



# LE CORBUSIER'S INDIA

## Focus of Study

India and its quest for modernity is an experience of invaluable learning for the growth of an architect with such examples as the capital complex of Chandigarh and the singular visions of Le Corbusier's work at Ahmedabad.

India's independence from Britain, and its subsequent partition, resulting in the migration of a large number of non-Muslims to the Punjab region of India during the late 1940's, created a country in search of a means to express its goal of a new Indian society. This search provided the impetus for the development of great works of architecture which could at once make the Indian people forget the fear and anxiety of the past while creating a modern society and architectural expression with a strong relationship to their historic culture and religious faith.

The commission of Chandigarh allowed Le Corbusier to test his ideas of town planning on a very large scale, while integrating significant ideas of place, culture and tradition which relate to the very society Chandigarh serves. The works of Le Corbusier in India became a profound synthesis of his maturing ideas as well as the integration of the local social and environmental conditions. These works teach us valuable lessons on how, as architects, we must understand the cultural and environmental conditions and construction methods of the places in which we practice.

## The 2-week trip will include

- Flying to and from New Delhi, with its vast capital complex created under the waning days of the British Raj.
- Visiting the city and capital complex of Chandigarh as well as other buildings designed by Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, E. Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew.
- Visiting the city of Ahmedabad to see Le Corbusier's Millowner's Building, The Museum of the City and two private residences.
- Other potential destinations: Louis Kahn's Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, the Taj Mahal and Agra City.

## MAY 20-31, 2007



**Credits** This trip is open to any Carnegie Mellon student, including freshmen, for 9 units, with preference given to architecture students. This trip is also open to students from other schools of architecture, however, the individual student is responsible for seeking credit at their own University.

**Trip Requirements** There will be two introductory lectures and some required readings before departure. During the trip, each student will be asked to keep a travel sketchbook documenting the buildings visited as well as participating in field documentation of selected buildings. These drawings and sketch book selections will be later displayed at the School of Architecture in the Fall of 2007.

**Anticipated Costs** Costs for the 9 units, and all travel, food and lodging in India: \$3,500-4500, plus airfare to and from India (the exact amount depends on how many people go).

**Requirements** Valid passport obtained before January 30th so we can obtain the appropriate visa's etc.

**Climate** Please be aware that during late May the average daytime temperature is often over 100 degrees, and very humid. Keep this in mind when considering this trip.

**Instructors** Gerard Damiani & Kai Gutschow

**Deadline** for signing up for the trip is Jan. 30, 2007. For more information, or a detailed itinerary, please contact Gerard Damiani, AIA [gdamiani@andrew.cmu.edu].

## CMU School of Architecture Study Abroad