

1972

Second Year of Phase 3

Implementation

1 January 1972

Excerpt of a Diary

Original language: English

Sources: "Pages from a Matrimandir Diary" by Ruud Lohman, in "The Golden Bridge" (Auroville 1978), pp. 23-36; quoted by Bill Sullivan in "The Dawning of Auroville", p. 116. Photo: Matrimandir, p.16

[Ruud's account of New Year's Celebration:]

This morning at 6.30 we had a New Year's celebration at Matrimandir. On the bottom, now 9 metres deep, four large fires were lit and all the workers gathered around them and on the various ledges which run around the excavation at different heights. Many people from the Auroville communities and from Pondy came, too. The first rays of the sun emerged. Then we played the New Year's music, as an experiment, for we were not sure how the workers would react.

But they got more and more quiet and seemed to experience it intensively. Somebody gave a five minute talk in Tamil on the meaning of Matrimandir and their work and explained the idea of the Centenary Year.

When sweets were distributed they got so much into it that they started making it into a festival. They lost all idea of work and after two hours they left and we also took the day off.

This morning was a clear symbol of what has been established during the last six weeks; a good understanding between the Tamilians and the Aurovilians.

The work has gone beautifully, the first phase of Matrimandir will be completed this week; the huge crater is ready.

It is splendid, great. It reminds many visitors of the construction of the pyramids, of the Coliseum, of cathedrals, really a monument that embodies a new age.





Celebrating the New Year 1972 at dawn at the excavation site

* * *

12 January 1972

Taped conversation

Original language: French

Sources: Mother's Agenda, pp. 27-28

[Excerpt of a conversation with Satprem:]

Do you happen to remember where I wrote the twelve attributes of the Mother (the symbol with twelve petals)? There's one, four and twelve.

Satprem: Yes, I think it was for Auroville.

For Auroville, but I said it years ago...

Satprem: I saw it recently.

The twelve.

[Sujata goes out in search of the paper.]

On this one there aren't any details.

[Mother extends a note in English:]

Mother's Symbol

The central circle represents the Divine Consciousness.

The four petals represent the four powers of the Mother.

The twelve petals represent the twelve powers of the Mother manifested for Her work.

MOTHER'S SYMBOL



The central circle represents the Divine Consciousness.

The four petals represent the four powers of the Mother.

The twelve petals represent the twelve powers of the Mother manifested for Her work.

* * *

Sometime between 12 and 19 January 1972

Letter

Original language: French

Sources: Gazette Aurovilienne, Vol. V, July 77

[Excerpt from an open letter from Roger, dated 20.04.77:]

Later, when the work had advanced further, I had suggested to the Mother to utilise the interior of these petals to situate rooms therein. The Mother had then explained to me that these could serve as rooms of concentration on various levels of consciousness. Two days later, she gave them, in writing, an appropriate name and colour, as well as the significance of the four pillars supporting the Matrimandir.

[Mother wrote the significances given for the twelve underground meditation Chambers.]

*Sincérité, Humilité, Gratitude, Persévérance
Aspiration, Réceptivité, Progrès, Courage,
Bonté, Générosité, Égalité, Paix*

[Signature]

Sincerity, Humility, Gratitude, Perseverance,

Aspiration, Receptivity, Progress, Courage,

Goodness, Generosity, Equality, Peace.

[Mother wrote the significance of the four pillars of the Matrimandir¹:]

North	Mahakali	NORD	<i>Mahakali</i>
South	Maheshwari	SUD	<i>Maheshwari</i>
East	Mahalakshmi	EST.	<i>Mahalakshmi</i>
West	Mahasaraswati	OUEST	<i>Mahasaraswati</i>

Blessings

[Signature]

* * *

¹ The significance of the pillars may not have been made public at that time, because in April 1972 Piero had heard a rumour that they would have been named after The Mother's four aspects; and on May 1st, he wrote a letter to Mother asking Her indirectly if it was true.

19 January 1972

Taped conversation

Original language: French

Sources: Mother's Agenda, pp. 41-42; AMW, p. 412. Names only: MoA, p. 5

[Excerpt of a conversation with Satprem referring to the conversation he had one week earlier with Mother on 12th. Mother was asking for a certain paper, saying that in 1927, she told Sri Aurobindo the meaning of the petals in her symbol. He wrote it down, but that paper could not be found later.]

Last time I told you I was looking for the twelve attributes [Mother takes out a sheet of paper]. Here they are; someone found this:

Sincerity	Humility	Gratitude	Perseverance
Aspiration	Receptivity	Progress	Courage
Goodness	Generosity	Equanimity	Peace

The first eight concern the attitude towards the Divine, and the last four towards humanity.

And we also found a text from Sri Aurobindo (with a coloured chart of the twelve petals).

Centre and four powers, white.

The twelve all different colours in three groups:

top group red, passing to orange towards yellow;

next group, yellow passing through green towards blue; and

third group, blue passing through violet towards red.

If white is not convenient, the centre may be gold (powder).

Sri Aurobindo
20 March 1934

The centre is gold.

Satprem: But what did you need these twelve attributes for?

They're going to build twelve rooms around the Matrimandir, at ground level, and Roger wanted each room to have a name: one of the twelve attributes of the Mother, and the corresponding colour.²

* * *

² Satprem's note:

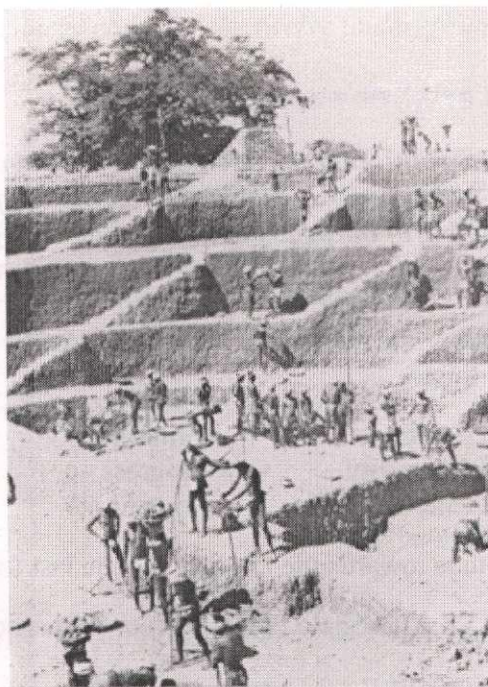
According to Sri Aurobindo, these colours generally have the following significances, though the exact meaning may vary with the field, the combinations, the character and shades of the colour, the play of forces: red = physical; orange = Supramental in the physical; yellow = thinking mind; green = life; blue = higher mind; violet = Divine compassion or grace; gold = Divine Truth; white = the light of the Mother, or the Divine Consciousness.

Compiler's note:

Naming the 12 chambers according to Mother's attributes would thus have come from Roger.

The "centre" here is Matrimandir's shell, or rather its outer and inner shells. The outside shell is gold (symbolising Divine Truth), while the Inner Chamber is fully white (symbolising the light of the Mother, or the Divine Consciousness) and the (double) shell of the sphere will let through a particular type of "Grace Light" (salmon-pink). (See in this compilation the entry dated 11th July 1970).

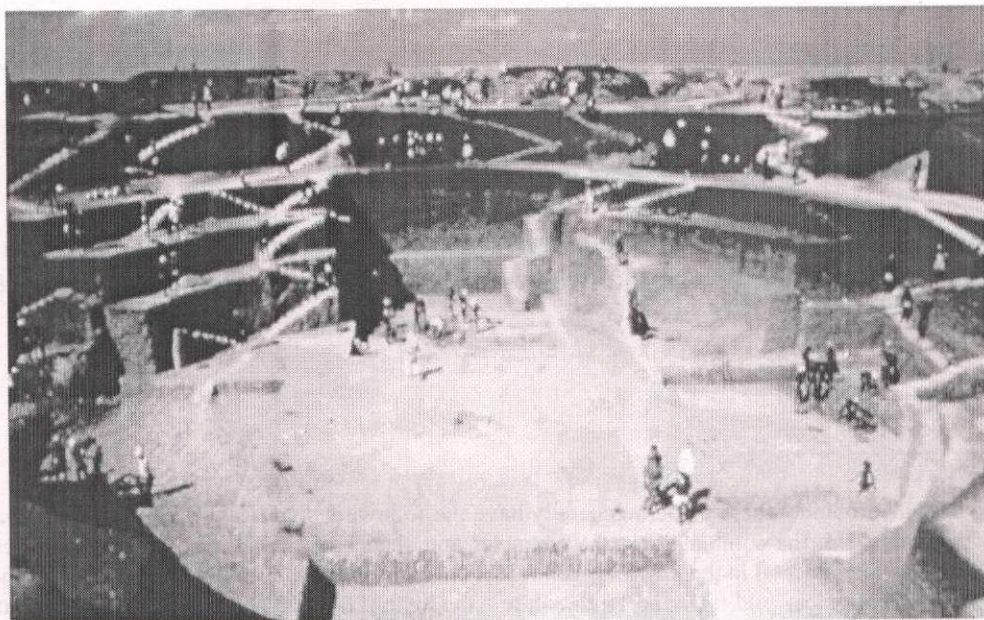
**Completing
the excavation**



* * *

Mid February 1972

Photo



Excavation complete

10.50 metres deep, 50 metres across (at ground level).

* * *

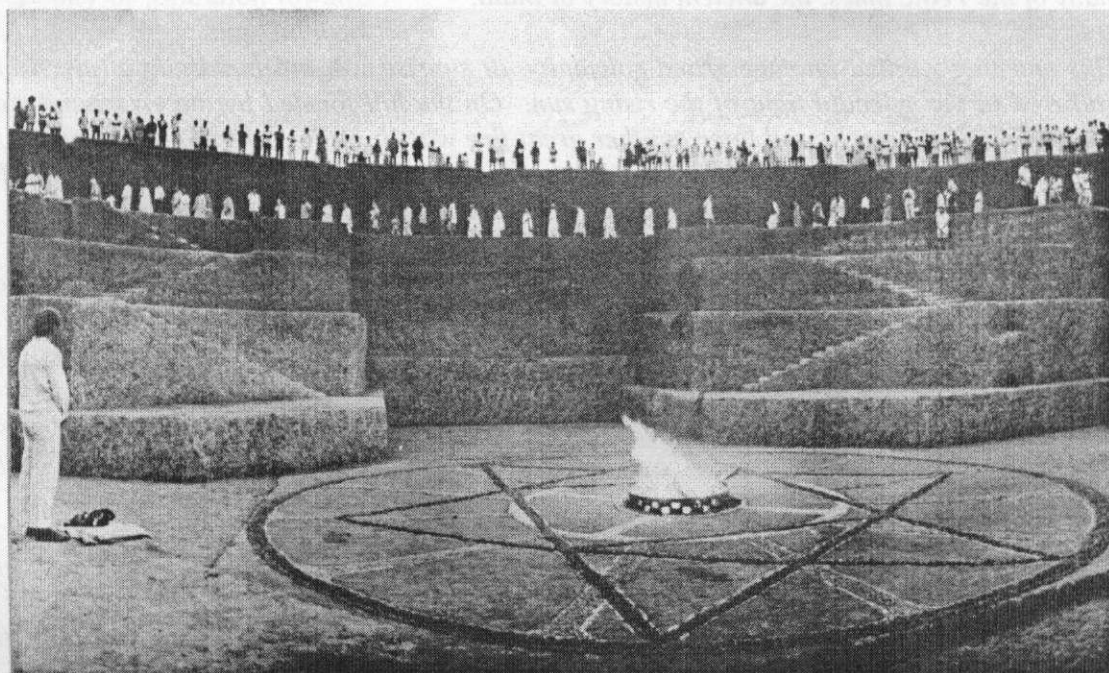
**21 February 1972 Mother's 94th Birthday
Ceremony for the Cementing of Matrimandir's Foundation**

Report

Original language: English

Sources: Matrimandir, pp. 20-21; MoA, p. 5; CWM, XIII, p. 232

[At an early morning ceremony, about 2,000 people filed past the cement mixer at Matrimandir, each placing a granite stone in the machine; it was the symbolic beginning of the construction, the cementing of the foundation. Mother had inscribed on a stone the date, the OM symbol, blessings and her signature. This was laid at the base of the east pillar.]



Report on the Quarter
Bulletin, April 1972, p. 101

[On 21 February, 1972 a solemn function was held at the Matrimandir site in Auroville timed at sun rise. Last year, on the same date was laid the foundation stone. This time marked the end of the heavy excavation work and the commencement of the next stage – the construction of four pillars.]

At 6.15 a.m. with the music of "The Hour of God", those present there started putting, one by one, a stone in the concrete mixer.

A stone bearing the Mother's writing (Om) and Her signature was put in the base of one of the pillars by Martha and L. Ramalingam.]



Excerpt from Ruud's Matrimandir Diary.

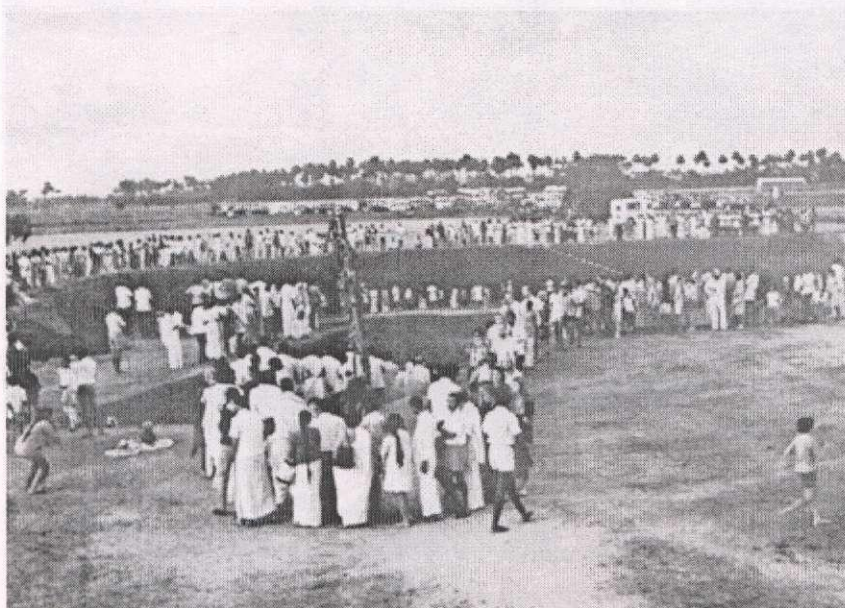
Original language: English.

Sources: Quoted in the Dawning of Auroville, pp. 116-17.

[Excerpt from Ruud's Matrimandir Diary:]

Today a year ago there was a grand solemnity in the heart of Auroville where nothing was to be seen yet except the Banyan tree and some palmyras. Hundreds of people had gathered before sunrise to attend the laying of the first stone of the "Soul of Auroville", the Matrimandir, the Temple of Truth. It was a tremendous event, it is told, which reminded many of the Vedic times, the ancient history of India.

This morning we had another grand solemnity, at sunrise. Again hundreds of people had gathered in the splendid light of the rising sun. On the hill formed by the excavated earth, twelve fires had been lit and later another great fire was lit in the centre of the crater. This time we had gathered to officially commence the next phase of the work: casting the four huge pillars which emerge from the depths up to zero level to carry the large sphere.



There were twelve people, all in some way close to Mother. The group descended towards the first level at three meters depth, where they all received a stone. They walked in procession all around the excavation and then put their stone in the cement mixer. Behind them then followed the hundreds, even thousands, each contributing a pebble.

The remarkable intensity in and around the crater was this morning more perceptible than ever. At Matrimandir you are one with a tremendous stream flowing through the centuries and driving you on towards higher realizations. You are one with all great events and all great people of history and of this moment, you're one with the greatest consciousness and the consciousness.

A Divine Presence manifesting in the world in ever-increasing intensity and clarity.

*

[At 6.45, Nolini reads this Message:]



Let Auroville be the symbol of a progressive Unity.

And the best way to realize this is a unity of aspiration towards the Divine Perfection in work and in feeling, in a consecration of the entire life.

Auroville veut être le symbole
d'une Unité progressive
Et la meilleure manière de la réaliser
est une unité d'aspiration vers
la Perfection Divine
sans le travail et les sentiments
sans une consécration de la vie toute entière

[Signature]

* * *

22 February 1972

Note from Mother

Original language: French

Sources: Mother's Agenda, p. 69

[Mother writes a Note:]

All day long on the 21st I had a strong feeling that it was everybody's birthday, and I felt the urge to say "happy birthday" to everyone.

A very strong impression that something new was manifesting in the world, and that all those who were ready and receptive would incarnate it.

In a few days, probably, we will know what it was.

* * *

28 February 1972 Auroville's 4th birthday

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 126

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Shyam Sunder mentions to Mother that the next day, 29th February, at 6 a.m. concreting work of the Matrimandir pillars³ will start and that there would be a meditation.

Sebastien [Pitoef] wanted to dance at the Matrimandir the next day in the evening in the foundation-hole. Shyam Sunder commented that the concreting work was to start in the morning and these things disturbed the work.

He can dance elsewhere.

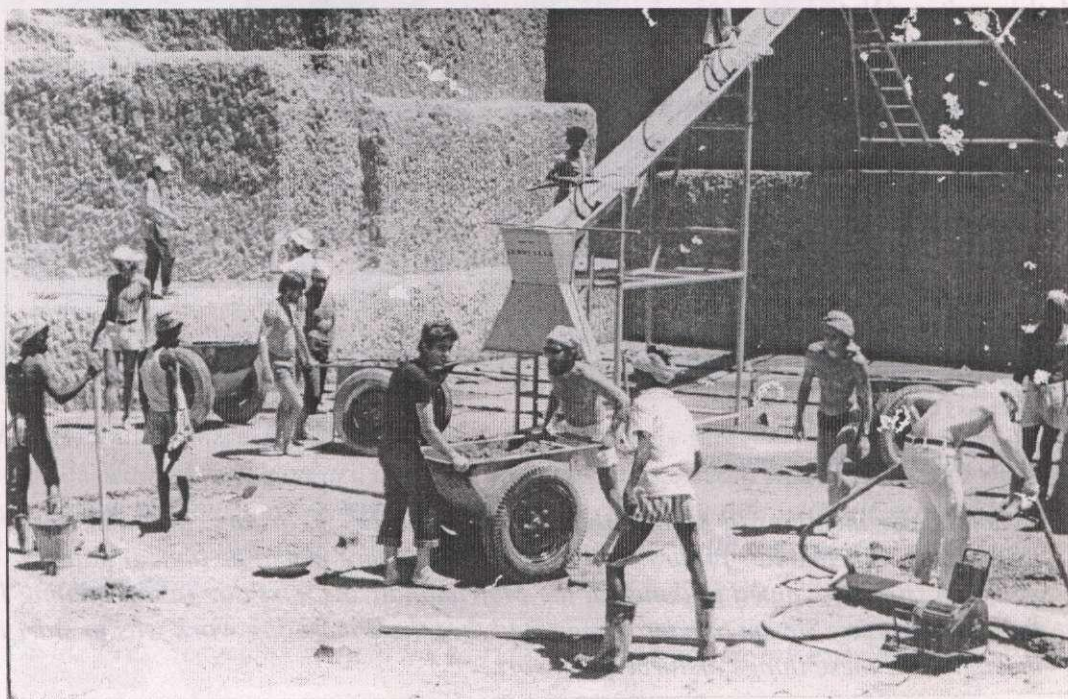
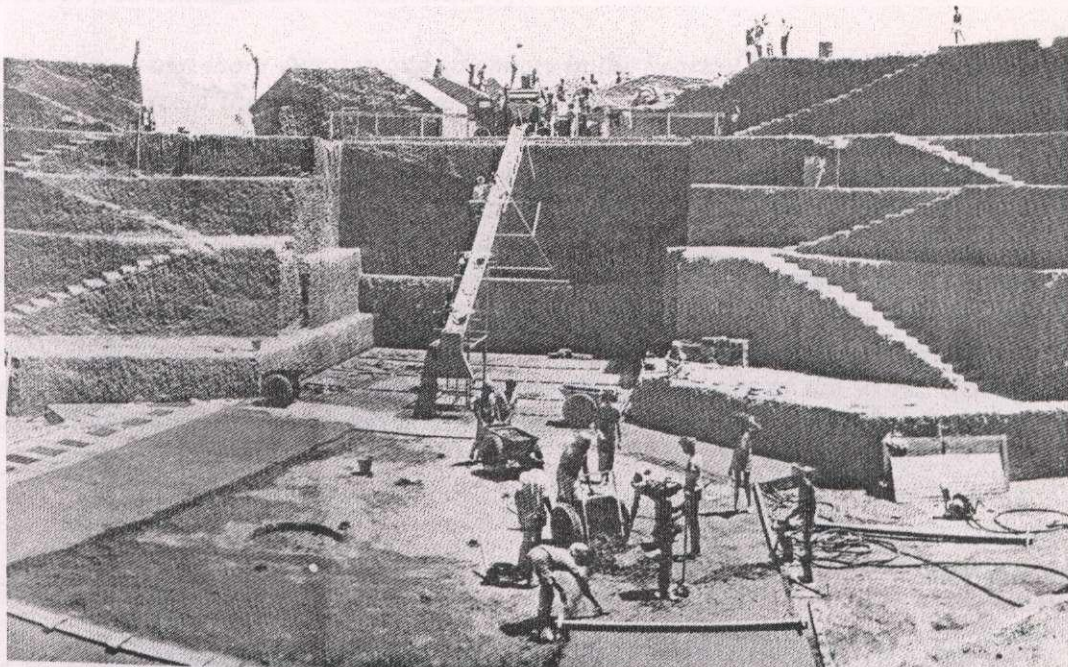
* * *

³ Shyam Sunder is mistaken; it is concreting work of the Matrimandir foundation.

29 February 1972

4th leap-year celebration of the Golden day of the Supramental Manifestation

Sources: *Matrimandir*, published by Auropublications, p. 25



Concreting of the foundation's first layer (a 30 cm thick PCC "mat")

* * *

March-April 1972

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

Sources: *Auroville, the first six years*, by Savitra, p. 85

[Savitra's account of the preparation work for the next concreting:]

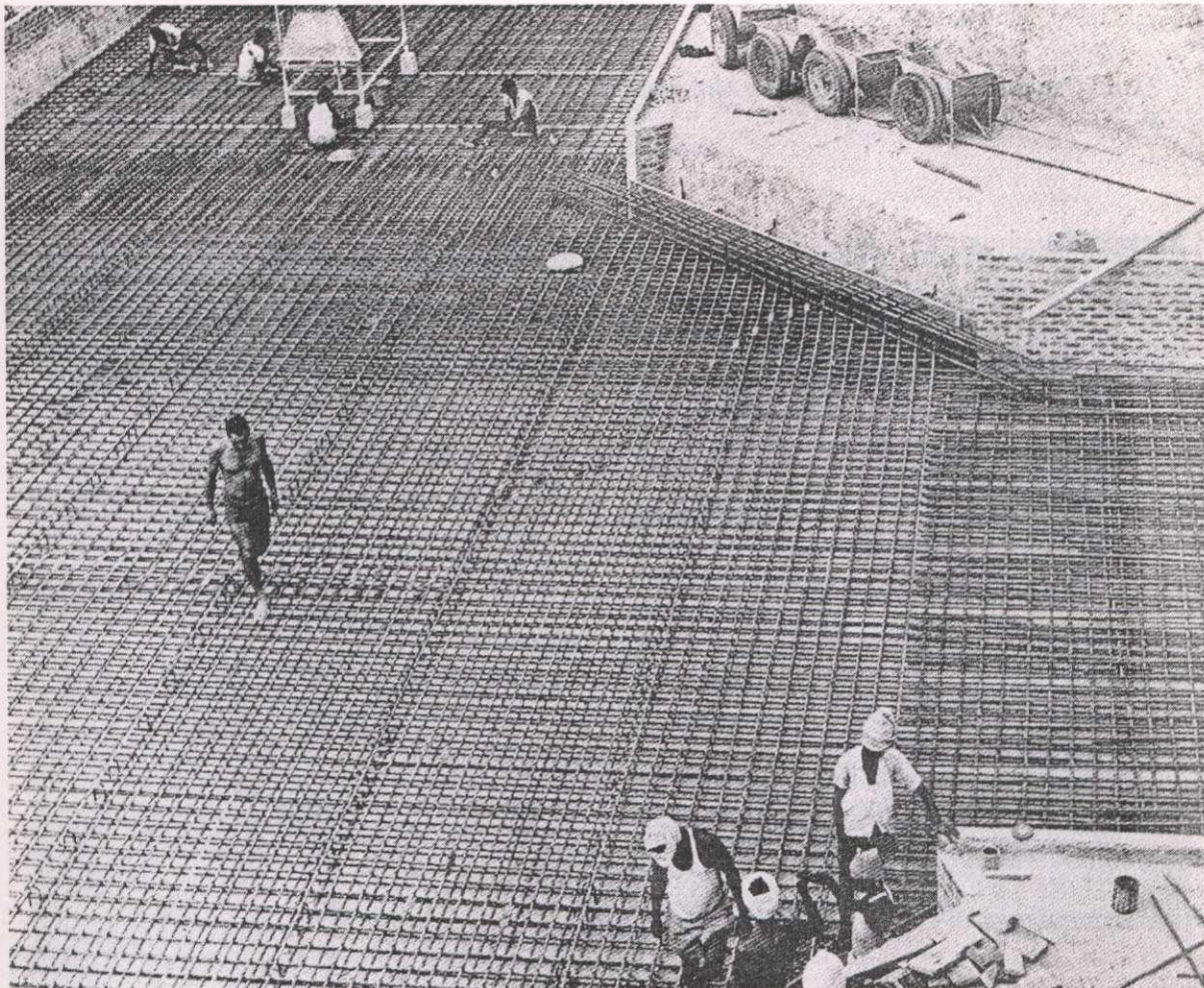
Setting foundation footings capable of bearing 1500 ton/ft. load transmitted by total weight of Matrimandir and pillars; tie-slab 22 cm thick reinforced concrete connecting footings in structural unity.

Preparing for this concreting, materials delivered, 400 cu. ft. of wood shuttering cut, 15 tons reinforced steel bent and welded.

Temporary carpentry shed established.

12 regular Aurovilians, team of village workers.

Sources: *Matrimandir*, published by Auropublications, p. 28



Laying the steel reinforcement for the foundation

* * *

1 May 1972

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: AV Archives

[Piero writes to Mother:]

Douce Mère,

After two months for preparing the reinforcement in the foundation of the Matrimandir, Wednesday evening finally, we will start the concreting.

Give us, Douce Mère, a message for the first day and night, so that for all the work will be light and guided from You.

Can we symbolize in the four piers of the Matrimandir the four personalities of the Divine Mother?

Wisdom

Strength

Harmony

Perfection⁴

Thank You to have given to us the Matrimandir.

Piero

* * *

3 May 1972

Message

Original language: English

Sources: MoA, p. 5; CWM, XIII, p. 233

[Ashramites and Aurovilians gathered to work for 26 hours concreting the tie-slab connecting the foundations of the four pillars of Matrimandir.

At 4 p.m., before the work starts, Shyam Sunder reads out this message:]

3.5.72

Let us all work

with a growing sincerity

for the manifestation

of the Divine Truth.

With my blessings



3. 5. 72.

Let us all work
with a growing sincerity
for the manifestation
of the Divine Truth.
with my blessings

* * *

⁴ Piero now says that there was a rumour that the four piers had been given the names of the four Aspects of the Mother and that he wanted to know if it was true.

3-4 May 1972

Concreting of the tie-slab connecting the four pillars

Note

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p.173

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes dated 3rd May:]

Yesterday the 20 hour concreting work of the Matrimandir foundation basement has started. The biggest number of Aurovilians so far came to work. In the midnight the Ashram students also joined.

*

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

Sources: *Auroville, the first six years*, by Savitra, p. 85

[Savitra's account of this concreting:]

40 tons reinforced steel for tie-slab emplaced.

Pouring operation commenced same day, completed 26 hour later.

76 m³ concrete. Target strength of 250 kg/m² exceeded.

Approx. 120 people participated.



Starting to pour the concrete of the 22cm thick tie-slab

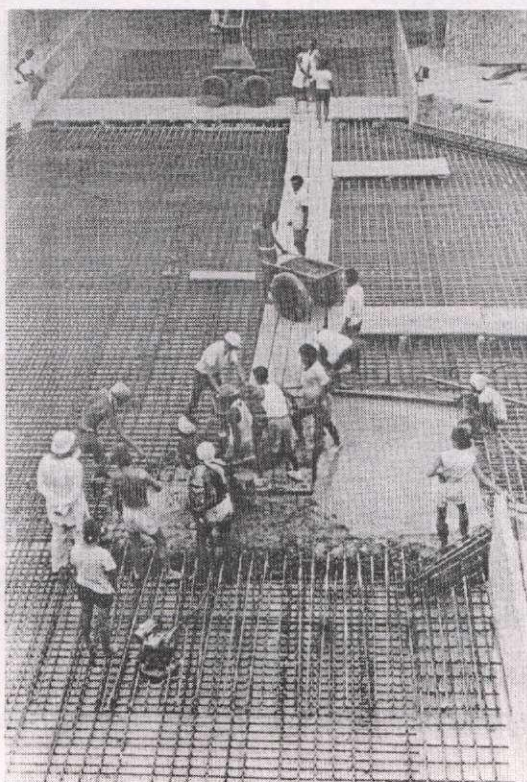
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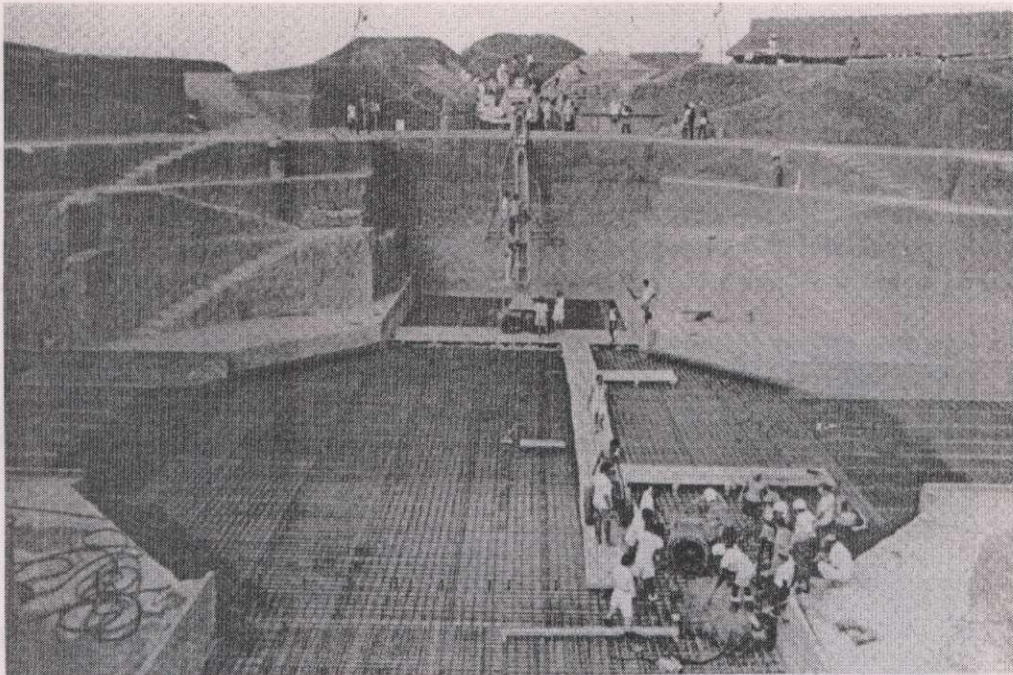
Excerpt from Ruud's Matrimandir Diary.
Original language: English.
Sources: Quoted in "The Dawning of Auroville", pp. 117-18

[Excerpt from Ruud's Matrimandir Diary (dated 31 May:)]

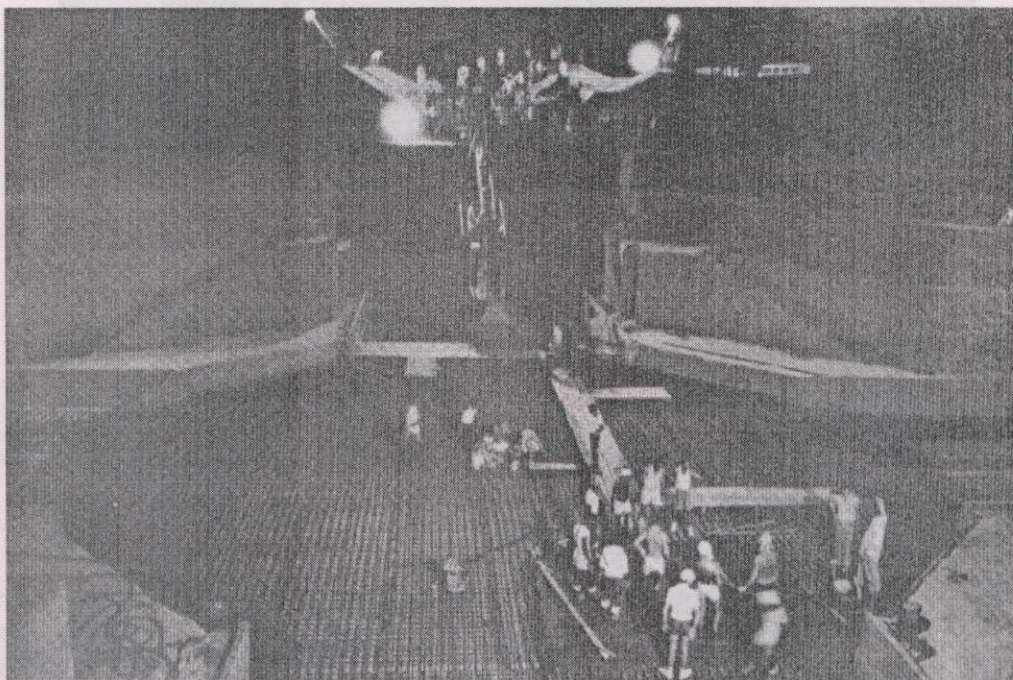
Things have been going nicely this month of May. Suddenly work is picking up speed and it looks as if we'll get the four pillars ready by the Centenary celebration, though we'll have to work with all the energy available. And that's what is happening. Especially this month another saying of the Mother has become a fact of experience that the construction of Matrimandir will be like a festival.

The first great festivals we had on May third and fourth. Between the projected pillars had been woven an enormous mat of steel rods intended to keep the four pillars interconnected and in balance by spreading and dividing the weight. This mat had to be covered with concrete all at one stretch. It started on May 3 at 4.00 p.m. Members of the Ashram would work from 4.00 to 9.00 p.m., Aspiration and other groups in Auroville from 9.00 to 3.00 a.m. and then the full-timers at Matrimandir would finish it. Immediately from 4 o'clock the real push was there. From zero-level, bags of cement, pebbles and sand are transported via a balance into the cement mixer. The mixer is standing at the three metre level. From there the cement is worked down via a chute towards the minus-ten level into the wheelbarrows. We need about thirty people for the whole process, but we had more than double the number and when at 9.00 p.m. Aspiration came, three times the number. When you put down your shovel for a second someone else has snatched it away. One almost fights for work.





Concreting went on day and night for 26 hours



* * *

20 May 1972

Excerpt from a book

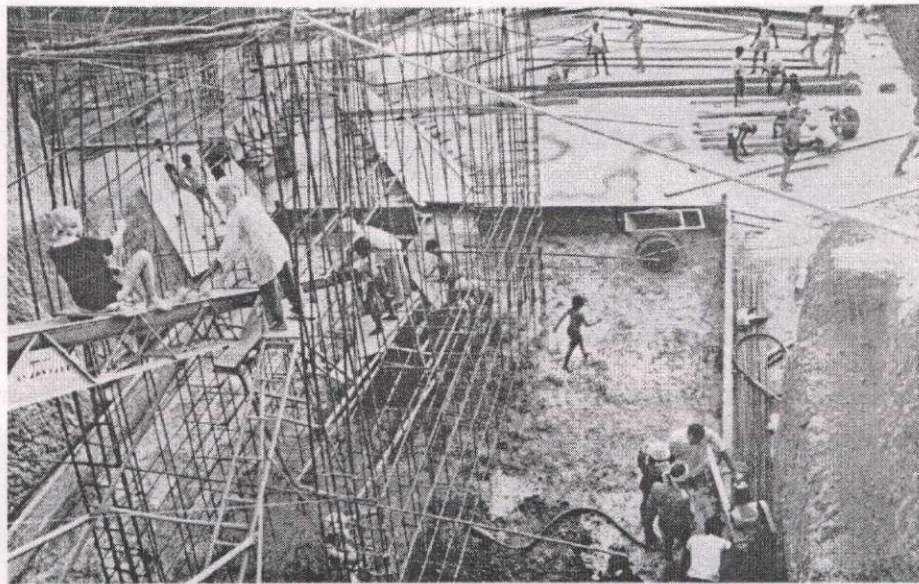
Original language: English

Sources: "Auroville, the first six years", by Savitra, p.85

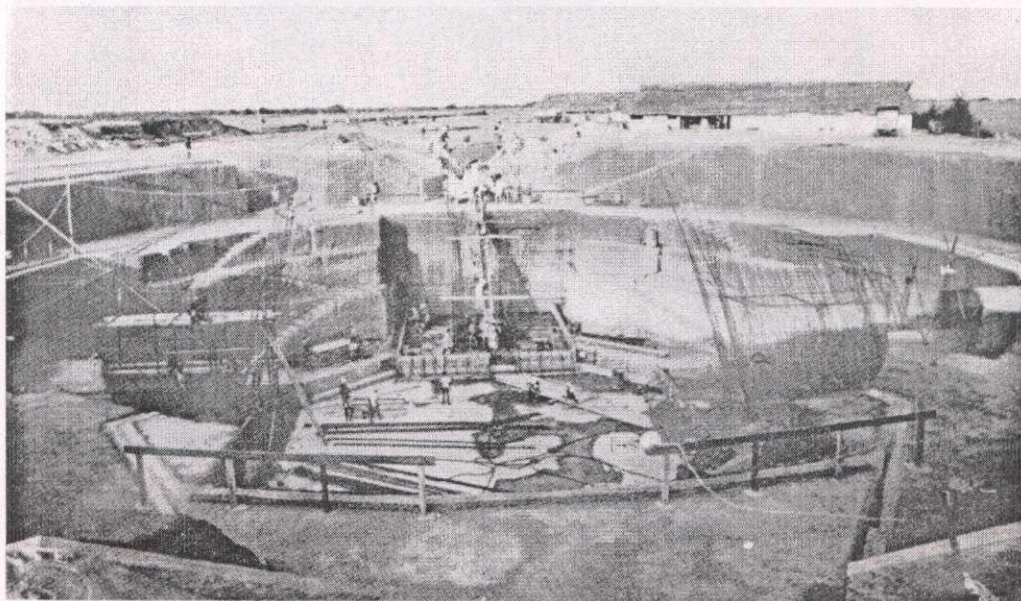
[Savitra's account of the concreting of the footings of the pillars:]

Concreting south and east footings (100 m². - 1.20m. deep)

Quantity 240 m³. to commence 20 May - one layer/night, 8 consecutive nights, 4 PM-2AM.



Concreting the footings of one pillar



* * *

6 June 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 187; AMW, p. 437

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

The Madras engineers [from S.E.R.C.] came yesterday. They say that the quality of the Matrimandir construction work done so far is satisfactory.

*

[Mother signs, with Blessings, a Notice:]

Matrimandir Workers' Camp is meant for those who:

1. Work whole time at the Matrimandir or in the Matrimandir Garden Nursery.
2. Do not take alcohol or drugs, and live cleanly.
3. There should be no smoking or sex-indulgence in the Matrimandir area.

With blessings.

* * *

8 June 1972

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

Sources: *Auroville, the first six years*, by Savitra, p. 85

[Savitra's account:]

4 foundation footings completed 8 June. (480 m³).

* * *

11 June 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 188

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

The basement of Matrimandir pillars is finished. The construction of the actual pillars is to start. The work will be slow now due to lack of resources.

Mother apparently did not like the slowing down.

* * *

19 June 1972

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

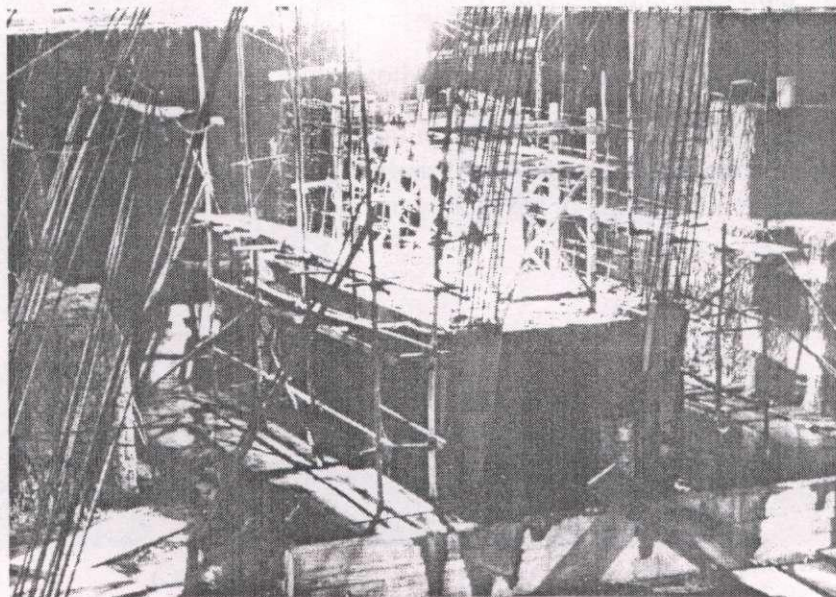
Sources: *Auroville, the first six years*, by Savitra, p. 85

[Savitra's description of the concreting:]

4 paired pillars begun, taken up to starter level of 30 cm by 19 June.

West pillar, 2 m. poured; East, shuttering and form work.

Projected: 4 levels to be poured, 3 - 2m. each,



Night concreting of the first pillar

* * *

Pertaining to mid June 1970

Article

Original language: English

[The compiler and Richard Pearson describe here how revision work of Mother's Flower Book started:]

On 10th June 1970, Mother finished working with Tara on Her commentaries of Sri Aurobindo's "Thoughts and Aphorisms". From then onwards, Tara together with Richard and Narad will assist Mother in the thorough revision of the first flower book which Lizelle Raymond had edited "The Rôle des Fleurs".

From June 1970 to April 1972, Mother will see hundreds of flowers, change some names, confirm others and name flowers She hadn't yet named. Mother will also give a commentary for each one of the flowers (except for the last one: "Controlled Power"). Téhmi will do the translation into English and the following day, She will check certain translations in cases of new flowers.

The book "Flowers and Their Messages" will be published in August 1973 by Auropress, at Auroville. Finally it came out in English only because it was thought that a bilingual book would have been too bulky and costly. (Richard is still working on the French versions: "Les Fleurs et leur Messages".)

By revising this book, naming new flowers and giving a commentary for each flower, Mother obviously enriched the dictionary which will enable us to understand better the messages and teaching of flowers. Flower games have thus become much more interesting.

* * *

10 July 1972

Note

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 197

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Matrimandir's second pillar has come up to two metres. Now we take up the third one.

* * *

17 July 1972

Note

Original language: French

Sources: Roger's personal archives and AV Archives

[Referring to the 12 meditation chambers named by Mother exactly six months earlier, Roger asked Mother to clarify where the 1st chamber should be and in which direction one should turn for the following ones:]

Visit of 17 July 72

Mother gave the following answer:

The colour light blue for Sincerity
and dark blue for Peace.

One rotates towards the left.

Agreement for this solution.

visite du 17 juillet
72
reponse Mer doree
la couleur bleu clair
pour la sincerite et bleu
foncé pour la paix -
on tourne vers la gauche
Accord pour cette
solution.

* * *

23 July 1972

Note

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory lane, p. 202

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Matrimandir's four pillars have been constructed up to two metres high. The concreting of the second level begins tomorrow.

* * *

27 July 1972

Report of a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, pp. 139-140

[Excerpt from a conversation with Huta:]

A few days back I told Roger to build a small house on the island near the Matrimandir. It must be simple: one sitting room, a sleeping room and a bathroom.

* * *

3 August 1972

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

Sources: Auroville, the first six years, by Savitra, p. 85

[Savitra's description of the concreting:]

*East pillar concreted 2 layers, 2 consecutive nights.
Steelwork prepared on north and west, south in process.
Metal workshop begun.
Steel stockyard established in field.*

* * *

23 July 1972

Note

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory lane, p. 209

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

The Matrimandir pillars are to be completed in four stages. Two pillars have come up to the second stage. The second stage of the third one has started. We are going ahead with the work.

* * *

August 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: French

Sources: Roger's notes; facsimile at AV Archives; AMW, p. 441

[After a meeting with Mother, Roger noted down what she had said:⁵]

À tout ça

August 1972

À propos du Matrimandir
la qualité du silence

Je voudrais qu'on garde le
silence, il faudrait écrire
ici on garde le silence, en

Français en Anglais en Tamoul
- Pas de Musique

À propos des fleurs

Pas de fleurs à l'intérieur, il
faudra une salle pour les garder
dans un couloir.

À propos des gens admis au
Matrimandir -

Pas pour les visiteurs en tant que
résidents du Auroville mais
tout le monde ne sera pas admis
la 1^{re} condition pour ceux qui
voudront y aller, le demander.

Ceux qui auront contribué
à la construction seront admis
en premier lieu, s'il y a des cas douteux
on me les soumettra. Tous ceux
qui ont une présence douteuse

n'iront pas, si on a le moindre
doute on me présentera le cas.
Les gens doivent être connus, et pour
leur qualification

On the subject of Matrimandir
Quality of silence:

I would like people to keep silent. It
must be written there that one keeps
silent, in French, English and Tamil.

And no music.

About flowers:

No flowers inside. There should be a
room to put them in, in a corridor.

About admissions to Matrimandir:

Not for visitors...

reserved for Aurovilians but

Not everyone will be admitted.

The first condition for those who
want to go there is to ask.

Those who have contributed to the
construction will be admitted in the
first place. If there are doubtful
cases, they should be referred to me.
All those who have a doubtful
presence won't go.

If there is the slightest doubt, the case
will be presented to me.

People must be known for their
qualifications.

⁵ Roger's notes were not checked again with Mother.

porte Malin
 on ne peut pas laisser ouvert !
 il faudrait alors des gardiens
 volontaires, jour et nuit. Je crois
 que la porte c'est plus simple -

Matrimandir door:

One cannot leave it open.
 Then voluntary guardians would be
 needed, day and night.
 I think it's simplest with doors.

* * *

Some time in 1972

Report

Sources: Shyam Sunder's memory, confirmed by Anjani,

[In India and in other Asian countries, people like to cover with gold the roof of the sanctum sanctorum of their most sacred shrines. Feeling deeply that Matrimandir should be covered with real gold, Mrs. Anjani Dayanand⁶ shared her feelings with Shyam Sunder and Roger, who then spoke to The Mother and received Her approval to use real gold for the discs⁷.]

* * *

13 August 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 211

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Piero writes that the Matrimandir construction requires concentration and it is not possible to accelerate it so as to finish the pillars by 15th August.

No hurrying.

Shyam Sunder: He wants to know what is to be done after the pillars.

We will see.

* * *

⁶ Anjani was an ex-member of the then defunct "Comité Administratif d'Auroville".

⁷ Until then, Roger's idea was that Matrimandir's outside face would change as the consciousness of the Aurovilians rises. To start with, he had planned gold coloured plastic discs.

14 August 1972

Excerpt from Ruud's Matrimandir Diary.

Original language: English.

Sources: Quoted in the Dawning of Auroville, pp. 118-19.

[Excerpt from Ruud's Matrimandir Diary:]

In two and a half hours the Centenary [of Sri Aurobindo] will be here. I have never known a day lived towards so intensively as tomorrow. People expect all kinds of things. "August 15th" has long been a mystical date after which, in fact, nothing will come any more. A bit like the magical year 2000. Many are expecting miracles. The beginning of a new creation. The return of Sri Aurobindo in our midst. Sri Aurobindo's appearance on the Darshan balcony, together with Mother. The conquest of all our weaknesses and human imperfections. The breakthrough of the new being. But that would be conjuring, not a new creation and a new man, one would say. I have a strong feeling that the stress is not on the day of tomorrow as much as on the days, months, years after it. As if it is now getting serious. As if the time of hanging on is over and we now have to put our hands to it. It will not be so nice any more, it won't be a holiday camp any more, not a place for superficial freedom and for pleasures which have not yet become joys. The transformation of man and matter looks like a laborious work and not something of one day.

It is again typical of this yoga that we inaugurate the Centenary with work. We are having a concreting now, with the help of the Ashram.

Starting at 8 this evening we will be ready just before midnight. At exactly 12 o'clock five fires will be lit on the three metre level after which we'll have a half-hour meditation. The four pillars are not completed for the Centenary, but we are almost half-way which means that it will take another two months, especially because higher up it becomes more difficult. The second level of two pillars has been cast and we are at this moment casting the second layer of the North pillar.

It has been a silent day today; as if everything and everybody is closer to the source of his being. Becoming quiet is the great art. Then only can we hear It and Him and Her.

* * *

15 August 1972

Sri Aurobindo's 100th Birth Anniversary

Message

Original language: English

Sources: MoA, p. 104; CWM, XIII, p. 233; Matrimandir, p. 39

[Major concreting of one of the pillars of Matrimandir. People from all over Auroville and from the Ashram gather to help. Mother sends this message:]

Good will and peace to all.

Blessings.

* * *



15. 8. 72.

Good will and peace
to all

Blessings

17 August 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 211

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

[Mother comments on a letter from Narad, who had written to Her about the smallness of the size of the Matrimandir gardens fixed by Roger:]

I have never told Narad that it should be very big... Roger is the best judge.

* * *

September 1972

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

Sources: *Auroville, the first six years*, by Savitra, p. 72

[Savitra's account of the beginning of the Matrimandir Workshop:]

Michael [Tait], a young Englishman who had gained construction experience in the initial stages of Bharat Nivas, established a keet workshop in September '72 adjacent to the Matrimandir to meet its growing need for machine maintenance – vibrators, mixers, handtools. But with the evolving complexity of the construction work, the workshop soon outgrew its simple quarters, inheriting a dozen power tools and a new, expanded cinderblock and asbestos building. It designed and constructed its own furnishings, and in addition to overseeing the multiple spheres of work concerning the Matrimandir – welding, barbending, production of scaffoldings, shutterings and tubular support-frames – it also services miscellaneous needs in other areas of Auroville, including the construction and assemblage of two trailer wagons for the reforestation program.

* * *

13 September 1972

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

Sources: *Auroville, the first six years*, by Savitra, p. 85

[Savitra's account of the concreting:]

East pillar up to 4th level, 8.64 m. Begins to rise up and out of excavation.

Curvilinear shape clear, steps indicated by protruding reinforced rods.

Aurovillians increased to 2 teams.

Crane of 1-ton capacity constructed in workshop to hoist concrete from mixer level to pouring level.

* * *

14 September 1972

Note

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 222

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Last midnight we have completed one pillar of Matrimandir. The other three pillars we expect to complete in six weeks. Lack of money is a big difficulty.

*

Sources: Gazette Aurovilienne, Vol. II, 1972, No. 2, p. 18

[On the 14th of September, the Mother gave her blessings for Aurovilians to continue the construction of the Matrimandir, beyond the four foundation pillars.]

* * *

15 September 1972

Note

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 223

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

The Madras engineers, who came to inspect the construction of the Matrimandir, have found it to be very satisfactory. Roger is going on 20th. That day he will give them further instructions at Madras.

* * *

16 September 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 223

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

[Piero's letter about the next phases of the Matrimandir construction. He wants to know whether it should be continued by ourselves or by a contractor.]

What does Roger say?

Shyam Sunder: He agrees that it be continued by Piero, preferably with the help of the Ashram engineers, if available.

[Mother approves of our continuing the work.]

* * *

3 October 1972

Not

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, pp. 230-31

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

The second pillar of Matrimandir was completed last night. In the first pillar a foundation stone touched by Mother was placed. Now two blessing packets are asked for the next two pillars. Mother took two blessing packets and asked Shyam Sunder to choose one. For the fourth, she said, the blessing packet will be given when the work is being done, she said.

* * *

20 October 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 237

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

At Matrimandir the third pillar is finished.

[Mother was happy to know.]

Day before yesterday when Shyam Sunder went to Matrimandir, there came the idea of starting the work of construction of the twelve meditation rooms and the Matrimandir gardens.

[Mother was happy.]

On the other hand we have no money. There is no money to pay the land already bought, several construction works have stopped; even for the Matrimandir work already done we have borrowed a lakh of Rupees. In spite of this difficulty the idea persists.

Shyam Sunder: I want to know what Mother sees about it.

There is no money at all?

Shyam Sunder: No, Mother.

I see a pressure in the atmosphere... but what to do?

Shyam Sunder: I have spoken to the people at Matrimandir, Piero, Alain. There is the difficulty of money. They have asked me to ask Mother if she says 'yes'. At present, even if one begins, one can begin only slowly.

Are materials necessary?

Shyam Sunder: In the beginning, no, it does not cost much. But towards the end, it will cost a good deal.

[Mother gave her approval for commencing.]

Shyam Sunder: Do I say to the people at Matrimandir that Mother has said Yes?

Yes.

* * *

24 October 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: AV Archives (Shyam Sunder's file)

[Letter from Piero to Shyam Sunder:]

Dear Shyam Sunder,

I was informed today from Alain about your conversation with the Mother regarding Matrimandir.

I am now very busy to execute some drawings to be sent urgently to Madras. The same drawings are needed later for the execution of the main structure. Sorry, I cannot see you today.

I am feeling that with the limited material, persons and drawings that we have now, it is for me difficult to see clearly and with a convenient security the execution of the work, specially if we start now the execution of the petals.

I do not feel to be technically and psychologically strong enough to have responsibility in the work in these conditions, specially with a tremendous pression to do more and more.

Sorry, but I should consider the possibility of giving the honour and joy of building the Matrimandir to somebody else.

Thanking you for all, sincerely.

Piero

* * *

24 October 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 239; facsimile of the message at AV Archives and in The Spirit of Auroville, p. 145

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

A few days ago, Shyam Sunder had spoken about the extension of the areas of work of the Matrimandir construction and Mother had approved of it.

She confirmed:

Yes.

Shyam Sunder: But Piero does not agree to it.

Why?

[Shyam Sunder read out the letter written by Piero to him and Mother wrote a message:]

The true spirit of Auroville is Collaboration and must be more and more so.

True collaboration paves the way to divinity.

Blessings

* * *

25 October 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 239

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes about Matrimandir:]

Shyam Sunder: I spoke yesterday to Piero. He says that it is not a question of collaboration or goodwill or faith in Mother. He speaks of financial difficulty; his overwork and increase in work due to change in plans.

Truly, I can't say what to do. I am no architect, not an expert. Each one is sticking to one's own point of view. [She shook her hands]. What is the solution?

Shyam Sunder: Piero is the most capable person for the construction. He is necessary for the work. I can try to persuade him, Mother.

And if he is not persuaded?

Shyam Sunder: Then I don't know.

Try to find out a meeting point, a common base for the work to be done.

Shyam Sunder: Yes, Mother, I can try.

[Mother gave a blessing packet.]

* * *

26 October 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 240

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Yesterday, Shyam Sunder went to Matrimandir, took Piero with him and there was a meeting with the people working there. The talking was done without passion and it is agreed that we should first finish the necessary studies in detail and then start the new areas of work in a few weeks.

[Mother was pleased to know of it.]

* * *

31 October 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 241; facsimile in The Spirit of Auroville, p. 146; Matrimandir, p. 41

[On a request, Mother gave a message for the Matrimandir workers, along with a blessing packet, for the concreting of the four pillars up to ground level.]

31.10.72



31. 10. 72

Harmony

14 harmony

Goodwill

Good will

Discipline

discipline

Truth

Truth.

I can work with you only if
you do not say a lie and are at
the service of Truth.

I can work with you only if
you do not say a lie and are at
the service of Truth.

* *

3 November 1972

Note:

Original language: English

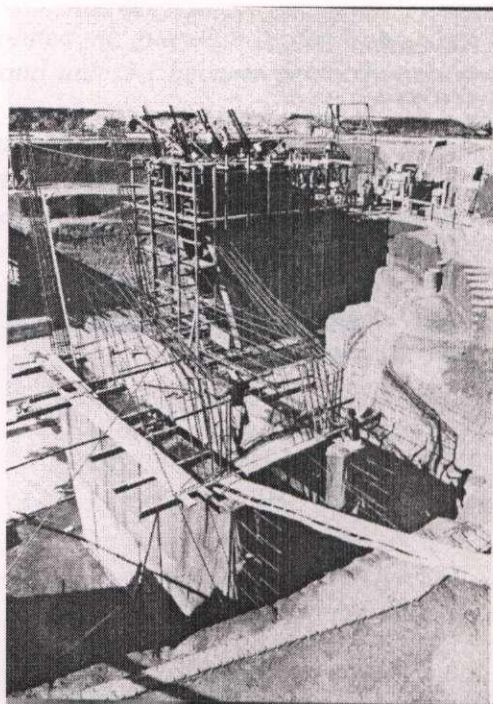
Sources: Down Memory Lane, 242

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

The fourth pillar of Matrimandir is going to be
completed, if it does not rain.

Piero and Gérard have asked for a blessings
packet to be put in this pillar. It is the Western
one, Mahasaraswati.

Mother gave a white packet.



* * *

3 November 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, p. 146

[Huta reports that Shyam Sunder had asked her whether Mother had told her and written to her about Auroville and Matrimandir. Huta answered she had, but could give the material only with Mother's approval. She thus went to Mother and told her about Shyam Sunder's request:]

Yes, I approve fully. But you must not give him the original letters and our conversations corrected by me. Make copies of them, put them in a file and then give it to him.

* * *

4 November 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, p. 147; Down Memory Lane, p. 242

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Mother said that Huta will be the guardian of Matrimandir. Her residence is to be built in one of the twelve gardens. She has given money also for it. She must have a kitchenette also. Shyam Sunder said that when Roger comes back, he will speak to him about it and get it settled.

* * *

5 November 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 243

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Last evening the four pillars of Matrimandir have been completed. Mother gave a box of toffees for the Matrimandir Camp.



The four pillars of Matrimandir completed

* * *

9 November 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 244

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

Shyam Sunder has received from Huta what Mother wrote to her about Matrimandir and her house. He will speak to Roger about it when he comes.

[Mother nodded.]

* * *

14 November 1972

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: MMTL, p. 31; The Spirit of Auroville, p. 148; facsimile at AV Archives

[Letter from Huta:]

My dearest Mother,

Some time some beings throw their falsehood at me. But I am not in favour with their falsehood.

I request You to protect me constantly.

Also I wish You to dispel all the obstacles which are in my way and prevent me from realising my soul. And, truly I feel strongly that now my soul must take an entire lead of my whole being.

Mother, didn't I pray to You in 1965 when You appointed me guardian of the Matri Mandir that I would not step into the Sacred Temple until and unless I became perfectly pure and worthy?

And with a smile, You said: "You will be..." and I was relieved.

Now this is high time that my whole being must be purified thoroughly and must be influenced by my soul and its aspiration. Then and then only I shall deserve to serve the Truth integrally.

Please fulfil my aspiration. And I know that nothing is impossible for Your Grace... And You know very well what I aspire for...

With all my love and kisses.

[Mother answered her in writing:]

Yes, have faith.

Love and blessings.

* * *

24th November 1972

Beginning of the work in the gardens

Article in the Gazette Aurovilienne

Original language: French and English

Sources: Gazette Aurovilienne, Vol. II, 1973, No. 3, p. 35

[The work on the gardens began at dawn on November 24th 1972. there was first a meditation followed by the clearing of the road which will encircle the Matrimandir area. The levelling of the ground will be started on arrival of a bulldozer, recently donated from America. Meanwhile engineers are studying the water system for the decorative canals and for the drainage of rainwater.]

* * *

Note written a long time after the events

Original language: English

Sources: Two notes written by Alain G.

[Note by Alain Grandcolas (who was then working with Ruud Lohman and Vikas):]

In November 1972, the four pillars had just been completed up to the level necessary to support the ground-floor slab. But we could not proceed further since some studies had to be finalised before starting. At that time, everybody had in mind to complete Matrimandir + Meditation rooms and gardens by the end of 1977.

The layout of the gardens were finalised and we had decided to start. Ruud and myself had carefully outlined and marked the contours of the gardens. Mother had given: 24th November at 6.15 a.m. for the date marking the beginning of the work: more than hundred of us, led by Shyam Sunder, walked on the contour, as far as the land was acquired.

The design was very simple: the whole oval "will be covered with a layer of concrete overlaid with tiles" (entry on 18.12.1972 in Ruud's diary). In other words, the shape will be like the rosewood Matrimandir model. Detailed drawings had been prepared by "Papa Richardet". Under Piero's guidance I had built an experimental canal "for determining the best method of making the decorative water channels and monsoons drain" (1.11.1972) and to determine the minimum slope also. With Ruud I had gone to Madras to some factory which could manufacture these tiles (18.12.1972). We had also studied with Coco Garden how we could manufacture them ourselves.

"Twenty-five new workers had been invited to come the next day to continue the road-clearing and then start the levelling work" (3.12.1972). But we just discovered that a hired bulldozer could do the same work for 1/20th of the cost. Since we were expecting our own small bulldozer at the end of this month, it was decided to wait a little for the gardens".

But I remember, which is not in Ruud's diary, that since we became idle, Ruud and myself, one afternoon, went to see Shyam Sunder in his house with Richardet's drawing and asked him if we could not start immediately that Unity garden, without waiting for the bull-dozer, which may also be delayed. Shyam Sunder looked at the map and suddenly put his index on the urn: it was the invitation to start the amphitheatre, which we did and were so much involved that there was no longer time to think of the gardens.

Later on, I remember to have met some Madras guy who was proposing some binding, with a tar-like but biological material, which would be mixed with the Auroville red soil and would replace the layer of concrete to be overlaid with tiles which would disappear. The process had been approved by Roger: it was much less costly, easier for maintenance (no risk of fungus) and the look was quite similar to our red earth.

And then, what about the 12th/13th gardens? They were located inside predefined geographical areas. To have Japanese gardens:

- Sand could be brought (and removed or displaced one year later),
- Stones could be brought and removed and displaced,
- Trees and bamboos idem. No permanent trees: "nothing which can distract from far the view of the Matrimandir with its golden discs" (my memory again). Only trees which would arrive in pots/beds and would leave later,
- Grass and lawn? Maybe they could be brought on square patches (and removed): less water would be needed.
- Flowers? They were inside beds of pottery/wooden beds, which were assembled like puzzles. They would change every quarter/year "according to the consciousness of Aurovilians" (these words from Roger are engraved into my memory). These flowers beds (in pottery or wood or plastic or...) would not be laid only on the ground but could be laid on a temporary scaffolding in wood.

Interesting, is it not? I am sure, although we do not have presently any record, that the Mother had been informed about these plans and had given her approval. Roger remembers quite well the concrete overlaid with tiles, thinks that he had designed two gardens and may be has shown them to the Mother (I was not aware myself). So many people have told to Roger that we would have to cross an oven before reaching the Matrimandir structure that Roger does not dare to talk again about it?

In this context, the last statement by the Mother on 12.2.1973 is gaining some more strength:

"February 12, 1973, commenting on a letter from Narad about the planting of trees around Matrimandir, and his feelings of emptiness and request for guidance to find a new way, Mother tells Shyam Sunder that the execution of the Matrimandir Gardens has already been told in detail to Roger, and that is what is to be done."

Alain

*

In 1972, Ruud and Alain (two Aurovilians) were given the responsibility to build the amphitheatre and Vikas (another Aurovilian) had the responsibility of the architecture (under Roger's supervision) and of the design and detailed drawings. Together with Ruud and Alain, they thought of what could be the activities to be performed in this amphitheater. The basic idea was that the amphitheater would have for Auroville the role that the playground has for the Ashram, in other words a place for lecture (the Mother gave biweekly talks), a place for collective meditation (which could be triggered off by music or readings – these were taking place twice a week also), a place for movies (every Saturday evening, there were films which

exclude detrimental exposure such as: violence, sex, promotion of bad characters...), theatre. We did not imagine sport activities nor march past (which take place in the Play ground)

Vikas, on behalf of the three of us, wrote to the Mother to express our understanding of the future activities to be performed in the amphitheatre and asked for her comments since the drawings had to be prepared. The full letter was read by Shyamsundar to the Mother who said "C'est bien". This letter and the Mother's answer are quoted in a Matrimandir diary by Ruud (which is unpublished).

That is why, on the East side, Vikas had provided two green rooms, one for men, one for women (these are now occupied by the air-cooling system of the Inner Room). On the West side, there was provision for a cinema room (with two windows inside the last step of the amphitheatre to provide for camera projection) and on the stage, there were two holes so that two big poles could be planted and hold the screen for movies.

From this description, it is quite clear that the amphitheatre is meant to be a living center. All these activities are supposed to be performed in the evenings, at a time when the Matrimandir will be closed and would not disturb the main use of the inner room.

* * *

December 1972

Article in the Gazette Aurovilienne

Original language: French and English

Sources: Gazette Aurovilienne, Vol. II, 1973, No. 3, p. 35

At present (End of December), the work is proceeding in four fields:

- a) Preparation for the construction of the sphere.
- b) Preliminary studies of the petals and meditation rooms.
- c) Planning of the gardens and water canals.
- d) Designing and excavation of the amphitheatre around the Urn.

Work on the amphitheatre is progressing rapidly. The designs are being completed, excavations have started and the materials have been ordered. The circular stage at the base of the Urn will be concreted in early 1973.

...

The Structural Engineering Research Centre [SERC] in Madras is studying the various possibilities for the construction of the twelve petals. Each petal will be seventeen metres high and contain a meditation chamber.

Preparations are underway for the construction of the central sphere. First the four eight metres-high concrete towers will be constructed to serve as temporary supports between the pillars and the ribs of the sphere. Second, a total eight kilometres of steel pipes will be erected into a complex scaffolding, 10 metres high, which will support the full weight of the Sphere's frames now being shaped by carpenters will be put in position and then estimated 40 hours of concreting will follow.

Meanwhile, experiments are being carried out on materials to be used for the surface discs of the sphere.

* * *

29 December 1972

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 257

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's notes:]

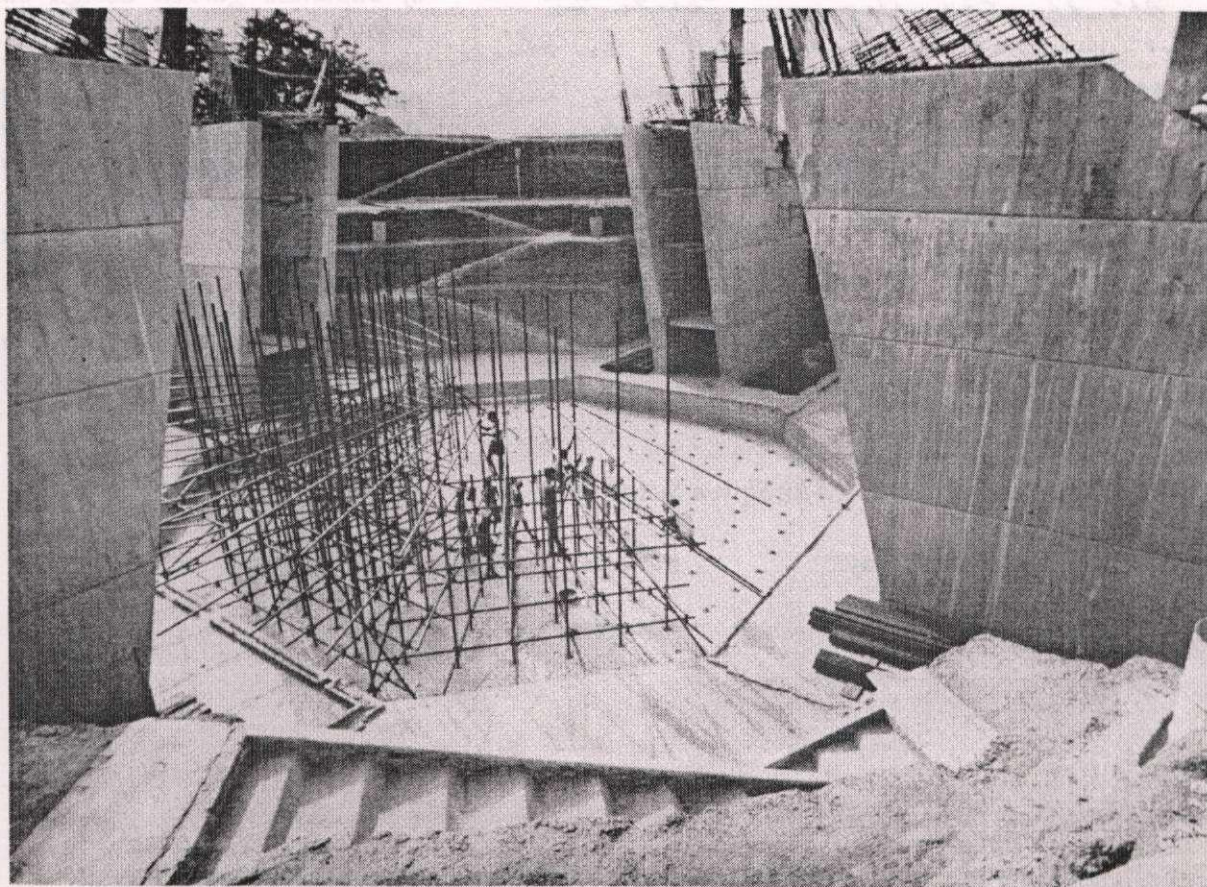
Piero's letter to Mother: He mentions two points about the Matrimandir construction:

- i) not getting drawings from Madras engineers [SERC] and Roger,*
- ii) his ill-health.*

Mother gave a blessing packet with Sri Aurobindo's picture.

Regarding drawings Shyam Sunder said he is no more hurt as before by these delays although the work suffers.

* * *



Preparation for work on the sphere started with the erection of a steel-pipe scaffolding , building up from the foundation

22 December 1972

Letters

Original language: English

Sources: AV Archives. Mother's reply only: Down Memory Lane, p. 255

[Letter from Mary Helen to Mother, dated 14th November 1972:]

Nov. 14. 1972

Divine Mother,

In the Matrimandir Gardens nursery I am now working in a small area as an experiment in Japanese landscaping using mainly ferns, begonias and orchids. For the future gardens of Auroville will a careful study of Japanese garden design be useful? Should the Japanese style be kept pure and traditional? or should their basic rules of harmony and balance be studied and applied in new ways to achieve the subtle beauty and unity and timelessness?

Your child,
Mary Helen

Naturally, in the
Japanese way
22-11-72

[Mother's response as noted by Shyam Sunder:]

Naturally in the Japanese way.

* * *

Divine Mother,

In the Matrimandir Garden nursery I am now working in a small area as an experiment in Japanese landscaping using mainly ferns, begonias and orchids. For the future gardens of Auroville will a careful study of Japanese garden design be useful?

Should the Japanese style be kept pure and traditional? Or should their basic rules of harmony and balance be studied and applied in new ways to achieve the subtle beauty and unity and timelessness?

Your child
Mary Helen

January 1973

Dear Mother

I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

I am writing to you now because I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

1973

January 1973

Dear Mother

I have been thinking of you

Third Year of Phase 3

For the New Year I have been thinking of you

I am writing to you now because I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

Implementation

I feel that building and breaking things can lead to the good. It is a strong belief of mine.

It was decided that the spirit was moved to the new place and the old place was left behind. I hope you are well and happy.

No for I have never said anything about having a new member for you in the future. I am writing to you now because I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

That I am expressing from the heart and the spirit and the mind of the Supreme Truth will manifest itself. The whole thing can be expressed and will be. I hope you are well and happy.

Further I have no right to suggest anything but since you had been thinking of me about the last time, I can do so now.

Further I am writing to you now because I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

I am writing to you now because I have been thinking of you

I hope you are well and happy.

Page

9 January 1973

Letters

Original language: French (?)

Sources: Paulette

[Satprem replies to Piero who had asked him to make public his conversations with Mother in January 1970 on Matrimandir:]

As far as I can remember, those conversations with the Mother had been communicated personally to Roger with a special authorisation from the Mother. Those conversations weren't meant to be published and I don't think they are. If Roger, personally, wants to show them to certain workers, it is his own responsibility. As for the text that has been made public, it has been given all that could be given. The rest belongs to Mother's personal papers. (...)

* * *

January 1973

Letters

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, pp. 153-154

[Huta writes to Mother:]

My dearest Mother,

For the New Year I pray for your constant Victory.

It is really sad that the work of Matrimandir is going on very slowly because there is no money and harmony.

I feel that building and breaking things cannot lead to the goal. It is a sheer waste of time, energy and money, and moreover it is a waste of your Consciousness and Force.

It was decided that the gardens around the Matrimandir should be grown along with the construction of the Matrimandir so that everything can take shape together and the whole thing can be done before your Birth Centenary which is not very far.

So far I have never said anything about having a secret chamber for you in the Shrine. Do you remember, Mother, several times you expressed your feeling about having the carved marble seats with satin and velvet cushions so that you can sit there? I feel that you must have your secret chamber in the Shrine. The Lord also will come – where will he sit?

This I am expressing from the occult and the spiritual point of view because the Supreme Truth will manifest there. The whole thing can be mysterious and occult. Mere outer appearance or a piece of art and architecture has no meaning and value. What has to be done must be done exactly according to the Lord's "Dream".

Mother, I have no right to suggest all this but since you had revealed so many things about the Matrimandir, I can dare to write knowing that you will understand me.

Mother, I am neither an Ashramite nor an Aurovilian but a child of yours and a lover of the Divine Beauty, Divine Love, Divine Peace and the Supreme Truth.

I am here because of you, your work and your Love.

I remain your child in all Truth and Love.

Huta

[Mother replies to Huta:]

My love is always with you.
For ever.

* * *

19 January 1973

Reported after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: MMTL, p. 32; The Spirit of Auroville, p. 154

[Mother answers Huta who had asked again whether Matrimandir would be built according to Her vision:]

Yes

* * *

22 January 1973

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 267

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's Notes:]

The Madras engineers [SERC] working upon the architectural design of Matrimandir say: "What is the assurance that there will be no further change¹?"

Mother said that Roger had not informed her of the changes. She approves that Shyam Sunder tells them through Chamanlal that there will be no further change without mutual consent.

* * *

26 January 1973

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 269

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's Notes:]

Chamanlal's letter about his visit to Madras for Matrimandir work. We have said that no major change will be done in the design without mutual consultation.

* * *

¹ The changes are quite obvious from the plans shown in this compilation. They concern mainly: 1) the floor of the inner chamber and the size of the holes in its centre (top and bottom); 2) the access ramps and internal staircases, 3) enclosing of the volume below the chamber in concrete walls or letting the inner skin be seen.

10 February 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: facsimile at AV Archives

[Narad writes to Mother:]

Dearest Mother,

Today, I have met with Vikas to look at the area for tree plantation around Matrimandir. Roger wants me to begin this work soon.

Mother, I am empty of all ideas. I have no plans, no ideas, no vision as to how this work should proceed and I pray to Thee, if it is Thy Will, to fill me with Thy vision so that all may go according to the Lord's Will.

I humbly wish to serve in the new way Mother, but I cannot do anything unless it is clearly Thy will.

At Thy Feet.

Narad.

* * *

12 February 1973

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 273

[Regarding Narad's letter about tree plantation around Matrimandir, Shyam Sunder notes:]

Mother said that the execution of the Matrimandir Gardens has been already told in detail to Roger. That is what has to be done.

Shyam Sunder has to remind Roger about the living place for Huta.

* * *

13 February 1973

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: AV Archives; Down Memory Lane, p. 273; The Spirit of Auroville, p. 155

[Mother approves of Shyam Sunder's draft reply to Narad:]

Narad,

I have read your letter of 10th to Mother.

Mother says that the Matrimandir gardens' execution has been already told in detail to Roger. That is what is to be done.

Shyam Sunder

* * *

15 February 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, pp. 155-56

[Alain Grandcolas and Ruud Lohman write to Mother:]

Divine Mother,

Roger asked us to go to Huta to discuss certain things regarding her house near Matrimandir as to how she wishes to have it built. She said that everything should be done exactly according to the Mother's wish. We asked her what was the Mother's wish. Then she said that the Mother wished her to be the guardian of the Matrimandir and her house is to be built between the Matrimandir and the banyan tree – on the island; it must be a tiny and simple house. The Mother has already explained the plan to Roger and Shyam Sunder. And for the rest Huta said everything is explained, including the copies of the Mother's letters regarding the Matrimandir and Auroville, in the file which is given to Shyam Sunder according to the Mother's wish and approval. Now Shyam Sunder has given the file to Roger to study.

Now, in the present plans of the Matrimandir we can easily include Huta's house in one of the 12 huge petals, which are surrounding the Matrimandir, over one of the meditation rooms, so that she can enter the Matrimandir whenever she wants to check one thing or another – and this is exactly between Matrimandir and the banyan as You have wished. Now shall we go ahead with this plan? We wish to have Your approval and guidance.

Also, Huta spoke firmly and insisted to have two secret chambers inside the Matrimandir itself – one for the Mother and the other one for the Lord – with carved marble seats with velvet and satin cushions. In the present plans these chambers are not shown but while looking at the brochure of the Matrimandir, we can say they can easily be built – facing each other on the top floor of the Matrimandir and this will look really wonderful. When we showed the plans and spoke to Huta about this possibility, she was extremely happy and satisfied.

Huta also said how practical the Mother is: when She did the sketch of the Matrimandir, She did not forget to show in Her drawing the small box-room to keep dusters and things like that to clean the Matrimandir. So Huta said that these minor things are also to be considered. And we found that there is a place for this small room also. Like this everything can be done easily.

Mother, please guide us as to how You wish Your rooms to be built and how the marble seats are to be carved and arranged in the rooms, so that Roger and we can do accordingly.

We await Your kind blessings and Force to make this plan and project materialised exactly according to Your Vision and Will in all Truth and Love.

Your children
Alain, Ruud.

* * *

16 February 1973

Reported

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, p. 158

[Shyam Sunder informs Huta that Mother had reminded him once again to tell Roger about her house at Matrimandir. So he passes on to Roger the file he had received from Huta on 6.11.72.]

*

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: facsimile at AV Archives; The Spirit of Auroville, p. 157

[Huta writes to Roger:]

Dear Roger,

It is very nice of you to have asked Alain and Ruud to come to me yesterday evening to discuss my house near the Matrimandir. I have explained to them all that the Mother wished and decided. Moreover, everything is stated in the file which Shyam Sunder has given to you.

Alain and Ruud wrote a letter to the Mother which I hope you read to her.

Frankly speaking, I have no will of my own – whatever she has decided for me and whatever she wants me to be – I will be. She has appointed me the guardian of the Matrimandir and repeatedly told me about my having a house very close to the Matrimandir so that I can look after the Matrimandir according to her wish and command. She told me that she had already explained the plan of my house to you in July last year. She also spoke three times to Shyam Sunder about the same thing. So I have nothing more to say regarding the matter except that I leave it to the Mother and to you to do the best.

But I am very particular and feeling strongly all that the Mother told me about her rooms in the Matrimandir itself on the top floor, which I may call the "secret chambers". I shall be very happy if Her rooms will be in the Matrimandir – for She will surely go there one day.² I trust you and I feel sure that you will organise and plan out everything wonderfully, exactly according to the Mother's Will – in an occult and mysterious way. And we all pray for the Victory of the Truth.

Thank you ever so much

*With kindest regards, yours sincerely
Huta*

* * *

² In her book, instead of this sentence, Huta wrote: *She must have her rooms – for she will surely go there one day.*

15 March 1973

Notes written after a conversation
Original language: French
Sources: Roger's personal archives

[After meeting with Mother, Roger wrote down the following³:]

Vu Mère le 15 mars 73
au sujet du Matrimandir
En ce qui concerne les chambres
seules, Mère a dit que cette
idée était ancienne et n'avait
pas de raison d'être maintenant
dans le projet retenu du Matrimandir.
Lui ayant dit toutefois que cette
possibilité était réalisable si elle
le désirait encore maintenant
dans le projet actuel, et qu'elle
qu'elle pourrait y venir lorsqu'elle
aimerait.
Cela n'est pas dans mon intention -

Seen Mother on March 15th
1973

About Matrimandir.

Concerning the secret
chambers, Mother said that
this idea was old and there
was no reason for keeping it
in the actual project of
Matrimandir.

Having told her that, however,
this possibility was feasible if
she still wished it now in the
actual project, and that she
that she could come there
when she wants, or for.....

[Mother replied:]

I don't believe it. It is not in
my intention.

*

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: facsimile at AV Archives; The Spirit of Auroville, p. 157

[Underneath Huta's letter dated 16.02.73, Roger wrote with his hand in French⁴ what
Mother told him:]

That was long ago, at the beginning. The important thing is to plan a room for her in the
gardens.

The Mother

15 March 1973

* * *

³ Vu Mère au sujet du Matrimandir.

En ce qui concerne les chambres secrètes, Mère dit que cette idée était ancienne et n'avait pas de raison d'être
maintenue dans le projet retenu du Matrimandir. Lui ayant dit toutefois que cette possibilité était réalisable si elle
le désirait encore maintenant dans le projet actuel et qu'elle pourrait y venir lorsqu'elle aimerait, ou....

Mère répond:

Ce n'est pas, je ne crois pas dans mon intention.

⁴ "C'était il y a longtemps au début. L'important c'est de prévoir une pièce pour elle dans les jardins."

Mère, le 15 mars 1973

26 March 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, p. 159

[Note from Roger; copy of which was sent by Roger to Huta:]

Further to the letter of Huta and the different questions asked by a few Aurovilians concerning the Matrimandir, particularly on the subject of the secret chambers, The Mother has said that these were envisaged at one time but are not retained in the actual project.

The Mother has confirmed that the sole important thing is the lodging foreseen for the guardian within the framework of the gardens around Matrimandir.

Roger

* * *

28 March 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, p. 161

My dearest Mother,

I have received this note⁵ from Roger through Shyam Sunder. First point: Whatever You have decided for the Matrimandir is absolutely right because You know much more about the matter than anybody else does.

Second point: You had appointed me the guardian of the Matrimandir in 1965 – and I am grateful to You for that – but now I truly pray to You to release me from this appointment because I do not really deserve anything, and I do not know what work I have to do there, also there are many reasons and complications which prevent me from going there.

For some time I had been feeling to write to You all this before I received this note. I am really sorry that I shall not be able to be the guardian – I am helpless and hopeless. Please do forgive me. There are many capable people who can carry out this wonderful mission according to Your will.

Finally, I pray to You to get arranged and restored my present house by Udar or Phany. There are white ants and it needs repairs and whitewash which has not been done for quite a number of years.

I will do Your work, which is quite a lot, in my apartment, and my temple is my heart where the Divine call be realised by His Grace.

Mother, I love You and I trust You, knowing that You will surely lead me to my goal by fulfilling my soul's aspiration. Ever Yours

Huta

[Huta adds that Vasudha, Mother's personal attendant, read out this letter to Mother and that She remained in trance and said nothing except that she sent a blessing-packet through Vasudha.]

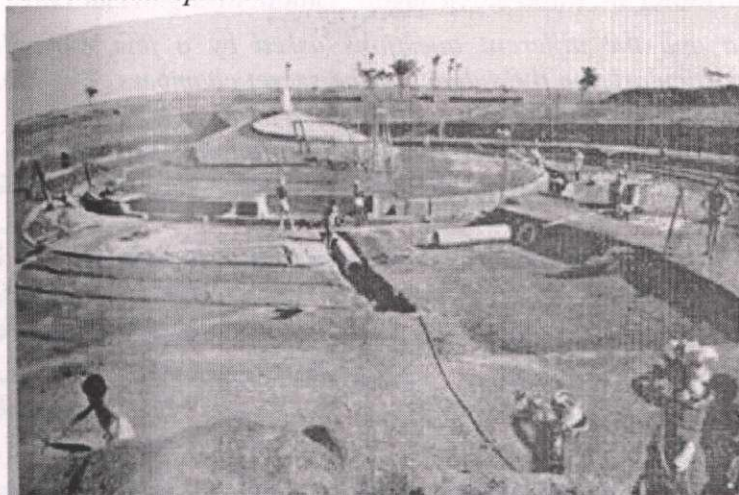
* * *

⁵ Dated 26 March 1973

Early April 1973

Article and photo in the Gazette Aurovilienne, Vol. II, 1973, No. 4, p. 27

Work goes on for the erection of the temporary towers which will support the ribs of the Matrimandir sphere.



The excavation, drainage system and the stage for the amphitheatre around the foundation-urn have been completed.

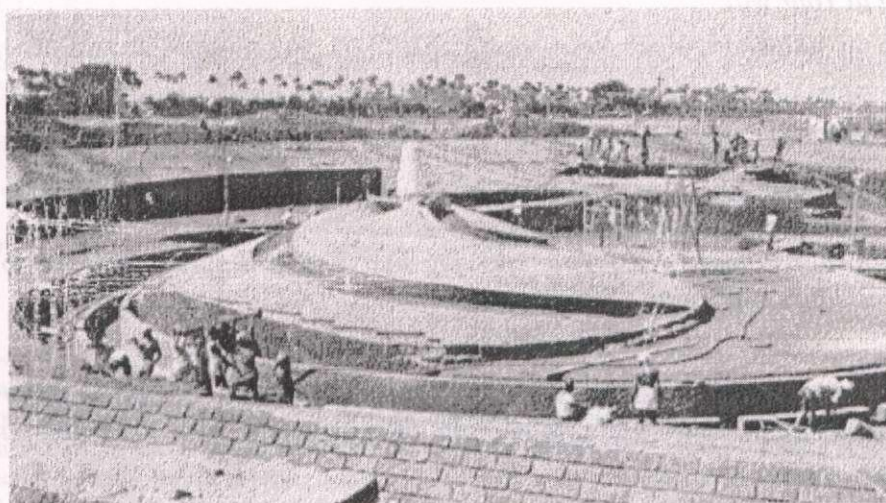
The seating arrangement consists of twenty tiers moving in ever larger circles and covered with earth-red tiles. Experiments are in progress to develop high-quality lime-clay tiles of various sizes.

A belt with a width of about 50 metres will surround the Matrimandir area. Studies are being made on the designs, the watercourses and the type of tress, bushes and flowers to be planted in this belt.

A youth training programme has been started in the Matrimandir Workshop. Six boys from the village come every morning to learn carpentry and the use of power tools and other carpentry equipment recently donated from America. They also learn English and are given their morning meals at the Matrimandir site.

*

Source: From a magazine found at Auroville's Laboratory of Evolution



Work progresses in the amphitheatre

* * *

28 April 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, pp. 161-62

My dearest Mother,

I have been always frank with You because You are my true Mother and I know that You understand me perfectly well. What You have said about the secret chambers in the Matrimandir, is perfectly right. I myself feel within me that the Supreme Lord and the Supreme Mother do not need any human devices. So it is all right. But I hope that the beautiful gardens, rockeries, small waterfalls and tall trees will be retained.

You have confirmed to build my house in the framework of the gardens. But let me inform you and clear this matter, that two months back or so Alain and Ruud came to me according to Roger's instructions. They showed me the plan and spoke to me that Roger had told them that somehow Roger and these people would accommodate me in one of the rooms of the Reception Building which would be quite far from the Matrimandir – at the end of the garden. If Roger explained to you this framework of the gardens, then he means exactly that, and perhaps from his point of view I am supposed to be a receptionist and not the guardian of the Matrimandir.

You have appointed me a guardian of the Matrimandir, and You told me and wrote to me several times that my tiny house would be very close to the Matrimandir. How can I remain very far if I have to look after the Shrine? And I cannot be a receptionist because I do not know the job.

It is understood from within that it is out of the question to have my house in one of the petals of the Matrimandir, because the Truth must stand by itself – above everything and everyone. But to be reasonable, isn't it proper to have a very small house surrounded by trees and flowers somewhere near the Matrimandir? With all my heart and soul I do aspire to remain near the Shrine and serve the Truth and do the work whatever You command, but please don't send me far.

I am sure You will plan out everything regarding my life and work. And You will surely fulfil the aspiration of my soul.

With love.

Ever Yours

Huta⁶

* * *

⁶ Huta does not write anything about the outcome of this letter.

4 May 1973

Notes written after a conversation

Original language: English

Sources: Down Memory Lane, p. 287

[Entry in Shyam Sunder's Notes:]

Madanlal Himatsingka's letter regarding funds for Matrimandir. He feels that he should work for it.

Very good, I am happy over the proposal. All my force is with you.

* * *

6 May 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, pp. 162-63; facsimile at AV Archives

[After meeting with Roger and Shyam Sunder on Mother's terrace, and talking about her house near Matrimandir, Huta sends this letter to Mother, which was read to her on 10th:]

My dearest Mother,

I had a talk with Roger regarding my house and the Matrimandir. Shyam Sunder also was present. Roger is willing to give a location to my residence in the Matrimandir area – nearest the Matrimandir. But Roger is anxious and would like to know clearly and precisely the work I am expected to do by the Divine Mother as the guardian of the Matrimandir. Then and then only Roger can proceed further and can plan out everything accordingly. Roger said that there are many things which are to be done in the Matrimandir as it is a very huge thing.

- 1. Control of visitors – (as The Mother has said that the admission will be restricted).*
- 2. Information of the work in the Matrimandir itself when it is ready.*
- 3. Cleaning and maintenance.*
- 4. Priestess of Matrimandir – That is just to watch and see!*

Finally, Roger said that everything would be possible for him to arrange once my work as guardian would be decided by the Divine Mother, and he is ready to do exactly according to The Mother's Will.

Roger is going to Paris on Saturday, so it is very important that he should know as soon as possible regarding the matter so that he could do the needful by working out everything according to Your instructions.

Indeed, I too am wondering what work I shall have to do over there. Nevertheless, whatever You have willed for my soul and its aspiration, let it be done. And I will with all my heart carry out Your command in all Truth and Love.

With love and kisses.

Huta

* * *

10 May 1973

Note written after a conversation
Original language: French
Sources: Roger's personal archives

[After meeting Mother, Roger wrote down⁷:]

u Mer. le 1^{er} mai . 73
du sujet UTA. Dans les premiers
temps ~~de~~ ^{du} Matrimandir il était
prévu de placer une maison pour elle
dans les jardins autour du Matrimandir.
Mais il y a des siècles, la conception
du Matrimandir a maintenant changé
alors
- c'est encore possible
très bien alors. Ce qu'elle doit faire
J'en sais rien on verra.
Les clefs du Matrimandir! C'est ça, c'est très bien

Seen Mother on 11th May 1973.

Concerning Huta.

During Matrimandir's early days, it was foreseen to locate a house for her in the gardens around Matrimandir; but this was centuries ago. Matrimandir's conception is now entirely changed. So?⁸

Roger: It is still possible.

Very good. What she should do?
I do not know, we shall see.

Roger: The keys of Matrimandir!

That's it. It is very good.

*

⁷ Au sujet d'Huta. Dans les premiers temps du Matrimandir il était prévu de placer une maison pour elle dans les jardins autour du Matrimandir. Mais il y a des siècles, la conception du Matrimandir a maintenant changée alors...

C'est encore possible.

Très bien alors. Ce qu'elle doit faire. J'en sais rien. On verra.

Les clefs du Matrimandir! C'est ça, c'est très bien.

⁸ It is not clear whether Mother or Roger said these three lines.

Reported
Original language: English
Sources: MMTL, p. 32; The Spirit of Auroville, p. 163

[Vasudha told Huta that Mother said to Roger in front of her:]

She [Huta] will keep the keys of the Matrimandir. She will open and close the Matrimandir, and she will also see whether everything is all right in the Matrimandir.

* * *

11 May 1973

Reported
Original language: English
Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, pp. 163-64

[Huta writes that the next day she went to Mother and expressed her profound gratitude, and prayed to her to make her worthy of the Supreme Truth, in her Light and Love. Huta adds that Mother went into a trance for a brief while and then pressed her hands. She concludes by saying that she left with mixed feelings.]

*

[Huta reports that in the evening she asked Vasudha to read again to Mother the letter she had sent her on 28th March. As a result, Vasudha came to her house with Mother's blessing packet and told Huta: "Huta, you know, the Mother cannot see properly and cannot possibly write to you, because she is too weak. She listened attentively to your letter which I read to her loudly. Then she went into a trance for a long time. After that she asked me to give you her blessing packet and convey this message to you":]

I know this. Tell her that this is better like that. My love and blessings are always with her.

[Vasudha added: So, Huta, Mother has granted your prayer.⁹]

[Huta writes: "My eyes were filled with tears of relief and gratitude. I felt that my whole being was free"; she adds that she never uttered a word of her release to people concerned, her own people and her friends. She concludes by saying that she watched and waited for the proper time to act.¹⁰]

* * *

⁹ Of being relieved from the guardianship of Matrimandir.

¹⁰ Huta kept quiet for more than 20 years before informing all those concerned that her house wasn't needed any more. It is only in the nineties that she came out publicly about her resignation in an article in *Mother India*.

26 May 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: The Spirit of Auroville, p. 168

[Shyam Sunder writes to Huta:]

Dear Huta,

...

The architectural tangle about the construction of Matrimandir is not yet solved. It seems that something will happen soon. I am praying for it.

Shyam Sunder

* * *

June(?) 1973

Article in the Gazette

Original language: French and English

Sources: Gazette Aurovilienne, Vol. II, 1973, No. 5, p. 25

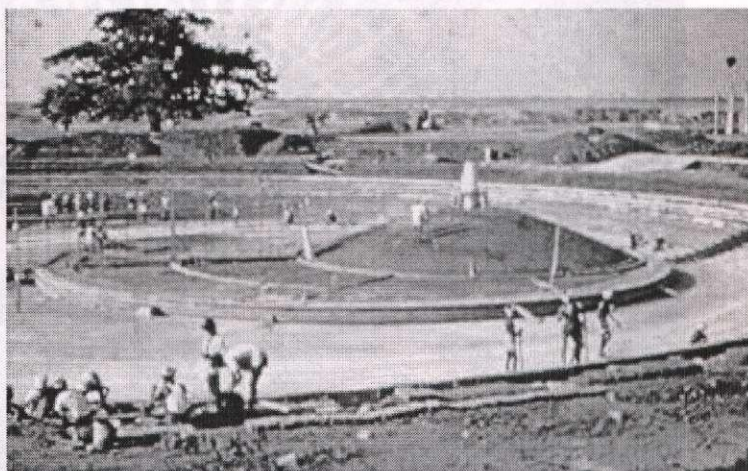
In order to provide scaffolding for the shuttering of the ribs of the Matrimandir Sphere and to provide a winch to lift materials, hoist towers are being built next to each pair of ribs. These will rise 17 metres above ground level and will remain until the end of the skeletal structure.

Tubular scaffolding for the first slab has been erected. The shuttering frames for the ribs have been fabricated in the Matrimandir wood workshop.

A new workshop with an area of 200 square metres has been built to house new tools and machines in optimal working conditions, particularly from the point of view of fire hazard.

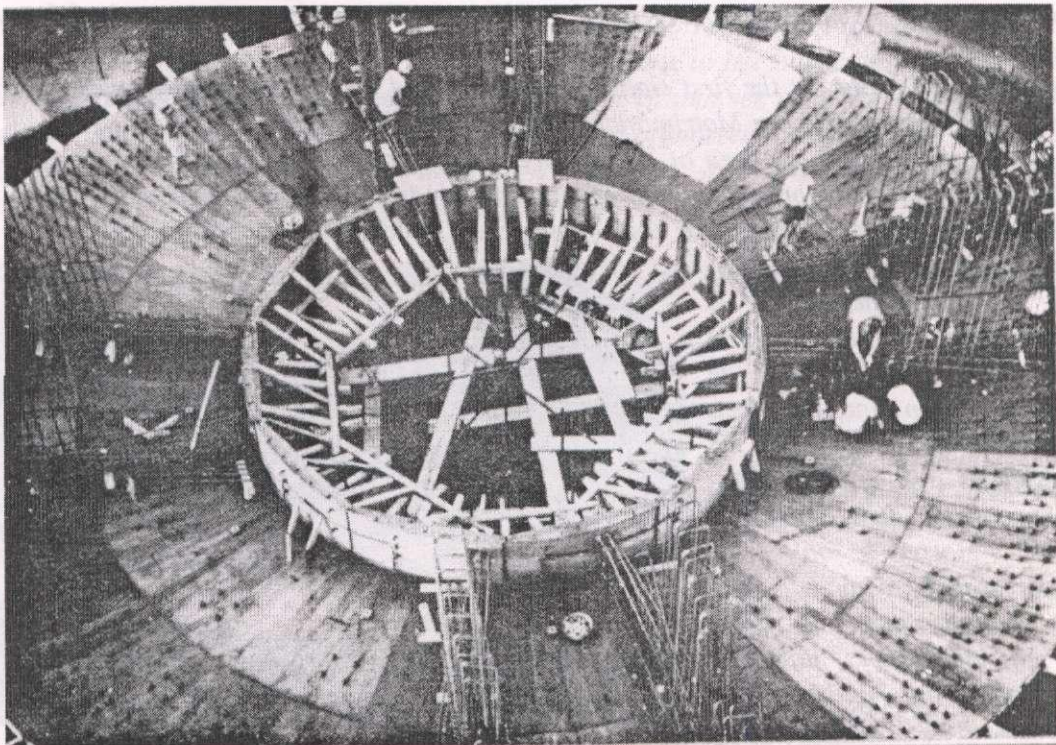
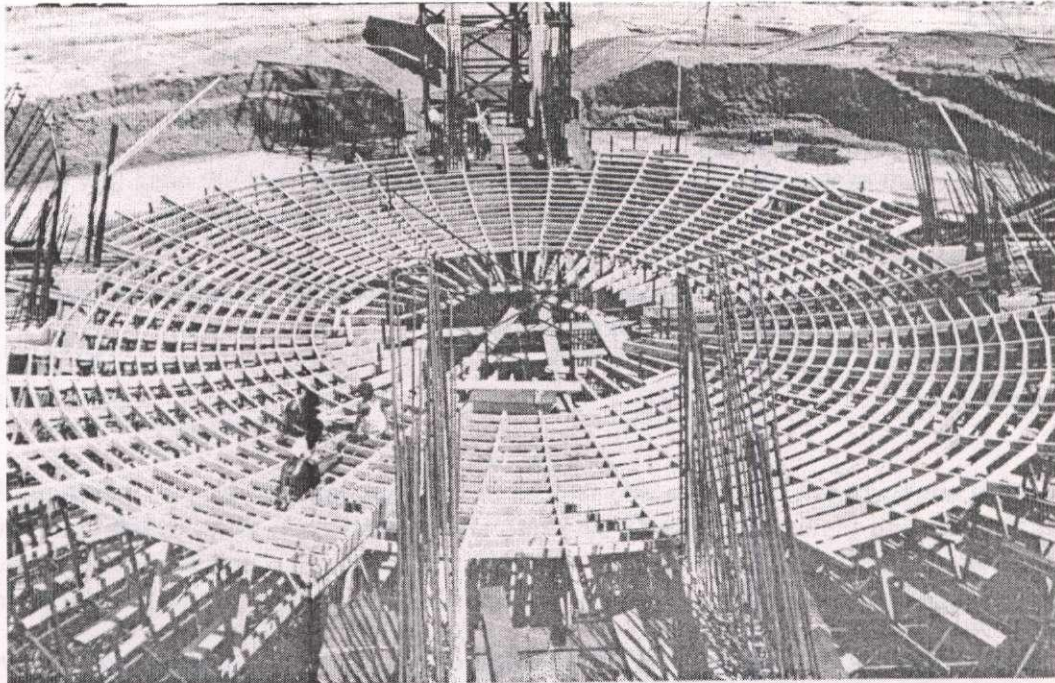
Designs are being prepared for the underground meditation chambers and for the outer gardens of the Matrimandir.

The amphitheatre is progressing rapidly. The stage, the cone around the inaugural urn and the open air auditorium will soon be completed and ready for the laying of the tiles. Work has also started on the underground rooms which will contain dressing rooms for the performers, toilets, a control room and storage rooms.



A lime kiln has been constructed about 200 metres from the amphitheatre, so that under controlled conditions a better quality of lime (for concreting purposes) may be produced. The kiln is to be run on smokeless fuel and is capable of an output of two tons of lime per day. It will have a production life of six months, after which it will be dismantled.

* * *



Work progressing on the shuttering of the 1st slab, which joins the 4 pillars

* * *

June 1973

Excerpt from a book

Original language: English

Sources: *Auroville, the first six years*, by Savitra, p. 85

[Savitra's description of the concreting:]

Temporary propping towers of reinforced concrete emplaced on pillars for rigid supports of extending ribs until skeletal structure is self-supporting by means of 1st and 2nd level tie-slabs.

Hoist towers, resembling launch towers, erected beside pillars to provide scaffolding for ribs and winch to lift materials. Tower 17 m. above ground, 9 m. below ground.

Tubular scaffolding support for 1st level slab under assemblage. 8 km of pipe. 6,000 joint clips used on 280 vertical props to support calculated 400-ton load, of lower region of sphere.

New workshop (200 m²) constructed for new tools and machinery.

* * *

15 August 1973

Article in the Gazette

Original language: French and English

Sources: *Gazette Aurovilienne*, Vol. II, 1973, No. 6, p. 21

The first nine trees were planted on the actual site of the Matrimandir gardens at 5.30 in the morning of August 15.

* * *

7 September 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: *The Spirit of Auroville*, p. 168

[Letter from Shyam Sunder to Huta:]

Dear Huta,

Yesterday evening we were at the Matrimandir but it was not possible to see your place with Roger. Sorry. Roger is leaving on 10th for three weeks.

Shyam Sunder

* * *

22 October 1973

Letter

Original language: English

Sources: *The Spirit of Auroville*, p. 168

[Letter from Shyam Sunder to Huta:]

Dear Huta,

Today I went with Roger to Matrimandir. An architect [Vikas] is working for finding the exact spot for your construction. As soon as it is done I will see it and tell you about it. The design also is starting.

Shyam Sunder

* * *

September 1973

Excerpt from a report pertaining to Matrimandir

[Narad believes that this report was drafted by Roger's office. In any case, in 2002 he wrote to a friend that it is on this report that he based his work in the gardens.]

5. The First Concept¹¹

What the Mother has said about the gardens?

The Matrimandir Gardens comprise two distinct but interrelated areas, the central thirteen gardens of the Matrimandir Area, and the Outer Gardens which surround the Matrimandir Area, in a ring approximately 100 meters wide. These Outer Gardens, though defined and contained by the encircling urban area, extend into the urban area, penetrating it on the ground, through and over the buildings. The continuity of form and movement into the urban area, and the penetration of the urban area into the Outer Gardens, make the two interdependent. Furthermore, this interpenetration extends right through the urban area to its outside perimeter, where the city will be bounded by a green belt, thus creating the possibility of the continuity of trees and water from outside, through the city, to the centre, with opportunity to move, by boat maybe, or on foot, right through the city without leaving the shade of trees or the water.

It becomes evident that there are three related areas:

- 1. **The Matrimandir Area**, with only the Banyan Tree, and the thirteen gardens which will contain a constantly changing array of flowers, set inside an oval sculpted as shown in Figure 2, like concentric waves of moulded earth around the Matrimandir. The area is formalistic (twelve radiating paths from the centre-piece, The Matrimandir; concentric paths and wave-form land shaped to give exclusive predominance to the Matrimandir).*
- 2. **The Outer Gardens**, containing and defining the Matrimandir Area, encircling it with water and trees so that it forms an island. This outer garden area will be informal, natural but controlled in its planting. The Water body will be a circular progression of space, now narrow like a stream or canal, now wide like a lake, with islets, and overhanging trees. The overall effect of form, created by the trees, their varying height and colours and forms, and by the shaping of the earth to form artificial hills and valleys, modest in scale but significant in effect, will be to contain the Matrimandir Area within a saucer, and thereby heighten its emphasis like a pearl in a shell.*
- 3. **The area adjacent to buildings**, both those of the perimeter of the Outer Gardens, and where the gardens penetrate the urban area, in which the trees, and water soften the edges of the buildings, weaving through the urban space, over it and into it. This, in effect, concerns the whole of the landscaping of the urban area, whose architectural design cannot be conceived in isolation of the landscaping.*
This area is not dealt with in this report, although suggested treatment of this landscaping is discussed.

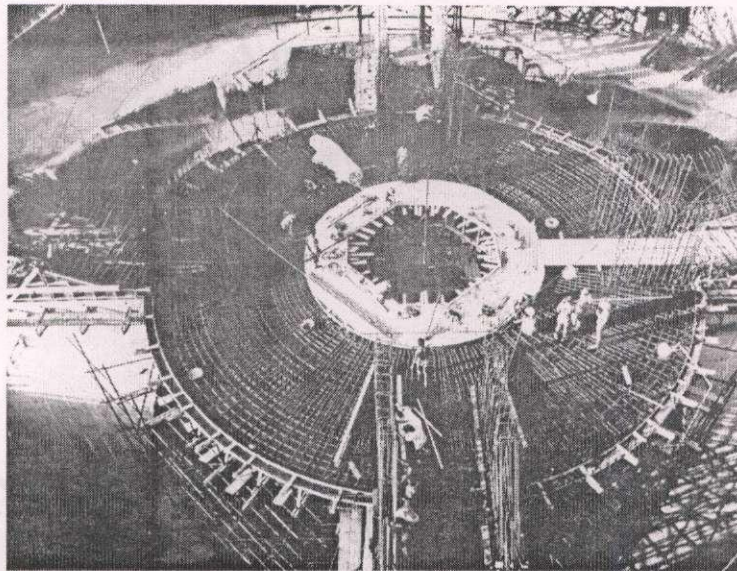
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¹¹ As said, this page is part of a much longer report. "First concept" seems to imply that there were other concepts.

11 November 1973

Sources: Matrimandir, Auropublications, p. 55

[The steel reinforcement was laid and concreting of the 1st slab of the sphere and the summits of the four pillars begins with a meditation and goes on for six days during monsoon season.]

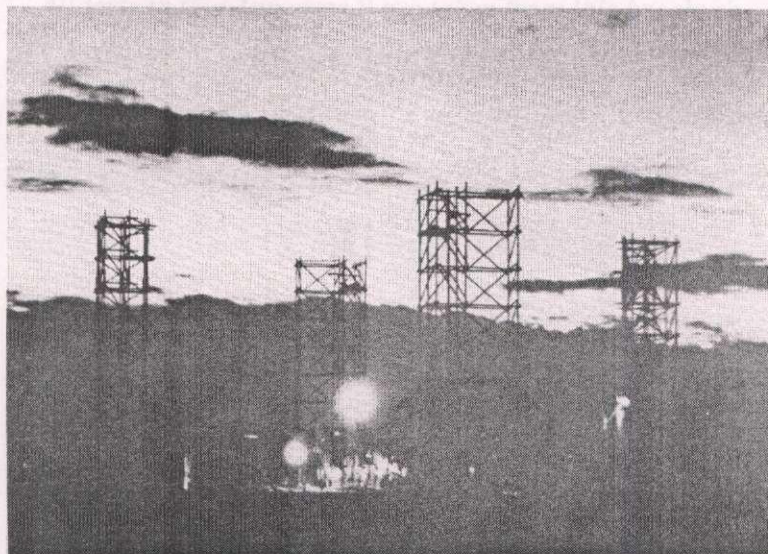


Published by 1971

17 November 1973

Sources: Matrimandir, Auropublications, p. 56

[This monumental concreting is completed at the West pillar summit at 7.25 p.m. Mother leaves Her body at 7.25 p.m. – exactly at the same time.]



* * *

Annexure 1

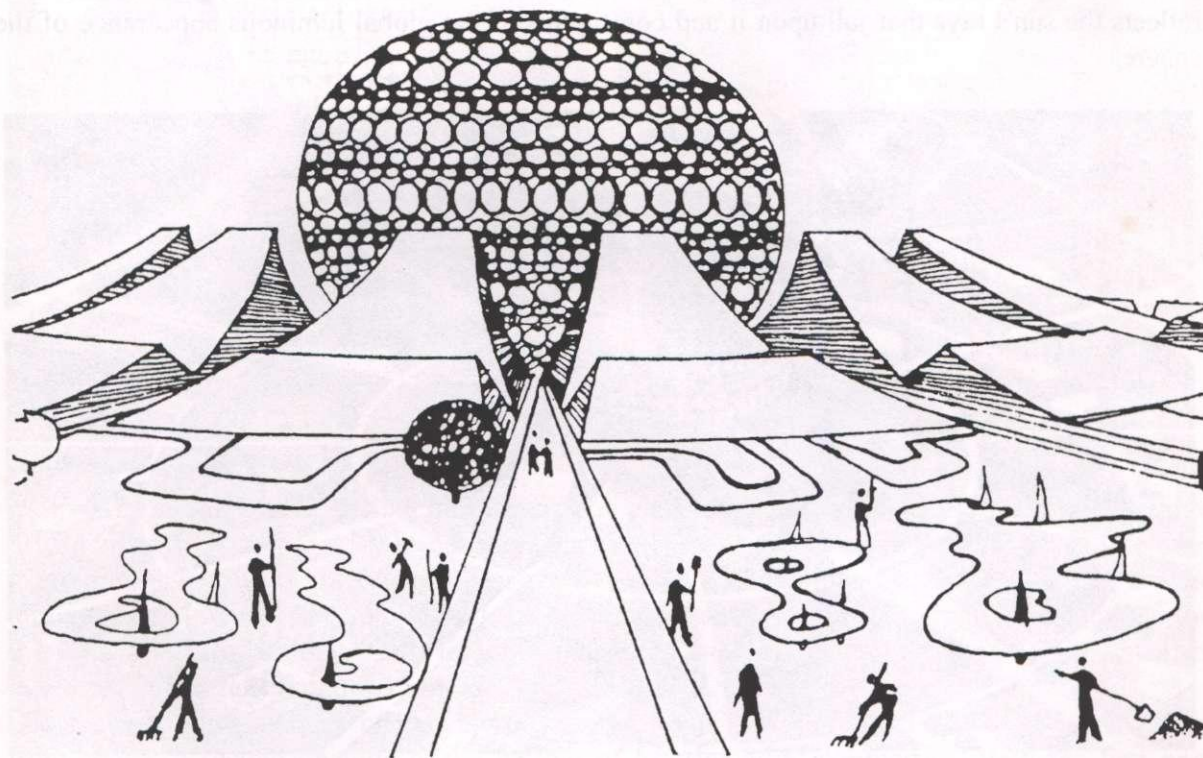
“Small” Matrimandir Brochure

Published early 1971

All texts in this Annexure 9 are taken from this brochure.

MATRIMANDIR

The Matrimandir area at the centre of Auroville
is a complex of three elements all placed within a tantric shape
symbolizing the fundamental unity of creation.



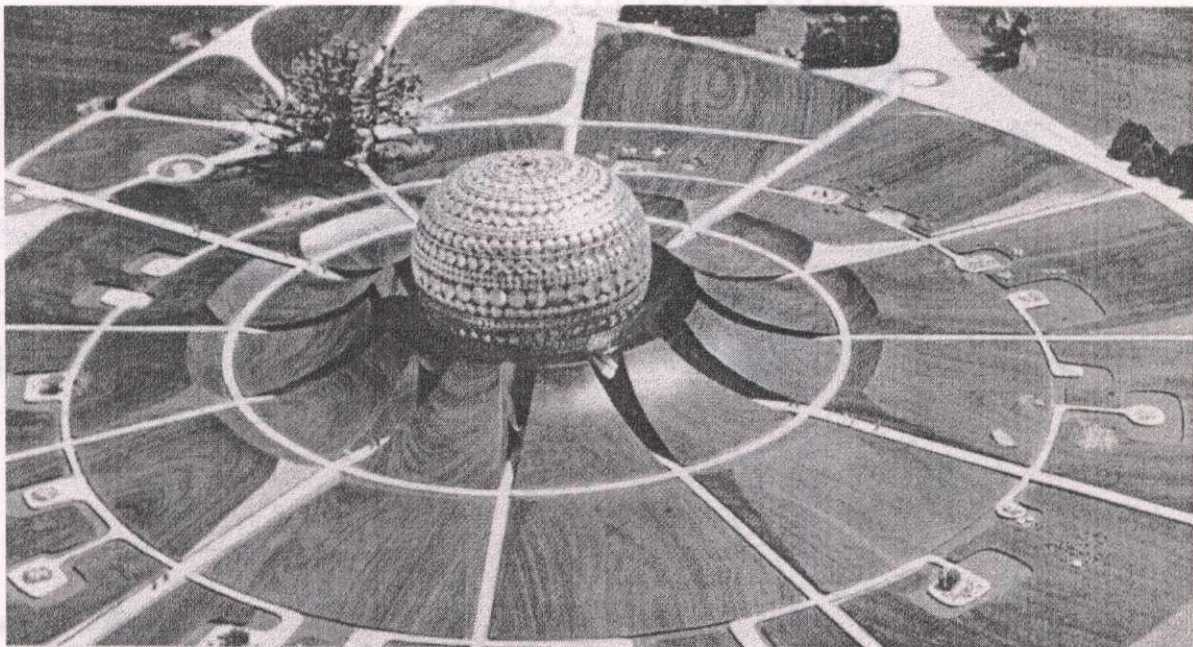
The MATRIMANDIR is the outstanding element. Its golden sphere seems to emerge out of the earth crater. In its centre, there will be a luminous ball which will reflect the rays of the sun and thereby light the four petal-shaped meditation areas around this ball.

Twelve gardens will surround the Matrimandir, each one expressing a quality of what must be manifested. A thirteenth one, the Garden of Unity, will be overlooked by the Banyan tree, the geographical centre of Auroville.

The third element is the white marble lotus-shaped urn where handfuls of soil from many countries were blended on February 28, 1968 to symbolise the coming together of nations. It is surrounded by an amphitheatre.

Matrimandir, the Sanctuary of Truth, by its form and position will be the heart of the town, the dominating part of Auroville opening to the Light. The centre of Auroville, centre of Force, Matrimandir embodies the spirit of Auroville. It is a symbol of the inner pilgrimage that each Aurovilian must make in order to find his own soul. It is a symbol of the ideal of beauty and harmony that has to dominate the collective life of all those who wish to participate in the adventure towards a new consciousness that Auroville signifies.

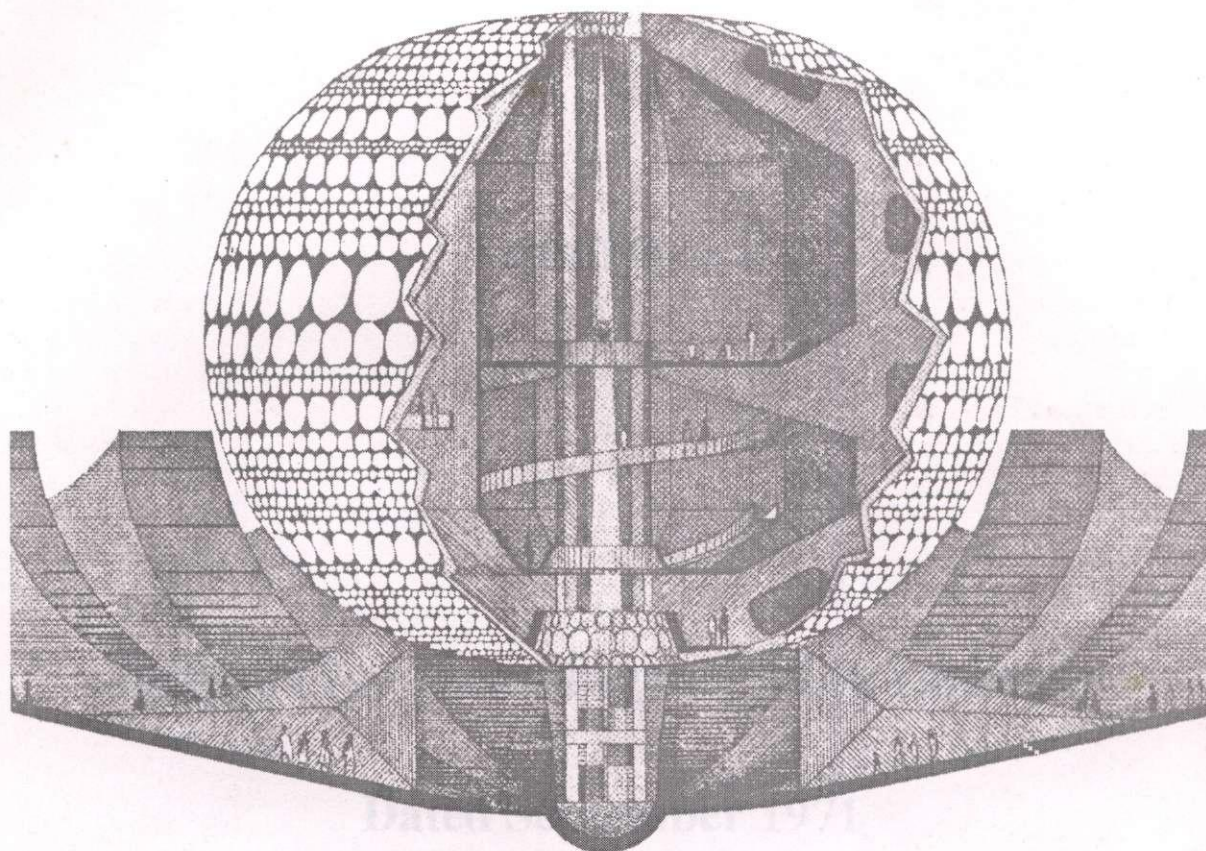
The architectural conception of Matrimandir further enhances its symbolic significance. It shows the emergence of the golden sphere of consciousness out of the earth crater. It tells the story of life, of its multiple changing aspects, of its innumerable facets always in movement, through similar movements of the golden discs that constitute Matrimandir's most outer appearance. This movement, casting in all directions quanta of energy and looking so much to the observing eye like a haphazard action of the wind, should not make one forget that each disc reflects the sun's rays that fall upon it and contributes to the global luminous appearance of the sphere.



"Rosewood Model" of Matrimandir with its Petals

But the outer appearance is only the surface of things. There is immediately under it a new shell; the inside skin of Matrimandir, still the colour of earth, but much more tranquil.

To discover the secret of Matrimandir one should not remain satisfied with the outer look. There are ways to its more intimate life. These take you through high pyramid-like masses of dense earth that make the marble path leading to the structure look all the more narrow. They take you down below the sphere, very near the open crater where streams let their waters disappear. They compel you to ascend slowly by steep inclines towards the sphere of light. Inside the sphere where one has now arrived, there are tunnels through which the pilgrim goes in his new ascent.



Inside Matrimandir

He treads a spiralled path leading him towards an elevated inner chamber. Baffled he is likely to be when he first comes to this dazzling place. It is a twelve-sided hall, divided into four meditation areas just as there were four paths leading to Matrimandir. Each opens to a most luminous ball in which the sun's light is being concentrated by a mechanism at an opening in the top layer of Matrimandir. At rest now in front of his most intimate heart, the pilgrim discovers the secret of the transmutation of his energies.

Down below, the waters go on flowing into the crater. They are lighted by the light that comes from above: a second opening at the bottom of Matrimandir, symmetrical with the first one, allows the light of the irradiant globe to illuminate the depths. When he goes out of Matrimandir after this light bath within his own self, the pilgrim finds eight ways out. Two of them are most interesting. One leads directly to the Garden of Unity with its own centre, the Banyan tree surrounded by all the flowers of Matrimandir's twelve gardens. In the Garden of Unity they form a rich blending of all their hues and symbolize the integration of the twelve aspects of The Mother: Existence, Consciousness, Bliss, Light, Life, Power, Prosperity, Usefulness, Progress, Youth, Harmony and Perfection. The second way leads to the lotus-shape vase that contains the soil of many nations of the earth. A direct link road joins the lotus and the banyan. When the Aurovilian contemplates the Matrimandir's complex he will know what is expected of his search. He may renew each day his Matrimandir meditation and progress in the discovery of his own light so that he becomes fit for the world action: an action leading man, now rising to his true stature, towards human unity.

Annexure 2

Set of Five Drawings of Matrimandir

Dated September 1971

All that remains from these original drawings are a set of five blueprints, which are with Piero in his house in Auroville.

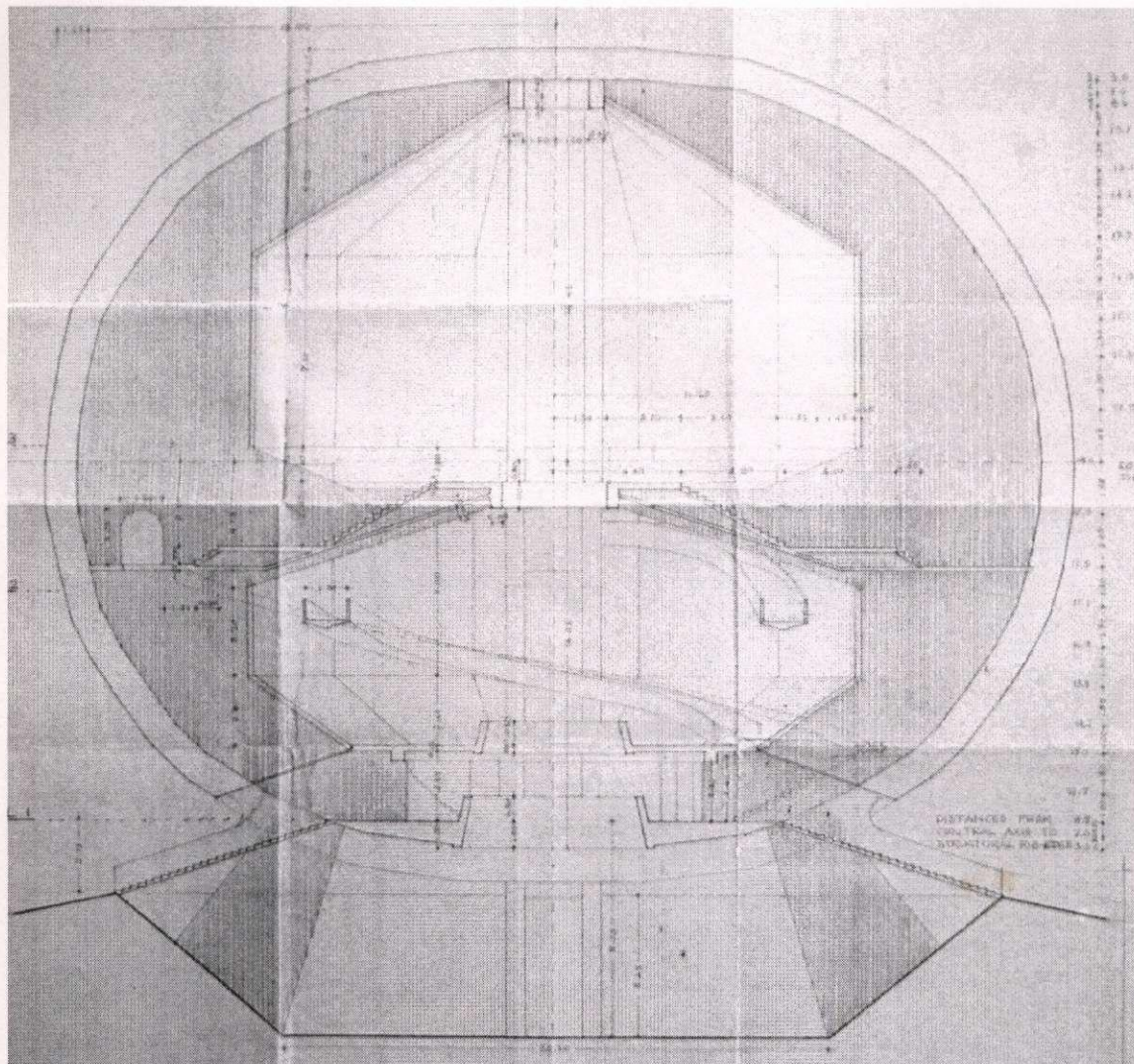
The titles of these plans, as shown in this Annexure 11 are copied from the blueprints.

MATRIMANDIR

Section A-B

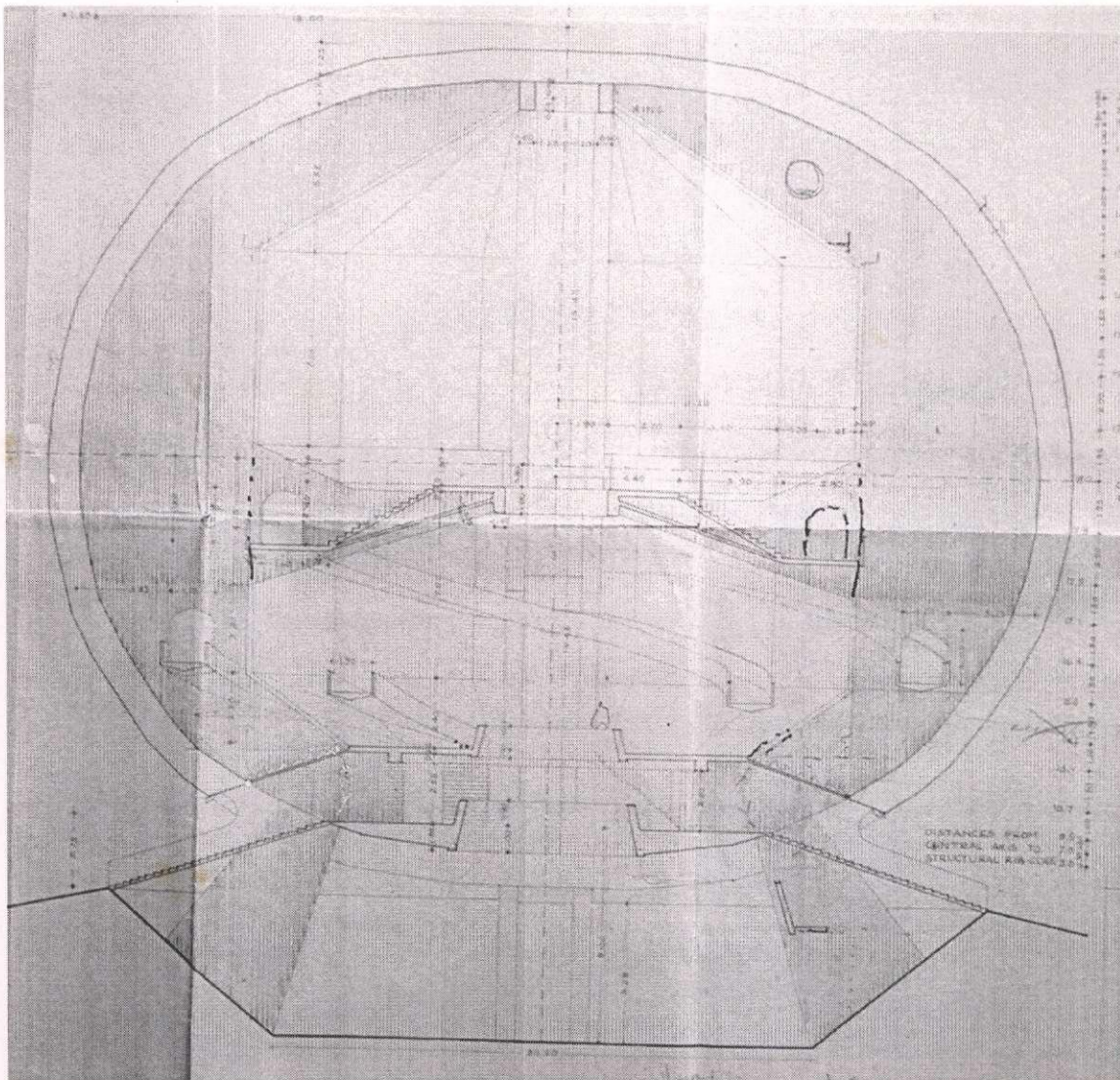
21.9.71

Structural Ribs hatched



MATRIMANDIR

Section A-B 21.9.71
Structural Ribs hatched

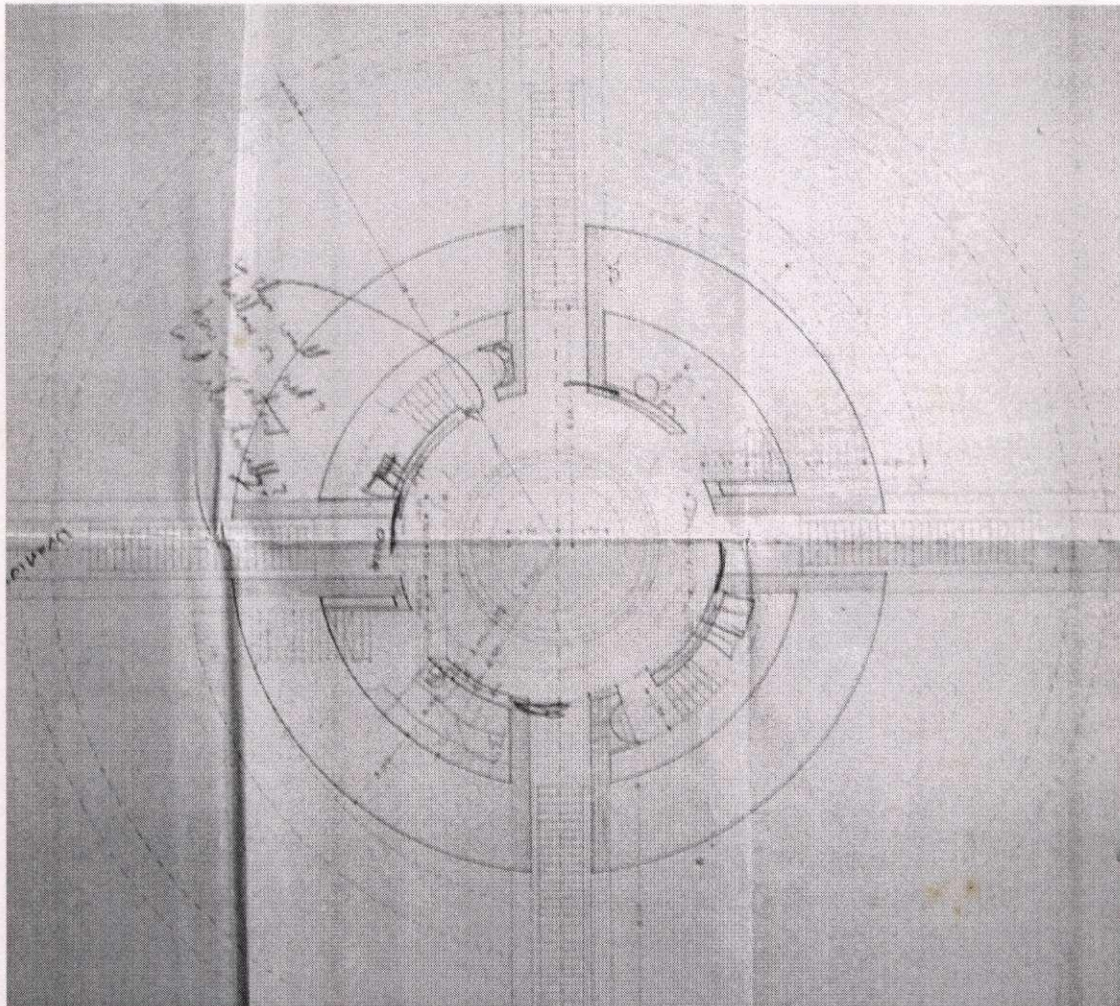


MATRIMANDIR

Section C-D

21.9.71

Structural Ribs hatched

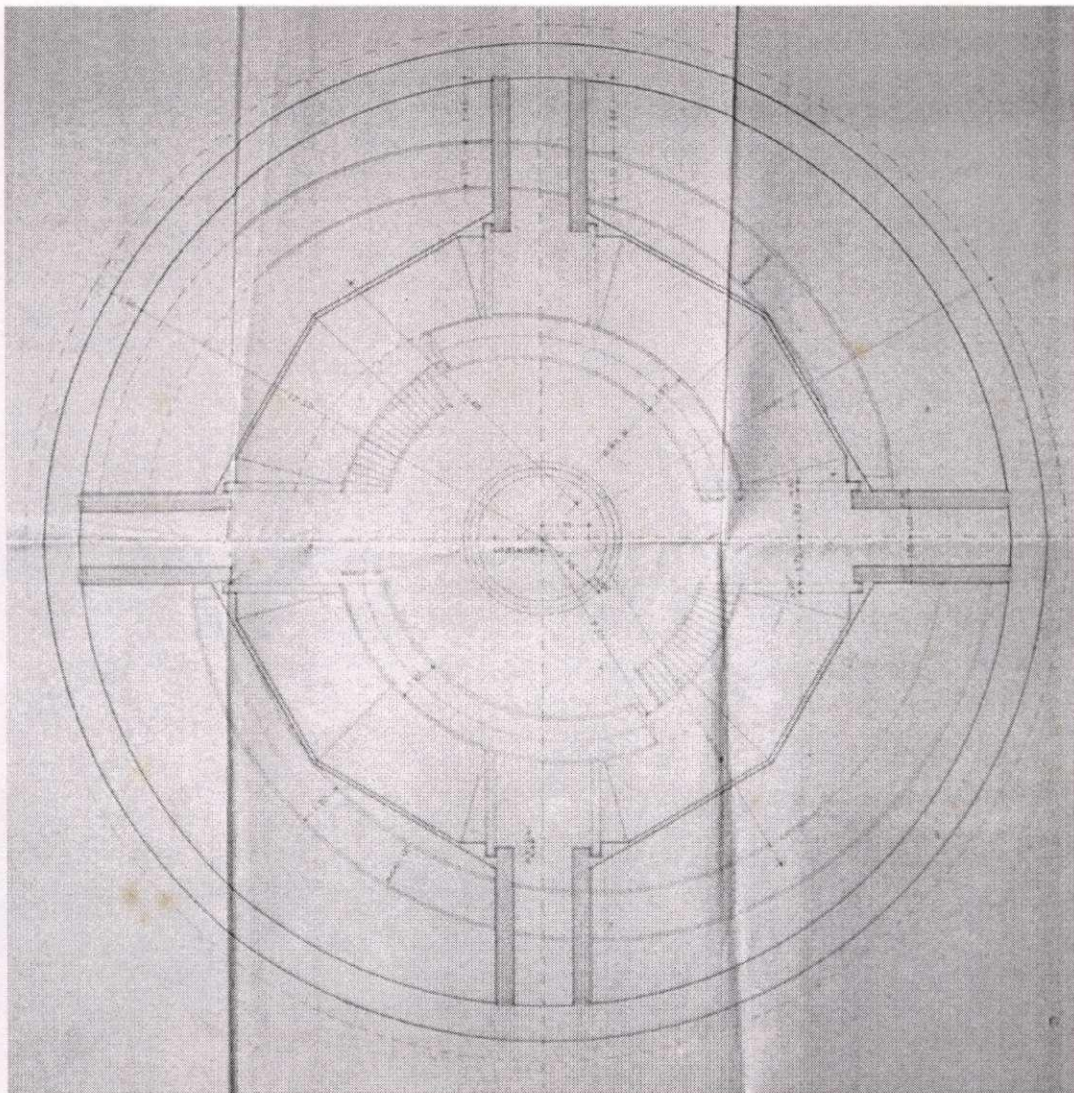


MATRIMANDIR

Level 2

21.9.71

Structural Ribs hatched

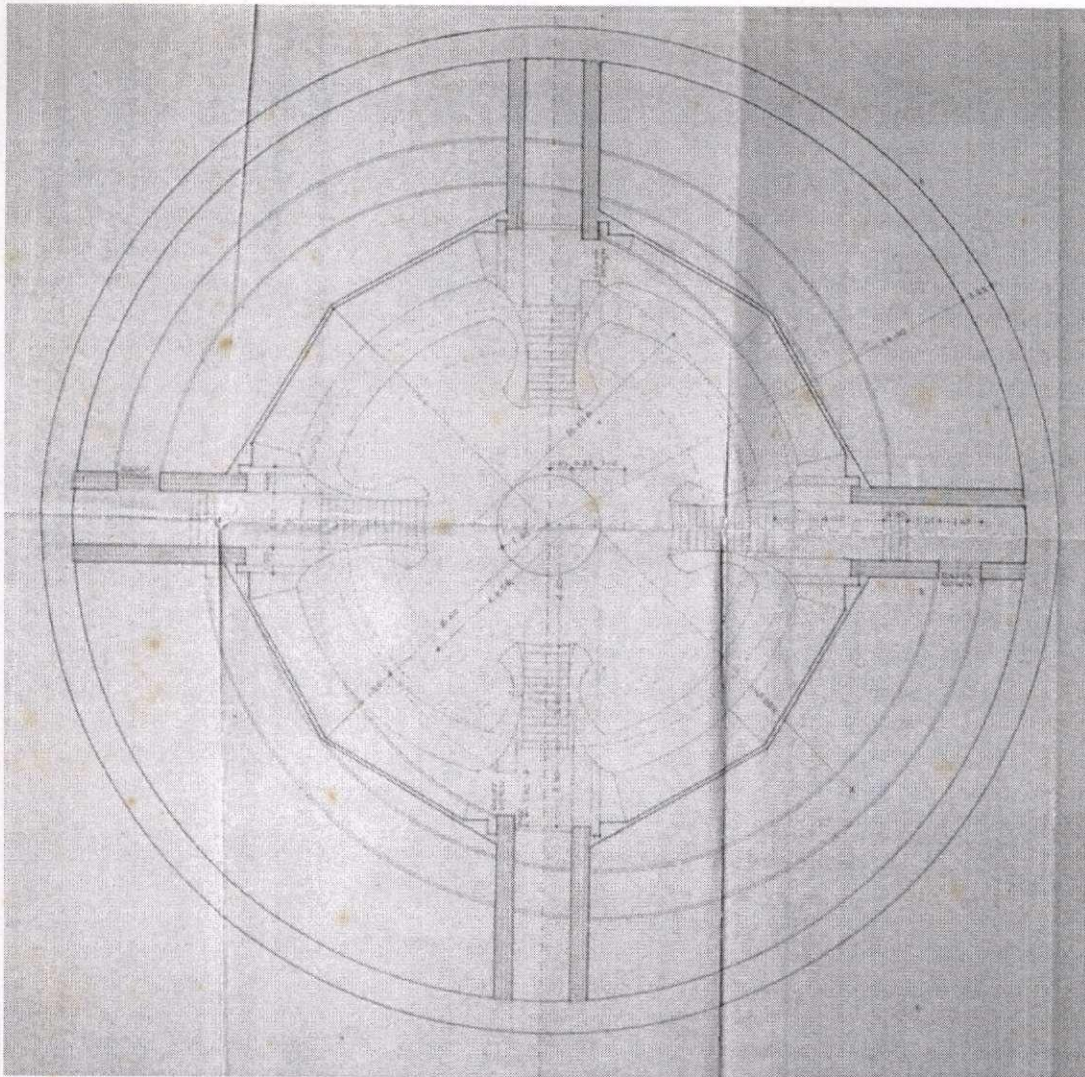


MATRIMANDIR

Level 1

21.9.71

Structural Ribs hatched



MATRIMANDIR

Level 3

21.9.71

Structural Ribs hatched