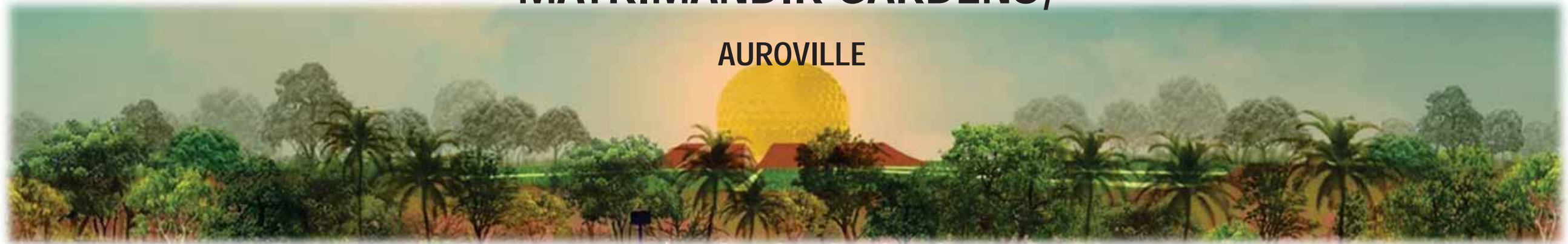


MATRIMANDIR GARDENS,

AUROVILLE



GARDENS OF *LIGHT, LIFE AND POWER*

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"It (the Matrimandir gardens) must be a thing of great beauty, of such beauty that when people come they will say 'Ah, this is it' and experience physically and concretely the significance of each garden."

~ The Mother's explanations of what these twelve gardens have to express



INSPIRATION

After the technical evaluation, the consistent thought during the process of design revival is that of Gratitude. This gratitude and a renewed enthusiasm was the inspiration and the new designs for Light, Life and Power gardens evoke this sense of gratitude, and seek to embody a more conscious and informed landscape, that is aware of the natural conditions and tries to work in harmony with them. The revised design is the result of a more involved approach, getting to know the site in terms of human scale and visualizing it at every step.

The designs have undergone a massive change since Stage 1.1, and keen attention has been paid to the comments of the Jury as well as the Auroville community. The gardens aspire to be places of respite and rejuvenation during all seasons, and evoke meditative qualities by design to work as outdoor meditation spaces to complement those within the Petals of the Matrimandir. Through each design, the intention to keep it subtle and simple, but meaningful, experiential and thought-provoking prevails.

Each garden will grow with the community, evolve as gardens are ever-evolving, aspiring to evoke the very qualities it seeks to embody.



SITE STUDY

Rain water management:

Using the existing slopes of the gardens, water basins are designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from the surface area of the gardens thereby allowing for 30% more water to soak into the ground.

These basins will be dry most of the year and will typically hold water only during and following a rainfall event. Because they will drain within 12-48 hours, they prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

- All water bodies will have shallow depth [maximum 45cm]
- Planting of water loving plants wherever possible

Topography management:

The existing topography is maintained as the central means of organizing the layout of all 3 gardens, thereby minimizing the interference to the ecology.

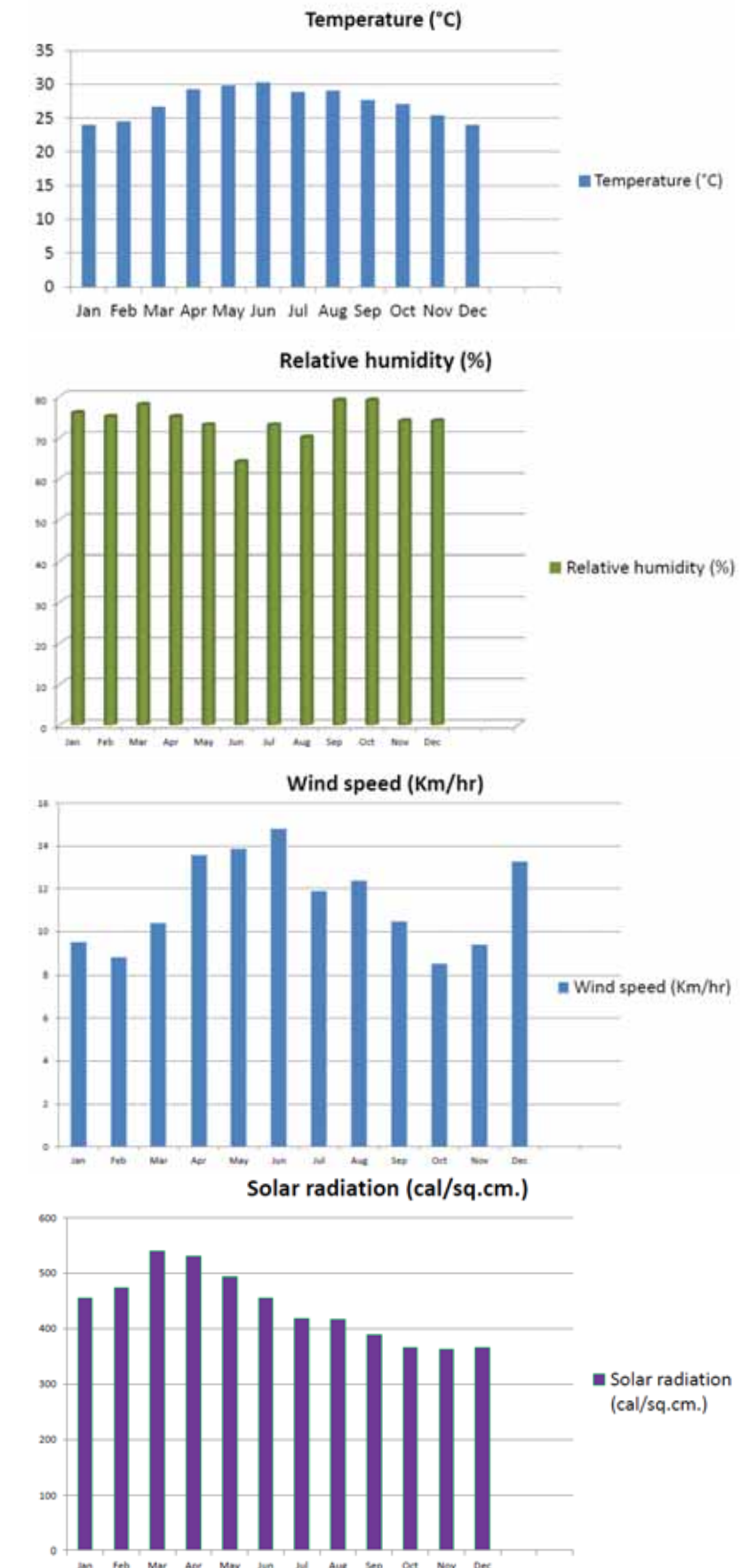
Surface management:

Each garden is paved/ hardscaped as little as possible (less than 15% of the garden area) , selecting where ever possible permeable materials (like lateritic brick or rammed earth) with higher infiltration rates.

Planting of foliage trees at regular intervals throughout the garden area to achieve:

- Ample and cooling shaded areas for respite
- Wind barriers during summer months
- Reduction in radiation, conserving soil moisture.
- Harvesting and storing of rainwater on the surface and aquifer thus reducing daily watering.
- The creation of its own ecosystem from water harvesting to nourishing the soil.
- Daily mulching with fallen leaves.
- Daytime visitors throughout the day.

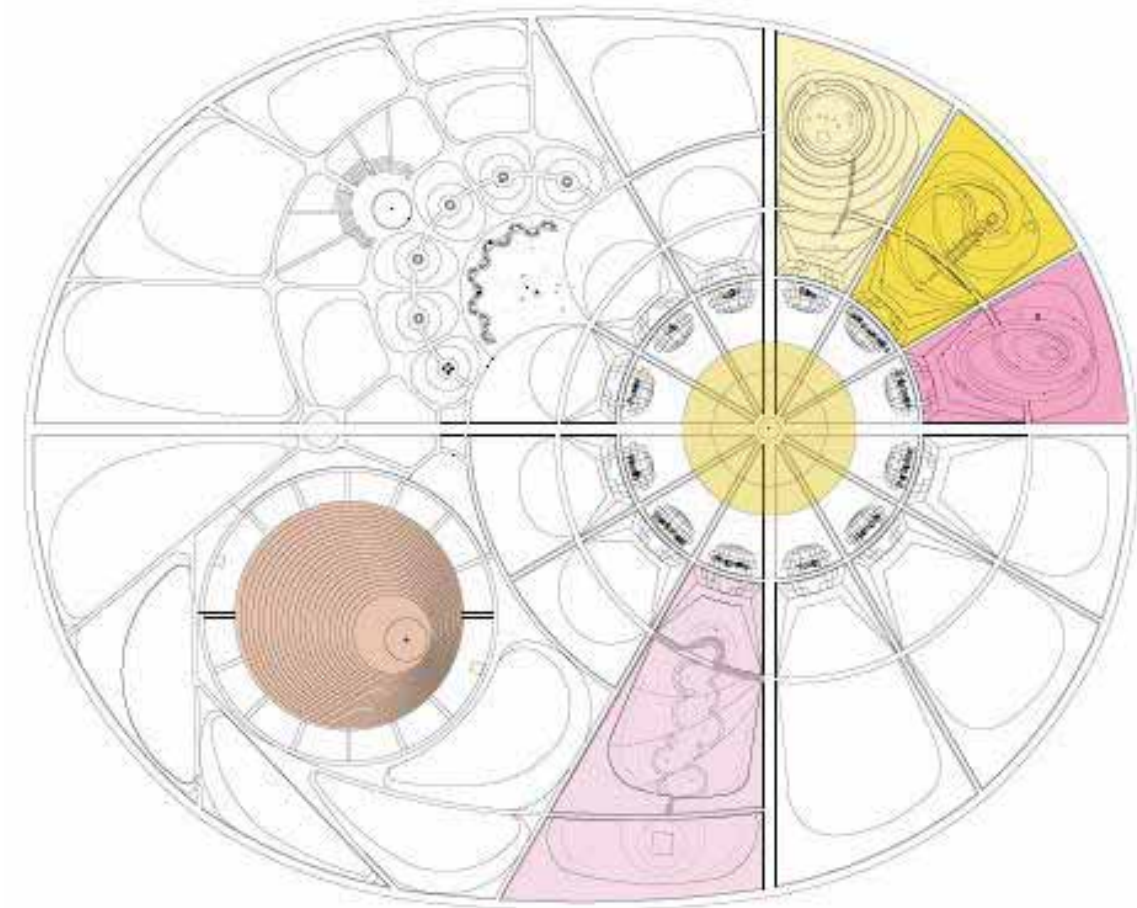
Planting in layers to provide visual richness and diversity as well as low height wind barriers. The plant selection at this stage is conceptual and reflects The Mother's vision for each garden space. The detailed planting proposal will make sure that all the plants are carefully selected to suit the micro climate of each garden including shaded and sunny areas, existing vegetation and soil types.



RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER GARDENS

Completing the Hemisphere:

With the Garden of Unexpected under construction, the gardens of Light, Life and Power, once completed, will complete one half of the Park of Unity (as envisioned by the Mother), bringing to reality one half of her dream. Thus the design of these gardens play a crucial role to being as near as possible to original vision, a place for everyone, constantly evolving and in progress.

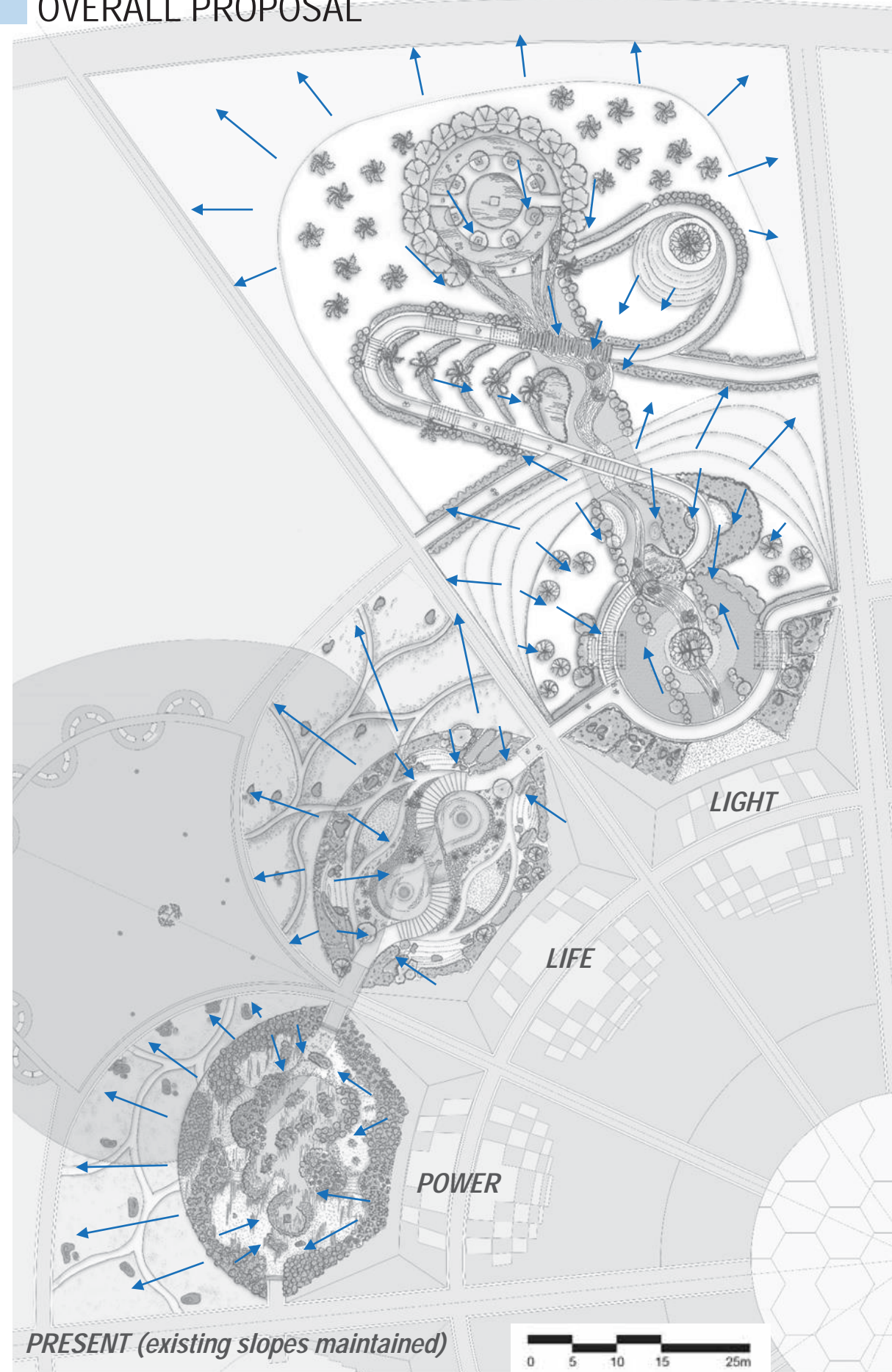


The 12 gardens of Matrimandir make up a majority of the Park of Unity which forms the landscape inside the Oval road around the Matrimandir. The first 3 of these gardens representing *Sat-chit-Ananda* (Existence-Consciousness-Bliss) already being developed, have set a precedent for the design of the remaining 8 gardens. In the years since they were built, they have been keenly experienced by the Auroville community, and certain lacunae which can help provide a better spiritual experience have been carefully noted.

The gardens of Light, Life and Power seek to overcome these lacunae by the following ways:

- Inclusion of many shade loving and shade giving plants in the gardens.
- Design of Experiential spaces to evoke the quality of each garden by using symbolism and natural character.
- Inclusion of organic materials for paving and flooring, and limiting paved areas to less than 15% of the total garden area.
- Celebrating the main flower of each garden in a meaningful way based on the garden experience and associated plants arranged in layered planting throughout the garden.
- Seating spaces in plenty and under comfortable shaded areas with facing Matrimandir.
- A harmonious blend of Japanese gardening style (as Mother has mentioned) along with native and local plants and a global spiritual philosophy to create gardens that appeal and speak to all people alike.
- Designing to incorporate harmony, silence and peace in the gardens by use of natural elements and materials as far as possible, climate friendly planting to encourage lots of local fauna and wild creatures.

OVERALL PROPOSAL



LIGHT garden : CONCEPT

Garden area: 2943 sq. m plus 880 sq. m back slope

"The garden must bring the descent of light of the higher consciousness through the head and heart into the whole being, occupying the very cells of the body.."

~The Mother

The Power of Consecration:

Light – solely consecrated to the Divine

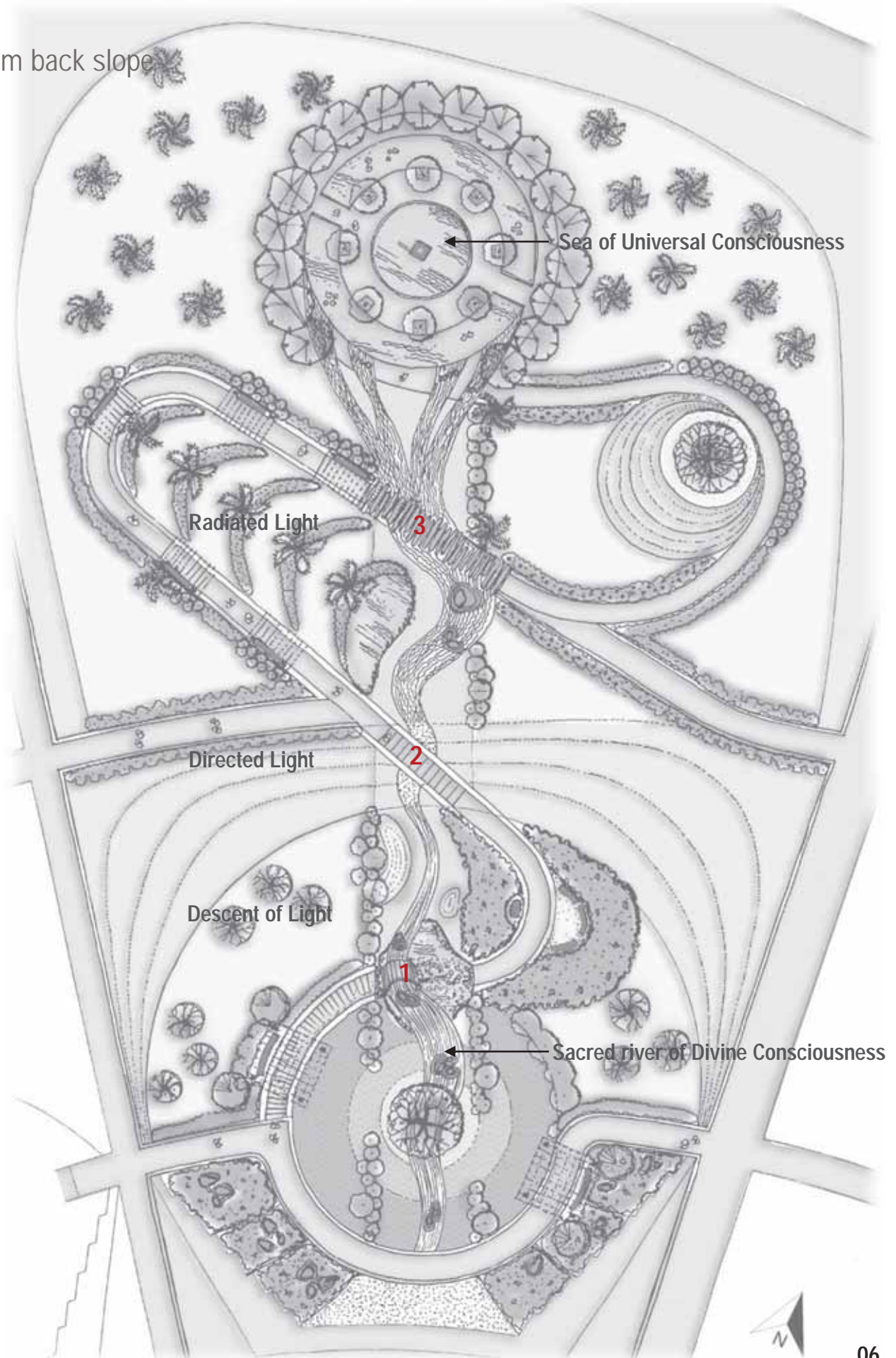
The garden is about the Light of a "Purified Power". With the Matrimandir as the source of this Purified Power, there descends into the garden, a Sacred river of Divine Consciousness, symbolized by Japanese style dry river stream. This is the path to enlightenment.

