



celebrating
CHANDIGARH

Subject: Urban & Regional Planning

Topic: Chandigarh

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Chandigarh-GEOGRAPHICALLY

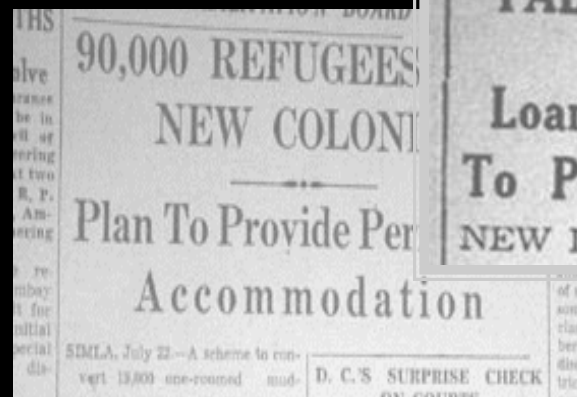
Chandigarh at the distance of **100 km.** from Delhi on **Delhi-Shimla road** is situated at the foot of the **Shivalik range**. Situated at 366 m from sea level, the ground has **gentle southern slope**. The soil is **good** and it is exceptionally **good for tree-growth**.

Population	900914.
Population Density	7900/SqKm.
Area	114 SqKm.
Official Language	Punjabi, Hindi, English.
Literacy	81.76%



Chandigarh-HISTORICALLY

After the partition of British India into the two nations of India and Pakistan in 1947, the region of Punjab in India required a capital. The decision to construct a new and planned city was undertaken. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru commissioned French architect and planner, Le Corbusier for the purpose. Le Corbusier was in fact the second architect of the city, after the initial master plan was prepared by Albert Mayer and Matthew Nowicki. It was only after Nowicki's untimely death in 1950 that Le Corbusier was pulled into the project.



CONCEPT

- Le Corbusier - conceived the master plan of Chandigarh as analogous to **human body**, with a clearly defined
- Head (the Capitol Complex, Sector 1),
- heart (the City Centre, Sector 17),
- lungs (the leisure valley, innumerable open spaces and sector greens),
- The intellect (the cultural and educational institutions),
- The circulatory system (the network of roads, the 7 Vs),
- The viscera (the Industrial Area).
- The conception of the city has been formulated on the basis of four major functions : **living, working, care of the body and spirit and circulation.**

