

TRANSFORMATION OF CENTRAL VISTA, NEW DELHI THE HCP PROPOSAL

Central Vista in New Delhi was designed to be a magnificent icon for imperial governance in India. Inaugurated in 1931, it comprised a three-kilometre-long grand avenue, called King's Way, with the Viceroy's House, the Secretariats, Council House, Record Office, All India War Memorial, the ceremonial avenue and gardens, and a few bungalows. It was a spectacular architectural achievement of its time and remains so today.

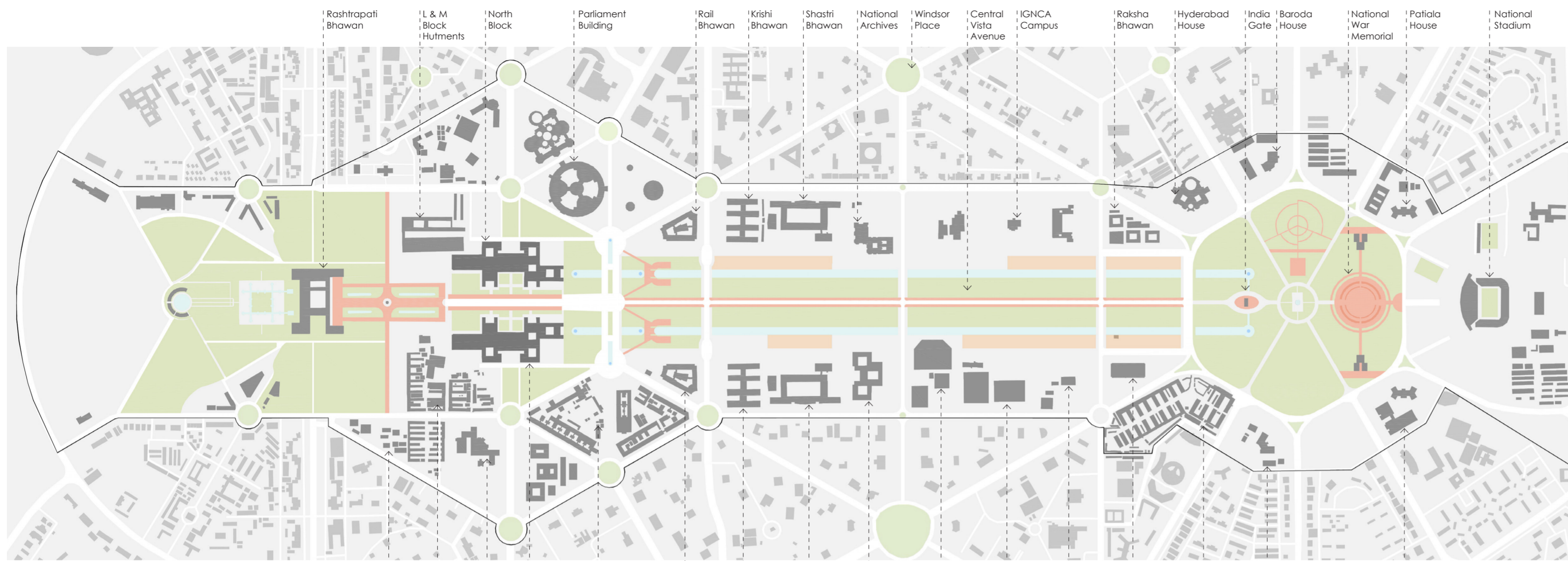
After India became independent, Central Vista was unhesitatingly appropriated by the people of India as the seat of their government. Its buildings and streets were adapted, repurposed and renamed: King's Way as Rajpath, Viceroy's House as Rashtrapati Bhawan; the Secretariats as North Block and South Block; Council House as Parliament House; and Record Office as National Archives of India. In addition to housing legislative and administrative facilities for the Government, Central Vista is an important place for national and public events, for commemorating soldiers, for tourism, leisure and recreation. Over the years, it has become an enduring symbol of the Republic of India and an important part of Indian heritage.

However, post-independence, the original buildings were soon packed to capacity and the need for space to house government offices and institutions kept growing. To meet this demand, many new buildings were added to Central Vista in a piecemeal and uncoordinated manner. To keep up with the changing work culture and modern requirements, technology and service infrastructure were also added in an uncoordinated manner. The original landscape not being designed for heavy public use also came under heavy stress.

