

MAIN GARDENS OF MATRIMANDIR

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GARDENS OF MATRIMANDIR

overview

DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

This design proposal now focuses on 2 gardens

- **Gardens of Power and Wealth.** On reading inspiring words by the Mother, Roger Angers vision for the development of the plan and following the expert+community review, we have focused on the following aspects, to bring about harmony in our proposal:

- **Respecting the existing topography of the garden and avoiding concreting :** in both gardens, we have worked around the existing slope and topography with minor additions. Additionally, to ensure that the landscape is evolving, we have used grass, gravel and stone instead of permanently concreting any ground surface.

- **Organic design:** To ensure that the users experience the garden is not restricted to geometric circulation and predictable patterns - the plantation, pathways, and design elements have been re-designed in a organic form, and planned to be constructed in an earthy manner.

- **“To move from consciousness to consciousness”** : we want to produce a design for each garden that is able to stimulate the senses of the user, such that one is able to ‘feel’ each landscape uniquely. Each of these gardens represent a consciousness which has been interpreted as a landscape design.

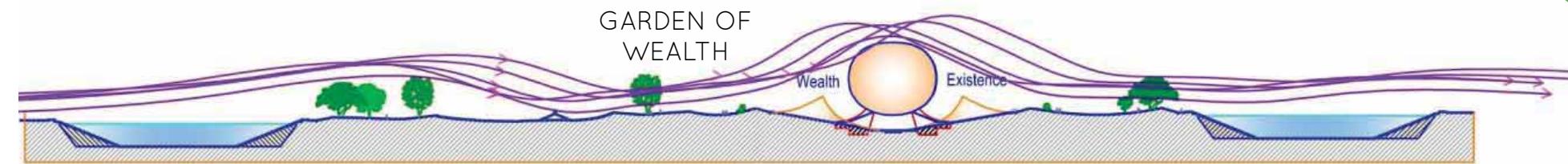
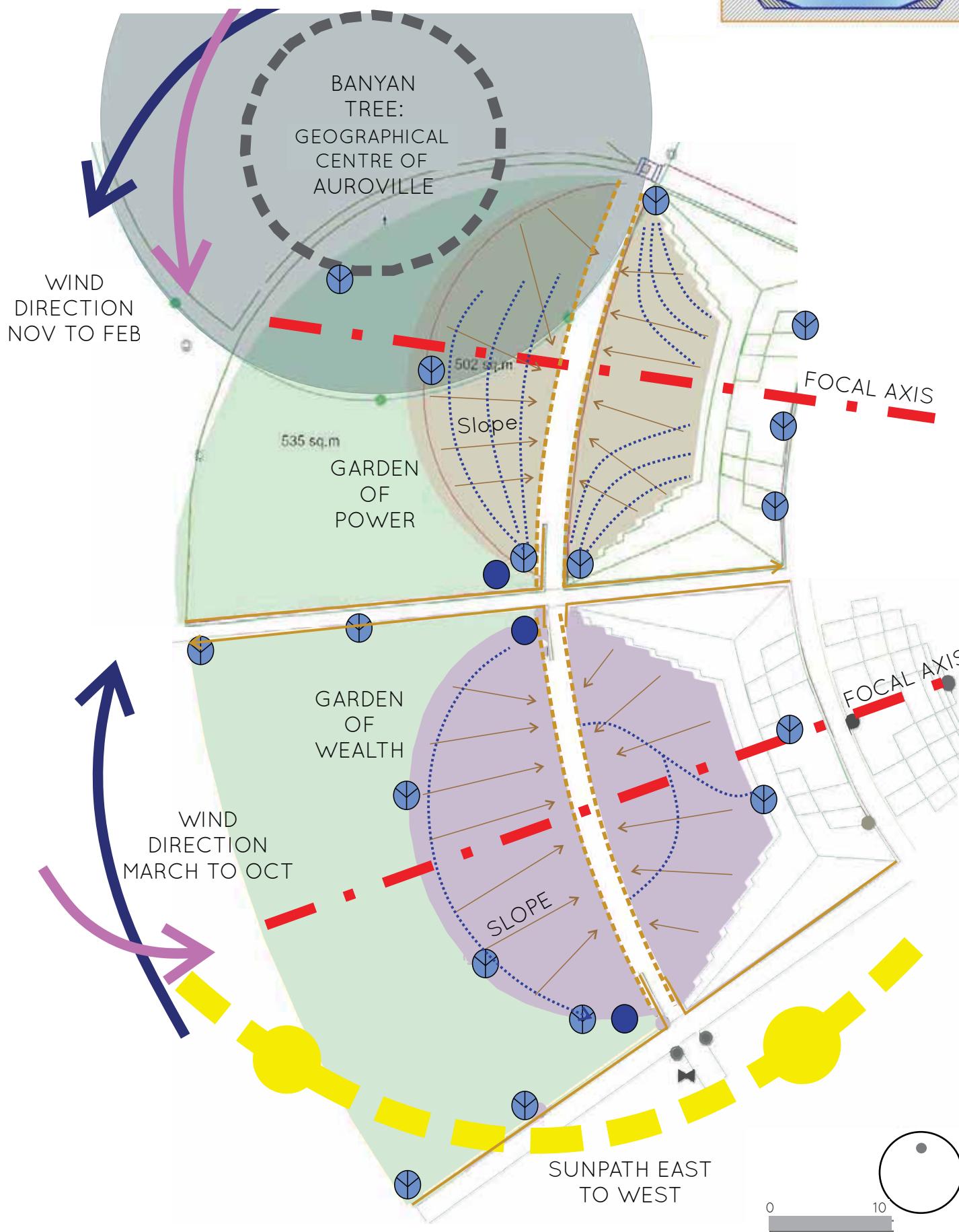
- **Provide sufficient seating:** To ensure user comfort we have designed the landscapes to have sufficiently wide paths and shaded seating options. Since the existing banyan tree provides shade to the garden of Power, a chunk of seating is designed in harmony with the tree.

- **User Involvement:** An important focus of our design proposal for each garden includes user-involvement to understand the narrative created.

- **Contextual design:** To ensure that the gardens are responding to their immediate context, we have worked on creating a relationship between both gardens and Matrimandir, and the power garden and the existing Banyan tree.



site analysis



Wind Movement: Section Through Wealth Garden
Source of Graphic: MM Garden - part 1- VEGETATION Analysis (Design Kit)

LEGEND

- wealth
- power
- backslope
- focal axis
- sunpath
- topography slope indication
- existing drainage line
- proposed drainage line for garden
- wind direction 17.30 to 8.30
- wind direction 8.30 to 17.30
- Irrigation Sprinkler
- Irrigation Valve
- proposed line for sprinkler system

DESIGN PRINCIPLES BASED ON SITE ANALYSIS

- Plant species that require more water are planted in shaded areas such that the moisture content is maintained in their zone.
- Air purifying species such as snake plants are planted in the direction of the air flow.
- The slope is gradually downward towards the central access of the garden which makes it an ideal situation to place drainage line along the central pathways.
- Sprinkler system is planned such that all the plantation in the garden shall receive water with minimum piping.

MICROCLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES



This Banyan Tree (*Ficus Benghalensis*) belongs to the Ficus (fig tree) family and is now probably around hundred and twenty years old. It being so close to the Garden of Power, helps to keep the space cool and a rejuvenating space for meditation. (The diameter of this banyan is now kept at approximately fifty metres so that it remains in proportion with its surroundings.)



Considering the topography and existing features of Garden of Wealth, a natural pond as well a cascade along the curved wall is proposed in the centre such that the temperature and moisture content in the Garden shall be regulated keeping the environment cool.



GARDEN OF POWER

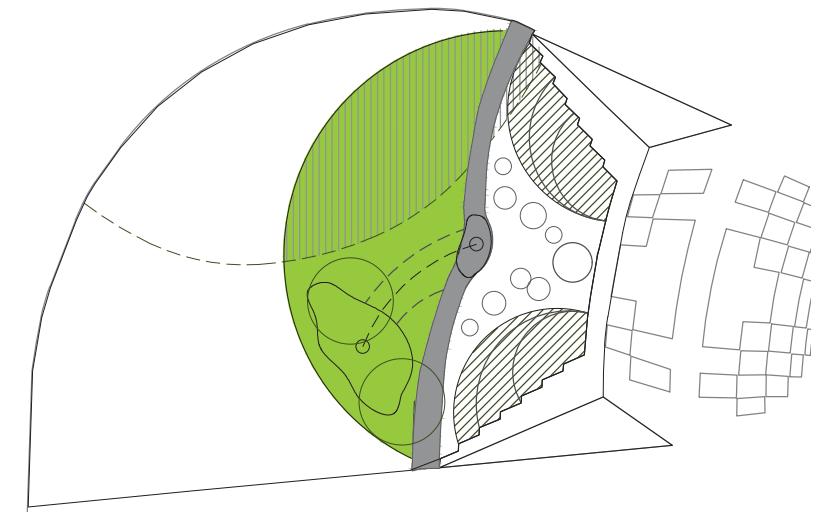
introduction

overview

The 'garden of power' is a landscape inspired by the 'power' state of consciousness. There are many ways to interpret the meaning of the word power, but when interpreted as a form of consciousness it represents empowerment of oneself.

In the form of a landscape, the garden of power is planned to be minimal, yet striking and beautiful. Within the landscape one can especially perceive the beauty of the Matrimandir.

A user enters the garden to realize the beauty of nature and of the divine. It is through this realization that the user is empowered.



