

Course Overview for External Evaluators

“Le Corbusier’s India” Summer Study Trip (48-458)

Travel Dates: May 20-June 1, 2007

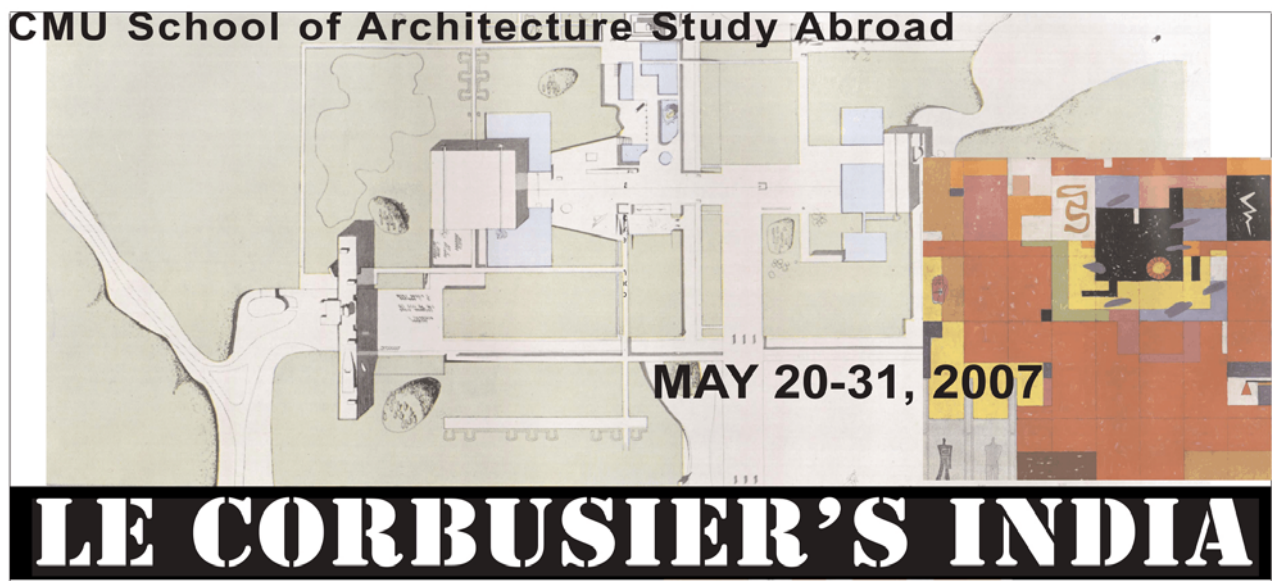
Architectural Elective (Summer Study Abroad)

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>



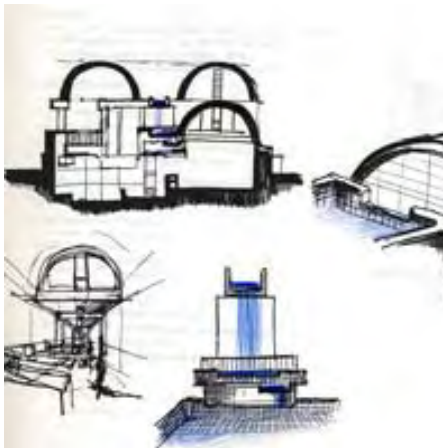
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Le Corbusier's India

School of Architecture
Carnegie Mellon University

Summer 2007

[itinerary]



Example of student "report" on Indian landmarks, completed before travel.

