Chandigarh Re-Think
Transforming Ruralities & Edge(ness) in Global Urbanities
Editor Manu P. Sobti

Chandigarh Rethink captures the rich, ongoing discourse on radically transforming urbanities within the Global South with specific reference to India’s social, historical, economic, and cultural repositioning. It examines rural edge ‘figures’ and their rural ‘grounds’—relevant not just to Chandigarh, but also to cities in general—while suggesting narrative strategies via provocative design studio work. These introspections are framed within themed contributions from a globally recognized group of scholars who represent the diverse disciplines of architecture, planning, urban design, landscape ecologies, and the humanities. As a topical publication on global urbanities transforming a ‘signature’ urban project, Chandigarh Rethink anticipates the Buildings- Landscapes-Cultures (blc) program and SARUP’s efforts to uniquely align urban research, pedagogy, and critical design practice towards examining global urbanities that continue to defy normative urban analysis. Beyond serving as an exemplar for globally aware architectural schools nationwide and beyond, it is also directed to serve as an instructive primer for design students and instructors examining global urban sites.

About the Contributors

Manu P. Sobti is Associate Professor in Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures (blc) and PhD Program Chair at the School of Architecture & Urban Planning, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His specialties cover architecture, urban and landscape histories of Central Asia and the Indian Subcontinent. He has published widely and is the recipient of a number of prestigious research awards.

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Dongsei Kim is an architect and educator. He is the principal of Axu studio and teaches at RMIT University. He received his Masters Degree from Harvard and Columbia Universities. He holds a B. Arch (Honors) from VUW and is a registered architect with NZRAB. He is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne.

Saengeeta Bagga-Mehta has a special interest in the conservation of Modern Heritage ensembles and conducts collaborative student workshops concerning urban landscapes, environmental design, and social issues within Chandigarh. A member of ICOMOS INDIA, and among the Jurors for the Berkeley Prize, she is also Nodal Officer to the Dossier of the Transnational Serial Nomination of the Capitol Complex—Chandigarh and Committee Member Research Promotion Cell, Punjab University, Chandigarh.

Arijit Sen is an architect and vernacular architecture historian who writes, teaches, and studies urban cultural landscapes. He has co-edited Landscapes of Mobility: Culture, Politics and Placemaking (with Jennifer Johung, Ashgate Publishers, 2013) and Making Place: Space and Embodiment in the City (with Lisa Silverman, Indiana University Press, 2014).

Antonio Furgiuele has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Pratt Institute, City College of New York, and Parsons. He holds a B. Arch from Syracuse University and a Master’s degree from MIT in History, Theory & Criticism of Architecture. Furgiuele’s work investigates the histories and theories of architecture systems of information.

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