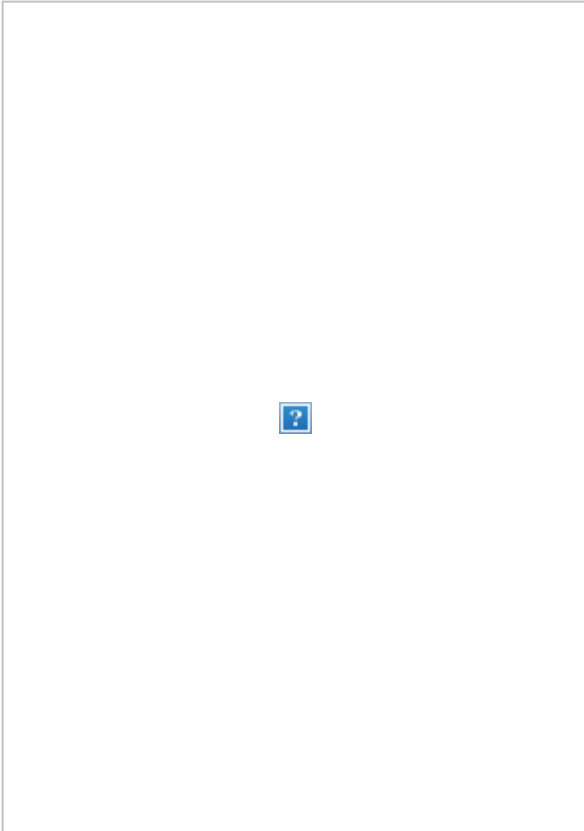




Arc Projects



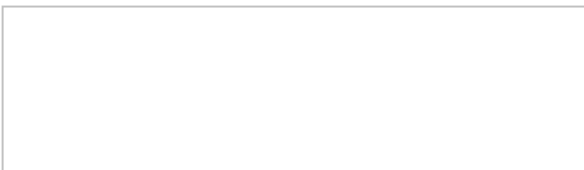
The Nine Terraces radiate outward from the Shrine

"O Carmel ... Rejoice, for God hath on this Day established on thee His throne ..."

Designed as nine concentric circles, the Terraces appear to radiate outwards from the Shrine, and all of their lines and curves direct attention towards the building at their heart. Harmony, symmetry, and order are important aesthetic principles from which the gardens take their form, as an expression of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's words: "It is natural for the heart and spirit to take pleasure and enjoyment in all things that show forth symmetry, harmony, and perfection."

To achieve symmetry, a large section of the mountain was literally moved, as thousands of cubic meters of rock were excavated and relocated to even out the contours of its face. More than 10,000 cubic meters of earth were removed from the eleventh and twelfth terraces alone. At the foot of the Terraces, as part of the restoration of the German Templar Colony, the municipality moved a section of Ben Gurion Avenue 1.86 meters and brought it into alignment with the Terraces' central stairs.

Perhaps the most difficult and hazardous phase of the work on the Terraces was the lowering of Hatzionut Avenue - one of Haifa's busiest thoroughfares - to accommodate a broad pedestrian bridge over the street. The bridge itself is a garden and its construction enables visitors to walk the entire length of the gardens without interruption. Extraordinarily, it was accomplished with no disruption of traffic flow. At one end, a 2,000 square



metre building, including a visitors' center, was built into the mountain below terrace-level.



Nearly one thousand Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members gather in Haifa for the inauguration of the International Teaching Centre Building

Throughout the length of the Terraces, a sense of continuity is maintained and the noise of the city is masked by the gentle sound of water, which flows in runnels down the sides of the staircases and through a series of fountains. The Sajur and Jatt stone that was used on the Terraces was chosen to reflect the ancient architectural heritage of the Holy Land. It was quarried in Israel and prepared in Nazareth. Three generations of the family that owns the factory that prepared the Sajur stone have worked on Bahá'í-projects, since the time the Shrine was originally built.

The balustrades and some of the fountains were carved in Italy. Unique hand-carved motifs and different designs of the paving stones used in the central area of each terrace add distinctiveness in the midst of a harmonious overall design.

The entrance plaza at Ben Gurion Avenue is also distinctive, with its marble cascade, runnels, and a unique star-shaped fountain at the heart of sixteen diamond-shaped silent, crystalline pools of water that create two levels of glassy surfaces.