

The Home.Building Program

The Home.Building program aims to introduce a new attitude toward the familiar term "residential building" – as a theoretical notion and as a practice for sustainable city life. The program worked simultaneously on two platforms: an urban program which took place in several residential buildings, and an artist residency program that served as a base for information, study and discourse on residential buildings.

The program comprised a series of meetings aimed to deepen the residents' link to the building and to each other, and to provide them with practical tools in the field of urban sustainability.

The initial meetings were in the buildings themselves. To deepen the sense of belonging and connection we engaged in the "local story": the history of the building and its surroundings; the local values and culture that shaped it.

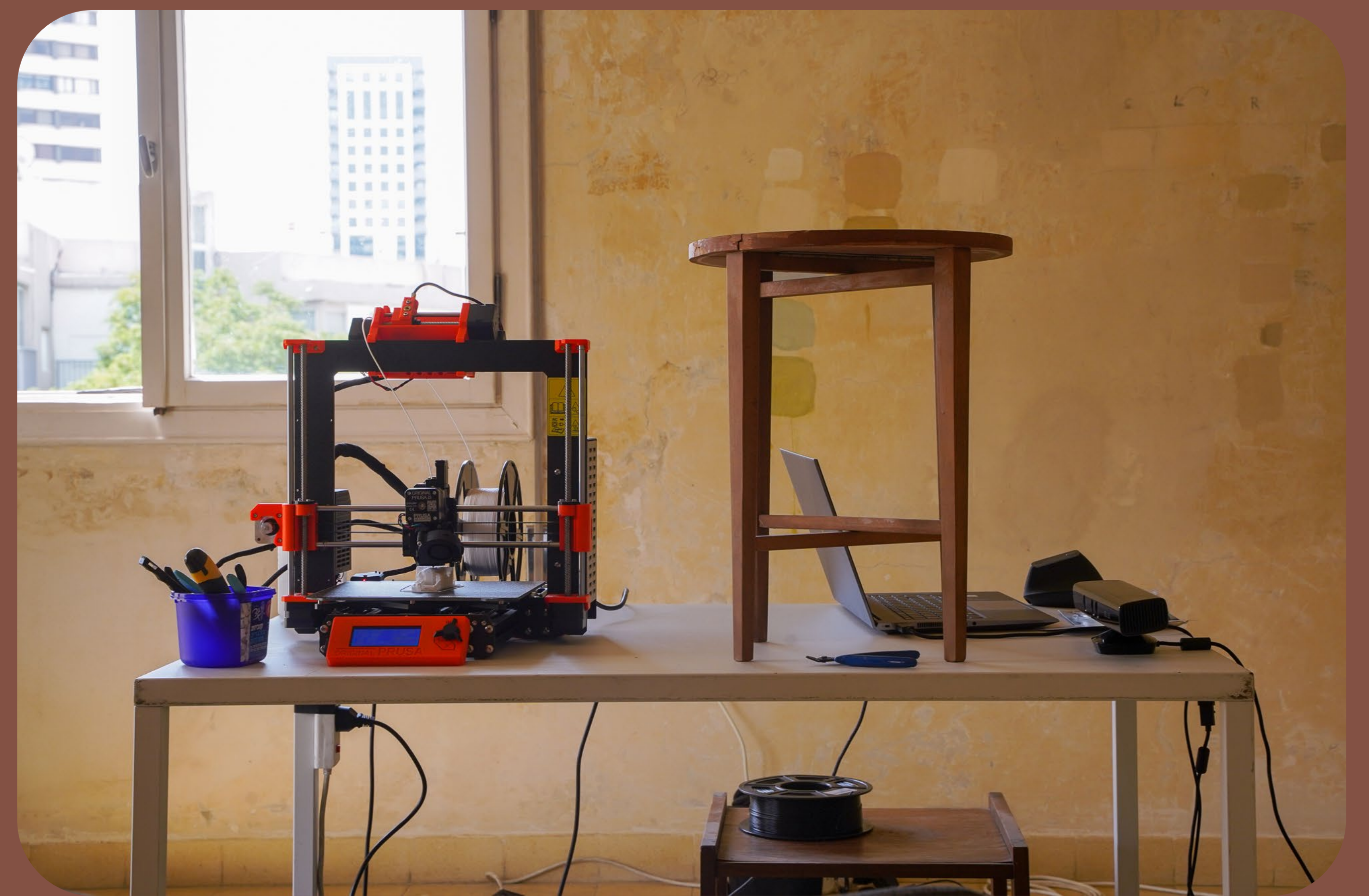
The other meetings were workshops around the city. These meetings had two purposes: first, to give participants practical tools in the fields of sustainability to initiate ideas in the domestic or shared space. Second, a direct and immediate connection between residents and municipality professionals.

During the months of the program the building residents were invited to take a new, inquisitive and curious look at their life surroundings, particularly the shared spaces, and to act to create cultivated and useful spaces that would improve everyday life in the building.

As part of the program we formed a study and action group, comprising five artists whose work combines multidisciplinary design and art and social involvement.



Residents established a variety of initiatives: lobby sharing stand; yard and common area renovation; ecological gardens establishment; hydroponic systems for vegetable cultivation.



A study and action group formed at Liebling Haus, comprising five multidisciplinary artists, exploring the conventional notions of the term "residential buildings" from diverse viewpoints.



A new platform was created: an initiatives fair promoting novel solutions for improving urban life and rethinking domestic services such as energy, transportation, home design, food, and leisure.



The residency program was followed by a group exhibition, aiming to expand the concept of "building", contemplating it as a phenomenon, similar to our natural contemplation of the concept of "home".

Conclusions

Apart from forming relations among the buildings' residents, it develops links between the municipality and the residents in their intimate shared space.

The program managed to reach a wide and diverse public: apartment owners and tenants, young and old, new and old occupants, and participation of many residents who shy away from other urban activities.

Promoting a sustainable lifestyle in the building, one of the program's main objectives, is also a means to strengthen the residents' sense of belonging to their building and the creation of a community, which is itself part and parcel of it.

