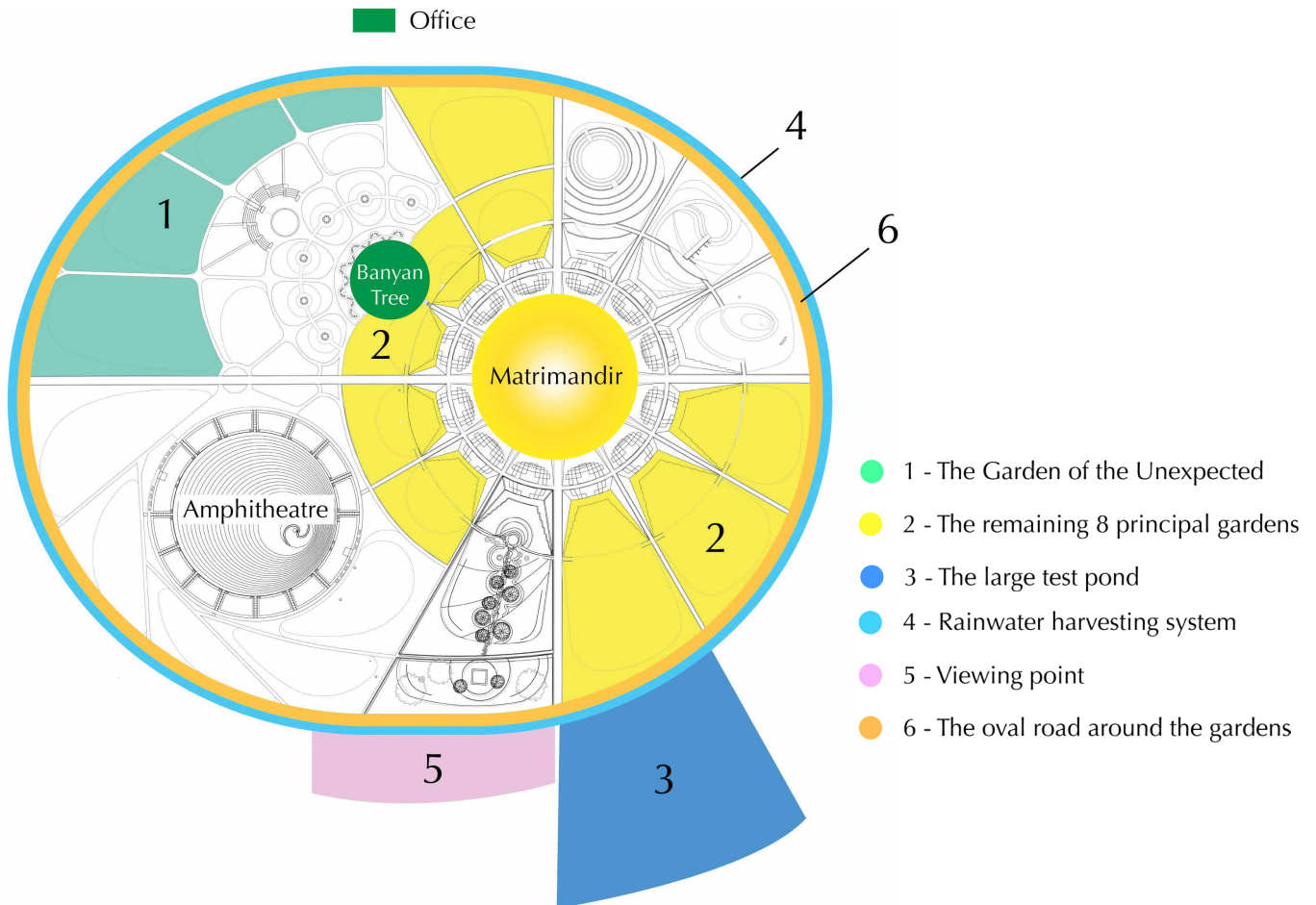


Matrimandir

February 2019



On 28th Feb 2019, Matrimandir completes 48 years of construction work, starting from the inauguration ceremony observed on 21st February 1971.

There is still much to do here at Matrimandir, – eight of the twelve main gardens around Matrimandir are to be built, as well as the large Garden of the Unexpected for children, on the western edge of the gardens oval.

