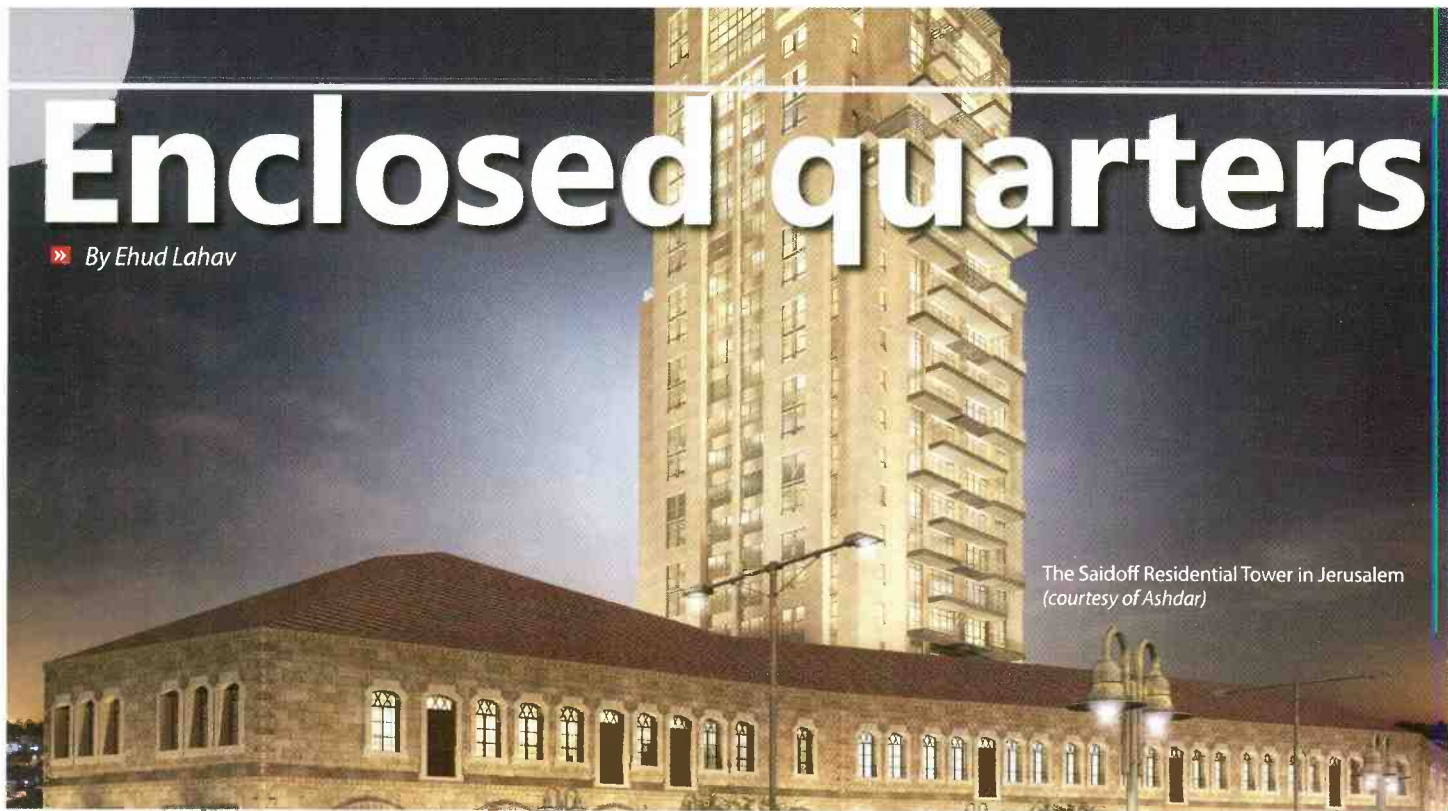


Enclosed quarters

» By Ehud Lahav



The Saidoff Residential Tower in Jerusalem (courtesy of Ashdar)

During the past two decades, the Israeli economy has grown by leaps and bounds. Consequently, during these years there has come into being a very affluent and cosmopolitan-minded class of people who want the best and are able and willing to pay for it. These people often go abroad and are exposed to foreign influences trends in fashion, furnishings, etc.

