

# Matrimandir

February 2023



**In April 2022, a Four Year Plan was taken up for the completion of Matrimandir in all its aspects.**

The goal of this plan is “by 2026 to have put in place all the processes and resolved all the issues to ensure that the Matrimandir, the Park of Unity, the Oval Road, the Lake, the Service Area and the Reception Pavilion, will all be completed by Mother’s 150th birth anniversary on 2<sup>1st</sup> February 2028.” With the whole Matrimandir work force dedicated to meeting this goal, progress has been swift.

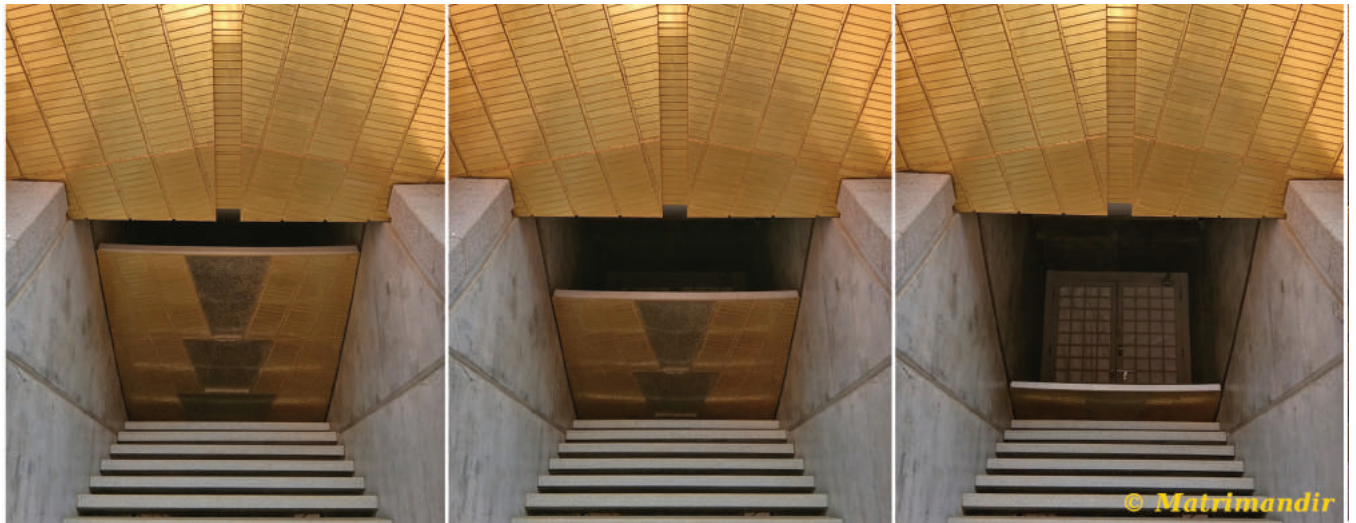
## **Matrimandir : The Chamber Air Conditioning, the Golden Doors and the Heliostat**

Work has begun to replace and upgrade the AC system for the Inner Chamber. The completion of the Golden Doors for the Matrimandir has also been taken up again with renewed vigour. Research is in hand to choose the next generation of Heliostat. Although constant work on the Heliostat ensures that, during sunlight hours, the Ray is perfectly aligned with the Crystal, the time has come to change the Heliostat to something more state of the art and reliable.





The Heliostat, which sends the Sun Ray into the Inner Chamber, has been developed through several stages over 40 years



Golden Doors in the Matrimandir pillars

### The Gardens

In the Park of Unity, six gardens have been completed: the Gardens of Consciousness and Progress; the Gardens of Life and Power under the Banyan Tree and the two final sections of the Garden of the Unexpected, the Garden of Youth and the Garden of the Eternal Child. Three more gardens are now under construction. The Garden of Existence, with its amazing crystal clusters, is nearing completion. The central area of the Garden of Bliss is being redesigned with new marble fountains and is projected to be finished within a couple of months. The Garden of Light, designed to represent a beautiful ray shining out from the Matrimandir towards the City beyond, is having its infrastructure installed and is also projected to be finished within a couple of months.





