Modi’in–Maccabim–Re’ut
The vision behind the city.........................................................4
A planned city............................................................................5
Part of the natural environment..............................................5
A high-profile population.......................................................6
Modi’in – A crossroads.............................................................7
Modi’in by train..........................................................................7
Modi’in – at the forefront of environmental quality.............8
A breathtaking city of green..................................................8
Archeological sites in Modi’in.................................................9
Education - investing in tomorrow TODAY.........................10
Adult education.....................................................................10
Youth and sports culture.........................................................11
Cultural Center.....................................................................12
A city that reads....................................................................12
Investing in youth................................................................12
Religious and spiritual services.............................................13
Community volunteers.........................................................14
Employment zone...............................................................14
Commercial zone...............................................................15

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A city of dreams come true

The City of Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut is continuing to develop at a dizzying rate and boasts hundreds of educational institutions, green parks, as well as shopping and entertainment centers. The City lies in the center of Israel, between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, in the most strategic location, adjacent to traffic arteries such as highways 1 and 6, the Jerusalem-Modi'in-Tel Aviv train line and Ben Gurion Airport.

The late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin laid the cornerstone in 1993 for a new city in Israel—Modi'in. There is no doubt that even in his wildest dreams, Rabin would have never imagined that within 15 years, this complex project would become one of Israel’s most flourishing and successful cities.

The city, which was merged with the neighboring communities of Maccabim and Re’ut, is now home to over 75 thousand inhabitants, about half of whom are children. It is considered to be one of Israel’s largest and most ambitious municipal enterprises.

This brochure describes Modi'in’s glorious history, which dates back some 6000 years, its present as a developing city with a diverse population and one of Israel’s leading education systems, as well as its future and long-term development and building plans.

Haim Bibas
Mayor
The vision behind the city

Back in ancient times, the Modi'in area was already a bustling metropolis comprising of a great many cities, communities and inhabitants. Modi'in has become a symbol of Jewish heroism and the people's struggle for independence, after the Hasmoneans left the ancient village Modi'im to lead the revolt against Greek rule. Thus, it was only natural that the region where every stone tells an age-old story about the heroism of the Jewish people would be chosen as the most fitting site to build a new, progressive city in Israel.

The cornerstone for the City of Modi'in was laid in 1993. The city's construction began in 1994 and people began to populate the city in July 1996. Maccabim and Re'ut were merged into a single local council in 1990. The local council was merged with the City of Modi'in in 2003. The city was henceforth known as Modi'in Maccabim–Re'ut.

The decision to establish Modi'in - a big city in the center of Israel - stemmed partly from the strategic need to create urban cohesion as well as a continuum of communities from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It was also due to the growing shortage of available land on which to build residential units in the center of Israel.

Thus, Modi'in satisfies the longing to live in the center of Israel but away from the noisy hustle and bustle, with scenery galore, fresh air and nature, and among a young and diverse population that opted for the unique advantages of this city in which to live and raise their families.
A planned city

Modi'in is designed with four major tiers: a residential area, the main business center, an industrial park, and an employment area, all of which are surrounded by greenery.

A master plan was drawn for a superbly designed city covering 50 thousand dunams - half in built-up areas and half in green areas. According to the final plan for the city, it is designed to accommodate a population of approximately a quarter of a million inhabitants.

The residential neighborhoods are built around the city's core - the main municipal business center, where the Modi'in Central Railway Station and the Azrieli Modi'in Mall are currently located. In the future, the center will house the municipality building and many public institutions, as well as business and commercial sites. There are also commercial centers located throughout the residential neighborhoods. The city's cemetery - a final resting place for its local residents – lies near the treetops/trees of the Ben Shemen forest.

Part of the natural environment

Modi'in, which was designed to utilize the local landscape's natural attributes, extends over a blend of hills and wadis. The roads are paved along the wadis and lined with green public areas. There is construction on the hilltops and at the foot of the hills.