It is time too to start the lake which is intended to surround this gardens oval. In the past years we have conducted a series of tests through the construction of smaller test ponds (20 m x 20 m) to try out different sealing methods and construction techniques.

Having concluded that round of tests we now have in hand the results which enable us to move forward on a large, full scale test pond, to try out the construction techniques, and materials which will be used to build the lake in the years to come. We are embarking on the work of making a large test pond, some 80 meters long and 100 meters wide, with a maximum depth of 10 meters, which will be the true beginning of the water

body which the Mother envisaged as surrounding the gardens. It is to act as an isolating zone between the activity of the city center and the quiet, concentrated atmosphere intended for the Matrimandir and its gardens.

As the Mother had already noted in 1970, Auroville does not have the ground water resources to fill such a lake. So construction had to be put off until there was a way to bring the water. She had suggested using desalinated water from the sea, as that technique had been successfully tried by Israel at that time. Work is proceeding along these lines under the guidance of a dedicated group of Aurovilians and supporters. Another approach for water supply, and the one we will employ now to fill the large test pond, will be to collect all possible runoff water from the 22 acre Matrimandir gardens oval. Water falling on the 4000 square meter stone clad Amphitheater where the Inaugural Urn sits will be captured and fed to the test pond. All water

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MATRIMANDIR : GARDEN OF THE UNEXPECTED

We show here the outcome for the design process for the large garden, to be built soon at Matrimandir, which the Architect Roger Anger referred to as "the Garden of the Unexpected".

This is to be a garden for children, where they may immerse themselves in a space evocative of the atmosphere of Matrimandir. The aim is to create a sense of wonderment, peace and discovery for the children. A place of inward exploration, of the Unexpected, where they may touch and interact with other dimensions than those they meet in their daily lives.

The process to create the design for this garden was conducted throughout the last year, with a happy inflow of creative energies from different design teams within and outside Auroville.

As a culminating phase, the lead team interacted with other designers to arrive at a synthesis of ideas which now have found their place in the final design. As with all the gardens of Matrimandir, this garden too will evolve and grow over the years as our own exploration advances.

