A Comparative Study with Residential Development, QT8, Milano

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CHANDIGARH was the first planned city after independence from British rule in 1947. It is the capital city of the states of Punjab and Haryana.

The city is located at the picturesque junction of foothills of the Himalayas Mountain range and the Ganges plains.

It houses a population of 1,054,600 inhabitants (2001) and is one of the richest cities of the nation.

American architects Albert Mayer and Mathew Novicki were the first architects to be appointed for the project.

After the death of Novicki in 1950, Le Corbusier was commissioned.

Judicial Court and State Assembly Buildings designed by Le Corbusier
INITIAL PROPOSALS

Fan-shaped Master Plan proposed by Albert Mayer

Grid-Iron Master Plan proposed by Le Corbusier
The city plan was conceived as post war ‘Garden City’ wherein vertical and high rise buildings were ruled out, keeping in view the living habits of the people.

Le Corbusier conceived the master plan of Chandigarh as analogous to human body, with a clearly defined

**Head** (the Capitol Complex, Sector 1),

**Heart** (the City Centre Sector-17),

**Lungs** (the leisure valley, innumerable open spaces and sector greens),

**Intellect** (the cultural and educational institutions),

**Circulatory system** (the network of roads, the 7Vs) and

**Viscera** (the Industrial Area).
The primary module of city’s design is a Sector, a neighborhood unit of size 800 meters x 1200 meters.

Each SECTOR is a self-sufficient unit having shops, school, health centers and places of recreations and worship.

The population of a sector varies between 3000 and 20000 depending upon the sizes of plots and the topography of the area.
The first proposal for the development at QT8, by Architect Piero Bottoni, bears some basic similarities in terms of the Planning Principles like Hierarchy of Green Spaces, Public Buildings and basic Building Typology.

The lack of a defined Grid System and the scale of the project are the major apparent dissimilarities.
HIERARCHY of GREEN AREAS

A Hierarchy of Green Spaces can be observed in both the layout ranging from Public Greens at City Level to Semi-Private to Private Green Areas.

1. City Level Public Green Space with Artificial Water Body
2. Free-Flowing Green Space, connecting the entire site
3. Semi-Private Green Areas for neighborhood pockets
4. Private Green Areas for Residential Units
The **Leisure Valley** is a green sprawling space extending North-East to South-West along a seasonal riverlet gradient and was conceived by Le Corbusier as the lungs of the city.

Apart from large Public Parks and special Botanical Gardens, it houses series of Fitness Trails, amphitheatres and spaces for open-air exhibitions.

Images of various sculptures and Public Green Areas in the Leisure Valley
A Large **Central Complex** was to be proposed at the center of the site housing the Church and other public facilities like Sports Complex, Assembly Hall, etc.

The **Central Sector** of the city, Sector 17, is the main Public Congregation area of the city. It houses all major Shopping Complexes, Sports Facilities and Congregation Spaces.
The Basic Building Typology is observed as extremely Rectilinear with similar proportions.

In both the developments the smaller individual Residential Units are arranged around central common Green Spaces, although the shapes are different.