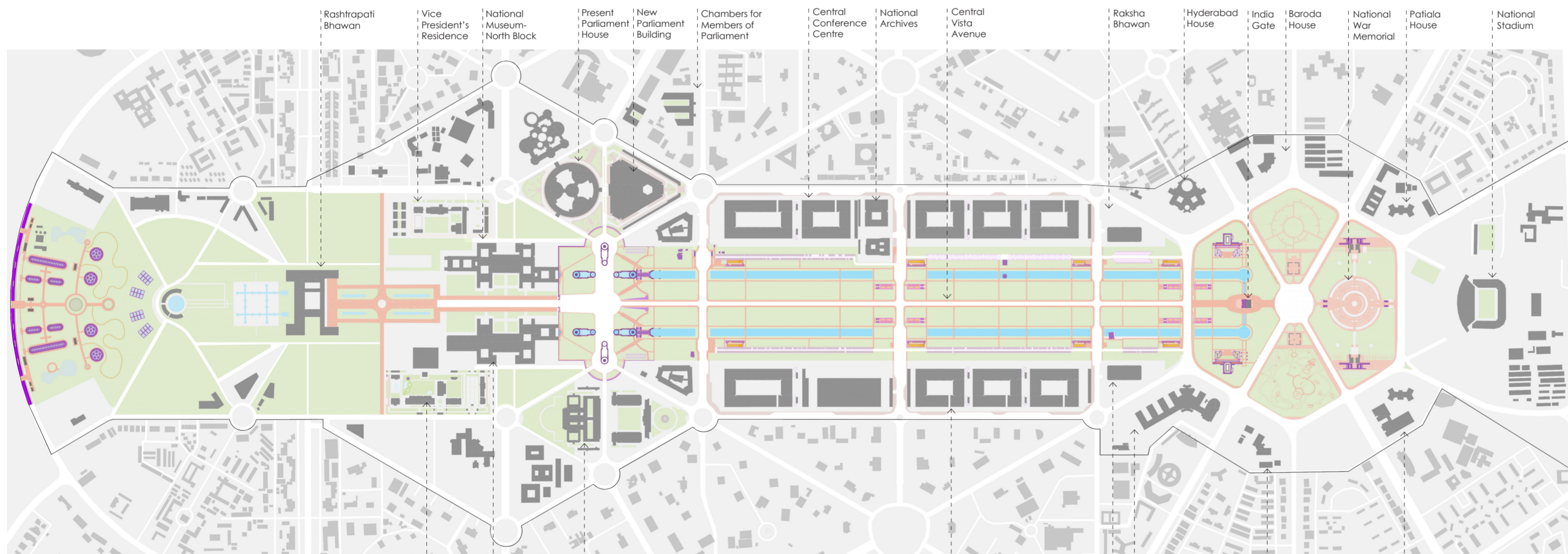
Today, almost all buildings on Central Vista and the Vista's landscape are severely stressed. They are very difficult to use, operate and maintain. Though Central Vista's original buildings and landscape retain their splendour, they lack proper amenities and modern infrastructure and are unable to adequately serve their functions. The buildings that were added later are even more stressed.

The Government of India has resolved to comprehensively improve and augment the Central Vista's governance infrastructure, cultural institutions and its public space while protecting its heritage. The proposed comprehensive refurbishment and augmentation of Central Vista will create new facilities for governance and cultural institutions, render the public spaces easier to use and maintain, restore and strengthen the Vista's heritage and project India's commitment to progress.

Client : Government of India
Masterplan and Architecture: HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Dec 2020



Central Vista - Today



Central Vista - Proposal

1.

Modernising Parliament's Facilities

A new Parliament building is proposed adjacent to the existing building. It will be India's first purpose-designed Parliament, equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure to meet all needs of an expanded Parliament. After the present building is retrofitted and refurbished, the two will be used in conjunction. A separate facility to house offices for Members of Parliament is also proposed. The present Parliament building, library and annexe, along with the new Parliament building and chambers for Members of Parliament will form the Legislative Enclave.

2.

Improving Productivity and Efficiency of Administration

The proposed Common Central Secretariat will include 12 office buildings, a Central Conference Centre and facilities for the National Archives. All Ministries of the government will be consolidated at one place. All offices will also be connected by a people mover to the Delhi Metro, making the Central Secretariat a fully transit-oriented development. The Secretariat will be served by highly energy efficient and sustainable infrastructure and its functionality will contribute significantly to improving the productivity and efficiency of administration.

3.

Strengthening Cultural and Recreational Facilities

Public spaces within the Central Vista will be refurbished and equipped with adequate amenities and infrastructure, while retaining their essential character, to make them more comfortable to use and of a befitting quality. Adequate infrastructure will be provided for national events to reduce the damage and disruption they cause. The National Museum will be relocated to the magnificent North and South Blocks, reconceptualized to present the rich heritage and achievements of the nation in a modern and engaging manner. It will be housed in retrofitted and refurbished state-of-the-art facilities with a floor area that is five times larger than the present facility.

4.

Providing Modern and Secure Infrastructure for Executive Offices

A modern, secure and appropriately equipped executive enclave is proposed to house executive offices and facilities for the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Secretariat and the National Security Council. This facility will improve functioning and coordination between these offices. Consolidating them will also result in reducing disruption caused to city traffic.

