

## Conclusion

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Separation and division of Punjab between India and Pakistan causes identity crisis for inhabitants of the state. Now undermine nature of project with neglecting this point and the culture of the people. To get their roots, these people can no longer refer to architecture, form and structure of their city. These changes actually affect their lifestyle; the one that Le Corbusier speaks of it as the driving engine of Indian culture! But in practice, these changes had caused the separation between body and culture in the cities.

Reviewing these two examples shows that lack of facility and attention to social and symbolic aspects at the same time has led to public spaces without social interaction possibilities. Considering the pros and cons listed in the tables one can see that the greatest strengths are related to providing physical facilities and in contrast, the greatest weaknesses in India's new town public space design result from low attention paid to the identity role of this space

in providing the necessary facilities to resolving spiritual needs of man. This weakness has an important role in preventing social interactions. While living place cannot be just a physical space, it needs social and symbolic aspects which are directly related to cultural features and the life style of inhabitants. It reflects the fact that human can live when he knows himself through the environment. For example, some needs like shopping facilities, child care and entertainment is considered in these cities, but other needs such as joy, social interaction and Symbolic beauty is neglected.

In fact, the design of these cities has imposed conditions that residents have to get along with them. The changes made by the people are reactions against this imposition. In fact they try to respond to their specific needs, aspirations or desires through these changes.

## Endnote

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\* This article retrieved from the research project of "urban landscape of India" and field research trip, which was organized in 2011 by NAZAR research center.

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He once said to Nehru: “Basically, what is the position of the native style in today's world which you have accepted car, pants and democracy?” But eventually, he had to consider his designs inspired by the Indian architecture in order to justify them. Unfortunately, ignoring the cultural environment of India by Le Corbusier led to a huge change in residential architectural structure of Chandigarh. Only the Capitol, remained intact, which was an administrative division that this indicates the failure of the International Style (architecture without place).

What is disregarded in this city is attention to pedestrian and human scale which is lost among Modern cube-shaped buildings with long distances. Some post-modern architecture theorists such as

Robert and Chary, Charles Jencks and Brent Brolin believe that this city is inhumane and lacks any historical and cultural identity (Ghobadian, 2004: 75),(Fig.11).

It can be seen that the mentality of a particular community makes a specific real space through production of social space. So that, if we want to produce urban space for other society, the last product is not necessarily our planned product because our plan has not been introduced in social context of that city (Pourjafar, 2009: 55). In Chandigarh, which was designed by a non-native designer, after the passage of time we are witnessing the failure of design in this context, despite the prediction of Le Corbusier based on the gradual emergence of native features in the city.



Fig.8. Neighborhood, Gandhi Nagar. Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.



Fig.9. Making different usage at the edge of the street by people, Gandhi Nagar. Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.



Fig.10. view of the neighborhood, Chandigarh. Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.



Fig.11. Street without sidewalks, Gandhi Nagar. Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.

in designing of the two cities which have formed the configuration of the city with particular order, and scrambled away with a network of seven roads. Based on the modern perspectives cities should be based on differentiation of similar activities (zoning). Also, in the Zoning of the two cities, there are not enough facilities for city life. Despite there is much open space as the potential to make a living city, appropriate spaces for gatherings and social interaction are not available (Pakzad, 2010: 248).

People are always trying to create and modify their environment according to their needs and tastes, and there have always been trends toward spaces affected in some way by them. That is why designers are recommended to design flexible spaces and



Fig.5. Neighborhood public space, Chandigarh.  
Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.



Fig.6. The public space of the neighborhood, Gandhi Nagar.  
Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.

provide the possibility of users' participation in the formation of space (Madanipour, 2009: 76).

As mentioned, this flexibility is not created properly in these cities, thus we see the absence of people or improper changes in these spaces. In other words, design done based on designer view and the people are like slaves in it who must carry out the wishes of the architect and live as the architect wants (Fig.9).

although it was claimed that detail were considered in all aspects of collection, But Le Corbusier mainly focused on the formal and physical environmental issues and Preferred to rely on data correlation such as climate and not on variable issues such as social relations (Benevolv, 2005: 120),(Fig.10).

Le Corbusier believes that material and spiritual needs of people around the world are the same and therefore human are a global creature. In this way, responses to his needs are the same. He only paid attention to biological aspect of human and attempted to satisfy physiological human needs: "human is as a part of universe and to make harmony, There should be the same rule in the spiritual activities as that are available in the nature. Human works and natural monuments should join. Nature has endless lessons, life presence is in nature; the life that biology compiles its laws. Everything in nature has a birth, growth, prosperity and death. (Le Corbusier, 1986: 34)

The Indian government insist on taking advantage of the native form was not desired by Le Corbusier.