Indian Institute of Management

Ahmedabad, India

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

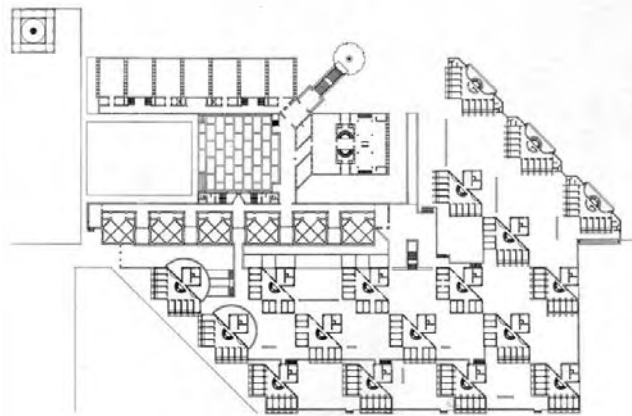
Commision: November 1962
Design: 1963-70
Completion: 1974

Client: IIM (Joint Venture:
Government of India, State of
Gujarat, Indian Business Com-
munity, and the Ford Founda-
tion)

General Description:

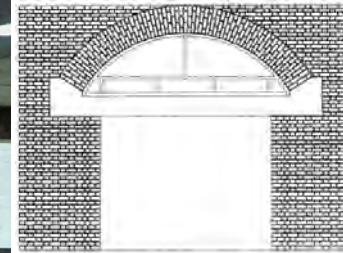
The IIM consists of class-rooms, faculty offices, and a library surrounding a main courtyard and dormitory wings organized at 45 degrees. Louis Kahn states: "Orientation to wind and shade from sun has given architectural elements to the composition;" each dorm room has a screen porch that overlooks a courtyard. These many fragmen-tations 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 monastery," 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 Vasturpur section of Ahmedabad, attracts the best business students in India.



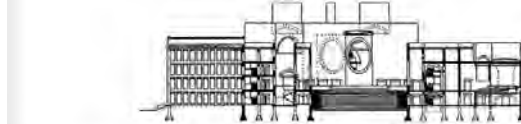
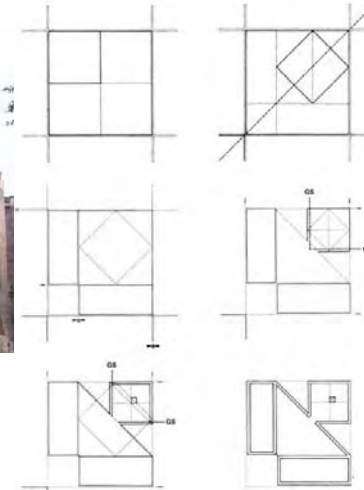
Plan

