Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Pride or Revolt?

Rick Meghiddo · Thursday, June 9th, 2016

Tel Aviv's 18th annual Pride Parade is officially titled "Women for Change." It joins similar manifestations around the world to assert tolerance and equal rights for all, except that…this event, under the particular situation of the Middle East, and given Israel's political map, is not just about personal liberty. It is about freedom from coercion of any kind. What I see in "The State of Tel Aviv" are symptoms of a revolt against all establishments. This is likely to have major political implications for the future of the country and of the region and, possibly, a re-evaluation of architecture and urban design.

Israel is a mosaic of cultures, tribes and ideas, frequently clashing to one another: right (nationalist, secular or religious) vs. left (liberal-progressive,) orthodox-religious vs. secular-cosmopolitan, straight vs. gay, machismo vs. feminism.

Hammer

Bograshov St.

The crowd that paraded through the parks, streets and shore of Tel Aviv is still a minority within the 5.8 million citizens who are eligible to cast a ballot, but a meaningful one for a number of reasons:

1. It is young.
2. It demands total freedom.
3. It is anti-establishment of any sort.
4. It connects to most parts of the free world.

Sure, it is Narcissistic and exhibitionist, like the vast majority of the crowded free world. People are desperately looking for identity. Does it offend moral and religious believes, Jewish, Christian or Muslim? Sure. Does it ignore the Israeli-Arab conflict in general, and the Palestinian problem in particular? I don't think so, at least not the majority of the estimated 200,000 people who attended the parade (about ten percent are likely to have been tourists.)

Fuck Fear

Prague Loves Tel Aviv

The people who shout for personal freedom are likely to support freedom for the Palestinians to live in a country of their own, by their own rules. This parade is a message that politicians in Israel, in Muslim-dominated countries and in the West should be paying attention to very carefully.

What has all this to do with architecture? Wright once answered, when asked about his vision of the future: “the future of architecture is the future of humanity. If humanity has a future, so will architecture. If it doesn’t…”

Parade Baby

Parade Girl

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 9th, 2016 at 3:04 am and is filed under Architecture, Lifestyle
You can follow any responses to this entry through the Comments (RSS) feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.