The journey into the garden begins with the 'descent of light' of the higher consciousness. The visitors traverse on a winding pathway, that provides experiential and introspective opportunities at every turn. Every experience allows the visitor to sit, ponder and resolute meditation.

The pathway crosses the Sacred river of Divine Consciousness at 3 places, which represent 3 stages of Light:

- Decending
- Directed
- Radiated

At the end of the journey, the Sacred River spreads out in a delta to join the ultimate Sea of Universal Consciousness, represented by a silent, reflective waterbody for a final experience of enlightenment. A meditative space.



0 5 10 15 25m

LIGHT garden : PLAN

ECOLOGY:

The Natural slope is maintained as it is to ensure minimum interference. This ensures maximum percolation of rainwater into the ground during the monsoons, recharging the soil moisture.

2 seasonal rainwater basins are designed into the lowest contours so serve as local recharge features. The excess water from will drain into the recharge pond in the Garden of Life by natural gravity.

The planting palette is represents the gradual spiritual transition of Purified Light into the head and heart into every cell of the body and finally radiating in the form of spiritual enlightenment.

No existing trees will be removed from the site. 3 existing Palm trees will be transplanted at new locations within the site.

The Sacred river of Divine consciousness: Wave patterns drawn in the sand with a bamboo rake represent flowing water. Depending on how the pattern is applied, stormy seas or gentle ripples are represented.



Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
'Waimea'
'Light of the Purified Power'



Laburnum anagyroides
'Descent of the Light'



Cestrum diurnum
'Light'



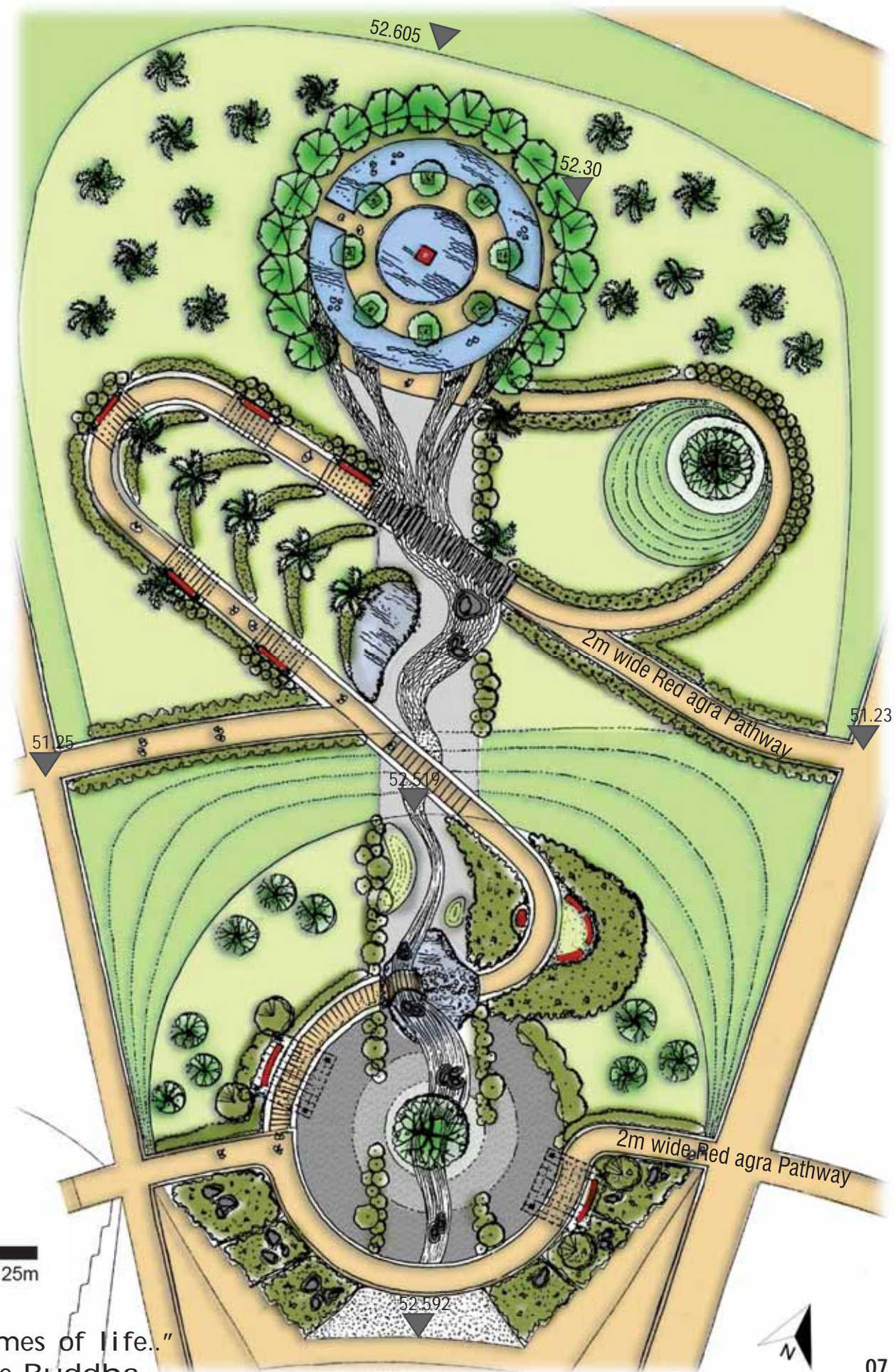
Helianthes
'Consciousness turned toward the Light'



Clitoria ternatea
'Light in the Senses'



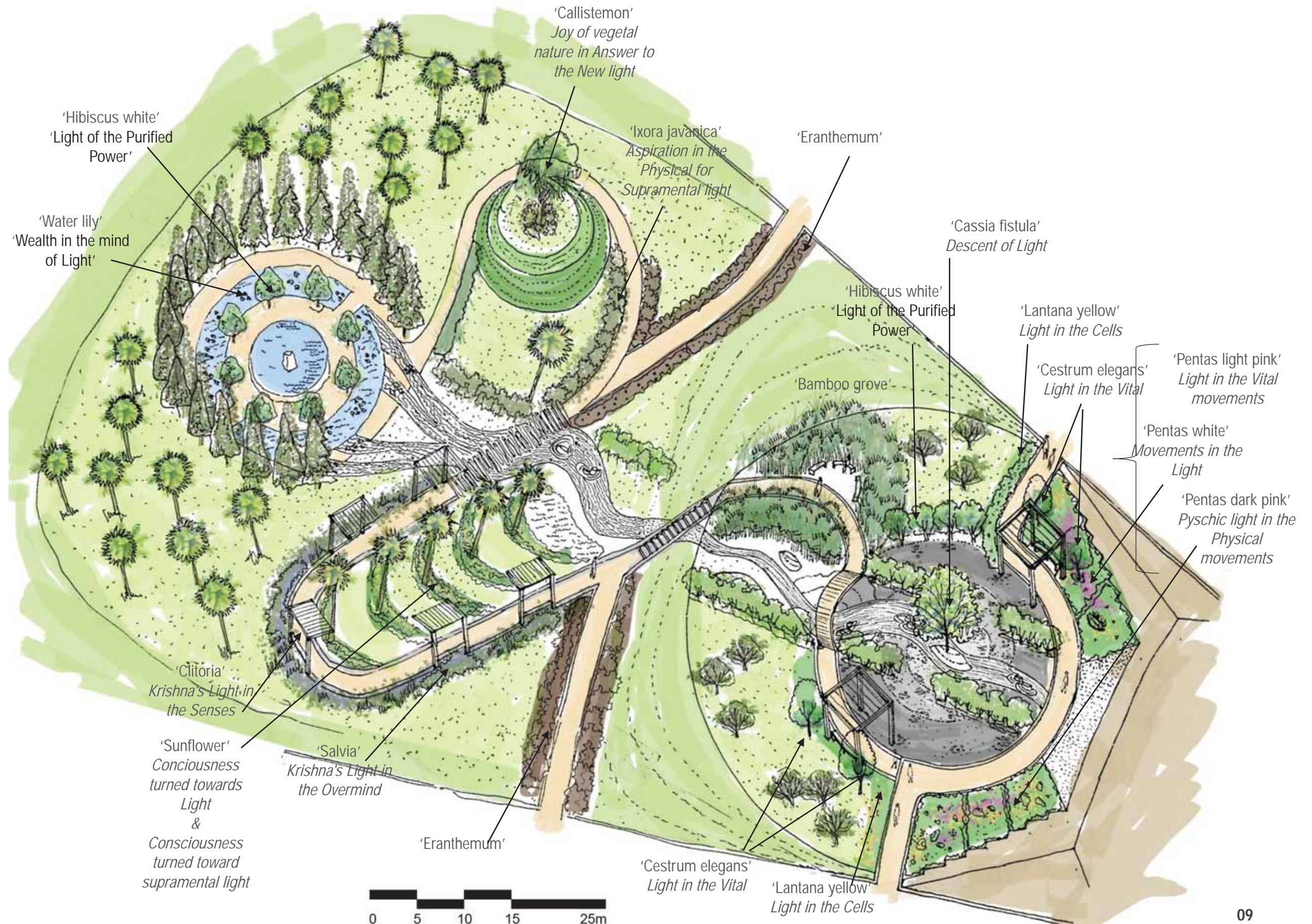
"The path to enlightenment lies midway through two extremes of life..."
~The Buddha