AREAL VIEW OF MATRIMANDIR AND SURROUNDING 12 GARDENS



abstract

Power means strength and force, Shakti which enables one to face all that can happen and to stand and overcome, also to carry out what the divine will proposes. - *a small excerpt from Letters on Yoga.*

A human beings ability to have strength/power to be able to face any possible circumstance in life - is subjective and depends on each individuals personal experience of life. This strength of the human being is an ability built out of conviction, experience and capability. Humans pray to the almighty for strength and power to overcome any hurdle, the divine is looked up-to as a source of strength that can control anything in the universe.

In our lives, we identify many sources of power apart from the power we posses, eg. Nature; - the power of natures cycle, the power of natural beauty etc.

But when power is interpreted as a source of consciousness - it is a state of feeling empowered. This state can be realized when a human is able to connect with divine energies, and be able to give in to the strength of something more powerful.

It is through self-submission that a human understands that he is united with the divine and with the rest of the universe, and can be a tool to carry out greater tasks.

In the form of a garden - these ideas are interpreted to create a landscape representing natural and minimal beauty. The massive Banyan tree on site is one of the major contributors to the evolution of the plan. Overall the garden wants to evoke a sense of surrender and self-consecration in a user towards the divine - enamored by the power of the Matrimandir.

conceptual ideas

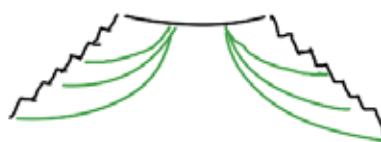
I MINIMAL LANDSCAPE

The Garden of Power is designed to be a minimal landscape that represents natural beauty, the feel of this space is similar to Japanese gardens. While, it especially appreciates the most striking body in its context - the Matrimandir as the epitome of beauty as a form of self-submission.



II FLOWER PLANTATION

The three flowering species of this garden - Hibiscus, snapdragon and passion flower are planted in rows towards the Matrimandir. They are planted in ascending order of height to create a cone of vision, and backdrop for prayer rocks and the Matrimandir. Since the main flower of the garden is Hibiscus, it remains the tallest and prominent against the backdrop of the mandir.



IV PATH TO MOUND

A user is guided from point of internal reflection to raised mound by asperagus plants growing around natural rocks found around site. These tall growing ferns act as circulation regulators providing soft, penetrable edges.



V RAISED MOUND (EMPOWERMENT)

The raised mound is a symbol of empowerment - as the users realization has empowered and uplifted him to an elevated state. From this mound the user can view the Power garden, the mandir and surrounding gardens as-well. The mound is shaded by amaltash trees. Passion flower vines are imagined to grow on these tree trunks and organically beautifying the landscape with their beautiful form and contrasting colours.



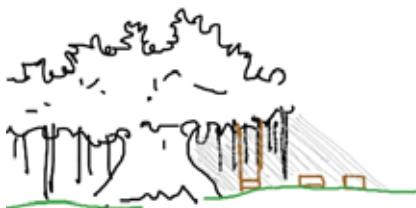
III POINT OF REFLECTION

The point of reflection is a slightly depressed area - part of the rock garden. Standing here the user can realize the beauty of natural elements like rocks, gravels representing ripples of water, flowers, raised mound and harmony between the massive banyan tree and the garden seating. Further, through the cone of vision- the user realizes the center of beauty on the site from this point- the Matrimandir.



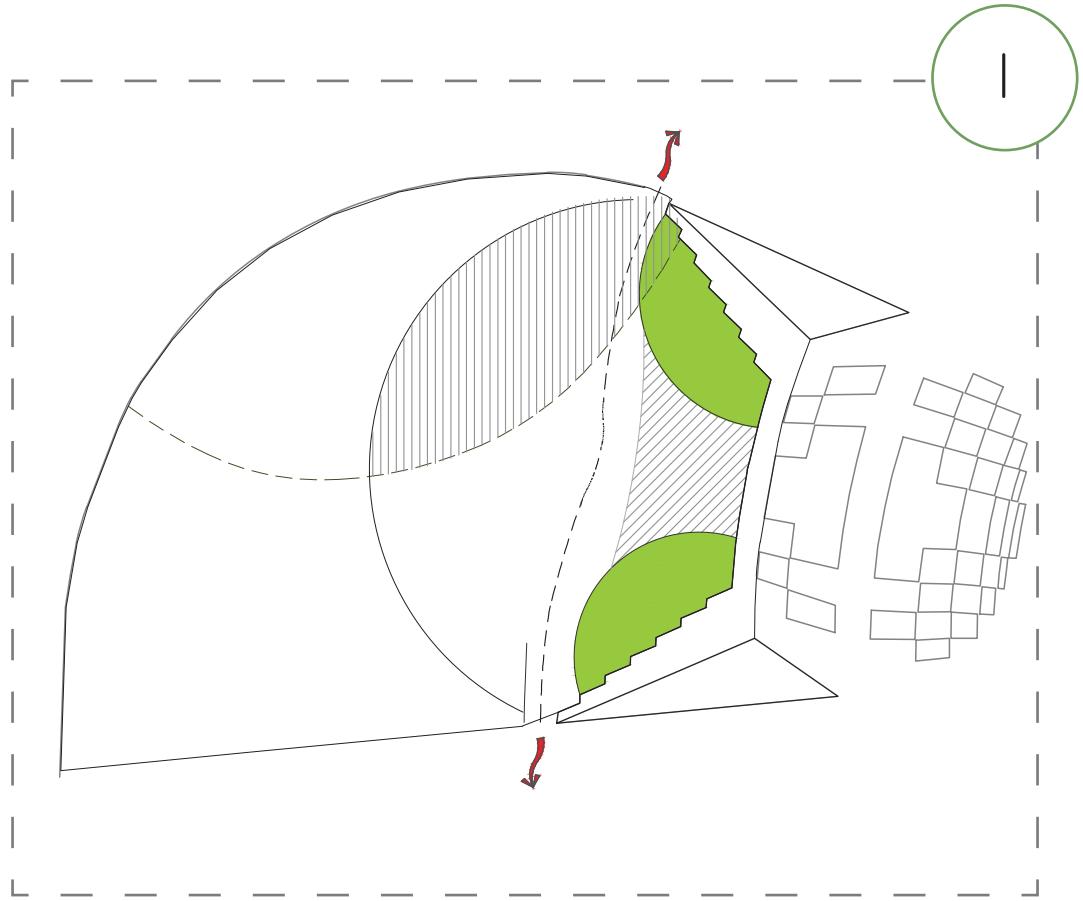
VI SHADED SEATING

A part of the power garden is shaded by the existing Banyan tree - The geographical center of Auroville. In order to respect the tree - seating in various forms, such as swings hanging from branches, seatings made of wooden logs and large boulders are designed in harmony with the gigantic tree.