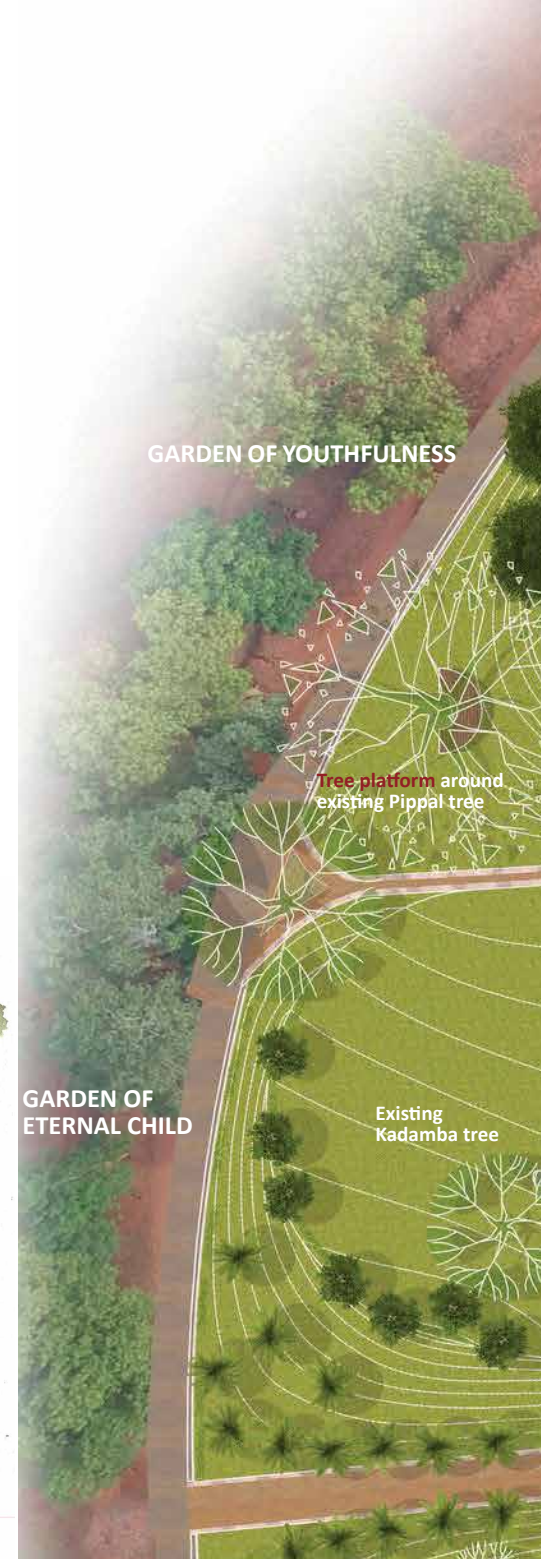
Section A-A' : Garden of Birth

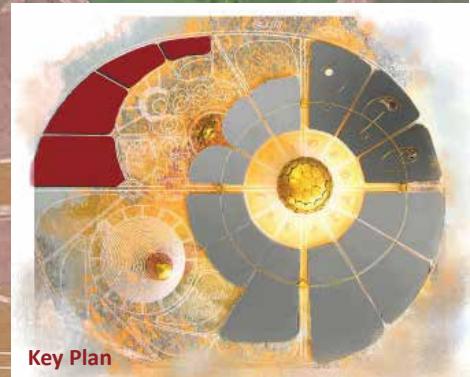


Section D-D' : Garden of Eternal Child



Entry Portal : Garden of Birth





which runs down the stone clad petals around Matrimandir and which flows into a large tank directly beneath the Matrimandir structure will also be pumped to the test pond.

Both of these water streams, as well as the water runoff from all the gardens and pathways, will be fed into an open water channel which will run around the edge of the gardens oval, 1100 meters long. Water flowing in this channel will be fed into the large test pond. Several trials are currently under way to determine the best way to build this channel. Over a span of three or four years we hope to collect sufficient rain water in this way to fill the large test pond.

Also included in the list of the projects ahead will be the construction of a cobble stone road running around the gardens oval between the edge of the gardens and the water harvesting channel described above.



Work Updates:

1) The public viewing point overlooking the Matrimandir gardens has been given quite an upgrade over the last few months, – spacious seating areas have been laid out in an elegant way to allow visitors, if they wish, to sit quietly and contemplate the Matrimandir standing before them. Some 700,000 visitors come each year to look at the Matrimandir from this viewing point.

2) Work is underway to construct the 76 meter long vermi-compost production shed in our relocated Compost section. The area which we currently use for

production of compost for the Matrimandir gardens has to shift (as do all our temporary workshops eventually) as it lies within the future isolating zone which is meant to surround the Matrimandir gardens oval.

3) One of the four large underground water tanks, concealed beneath the small petals around Matrimandir has been fully tiled with white ceramic tiles to protect its concrete surface over the decades to come. The tanks, each 250 cubic meters in volume, serve as the source for the irrigation of the Matrimandir gardens, and also assist as coolant bodies for the air conditioning of the Inner Chamber of Matrimandir.

* * *

The table below summarizes the estimated cost of the projects to be done – including the normal daily cost to maintain the Matrimandir and the gardens which have been built so far.

• 1 - The Garden of the Unexpected	:	Rs. 60 lakhs
• 2 - Rainwater harvesting system	:	Rs. 60 lakhs
• 3 - The Oval Road around the gardens	:	Rs. 150 lakhs
• 4 - 8 Principal gardens	:	Rs. 50 lakhs (for 1 garden)
• 5 - Annual site maintenance	:	Rs. 200 lakhs
TOTAL	:	Rs. 520 lakhs

In addition to these expenses, Matrimandir will be contributing financially to the construction of **the large test pond project** which is budgeted to cost Rs. 4.8 Crores.

* * *

NB: Please note that all correspondence regarding the book, “Matrimandir – a hymn to the builders of the future”, is to be addressed to centredart@auroville.org.in Offerings to Matrimandir are to be sent separately to the Matrimandir office.

Important 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.

Postal address: MATRIMANDIR – AUROVILLE 605101 – TAMIL NADU – INDIA
Phone number for accounts : 0413- 262-2228, **Email:** matrimandir@auroville.org.in