

# REFLECTION PAPER : URBANISM

## **Personal Information**

Name: Divya Jindal  
Student Number: 4254368  
Address: 537, Roland Holstlaan  
Postal Code: 2624HP  
Place of Residence: Delft  
Telephone Number: +31 613664655  
Email Address: divya1127@gmail.com

## **Studio**

Studio: Complex Cities  
Mentors: Dr. Diego Sepulveda Carmona, Prof. Frits Palmboom, Dr. Vikram Aditya Prakash  
(University of Washington, Seattle)

## **Title**

Re-envisioning Chandigarh: Role of urban peripheries in formation of metropolitan regions in the case of Chandigarh and its surrounding Region.

## **Keywords**

Metropolization, Peri-urban, Global networks, Green infrastructure, Governance.

## **Introduction**

The project is located in Chandigarh, a modern city, designed by the renowned architect Le Corbusier, in the 1950's. The subject has gained attention in the past years as the region is going through intense change and rapid development, creating a complete new face of the place than what it was imagined to be. Also it explores the loop holes in the planning policies and systems which are further adding to the complexities by making the urban patterns more segregated in morphology. The project also intends to highlight that urbanisation in India, cannot be a one way process or just making huge master plans and expecting new cities to grow, but rather, a multi-level and intensely interdependent process that needs to be understood and sensitively intervened from both sides of the spectrum, of rather big planning policies and a simultaneous action on a much smaller and local scale. In order to do the same different actors, existing conditions and possible future trends need to be closely examined and evaluated.

The project also opens an important subject, of how ecological reserves of the city and region are fast getting extinct as a result of their intense pressure to grow, urbanise and densify. As the city is not only rich of ecological reserves, but its initial masterplan had strongly respected its context and the green belt and water reserves and structured in mainly along the main green arteries from the Himalayas and the infrastructure hierarchy designed to plan the city. But what is crucial is that over time though the infrastructure has redefined itself, the green belts have somewhere lost significance and leading to extinction as a result of the growing region.

Through the subject, the intend of the Author is to open up a dialogue for the urgent and vital need for change in perspectives in urban planning and policies and further designing the urban environment rather than aspiring for creating an urban life which does not belong to the place.

### **Aim of thesis**

For the same, the project aims to recognize the new emerging urban patterns and forms in the neo-liberalized India, by understanding the interrelationship of global economic forces and its local impacts. While this postmodern urban model is being constantly challenged with the rise of a new spatial and social culture, there is a need and demand for a responsive and more sensitive perspective towards its growing demands. The project intends to explore this new phenomenon, from a much broader perspective to a more local and specific case, to further establish a better understanding of the fact to its local consequences.

Also, as the project also explores the interdependency of multiple actors and stakeholders and their varied aspirations and interests, it helps add more layers to the complexity of already sensitive urban forms and opens up new perspectives for research. Through this project, it is also intended to understand the global phenomena better and explore other national and international case studies, to help further realise the growing change in spatial patterns. And, as the project deals with different administrative borders and government actors, it aims to help understand the missing alignment in the policies with economic systems and their lack of collaboration, initiation in cross border conditions. Finally, it intends to add to the larger discourse over the subject, and open up new possibilities and approaches, which could be further beneficial in India and other developing countries.

### **Methodology**

In context to the vast scale of the project it is crucial to have a structured methodology to understand and further intervene in the subject through design and spatial planning. Also it helped align all the research through theory and analysis of the sight into a more structured approach to certain crucial subjects.

Apart from having a strong and clear theoretical framework of planning and design it was vital to the subject to have a structured approach towards the actions to be taken. Considering the same and based on the prior theoretical base, a multiscale approach helped to both understand the project and align it in a hierarchy of order, space, time and actions.

Further, setting up clear framework for planning and design helped to form a set a parameters, which further facilitated the alignment of all the different actions to be taken in context to a set of given values and concerns.

## **Relationship between Research and Design**

The project needed to understand very precisely the crucial values of the modern city planning and the new ideas of the network city to comprehend what the change that is on going with in the context of Chandigarh is inherently built up of. And this was made possible the theoretical research and their impacts on spatial environments. In order to give a place to the new design actions with in the strong context, research and analysis of the area helped make a comprehensive pattern, which could be translated, further into the hypothesis and predicting expected future changes. Hence making it rather logical to take the design actions logical in their place and more impactful in context to time and space.

## **Relationship between the project and the wider social context**

The project draws a strong attention to the fact that the rate of urbanisation is almost going to go from 25% to 40% in India in the next 10 years (as per the national census). The fact in itself puts a large focus on these growing metropolitan regions and the demand for them to become bigger, grow faster and get connected to their larger contexts. Making the subject a large growing phenomenon and its urgent need to be taken up more effectively as more and more cities are going through similar changes, especially in India.