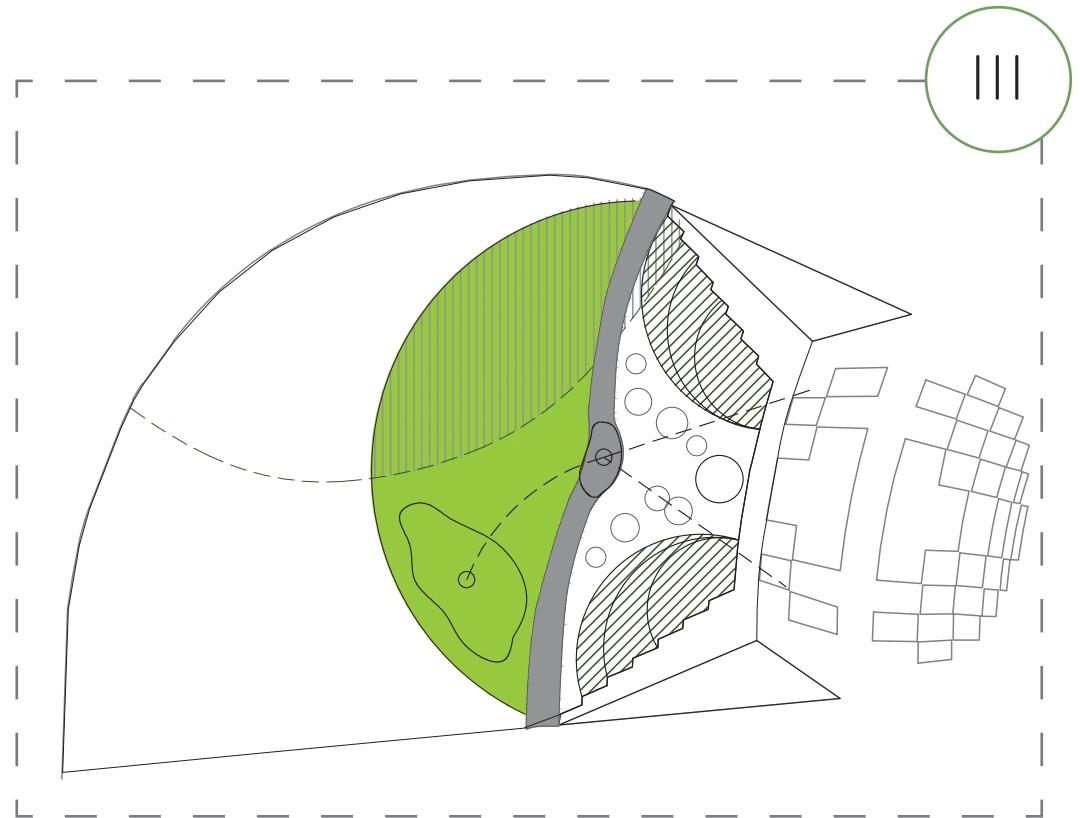
design evolution

SCALE - 1:500



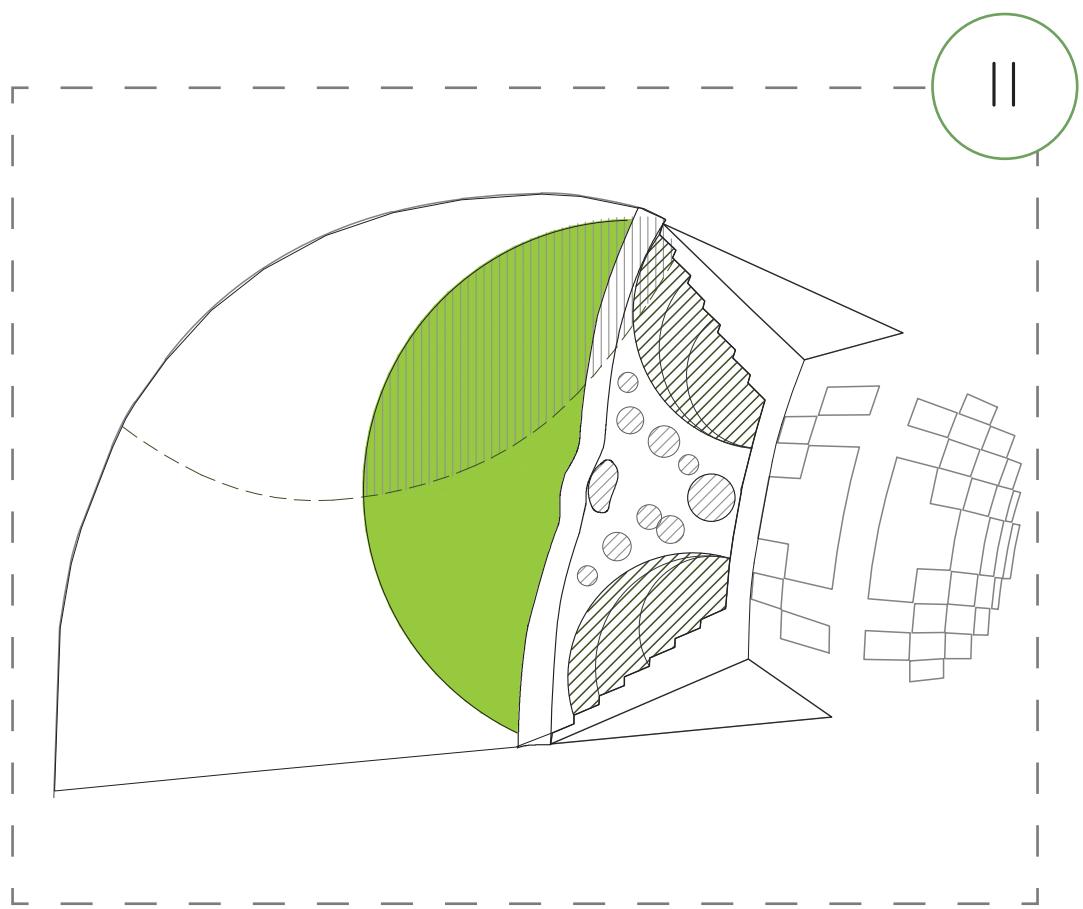
BEAUTY IN SIMPLICITY

- The Garden of Power is designed to be minimal and focus at the Mantrimandir, this landscape represents the 'power of beauty' using the philosophy of less is more. The language of design is similar to Japanese gardens.
- Part of the garden is shaded by the Banyan tree. This portion is planned for seating - in the form of wooden seating, rocks, swings and benches.



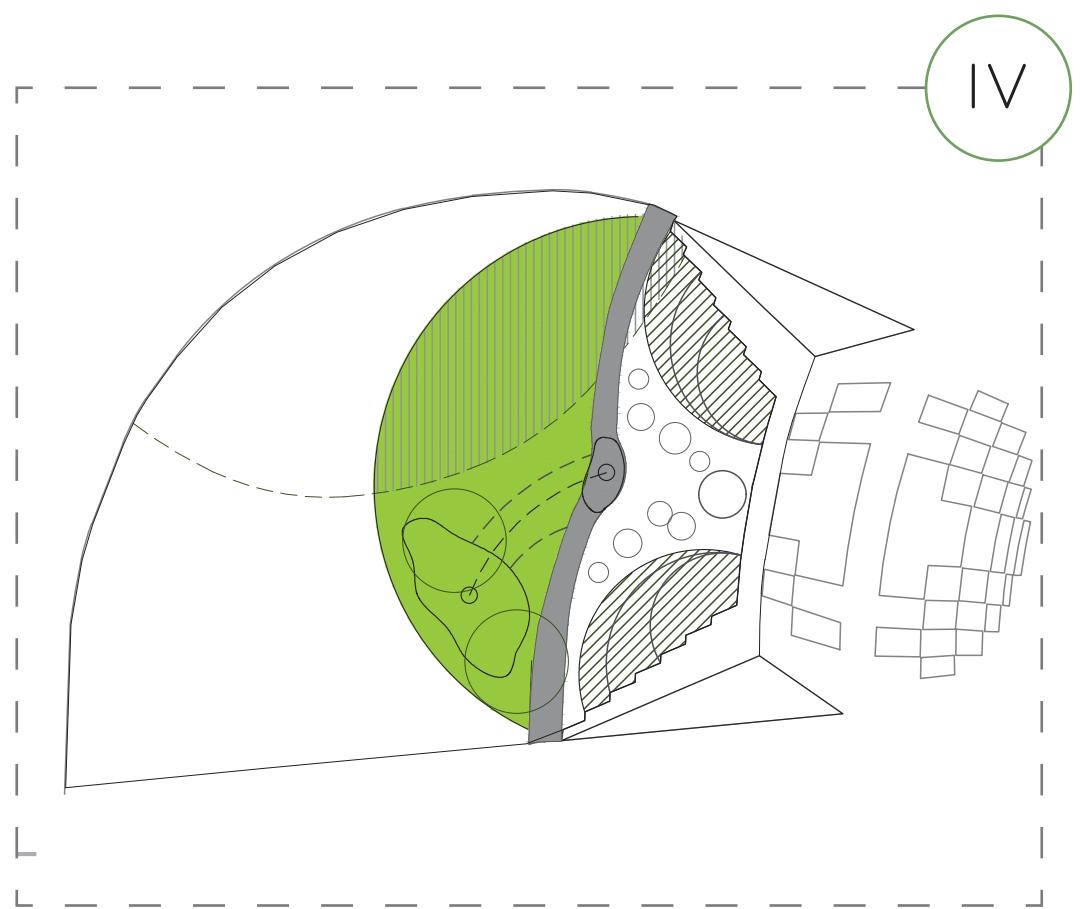
USER JOURNEY- BOTH PHYSICAL AND THROUGH REALIZATION

- From the central point of reflection a human can absorb and realize the beauty of the Matrimandir and all the natural and minimal features of the power garden.
- A mound is created such that - from the point of reflection one is guided to walk up to the raised mound and enjoy the view of the power garden, mandir and surrounding gardens.



CONE OF VISION

- Flowers surrounding prayer rocks are planted in ascending order of height - creating a cone of vision towards Matrimandir.
- The Path along center of Garden has a 'focus area' for internal reflection. The landscape creates a cone making one look towards the Matrimandir.
- Boulders (shaped roughly like joined hands) are arranged as a symbolic gesture in prayer enamored by the beauty of the mighty mandir. This feature is inspired by Japanese rock gardens.

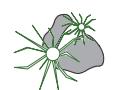


STATE OF EMPOWERMENT

- Reaching the raised mound symbolizes empowerment - one can reach a higher state after realizing the power of the divine.
- A journey is thus created using natural elements of landscape - to make a user feel empowered upon entering this garden by self-consecration to the divine.

