

There's a new coffee shop on campus

Rozina brings street food from Israel and decor from Turkey

MARY PITTS
Staff Reporter

Nestled in with a host of other student-frequented spots at 33 Hurt Plaza SE, Rozina Bakehouse and Coffee is run by Chef Shay Lavi, who moved here from Israel just four years ago. Lavi adds touches of Mediterranean flair to both the decor and menu.

"Everything from the floor to the furniture came from Turkey," he said. "We worked really hard to make it warm and comfortable."

The inviting feel of Rozina Bakehouse and Coffee is not the only aspect that students will be drawn to. Lavi kept convenience in mind when designing the space, making it an ideal study spot in the heart of Georgia State's campus. With plenty of charging ports along each bar and at each table, the space feels as though it was tailor-made for study sessions.

"You can have a charger, do homework, eat and drink for very affordable prices," Lavi said. "It's very neutral. Not loud. Not bright. Not a lot of distractions."

The rustic, cozy vibe of the restaurant is accented by art from local artist Josh Jameson, and the sweet smell of warm pastries made in-house only adds to the homey ambiance. The inspiration for the concept, Lavi said, comes from his family — specifically his mom, grandma and the street food of Israel.

"Rozina is the name of my grandma," he said. "Food was my love and passion my entire life. I didn't believe I would be able to work in something I'm passionate about. My mom and grandma pushed me."

Operating from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, the restaurant offers specialty coffee drinks, sandwiches and desserts for prices that college students are sure to appreciate, especially in the heart of Atlanta where expenses quickly pile up.

"I want you to come in and have a decent meal at a cheap price," Lavi said. "It's possible, so why not? You can have a nice meal for no more than \$10."

Neither the quality nor selection of food disappoints. Sophomore Danielle Akinwande ate at Rozina in its first few weeks of operation.

"Everything in there looks great," she said. "They have



Rozina Bakehouse is the new spot on campus to enjoy a great meal and study in comfort. PHOTO BY UNIQUE RODRIGUEZ | THE SIGNAL

a whole display of pastries and cookies and they make paninis, too. I had a delicious red velvet cupcake."

Lavi's appreciation for accessibility shows not only in the prices and restaurant layout but also in how he approaches his business: with a relaxed, friendly manner.

"I don't really call myself a chef," he said. "I think 'chef' is a big title and I don't want to intimidate. I like things to feel more personal."

Along with accessibility and convenience, Rozina

Bakehouse and Coffee puts an emphasis on generosity. Lavi said he would like to make an impact on the homeless community in the area.

"A simple gesture like giving them leftover bread can be really meaningful," he said.

The philosophy behind Rozina is based on Lavi's affinity for simplicity and his passion for food.

"The reason I cook is very simple," Lavi said. "I want to make people happy. I don't chase money. I chase kindness."

Kell's demolition: Who's going to move the rocks?

10,000 pounds of rock later, Geosciences relocates

EUGENE RUBINCHIK
Staff Reporter

Last year, Georgia State's oldest building and home of geosciences, Kell Hall, was set for demolition. The entirety of the Geology Department: all the rocks, chemicals and equipment must be relocated. So, how would over seven floors of history and 10,000 pounds of rocks from all over the world be moved?

The Ph.D. student responsible for the move, R. Kirn, has the answer.

"A staircase," he said.

Kirn estimated that Kell at its prime hosted more than 10,000 pounds of rock. Whether it be tiny vials of minerals or giant slabs of granite, the clock started ticking before all of these rocks from all over the world would be reduced to rubble.

"We were supposed to move everything and I'm looking around like man, there are millions of pounds of rocks. It's ridiculous," Kirk said. "We have to have every single rock to teach. [Moving] it was all summer probably 9 to 5 every day, Monday through Friday. Some of the rocks are at least

100 pounds. It was crazy."

While Georgia State utilized movers, Kirk said that it was only for about five crates each weighing around 20 pounds. The heavier rocks, such as the slabs of granite, were set to be left behind, but Kirk couldn't let them go and instead, rounded up friends to help him move them.

"The heaviest ones, we actually moved ourselves. One of the rocks, if you dropped it, your fingers would be flattened," he said. "The real hard part [isn't taking] it down off something, but putting it back up on something, I had to put rocks up on shelves and that's pretty dangerous. I can't believe no one got hurt."

Because these rocks and minerals have been stored away in various labs for so long, he often would open up boxes in which he didn't know what was inside, sometimes coming nose-to-nose with toxic chemicals such as asbestos and other radioactive elements.

"I was like opening vials of asbestos and being like 'oh my god' and closing them up. The samples were so old, no one even knew," he said. "[I found] a bunch of uranium, radioactive rocks, stuff that was in bags that had a skull and crossbones on it. So that was cool."

Kirk started his undergrad at Georgia State in 2009 and joined the geology department in 2013. He completed both his undergrad and masters at Georgia State and is

currently working on his PhD. He said that through all his time at Georgia State, he's become quite recognized and immediately took on the job.

"I've been around so long, that I kind of do stuff on my own. I've known where all the rocks are and stuff, forever. I eventually had all the keys," he said. "I'd rather move it myself and get an inventory. It's to help myself be able to teach better."

Even though he was compensated, however small that was, he said that he enjoyed it and it ultimately helped him know the rocks for the classes he teaches in the future.

"Its understated how much you learn from just simply figuring out what it's called, making a tag and putting it in a case. I would have done it for free," Kirk said.

Because saying goodbye to some of the rocks was so difficult, today, you can find the remains of Kirk's work as the "rock garden" located under Sparks Hall in a side courtyard off of Gilmer. If you spot a few massive piles of rocks, you've made it.

"It was terrible because it was like, 'Man, everything is great.' Who would want to get rid of a rock that someone got in 1973?" he said. "We made a rock garden on campus but it's not organized yet. It just looks like a bomb went off. I'll have to go back there with some friends and fix that up later."