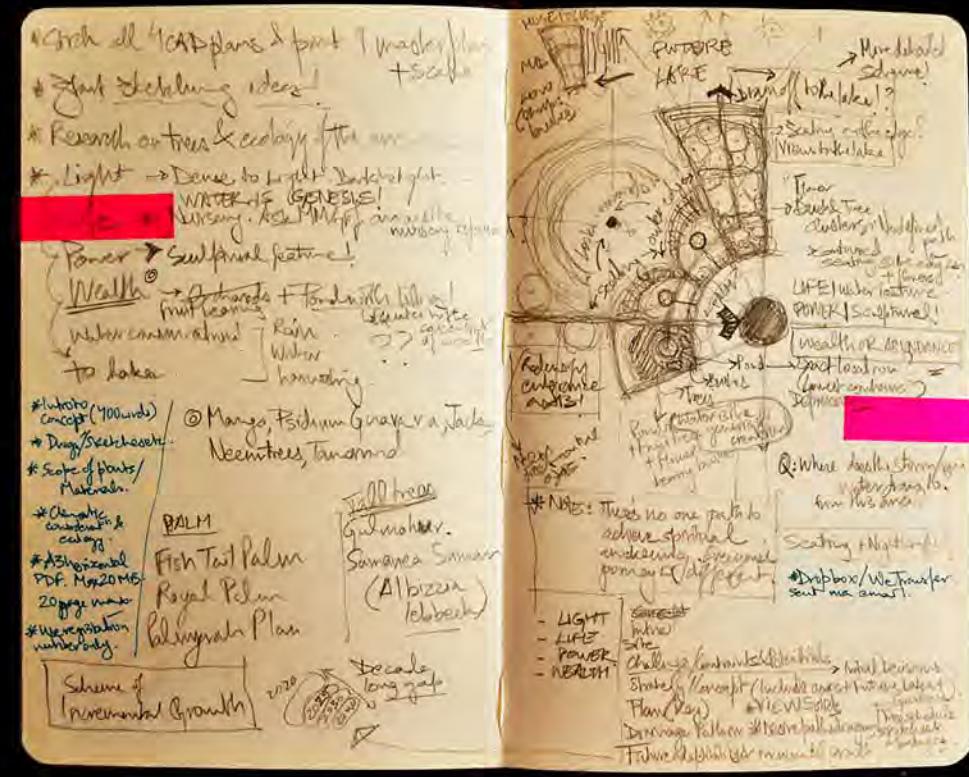
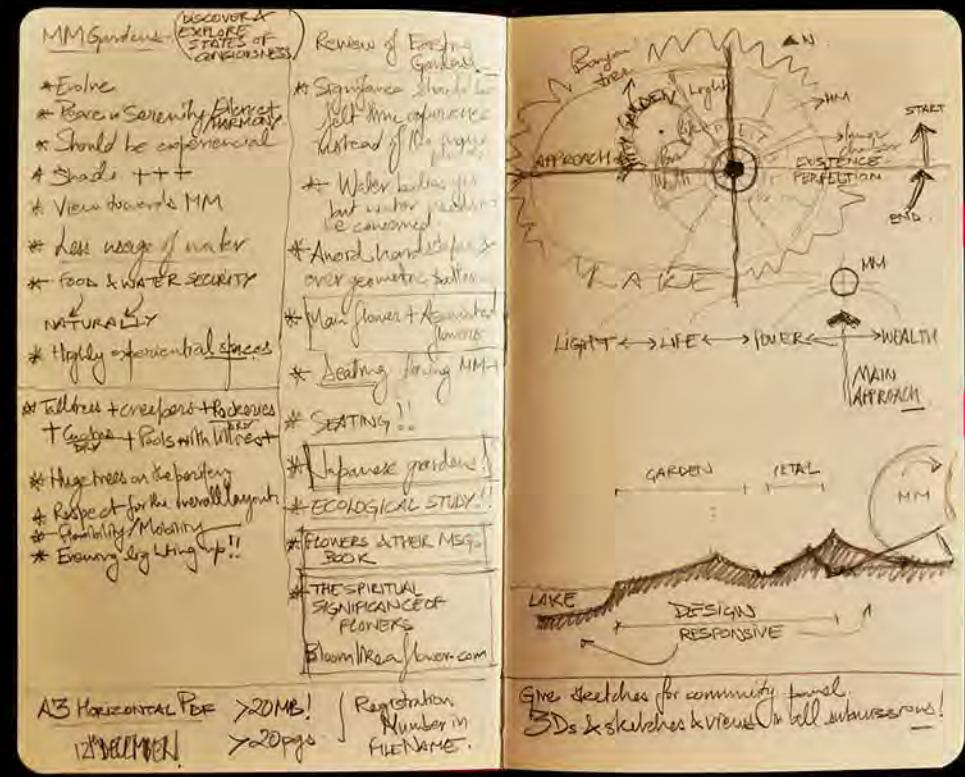


MMG-LLPW-13

MatriMandir Gardens Design Proposal
Light . Life . Power . Wealth
Stage 2 - 2020



Project Introduction

The Matrimandir gardens are meant to be a place where one can discover and explore the states of consciousness through a beautiful landscape that surrounds the Matrimandir. The Matrimandir Gardens are aspiring to be an instrument to evoke specific states of consciousness for the visitors. They are a place for inner concentration as much as the inner chamber. The design brief required the design for the gardens of Light, Life, Power and Wealth in harmony with the existing designs and context of the Mandir and the gardens.

In addition to the qualities assigned to each of the gardens, the Mother chose a particular flower (mostly varieties of hibiscus) as the main flower to represent the significance and energy for each garden. These flowers were to be integrated with the scheme and design of each of the gardens while evoking the qualities of the gardens through effective design. Further to this, various challenges, constraints and potentials were presented in the brief, which were adopted in the design of the four said gardens.

Challenges, Constraints and Potentials

Some of the major factors which contributed to the design were the ecological and design considerations to be included or cared for in the design of the gardens. The major issue facing the project was that of water scarcity. It was asked that the design should be adapted to the tropical semi-arid climate of Tamil Nadu, especially in the context of the current water crisis which necessitates low water consumption plants and low water usage in general. Furthermore the backslopes of all the gardens were not to be developed. This posed a challenge in the creation of seamless landscape throughout the site. Additionally, the presence of the Banyan tree, an already existing strong landscape element on the site was to be respected both visually and ecologically. The gardens present in the shade of the Banyan tree were meant to be treated different from the rest as major landscaping would steal away from the dominant elements surrounding these gardens. Furthermore, the landscapes proposed for these gardens must be easy to maintain and not be water intensive.