architectural manif~~festation~~

LEGEND



ASPARAGUS



HIBISCUS



SNAPDRAGON



PASSION FLOWER



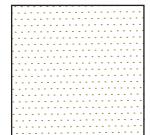
AMALTASH



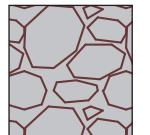
SNAKE PLANT



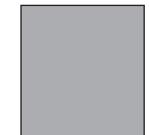
PEACE LILY



YELLOW
GRAVEL



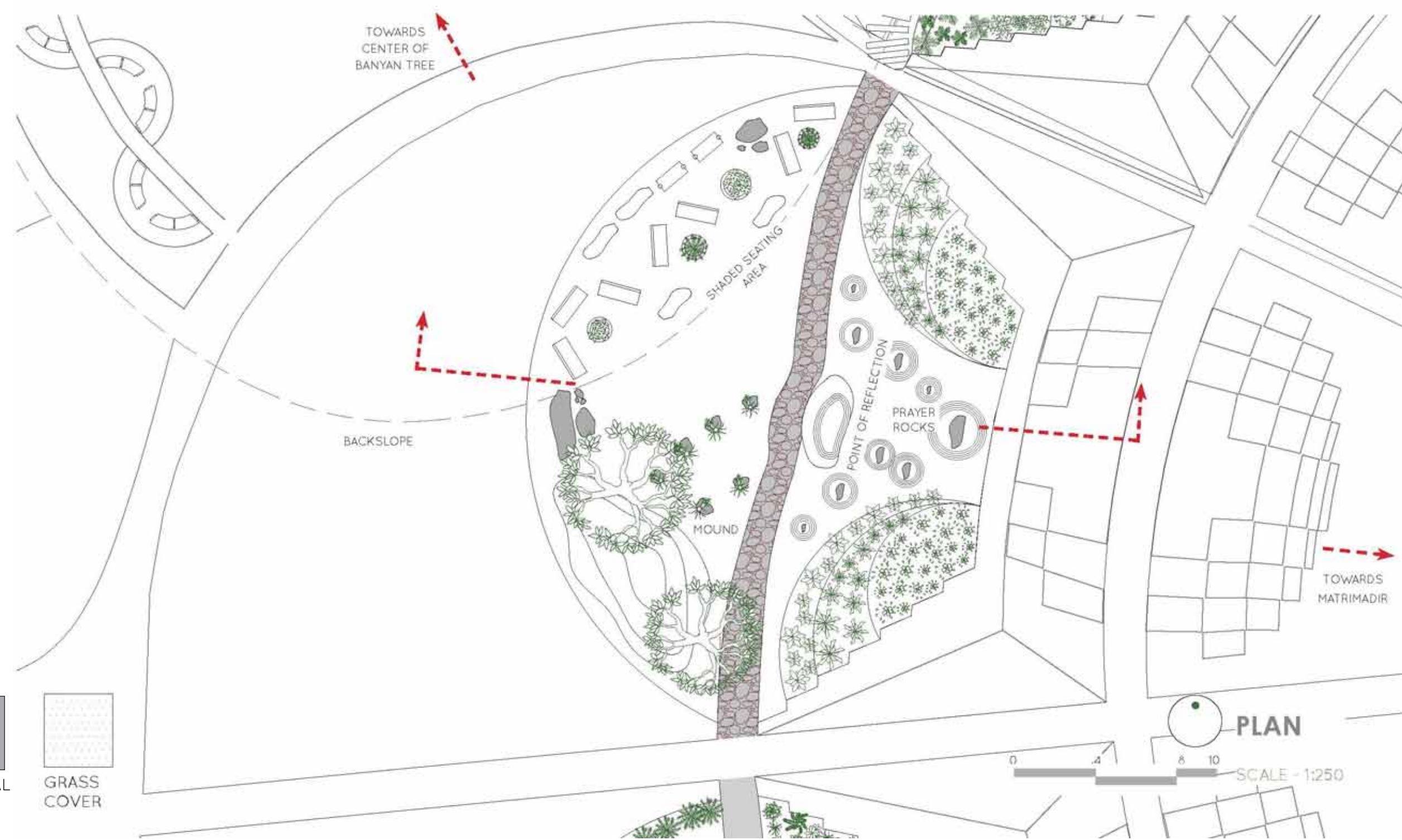
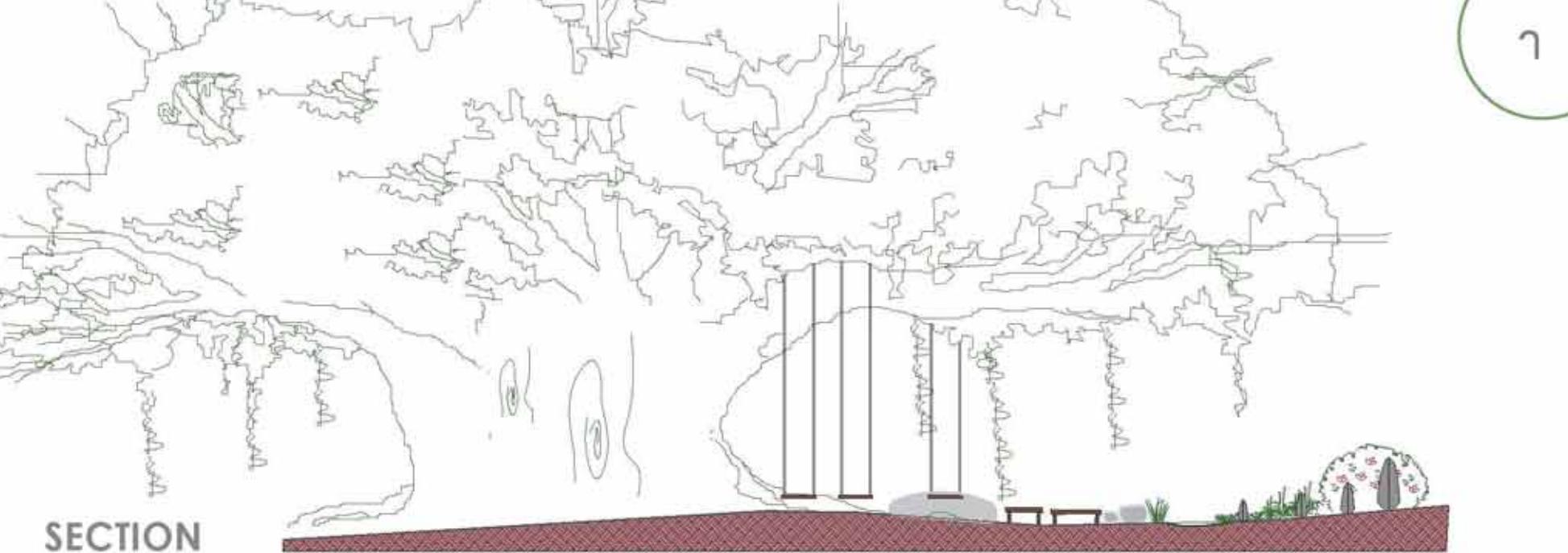
WHITE NATURAL
STONE PAVING



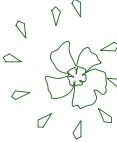
NATURAL
ROCKS



GRASS
COVER



Landscape details

IMAGE	SYMBOL	NAME	DESCRIPTION	DESIGN IDEA
		Asparagus Racemosus	Spiky stem with numerous small white flowers. It grows in rocky and hilly terrain - can grow in shade. Grows 1-2m tall	Using Asparagus plants growing along small rocks on path guiding one from point of refection to the mound.
		Hibiscus rosa-sinensis (Reddish pink colour)	Flowering plant, grows like a bushy shrub with many big flowers. Grows upto 2.5-5 m tall.	Using tall shrubs of hibiscus as the first layer of offering to the divine. Since it is tallest, it will be visible behind other plantation. Being the main flower of the garden, it forms backdrop for Matrimandir.
		Snapdragon (Anthirrhinum majus) (Multi-coloured)	Resemble long face of dragon, vibrant plants which have ecologically diverse species. Grows 38-76 cm tall.	Using snapdragon plants in the second layer of offering to Matrimandir. It is vibrant, multi-coloured and average in height.
		Passion Flower (Passiflora Vitafolia) (Bright red colour)	Scented flowers of bright colours growing along vines that bear sour fruits often. This plant grows like a creeper.	Using passion fruit as the third layer of offering - it is close to earth and visible in the front. Growing vines on Amaltash trees shading the raised mound on site.
		Snake Plant (Dracaena Trifasciata)	The snake plant is a beautiful evergreen plant. This unique plant even improves air quality through passive absorption of toxins. It can flourish in warm climates when it is kept outdoors.	Using snake plants under area shaded by Banyan tree as it is a highly resilient and adaptive plant - needs less water. It is a succulent that can grows upto 0.9m tall. It is dual toned, wavy in form and adds aesthetic value.
		Peace Lilly (Spathiphyllum Schott) (White coloured flowers)	This curved plant resembles the shape of a fluttering white peace flag. It grows in filtered light and with less water. It grows 0.6-1.2m tall.	Using Peace Lilly plants in small plantations under the banyan tree as it can thrive in filtered light and requires less watering. Its unique shape will be visually pleasing along side snake plant plantations.
		Amaltash (Cassia Fistula) (Yellow colour)	Amaltash is a small-medium sized tree that is a captivating sight during summer and monsoon, when it flowers. It sheds its leaves and produces grape bunch like flower blooms. Grows 5-15m tall.	Using Amaltash trees to shade the mound without blowing views of Matrimandir. Since the tree is ever-evolving - it flowers beautifully in summer and monsoon - the landscape keeps evolving visually.

visual inspiration

I JAPANESE ROCK GARDEN



II RAISED MOUND



II MULTILAYER FLOWER PLANTATIONS



III SWINGS HUNG FROM BANYAN TREE BRANCHES



II NATURAL WOOD SEATING



II CHUNKS OF PLANTS UNDER BANYAN



views



View of Garden on Power from its back slope. Main elements - Prayer rocks, point of reflection, flower plantation layers, raised mound and seating under banyan tree can be seen.

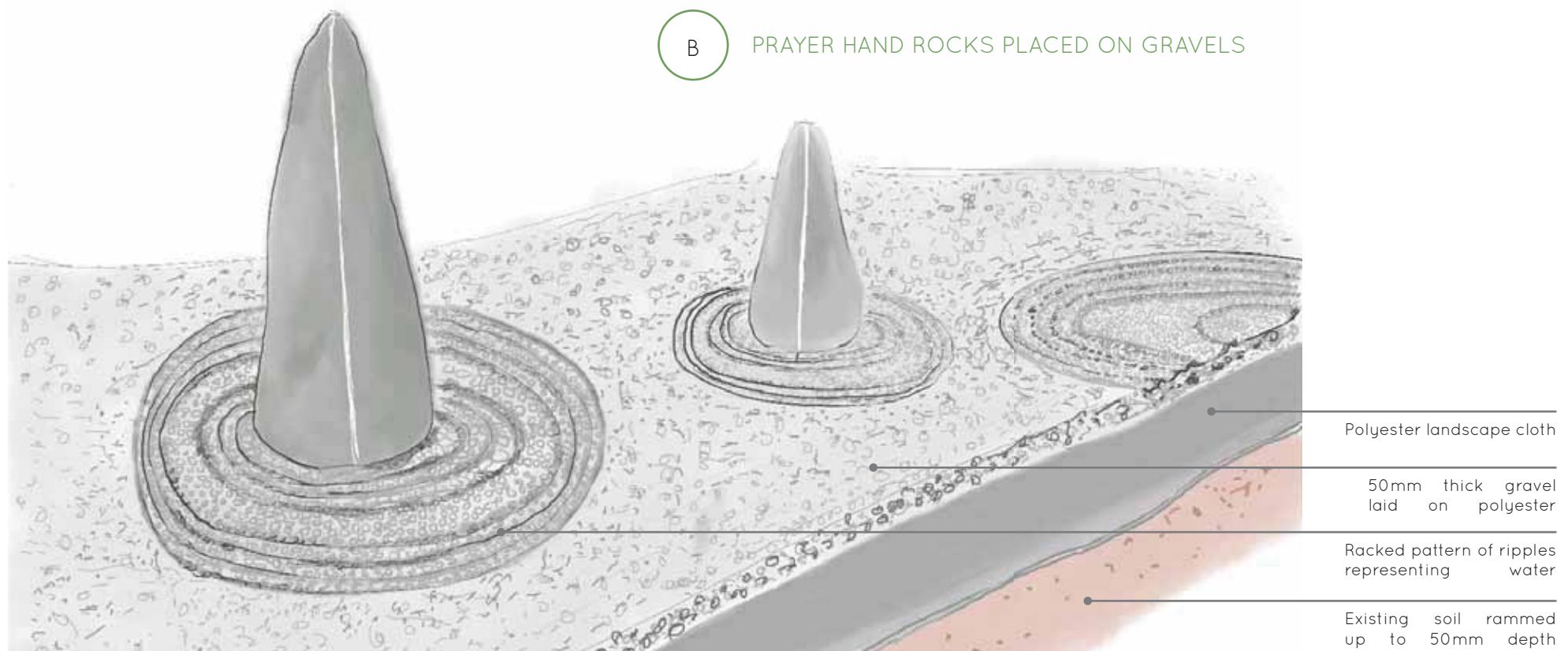
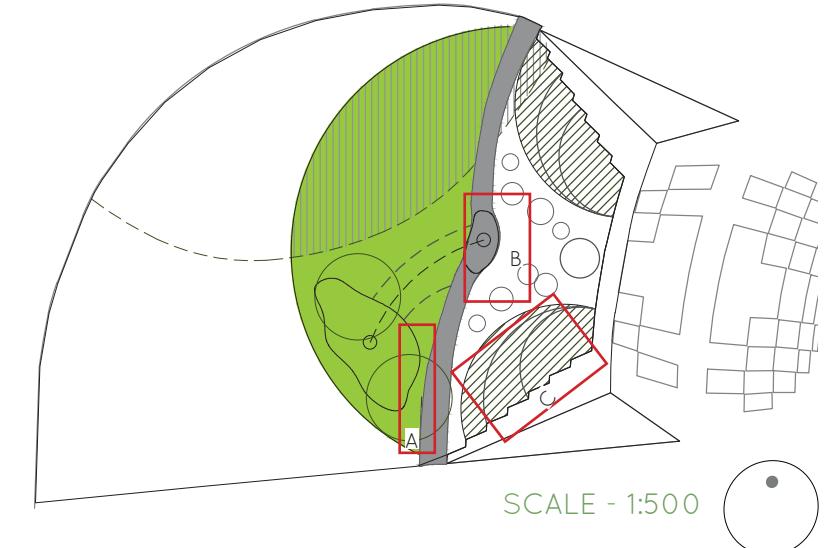
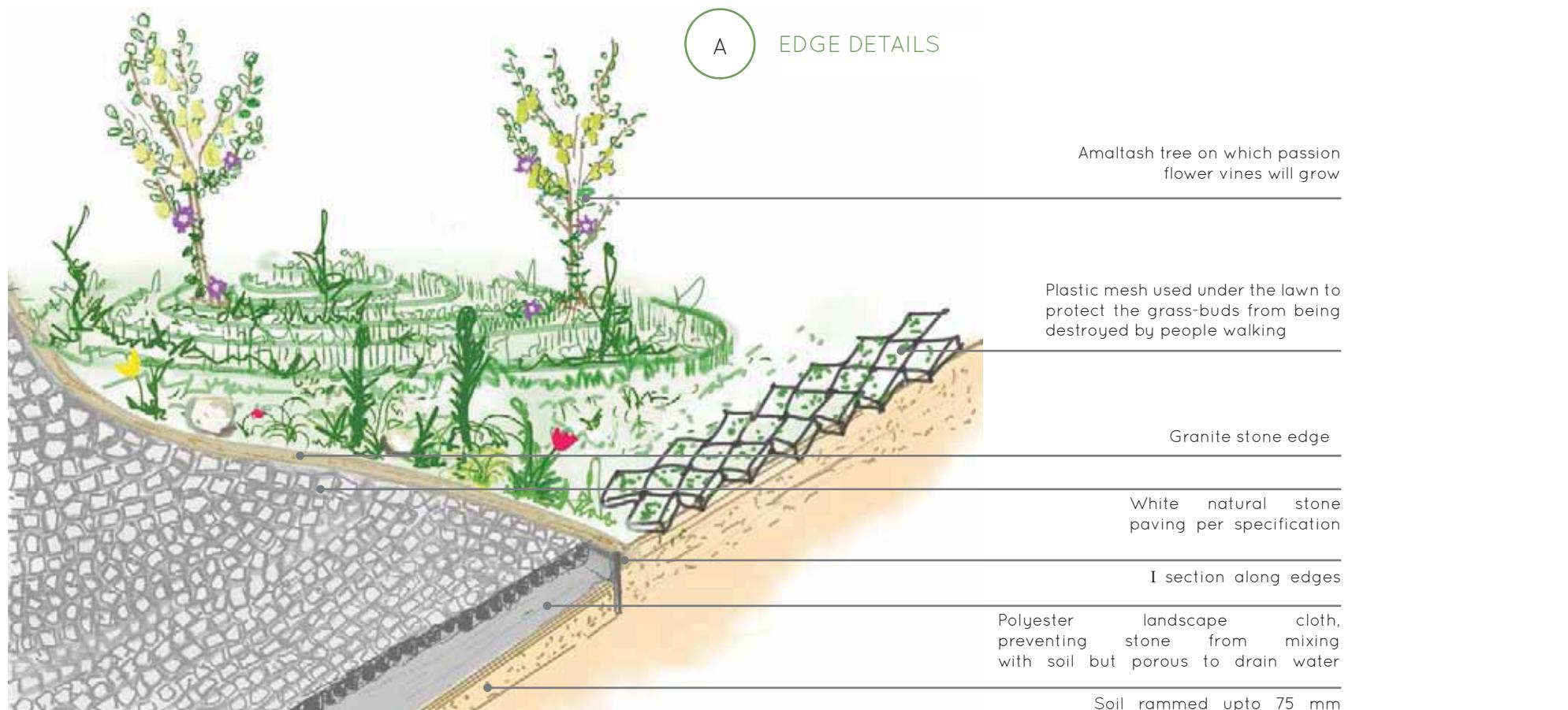


View of Garden on Power from the south entrance - user journey to mound is seen.



View of Garden on Power from the north entrance - user journey and seating under banyan tree is seen

design details & building technology





GARDEN OF WEALTH

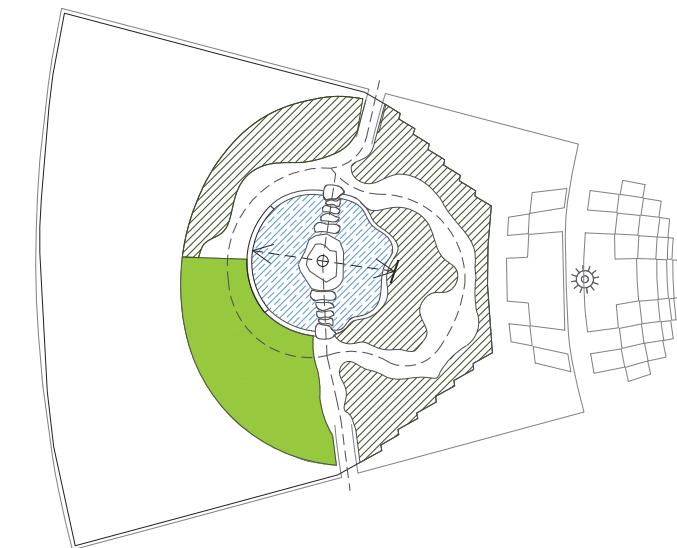
introduction

OVERVIEW

The 'garden of wealth' is a landscape inspired by the 'wealth' state of consciousness. There are many ways to interpret the meaning of the word wealth, but when interpreted as a form of consciousness it represents abundance within oneself.

In the form of a landscape, the garden of wealth represents abundance in the form of worship to the divine. It is planted with varieties of flowering succulents, waterlilies of multiple colours and local flowering species - these are all an offering to the Matrimandir.

In order of experience the wealth form of consciousness the user must undergo a journey to the center of the garden - to reach the island of wealth. It is at the island of wealth that the user experiences enrichment through offering abundance to the divine.



AREAL VIEW OF MATRIMANDIR AND SURROUNDING 12 GARDENS



abstract

Wealth is a force of Nature; it should be a means of circulation, a power in movement, as flowing water is a power of movement. It is something which can serve to produce, to organize.

- The Mother CWN Vol.07, P 55

Wealth is a commodity through which a human is able to flow through the various stages of life - he is able to afford necessary things that can help him shape his future. It is a common want; a human seeks wealth so that he can have more things that may make his life easier.

Realistically we can accept that a certain amount of material wealth is necessary for a human to fulfill his needs and mobilise his life in this modern era.

Apart from material wealth, a human may posses different kind of wealths - wealth of

knowledge, wealth of wisdom, wealth of emotions, wealth of life-experiences, wealth of feelings, etc. In all the mentioned cases wealth is an abundance of a particular sort.

As a form of a consciousness wealth is an abundance within oneself that enriches the human being. It is an abundance that can be shared- with those in need, as a expression of love, or in a spiritual context as an offering.

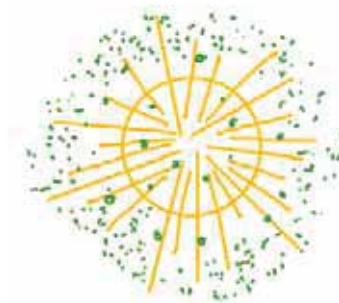
True wealth is that which one can offer to the divine.

The garden of wealth is designed inspired by these ideas of wealth; creating circulation - through flowing water, creating abundance within the landscape - visually, through sense and smell etc; and finally as an offering of all that is manifested to the divine - Matrimandir.

conceptual ideas

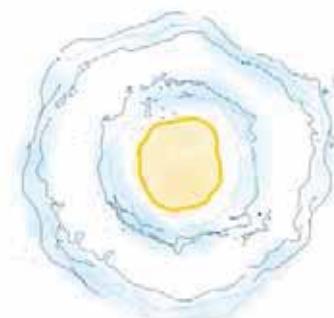
I CREATING ABUNDANCE

The Garden of wealth is designed around the idea of creating abundance and beauty. Waterlilies and flowering succulents are the chosen flowers for this garden. While the proposed design also incorporates using some popular plants and flowers found in the region like champa, marigold and snake plant. All plant species are imagined to be offerings to the mandir.



II ISLAND OF WEALTH

The defining feature of the garden is - 'The island of wealth'. A focal point of the design that a user must reach in order to interpret the meaning of this landscape. It is imagined to be a shallow waterbody filled with water lilies and made following natural slope of the terrain.



III ORGANIC CIRCULATION

The island of wealth is visible from both entry points of the garden. The internal pathway follows an organic flow while being edged by 3 interesting kinds of plantations - water body with waterlilies, succulents in loose gravel and locally popular species growing on grass covered surfaces.



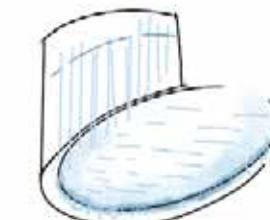
IV LIVE SPACES

Along the journey in this garden there are many interesting features that can engage the user - multiple vibrant plant species are planned within this space, surrounded by shaded seating options like benches and natural rocks, a waterbody and lawn covered areas.



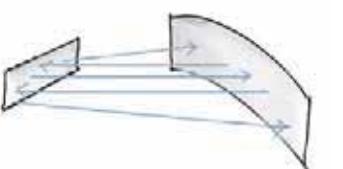
V CASCADE WALL AND EDGE-LESS WATER-BODY

The island of wealth sits surrounded by a water body filled with lillies. It has curved, infinity edges with continually flowing water. Water is pumped from the bottom using a pump and made to cascade down on an edging curved wall - to provide a passive cooling effect in the garden which is otherwise vulnerable to too much sun.



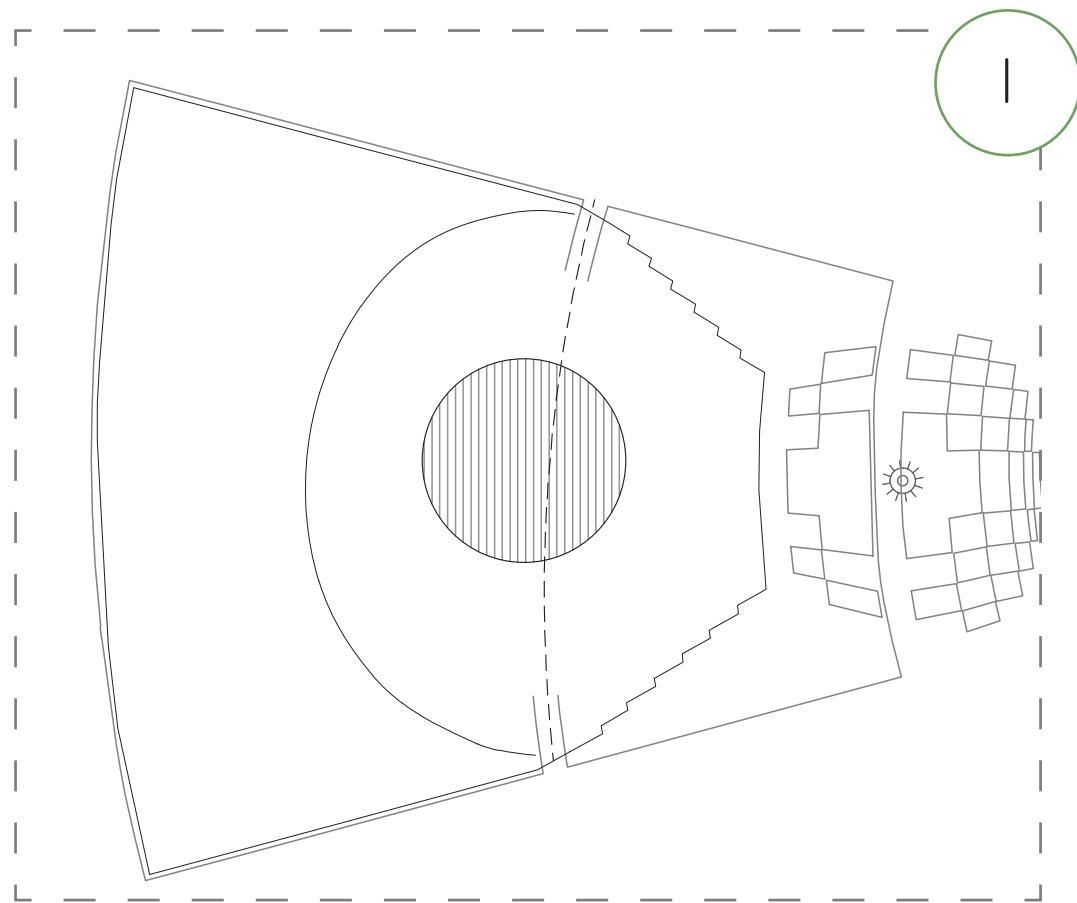
VI REFLECTIONS

On reaching the island the user is able to see the reflection of the Matrimandir on the curved cascade wall finished in mirror surface. This symbolizes the presence of the divine at the heart of the garden. The user is also able to perceive the amplified abundance of the surrounding landscape.



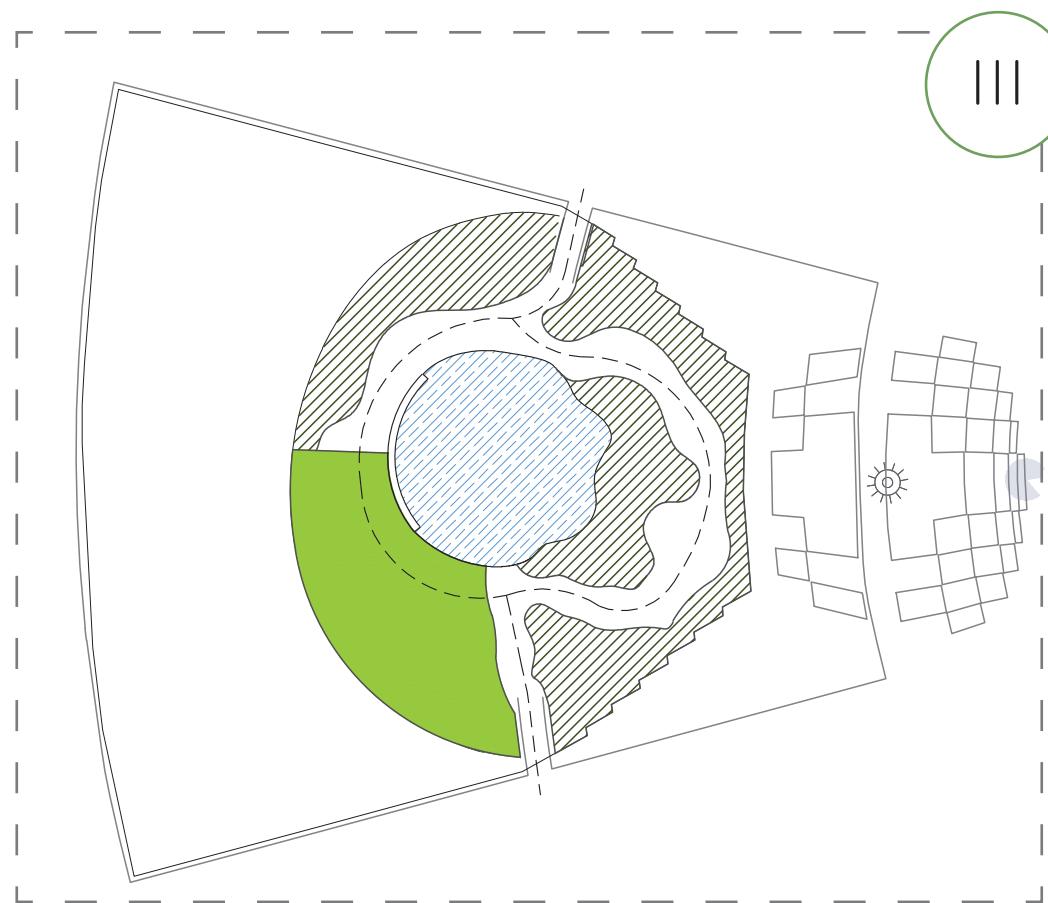
design evolution

SCALE - 1:500



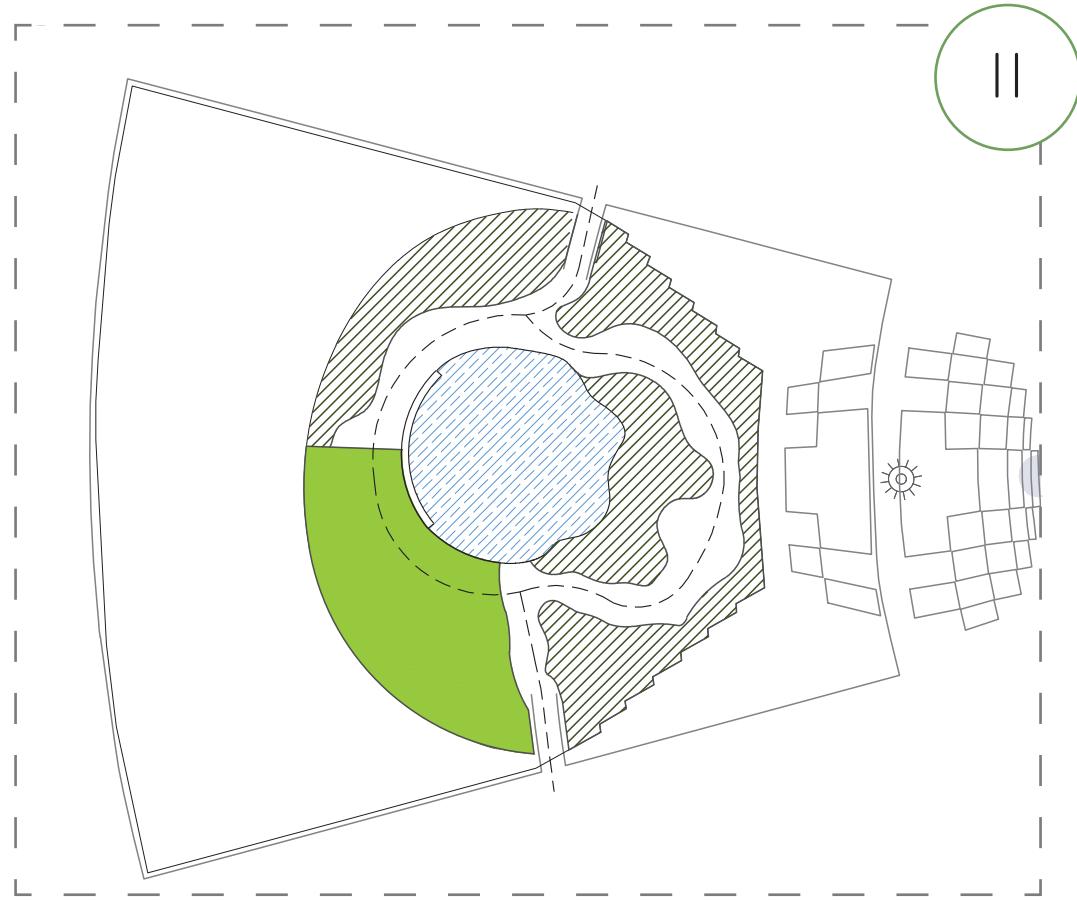
ISLAND OF WEALTH

- The Garden of Wealth is designed around the focal idea of 'an island of wealth'.
- This island is visible from the entry points and is planned to be slightly off-centre, to create more usable spatial arrangement in the landscape.



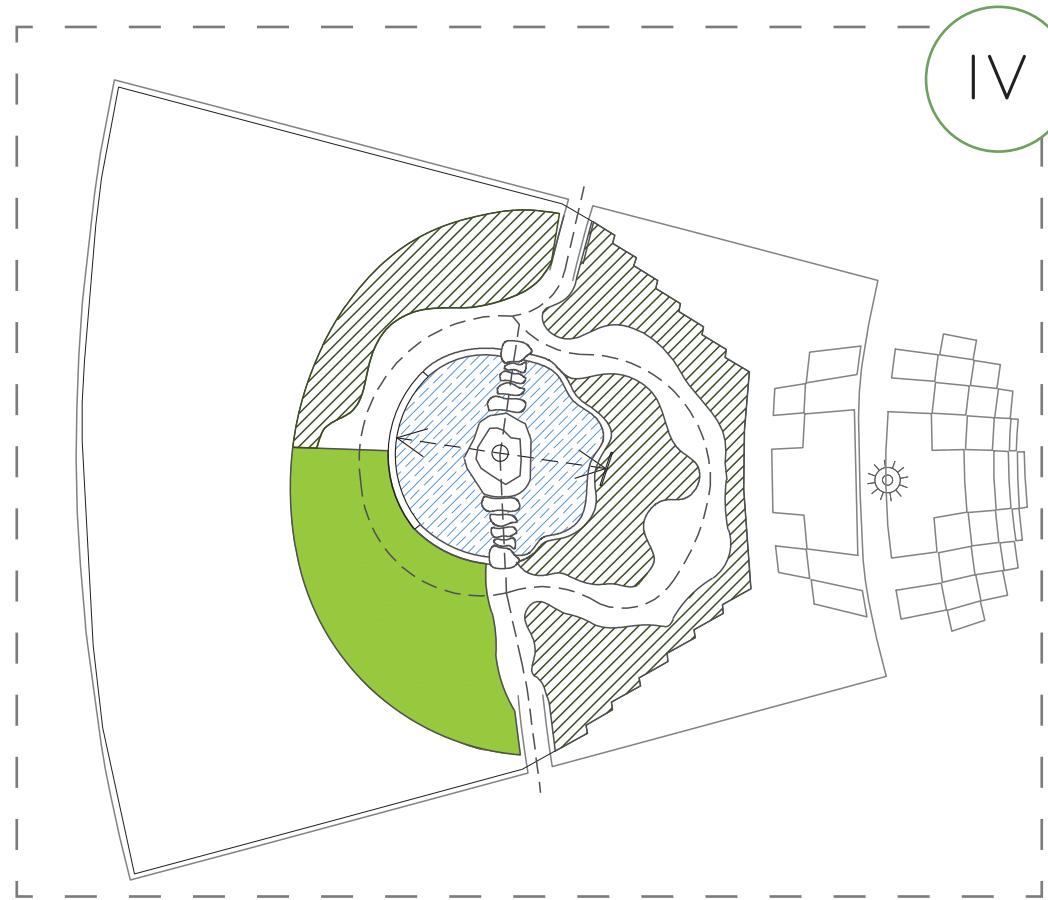
DESIGNING A JOURNEY FOR USER

- While the user can circulate all around the island of wealth, he can also reach the island- the defining feature of the design.
- The island can be reached by walking over stones placed along the water body.
- All seating and leisure spaces are planned such that they can view the central island and the Matrimandir



CREATING AN ORGANIC JOURNEY

- Four types of ground covers - paving, lawn cover, water body and gravel patches; are incorporated in the design creating a sense of variety in landscape. Different plant species are planned to grow on these.
- The user can enjoy the organic spatial arrangement and uneven geometry.



USING REFLECTIONS TO EMPHASIZE ABUNDANCE AND WEALTH

- Upon reaching the 'Island of wealth' one is greeted by two mirrors facing each other - they create multiple reflections of the landscape around within each other - amplifying abundance.
- In this mirror the user can see reflection of the Matrimandir and surrounding landscape, such that the landscape is an offering to the mandir..

architectural manifestation

LEGEND



WATER LILY



FLOWERING CACTUS



NIGHT BLOOMING CACTUS



ECHINOPSIS OXYGONA



OTHER SUCCULENT SPECIES



MEHENDI PLANT



CHANDNI SHRUB



SNAKE PLANT



MARIGOLD



SPIDER PLANT



PLUMERIA



JACARANDA



YELLOW GRAVEL



WHITE NATURAL STONE PAVING



NATURAL ROCKS



GRASS COVER



WATER



landscape details

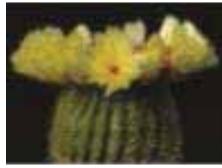
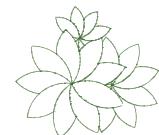
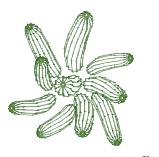
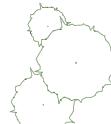
IMAGE	SYMBOL	NAME	DESCRIPTION	DESIGN IDEA
		Nymphaea (Waterlilly of different colours)	Aquatic plant that floats in water. Ornamental flowers and leaves - grow upto 30 cm wide.	Using waterlilies in water-body surrounding island of wealth to make the island look ornamental and beautiful. Since waterlilies are the main flower of the garden, they are at the heart of the landscape - around island of wealth.
		Flowering Cactus (Varying variety of different colours)	Spiny and spiky plant, that grows in hot and dry climate- does not require much water. Grows upto 1-3 m tall.	Using flowering varieties of cacti along the periphery of the garden - towards Matrimandir, in turn creating a beautiful offering.
		Scleinicereus (Night blooming cactus) (white colour)	Flat, angled stems. Produces flowers in abundance- which are nocturnal and fragrant on blooming. Grows upto 1-2.5 m tall.	Using night blooming cacti plants with other cacti - so the succulents are always in the state of flowering. Succulents are the main flowers of the garden along with waterlillies, Hence they are planted towards mandir in form of offering.
		Echinopsis Oxygona (Barrel cactus, Easter lilly castus, Pink caster lilly cactus) (pink colour)	Large and popular cacti - flower is spectacular and produces light delicious smell upon blooming. Grows upto 1.5-2.8 m tall.	Using these flowering varaties of cacti along with other multi-coloured cacti around periphery as offering to mandir and to beautify entire landscape.
		Agave	Non flowering varieties of outdoor succulents of different sizes.	Using non-flowering varieties of succulents to visually balance out the numerous flowering varieties planted in the succulent gravel garden. Since most species are more than 1 m tall, using more earth touching succulent and medium height-ed species to balance this plantation patch.
		Aeonium		
		Guppy	This tropical fish is able to eat almost their total weight of "mosquito larvae" every day.	Using gappi fish to eat mosquito larve in the waterbody and avoid over breeding of larve. Thus, mainting the ecosystem of the waterbody

IMAGE	SYMBOL	NAME	DESCRIPTION	DESIGN IDEA
		Mehendi (Henna) Shrub (<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>)	Henna is a tall shrub or small tree, standing 1.8 to 7.6 m tall. It is multi-branched, with spine-tipped branchlets.	Using shrubs of henna as focal plant between seating arrangements. To add locally valued plants to add a sense of context to the landscape. It is medium height-ed and beautifying.
		Chandni Shrub (<i>Tabernaemontana</i>)	It is a medium sized shrub (1-3m tall) with striking white flowers. It is fast growing and is regularly discovered all over Tamil Nadu in every household.	Using chandni shrubs for creating interesting features in grass covered edges of garden, especially near seating areas. This flower is strongly contextual to the state of Tamil Nadu as well.
		Snake Plant (<i>Sansevieria trifciata</i>)	This unique plant improves air quality through passive absorption of toxins. It can flourish in warm climates when kept outdoors.	Using snake plants along edge of garden and in central patches to create soft edges, since it is an average height evergreen succulent with dual colour tones and interesting wavy shape.
		Marigold Plant (<i>Tagetes L</i>) (Golden yellow flowers)	This golden yellow flowering plant can be seen all across India. Flowers have many petals, appear in shades of yellow to orange. Grows 30-60cm tall.	Using Marigold plants as points of interest near seating in lawn covered portions of the garden. Its striking and beautiful flowers add variety to the garden; additionally this plant is used as offering to the almighty all over India.
		Spider plant (<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>)	A highly adaptable and resilient plant, it can grow easily and requires little maintenance. Available in green or variegated varieties, often start out small, grow quickly.	Using spider plants to create soft edges between paving and lawn finished surface. They are used to define circulation patterns within the garden without blocking views.
		Frangi Pani / Plumeria (<i>Plumeria rubra</i>) (white flowering)	Plumeria is a deciduous plant species. It grows as a spreading tree to 7-8 m, and is flushed with fragrant white flowers.	Using white-flowering plumeria to provide shading without blocking views of mandir. The tree is deciduous - providing variation in landscape, it also compliments Jacaranda.
		Jacaranda (purple flowering)	Considered one of the most attractive ornamental trees with bell-shaped purple flowers. Grows 10-16m high, It is deciduous - flowering from June - March.	Using Jacaranda tree for beautification and to provide shading, since the tree is of average height and will not block views of Matrimandir. It's deciduous in nature adding visual variation seasonally to the look + feel of the garden.

visual inspiration

I WATER BODY WITH LILLIES



II ISLAND OF WEALTH



II CASCADING WALL



III SUCCULENT GRAVEL GARDEN



II SHADED SEATING



II LAWNED AREAS AND GREEN EDGES



views



View of Garden on Wealth Showing reflections between mirrored cascade wall and mirror wall around island of wealth

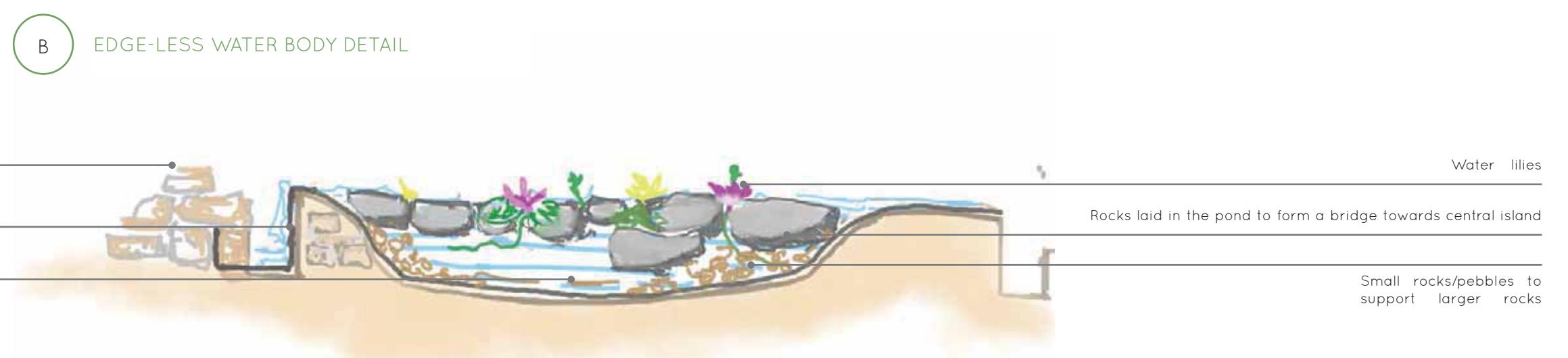
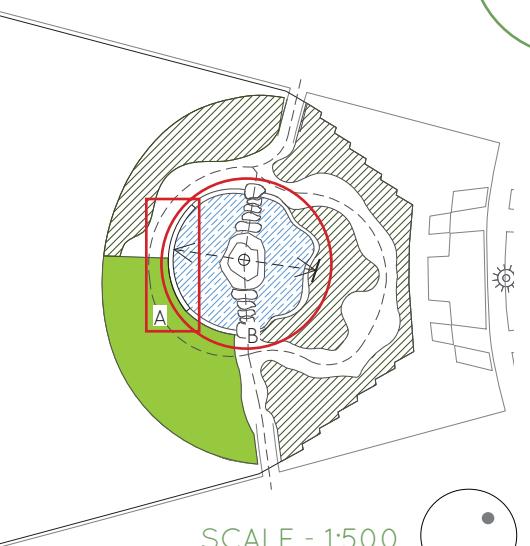
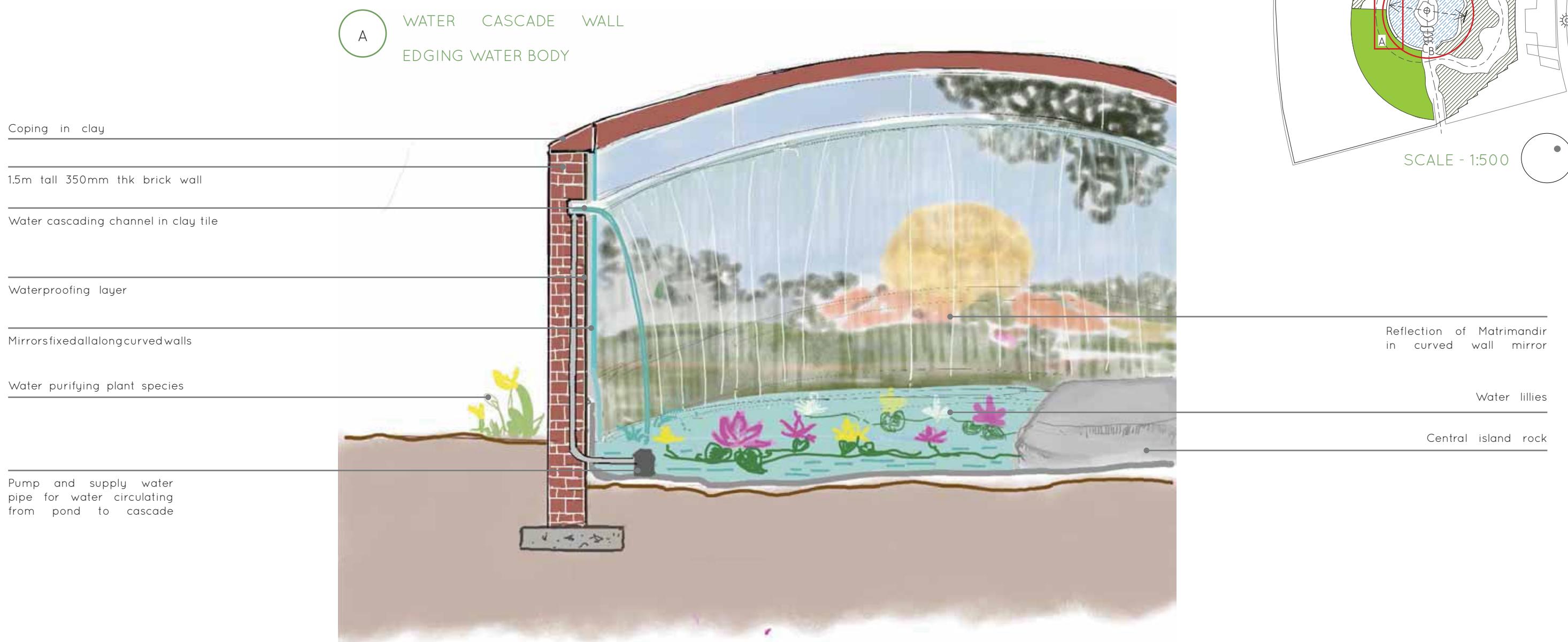


View of Garden on Wealth showing island of wealth- with infinity edges. Reflection of Matrimadir seen in curved cascade wall.



View of Garden on Wealth from backslope - showing various elements - island of wealth, succulent gravel garden and green lawn covered pockets

design details & building technology



PROJECT COMPLETION

timeline

SR.NO		JUNE 01.2020	JUNE 30.2020	JULY 30.2020
1	SITE CLEARANCE			
	LEVELLING OF LAND ACCORDING TO THE DESIGN			
2	SELECTION OF VENDORS			
3	PROCUREMENT OF CIVIL MATERIALS			
	CIVIL CONSTRUCTION			
4	INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL HARDWARES			
	TESTING OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS			
5	PREPARATION OF BASE FOR PLANTERS			
	LAYING OF SPRINKLER, DRAINAGE SYSTEM			
	TESTING OF SPRINKLER, DRAINAGE SYSTEM			
	SOWING OF SEEDS			
	FILLING OF LAND/ LEVELLING			
6	PROCUREMENT OF LOSE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS			
	LAYING OF LOSE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS			
	BUFFER TIME FOR ANY ALTERATIONS			