LIGHT garden : PERSPECTIVES



LIGHT garden : AXONOMETRIC VIEW



LIGHT garden : PLANT PALLETTE



Response of the Physical Mind to the Supramental Light



Opening of the Material Vital to the light



Krishna's Light in the Overmind



Pyschic light in the Material movements



Wealth in the Mind of Light



Opening of the Emotional centre to the Light



Conciousness turned towards Supramental Light



Supramental light in the Subconscious



Joy of vegetal nature in Answer to the New light



Krishna's Light in the Physical mind



Krishna's Light in the Senses



Light in the Vital



Light in Fairyland



Krishna's Light in the mind



Krishna's Light in the Subconscious



First turning of the Vital towards the Divine



Pyschic light in the Physical movements



Response of the Mind to the Supramental light

LIGHT garden : PLANT & MINERAL PALLETTE



Aspiration in Physical
for the Supramental
Light



Connection between
Light and Physical



Light in the Cells



Opening to the light



Krishna's Light in the Vital



Light without Obscurity



Light in the Blood



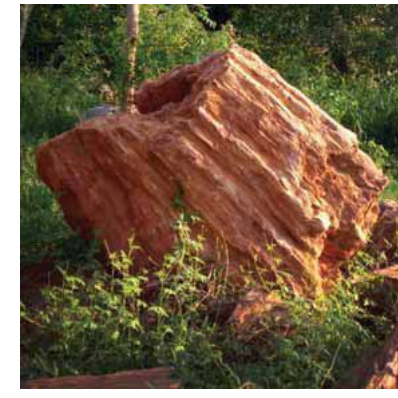
Guppi



Cory Catfish



Gliding Frog



Petrified Wood



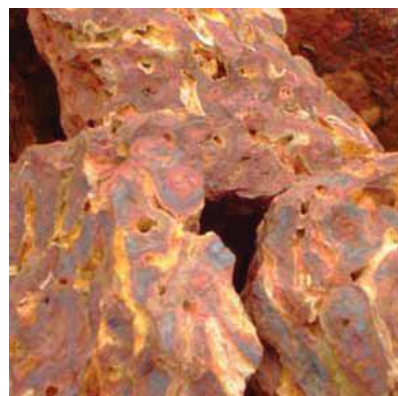
Pebbles



Himalayan boulder



Basalt stone



Laterite stone



Red Agra stone

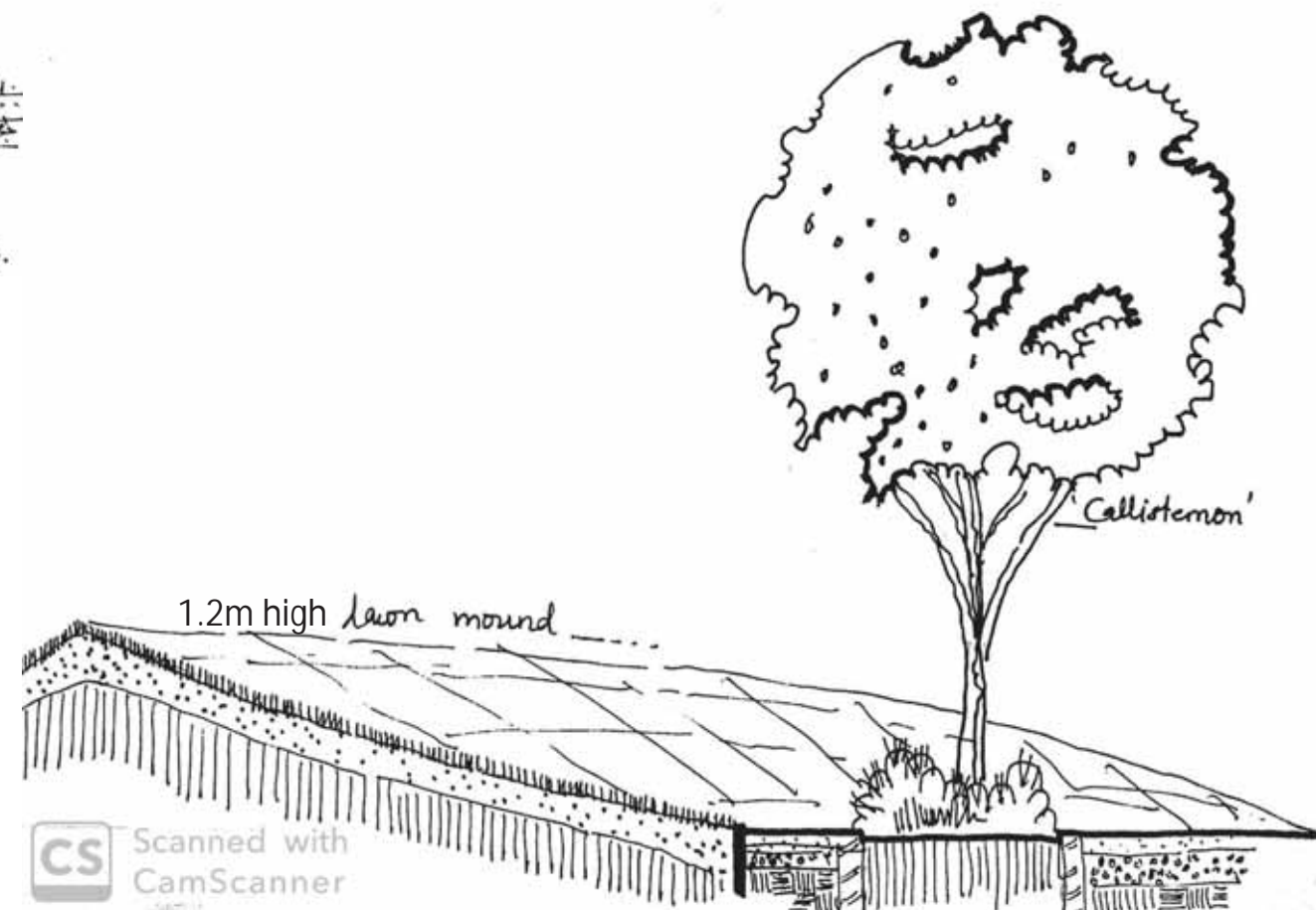
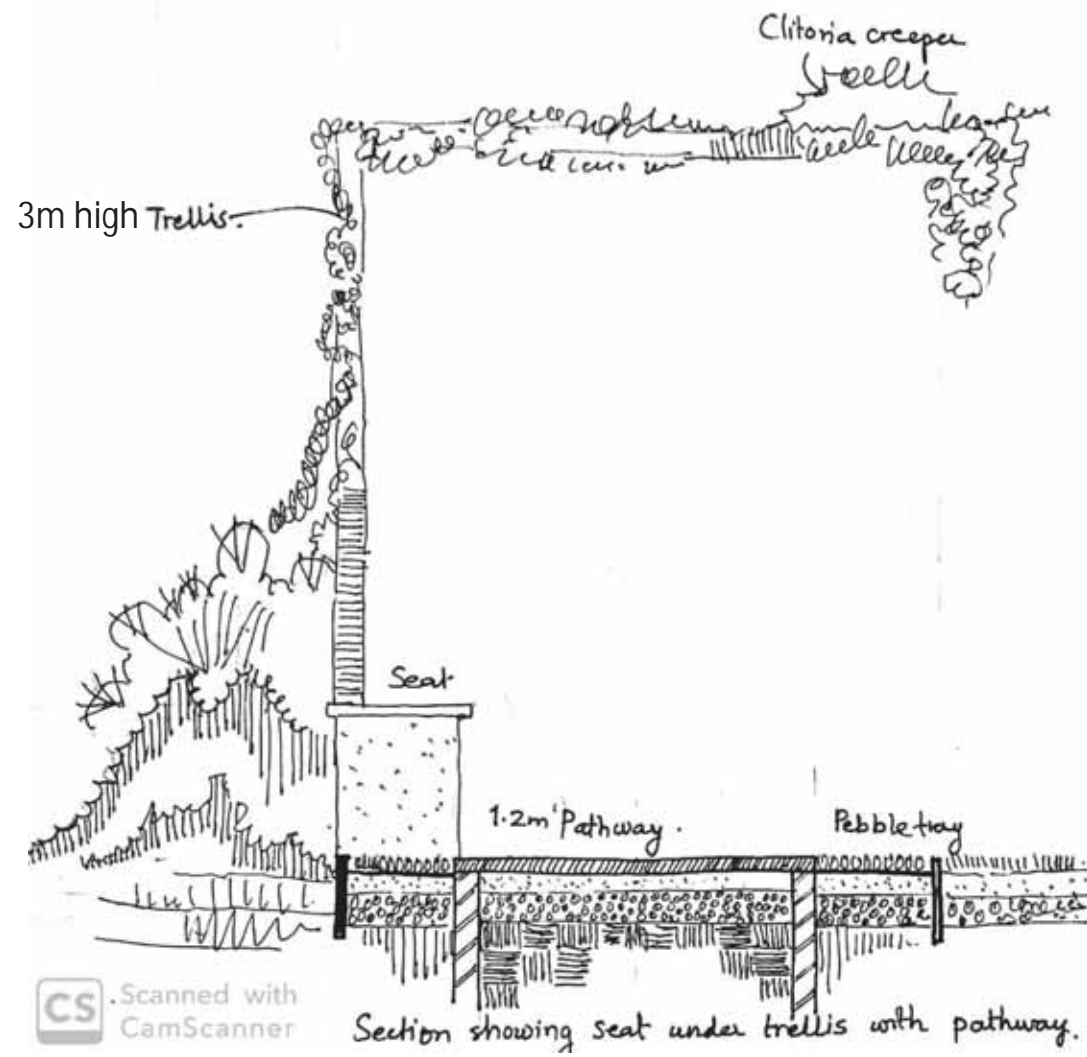