Lastly, it was required that the design needs to be incremental and layered. The proposals hence needed to be the basis and a beginning point to an end design. One more factor to include while designing the gardens was the proposed lake surrounding the gardens and the future access to the Matri Mandir and the surrounding gardens. All these factors were considered before proposing a relevant design strategy for the gardens.

Initial Considerations

It was decided early on that the water runoff in each of the gardens would either be conserved in the form of a water feature or connect to the already present rain water harvesting system for the site. The use of energy intensive elements such as fountains and sumps was to be avoided and a variety of local trees were chosen to be planted across the four gardens such that the landscape doesn't demand access water to maintain and thrive. It was also decided early on that the gardens present in the shade of the Banyan tree were to be developed as dry gardens using less water consuming plants and shrubs, specially a variety of cactii.

With respect to developing the design and the aesthetic qualities of the gardens, future views to the lake from the northern edge of the garden of Light were kept in mind while designing the said space. Further, the aging process of the trees was kept in mind while designing the spaces which would be shaded across the four gardens.

Finally the idea that '*there's no one path to spiritual awakening*', was kept at the core of the design process in order to offer a variety of experiences to the key users of the space.



Figure A

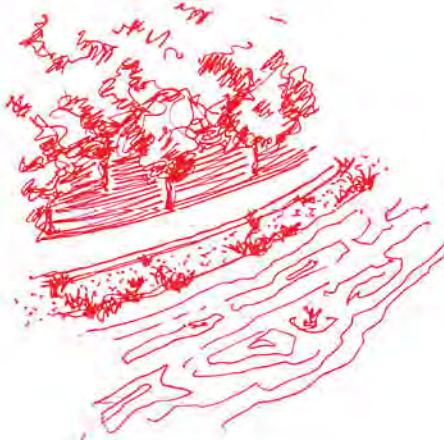


Figure B

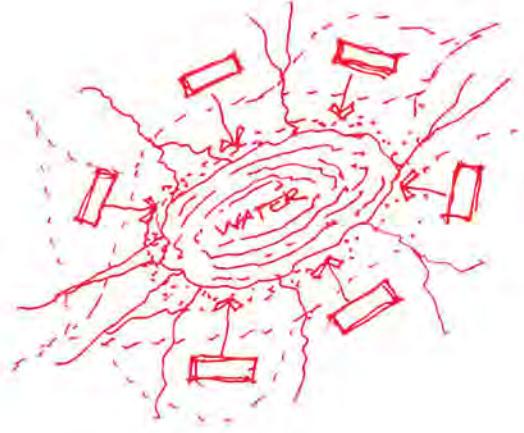


Figure C



Figure D



Figure E

Concept & Design Strategy

The core idea was to create landscapes which are evocative of the qualities of each of the four gardens yet work in tandem with each other as well as the surrounding environment. The significance of each garden was retained through the experiential design for each of them. Furthermore, the use of hardscape and rigid geometric patterns was avoided and more attention was paid to the arrangements of trees, water features, sculptural features and the placement of the outdoor furniture in order to link the spaces to each other and offer a variety of experiences within each of the gardens.

The main circulation paths were retained as per the prescribed guidelines however the design encourages the users to create their own circulation through the gardens such that each user can experience the gardens in their own personal way (Figure D). A flexibility in mobility around the gardens was achieved by keeping a natural arrangement of landscape elements on the site. On a larger scale, the garden of Light was linked visually to the northern edge of the site in order to create views towards the proposed lake in the future (Figure B).

Lastly the western axis aimed to be the main approach to the gardens in the future, was emphasized in the design. A variety of local trees such as Neem, Mango, Guava, Jack Fruit and Tamarind trees were proposed on this axis such that they partly hide the Matri Mandir from the main approach till the viewer reaches the gardens where the full view of the Matri Mandir is revealed thereby creating an element of surprise for the viewer.

The Four Gardens

As mentioned earlier, the four gardens were treated in a way which respects the existing landscape and the Mandir at the same time, while encompassing qualities associated to each of them. For the **Garden of Light** a play of shade and light was the central idea chosen for the design. This play was achieved by creating pockets of light known as the '**enclosures of light**' (Figure A) amidst the heavy foliage present on the garden. The user is free to chose a path amidst the thick foliage and

these enclosures thereby creating a unique experience for themselves. The Garden of Light further respects the future proposal of the lake towards the north of the site and opens itself towards the lake thereby respecting the context and future aspirations of the site.

The **Garden of Life** revolves around the general theme of Water being the genesis of life. The present depression on the site is proposed to be restored as a small pond over which the main circulation pathway arches dissecting the garden into two. The vegetation surrounding the pond and the rest of the garden was proposed in a homogenous way comprising of Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, Night Jasmine and Amazon Lily among others. It was decided early on to make use of dry landscaping for this garden in order to create a stark contrast between the pond and the garden (wet and dry) and also to maintain the garden with as little irrigation as possible since it falls in the shadow of the Banyan tree. Outdoor furniture was carefully placed in parts of the garden and the backslope of the garden facing the Banyan tree, thereby creating a variety of spaces for the user (Figure C).

The design for the **Garden of Power** aims to respect the Banyan tree, an already present element on site representative of power. For this reason, the slope of the petal facing the Banyan tree was converted into stepped seating with its back to the Matri Mandir. For the part of the garden under the shade of the Banyan tree, space was allotted to place five sculptures evocative of power yet smaller in scale. This contrast in scale of the man made sculptures and the natural sculpture (the Banyan tree) creates a sense of power. For the rest of the garden, dry landscape similar to the Garden of Life was adopted for similar aesthetic and ecological considerations. The flowers proposed for the garden such as Hibiscus Rosa-Sinensis, along with Antirrhinum Majus, Passiflora Vitifolia and Asparagus Racemosus were incorporated. Outdoor furniture was carefully placed in parts of the garden and the backslope of the garden facing the Banyan tree, thereby creating a variety of spaces for the user.

The design for the **Garden of Wealth** aims to encompass the wealth and abundance of nature (Figure E). For this reason, fruit trees such as Guava, Mango, Jack Fruit and Tamarind were proposed in the

garden. Along with these, a variety of flowering shrubs and plants were proposed along with the flower of the garden. The idea of abundance was finally encompassed in the form of the water body in the centre of the garden which is meant to house the flower of the garden, Nymphaea, Selenicereus, Echinopsis Oxygona along with other water lily flowers as proposed by the Mother. The outdoor furniture was placed in the shade of the trees proposed at the junction of the backslope and the main garden. The user is free to chose a path either amidst the shade of the garden, along the water pond or the shrubs and plants proposed at the inner slope facing the garden thereby enriching the experience of the garden.

