

# Made to Measure

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Tel Aviv, Israel  
Residents \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
Size \_\_\_\_\_ 25 m<sup>2</sup> (270 ft<sup>2</sup>)

**New life is breathed into the recessed balcony of a modernist apartment in Tel Aviv, which has been transformed into an artist's studio brimming with hidden treasures.**

**A** balcony can serve a variety of purposes: as a small outdoor space to rejuvenate, a vantage point from which to view the surroundings, a place of lively gatherings, or a place for solitary contemplation. It provides a source of fresh air and, in the case of recessed balconies, so-called “loggias,” shades and privacy, as a threshold between one’s private abode and the outside world. For Sylvie Ye’arit Sheftel, the great potential of such a liminal space was precisely what she was looking for when she purchased her apartment in Tel Aviv. “The reason why I moved to this apartment was to create a space for my work as an artist,” she explains.

Working primarily within the medium of art photography, Sheftel was looking for an apartment that could also accommodate a dedicated studio for her creative output, as well as her private collection of artwork. With approximately 80 m<sup>2</sup> (861 ft<sup>2</sup>) and three rooms, her new home was somewhat larger than her previous one-bedroom apartment—and more importantly, it offered a unique space waiting to be revived.

The apartment is located on the first floor of a four-building residential complex in central Tel Aviv, near the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the Israeli Opera, and the Cameri Theater. It was designed in the 1950s by Dov Karmi, one of the most important architects of the modernist movement in Israel. Boasting the world’s largest number of buildings—more than 4,000—built in the Bauhaus-inspired International Style, Tel Aviv is widely

known as the “White City” (for the prevalent use of white concrete), and was awarded the status of a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2003.

The recessed balcony of Sheftel’s new apartment might originally have been intended to catch the cool breeze blowing in from the Mediterranean Sea on hot summer nights. During the course of its 60-year history, however, it had been used for a variety of functions according to the needs of its various

Above The modular floor-to-ceiling system includes 36 drawers and storage compartments, multifunctional display panels, and a hidden bed that transforms the studio into a guest room.

owners. By the time Sheftel purchased the apartment, the balcony had been closed off entirely and the space immediately behind it had transformed from being an airy kitchen to a bedroom with a single small window.