These new trends are very much in evidence in real estate. Developers acquire large plots of land and build luxurious and expensive apartments in enclosed compounds. These have 24/7 surveillance concierge services and public areas such as gardens, spas, swimming pools, gyms and party rooms.

There are such developments in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other cities in Israel.

One of the more striking enclosed developments is the Saidoff Towers in Jerusalem because it combines the old and the new. It combines a restored late 19th, early 20th century residential one-story building built by Yitzhak Saidoff and an ultramodern 23-story residential tower.

The developers, the Ashdar Group, have beautifully restored the original one-story building, which will serve as a commercial center. The ground and first floors will be rented out to high-end businesses, shops and art galleries. The residential tower block will have 90 apartments of three- to six-room units. These include penthouses and duplexes. The top floor apartments will have panoramic views of Jerusalem breathtaking views of the old and new Jerusalem and its environs. The public areas will include a swimming pool with spa and gym, large spacious lounge ballroom that can double as a conference room and a synagogue. There will also be concierge

service and 24-hour surveillance.

Tel Aviv also has its share of luxury enclosed compounds. One of these is the Savyon Ramat Aviv, a luxurious development of Africa Israel Investments Ltd.

On a 5,000 square meter plot of land on the grounds of the old Ramat Aviv Hotel, the company has built a closed compound of two 21-story residential towers on the two western corners of the compound. There are two 14-story residential towers on the two eastern corners of the compound and six six-story residential buildings, three on each side. With the exception of the tower on the northwest corner, all the other buildings have been completed.

One of the most striking selling points of Savyon Ramat Aviv is the large garden. It has lawns, flowers, fountains, shaded benches and verdant paths. And entrance is restricted to residents only.

Besides the cool, colorful gardens, residents can enjoy the use of such facilities as a large heated swimming pool, gym, sauna and squash court. In addition, residents have the use of a large banquet hall.

The seaside city of Netanya is home to two enclosed residential compounds. Briga Construction Ltd. is building an enclosed compound of two residential towers called Yam, one of 22 and the other of 18 floors. It is located on a large 7,300 sq. m. plot opposite the sea, and all the apartments will have sea views.

Yam's two towers will be clad in special heat-resistant glass and aluminum. With the exception of the top floors, every floor is divided into three 156 sq. m. spaces with 3.3 sq. m. high ceilings. Each space has a 25 sq. m. terrace, which buyers can transform into a

luxury apartment adapted to his/her taste and needs. The penultimate floor of each tower will have three lofts, and the top floor will have two 250 sq. m. penthouses. On the roof, there will be a private swimming pool for each penthouse.

The two towers have large public areas. These include a large, fully equipped lounge and business area where residents can relax or have business meetings. There will also be a children's room equipped with the latest computer games. And there will be a sport and recreation area and a large garden.

The Crown Opera penthouse in Netanya is part of the Sea Opera Complex.

The two residential towers, one of 27 floors and the other of 31, are located 40 meters from the seashore. The complex is built on a 5,000 sq. m. plot. Residents can enjoy a large well-tended garden, a swimming pool, spa, etc.

One of the most spectacular units is the penthouse on the 31st floor of the higher tower. The stunning tri-level penthouse, whose interior spans 420 sq. m., with 250 sq. m. of outdoor terrace space, has been impeccably designed and furnished by Armani Casa, the upscale home collection inspired by Giorgio Armani.

Nothing has been left to the imagination. The penthouse features custom-made components, highlighted by marble flooring, mosaic tiling in the bathrooms and state-of-the-art smart home and lighting systems. The unobstructed view of the Mediterranean, the sunroom lounge and the private heated outdoor pool are all simply stunning.

Unlike some luxury apartments that can sometimes feature a cold and sterile living environment, the Crown Opera penthouse radiates light, soul and a passion for living. ■