Ecological Considerations

It was made sure that the micro and macro climate of the region and the site were considered while designing the gardens. The use of hardscape was generally avoided throughout the four gardens to lessen the glare of the sun and the heat absorption on the site. Trees with a foliage of more than or at least 10 meters were proposed in the gardens of Light and Wealth in order to provide shade to the user. The outdoor furniture was placed under the shade of trees or near a water feature throughout the four gardens in order to create pleasant seating arrangements. To reduce the heat gain of the furniture without compromising on the aesthetic quality, it was proposed to cast the outdoor benches and stools in white terrazzo with red glass chips.

The existing water feature in the garden of Life was retained thereby helping with bringing down the temperature on site. Another water pond was proposed in the garden of Wealth which is completely exposed to the sun throughout the day. This water feature is further meant to support the flowers and plants proposed by the Mother for the said garden. The water feature along with trees such as Gulmohar, Neem, and Samanea Saman (Albizia Lebbeck) were proposed in this garden in order to give some respite to the user from the heat. In the gardens of Life and Power, which are mostly present in the shade of the Banyan tree, dry gardens were proposed along with various species of Cactii and shrubs such that the landscape can thrive in these gardens without much irrigation.

Landscape Plan

Gardens of Light, Life, Power and Wealth

The core idea was to create landscapes which are evocative of the qualities of each of the four gardens yet work in tandem with each other as well as the surrounding environment. The significance of each garden was retained through the experiential design for each of them. The incorporation of the quality of each garden in the design is explained individually for each of the four gardens in the upcoming sections.



Circulation Diagram + Desire Paths

Gardens of Light, Life, Power and Wealth

The use of hardscape and rigid geometric patterns was avoided. While the main circulation paths were retained as per the prescribed guidelines, the design encouraged the users to create their own circulation through the gardens such that each user can experience the gardens in their own personal way. A flexibility in mobility around the gardens was achieved by keeping a natural arrangement of landscape elements on the site.



Drainage Patterns

Gardens of Light, Life, Power and Wealth

It was decided early on that the water runoff in each of the gardens would either be conserved in the form of a water feature or connect to the already present rain water harvesting system for the site. The use of energy intensive elements such as fountains and sumps was to be avoided and a variety of local trees were chosen to be planted across the four gardens such that the landscape doesn't demand access water to maintain and thrive. It was also decided early on that the gardens present in the shade of the Banyan tree were to be developed as dry gardens using less water consuming plants and shrubs, specially a variety of cactii.



Outdoor Furniture

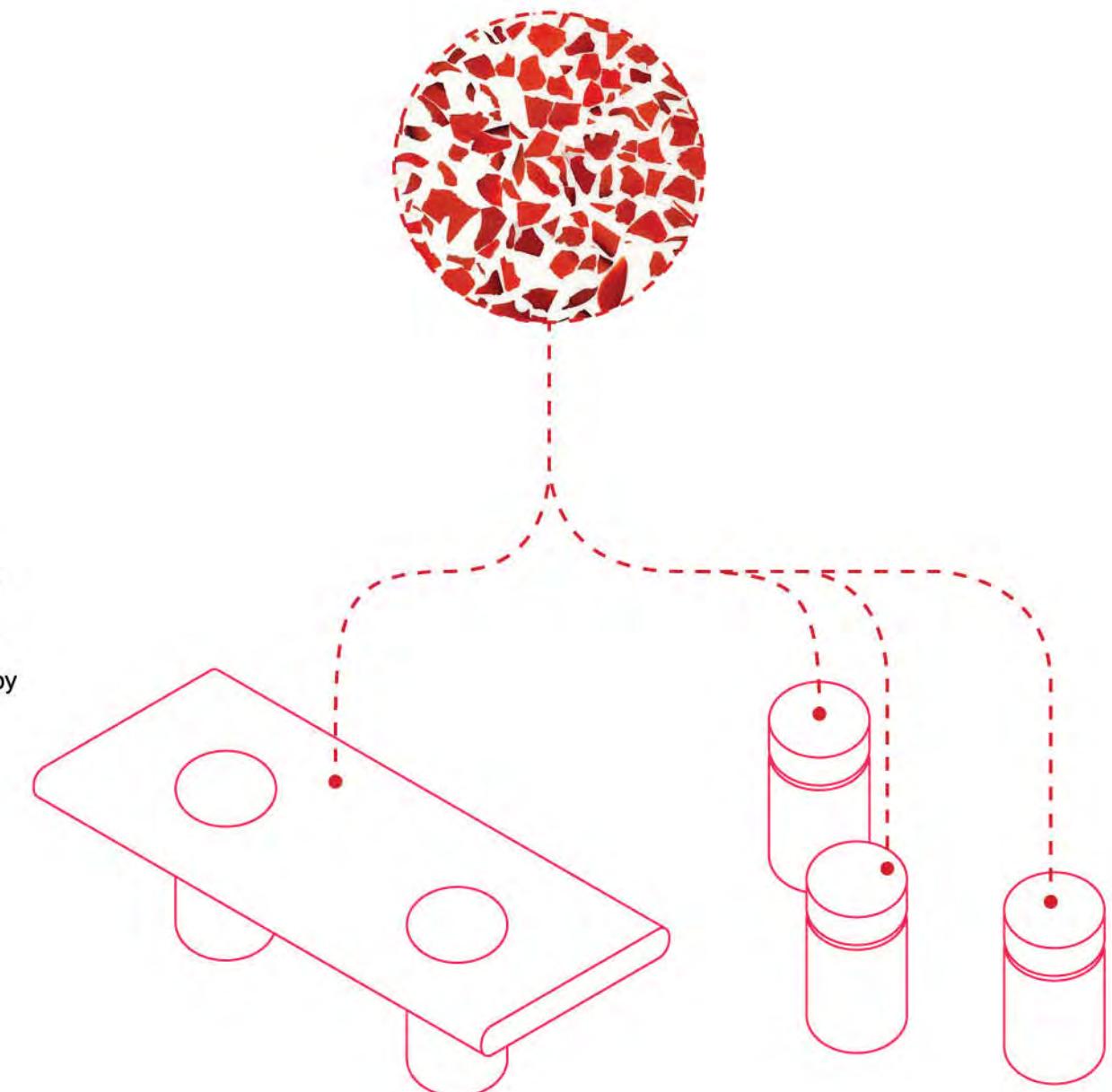
Gardens of Light, Life, Power and Wealth



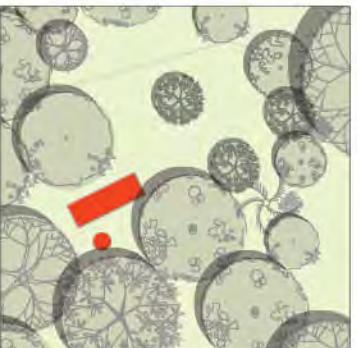
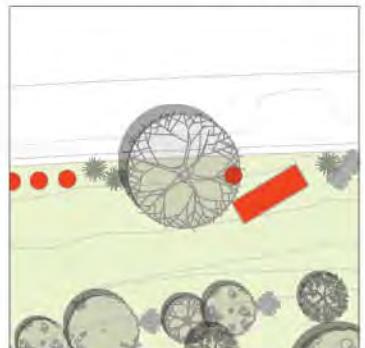
The use of hardscape and rigid geometric patterns was avoided and more attention was paid to the arrangements of trees, water features, sculptural features and the placement of the outdoor furniture in order to link the spaces to each other and offer a variety of experiences within each of the gardens.

