

The two-day international colloque organised by the Department of Culture, city of Le Havre with the support of UNESCO, World Heritage Centre, Paris, and DOCOMOMO International was aimed towards the **recognition, valorization and protection of the architectural and urban heritage of the 20th century**.

Inaugurated at the Hotel de Ville, Le Havre, France, the conference brought together four urban sites of the 20th century, recognised by their entries on the UNESCO World Heritage List (still awaited for Chandigarh). These included Brasilia (1987), Tel Aviv (2003), and Le Havre the most recent (2005). Born from the desire of prime contractors carried by a vision of the future, designed and carried out by professionals, first class architects and urban planners, these cities have since undergone an intense development. Their exceptional modern architectural heritages are references throughout the world. How to balance the protection and enhancement of the most prestigious buildings with the requirements of urban life remains today an open question.

The two-day proceedings were structured into sessions were built around four themes; **a) The Foundation of Cities, b) The Process of Appropriation and the Enhancement of Modern Heritage Cities, c) Urban projects: Prospects for the future and d) The Modern City: Landscape or Territory**. These were to examine the founding approaches of these important heritage complexes and to compare the solutions implemented to reconcile the enhancement of heritage with the present needs. Each session focused on a specific aspect which dealt with a wide range of subjects such as the process of inscription to attain world heritage status, the conservation plan for managing the present state of the site, the administrative and legislative mechanisms currently in practice to put the management plan into position, and their subsequent evaluation. Forces of change that cities and sites of modern heritage must contend and reconcile with within their management plans were also discussed.

This conference brought together specialists in urban and architectural history, the leaders of heritage policies and the stakeholders, political and professional, of the urban projects of today. Here the role of the tourism and culture sectors was highlighted as a strong armature for development, conservation and valorization of the urban and architectural heritage of cities of the twentieth century. The concluding session, chaired by Maristella Casciato, Chairperson, DOCOMOMO International, included a roundtable for the media wherein the modern city was debated between a landscape or territory? Professor Gerard Monnier, the Scientific Commissioner for the conference, presented the conclusions.

Visits to showcase the urban heritage of Le Havre, the city reconstructed by Auguste Perret and his colleagues depicting the school of **Structural Classicism** (as it is popularly known), were organised. These included a heritage walk of the Core Zone nominated as the World Heritage Site, and specific sites within it such as the English Church of St. Joseph, The Perret Apartment, The Museum Malraux, and the Vulcan Site designed by Lucio Costa (the inspiration behind Brasilia). As part of the conference a series of exhibitions on the four iconic cities could be viewed at various locations in the city.

In parallel to the exhibitions on the four cities planned in Le Havre, an international poster exhibition on the general theme of the recognition, the valorization and the protection of the architectural and urban heritage of the 20th century was held at the conference venue –the Hotel de Ville, Le Havre. Five of the thirteen entries chosen for display were the works of the students and the faculty of the Chandigarh College of Architecture, Chandigarh. Mr. Vivek Atray, Joint Secretary Culture & Director Tourism, Chandigarh Administration, Professor Kiran Joshi, Chandigarh College of Architecture, and Ms. Madhu Sarin, Architect, made presentations to highlight various aspects of Chandigarh's heritage during this conference.