

Subseries II: Projects by Ze'ev Pollak

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F17	"Arbeit"	1960s-1970s
B1/F18	House, Batitodina and Parents	c. 1985

Subseries III: Assorted Projects

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F19	Projects by Yahalom-Zur, S. Weinberg and More	1945-1955

Subseries IV: Other Professional Work

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/F20	Unidentified Project Documentation	1981-1985