

Matrimandir

November 2016



Royal palms being planted in the Garden of Light on Oct 18th

The cooling winds of the month of October begin to blow softly across the Matrimandir gardens oval. Soon the wind direction will change, swinging around 180 degrees from its summer flow from the south west, which often brings scorching dry heat from the interior of Tamil Nadu, and will change overnight to the cooler damper flow from the North East. This is the direction of the wind that brings us our life giving North East monsoon. Perhaps half of our yearly rain fall comes in this period from Mid October to mid December.

We have a carefully chosen set of small trees and shrubs which are waiting in pots and bags for the arrival of this rainy season. These are the trees

which have been selected by our gardens team to be planted in the next nine garden sections of Matrimandir. Just before the upcoming monsoon they will be planted so as to take advantage of the rainy days, get a firm grip on the earth and begin to grow before the hotter months of the next season are upon us.

Not all of the nine gardens will receive these trees and shrubs. The two gardens lying partially under the edges of the main Banyan tree for example, - Life and Power- do not need any other trees in them. Similarly, the small gardens of Wealth and Utility which lie between the Amphitheater and the Matrimandir will not have any trees in them. But the

Garden of Light for example, with its larger outer park area has recently been planted with twelve Royal palms, as these are a key element in the design concept for this garden. The garden of Progress, on the opposite side of Matrimandir will be planted with five Lagerstroemia trees - to which the Mother gave the significance of "Intimacy with Universal Nature". These trees grow to become about seven meters high and will bear pinkish flowers for several months of the year.

Also waiting for the monsoon is the tree called "Ylang Ylang", chosen by the design team to go into the garden of Harmony. This tree is very famous for its highly perfumed flowers whose scent is most noticeable in the evening hours. Mother's significance for the flower of this tree is "Accurate Perception". And in the garden of Perfection, we will plant four Plumeria trees. It is the five petaled flower of this tree to which the Mother has given the

significance of "Psychological Perfection" and was chosen by her as the key flower for this garden.

We wait not only for the rains, but we must be sure at the same time of the infrastructure needs in each of these gardens; - where will we need pipes for the irrigation? Where will we need to bury cables for garden lighting? Where will the pathways be? And will we need special underground rooms for pumps or gardens electrical controls? All of these questions have to be clarified before we plant our trees, for it would not be good to disturb them with infrastructure construction once they are in the ground and growing. Thus we are very busy just now with identifying and clarifying all of these needs. In a way, the trees are pushing us ahead, very quietly and sweetly, to get clear on these details of the gardens. The trees, surely, are dreaming of being bathed in the monsoon rains to come and of reaching down with their roots into the damp red earth of Auroville.



On this Google earth photo of the Matrimandir gardens oval, the established gardens of Existence (right), Consciousness, Bliss and Unity (left), are highlighted in green.



This second Google earth photo shows the park areas on the western side of the gardens which are already established. (Highlighted in yellow) A part of this highlighted area will be developed in future as a garden oriented towards children, which Matrimandir's architect Roger Anger had called the "Garden of the Unexpected".



Here, highlighted in dark yellow, is shown the large area of the nine garden sections currently under development.

Elsewhere on the site, work is progressing steadily on the twin construction projects in the two large rooms under the Eastern and Western rim of the Amphitheater. On the West, work is well underway to build a center for all the gardens tools that will be used

by future generations having the task of maintaining all the gardens of Matrimandir. We have recently built and installed a hydraulic lift which will carry heavier loads like lawn mowers and wheel barrows up from this underground room to the surface.



The hydraulic lift for garden equipment being installed in the underground Tools Center

On the Eastern side of the Amphitheater, the passage from the Urn towards the underground green room has been completed and work will move, during the rainy season, towards the laying of the floors inside the green room itself.

It is our goal that both of these projects should be completed by July of next year so that the spaces can be ready for use, (especially the green room), during the months before the celebration of Auroville's, 50th anniversary on February 28th 2018.



The Tools Center lift in its raised position.

Information on sending your offerings: Contributions to Matrimandir are exempt under sec. 80G of the Indian Income Tax Act. You can send us by post your offering by DD/Cheque payable to "Matrimandir". You may also give your offering in cash/cheque/DD at the Matrimandir Office during your visit for meditation.

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