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HT Chandigarh Live

CCA celebrates Le Corbusier Day

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CHANDIGARH COLLEGE of Architecture celebrated the annual Le Corbusier Day here yesterday. On the occasion a lecture on 'Open Space Planning of Cities - A Comparative Analysis of Lutyen's New Delhi and Le Corbusier's Chandigarh' was delivered by Prof Ravindran Bhan, an eminent landscape architect and ecological planner of the country. He is also a recipient of many national and international awards including the Aga Khan Award for the Mughal Sheraton Hotel project in India.

Using audiovisual aids Prof Bhan traced the history of open space planning from Mughal gardens in cities like Fatehpur Sikri and Mandu in India and

cities like Venice in Europe. He stressed that open spaces in cities should be planned bearing in mind the likely maintenance problems and the plants chosen should be of the species well-suited to the area.

Commenting on the open spaces of Chandigarh's city centre, Sector 17, he expressed the view that the spaces there are over-scaled and devoid of trees, providing no shade for parked vehicles. He lamented that even New Delhi's Connaught Place has now lost its original character and the central park is now being ruined by excessive digging up for the Metro railway.

Finally, he exhorted city planners and landscape architects to do meaningful landscaping instead of 'land scraping' as is happening in most places now.