APPENDIX -8

THE EDICT OF CHANDIGARH - LE CORBUSIER 1951.
DEFINITION, CONCEPTS AND “STATUTE OF THE LAND”, OF THE CITY

The Chandigarh Master Plan was conceived by Le Corbusier in 1951. One of the most significant contributions of Le Corbusier concerning the concepts of New Towns were, what he called the “Statute of Land” for the city of Chandigarh written by him on 17th December 1959. These concepts, based on his Athen’s Charter formulated in 1933 at the CIAM (Congress Internationaux d’ Architecture Moderne) meeting held in Athens, Greece, defined the identification of four basic functions of a city namely, Living, Working, Care of Body and Spirit and Circulation. These four functions are usually considered to study the Master Plan of Chandigarh.

Definition, Concepts and “Statute of the Land” of the new city of Chandigarh as written by Le Corbusier are as follows

**Definition of use of Chandigarh**

i) Chandigarh is a city offering all amenities of life to the poorest of the poor of its citizens to lead a dignified life.

ii) Chandigarh is a government city with a precise goal and consequently a precise quality of inhabitants.

On this presumption, the city has not to be a big city (metropolis) - it must not lose its definition. People say that life must come in the city from other source or activity, specially industry. Industrial city is , not the same as an administrative city. One must not mix the two. It seems that complement of the original definition should be the invitation of forces which can supplement the forces of the city not opening a conflict or rivalry. We must take care that any temptations do not kill the goal which was foreseen at the moment of the foundation of the city. Therefore, naturally, old doors must be opened to actually unknown initiatives. It appears that the future of Chandigarh will be opened to all the cultural factors in different kinds of manifestation teaching (school), university, new science of imparting audio-visual training etc. - in one word, all kinds of knowledge.

Means to express and to disperse the thought (editions: magazines and eventually printing of books, magazines etc.). Means to express and disperse arts (in time and space-printing of books, magazines etc.).

Means to express and disperse arts (in time and space history and geography). All the kinds of reproduction of art witnesses (editions: visual means - photographs, diagrams etc. at different scales). Diverse manifestations of exhibition, shows, theatre, festivals, creations of highest modernity etc. Such manifestations reclaiming the organisations and use of travelling, possibilities of hostelry.

For the culture of the body there can be created an organism having at its disposition any possibilities of meeting for competitions or tournaments. II.

All this will afford the creation of a “Chandigarh Label” which will be the guarantee of quality and worth emulation.

II. “The Four Functions” (CIAM ‘Charter of Athens’)

The force of this Charter lies in giving the first place to the dwelling: the environment of living - the family under the rule of ’24 solar hours.”

The second place is given to the ‘working’ which is the daily act of human obligation.

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The third is the culture of body on one hand and an intellectual leisure on the other.

When all these goals have received their definitive containers it is possible to give to each of them a respective rightful place and at this moment can interfere the problem of realizing the contacts: that is "circulation."

III. With this line of conduct, the urbanism of Chandigarh emerged. The date concerning the dwellings was an artificial one. The charter of 13 categories; the city arising is one of 2½ storeys which has brought many appreciable factors but which is now before the pressure of the city's development, it is: “What will be the future?

Concerning the working, Chandigarh being an administrative city, two centres have appeared: one of Government-the Capitol Complex buildings and parks and its precise situation in the landscape. The second is the “Town Hall” placed in the City Centre. What are other workings?

The one -which answers to the possibilities which are listed in the paragraph (ii) edition, festivals etc. They ask for precise locations on the ground of the city. One part is already realized in location and in buildings of the University, the Colleges and Schools with proper Zoning. (The principle being that the former are located in the green on the limit of city and the latter located in the NE or SW belt of the green). A small reserve of ground was given for an undefined industry east of the city near to the station. Very little of this ground remains today available.

