

Matrimandir

February 2024



Artist's view of the Garden of Wealth, to be started in February 2024

As we move into 2024, a wide range of projects are moving forward at Matrimandir. Here we are presenting a resume of the progress in several of the project areas:

The Gardens

Looking ahead, the Garden of Wealth will be started in February. This is one of the two smaller gardens located between the Matrimandir and the Amphitheater. It will feature five circular pools planted with water lilies, as lilies have been given the significance of “Wealth” by the Mother.

On the ground, the Garden of Light is now being brought into its final phase, as the major stone elements are being finished on site and then being moved into position. In the photo below one sees the central ray-like stream, now marble clad, with four granite pillars laid beside it to create the base for a pathway crossing it at this point. Most of these stone elements have been prepared, and the gardens have been cleaned and filled with a freshly composted soil layer to enable the plantation to proceed. In short order we will see the Garden of Light really shining!

The garden located just beside, – the Garden of Bliss, – is being upgraded in its central circular area. Featured here will be five marble clad fountain bowls creating a delightful visual and auditory environment. These bowls are presently being given an interior cladding of gold tiles, – tiles which were extras made during the gilding of the 1400 golden discs of Matrimandir. It will surely be a special sight to see these water filled golden bowls flowing over to create sparkling water curtains in the Garden of Bliss, surrounded by white marble and quartz.



Garden of Light



Garden of Bliss bowls

The Oval Road Encircling the 22 acres of the Matrimandir Gardens is the service road known as the Oval Road. We are currently laying down the red and gray granite cobble stones which will ultimately clad its full 1.1 kilometers.



The renewal of the Inner Chamber Air Conditioning. The air-conditioning system of the Inner Chamber Is being completely renewed. The first half of the renewal was completed in April of 2023, and now work is moving ahead to install the second half. Like many of Matrimandir 's infrastructure systems, which are now 15 years or more old, upgrading and even replacement is now needed. The new AC is working well and when the second half is in place the Chamber will be assured of constant cooling for many years to come.

The Matrimandir Service Facility All of the buildings which closely surround the gardens and serve the construction of Matrimandir, have soon to be moved away, as they lie within the future lake area. During the past months plans have been progressing to commence the main future support facility which is called the "Service Facility". This complex will be located just outside the lake on its north eastern side and will house all the activities needed to keep the Matrimandir running and well maintained on a daily basis. There will be, for example, the laundry for the Chamber socks and cushion covers. There will the facilities for the 100 plus people who will ultimately be needed to maintain the Matrimandir's Peace area: to tend to the gardens, to maintain the pathways and the interior of Matrimandir. Located within the Service Facility there will be a simple workshop area, a stockroom, administrative offices and much more. Two Auroville architects are hard at work developing the detailed plans for this complex and we are hopeful of beginning construction later in 2024.

The Reception Pavilion As the current offices receiving Aurovilians and Visitors coming to Matrimandir are also in the lake area they too will be removed and replaced by a "Reception Pavilion" which Roger, architect of Matrimandir, had placed on the outer edge of the lake on its western axis. The Reception Pavilion will be joined to the Matrimandir island by a bridge. This will be quite a sight to see and to experience. Planning for the design of this important building is also picking up momentum as the work of the lake excavation speeds up.



The Matrimandir Lake You may well have been following the work to build the water body envisioned by the Mother to fully surround the Matrimandir Gardens. Strong rains in early January actually fully filled this lake section so that it overflowed at its ends and we had to rush to open the stand by overflow gate. It was a surprising gift as we had concluded that the monsoon had ended in December! Now, we are preparing more concrete blocks so that the walls can be raised to their full height of 10 meters and waterproofed before the monsoon of 2024. We expect that those monsoon rains will fill the lake to its full design depth of 10 meters. That will be the final step in the construction of Lake Section one, which was started in 2020.



Meanwhile, excavation work is underway on Lake Section two, which is about 300 meters long, – three times larger than the first section. A huge amount of excavation and finishing work lies ahead. The goal is to have this section also fully ready by the monsoon of 2024.

These are some of the major activities going on at Matrimandir today. There are many more less visible ones, all of which weave themselves into the strong forward action that is underway today. It promises to be a very dynamic year ahead indeed!

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Offering to Matrimandir

Please note that all offerings must be A/c Payee to Auroville Unity Fund. Cheques and Demand Drafts need to be accompanied by a letter / email from the donor specifying the offering is for Matrimandir along with PAN, full address, phone and email.

Offerings can also be made through direct Bank Transfer to Auroville Unity Fund. Please feel free to reach out to the Matrimandir Offerings Desk over email and phone for bank transfer details.

matrimandir.donation@auroville.org.in | 0413 - 2622051

Booking for Concentration in the Inner Chamber

Matrimandir Inner Chamber is open to visitors every morning except Tuesday and Sunday.

Link for booking <https://mmaccess.auroville.org.in/visitors/new>

Matrimandir Access Group mmconcentration@auroville.org.in