

Paris Square Gets a Facelift and a Wallace Fountain



Paris Square Haifa, ISREAL

In 2006, the mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, went to Haifa during the second Lebanon war on a solidarity visit. A few months after the end of the war, he was invited by the mayor of Haifa, Yona Yahav, to return to Israel. During this last visit, he noticed the neglected state of the Place de Paris or Paris Square. He decided, in a gesture of cooperation between the two municipalities, to help with its renovation. An urban planning team from the city of Paris, led by the French architect Maria José Malheiros, went to Haifa sometime later. In cooperation with the technical team from the city of Haifa, they designed plans for the new square.

On June 1, 2008, Mayor Delanoë went to Haifa with a large delegation to lay the first stone for the rehabilitation. The repair work lasted two years and cost ten million shekels, or about two million euros. The project was carried out jointly by the engineers of the two municipalities, in cooperation with the municipal company Yefe Nof. In order to give a little Parisian air to the square, the city of Paris gave the city of Haifa lighting, street furniture and a Wallace fountain, specially imported from Paris. The square was officially reopened in 2011 in the presence of Bertrand Delanoë.

Source: DGRI, Ville de Paris

Photos: Haifa By פארוק - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0