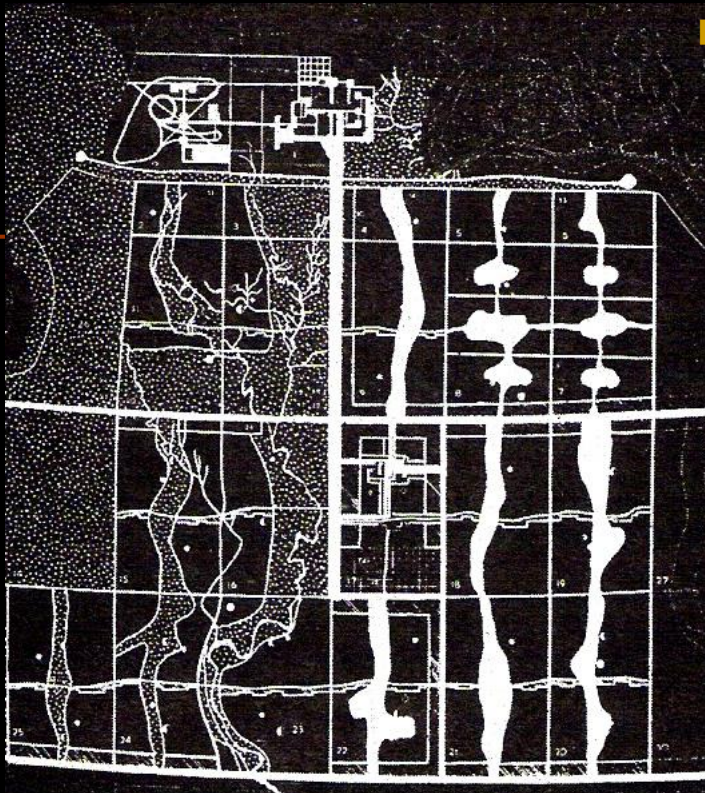
CORBUSIER'S MASTER PLAN



- GRID IRON PATTERN
- SECTORS
- 7V ROAD NETWORK
- GREEN BELT
- LANDSCAPING

Similarity with MAYER and NOWICKI'S vision

- Le Corbusier retained many of the seminal ideas of Mayer and Nowicki, like the **basic framework of the master plan** and its components: the **Capitol, City Centre**, besides the University, Industrial area, and linear parkland. Even the **neighborhood unit** was retained as the basic module of planning.
- The **City Centre, the railway station** and the **industrial areas** by and large retained their original locations.
- The curving outline of Mayer and Nowicki was reorganized into a **mesh of rectangles**. While the former preferred a **naturalistic, curving street** pattern without the rigidity of a sterile geometric grid for Le Corbusier the straight line was the logical connecting path between two points, and any **"forced naturalness"** was superfluous.

