

Urban Memory

A Tour of Iasi in the
Footsteps of the
Jewish Community

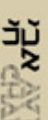


Composed by: Orly Ben Dov Serf, Sharon
Dalia, Lihi Eingezi Davidovich, Alon Matos,
Milnai Soltuz



A JOURNEY INTO THE JEWISH HERITAGE

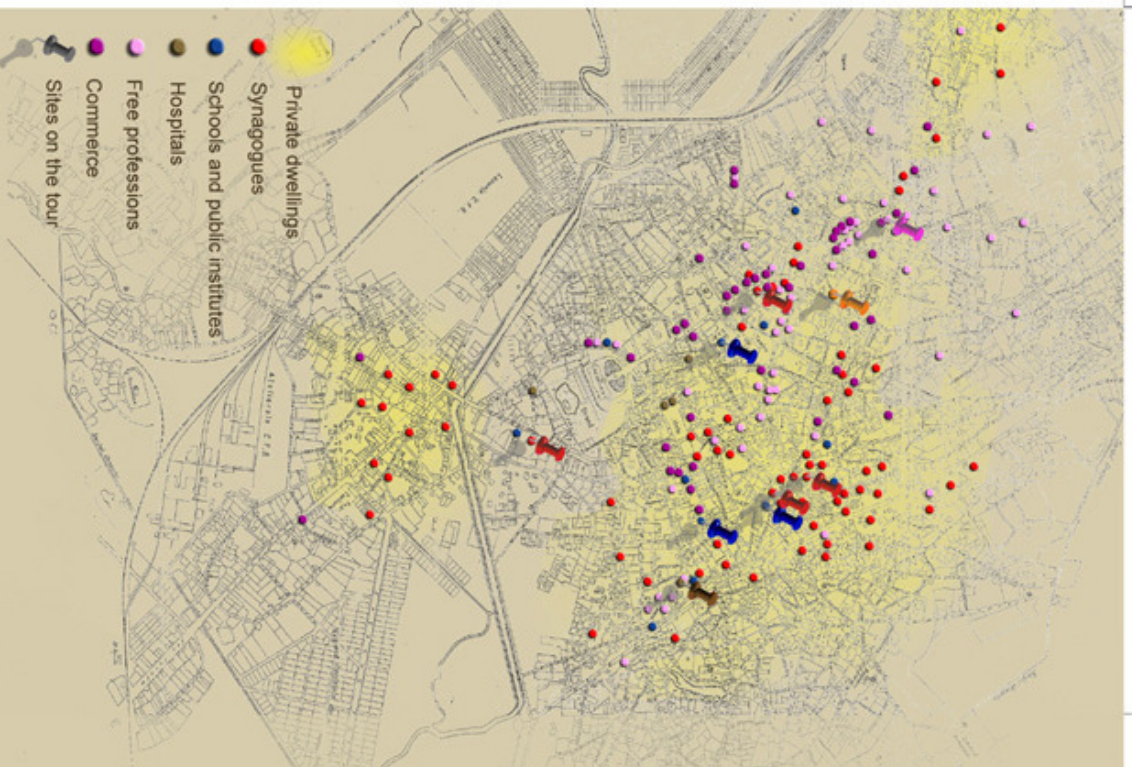
IASI 2007



As part of the project "Journey into the Jewish Heritage," our delegation of Israeli students traveled to Rumania to document the Jewish community of Iasi. Among the various types of documentation needed, we chose to focus on urban mapping of the Jewish presence in Iasi during its "golden era", when Jews comprised about half the city's population.

The mapping was carried out on the basis of a combination of historical sources and personal testimonies and involved locating the Jewish neighborhoods, synagogues, cultural and educational institutions, businesses, etc. Although due to the limited sources and time available to us we could achieve only a partial mapping, the impressive picture that emerged was that of a community that was an integral part of the city's landscape.

Our investigation of the traces of the Jewish community in the streets of Iasi produced a new map, a map of memory which combines sites from the past with present-day reality and examines what memory remains part of the urban space.



Map of Iasi from 1930 on which we have mapped the urban presence of the Jewish community during its "golden era" with over 100 synagogues, public institutions, etc. As can be seen, the Jewish community was an integral part of the city and although Jews chose to live mostly in three neighborhoods that had a distinct Jewish character, part of their cultural life and the majority of their commercial and financial activities were integrated in the city's urban center.