IV. Constituent elements occupying the ground of the city:

a) The Sectors.

b) The 7-Vs which are 8

c) The resulting geography; concentration and dissemination (in the city and out of the city.)

d) Indispensable facts, unacceptable facts, (their biology.)

e) Statute of the land.

f) Augmentation (appreciation) in the value of land by clever methods.

a) “The Sectors” The key to modern urbanism is “The Sector” which is a container of family-life (24 solar hours: night and day). The contents being from 5,000 to 20,000 inhabitants (approx.) Chandigarh has 30 Sectors: each sector has its maintenance organisation, the food provision, the schools (kindergarten and primary), the necessary artisans (repairs etc.), the daily leisure (movies etc.) all traversing in the middle of the sector-- it is the “V4”. The V4 gives the horizontal connection between the contiguous sector. The sectors are also specially devoted to all what concerned family life (Man, Woman and Child) day and night. The sector is surrounded by high speed roads with bus stops every 400 metres and giving the eight entrances in this social group.

b) “The 7-Vs which are 8” It is the rule which was established before ten years at the demand of the UNESCO to try to constitute eventual acceptable proposition of urbanism for general world applications. The resumé of these ‘7 Vs’ for this present report which has to prepare “the Chandigarh Statute of Land “ is the following:

Seven kinds of ways (which are now 8) can bring in the modern life the solution of contacts between different organs which constitute the containers of the activity of the machinist age. The V1 is the road which is going through the continents, traversing rural areas and cities.
The V2 take immediately the succession of V1 at the beginning of the city. Other V2s can be the tracings of intentional municipal will of greatness and usefulness together.

The V3s are a new kind of roads devoted exclusively to vehicular traffic (specially fast traffic.) These ways must be interrupted the least. They are surrounding the sectors as explained above.

The V4 is the right place of the 24 hours life of a sector. It is a linear event and particularly in Chandigarh. It should be situated on the shadow side (which is the S W side)

The V5s are roads which assure the internal distribution of traffic inside a sector.

The V6s have to give access to the doors of the dwellings V5 and V6 must never receive transit traffic.

The V7 is situated in the green ribbon going SW to NE in the direction of the hills. The V7 gives the vertical contact between the sectors and crosses the V2 Station and the V2 South and two other horizontal V3s. We can affirm soon that the V7 (for pedestrians only) - cross V2 and V3 with passeralles (foot bridges) can be made now or later depending on the situation (conjuncture.) These bridges must immediate be drawn on the urbanist plans from now on.

The traffic of the bicycles, lambrettas, vespas, autocycles will have to take a separate way along the green ribbon with the intention to realise the function bicycles in a modern city. These ways have been named after the creation of V7 because of the appearance of the cycle with the two wheels all the over. The two wheeled vehicles have never to use the same way as the four wheels and the three wheels Chandigarh is the first application of this new sys of roads - one must add that for the creation of urban drawings, discussions, meetings this designation of V1, V2, V3 etc. has brought an extraordinary clarity.

c) The resulting geography: concentration and dissemination (in the city and out of the city)

“Charter of Athens” of the CIAM has proclaimed four functions of urbanism (as already given above) each function is to be contained in one container, it is one building. The first problem is to give the specific size of this building according to each function. The modern life has to locate all its activities in containers of conformed size “unites do grandeur conform” (for living, and for leisure, school, museum, etc.)

Each of these tools (“containers of conformed size”) has to find their rightful place on the land. Their locations must be fixed on the paper (plan) with their necessary surrounding. The contact will be given by direct or indirect ways which have to be foreseen and fixed from the beginning.

Some of these containers constitute a concentration of the other dissemination. At Chandigarh the place was given to the family containers (the “Sectors”); for the work place was given in the Capitol, University, City Centre, and a limited Industrial Area.

d) Indispensable facts: Acceptable facts (their biology)

The human factors must be put on the summit; it is the relationship between the cosmos and man. Law of the Sun is of the greatest importance. In Chandigarh, the Sun must be controlled so that the day hours can be employed for working. It is a technical intervention in the domain of construction of dwellings and public buildings.

The air which will be breathed is a condition of human life. The problem of “aeration” (breathing) is very important.

The control of noise is to be introduced in the urbanistic conception like in the construction of buildings specific to technical problem. The three following words express the problem to be solved: AIR-SOUND-LIGHT.

e) Statute of the Land

This denomination expresses exactly what is to be done. The duty of an authority is to be honest; it is to control things which belong to a regime of rules (existing and understandable) which have to be created by the will of collectivity. In other words there exists
true merchandise which has to be sold to true customers and will never lose its primitive value in the case of arbitrary decision coming later. Is it possible to conserve such realities during the time which is going on?

The ‘Statute of Land’ is the description of what is proposed and has to be proposed in the future and the engagement of the authority that such realities will never be destroyed by in-attentive resolutions or decisions. When a National Bank signs a paper (a bank-note) promising that this paper has a value fixed at a figure printed on it, it is not possible to change it except for an unexpected national or world catastrophe. The statute of land has also to include the date of the creation of the city as it has also to foresee possibilities of evolution or change which are hidden in the future.

f) Appreciation of Land When such a working has been made in a city: Obtaining the money and buying of necessary ground, first byelaws, permitting to begin construction, arriving of the first inhabitants, selling of the first plots etc.

A phenomenon is born; it is the appreciation of land. A game, a play has begun. One can sell cheap or at a high price; It depends on the kind of ‘tactic and strategy’ put in this operation. One phrase must be affirmed. “The good urbanism makes money, the bad urbanism loses money. The problem is also to be vigilant: one must sell true merchandise; nothing must be allowed to provoke circumstances which will bring loss to any single habitant. One has the “Statute of the land”. It is like a seed. What can be grown from the seed? It is in the hands of the administrators.

Chandigarh 17th December 1959, Le Corbusier

EDICT OF CHANDIGARH

The object of this edict is to enlighten the present and future citizens of Chandigarh about the basic concepts of planning of the city so that they become its guardians— and save it from the whims of individuals. This edict sets out the following basic ideas underlying the planning of the city.

Human Scale

The city of Chandigarh is planned to human scale. It puts us in touch with the infinite cosmos and nature. It provides us with places and buildings for all human activities in which the citizens can live a full and harmonious life. Here the radiance of nature and heart are within our reach.

Sectors

The city is composed of sectors. Each sector is \( \frac{1}{2} \) mile x \( \frac{3}{4} \) mile (800 metres x 1200 metres) enclosed by roads allocated to fast mechanised transport and sealed to direct access from the houses.

Each sector caters for the daily needs of its inhabitants which vary from 5000 to 25000 and has a green strip oriented longitudinally stretching centrally along the sector in the direction of the mountains. The green strip should stay un-interrupted and accommodate schools, sports, fields, walks and recreation.

Vehicular traffic is completely forbidden in the green strips where tranquility shall reign and the curse of noises shall not penetrate.

Roads

The roads of the city are classified into seven categories known as systems of 7 Vs as below:

V-1 Fast roads connecting Chandigarh to other towns.
V-2 Arterial roads.
V-3 Fast vehicular roads.
V-4 Meandering shopping streets.
V-5 Sector circulation roads.
V-6 Access roads to houses.
V-7 Foot paths and cycle tracks.

Buses will only ply on V-1, V-2, V-3 and V-4 roads. A wall will seal the V-3 roads from the sector.

**Areas of Special Architectural Interest**

Certain areas of Chandigarh are of special architectural where harmonized and unified composition of building is aimed at. Absolute architectural and zoning control should remain operative.

Along V-2 central (dual carriage ways, Madhya Marg and Uttar Marg where sky-line heights, character and architecture of buildings as planned shall not be altered.

No building shall be constructed north of the Capitol Complex.

Along V-2 beyond dual carriage way, areas are reserved for cultural institutions only and shall never have any residential buildings.

**City Centre**

The central plaza in Sector 17 was designated by Le Corbusier as “Pedestrians Paradise”. No vehicular traffic will be permitted in the plaza.

**Industrial Area**

Only such industries as are powered by electricity would be permitted in the industrial areas so that atmosphere is saved from pollution.

**The Lake**

The lake is a gift of the creators of Chandigarh to the citizens to be at one with nature away from the hub of city life. There shall be no commercial exploitation the lake and its environments and its tranquility shall be guaranteed by banning noises.

**Landscaping**

The landscaping of this city is based on careful observation of the vegetation of India. Selected ornamental trees, shrubs and climbers have been planted according to colour schemes to beautify it. In future planting and replacement, these principles must be kept in view. There should be no haphazard replacement so that the avenues retain their harmony and beauty. The Leisure Valley, the Rajindra Park and other parks shall be developed as parks only and no building other than already planned shall be permitted.

**No Personal Statue be Erected**

The age of personal statues is gone. No personal statues shall be erected in the city or parks of Chandigarh. The city is planned to breathe the new sublimated spirit of art. Commemoration of persons shall be confined to suitably placed bronze plaques.

**Truthfulness of Building Materials to be maintained**

The truthfulness of materials of construction - concrete, bricks and stone shall be maintained in all buildings constructed or to be constructed.

“The seed of Chandigarh is well sown. It is for citizens to see that the tree flourishes.”

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