

Matrimandir

August 2015

The July sun beats down on the Matrimandir gardens as summer decides to have another go at roasting the land spread out beneath it. The month of May was surprisingly wet, so all stayed green instead of turning to the burnt brown of our normal summers, and June was relatively mild too, but July has brought back the sharp sun with a vengeance.

Inspired by the bright sunlight however, we have purchased a mini solar power system, just two solar photovoltaic panels of 300 watts each, that will perch right on top of Matrimandir, (concealed by the top row of golden discs), and provide uninterrupted power to the Heliostat on the roof that catches the Sun Ray which is directed constantly down onto the globe in the Inner Chamber. So, this way we make use of this cascade of brilliant sunshine to illuminate the inner room of Matrimandir! ...For those of you who might remember that we also have a 50 kw solar plant on the land just beyond the Amphitheater, the power generated by this plant is used to power the air-conditioning of the Inner Chamber as well as being fed into the system which powers all our other needs on the site. Thus we try to use to the maximum this abundance of energy which streams down on us most of the days in the year!

Progress in the work: Bliss Garden



The central area of the Garden of Bliss with the seven bowls of the fountains laid out like the stars of the Great Dipper.

We are reaching the final stage in the completion of the Garden of Bliss. You may recall that the plan for this garden is to have, as a central feature, a level circular area, clad with loose white quartz pebbles which will

hold seven small fountains arranged in the pattern of the constellation of stars known as the Seven Rishis, or as the Great Bear or the Big Dipper. Each fountain consists of a hemispherical bowl with a wavy top cover over which water will flow in gently from the center to the edge of the bowl. In early July the final cover piece of the seventh, and largest, of these fountains was cast. By the end of July this last piece will be strong enough to be moved into place atop the large bowl which already waits in the garden to receive it. Then the water connections will be made and it is our hope that by August 15th we will be able to put this system of seven fountains into operation for the first time.



Casting the top piece for the largest of the Bowl-Fountains of the Garden of Bliss in early July.

Looking ahead to the Future Gardens

In our last newsletter, we spoke of the work underway here to prepare and display the large models showing proposed designs for the future nine gardens of Matrimandir. In April a presentation was made to the community describing these concepts for the future gardens and how they could be built during the next few years. Subsequent to this presentation, the garden designs were given a general approval within the community and our design team then commenced the big work of translating the models into detailed working drawings, - embarking on a deep journey of exploration and planning that will eventually allow us to bring these gardens into concrete reality. This is a long and detailed work of design, - to plan in all their practical aspects how the gardens, with their several layers of infrastructure, are to be built. It will take a good amount of time and consideration because all these layers of infrastructure, - the lighting, the water ways, the pathways, the surface contours, - all these are interlinked and so the detailed system must be seen and worked out as a whole. Several months will pass before we are ready to work on the ground. We will keep you up to date as the detailed design work proceeds and then will share with you the first steps of the building of these gardens when the moment comes.

Progress on the site during the summer: the Underground Rooms of the Amphitheater.

During the last few months a big job has been done in accomplishing the shifting of the site's main electrical panels out from the large underground room which lies beneath the eastern side of the Amphitheater. Half of this underground room is being vacated by our electrical department so it can be made available for the development of the "Green Room" there, - the space which will be turned into changing rooms for all those who in future will come to perform on the stage in the Amphitheater. Detailed designs are now being made with all the needed features such as dressing rooms, a set of large mirrors where actors can check on

their costumes, storage areas for light and sound equipment, and all the rest that will be needed to turn this space into a wonderful launching pad for many future musical and theater performances.

On the opposite side of the Amphitheater, where there is another large underground room, all the old temporarily brick walls have been recently removed, along with the substantial quantity of white marble that was stored there. Walking into those long-sealed store rooms brought back a host of memories, for these assorted chunks of marble were left over from all the marble work that was done



The large underground room on the west side of the Amphitheater is now cleared of all temporary walls and stored bags of marble chips.

inside Matrimandir during the period from 1989 to 2008. There were few precious slabs of white Italian marble stored there, remaining from the cladding of the walls of the Inner Chamber in 1989-90. There were some fine white slabs from the quarries in the north of India left over from the cladding of the Chamber floor.

