

Report on Study Tour to Chandigarh and Anandpur Sahib

B.Arch., 1st Year from 19th to 24th February 2020

Introduction:

First year B. Architecture Students of MUJ, visited Chandigarh and Anandpur Sahib as part of their educational tour from 19th to 24th February 2020. The students were accompanied by faculty members of School of Architecture & Design, **Dr. Swati Dutta** and **Er. Siddhant Walia**. Students visited a variety of historical and modern monuments, urban precincts and buildings like museums, houses, gardens, etc. and explored the architectural and heritage value of the city of Chandigarh and Anandpur Sahib.

Objective:

The objective of the tour was to enable students to see and appreciate the architectural worth of buildings in and around Chandigarh and Anandpur Sahib like City Museum, Capitol Complex, Le Corbusier Centre, Jeanneret House, Gandhi Bhawan, etc.

The tour was also intended to expose students to the modern planning principles adopted in the city of Chandigarh while giving them ample opportunity to study and analyze the works in terms of the elements and principles of design, types of spatial organizations and construction techniques adopted as learnt in the subjects of Architectural Design, History of Architecture, Building Construction and Materials, etc.



At Chandigarh Architecture Museum, Chandigarh



At the Govt. Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh designed by Le Corbusier

The study tour started with a visit to the **City Museum in Sector 10, Chandigarh** – an assemblage of four buildings. Students explored and experienced Corbusier’s architecture through the different spaces and their spatial organization, typical elements like sun breakers, modular windows, rainwater spouts, water pools and the exposed brick and concrete finishes. They also gathered knowledge about the design of ramps, plazas, exhibition halls, etc.

This was followed by a visit to the **Chandigarh College of Architecture** where students were briefed about the history and making of the city of Chandigarh. The day ended with a visit to the manmade **Sukhna Lake** that enriched the students’ knowledge about the creation and maintenance of a waterbody and urban precinct regulating the local climate of the city.



Students being briefed at Chandigarh College of Architecture and Group Photo at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh

The students visited the **Le Corbusier Centre** followed by the **Jeanneret House, Gandhi Bhawan** and **Fine Arts Museum, Panjab University Chandigarh** on the second day.



Students being briefed at the Le Corbusier Centre, Chandigarh

The visit to the **Jeanneret House** was worthwhile as students were exposed to the design of simple yet comfortable and interesting living spaces taking context and climate into consideration – the underlying theme of their Architectural Design Studio this semester. Students made sketches to understand the architectural elements and features. They understood and saw the use of local brick and stone as construction materials, design elements like deep recessed verandahs, spiral staircase, use of brick jallies, sun breakers, window designs, etc.



The Jeanneret House, Sector-5, Chandigarh

The day concluded with the visit to the very imaginative **Gandhi Bhawan and Fine Arts Museum, Panjab University Chandigarh**.

On the third day, students visited the **Royal Pinjore Gardens** at the foothills of the Shivalik Mountains and the **Rustic Rock Gardens** created by Nek Chand. The visit gave students an understanding of the construction styles and techniques of the Mughal Gardens on the one hand while it helped them understand the more imaginative way of transforming the landscape through the use of waste materials and play of light and shade, colors and textures, intimate and monumental spaces and labyrinthine pathways in the Rock Garden. The day concluded with the visit to the commercial center of the city – **Sector 17**.



The Pinjore Gardens, Pinjore



The Rock Gardens, Chandigarh

On the fourth day, students visited the magnificent **Capitol Complex Chandigarh** – a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The calm and serene atmosphere at the Open Hand Monument with a short talk about the life and design philosophy of Le Corbusier left the students enriched. The sketching workshop by an alumnus of CCA, Chandigarh helped the students hone their skills.

On the final day of the trip, the students visited **Virasat-E-Khalsa, the Sikh Heritage Complex** designed by Ar. Moshe Safdie and **Gurudwara Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib** in Anandpur Sahib. Virasat-E-Khalsa – a story-telling repository is the first of its scale in the world and has been envisioned as the world's largest cultural and historical museum dedicated to a single community. The museum galleries and the exhibits done by NID Ahmedabad are very innovative and mesmerizing...a must visit for all architecture students!

The Gurudwara is the principal Sikh temple in the town. It marks the birthplace of Khalsa and one of the five religious' authorities (Five Takhts) of Sikhism. The lower levels of the complex have a langar (free community kitchen run by volunteers) where the students had lunch together.



In front of the High Court Building, Capitol Complex Chandigarh



The Sketching Workshop in the Tower of Shadows, Capitol Complex Chandigarh



At Virasat-E-Khalsa, Anandpur Sahib



At Gurudwara Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib