“Le Corbusier's India” Summer Study Trip (48-458)
Travel Dates: May 20-June 1, 2007
Architectural Elective (Summer Study Abroad)
9 units

A two-week summer study trip to “Le Corbusier's India,” open to all students, was led by my studio instructor colleague Prof. Gerard Damiani, and myself. The primary focus of the study trip was the investigation of Le Corbusier’s iconic Indian architecture in situ. The main destinations were Ahmedabad - Chandigarh - Delhi - Agra. In addition, the class studied the works of Louis Kahn, Balkrishna Doshi, and the Mughal architecture of Agra as the precedents, context, and legacy of Corb’s work. Preparation built on a year of architectural work and travel experience I had in India nearly twenty years ago, as well as a growing expertise in the architecture of Le Corbusier shared by Prof. Damiani and myself (we often assign his work in studio precedent studies). Students used drawing as a tool for understanding and recording insights about the some of the fundamental issues of modern architecture, from composition, structure, and context, to regional construction methods and issues of sustainability.

For materials, including examples of student drawings, please refer to my professional website: http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/gutschow/india.html
Le Corbusier's India

School of Architecture
Carnegie Mellon University
Summer 2007
[itinerary]
Indian Institute of Management
Ahmedabad, India

Architects: Louis I. Kahn, Balkrishna V. Doshi, National Institute of Design

Commission: November 1962
Design: 1963-70
Completion: 1974


General Description:
The IIM consists of classrooms, faculty offices, and a library surrounding a main courtyard and dormitory wings organized at 45 degrees. Louis Kahn states: “Orientation to wind and shade from sun has given architectural elements to the composition;” each dorm room has a screen porch that overlooks a courtyard. These many fragmentations lead Kahn to call this “a building within a building: one open to sun, the other to life.” Built out of concrete and brick, Kahn describes: “the plan comes from my feelings of monastary,” and feels the dormitories proximity to the school as similar to Harvard Business School.

This building is part of a 100 acre campus that also included buildings by Doshi and Anant Raje. The Institute, in the Vastrupur section of Ahmedabad, attracts the best business students in India.

I use the square to begin my solutions because the square is a non-choice, really. In the course of development, I search for the forces that would disprove the square”-Louis Kahn

Plan

“The Fullness of air, so welcome, is always present as the basis for architectural shapes”-Louis Kahn

Sections through main plaza

Additional reading:


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