At 300 meters above sea level, Modi'in is open to light northwest winds. The city enjoys the low humidity typical of mountainous regions and the temperature is comfortable.

The city was planned in such a way as to completely separate the industrial and commercial districts from the residential areas in order to ensure the quality of life of its inhabitants.
There are approximately 75,000 inhabitants currently living in Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut. The city is rated at level 8 out of 10 on the scale of socioeconomic development.

The socioeconomic level in Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut is higher than the national average, thereby placing it on a par with Israel’s leading cities.

Many of the city’s inhabitants came from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, while many other families came from centrally located cities such as Holon, Ramat Gan, Petach Tikva, Beit Shemesh, Rishon LeZion, Ramla and Lod.

The population distribution in the city in 2009 is as follows: 50 percent women and 50 percent men; approximately 38 percent of the city’s inhabitants are aged 0 to 17, 10 percent are aged 20 to 29 and about 28 percent are aged 30 to 44.

The average Modi'in inhabitant is young (only 32), educated, married, a Jewish native of Israel, and practices a liberal profession.

About 8,000 inhabitants are new immigrants, half of whom immigrated from the USSR/former Soviet Union and half from countries such as the United States and France.

About 65 percent of the city’s inhabitants have an academic education, and the majority of the remaining population has a full high school education. The most prevalent employment among Modi'in’s inhabitants is in the realms of education, engineering and technical professions, medicine, computers, finance and senior IDF positions. These employment fields impart a dynamic, successful flavor to the city of Modi’in, whose population is young and educated.
Modi’in – A crossroads

Modi’in is surrounded by half the population of Israel within a radius of a one-hour drive, between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. As such, Modi’in is destined to be a central city in the hub of Israel.

Four main highways already connect Modi’in to the national traffic arteries:
Highway 443 connects Modi’in to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv by way of Highway 1 at the Ben Shemen interchange.
Highway 431 connects Modi’in to Lod, Ramla, Ness Ziona and Rishon LeZion.
Highway 3 connects Modi’in to Latrun and from there, to Highway 1 Tel-Aviv-Jerusalem and then southward.
Highway 6 – the Trans-Israel Highway – runs adjacent to the City of Modi’in, thereby enabling a rapid flow of traffic to the north and south of Israel within a short time and in maximum comfort.
Highway 45 is also in the planning stages; it will run to the north of Modi’in and will serve as another main traffic artery parallel to highway 443.

Modi’in by train

In September 2007, Israel Railways launched the ‘Paatei Modi’in’ (Modi’in Outskirts) Railway Station, as part of the railway project connecting Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport, Modi’in and – eventually – Jerusalem.

The Modi’in Central Railway Station opened in April 2008 in the center of the city. The station is Israel’s largest, with a total area of 3,000 square meters. Approximately 150 million shekels were invested in its inception and it makes it possible to travel quickly from Modi’in to any of Israel’s train destinations.

Since it began operation, the train has been transporting thousands of the city’s inhabitants daily to and from Tel Aviv in a mere 17 minutes, even during rush hour. Within a few years, once the railway line to Jerusalem is completed, the travel time will be similar, thereby enabling quick and easy access between the nation’s capital and Modi’in Maccabim-Re’ut.
The City of Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut was built with environmental quality in mind, for the city and for the surrounding area. The first signs are already apparent at the entrance to the city and in its green streets.

The municipality of Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut has decided to take the issue of environmental quality a few steps further – from its plan to set up tourist sites at some of the archeological sites throughout the city to its intent to turn it into a city of the future in all matters pertaining to environmental quality.

The garbage sheds in the residential buildings were tailored in size to accommodate the recycling bins they will house, a process that has already begun with hundreds of homes where bins were placed for the collection of plastic bottles and paper designated for recycling.

In the commercial centers throughout the city, there are currently special bins for the collection of plastic bottles designated for recycling. The city's educational institutions have been equipped with recycling centers including receptacles for the collection of old batteries, plastic bottles and newspapers. At the end of each academic year a campaign is conducted to collect and recycle notebooks and workbooks in all of the city's schools.