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



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

Diagram of Dormitory Wing



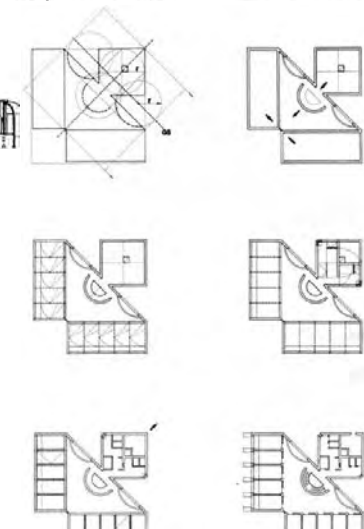
Sections through main plaza

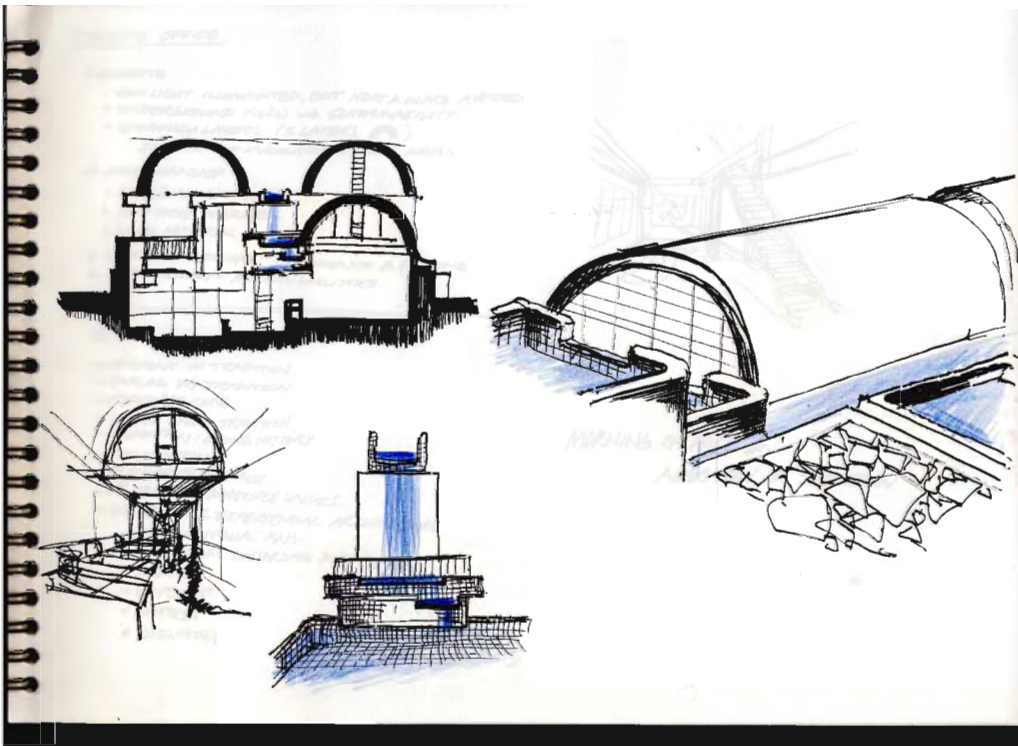
Additional reading:

The Louis I. Kahn Archive: Personal Drawings, Garland Architectural Archives, Alexander Tzonis, Editor: 1987, New York.

Louis I. Kahn: Complete Work: 1935-1974. Heinz Ronner and Sha rad Jhaveri. Birkhauser: 1987, Boston.

Louis I. Kahn: The Idea of Order. Klaus-Peter Gast. Birkhauser: 1998, Boston.