The Gardens and their significance given by the Mother



Garden of the Unexpected



Garden of the Unexpected





Garden of Life



Cladding fountain bowls for the Garden of Bliss



The Garden of Existence with its groups of crystals



**The Oval Road surrounding the Gardens**

Running between the outer perimeter of the 22 acres of the Gardens and the inner shore of the Lake is the Oval Road which is to be fully paved with red and gray granite cobblestones. This elegant promenade, 1100 meters long, has now been outlined with its base layers of gravel and concrete edge stones, but 800 meters still remain to be paved with cobbles during the coming year.

**The Lake and Rain Water Harvesting Channel**

Collecting the runoff monsoon rainwater from the 22 acres of the Matrimandir Gardens, and feeding it into the new Test Lake to the south of the Gardens, has resulted in an accumulation of over 4 metres of water. The lake bed had been fully water-proofed in September through the installation of a 2 mm thick HDPE liner, and so will retain this precious resource during the months to come though some will slowly evaporate over the summer. Work will continue throughout this year to raise the retaining walls to their full height in readiness for harvesting the next monsoon. In addition, preparations are being made to extend the excavation.



Artist's view of the Oval Road and close up of the paving stones



The test Lake finished with HDPE liner and protection





The first section of the Lake , 10% of the whole, now holds rainwater collected during the monsoon.

There is a big clean up under way in many areas in the compound which will soon give way to the Lake and, as the current public Viewing Point is also inside the lake area, a new one is being prepared.

### Planting Lilies in the Water Channel

The rainwater harvesting channel which encircles the entire gardens and feeds excess storm water into the Lake is now being stocked with fish and planted with hundreds of multi coloured lilies and lotuses, creating an ever growing beautiful presence along the border of the Park of Unity. It will be a wonderful

sight when all are grown and in full bloom.



### The Service Compound and the Reception Pavilion

In order to excavate and build the Lake all around the Park of Unity, as the Mother had wished, we have first to remove all the current buildings which still lie close to the gardens. These fall into two categories: there are the service buildings and workshops, which support the construction and maintenance





Artist's view of the Service Compound



Artist's view of the Reception Pavilion, based on the design of Roger, architect of Matrimandir.

nance of Matrimandir, and then there is the Reception Pavilion which is needed to receive all the people who come to visit the Matrimandir.

**The Service Compound**, to be located on the North East outer edge of the Lake and joined to the Park of Unity by a service bridge, will house all the facilities needed for the future operation and maintenance of the site. There will be, for example, the general administrative and accounting office, a laundry, simple workshops for repairs and comfort facilities for the more than 100 people who will be around the site each day to maintain the gardens, the pathways and the irrigation and electrical systems. This compound is currently under design.

**The Reception Pavilion** will be built on the opposite side of the Lake, the West side, and will be linked by a monumental bridge to the Park of Unity.

It is here that all Aurovilians and visitors will come to access the Park of Unity. It will be a place where people can be greeted, where they can deposit their bags, phones and daily cares and proceed quietly to enter the magical space of Matrimandir.

**Cost Overview of the projects underway to complete Matrimandir**

Project	Cost INR	Cost US\$
Air Condition Inner Chamber	15 lakh	18,500
Prototype improved Golden Door	16 lakh	19,700
Heliostat	20 lakh	25,000
Remaining 6 Gardens	3.41 crore	420,987
Remaining 800 metres of the Oval Road	81 lakh	100,000
Next phase of the Lake, about 25% more	25 crore	3,086,420
Total cost of the Lake	100 crore	12,350,000
Service Compound	9 crore	1,111,111
Reception Pavilion	5 crore	617,284
Bridges are not yet estimated		

**REGARDING OFFERINGS TO MATRIMANDIR**

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

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.

**Matrimandir** (offerings desk): 0413-2622051

**REGARDING BOOKING FOR MEDITATION:**

Now, Matrimandir Inner Chamber is open to visitors every morning except Tuesday and Sunday. For bookings go to <https://mmaccess.auroville.org.in/visitors/new>.