Fig.7. Neighborhood public space, Chandigarh.  
Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.



Chandigarh the combination of nature and buildings is more organized than Gandhi Nagar. In the other words, the combination of nature and city is done similar to rural areas (Fig.1). There is no human scale in both of cities communal spaces; while spaces for social interaction should not be too large and subdued and not too opulent and overwhelming personality and human dignity (Pakzad, 2006: 76),(Fig.2). Serge Chermayeff believes that, after frustration, people began to build semi- rural spaces in their cities, so that they appear as scattered landscapes. The landscapes are not as wide as they can be counted as parks, and are not as small as they can be counted as private gardens. Chermayeff expresses his disagreement with the process and considers the space between the buildings as important as the buildings for human life: "Everything belongs to everyone and thus nothing belongs to someone and no one can enjoy it. Land is wasted under the pretext of creating green space, and the worse, they do not assign a certain goal (Pakzad, 2007: 306),(Fig3,4).

### Local scale

To meet the material needs of human through creating appropriate conditions, Le Corbusier has taken important actions in developing interaction in the urban spaces. In general, it can be said Chandigarh has been more successful in providing collective life and social interaction



Fig.3. The public space in Chandigarh. Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.

compared to Gandhi Nagar.

According to Le Corbusier, residential neighborhoods should have enough green area for games and sports of children, teenagers and the elderlies (Le Corbusier, 1986:119). He tried to consider this space in his designs, but the result of space utilization was not in accordance with his idea; people use this spaces with changing them.

A living city tissue is based on a knit network of different uses that have mutual dependence on each other forever and also relies on the economic and social events, but in our studied examples we witnessed communal spaces without the presence of different land uses in local ,thereby causing them lack of vitality and space present ability. (Cremona, 2009: 98),(Fig. 5,6).

### Neighborhood scale

In this scale, we encounter empty space in Gandhi Nagar, so that Neighborhood blocks are arranged in the design process and the remaining space between the blocks are not designed (Fig.7). Although Public spaces in Neighborhood scale of Gandhi Nagar have provided opportunities for activity development, but the lack of attention to the flexibility of the space and the possibility of participation of citizens in them has reduced the amount of regular and permanent use of space and the sense of place belongingness (Fig.8).

Over all, one can encounter sculptural monuments



Fig.4. Street in the city, Chandigarh. Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.

in each of these cities. First, the positive and negative aspects of each scale in both cities will be presented in tables and then, to answer the questions, we compare these two examples.

### Samples comparison

Studying the samples and comparing them with each other, this article shows the important factors of success or failure of any mentioned

scale of public spaces and the main causes of human changes. This study summarizes significant difference in both scales of each city.

### City scale

In this scale, nature is located in the vicinity of buildings in Chandigarh in a more organized design. Although in both cities buildings are located in open and natural environment, in

Table 2. Public spaces in Gandhi Nagar regarding three scales. Source: authors.

Neighborhood	Area	City	Scale/ city
<p><b>Advantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use of public spaces among neighborhood units</li> </ul> <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of commercial spaces and construction of them by people</li> <li>- lack of sign elements →lack of role stimulation in public spaces</li> <li>- inappropriate pavement in these spaces</li> <li>- lack of appropriate plants and shading in the space</li> <li>- changing some applications like using public spaces as parking</li> <li>- lack of appropriate resting spaces</li> </ul>	<p><b>Advantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- taking the advantage of rural landscapes in this scale</li> </ul> <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of enough shading</li> <li>- lack of plants and green area</li> <li>- inappropriate connection with road way</li> <li>- lack of resting spaces →lack of required physical spaces for social interactions</li> <li>- lack of familiar and memorable space →lack of needed spaces for social interaction</li> <li>- lack of different applications of public spaces</li> <li>- improper connection with residential context</li> <li>- lack of access to facilities and welfare applications in the public spaces</li> </ul>	<p><b>Advantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- considering plants and landscapes for preparing a freshness and Variety</li> <li>- organic plans in some parts of the sector as well as keeping modern plans</li> </ul> <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the presence of green areas throughout the path →lack of visual permeability in roads leading to misunderstanding them by people</li> <li>- absence of people in public spaces</li> <li>- lack of different applications in the vicinity of these spaces</li> <li>- not using human scale in public spaces</li> <li>- lack of historical and cultural identity in city and public spaces</li> <li>- lack of public memorable components spaces of the city</li> <li>- lack of recycle space and the use of ruined urban spaces</li> <li>- lack of space division and separation in public spaces next to the crossing with plants furniture and pavement →the space lacks human scale</li> <li>- lack of Properly designed space between the building and the street , lack of activity and the presence of people in them →lack of pedestrian oriented spaces foe social interactions</li> <li>- Lack of proper public space despite enough green area for creating attractive public area in the city →the application of green area regardless of cultural and social attractions</li> </ul>	Gandhi Nagar



