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Council of Architecture's International Conference

in collaboration with

**Chitkara School of Planning and
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SHAPE 2026

Sustainable Habitats and Architecture for People and the Earth
Embracing the SDG vision through Architecture and Planning

26-27-28 FEBRUARY 2026



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Council of Architecture's International Conference

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**and holding for 3-Day Urban Design Workshop:
Revitalization of Sector 17, Chandigarh**

23-24-25 February 2026

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ARTNERSHIP IN VIDEO DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

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Urban Design Workshop

Revitalisation of Sector 17, Chandigarh

Introduction

The National Hands-On Urban Design Workshop is a **3-day** intensive learning programme designed for architecture students from universities across India. This workshop aims to build capacities in context-sensitive urban design, critical spatial analysis, and design-based problem solving. This workshop will encourage participants with immersive learning, field-based documentation, and collaborative design thinking.

Chandigarh – A Modernist Legacy

The city of Chandigarh was meticulously planned in the mid-twentieth century by the renowned modernist architect Le Corbusier, supported by a dedicated team of Indian and international professionals. Conceived as India's **first post-Independence planned city**, Chandigarh was envisioned to embody the newly independent nation's aspirations for progress, modernity, and nation-building. Its masterplan integrates principles of **neighbourhood-based planning, a hierarchical road network (the 7V system), generous green lungs, pedestrian-oriented movement systems, and human-scaled civic cores**, collectively establishing Chandigarh as a globally recognised model of modernist urbanism.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop aims to:

- Encourage a critical understanding of **public realm revitalisation within existing urban fabrics.**
- Enable students to **analyze urban design issues through experiential site immersion.**
- Cultivate the ability to **translate observational insights into spatial strategies and street / plaza interventions.**
- **Develop design proposals** grounded in inclusivity, sustainability, and UNESCO's SDG-driven city futures.

Urban Design Workshop *Revitalisation of Sector 17, Chandigarh*

Action Area: Sector 17, Chandigarh

Historically, Sector 17 functioned as Chandigarh's commercial and cultural nucleus, accommodating retail establishments, international brands, eateries, and recreational spaces, thereby fostering an environment of economic dynamism and social interaction. As a pedestrian-centric precinct and entertainment hub, it served as the primary civic heart of the city, sustaining active public engagement and a distinctive urban character unique within the Indian context.

However, over the past decade, the sector has undergone significant experiential and structural transitions. Despite occasional increases in activity during festivals or government-led rejuvenation attempts post-2018, everyday footfall has reportedly declined to nearly 20% of earlier levels, with increasing shop vacancies and weakening retail vitality.

Key Challenges :

Contemporary challenges include ageing infrastructure, retail competition from climate-controlled malls, evolving consumer behaviour, and the need to reconcile heritage preservation with contemporary commercial expectations. These conditions, combined with pedestrian congestion in certain pockets, fragmented shade infrastructure, and weakened cultural programming, have contributed to a steady erosion of the area's socio-spatial vibrancy.

The site inherently demands proposals that:

- **Restore public life, walkability, and civic engagement**
- **Promote inclusive and equitable access in the public realm**
- **integrate sustainable and climate-responsive design strategies**
- **Strengthen multi-scalar mobility and transit interfaces**
- **Enhance cultural and commercial vibrancy through placemaking**



Figure : Commercial Plaza, Sector 17, Chandigarh

Urban Design Workshop

Revitalisation of Sector 17, Chandigarh

Division of Action Area

The action area has been divided into four parts—Lot A, B, C, and D. Two teams will be assigned one lot. All four lots together cover the entire central spine of Sector 17. Groups will analyse their assigned lot holistically—integrating architecture and urban design—while ensuring proposals "stitch" seamlessly at lot edges for a unified sector vision.