Sand



Pea gravels

LIGHT: SECTIONS



LIFE garden : CONCEPT Garden area: 470 sq. m plus 500 sq. m back slope

"All the powers of controlling and dominating the lower movements of unconscious nature."

~ The Mother

The Power of Controlling:

Life – connecting together the planes of consciousness

The garden evolves in 2 planes representing the Positive and Negative energies. A bridge takes the user through the center, under which is a simple water pond representing 'Live Nature'. Both together when combined and viewed from the bridge represent the Universal Consciousness, the Immortal energy.

Water is 'life' and by its presence or absence, controls every movement in Nature.



Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
'Power of Consciousness'



Clivia miniata
'Conversion of the Aim of Life from the Ego to the Divine'



Heliotropium arborescens
'Vital Consecration'



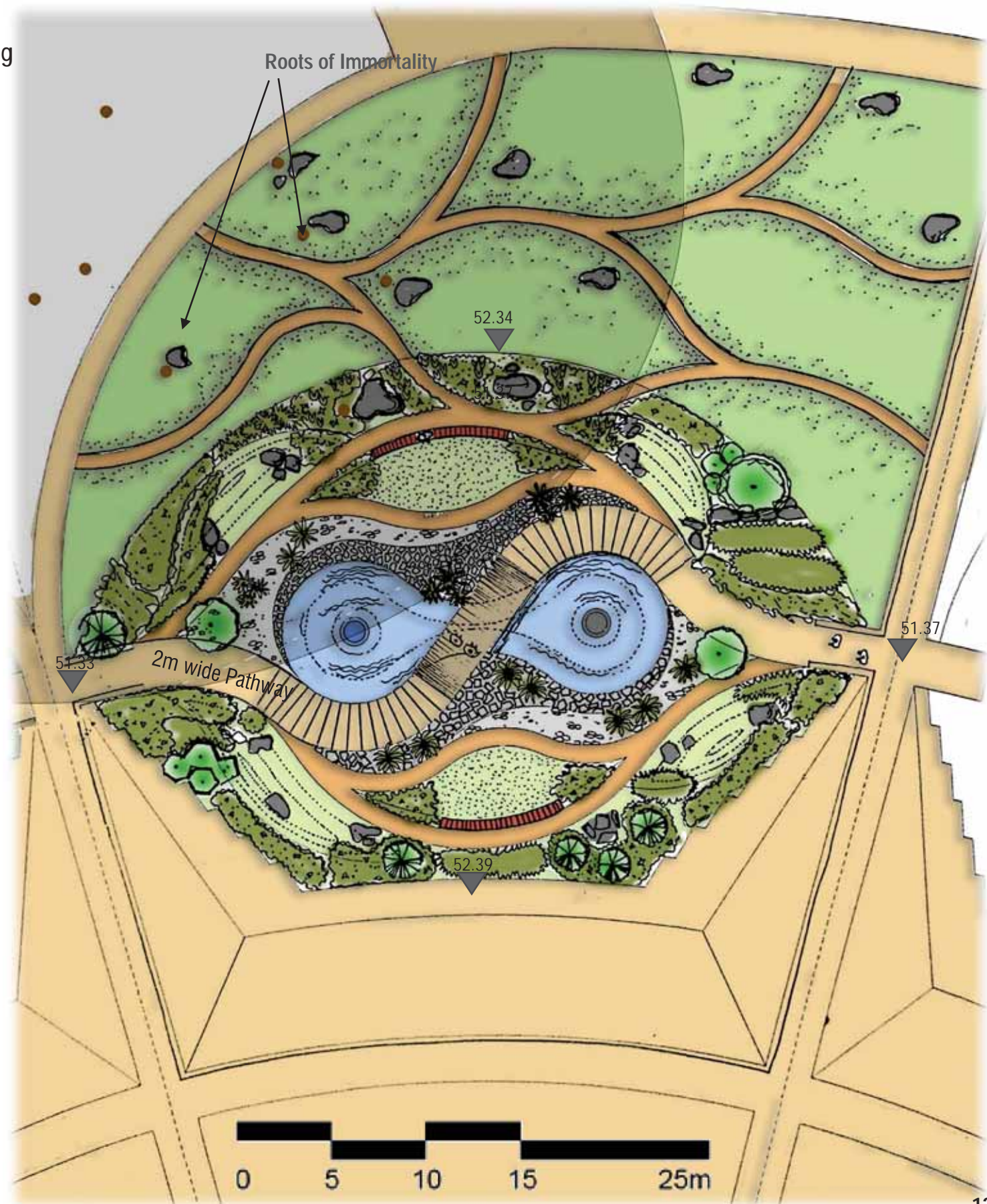
Caladium
'Transformed Sex centre'



Coleus
'Strength in the Vital'



Billbergia pyramidalis
'Control'



LIFE garden : PLAN

ECOLOGY:

The existing topography of the Life garden is basin-shaped, with the centre being the lowest point. The water pond is located at this central point, and serves as a recharge basin during the monsoons. The banks of the pond are lined with stone-pitching, surrounded by pebbled flooring, both permeable surfaces that allow for percolation of rain water, recharging the ground water.

Advantages:

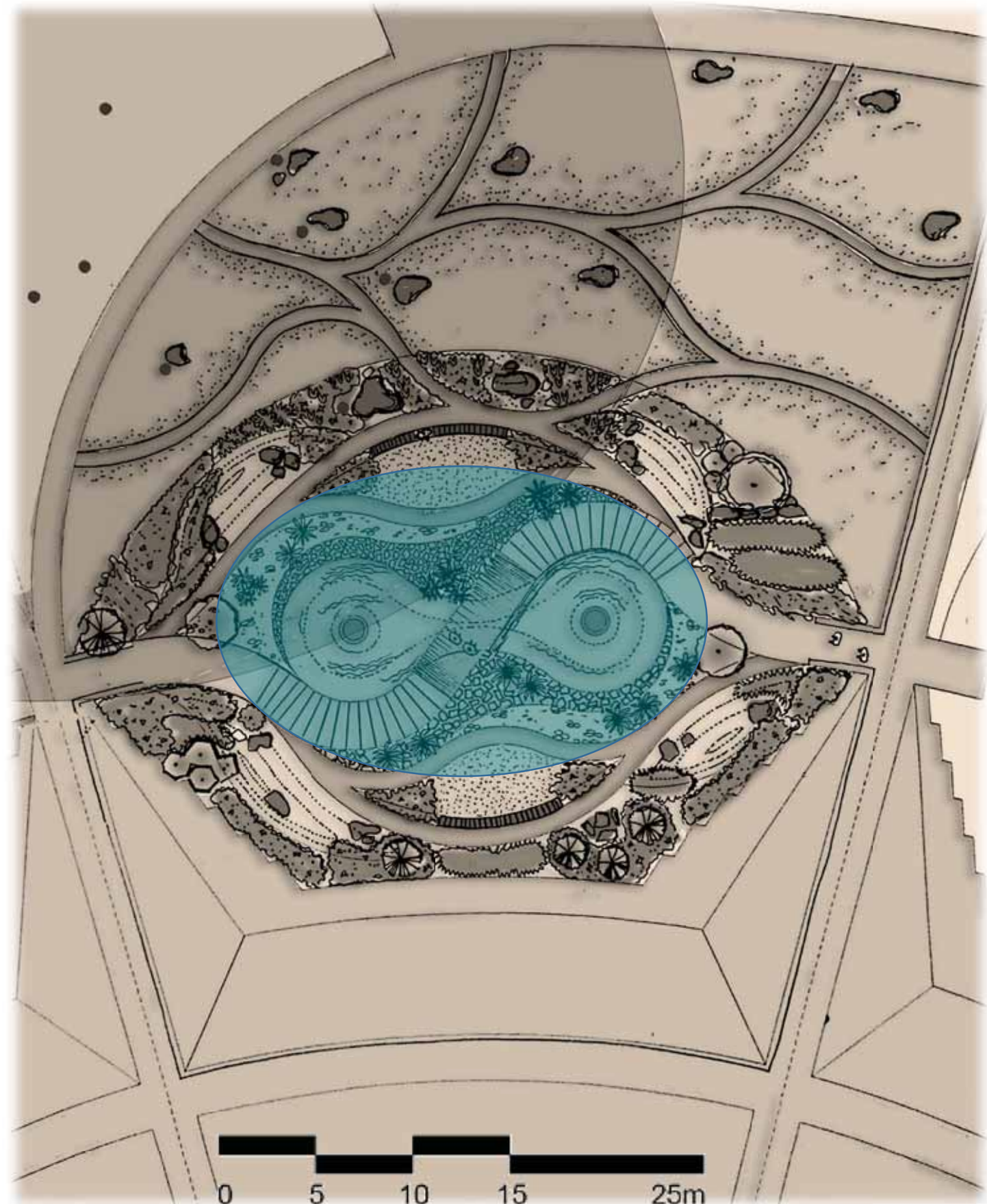
- Facilitate recharge into surrounding ground which in turn improves soil moisture, improves soil productivity and mitigates against drought.
- Can reduce salinity in groundwater