There were bags of small marble pieces remaining from the long and detailed work finishing the central spiral staircase joining levels one and two of the building. There were pieces left over from the cladding of the floors of these lower levels, along with extra pieces from the four tall fountains that reach up between the four ribs of the interior of the building. Each of these jobs left us with piles of chips and small slabs; - perhaps second quality material that did not find a place in the structure. A host of memories indeed has been stored in these underground vaults – of the intense concentration of the detailed work, of the joy of a work well done, of the painstaking efforts of so many people to bring to perfection all these glowing features that can be seen on the structure today.

Having been securely stored there in the amphitheater for these 20-25 years, these marble stocks have now been moved out to make way for the final development of this large underground space.

The plan for this wide room (some 375 square meters) is to make it into the holding area where the entire collection of smaller garden tools needed for the daily maintenance of the future gardens will be stored and used by the teams who will work in the gardens. There will be spaces for wheel barrows, lawn mowers, rakes, hoses and clippers and all the many special tools needed for the proper care of the future gardens. In this space we will also arrange a small working area where the plumbers and electricians can make minor repairs for the gardens infrastructure. Architectural plans are being drawn up for the transformation of this large room, which has lain, mostly quiet, for over forty years. As this underground room comes to completion it will be great to see the garden team begin using the permanent home built for the Matrimandir garden tools.

Looking ahead to the creation of the future Service Facility for Matrimandir.

Another project which is now in the planning stages is the complex work of relocating all our offices and support facilities from their current, temporary, locations to their permanent places. This shift is needed because all these old facilities now lie within the wide band which surrounds the Matrimandir gardens and which is intended to become a quiet isolating zone buffering the contemplative space of the gardens from the busier atmosphere of the city center which is growing around it. In 1965 The Mother spoke of the need for this “Isolating Zone” so that the gardens would be solitary and silent. She envisaged too that eventually this zone would hold a lake which would surround the oval of the gardens. For these reasons we have to move all our current, aging structures. The planning for this move has been underway for about a year now.

Soon we will enter upon a phase of detailed construction planning,- so far we have been working on the concept, considering which facilities to create, which functions will be needed in future, and how they should be arranged together in a future Service facility. There will be the spaces needed for the maintenance of the Inner Chamber, principally a Laundry. Then there will be the spaces for housing the large tools and machines which will be needed to maintain the gardens of the oval (those which cannot find a place in the underground room of the amphitheater). There will be the re-located offices, for the accounts of Matrimandir and for the organization of the future works and the coordination of the people who will come to do all the maintenance on the site. It will be a tightly knit complex of functions and equipment, and so far it has been a fascinating exercise to try to understand how each piece of this puzzle should properly fit into its place in the future Service facility.

Funding needs

All of these works which we have touched on above and more, like the cladding of the oval road which is to surround the 22 acre gardens oval and the building of new Reception Pavilion to receive all those who will come for concentration in the Inner Chamber, or to simply spend an evening in the gardens of Matrimandir, all of these will require substantial amounts of funds.

We feel it timely to give you now a picture of these future financial needs which must be met in a period of perhaps the next five years, so that all these different phases of the work at Matrimandir will be able to move ahead without interruption.

Here then is a short list of the funding needs, of the amount needed to complete the oval island, and its service facilities over the next few years. The amounts given at this time are estimations only, but they give a clear picture of the scale of the needs ahead of us;

1) Completion of the next nine gardens	Rs.	2.00 crore
2) Completion of the Green Room under the Amphitheater	Rs.	20 lacs
3) Completion of the tool/ work area under the Amphitheater	Rs.	20 lacs
4) Building of the Oval Road around the 22 acre gardens area	Rs.	1.10 crore
5) Building of the maintenance facility outside the isolating zone	Rs.	5.50 crore
6) Building of the future Reception Pavilion	Rs.	1.00 crore
The total of all these projected costs is	Rs.	10.00 crore
(Rs. 10.0 crore = \$ US 1.58 million)		

Being aware of this financial requirement, and of the scale of it, is the first need for all of us. What is needed to carry on the works on the site will come, that we are sure of, for the work at Matrimandir is always carried forward, sometimes with movements and turns that we have not expected, but the flow is always forward. There is sweetness behind, and an intense joy that carries us... our work is simply to open to that joy, and to let ourselves be carried forward always.



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!

Important information on sending your offerings: We would like to encourage you to send your offerings by cheque or DD payable to Matrimandir, and avoid, if possible, sending money orders. Contributions to Matrimandir are exempt under sec. 80G of the Indian Income Tax Act. You may also give your offering in cash/cheque/DD at the Matrimandir Office during your visit for meditation.