BACKGROUND

Le Corbusier became the most important and sought after architect and urban planner of the 20th century after he completed his Chandigarh experiment. He along with his team designed a plethora of buildings in the city. His concepts, sketches, archives and writings became a subject of extreme importance and value to the world. But what captured interest and moved eyes and ears all around were his un-built monuments in the city, that were unable to be conceived, due to political, economic and other reasons. The design of the Capitol Complex was the jewel in the crown wore by Corbusier’s Chandigarh. Being the symbol and identity of the city for many years, the capitol complex is still incomplete, for a fourth building, the Museum of Knowledge was planned to accompany the existing Secretariat, Assembly Hall and High Court. Originally designated as the Governor’s Palace, it did not commensurate with Prime Minister Nehru’s idea of democracy, and therefore the plan was abandoned. The ‘Musée de la Connaissance’, translated as the ‘Museum of Knowledge’ (MoK) was conceptualized then. The MoK, according to Corbusier was to function as a decision-making or a briefing center for the government officials, highlighting the importance and applied use of technology and electronics in processing, synthesizing and presenting large bodies of information related to the state matters. Along with the Museum of Knowledge, there also lies another unbuilt monument in front of it, known as the Martyr’s Memorial. Designed as an expression of gratefulness to the freedom fighters of free India, the monument comprised of four elements, of which exists only an unfinished ramp with inscriptions and symbols onto it.
MISSION STATEMENT

The aim of this competition is to design the Museum of Knowledge (MoK) at the original cumulative site of the then proposed MoK and Martyr’s memorial in the Capitol complex. The competition hopes to achieve the following:

• Defining the purpose of a KNOWLEDGE/ CONNAISSANCE MUSEUM in the Chandigarh of 21st century.

Does Corbusier’s original purpose of a knowledge museum still comply with today’s times? Or does knowledge needs to be reinterpreted and redefined more realistically, according to the needs of the future. Corbusier based his knowledge center on four postulates of ethics, sociology, economics and technology. The proposal for the MoK needs to interpret the function of a knowledge museum in a way that is germane and relevant to the present and future and helps in alleviating chaos and disorder, be it economic, political, social, environmental, urban, technological, demographical etc. in nature. The proposal should conceive an extraordinary program for the MoK that would sustain for long in the city and strive to create utopia.

• Contemplating the relevance and importance of Le Corbusier’s version of modern architecture in present time.

Considered as Le Corbusier’s most mature plastic creations, each of the ‘edifices’ in the Capitol Complex represented the adaptation of European Modernism, use of 20th century materials like reinforced concrete and brick, and his personal directive principles to local conditions of cost, climate and technology which gave the city a distinctly fresh image and became a symbol for the city. Yet, with the dawn of the 21st century and advent of new materials and techniques of construction, evolution of new styles and movements of architecture globally, Corbusier-style architecture of Chandigarh is deemed as “matchbox-like and monotonous” by many critics who want the city to grow and rise architecturally. The proposal for the MoK should be architecturally relevant and contemporary but also should be historically and contextually responsible, creating a significant landmark for the “city of present and future” while respecting its other parent buildings.

‘Architecture has its public use, public buildings being the ornament of a country; it establishes a nation, draws people and commerce, and makes people love their native country, which passion is the origin of all great actions in a commonwealth’
- Sir Christopher Wren
• **Intensify the democratic principles of the Capitol complex by incorporating the civil society inside the Museum of Knowledge.**

Corbusier designed the Capitol complex as the supreme decision making body that worked on a participatory formula with the edifices depicting the major functions of democracy i.e. ‘High court for judiciary’, ‘Secretariat for administrative’ and ‘Legislative Assembly for political’. However, the system lacks the participation of the people of knowledge i.e. researchers, philosophers, academicians, thinkers, innovators, urbanists etc. who would be advisors and equal stakeholders in the decision making process in order to address the needs of the future. The MoK proposal needs to accommodate and facilitate intellectuals and to provide a conducive live working environment for them, serving as a space for ‘creation’ of knowledge rather than just ‘exhibition’ of knowledge.

• **Enrich community life by injecting, activating and rejuvenating the public space in and around the Museum of Knowledge.**

Envisaged as a ‘space for people’ the proposal for the MoK should aim to serve the common people of the city by facilitating them with demonstration and exhibition spaces that promote learning, knowledge and awareness among the civil society. The proposal should also look to provide built and unbuilt spaces both in and around the museum to promote social interaction, communal harmony and recreation that will eventually enrich and activate the public life in the Capitol complex.
AREA PROGRAM

Following are the programmatical features that are to be provided in the proposal for the museum. The size, proportions and number of facilities are left to the participant’s discretion and imagination. Competitors are encouraged to design and propose any kind of innovative and intuitive program or function in addition and extension to the following list of functions, but with an argumentated necessity. Keeping in mind the paucity of space in today’s times, explore the possibility of designing multifunctional and dynamic spaces.

KNOWLEDGE CENTER:
Research and Development laboratories, Innovation Centers, Discussion rooms, Lecture halls, Seminar rooms, Digital library etc.

MUSEUM:
Exhibition halls and galleries, Demonstration kiosks, Archives section, Ticketing counter, Information center, Storage etc.

MISCELLANEOUS:
Reception space, Administrative offices, Researchers’ rooms, Conference halls, Multipurpose hall, Reference library, Restrooms Service rooms etc.