Water holding capacity of the pond is 78,000 litres out of which 50,000 litres can be accommodated in the percolation zone, and 28,000 litres will be retained in the pond.

The water pond is also designed to be a conducive environment for aquatic fauna like the Indian Star tortoise, guppies, catfish and water-loving plants.

The tortoise which symbolizes 'Longevity' in Japanese garden philosophy, is also represented the pattern of stone pitching and the form of the pathways that continue into the back slope of the garden.

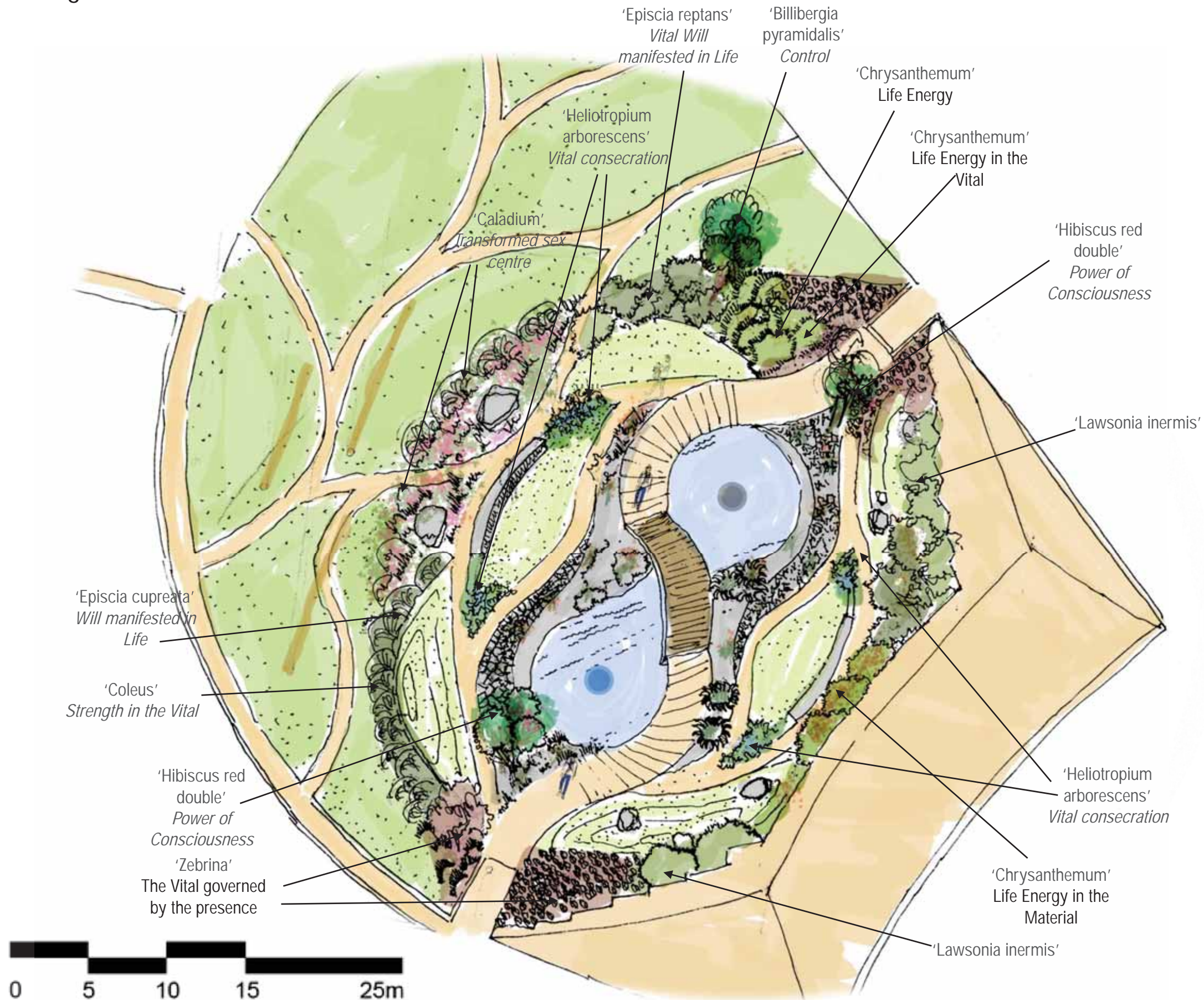
The roots of the Banyan tree growing on the back slope are celebrated as 'Roots of Immortality' with stone boulders located strategically near each one that serve as meditation spots or seats. These can be used during group meditation programs under the Banyan tree.