Fig.1. Sector 17: city main Plaza Chandigarh.  
 Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.



Fig.2. street in town, Gandhi Nagar.  
 Photo: Atie Farahani Fard, 2011.

paradoxical situation, both in stature aspect of the post-colonial Indian culture and the engine of this culture.

Gandhi Nagar was also a microcosm of the city, designed by one of the students of Le Corbusier.

### Public spaces

Public space as a three-dimensional sphere with a variety of events that can be tailored to the needs of time and place in the society, finds favorable or unfavorable character. The essential condition for public spaces is that they should be places for social interaction and communication. So, spaces which do not contain interaction and communication are not considered as urban spaces. Depending on the amount of similarity and functional conformance with expected targets, the scale and amount of interaction, coordination with the daily needs of social groups and consistence with the overall structure of the city, urban space can enjoy more prominent aspects of the system.

Applied for human needs, urban spaces can be

upgraded to urban places and feel special for the citizens of that locality. (Gehl, 2010, 63)

Mumford defined urban space as a social space that its identity is in line with the objectives of aesthetic principles and human goals (Pakzad, 2006: 12).

Urban spaces are like the pulse of the society in a city. Given the importance of this issue for its role in society and that it has been studied by different practitioners of urban issues, social psychologists and socialists; we have studied these spaces in new town Indian cities and tried to examine the causes of success or failure of these towns.

### Public places in Chandigarh and Gandhi Nagar

In this article, the study of public spaces in urban, local and neighborhood scales and pros and cons of the changes in each scale is presented. So, the aim of tables 1 and 2 is to achieve effective factors in developing social interaction and thus the success or failure of public spaces

Table 1. public spaces in Chandigarh regarding three scales. Source: the authors.

Neighborhood	Area	City	Scale city
<p><b>Advantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The presence of artifact and defined spaces and pristine natural spaces close each other</li> <li>- the presence of private gardens and spaces in front of the residential complexes which may cause sense of possession</li> </ul> <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of presence of people in the central sectors</li> <li>- changing the application of some places like parking</li> <li>- changing part of these spaces to storage places</li> <li>- accumulation of residential garbage in the middle of the public spaces</li> <li>- lack of trade commercial applications in these spaces and their construction by people → ignoring one of the most important human needs</li> <li>- lack of enough plants and shade in the space</li> <li>- inappropriate pavement in this space</li> </ul>	<p><b>Advantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- visual Permeability from the street and residential places has led to variety in spaces in this scale</li> <li>- designing suitable spaces for different activities like shady places to sit and spaces for kids to play</li> </ul> <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The ratio of population to space is too low</li> <li>- large area with inappropriate plants → uncomfortable spaces for local gathering which lacks human scale</li> <li>- inappropriate connection with road way</li> <li>- lack of appropriate shading</li> <li>- lack of resting spaces compared to the extent of the space</li> <li>- lack of memorable and familiar spaces</li> <li>- lack of presence and interaction of different users with public spaces → lack of face to face interaction and sense of possession and space observation by people</li> <li>- Lack of social interaction on a large scale because the space is too large</li> </ul>	<p><b>Advantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- zoning activities to have a better accessibility and efficiency</li> <li>- considering separated public space for each scale of the city</li> <li>Sector 17: city main Plaza</li> <li>- Porch designed around the Plaza to create a climate comfort</li> <li>- The use of shading trees for living space</li> <li>- main Plaza flexibility and existence of social activities in public spaces</li> <li>- absence of car and providing pedestrian oriented space</li> </ul> <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public spaces are greater than the population → scattered people in space and reduce face to face interactions</li> <li>-Public spaces are not scattered properly throughout the city → lack of attention to public space needs of each region and determining them only by the use of Capitation and pre-defined regulations</li> <li>- no using human scale in public spaces → creating confusion and lack of identity in human</li> <li>- non-conformity of the standards of these spaces with The per capita income → this non-conformity decreases their attendance in public spaces</li> <li>- The city and public spaces lack memorable and familiar Components → ignoring the fact that understanding the environment is related to humans' last experiences</li> <li>- city and public spaces do not contain historical or cultural identity → not identifying the space based on the last experiences</li> <li>Sector 17: the main Plaza of the city</li> <li>- disordered main public spaces of the city caused by parking lots around them</li> <li>- lack of green areas comparing the extent of area in the space</li> <li>- lack of shade for resting in this Plaza</li> <li>- lack of shade is an obstacle for conditioning the air by the pool water</li> <li>- changing the main axe of the square from Longitudinal to Transversal</li> <li>- Lack of people gathered in the center of public space</li> <li>- The absence of people in the long porch around Plaza because of long routes between different locations</li> </ul>	Chandigarh