The furniture was proposed without any backrests in order to not define a direction the user should sit in. This frees the user to chose the direction one wants to face while sitting, thereby leaving room for the user defined experience.

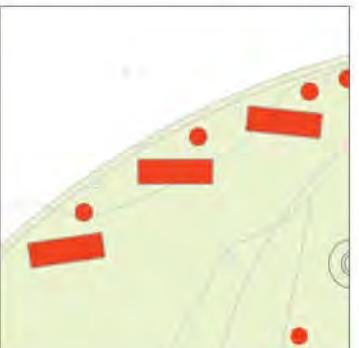
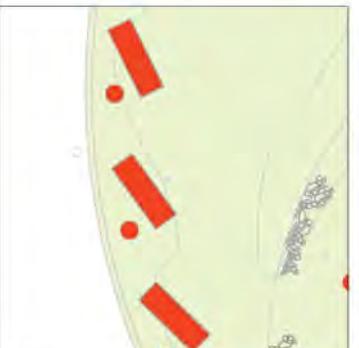
Lastly, the outdoor furniture was placed under the shade of trees or near a water feature throughout the four gardens in order to create pleasant seating arrangements. To reduce the heat gain of the furniture without compromising on the aesthetic quality, it was proposed to cast the outdoor benches and stools in white terrazzo with red glass chips.



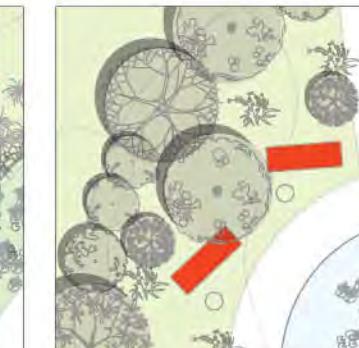
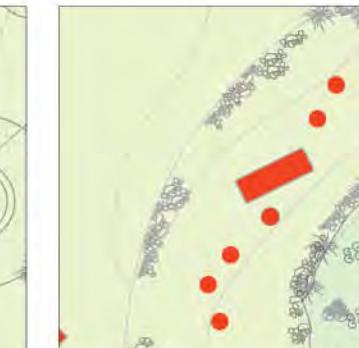
Under the Shade of a Tree



Under the Shade of the Banyan Tree



Near a Water Feature



THE GARDEN OF LIGHT

For the first garden, the **Garden of Light**, the play of shade and light was the central idea chosen for the design. This play was achieved by creating pockets of light known as the '**enclosures of light**' (Figure A) amidst the heavy foliage present on the garden. The user is free to chose a path amidst the thick foliage and these enclosures thereby creating a unique experience for themselves.



Figure A

The main circulation paths were retained as per the prescribed guidelines however the design encourages the users to create their own circulation through the gardens such that each user can experience the gardens in their own personal way (Figure B). A flexibility in mobility around the gardens was achieved by keeping a natural arrangement of landscape elements on the site.



Figure B

Trees with a foliage of more than or at least 10 meters were proposed in the gardens of Light and Wealth in order to provide shade to the user. The outdoor furniture was placed under the shade of trees or near a water feature throughout the four gardens in order to create pleasant seating arrangements. On a larger scale, the garden of Light was linked visually to the northern edge of the site in order to create views towards the proposed lake in the future (Figure C).

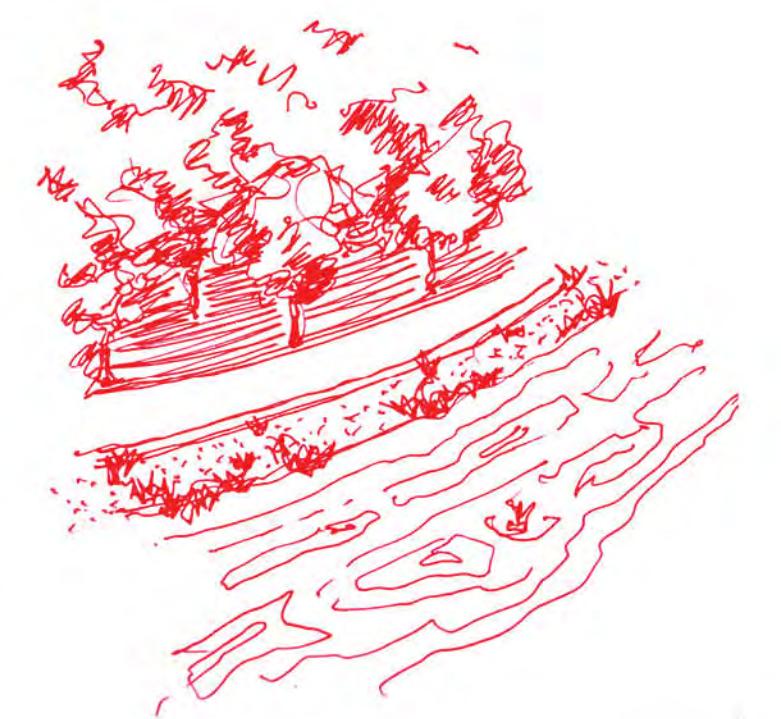


Figure C



Landscape Plan
Garden of Light



Circulation Diagram + Desire Paths
Garden of Light



Drainage Patterns
Garden of Light



The following Materials, Trees and
Plants & Shrubs are recommended for
the Garden of Light

Materials



White Terrazzo
with Red Glass
Chips



Sandstone



Grey Granite Pebbles



Psidium Guava



Mango



Gulmohar



Hibiscus Rosa-
Sinensis 'Waimaea'



Night Jasmine



Thunbergia Erecta
Alba

Trees



Jack Fruit



Tamarind



Neem



Fish Tail Palm



Royal Palm



Palmyrah Palm



Amazon Lily

**Recommended
Flowering Plants and
Shrubs**

THE GARDEN OF LIFE

The **Garden of Life** revolves around the general theme of Water being the genesis of life. The present depression on the site is proposed to be restored as a small pond over which the main circulation pathway arches dissecting the garden into two. The vegetation surrounding the pond and the rest of the garden was proposed in a homogenous way comprising of Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, Night Jasmine and Amazon Lily among others. It was decided early on to make use of dry landscaping for this garden in order to create a stark contrast between the pond and the garden (wet and dry) and also to maintain the garden with as little irrigation as possible since it falls in the shadow of the Banyan tree (Figure A). Outdoor furniture was carefully placed in parts of the garden and the backslope of the garden facing the Banyan tree, thereby creating a variety of spaces for the user.