LIFE garden : PERSPECTIVES



LIFE garden : AXONOMETRIC VIEW



LIFE garden : PLANT PALLETTE



Vital Will Manifested in Life



The Vital governed by the presence



Purified Dynamic Life Energy



Organisation of Action in Life



To Live Only For the Divine



Will Manifested in Life



Life Energy



Life Energy in the Material



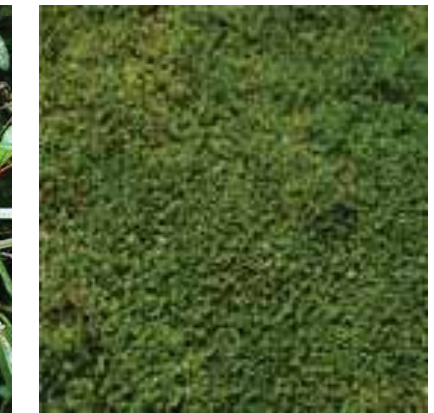
Life Energy in the Vital



Supramentalised Life Energy

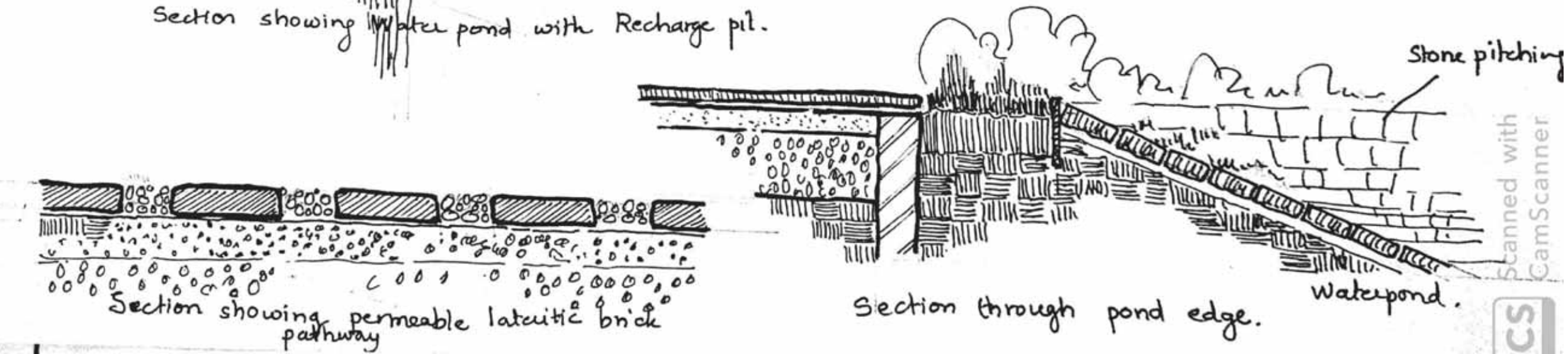
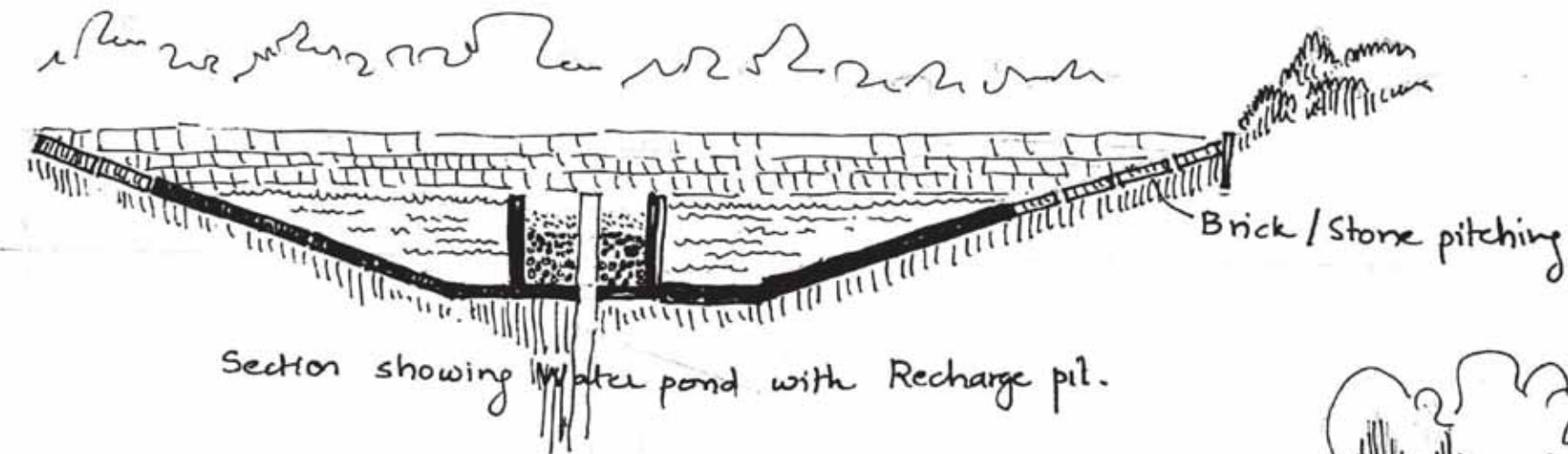
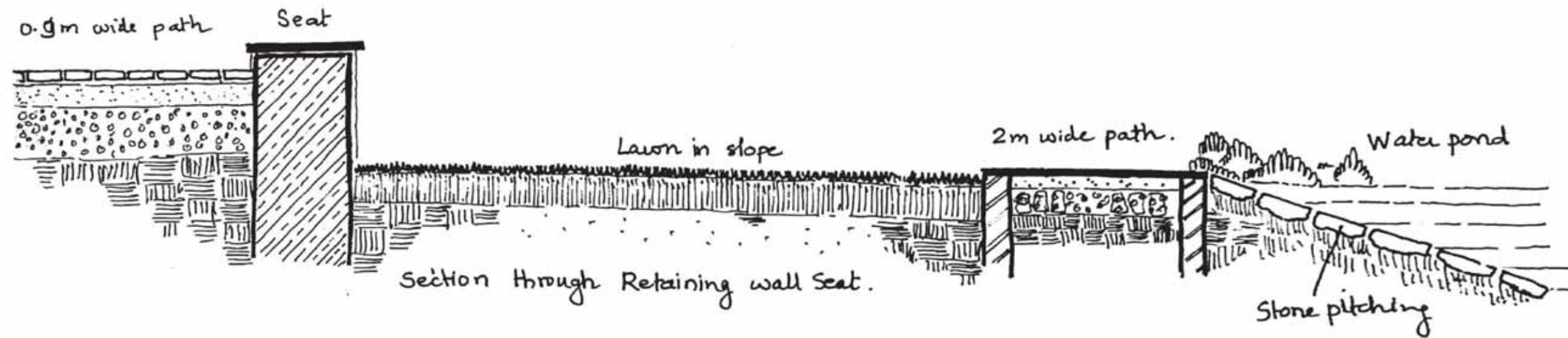


Splendour and Opulence in the Material Life



Lawn

LIFE garden : SECTIONS



POWER garden : CONCEPT Garden area: 502 sq. m plus 535 sq. m back slope

“Beauty is a great Power.”

~ The Mother

The Power of Beauty:

Power- arising from the organized life

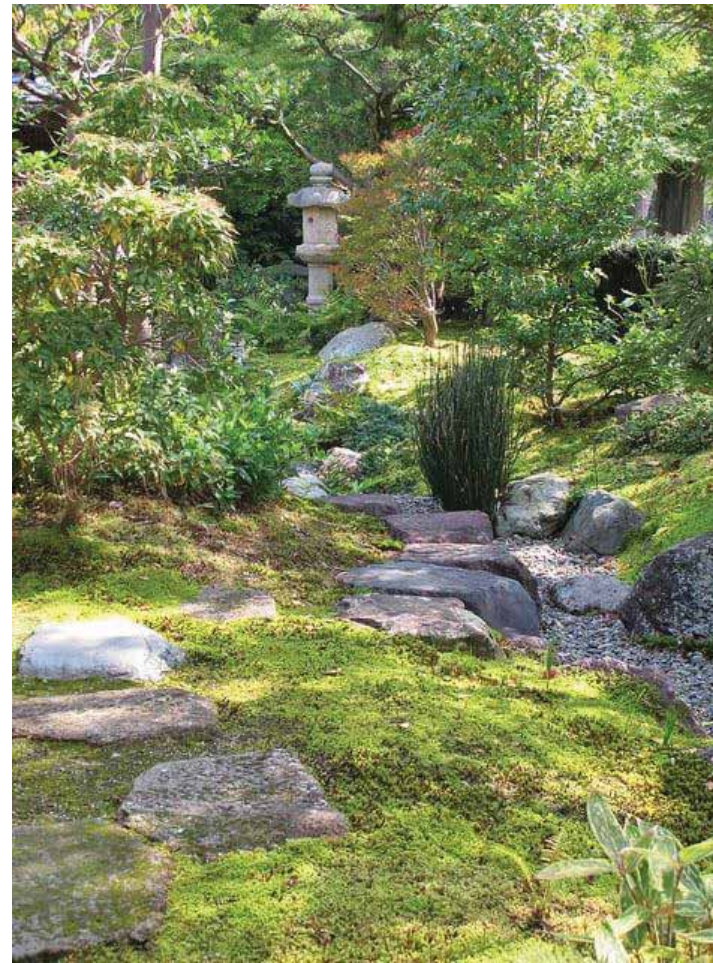
The garden seeks to embody the true meaning of Beauty, Aesthetics and Elegance. True beauty is Inner beauty, a beauty so pure that is not bound by the standards of Exterior beauty.

The garden evolves by making the user surrender any pre-conceived notions at a symbolic gateway, entering the garden free of any expectations of Beauty in Nature.

In this experience, an appreciation for the forms and changes of natural landscapes is evoked in the visitors and leaves them free to explore the beautiful ways nature changes manmade objects and landscapes.

Symbolizing “beauty in imperfection”, the garden incorporates the principles of asymmetry, incompleteness, impermanence, and simplicity, aspiring to imitate natural environments in a cared-for garden. All the spaces lead into each other in an organic way and the visitors can make their own way through the garden, much like in Nature.

Natural seating spaces offer the opportunity to spend some time here where it is silent to look inward.



POWER: PLAN

ECOLOGY:

The Natural slope is maintained as it is to ensure minimum interference and all the garden spaces are designed without any synthetic hardscaping materials like cement and concrete. This ensures maximum percolation of rainwater into the ground during the monsoons, recharging the soil moisture. The excess water will drain into the recharge pond in the Garden of Life by natural gravity. Lawn area is minimized to cut down on watering needs.

The natural slopes are retained using an arrangement of boulders and planting. Seats are in the form of wooden logs and stone boulders.

The planting palette is a mix of plants that transition through the seasons, thereby providing a dynamic relationship with the visitors throughout the year.

The roots of the Banyan tree growing on the back slope are celebrated as 'Roots of Immortality' with stone boulders located strategically near each one that serve as meditation spots or seats. These can be used during group meditation programs under the Banyan tree.



