

# Matrimandir

May 2016

The flow of the work of construction at Matrimandir moves in several different streams, all flowing forward in parallel, - all intertwined, interrelated, all moving towards that future point when all will be done. ... But in fact, no final end point can really be fixed to the work of building at the Center of Auroville,- it is always evolving, always improving, reaching for a higher and higher level of perfection in its myriad aspects.

Some movements are swift and visible and present good opportunities to take some pictures to show you what is going on. Other lines of the work move forward much more slowly, -these are the fields of trial and retrial in the attempt to get some aspect "just right". Some other lines of work involve the redoing of some aspect that had been brought to a certain level of perfection perhaps a few years ago, but now, with new input and new energy are being tackled again, trying to lift them to a higher level of perfection. And other works are vast fields of research and planning to bring together many threads that will yield, in their own time, new aspects of the Matrimandir, - like planning the nine new gardens yet to come, or the development of the spaces beneath the amphitheater or the creation of the future service facility meant to consolidate all of Matrimandir's support services.

Of the first category of work, the "swift and visible", the best example in this quarter has surely been the re-opening of the passage through the steps of the amphitheater, leading from the Urn into the underground space which is being developed as a preparation space, - a "Green Room" - for future artists who will offer performances in the Amphitheater. Having been closed for thirty years, this original passage was re-opened on March 24th under the directing eyes of Matrimandir's planning team.





In the work category of “trial and retrial” our best example for this season is surely the fountain in the Garden of Bliss which has seen an uncouned number of versions so far in the attempt to get the surface water flow effect just right! One of the seven Bliss bowl fountains is seen functioning below.



In the category of taking up again a work already brought to a certain level of completion, the reworking of the pond in the Garden of Consciousness has been most prominent. This large pond, with its seven stepped cascade has been running well for more than a year now, but with one feature that was not quite as it should be. The water had not kept its pure crystal clarity. There was too much algae growth, and on top of that, the fish in the pond had grown so large that they were hungrily eating all the fresh shoots of the lotus and lily plants that we were trying to grow in the pond! So a radical decision was taken, - to empty the pond, clean it out and then to restock it with new types of water plants, with new plant-friendly fish, and with a greater covering of the surface of the pond by the plants, so as to shade the pool and thus cool the water in an attempt to eliminate the algae growth.



After one month in this new life cycle, we are very pleased to see that the water has retained a great clarity, and the plants have regained their health. We have even had the beautiful white lotus shown below come into full bloom in the last few days.



The larger construction works which are underway at Matrimandir today are in two fields,- the first is the twin construction task of creating a **Garden Tools Center** under the western edge of the Amphitheater and the **Green Room for performers** under its eastern edge. Both are moving ahead steadily. The breaking through of the amphitheater steps into one of these rooms, mentioned earlier, is just one aspect of this larger project.

The second major work underway is the big job of installing the ferrocement “crests” in the remaining gardens. These crests form the enclosing borders of the nine gardens to come. With this task nearing completion, the next phase, which is the work of actually moving the garden design concepts from the existing 3-D models in the design office out into the gardens themselves will be a much easier task for our team. The stage is thus being set for a wonderful gardening development here over the next few years.



Shaping the earthen slopes which reach up to the Crests in each garden.

*We would like to remind everyone that this Matrimandir Newsletter is available on line. We encourage you to receive it in that way so as to save paper in future! Please send us an e-mail to this effect and we will put you on our e-mailing list. Thank you!*

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