In 2009 the city held its first ecologic film festival with the aim of increasing the inhabitants' awareness of environmental issues. Activities spanned all ages, from kindergarten to adulthood.

A breathtaking city of green

Special emphasis is placed on developing and nurturing the city’s green spaces. Modi'in is one of the only cities in Israel whose main streets boast open green spaces, blossoming gardens, green nooks and unique play facilities for children.

Modi'in’s many green areas include valleys, public parks, groves and main avenues. The city’s streets are decorated with a wide range of ornamental and fruit trees, depending on the climate and the environment.

The city's center is home to its large, central park along Wadi Anabe. The first section of the park extends over about 350 dunams, from the traffic square in the city's center to interior highway 3 that crosses it. The park includes an amphitheatre that is equipped with a deep, wide stage and accommodates 8,000 in fixed seats and about 4,000 on the grass. Changing rooms and lavatories will also be built.

The amphitheatre overlooks an artificial lake with a surface of about 7,000 square meters where birds will nest, fish will swim and aquatic vegetation will flourish. A small pier equipped with rowboats/small boats is also being planned for the future.
The park also features a spice and perfume hill with pergolas and an observation point overlooking the entire park and northward. A large area in the park will house a recreational area with pergolas, seats and a log playground among the largest in Israel. There are also walking and biking paths, lawns, and local trees and vegetation with a double irrigation system, with the future potential for irrigation with reclaimed water.

The park’s second, future stage extends over hundreds of additional dunams and will include more tourist attractions, a petting zoo and environmental development that merges with the existing natural landscape.

**Archeological sites in Modi’in**

Modi’in is replete with archeological sites and history. The municipality and the inhabitants nurture the sites within the scope of a wide range of programs for the protection of environmental quality and heritage sites. The municipality of Modi’in Maccabim-Re’ut is planning to build visitor centers and tourist sites.

Findings attesting to the existence of a settlement about 6,000 years ago were discovered on Titura Hill, an archeological site preserved as a green space in the heart of the city. For the benefit of visitors, the site features wooden benches and signs describing the local history, heritage and vegetation.

In April 2001, while preparations were under way for a new highway/road in the city, archeological excavations exposed the Umm el-Umdan region, where there was a large Jewish community during the Hasmonean period. The Israel Antiquities Authority estimates that this was ancient Modi’in where Matityahu (Matthias) the Hasmonean and his sons, the leaders of the Maccabean revolt, lived.

There are other ancient archeological sites on the hills surrounding the city - some from the Hasmonean period - where evidence was found of developed settlements in the region.
Education—
investing in tomorrow TODAY

When the city was being populated in 1996, there were about 500 pupils studying in its education system. There are now about 23,500 thousand pupils in the education system. Modi'in offers pluralistic educational settings enabling a wide range of educational approaches.

In the 2008-2009 academic year, there are 164 state and state-religious kindergartens operating in Modi'in. The kindergarten frameworks, including special education kindergartens, integrated kindergartens and unique kindergartens, are Democratic, Yachad, Yozma, Shas and Chabad.

There are 27 schools, 19 of which are primary schools (15 state and 4 state-religious), 7 secondary schools – 5 of them state – a yeshiva high school and an ulpana (Bnei Akiva Yeshiva center).

The city's education system offers a variety of fields of study – science and technology, arts and sports – starting at the primary school level. Modi'in's drive for excellence is apparent, inter alia, in the fact that for three years running, Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut has been ranked first among Israel's cities for its percentage of those eligible for matriculation. In 2006, the city won the National Education Prize.

The city is conducive to a progressive and safe study environment. The municipal security services are augmented by security personnel in all of the city's educational facilities, according to municipal allocations. After-school programs are available in the city's kindergartens and schools.