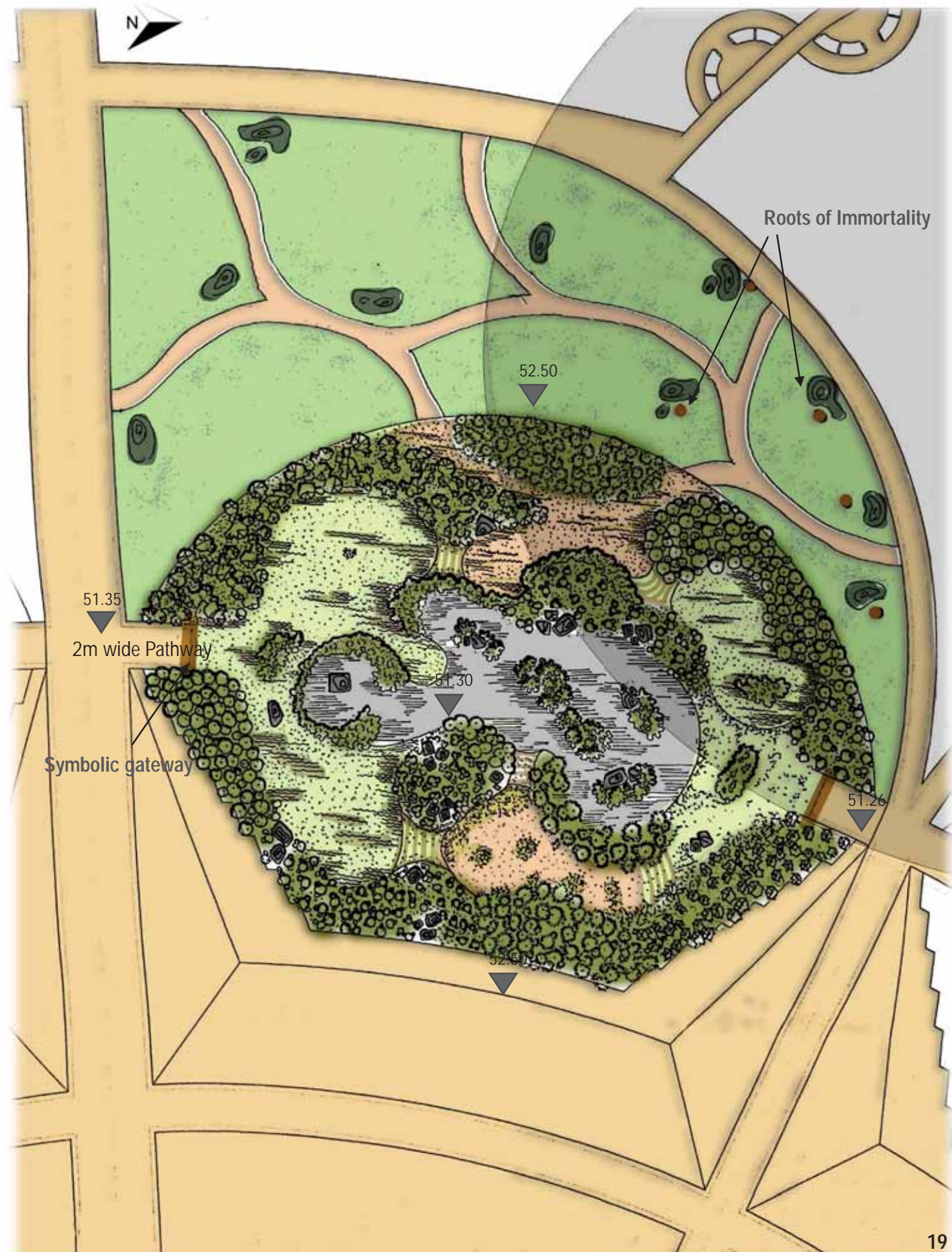
Hibiscus_rosa-sinensis
'Individual power'



Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
'Power of
Consciousness'



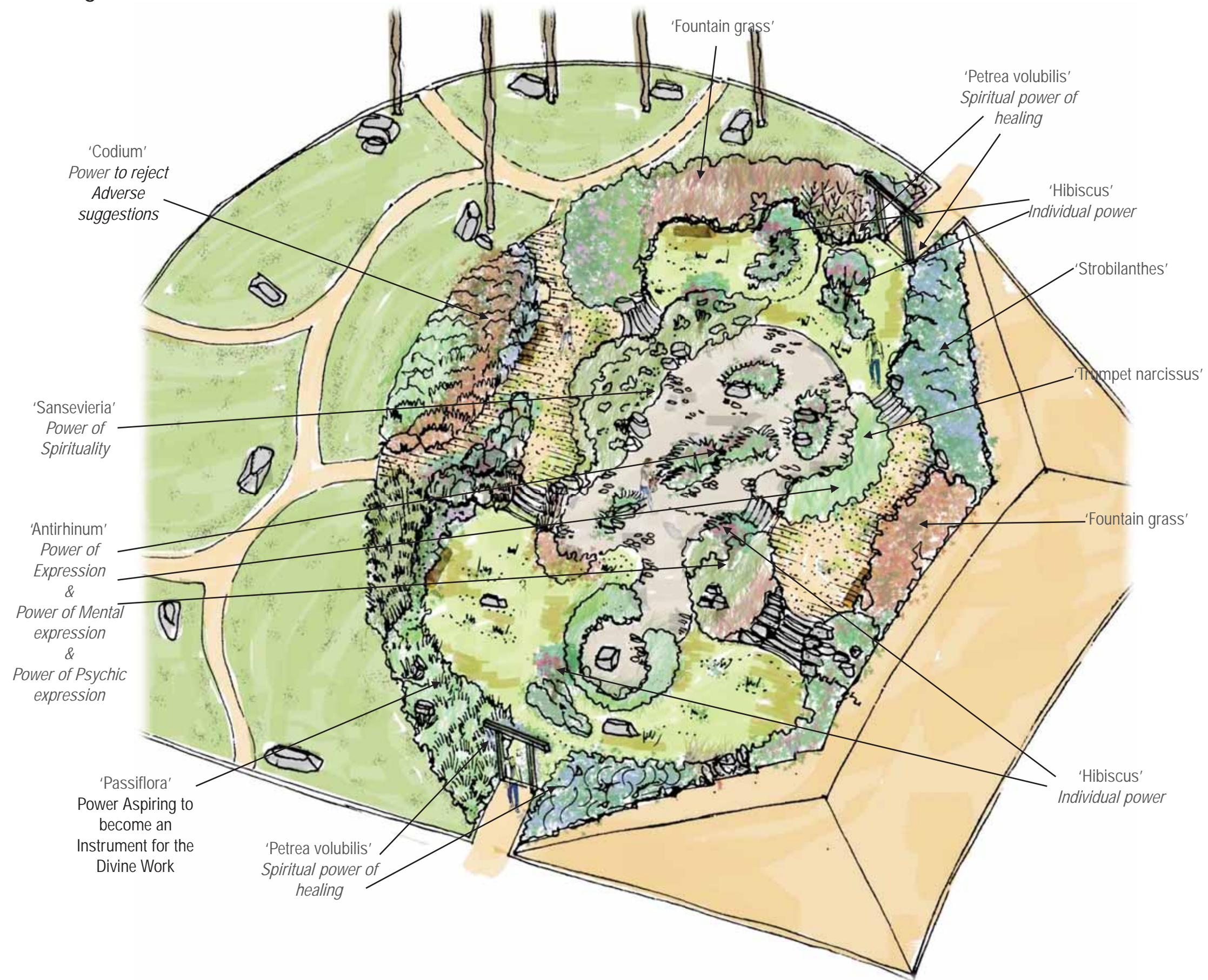
Antirrhinum majus
'Power of Expression'



POWER: 3D VIEWS



POWER garden : AXONOMETRIC VIEW



POWER: SECTIONS, PLANT & MINERAL PALLETTE



Power of Supramental
Consciousness



Power to reject Adverse
suggestions



Power Aspiring to
become an Instrument
for the Divine Work



power of truth in the
Subconscious



Power of Spirituality



Fountain grass



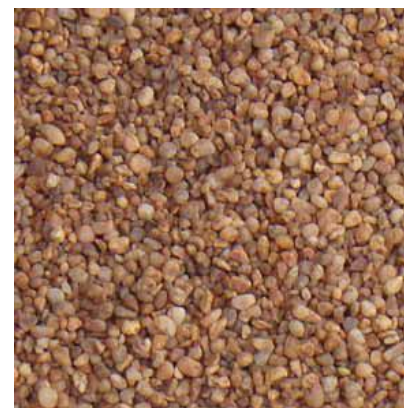
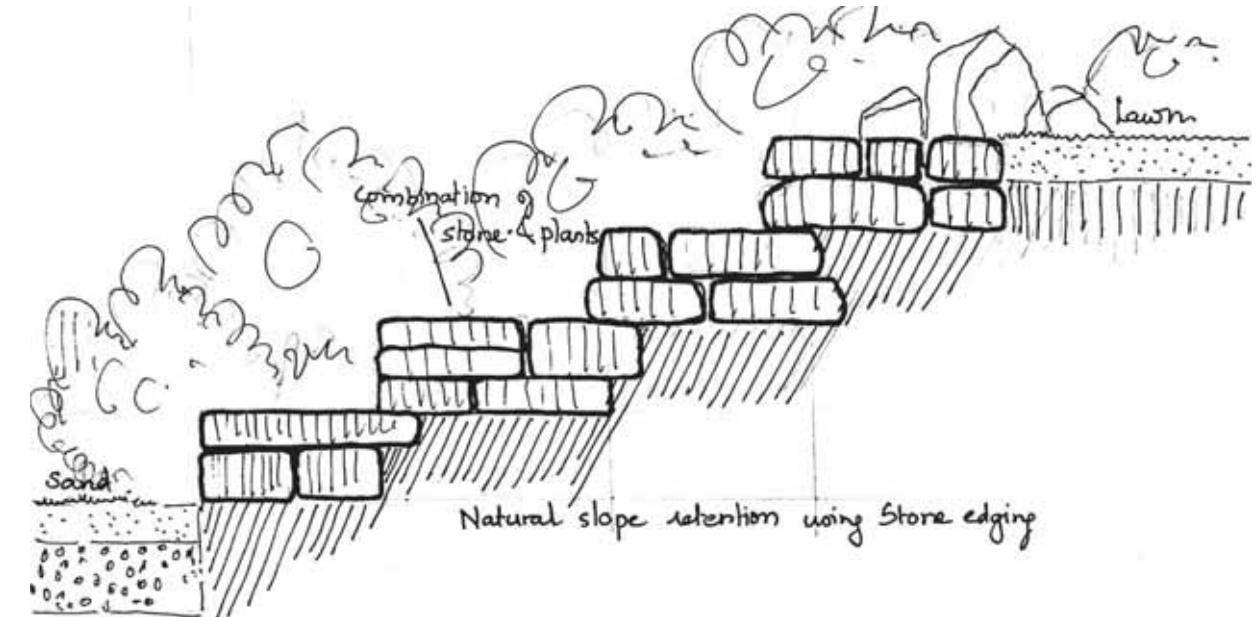
Power of Mental
Expression



Power of Psychic
Expression



Power of Expression



Scanned with
CamScanner

Natural slope retention
using planting & curbstones.

PROJECT TIMELINE