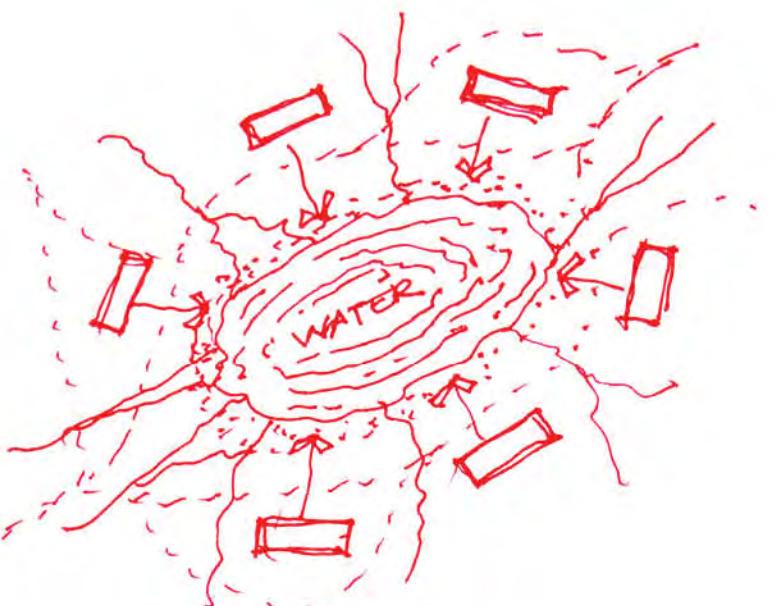


Figure A

The main circulation paths were retained as per the prescribed guidelines however the design encourages the users to create their own circulation through the gardens such that each user can experience the gardens in their own personal way (Figure B). A flexibility in mobility around the gardens was achieved by keeping a natural arrangement of landscape elements on the site.



Figure B



Landscape Plan
Garden of Life



Circulation Diagram + Desire Paths
Garden of Life



Drainage Patterns
Garden of Life



The following Materials, Trees and
Plants & Shrubs are recommended for
the Garden of Life

Materials



White Terrazzo
with Red Glass
Chips



Sandstone



Grey Granite Pebbles

Trees

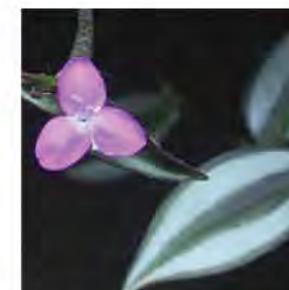
No trees were
proposed for this
garden.



Hibiscus Rosa-
Sinensis



Dendranthema X
Grandiflora



Tradescantia Zebrina



Solenostemon
Scutellarioides
[Coleus Xhybridus]



Clerodendrum
Inerme



Caladium

**Recommended
Flowering Plants and
Shrubs**

THE GARDEN OF POWER

The design for the **Garden of Power** aims to respect the Banyan tree, an already present element on site representative of power. For this reason, the slope of the petal facing the Banyan tree was converted into stepped seating with its back to the Matri Mandir. For the part of the garden under the shade of the Banyan tree, space was allotted to place five sculptures evocative of power yet smaller in scale. This contrast in scale of the man made sculptures and the natural sculpture (the Banyan tree) creates a sense of power (Figure A). For the rest of the garden, dry landscape similar to the Garden of Life was adopted for similar aesthetic and ecological considerations. The flowers proposed for the garden such as Hibiscus Rosa-Sinensis, along with Antirrhinum Majus, Passiflora Vitifolia and Asparagus Racemosus were incorporated. Outdoor furniture was carefully placed in parts of the garden and the backslope of the garden facing the Banyan tree, thereby creating a variety of spaces for the user.

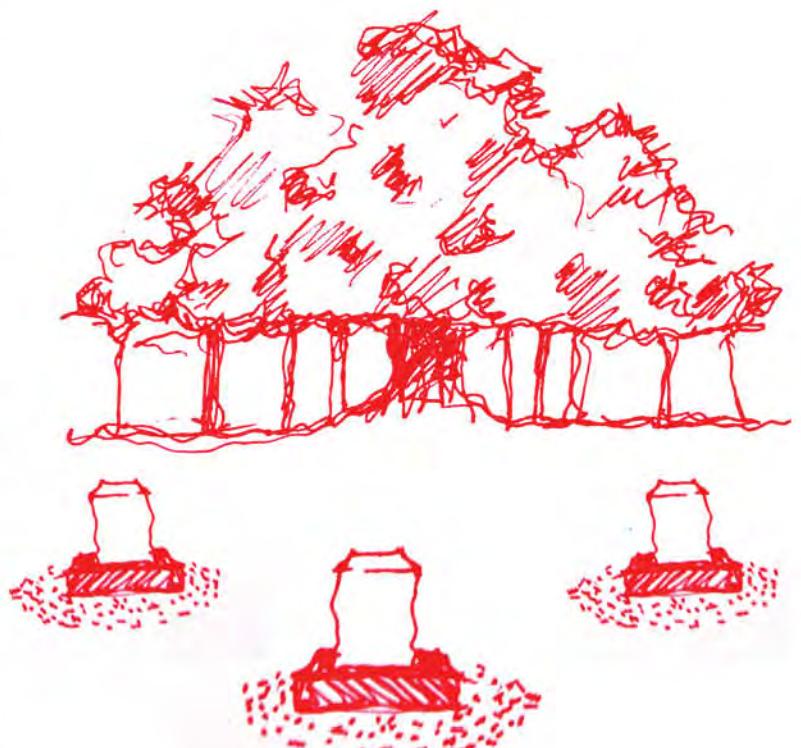


Figure A

The main circulation paths were retained as per the prescribed guidelines however the design encourages the users to create their own circulation through the gardens such that each user can experience the gardens in their own personal way (Figure B). A flexibility in mobility around the gardens was achieved by keeping a natural arrangement of landscape elements on the site.



Figure B



Landscape Plan
Garden of Power



Circulation Diagram + Desire Paths
Garden of Power



Drainage Patterns
Garden of Power



The following Materials, Trees and
Plants & Shrubs are recommended for
the Garden of Power

Materials



White Terrazzo
with Red Glass
Chips



Sandstone



Grey Granite Pebbles

Trees

No trees were
proposed for this
garden.



