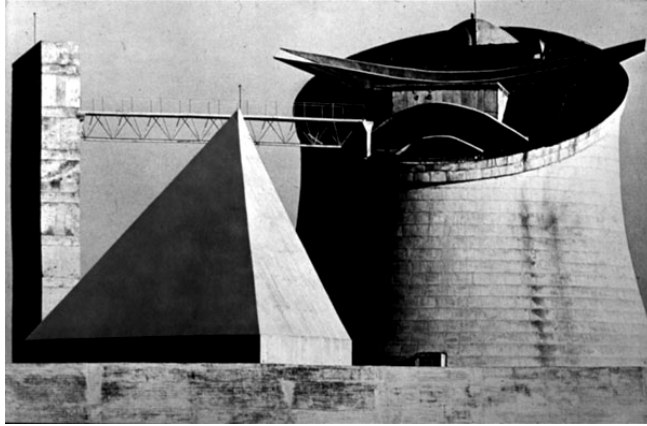
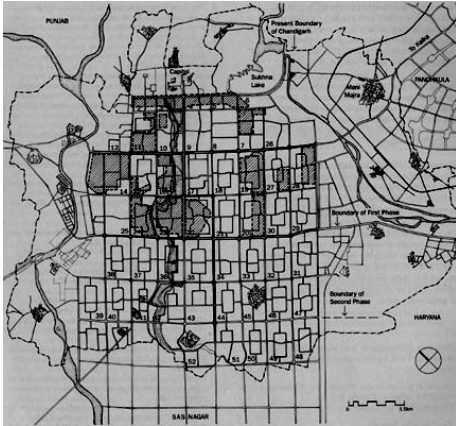


INDIA Winterim Program 2009
Manu P. Sobti, SARUP-UWM



Format

The India Winterim 2009 builds on the success of the first one completed in 2008. The INDIA Winterim Program 2009 would have a three-week travel component in addition to a two-day advance preparation/orientation session at UWM (prior to departure).

It is primarily directed towards advanced undergraduate and graduate students (including PhD students) in architecture, urban planning and other disciplines. Participation in the program (and in the following India architectural studio ARCH 645/855, scheduled for Spring 2009) would provide a total of 9 credits to the students. Students opting NOT to participate in this following studio would be awarded 3 credits. Since this studio shall deal with architectural design issues in India, students would be recommended to follow the Winterim with enrollment in the studio.

Besides a mix of UWM students, and students from other US universities, it is also envisaged that a limited number of students from the School of Architecture located in Ahmedabad (India) and the Architecture Program at the Polytechnic of Bari (Italy) would also participate in this program, working with UWM students on design exercises and site analysis in the field. In addition, select faculty from the Ahmedabad & Bari schools would serve as a valuable resource for the program. Finally, notable

practitioners from the architectural community in India (several of whom have built actively in the urban context) would be invited for live discussions in India and online design crits after students return to UWM. It is also hoped that through this program there would be an opportunity for SARUP-UWM to set up active exchange with some of the important architecture schools in India and Europe over the next few years, creating conditions for student and faculty exchange.

Pedagogical Objectives

The most important objective of the INDIA Study-Abroad Program would be to provide students with a first-hand exposure to the process of globalization and its dramatic impact on the making (and un-making) of the physical and cultural environments. India, with its rapidly expanding cities, embodies conflict, contestation, adjustment and reconciliation between the past and present, its architects continually seeking to render these battles in the forms of buildings, spaces and places. Several proclaim success, while others accept the pleasures of profit as achievement enough. A select few are pained by the difference they could have made to a culture and place where the elephant and skyscraper seamlessly co-exist or collide. It is this recognition of a multi-layered cultural phenomenon, with its complex nuances affecting architecture and cities, which is seen as most instructive for students beginning to identify a design language of their own.

Participating students shall be encouraged to select projects in the urban environments of New Delhi, Bombay, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh, their interventions serving as critical appendages to the existing urban fabric. It is expected that these shall react to a complex palimpsest of structures, several ancient and medieval – now the stuff of memory, others modern and radical – evoking Corbusier, Kahn and other lesser architects.

Travel shall be an important component of our program, thereby enabling students to visit significant cities and related places in India. Within each city, our trips shall include stops at places of general cultural and artistic interest such as major monuments and museums, as well as visits closely related to our studies of architecture, urbanism and culture.

Academic Focus

THREE distinct academic components are designed for the study abroad –

The two-day orientation session, scheduled prior to the two and a half-week study abroad, shall be the first intensive exposure on India provided to the participating students. A sequence of critical readings and useful book titles shall be given out at the commencement of the orientation session, and students shall be expected to prepare for scheduled group discussions, often followed by show and tell sessions by the faculty director. A travel-journal shall be started by each student based on the specifications provided, so designed as to include observations, comments and commentaries while the students travel in India over the next few weeks.

Class participation and discussion, attendance, and the quality of the travel-journal shall be reviewed for each student participant.

The second academic focus of the study abroad would be the Critical Mapping of the Built Environment of the several sites within the city visited by the students. How human beings inhabit, perceive and behave in the urban landscape is central to our understanding of culture and people. As designers and researchers of visual and material culture – artifacts that constitute the cultural landscape around us – we need a methodology that enables us to systematically examine and represent the built environment as a palimpsest created through human actions over time. Within a new and challenging cultural and physical context, this project would invite groups of students to explore different ways to map the built environment. It is expected that this self-conscious escape from 'flatland' would enable students to rigorously examine selected aspects of culture and space that are of most interest to them.

It is expected that this mapping would be done as a two-day charrette problem by groups of students, through the course of their stay in Ahmedabad. The work would be reviewed by the faculty director and invited guests from the local architecture school.

The third academic focus of the study abroad would be the Building Appendage Design Problem, conceived as the logical culmination of the critical mapping process. Owing to their increased awareness and understanding of the city, individual students would now be teamed up with local students to search for building sites where their critical interventions would have important ramifications.

Tentative Dates & Estimated Costs/Student

Orientation Sessions – Dec. 18th & 19th 2008
Departure from Milwaukee - Jan. 3rd 2009
Return to Milwaukee - Jan 24th 2008
TOTAL: 23 days (including orientation sessions)

Estimated Cost/Student - \$ 4400*
(*estimate based on a group of 14 - 16 students)

Faculty

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Post India Winterim 2009 & Research Focus

SARUP students on the India Winterim 2009 shall be encouraged to select and develop research projects through the course of the Winterim travels in India and after their return to Milwaukee.

The INDIA Chandigarh Urban Design Studio (scheduled Winter semester 2009, ARCH 645/855) shall be one among the venues where this research may be channeled for several students. Other selected students, on a case by case basis, may also be eligible for arranging directed/independent studies with the instructor.

The instructor shall, over the next few months, work with the interested students to identify and define these research projects, and potential sources of funding, including grants and financial aid.