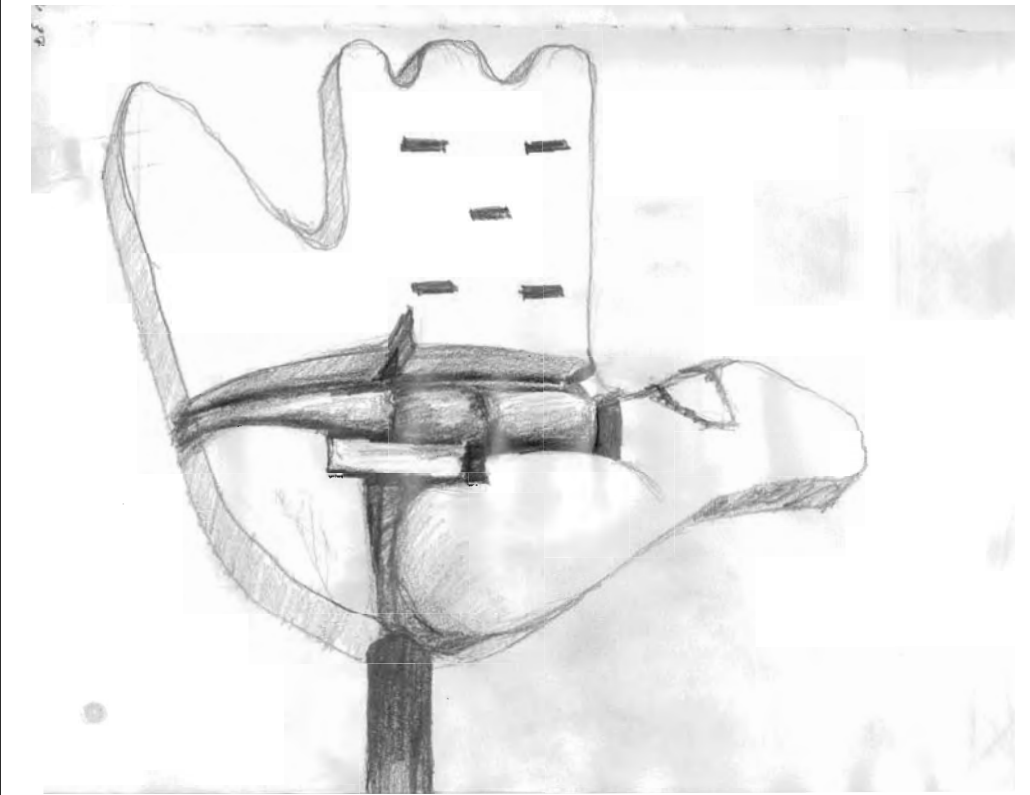


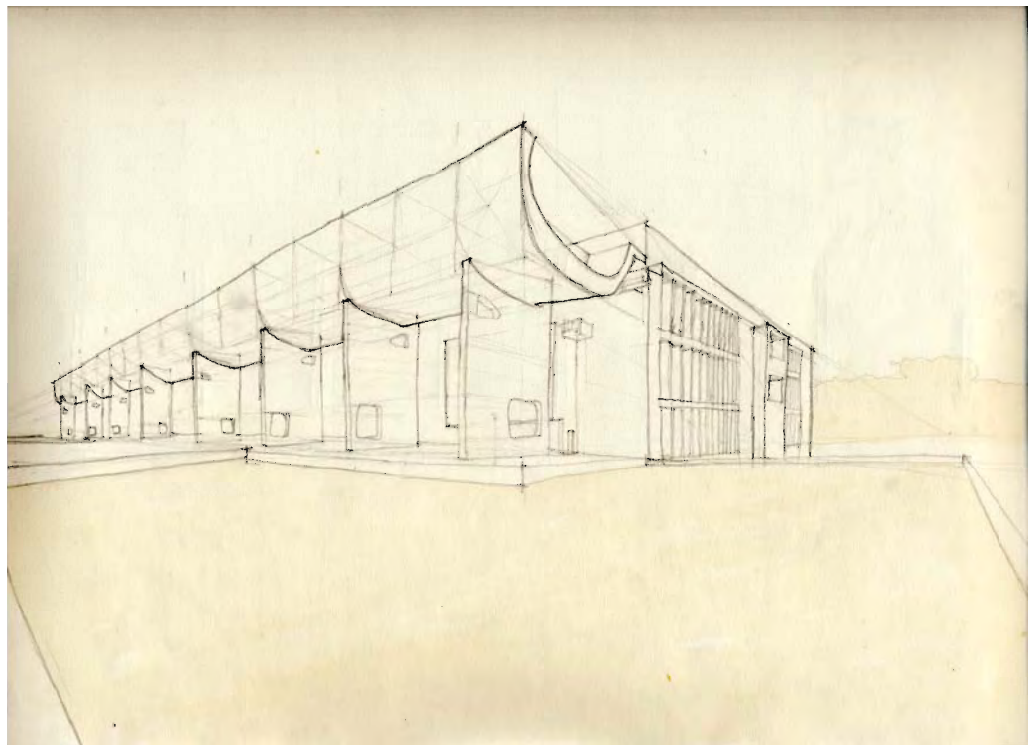
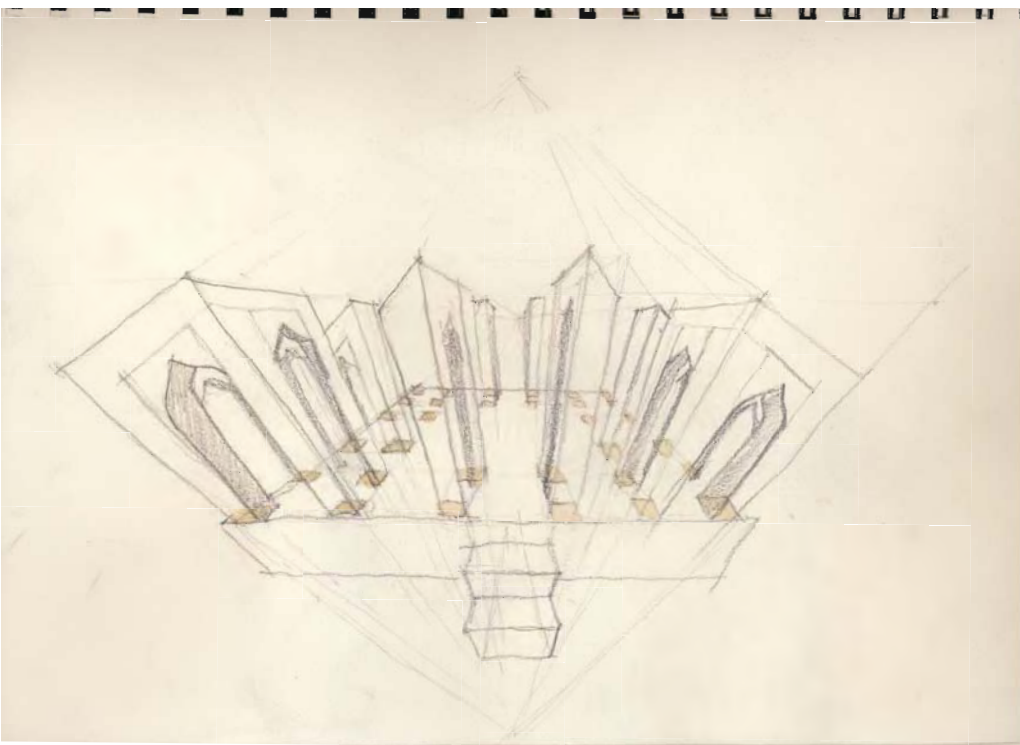
