

GROUND ZERO'S SCHWARTZ ALL PRAISE FOR CHANDIGARH

Go V E R T I C A L

Transport & infrastructure too should rise in cities

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CHANDIGARH

WHEN the New York-based architect designed the memorial for the 9/11 tragedy in New Jersey and collaborated with others of his ilk to create the World Cultural Centre at ground zero, the cultural implication of being one city and one people was foremost on his agenda. Prof Frederic Schwartz sees the same unity and aesthetics in Chandigarh. Putting the city on a pedestal, he wishes if cities like Pudan in China could follow the same roadmap.

"It's a dream come true to be here. Le Corbusier and his works have been worshipped in Harvard. The city has inspired many and it has unimaginable potential for growth and the opportunity to do so," says Mr Schwartz. While his maiden four-hour visit to the city leaves him in awe, he points out the need to ramp up the infrastructure and transport. "When New York was developing its infrastructure, transportation was given a priority along with power. The same concept needs to be put in place. The integration of the green environs with the city structures have been a benchmark for metros like Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi and can be further upgraded to the likes of Shanghai," adds Mr Schwartz.

With the construction boom and infrastructural development in the northern region especially Punjab, Haryana and areas around Chandigarh, the architect believes winds of caution must be adhered to. "The construction boom that's happening in the region needs to be controlled. There needs to be smart and flexible planning and follow-ups to the same," he says while adding that public private partnerships are the way ahead for development.

On his two-week trip to India, plans for some projects in India are on the anvil. "I have been approached by some developers to do housing developments, community projects and satellite towns developments. Some projects with the Rai Foundation are on the cards but for the rest no specific pointers have been chalked out", says Prof. Schwartz while adding that on the lines of Manhattan and Shanghai, vertical cities are the way of the future.