The municipal education department believes in equal opportunities at all educational levels, regardless of the students' socioeconomic background.

Physical, pedagogical and advanced care infrastructures are developing in the city to meet the full range of student needs – whether the students are outstanding or experiencing difficulties.

All of the city's educational institutions use computer, teleprocessing and Internet systems, thanks to which the schools are able to offer innovative and active learning through the integration of information technologies in education and research as well as in individual and group projects.

The psychological services department is part and parcel of the educational endeavor and supports it from preschool to matriculation, out of a professional awareness and approach that stresses the importance of investing in training parents and educational staff to prevent and detect potential difficulties and to promote mental well being. The education administration also invests in the teaching staff and the city runs a regional in-service training center in the framework of the 'Pisga' development programs for teaching staff.
Adult education

The city’s multidisciplinary center functions as a study center for higher education and adult education from the age of 18 and up. The center focuses on instilling the principles of a “learning city”, from 08:00 to 23:00, and includes: an academic study center offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees affiliated with the Open University, the Katedra campus promoting enrichment and leisure activities, the pensioners’ Katedra, a career development and personal advancement center, a center for the advancement of women, diploma studies and in-service training benefits, professional training, conferences, training and in-service training.

Approximately 3,500 people study at the center every year. The Ministry of Education granted a certificate of merit to the center for its contribution toward developing an infrastructure for a learning city in Israel, which enables all of its inhabitants to study throughout their lives, for being an adult education institution constantly moving forward, integrating a wide range of study tracks in order to enhance human potential and social cohesion.
A world of Leisure, culture
Youth and sports culture

The City of Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut holds sports, leisure and cultural activities throughout the year. Cultural activities include innovative programs, club meetings, music events, films, plays, women's evenings, literature tours, sing-alongs, free summer events and artist appearances, as well as trips, workshops, exhibitions and parties.

The municipality and the municipal community center run a wide range of children's activities. The city initiates and promotes special events such as the national mathematics Olympics, a colorful "Adloyada" Purim procession, a dance festival, the national chess championship, a book week fair, artistic exhibitions, a bible quiz and a municipal march.

Most of the city's schools have small sports halls, as well as five large ones, which are used for classes, activities and league games.

Cultural Center

The first Heichal Tarbut (Cultural Center) of Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut opened in November 2007, with a seating capacity of 600, an amphitheatre with a seating capacity of about 150, and an art gallery featuring exhibitions and hosting cultural activities.

In its inception, a great deal of thought was invested in installing advanced technical systems, a sophisticated sound system, lighting systems and stage facilities among the most advanced in the world.

Heichal Hatarbut operates autonomously through the municipal "Mofa'im" society, and hosts plays and performances spanning all artistic and cultural fields on a national level.

Heichal Hatarbut constitutes a center for artistic creation and offers a wide range of subscription programs for adults and children, choice plays and a rich repertoire from the best theaters in Israel, high quality series of film, music, dance and performances for the whole family. The facility has ample parking free of charge, and is accessible to the handicapped and disabled, including detachable seats to accommodate the wheelchair-bound.

At the Azrieli mall in the city's center, the "Einan" hall for conferences and events was opened, with a seating capacity of 350 and a spacious well-designed lobby for receptions, in a central location near the train station.
and social activities

A city that reads

The city runs a network of 22 libraries, 16 of which are located in primary schools and 4 in secondary schools, and 2 public libraries where there are also reading corners for everyone from toddlers to adults, foreign language collections, and computer stations with Internet connectivity for public use.

The municipality of Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut invests a great deal in this area, in terms of both resources and professional personnel. Thus, all libraries are manned by professional librarians who hold a great many activities to promote reading among the younger generation, and in the fields of knowledge and studying.

Many of the city's inhabitants are members of the public libraries and also enjoy cultural activities such as encounters with authors, lectures, evenings of literature and music, sing-alongs, story hours for tots, and more.

