



King
Herod at
Tel-Hai





The Upper Galilee, Israel



Tel-Hai College and Macalester College are proud to launch "3 Roman Temples at Tel-Hai," a permanent exhibit of discoveries from the Omrit archaeological site on Tel-Hai's Leven Campus. The exhibit is unique not only in the breadth of findings and the meticulous restoration process required for their preservation, but most significantly in the proximity of the dig where they were found to the academic campus where they are to be presented.



In collaboration with a U.S based team of archeologists, headed by archeologist Prof. Andrew Overman of Macalester College and with David Mevorach, Israel Museum's Curator of Hellenistic, Byzantine and Roman Periods, Tel-Hai College is designing and constructing a permanent home for the findings from the Omrit site on the Tel-Hai campus.

The exhibit will be positioned within direct view of the Omrit site on the Banias river banks, and binoculars will be placed both at Tel-Hai and at Omrit to enable full view of both at either site. Explanatory texts will accompany each component of the exhibit to provide background and context to the artifacts and findings presented. The exhibit will include three central components - an interior exhibit of Herodian temple elements on the library's three floors, a restored full-size Roman column placed within the main library stairway reaching up through the entire three levels of the building, and a partial reconstruction of a Roman temple to

be constructed adjacent to the outdoor campus theatre. The pieces, original stone, stucco and fresco elements that were found on the site, are 2000 years old. These are an incredible source of information and significance. Their conservation, critical for their longevity, positions them as a cornerstone in the education of the Galilee's cultural heritage.

Omrit

Excavations at Omrit, located in the northeast corner of the Hula Valley, began in 1999 under the direction of Macalester College, and has continued for fifteen years. The site is located on the ancient Roman road to Damascus in the upper Galilee.

The uncovering of the well-preserved, ornate temple complex and artifacts have led many scholars to believe Omrit is the site of Herod's third temple in honor of Augustus, Caesarea Philippi around 20 BCE. The other two temples are located in Caesarea and Samaria-Sebaste.

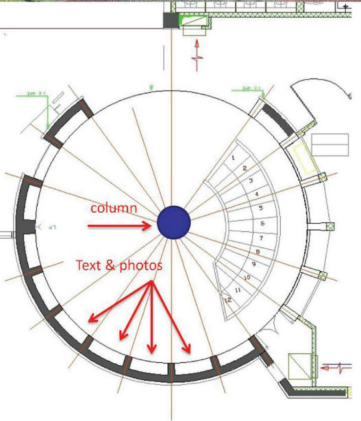
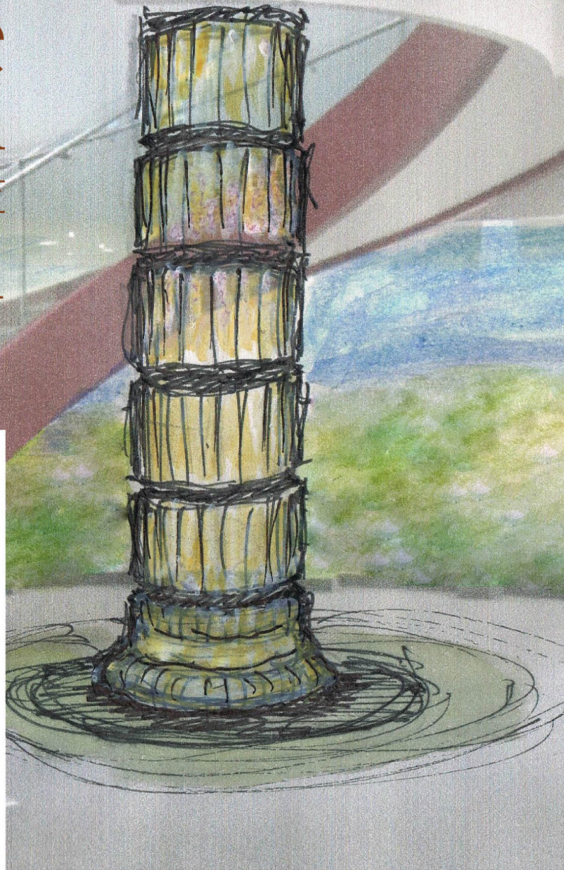
About Tel-Hai College

Tel-Hai College, established in 1996 as an independent public college, is a critical engine for the growth and development of the Upper Galilee. Widely regarded for its academic excellence, today, over 3500 students study in the 20 undergraduate and graduate programs that Tel-Hai offers. Tel-Hai strengthens the Upper Galilee with offerings for the surrounding community and the entire country. It is a cultural and intellectual center of the north.

Macalester College and Tel Hai Academic College are collaborating on a unique conservation and permanent exhibit of the rare finds from Omrit. The estimated total cost for the entire exhibit, both inside and outside of the new library, is 550,000 USD. Our goal is to complete our fundraising by the end of the year 2015.

Three Roman Temples at Tel-Hai

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1. Exhibits of elements of the three Herodian temples
2. Roman column in main library stairway
3. The Roman temple will be partially reconstructed outside the library, overlooking a theater



Prof. Andy Overman

Head Archeologist

Andy Overman is Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and Fine Arts at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is the Founder of the Excavations at Horvat Omrit. He has excavated in Israel for over twenty-five years.

David Mevorah

Exhibit Curator

David Mevorah serves as Senior Curator for Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Mevorah is responsible for curating leading exhibitions and publications such as *Cradle of Christianity, A Farewell for Peace* (archeological findings from the Sinai Desert before their return to Egypt), *Promise of Redemption* (The Sepphoris Synagogue Mosaic), *Statues of Greater Beit-Shean* and numerous exhibitions in Israel and around the world. Mevorah's work is known for its outstanding fresh qualities and friendly approach to the audience; his last work, "Herod the Great, The King's Final Journey," is a fine example of this.

Prof. Michael Nelson

Omrit Architect and Curator

Michael Nelson is a Professor of Art and Archaeology at Queens College of the City University of New York. He has served as the architect of the Omrit Excavations since 2001.

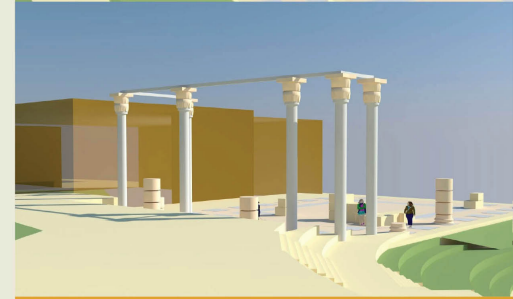
Avi Orr

Exhibit Designer

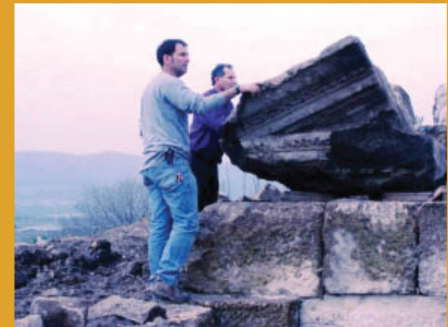
Avi Orr graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the Technion, Haifa, and holds a master's degree from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem. Orr specializes in designing residential and educational buildings with an emphasis on sustainability and the design of museums and exhibitions of art and archeology. Orr owns an architecture and design studio and has been a partner in a variety of archaeological museum exhibitions.



View from College library window, overlooking the Hula valley and Omrit in its southeastern corner



Reconstruction work on the Tel Hai temples



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