5.

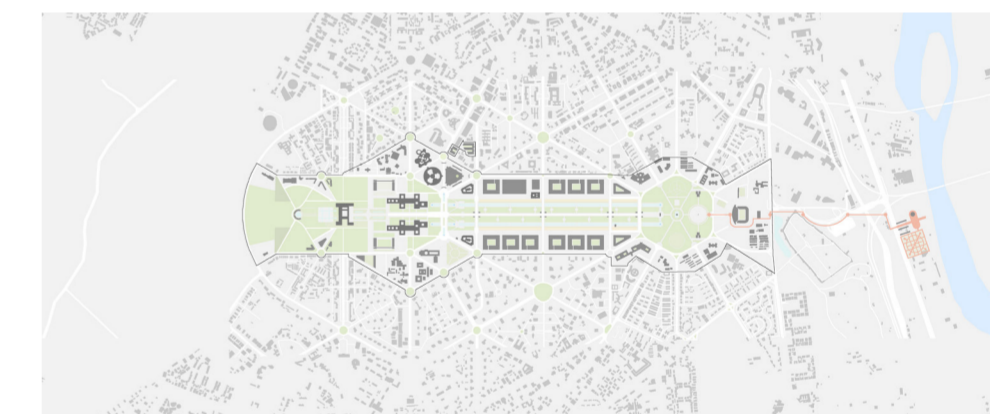
Providing Residential Facilities for the Vice President and the Prime Minister

Modern and secure residential facilities for the Vice President and the Prime Minister are proposed to the north of North Block and south of South Block respectively. These new residential facilities will be highly functional and equipped with all necessary amenities. Locating offices and residences of all dignitaries in a single location will reduce redundancies of infrastructure and improve city traffic management.

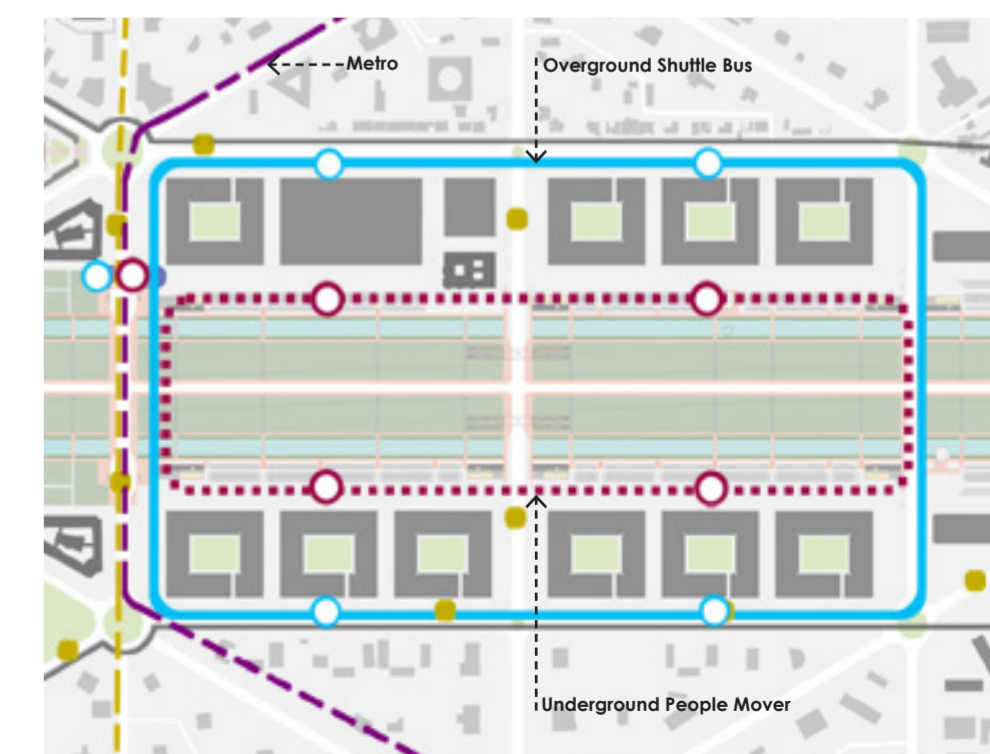
6.

Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, Protecting Heritage, Expanding Public Space and Extending the Central Vista Axis

The overall objective of works planned on the Central Vista is to ensure environmental sustainability, restore the Vista's architectural character, protect its heritage buildings, expand and improve public space, and to extend its axis.



Key Plan



Transit Oriented Development
The Central Vista is well connected to Delhi's metro, bus and road networks. All the buildings of the Central Secretariat will be connected to each other and to Delhi's metro network via a secure underground people mover which will be accessible from the Central Secretariat Metro Station concourse level. An additional shuttle service at ground level will extend last-mile connectivity even to destinations that are not connected by the people