SOCIAL AND LEISURE:
Cafes, Restaurants, Children’s gaming and play zones, Open Air theatre, Retail and tuck shops, Landscaping zones incorporating jogging tracks, secluded meditation areas and various types of gathering spaces.

*Note- All these are exemplary areas for participants’ clarity. The programming should be done under these broad categories, but they are free to adhere, ignore, add or subtract to any one of the specific functions with a valid argument based on their theme and design.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Entries will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
• Innovative theme and programming of the MoK
• The Design’s aesthetics and originality.
• Intelligent and appropriate use of all design principles.
• Emotional power.
• Clarity and comprehensibility of the design.
• Planning and circulation within the MoK.
• Connection with the rest of the Capitol complex.
• Sustainability and functionality.

Conceptual sketch of the Governor’s palace and its avenue by Le Corbusier
The site is located in the Capitol Complex exactly opposite the Geometric hill to the north and is contained between the other edifices of Legislative Assembly and Secretariat on one side and High court on the other. It is accessed and bounded by an extension road originating from the Jan Marg that divides the Capitol complex virtually into two halves, and ends in an impasse.

**Location:** Capitol Complex, Chandigarh  
**Google Earth:** Latitude: 30°45'36.66"N  
Longitude: 76°48'22.24"E  
**Site Area:** 1.65 Hectare  
**Max built area:** 30800 square metre  
(area of the basement is not included)  
**Max ground coverage:** 30%  

The maximum building/structure height allowed is 18 metres above ground and 6 metres below ground.

**KEY:**  
1. Secretariat  
2. Assembly  
3. Tower of Shadows  
4. Geometric Hill  
5. Martyrs Memorial  
6. High Court  
7. Open Hand  
8. High Court Extension (not a part of the original complex planned by Corbusier)

**Access Road**  

*Note- Participants need not design any parking space within the site. It is assumed to be provided somewhere else in the complex.*
SCHEDULE

Start of Competition and Early Registration: 1st August 2015
Early Registration ends: 30th September 2015
Standard Registration starts: 1st October 2015
Deadline for Questions: 15 October 2015
Standard Registration ends: 30th October 2015
Closing day for Submissions: 31st October 2015
Announcement of Winners: 18th November 2015

Note: All deadlines are 11:59 pm - 00:00 IST (India).

AWARDS

Winning participants will receive prizes totalling INR 2,00,000 with the distribution as follows:
- First prize- INR 1,00,000/- + Certificate
- Second prize- INR 60,000/- + Certificate
- Third prize- INR 40,000/- + Certificate
- 10 Honorable mentions

Top 50 – Fifty short-listed entries featured in one single online publication on our blog and social media pages.

Winners and honorable mentions will be published on archasm’s website and several international architecture magazines and websites partnered by us.

REGISTRATION

Early Registration:
From 1st August to 30th September 2015
- For Indian nationals- INR 900 (per team)
- For Foreign nationals- EUR 60 (per team)

Standard Registration:
From 1st October to 30th October 2015
- For Indian nationals- INR 1200 (per team)
- For Foreign nationals- EUR 80 (per team)

Entrants may register by filling the registration form and submitting it with the appropriate payment through our secure gateway on our website www.archasm.in

Note:
It will not be possible to amend or update any information relating to your registration including the names of team members once validated.

REGULATIONS

- Participant teams will be disqualified if any of the competition rules or submission requirements are not considered. Participation assumes acceptance of the regulations.
- Registration number is the only means of identification of a team as it is an anonymous competition.
- The official language of the competition is English.
- The registration fee is non-refundable.
- Contacting the Jury is prohibited.
- archasm as the competition organizer, reserves the right to modify the competition schedule if deemed necessary.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please see the terms and conditions section on www.archasm.in.
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Your proposal must be presented on maximum two landscape oriented A1 sheets using any techniques of your own choice (sketches, diagrams, 3D visualizations, model photos, CAD drawings, etc.)

All text must be in English. You may use the material provided, but this is not a requirement. All delivered material must be marked with your team code, presented clearly in the top right-hand corner of BOTH your sheets. Your sheets must not include ANY information that may give away your identity. Do NOT include your name on your sheets, only the team number.

Format: A single folder (.zip) named as your team code containing the following files must be submitted via email to submission@archasm.in within the deadline of 30th October 2015:

High-resolution PDF containing both A1 sheets for your project.
THE MAXIMUM FILE SIZE IS 20MB FOR THIS FILE.
THE NAME OF THE FILE YOU SHALL USE IS: TeamCode.pdf

Low-resolution illustration of your project. This file will be used for our web page and promotional purposes.
THE FILE FORMAT MUST BE A JPEG, WITH 100DPI RESOLUTION.
THE MAXIMUM FILE SIZE IS 1MB FOR THIS FILE.
THE NAME OF THE FILE YOU SHALL USE IS: TeamCode.jpeg

Subject of email: Subject of the email must be your team code.

COMPETITION PROJECT DISCLAIMER
This is an open International Competition hosted by archasm to generate progressive design ideas. There are no plans for the Museum of Knowledge to be built. The competition is organized for education purpose only.

QUERIES AND QUESTIONS
In case you still have questions related to the briefs and the competition, please send them to queries@archasm.in with ‘FAQ’ subject until 15th October, 2015. We highly recommend our participants to check the FAQ section on the archasm website as this will provide additional vital information from time to time. All queries regarding registration process, fees or payment should be sent on the same email address with ‘ENQUIRY’ as the subject.