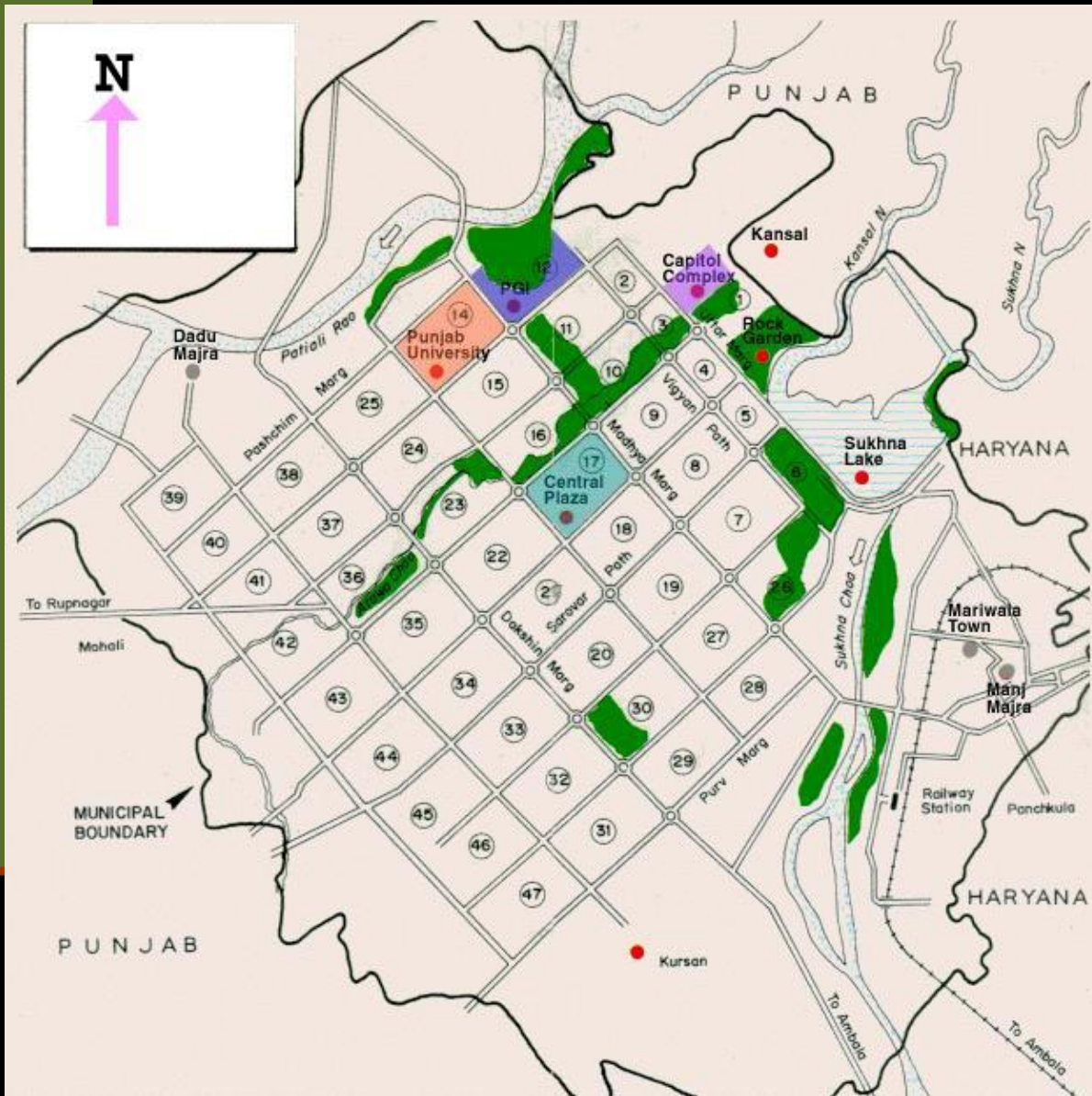


- Divided into identical looking sectors, each sector measures 800 m x 1200 m. The sectors were to act as self-sufficient neighborhoods, each with its own market, places of worship, schools and colleges - all within 10 minutes walking distance from within the sector. The original two phases of the plan delineated sectors from 1 to 47, with the exception of 13

- Each sector is bisected on its long axis by a strip of continuous open space for recreation and on its short axis by a street called bazaar street.
- None of the properties in the township have direct frontal access to the main road.

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- The city was to be surrounded by a 16 kilometer wide greenbelt that was to ensure that no development could take place in the immediate vicinity of the town, thus checking suburbs and urban sprawl.