## Introduction

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New towns and their related issues are new universal discussions. This is important because for the first time a quite unprecedented idea has been fulfilled in the field of urban planning then it has been exposed advantages and disadvantages and has been completed through experiencing. New towns in India are considered as places for overflowing population of large cities or they are formally placed on the governmental plans because of political considerations. On the other hand, construction, enrichment and development of proper and active urban space as one of the

strategic objectives of improving the quality of the environment in built urban environments has been the top goal of urban planners and designers.

Landscape design and its adjustment with the city, can be studied at different scales. In this article public spaces and urban landscapes have been studied in three urban, local and neighborhood scales to answer the raised questions and try to prove hypothesis with analyzing selected samples of India's new towns and comparing them in three scales.

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## Hypothesis

Because of ignoring the context and use of the space by designers, most of the newly constructed public spaces in India have not succeeded to be considered as urban space.

## Newly constructed cities or new towns

New towns (or newly constructed cities) have changed a lot due to socio-economic system of the world and as for evolution of theories. These cities are planned communities which are created in response to predetermined objectives.

New cities have a certain date of construction and are manufactured in a short time. Typically, New city planning is based on predicted population, so that the estimated population can be used as a basis for anticipating future physical, economic and social requirements.

In general, in most historical periods \_especially since the emergence of urbanization\_ new towns are designed and constructed all over the world. In some cases, construction of these cities was a plan for achieving government policies.

New towns are designed as a means of organizing of national, regional planning and population decentralization policy. The creation of new capital (Chandigarh, Brasilia and Islamabad) in developing countries is seen as a variation of these

objectives. According to evolutions of theories in different social and economic systems, the new cities have experienced fundamental changes.

New city is a pre-planned and self-reliant society; with defined population, area and certain distance from the metropolis which is appointed with all the necessary facilities for an independent environment. (Ziyari, 2006: 48).

## New towns in India

Chandigarh and Gandhi Nagar, are constructed for political reasons and based on modernist tendencies.

After the 1947 Agreement between India and Pakistan, Punjab was divided between the two countries and Lahore, the capital of the state, was placed in West Pakistan. Jawaharlal Nehru decided to establish Chandigarh, the new capital of Punjab, as a symbol of India's freedom and emancipation from tradition that reflects the future of the nation ( Benevolv, 2005: 113).

Chandigarh was designed as the capital of states of Punjab and Haryana and Gandhi Nagar as the center of Gujarat. Chandigarh was designed by Le Corbusier. As mentioned in the book " Le Corbusier and Chandigarh, challenge to India's post-colonial modernity ", Chandigarh is the story of build India's modern architecture in a

# The Presence of Civilians in the Contemporary City

## Analysis of the Public Spaces in the new Towns of India\*

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### Abstract

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Newly constructed cities or new towns, like the new model in modern urban planning have great importance and until now different countries including India have used this model in urban planning with various motives and in various forms.

Landscape and public spaces design has been the basic concern of landscape architects and urban designers. Landscape can strengthen the city's cohesion and Cause environmental sustainability and readability. Public space is a social space which makes sense in line with the objectives of human and aesthetic principles.

The present article aims to study Indian new towns and focuses on public spaces in these cities to review their weaknesses and continuing changes. Also, by examining, analyzing and comparing the samples we answer the question: “what are the cause of the failure and the lack of opportunities for social interaction in some of these public spaces? Which deficiencies have made people to change these public spaces?”

This article studies new towns using library documents, written and internet sources and articles related to the samples. Also, this model is analyzed using field studies.

### Keywords

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New towns, Urban landscapes, Public space, India, Citizens.