Chinese Hibiscus



Snapdragon



Passion Flower



Asparagus

**Recommended
Flowering Plants and
Shrubs**

THE GARDEN OF WEALTH

The design for the **Garden of Wealth** aims to encompass the wealth and abundance of nature (Figure A). For this reason, fruit trees such as Guava, Mango, Jack Fruit and Tamarind were proposed in the garden. Along with these, a variety of flowering shrubs and plants were proposed along with the flower of the garden. The idea of abundance was finally encompassed in the form of the water body in the centre of the garden which is meant to house the flower of the garden, Nymphaea, Selenicereus, Echinopsis Oxygona along with other water lily flowers as proposed by the Mother. The outdoor furniture was placed in the shade of the trees proposed at the junction of the backslope and the main garden. The user is free to chose a path either amidst the shade of the garden, along the water pond or the shrubs and plants proposed at the inner slope facing the garden thereby enriching the experience of the garden.

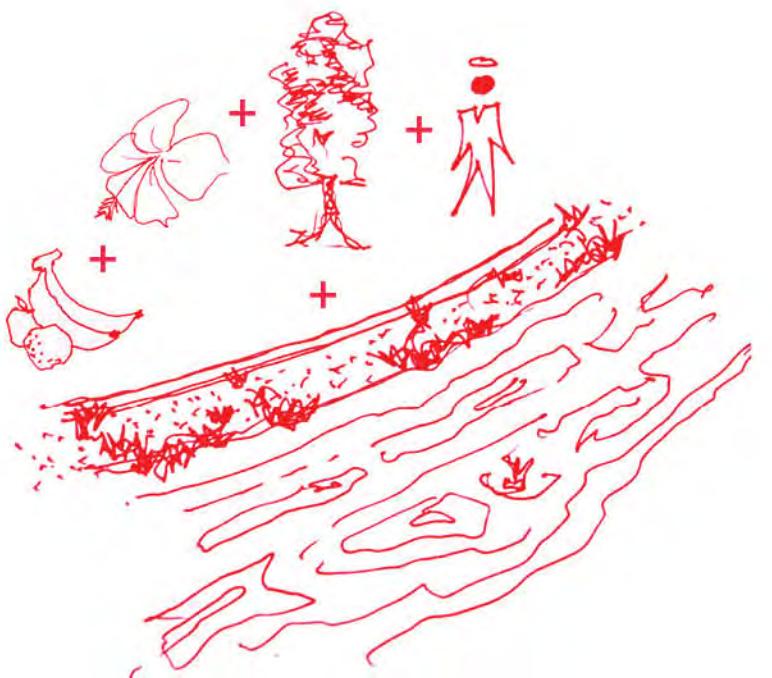


Figure A

The main circulation paths were retained as per the prescribed guidelines however the design encourages the users to create their own circulation through the gardens such that each user can experience the gardens in their own personal way (Figure B). A flexibility in mobility around the gardens was achieved by keeping a natural arrangement of landscape elements on the site.



Figure B



Landscape Plan
Garden of Wealth



Circulation Diagram + Desire Paths
Garden of Wealth



Drainage Patterns
Garden of Wealth



The following Materials, Trees and
Plants & Shrubs are recommended for
the Garden of Wealth

Materials



White Terrazzo
with Red Glass
Chips



Sandstone



Grey Granite Pebbles



Psidium Guava



Mango



Gulmohar



Water Lily (Nymphaea)



Water Lily (Lavender)



Flowering Cactii

Trees



Jack Fruit



Tamarind



Neem



Water Lily (Nymphaea)



Indian Red Water Lily



Night Blooming Cereus



Fish Tail Palm



Royal Palm



Palmyrah Palm



Water Lily (Nymphaea)



Pink Easter
Lily Cactus



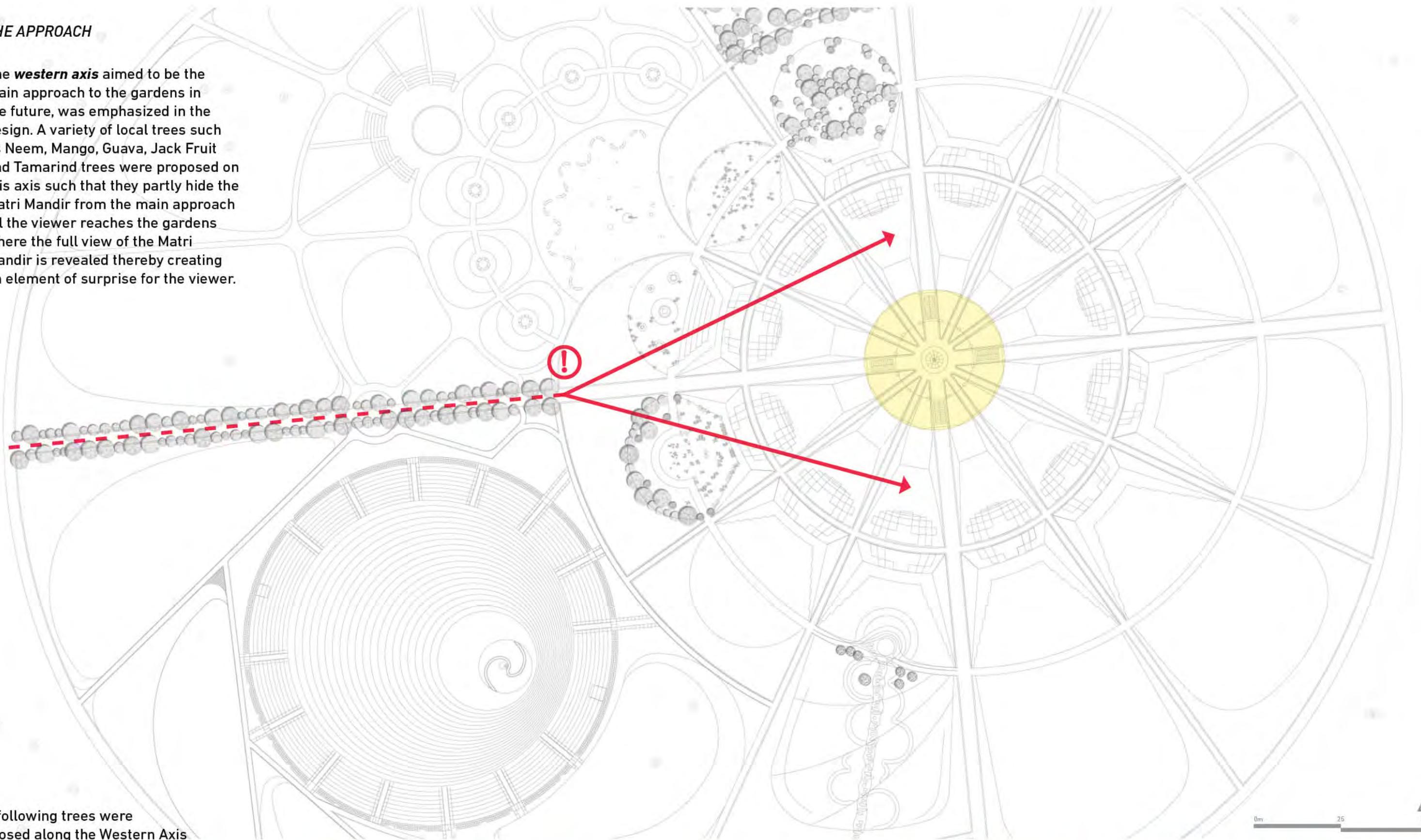
Water Lily (Nymphaea)



Water Lily
Deep Rose Red

THE APPROACH

The **western axis** aimed to be the main approach to the gardens in the future, was emphasized in the design. A variety of local trees such as Neem, Mango, Guava, Jack Fruit and Tamarind trees were proposed on this axis such that they partly hide the Matri Mandir from the main approach till the viewer reaches the gardens where the full view of the Matri Mandir is revealed thereby creating an element of surprise for the viewer.