ROAD NETWORK

V-1 fast roads connecting Chandigarh to other towns

v-2 arterial roads

v-3 fast vehicular road

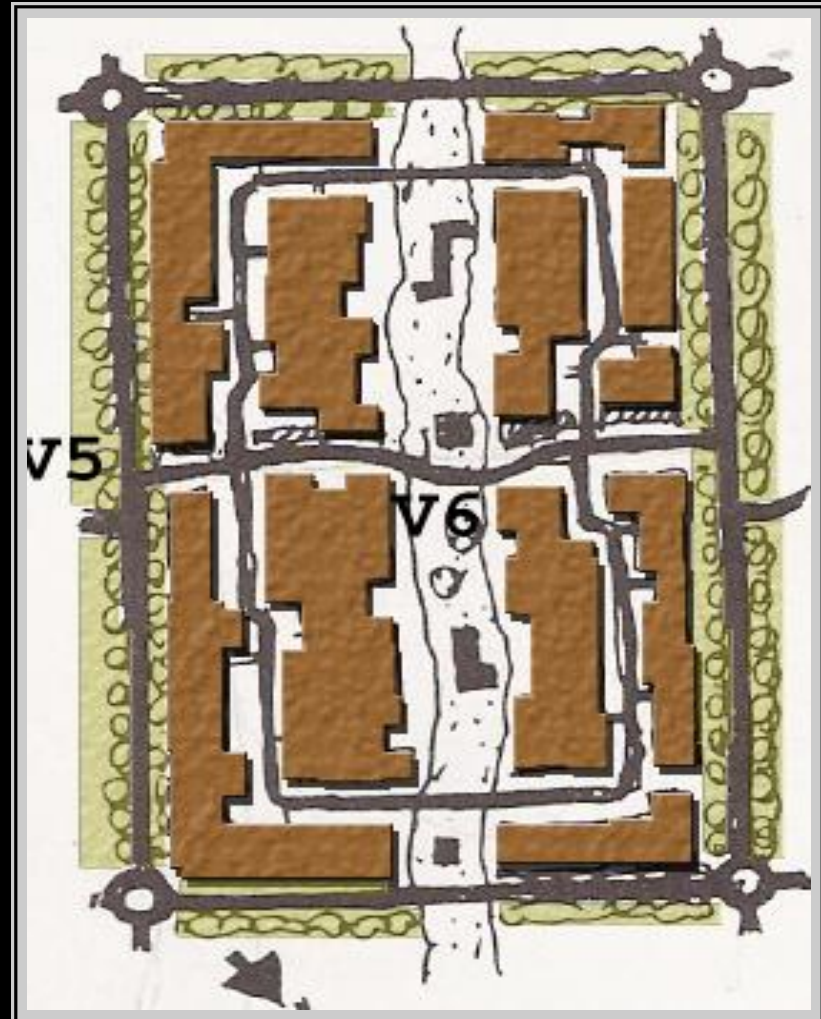
v-4 meandering shopping streets

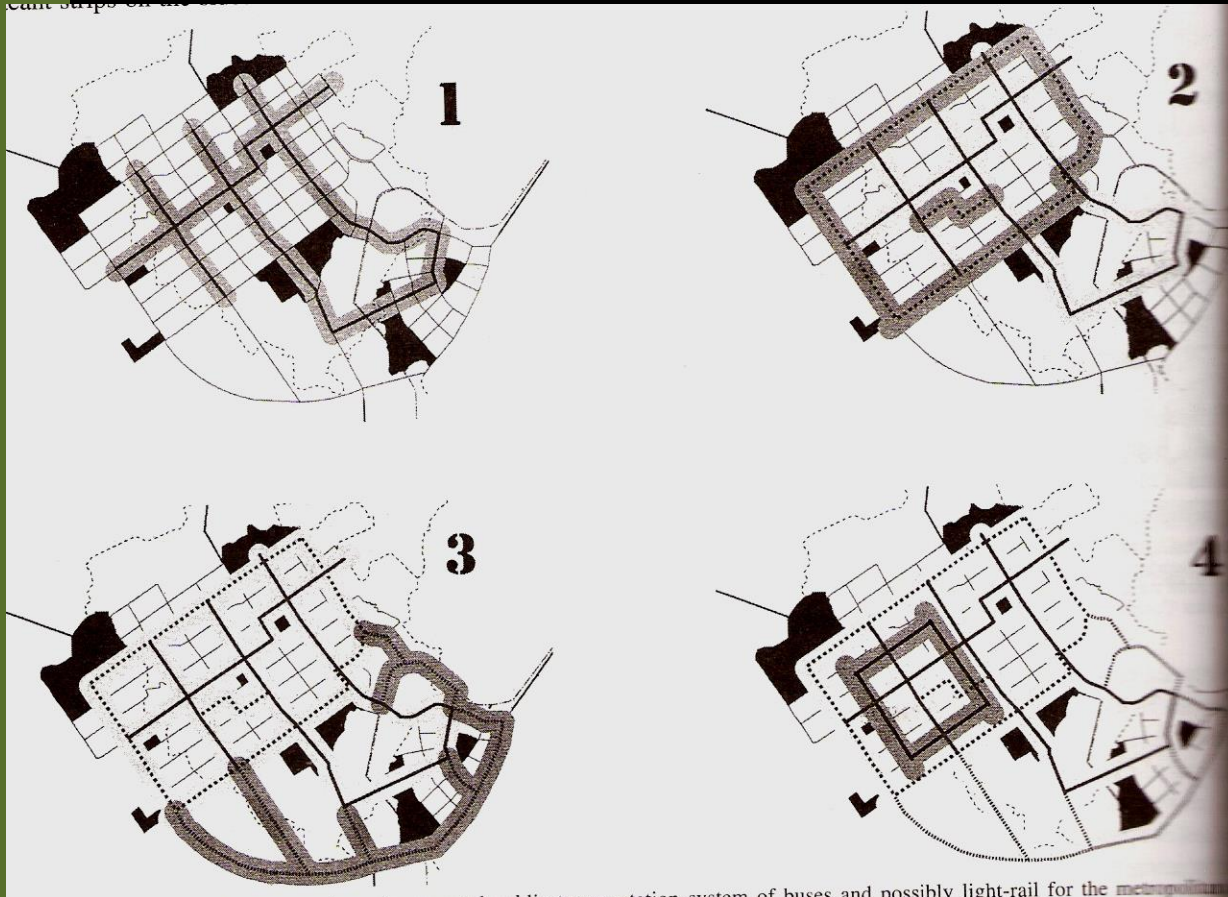
v-5 sector circulation roads

v-6 access roads to houses

v-7 footpaths and cycle tracks

Buses will only ply on v1 , v2 ,v3 and v4 roads. A wall shall seal the v3 roads from the sectors. The two wheeled vehicle have never to use the same as the four wheels and three wheels, Chandigarh is a first application of this new system of roads.





Complete segregation
of automotive and
pedestrian traffic

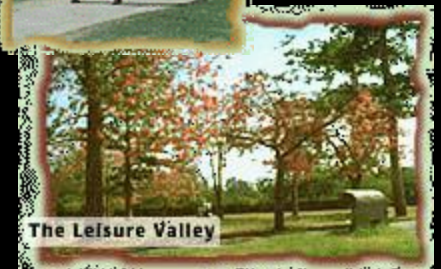
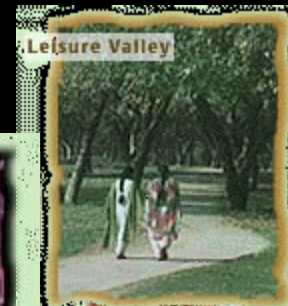
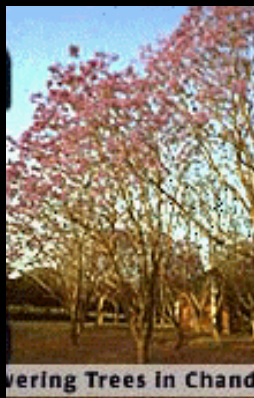