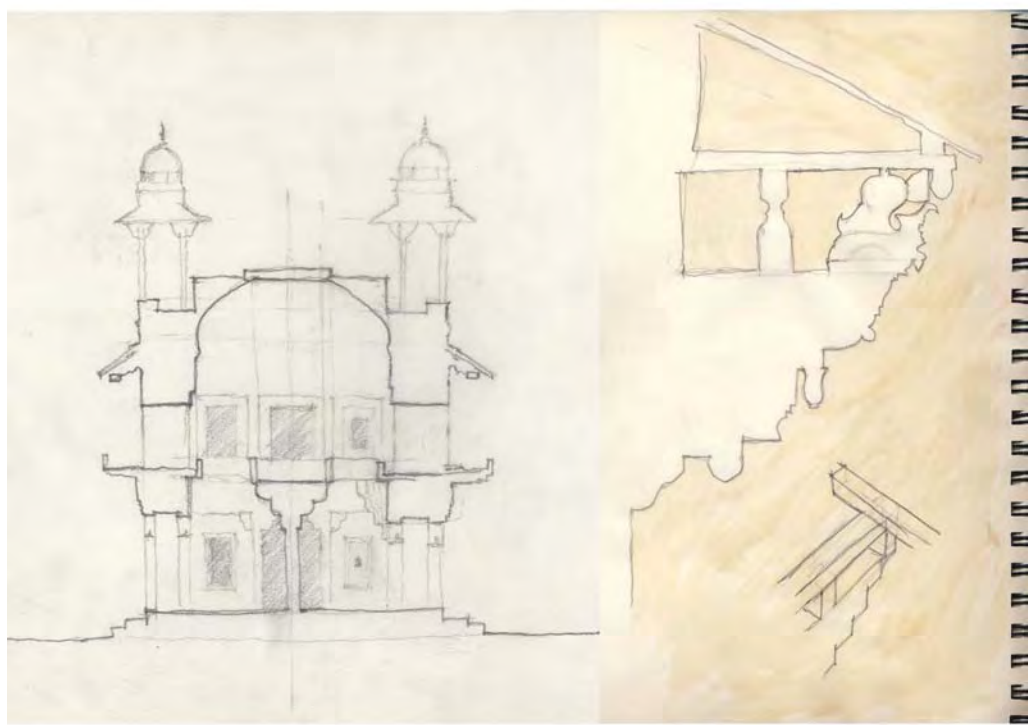
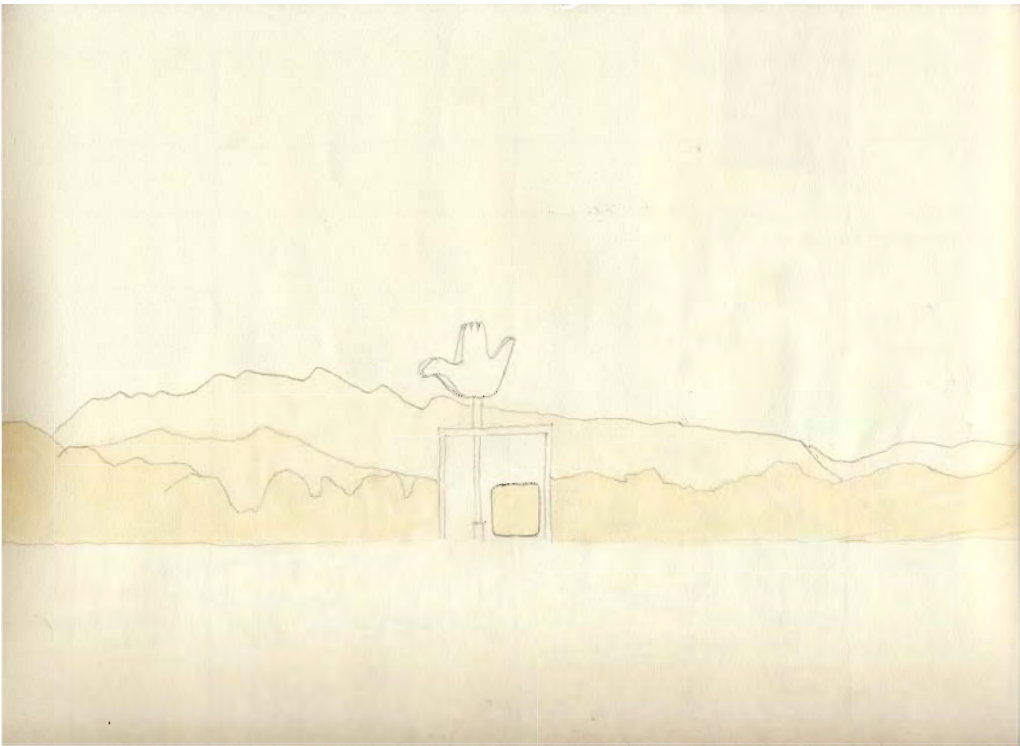
2. MILLOWNER'S ASSOCIATION (L.C. 1951)

