

RE-ORGANISING THE BUILDING BLOCK OF “CORBUSIEN LEGACY”

• ANALYSIS	• POLICY	• HERITAGE	• URBAN INTERVENTIONS
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Organised by Chandigarh Smart City Limited, Chandigarh College of Architecture
In partnership with the Chandigarh Administration
Co-Organised and Initiated by ACT! Chandigarh

Le Corbusier envisioned the SECTOR as a building block for our city, a self-sufficient residential neighbourhood unit intended for easy pedestrian connectivity, minimising vehicular interferences by limiting the same to the periphery. Also, the market streets (v4) and the garden streets, V5 with their institutional buildings were envisioned to create a vibrant core inside the sector for its residents and also act as spines of inter-sectoral continuity.

The gap between the theoretical principles and reality on ground that had been pointed out by academics on many platforms, has become better understood with the passage of time. We have realized that the institutional boundary walls as well as the V 4's contribute to promoting disconnect and isolation within four parts of a sector; the scale and the spread of the sector itself dissuades the pedestrian; the low density sectoral grid of the city has led to mass accumulation of private vehicles, that has further led to the glaring issue of parking clogging every street...and the non-designated areas have become eye sores.

This is the context in which we propose to *re organize* this Building Block of Corbusian Legacy!!!

This is a comprehensive exercise to analyze and re-programme the entire open space in two selected sectors of Chandigarh- an opportunity on one hand to soften the rather harsh environment characterized by bare walls that exists in our modernist city, with a more interactive, inclusive, healthy and functional environment for its citizens and also to identify and remove some of the specific issues that have developed in these sectors, through a combination of policy evaluation and urban interventions. Multiple complimentary uses and functions can be ascribed to the various green spaces when the sector is seen as a single unit. Where as sector 22, one of the original sectors from the iconic masterplan drawing of Chandigarh by Le Corbusier that has also been accorded the status of a heritage sector, brings forward a certain set of issues... sector-35 on the other hand is one of the newer sectors developed in the phase-II expansion of city, makes a good prototype for a completely different set of issues.

Together these two sectors have been selected by the SMART CITY, Chandigarh as part of their Area Based Development Plan. Smart City mission aims to encourage use of Non Motorized Vehicles and undertake revitalization of strategic urban spaces with Place Making principals. On an initiative from ACT! Chandigarh, the scope of this important exercise has been extended to evaluate the sector in the larger context of the Modernist City, to combine the same with the present day concerns of its residents and thereby to evolve a context sensitive and sustainable solution that paves the way for similar exercises to be undertaken in the other sectors of the city.

Owing to its historic significance and importance, Chandigarh has been the subject of exhaustive academic exercises, evaluations, critiques and proposals by the best and the most renowned minds in the field from across the world. We give special recognition to the tireless efforts and work of Ar Charles Correa between 1999 and 2006 on Chandigarh, having put together a valuable reference source that not only analyses the context and meaning of the legacy we have inherited but also identifies multiple tools to navigate the way forward. (*Ref: Celebrating Chandigarh – 50 years of the Idea, a major international conference in Jan 1999; Symposium in Sep 2006 as part of 50th anniversary of RWU to discuss issues raised in 1999, key ideas and subsequent changes in the city.*)