The following trees were proposed along the Western Axis



Psidium Guava



Mango



Gulmohar



Jack Fruit



Tamarind



Neem



Fish Tail Palm



Royal Palm



Palmyrah Palm

THE APPROACH

Sketch showing the **western axis** as the main approach to the gardens. A variety of local trees partly hiding the Matri Mandir from the main approach till the viewer reaches the gardens where the full view of the Matri Mandir is revealed thereby creating an element of surprise for the viewer.



The following birds and butterflies are expected to be sighted in the gardens after implementation

Birds



Black Drongo



Black-Rumped
Flameback



Blue-Eyed Malkoha



Lotens Sunbird
Male



Indian Robin



Hoopoe



Peafowl



White-Breasted
Kingfisher



Indian Pitta

Butterflies



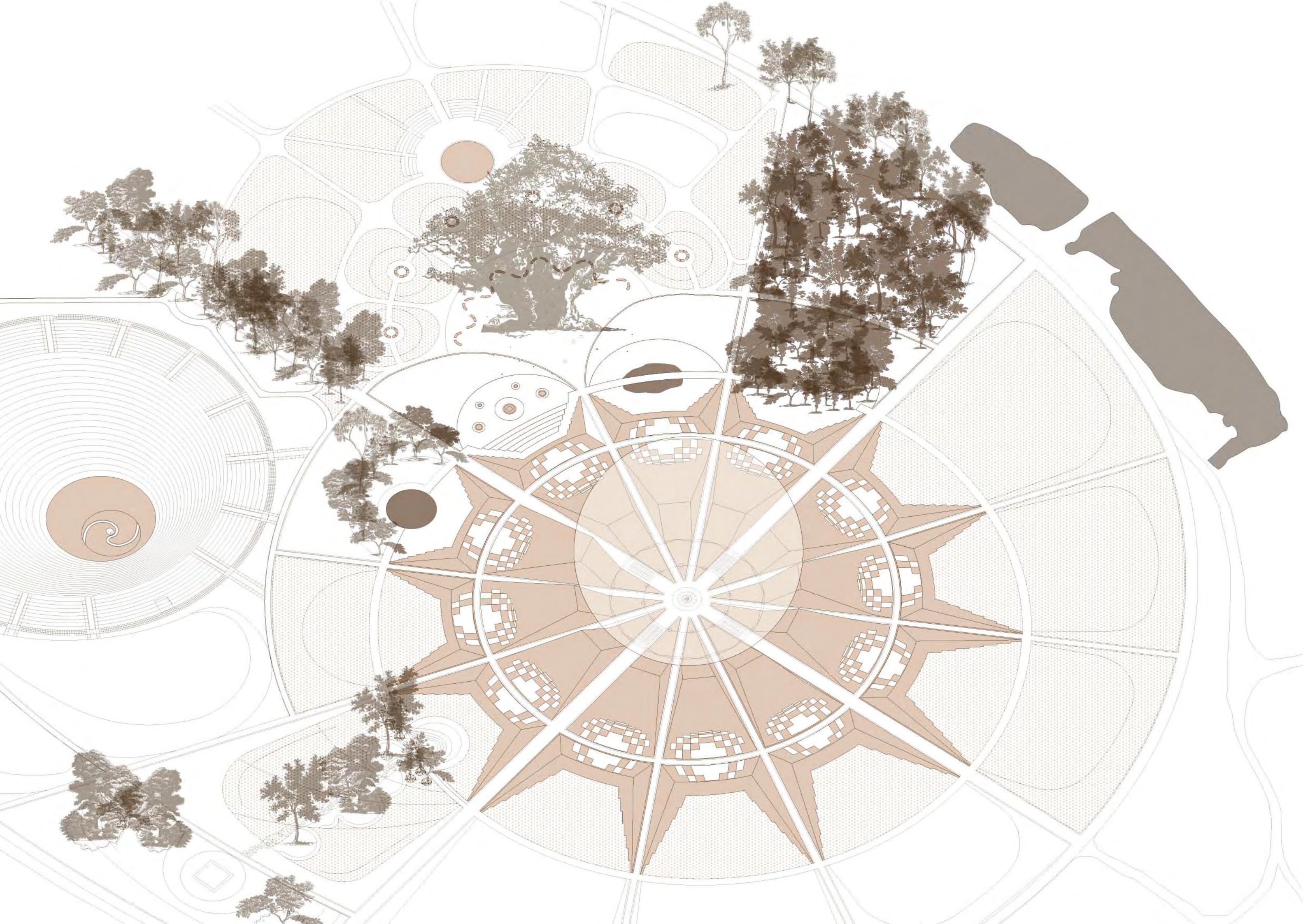
Monarch
Butterfly



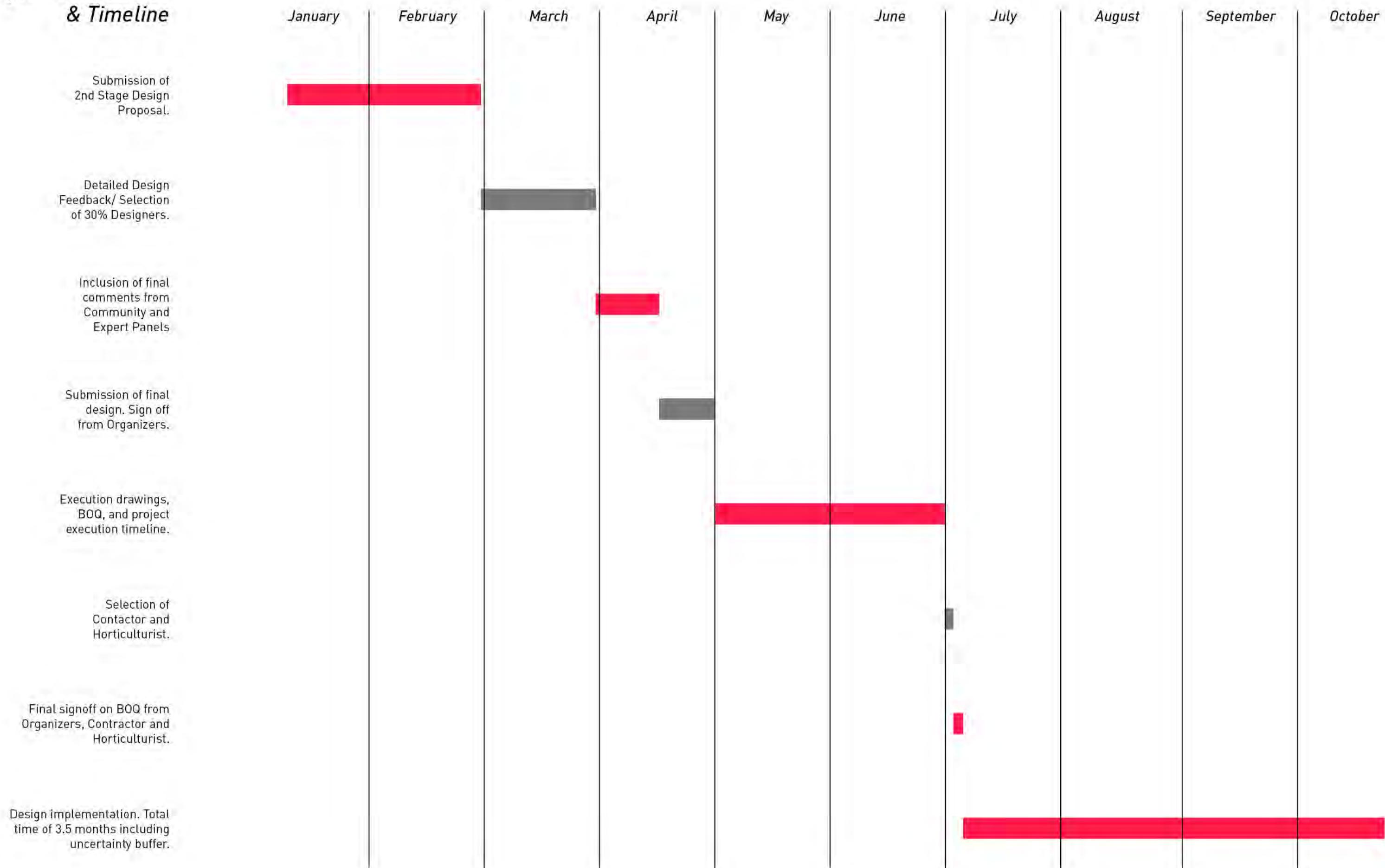
Blue Tiger
Butterfly

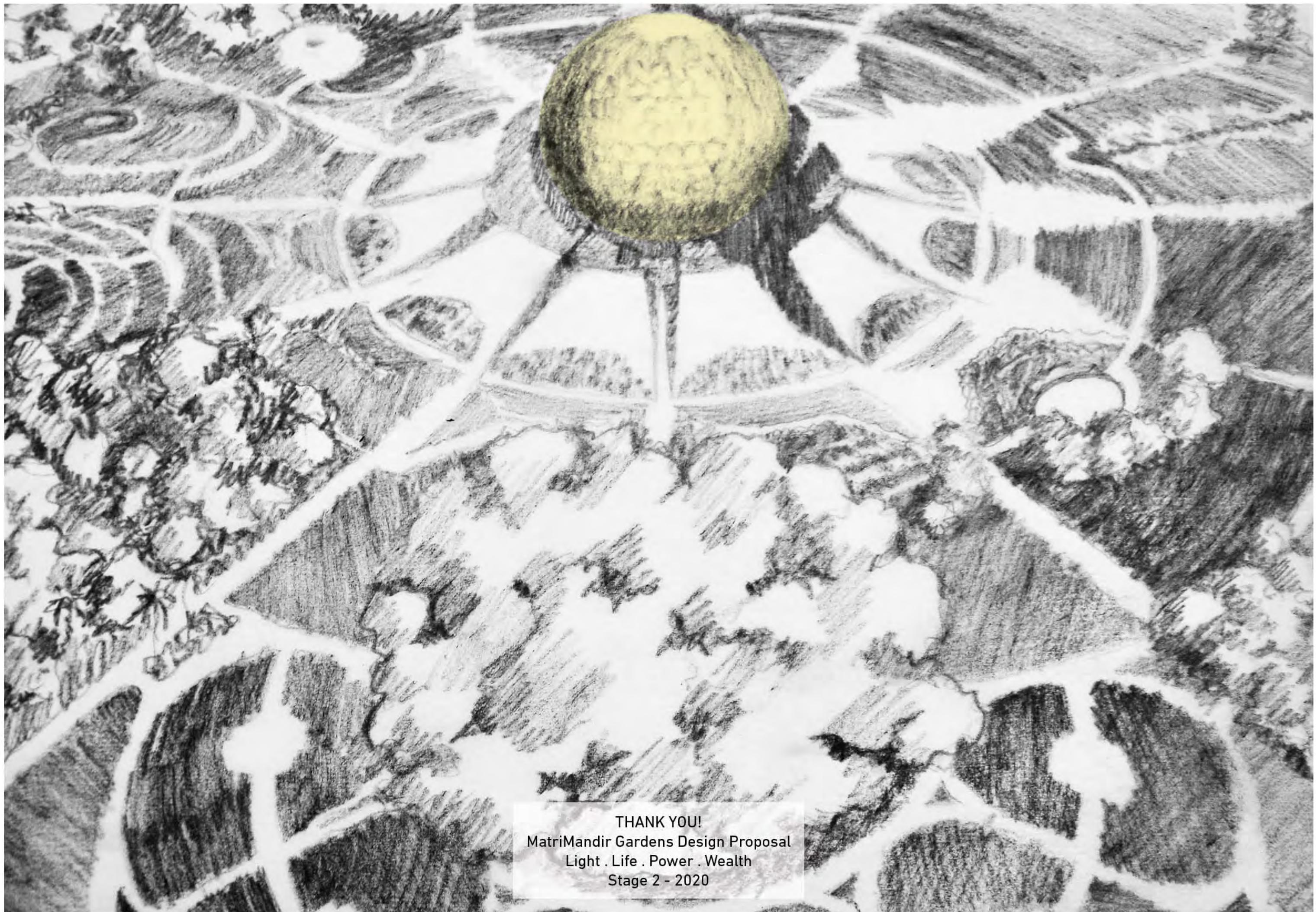


Red Pierrot
Butterfly



Project Deliverables & Timeline





THANK YOU!
MatriMandir Gardens Design Proposal
Light . Life . Power . Wealth
Stage 2 - 2020