

recently, Abuja and Belmopan. Even more recently, there are the examples of Yamoussoukro in the Ivory Coast, and currently Putra Jaya in Malaysia. The scale of these endeavours varies considerably with Yamoussoukro being the most grandiose and Belmopan, the least. Brasília is the only one that is really a total urban design and then only in its formal area. Chandigarh may have had an overall total infrastructure design but its components have been carried out piece-by-piece in accordance with general zoning codes and building byelaws. Only its capital and city centre complexes remain total designs. Brasília is *the* exemplar of a total urban design guided by strong political and architectural ideologies. Its urban design process was quite autocratic in nature.

Will new capital cities be designed in the future? The relocation of national and state capitals is still talked about in various countries with varying degrees of seriousness. In 2004 the establishment of a new capital for South Korea was blocked by that country's constitutional court. There are continuing low key discussions of new capital cities for Argentine and Japan, and a state capital more centrally located than Juneau for Alaska. Possibly, the balkanization of regions of the world may result in new capital cities. Presumably when Chandigarh (at present serving as the capital of two Indian states: Punjab and Haryana) becomes solely the capital of Punjab, Haryana will require its own. Much depends on the drive of individual leaders to celebrate their own states and themselves.

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## CASE STUDY

### **Brasília, Brazil: a national capital (1946–70+)**

The idea of and the name, Brasília, for a new capital for Brazil goes back to, at least, 1823 when José Bonifacio suggested that the country's capital should be moved to Goiás. The action to actually build a new capital began on 18 September 1946, when using the power invested in it by Article 4 of the nation's constitution, the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies voted to move the

nation's capital from Rio de Janeiro to state-owned land in the interior. The goal was to open up the centre of the country to significant development. The decision was a bold act of will.

In 1953, the Congress instructed the administration to select a site by 1955. A year later, the aerial photographic and interpretation company of Cornell University