LAYERS OF MOVEMENT NETWORK

The main avenue leading to the Capital is 90 m wide and it provides an excellent parkway

LANDSAPING AND OPEN AREAS

Landscaping proceeded side by side with the construction of the city from the very inception. Three spaces were identified for special plantation: the roadsides, spaces around important buildings, parks and special features such as Sukhna Lake. Le Corbusier's contribution to landscaping was of categorising tree forms. He made a simple analysis of the functional needs and aesthetic suitability for the various areas, devoting special attention to specific roads.



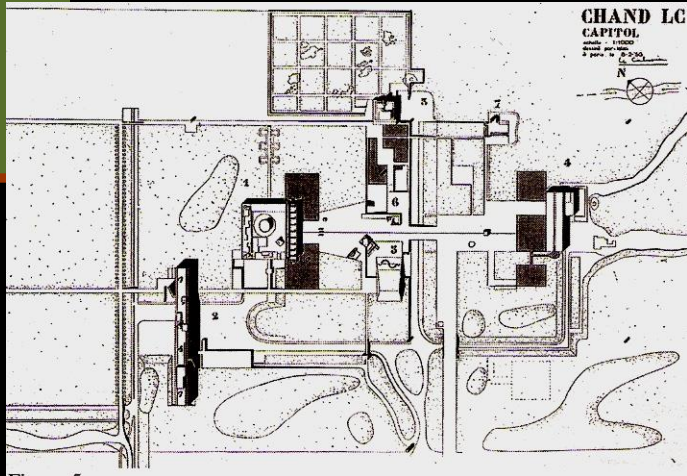
CITY'S ARCHITECTURE

Le Corbusier took responsibility for the overall master plan of the city, and the design of some of the major public buildings including the High Court, Assembly, Secretariat, the Museum and Art Gallery, School of Art and the Lake Club. Most of the other housing was done by [Pierre Jeanneret](#), the English husband and wife team of [Maxwell Fry](#) and [Jane Drew](#), along with a team of nine Indian architects -- M. N. Sharma, A. Ar. Prabhawalkar, B. P. Mathur, Pilo Moody, U. E. Chowdhury, N. S. Lamba, J. L. Malhotra, J. S. Dethé and [Aditya Prakash](#).

The city in its final form, while not resembling his previous city projects like the [Ville Contemporaine](#) or the [Ville Radieuse](#), was an important and iconic landmark in the history of town planning. It continues to be an object of interest for architects, planners, historians and social scientists.



THE CAPITOL COMPLEX



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HIGH COURT BUILDING



VIDHAN SABHA



THE SECRETARIAT BLOCK



THE OPEN HAND MONUMENT



PUNJAB UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS CENTER

GANDHI BHAVAN
AT PUNJAB
UNIVERSITY



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SECTOR 17
SHOPPING PLAZA

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THE CITY CENTER SECTOR 17



ROSE GARDEN



THE ROCK GARDEN



ITS "FAILURE AS A CITY ".....

- it has no room for poor people who built ; none either for those who clean it. an entire unplanned Chandigarh of shanties of mud, grass, bamboo and polythene on illegally occupied land has disappeared , hidden from the casual visitors
- it fails to respond to the Indian cultural and climatic context, to the tradition of the street as a multifunctional space and to customs like street-vending and hawking and small craft production near or in the home. the street are too wide to sustain a sufficient intensity of activity, and unlike the traditional- narrow streets i.e. too exposed to the heat and dust.
- the car has been given primacy in a city where less than 5 per cent of the population have access to one
- Finally Chandigarh has been criticized as being generally placeless and its architectural grain dull and depressing. except for the business center. Few found Chandigarh... "city of unidentifiable blankness."

But as a writer critical of the planning of the city has admitted **"ALL SAID AND DONE .CHANDIGARH IS STILL THE BEST CITY IN THE COUNTRY AND CYNOSURE OF ALL EYES"**.