Investing in youth

Throughout Modi'in, youth movements operate involving thousands of children and teenagers: the Scouts, Young Maccabi, Bnei Akiva and Working and Studying Youth, the Progressive Judaism Youth Movement, the Traditional Youth Movement, Krembo Wings and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel scouting clubs.

The municipal youth council takes an active part in determining activities for youth, initiating and participating in activities for preventing drug and alcohol addiction, preventing violence and imparting values.

The youth activity is coordinated by the youth unit, which won the national outstanding youth unit award in 2009. The unit organizes many events and activities all year round for about 6,500 teenagers from grades 7 to 12 in the fields of leadership, contribution to the community, encounters between religious and secular youth, and more.

The youth unit runs three youth clubs offering youth-oriented activity. Among the unit's other activities: the JACK music club where various youth bands perform and "Café La'Gzen" ("Listening Café"), a counseling café for teenagers.
Religious and spiritual services

Modi'in’s diverse population enjoys a wide range of religious services and activities relating to holidays and religious festivals according to tradition and Judaism as a whole.

About one fifth of Modi'in’s inhabitants are religious or traditional. As part of the traditional and spiritual activities, the city offers Torah lessons, a college for women, and more. Modi'in has a flourishing Reform community, which holds a range of activities throughout the city.

The Modi'in rabbinate provides its inhabitants with all religious services and throughout the city there are synagogues and ritual baths at the public’s service. Modi'in boasts a splendid state-religious education system for students of all ages.

Community volunteers

There are approximately 40 active volunteer and relief organizations in Modi'in Maccabim-Re'ut cooperating with the volunteer unit in the social services department – a unit promoting volunteer work in the city for the benefit of the various populations.

Volunteer work requires love, caring and giving – qualities amply available in the city’s volunteer organizations, which contribute substantially to the community. Once a year, the city salutes the volunteers in a festive tribute.
Modi’in’s employment, business and commercial zones

Employment zone

Modi’in’s employment zone is located in the north of the city near the Ben Shemen forest. The area was planned as a modern industrial park surrounded by a green forest. The park boasts a unique building style combining stone and glass, to fully preserve the quality of the environment.

The employment zone, extending over 1,300,000 square meters, is designated for employment, commerce and public buildings, and once it is completed, it is slated to provide employment for 35,000 people.

Activity in the zone will be primarily based on office industry, high technology and productive industry. Educational institutions and a commercial center providing services to employees will also be incorporated in this zone.

The employment zone will feature clean industries that meet stringent environmental quality standards. To this end, three industrial sub-areas — classified according to air and noise emission — were ranked and separated by green strips. An air monitoring station will be set up in the zone.

Accessibility to the employment zone will be quick and convenient from the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway and from the Jerusalem-Ben Shemen highway.

Elbit Systems Ltd. recently won a tender for allocation of land in the employment zone. It is a 32-dunam plot designated for a large central company building to accommodate thousands of employees in one of the city’s biggest projects.

Elbit Systems has joined the long line of companies coming to the employment zone, including Kravitz, Gav Yam, Ariz and Office Depot, which is moving its head management office and logistic center of 13,000 square meters, over an area of 25 dunams, at an investment of 50 million shekels.

Commercial zone

The city’s commercial, services and small industry zone was designed to offer the city’s inhabitants the services they need on a daily basis.

The “Ishpro” and “One” shopping centers extend over 700 dunams in the city’s southwest section, adjacent to which one can find garages, small industry workshops and numerous businesses. This zone is located along highway 431 and connects the city to highway 1 and westward towards Ramla, Lod and Rishon LeZion. The “Paatei Modi’in” (Modi’in Outskirts) Railway Station located opposite the commercial zone with its large Park ‘N Go parking lot, offers maximum accessibility to the entire area.

The commercial zone, in its completed format, is expected to provide employment for 9,000 people and it is equipped with open areas, green corners, tree-lined avenues, lighting and uniquely designed street furniture. A strip of forest will surround and demarcate the area.