Study Area Lot	Approx. Dimensions	Focus
LOT A	323m x 330m	Low-intensity commercial & entertainment
LOT B	291m x 393m	Commercial, banks & government offices
LOT C	327m x 456m	High-intensity commercial & public buildings
LOT D	260m x 512m	High-intensity commercial & public buildings

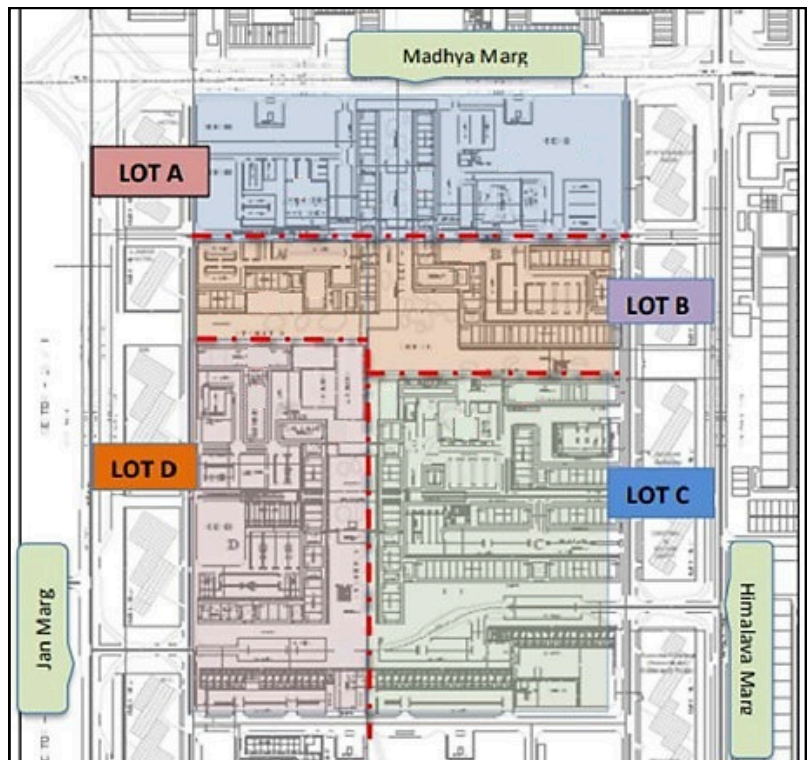


Figure : Plan, Sector 17, Chandigarh
Four-Lot Subdivision of the Selected Redevelopment Study Area



Figure : Public Space, Sector 17, Chandigarh



Urban Design Workshop

Revitalisation of Sector 17, Chandigarh

Mode: Offline

23-24-25 February 2026

Last date of registration: 10 February 2026

Venue: Chitkara School of Planning & Architecture, Chitkara University, Punjab

Field Visit Location: Sector 17, Chandigarh

Day-Wise Structure

Day	Focus	Key Components
Day 1	Site Immersion	Guided walk, documentation, mapping, user experience, issue identification
Day 2	Design Exploration	Concept development, ideation, thematic direction, preliminary proposals
Day 3	Synthesis & Presentation	Final proposal preparation, panel reviews, jury interaction, submission

Deliverables & Submission

Each team shall propose an urban design intervention addressing revitalisation of Sector 17, with mandatory alignment to Conference Theme Code: T01: Inclusive Cities, Equity & Human-Centred Habitats and SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities (with optional links to SDG 3, 6, 7, 13 as contextually relevant)

The deliverables are:

- Site analysis, issue mapping & experiential observation summary
- Concept narrative (max. 400 words) and Compliance statement referencing SDG 11 & Target 11.3
- Urban Design Strategy Board(s) (A1 digital – PDF)



Urban Design Workshop

Revitalisation of Sector 17, Chandigarh

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weightage
Relevance to SDG 11 & Site Challenges	25%
Innovation, Conceptual Strength	25%
Design Detailing & Spatial Communication	20%
Feasibility & Practicality	15%
Social Impact & Public Realm Sensitivity	15%

Participation & Registration Guidelines

- Registrations open to students of Architecture from all institutes/schools across India.
- Each team can comprise **five members from the same institute** or the teams of **five members will be made here during the workshop**.
- **Certificate of Excellence** will be awarded to the best proposal and **Certificate of Participation** will be issued to all participants.
- Selected proposals will be **exhibited during COA's International Conference SHAPE 2026 (26-27-28 February 2026)**.
- Selected proposals will be **featured in the official conference proceedings and showcased digitally on the conference website**.

***Please note**

- *A maximum of 40 participants will be permitted for this activity, and selection will be on a first-come, first-served basis.*
- *Registration for the conference is mandatory to participate in any Pre-Conference Activity.*
- *There is no separate fee for Pre-Conference Activities.*

Register for workshop: <https://forms.gle/VxbKi6jPe9iburDc9>

[Conference Registration Link](#)

For further information, please reach out at:

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