ONE PERSPECTIVE

- FREE PLAN, FACADE. (SUSTAINABILITY)
- FREESTANDING STAIRS (MEZZANINE → TERRACE)
- STRUCTURE
- FACADE: FRAMING VIEWS + SUN. (SHIFT IN FACADE FOR SUN). NATURAL BREEZE.
- MATERIAL (FARE STRIPS?): CLASSICISM, COLOR (CONCRETE)
- NO REAL INSIDE/OUTSIDE. (NO BOUNDARY IN BETWEEN)
- OFFICE VOLUMIN (BRICK): ABSTRACTION OF ROMAN ARCHITECTURE (CUBES, SQUARES...)
- FLOOR: GOLDEN RECTANGLES + SQUARES (PROPORTIONS)
- CIRCULATION: CENTRALIZED!

A collection of architectural sketches. On the left is a perspective drawing of a building with a grid facade and a ramp leading to a staircase. In the center is a smaller sketch of a ramp with stairs, labeled "RAMP + STAIR.". On the right is a floor plan showing a central circulation path with red lines, labeled "FLOOR PLAN: NATURAL COOLING (SUNMOVEMENT/FACADE & CIRCULATION)". The floor plan also includes labels for "STAIR", "ELEVATOR", "RAINF", and "EVENING STAIR".





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