

# Matrimandir

August 2022



Plantation begins in the Garden of Power, under the outer branches of the Banyan tree, close to Matrimandir.

The air is full of the atmosphere of the approaching 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo on 15 August 2022, – sweet, massive, all containing. This has automatically created a target date for the completion of the four gardens which have been under construction for the last several months, – the Gardens of Life and Power near the banyan tree and the two large sections of the Garden of the Unexpected closer to the western edge of the Matrimandir gardens oval.

Work proceeds steadily, with the foundation phases of landscaping and masonry work completed in all sections. It is the time of plantation, especially in the Gardens of Life and Power. For each of the

twelve Matrimandir gardens the Mother has given a significant flower, around which the entire garden concept has been built up. For the Garden of Life, the Mother has selected the double red Hibiscus which she named, **Power of Consciousness**. Her comment on the significance of this flower was: “All the powers of controlling and dominating the lower movements of inconscient nature”. For the Garden of Power, the flower chosen was the single red Hibiscus she had named, **Aesthetic Power**, for which she had given the comment: “Beauty is a great power”.

It is on the basis of these flowers, their significances and comments of the Mother that the

designers have worked through long months on creating the designs which embody the essence of the significance of these gardens.

It is to be noted here that these two garden projects, now being built near the Banyan tree, are not the first designs which have been proposed for the Gardens of Life and Power. Over the decades, as people dreamed of building the gardens and of the beauty to come, there have been several design phases, several iterations of the attempt to bring forth design concepts which best hold the significances that the Mother had indicated. Along the way we have come to understand that what is built now, the garden that is created and planted with the indicated flowers and shrubs will be a first sketch, in a sense. Over the decades to come we know that further improvements will come. More inspired attempts to hold the subtle significances indicated for the Matrimandir gardens by the Mother.



The copper roofed Monsoon Pavilion with its quiet pool and outflowing rivulet in the Garden of the Unexpected.

To this end, the garden designers are urged to use less hard scape, less concrete, to use more soft materials. These blend well with the natural environment and leave more space for future changes and improvements as the future may very well bring forth more refined interpretations of the Mother's vision for the Matrimandir gardens.



The large stone circle in the fourth section of the Garden of the Unexpected has already become a favorite quiet spot for both children and adults.

The entire gardens oval is now surrounded by a magical band of clear water, up to five meters wide. This is harvested rain water which has come from half dozen rains which have occurred since the creation of the open water channel in May this year. This water body is one-kilometer-long and is interrupted only by the 100 meters of the actual lake shore which is being excavated on the southeastern edge of the oval.

When the Lake receives water from the Open Water Channel in the upcoming monsoon, then indeed the circle will become complete, fully surrounding the Matrimandir gardens with a band of water as the Mother had so clearly wished.

Work on the Test Lake project is in full activity. The goal is to finalize the shaping of the sloped sides of the lake excavation so that the installation of the HDPE liner can be carried out before the onset of the winter monsoon in October. The excavation is being finalized and hundreds of large concrete blocks are being produced. These blocks will be used to build up the temporary end walls of this section of the Test Lake. In future, as further sections of the Lake are built, these temporary walls will be disassembled and shifted from section to section to help with each successive phase.

The site is very much alive with the completion of the current phase



The Open Water Channel, filled with harvested rainwater now encircles the Matrimandir gardens oval, is one kilometer long. Plants and fish begin to bring it alive!



The excavation for the Test Lake is being finalized with the aim of installing the waterproofing HDPE liner before the winter monsoon.

In the Garden of Bliss, already built about nine years ago, a change of design elements is also underway in its central section. This central platform features a series of large open bowls visualized to form a series of attractive fountains. We will focus more on the changes here in our next newsletter.

This is to say that the gardens are evolving.

of garden construction, and the hive of activity surrounding the Test Lake construction.

Other tentative forward moving advances are also underway, more quietly here and there.

In the Garden of Existence, the set of large quartz crystals which have been introduced as a new design for the central portion of this garden, are being worked upon. The position of each of the crystal groups is being finalized, and the search is on for a type of stone gravel which can best form the wide field which surrounds the crystal groups. It is a work in progress, a creative birth, which promises to bring forth a very beautiful result.

Different, new design ideas are being introduced. Subtly, slowly, the gardens develop towards a more perfect future expression.

Light, Wealth, Utility, Youth, Harmony and Perfection are the six gardens remaining yet to be built. Designs for these were presented in a comprehensive community exhibition several



Clear quartz crystals are being arranged in the central oval of the Garden of Existence.

years ago. For the Gardens of Life and Power now being built, there was wider call for designers as an intermediate trial. But the remaining six gardens will be built according to the designs which were presented and accepted in the previous stage. Life

circles around, bringing back the gifts and fruits, of intense design work which had been carried out then put aside for a while. This too, – the work on the new gardens to be built will be a subject in the newsletters to come.

### **REGARDING OFFERINGS TO MATRIMANDIR**

Please note that all cheques/DD offered to Matrimandir should be payable to **AUROVILLE UNITY FUND** hence forth. The cheque/DD should be accompanied by a letter from the donor specifying the offering for MATRIMANDIR. This letter should contain full address, phone and email details and PAN DETAILS of donor.

You may also send your offerings for Matrimandir by BANK TRANSFER to **AUROVILLE UNITY FUND**. Write to [matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in](mailto:matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in) requesting **bank transfer** details.

### **REGARDING BOOKING FOR MEDITATION :**

Now, Matrimandir Inner Chamber is open to visitors on Saturday mornings. Please send your request to [mmconcentration@auroville.org.in](mailto:mmconcentration@auroville.org.in) at least 3 days prior to your visit.

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