

Overview:

The Siddheshwar Mahadev Mandir in Toka, was primarily built during the Yadav Dynasty with later additions done during Peshwa period , is a prominent example of stone architecture and is part of a larger temple complex at the confluence of the Pravara and Godavari rivers. The temple complex also includes a Devi and Vishnu temple, along with ghats by the river. The Siddheshwar temple features a Shivalinga in its sanctum and is crowned with a simple Nagara shikhara. The main temple was built in 1767 and is decorated with high-relief sculptures of gods and goddesses from the Puranas.

Location:

The temple is situated at Kayegaon Toka, which is also known as Ahilyanagar.

Temple Complex:

The complex includes the Siddheshwar Mahadev temple, along with smaller shrines dedicated to Vishnu and Devi.

The other two shrines in the complex simply originate from the patron's name, according to the pujari. Vishnu mandir for Vishnu, Siddheshwar mandir for Mahadev & Gajra Devi (Shakti) mandir for his last name Gajre.

A man named Vishnu Mahadev Gajre had a vision that a Shivaling was present at the current site of the temple. He then ventured out to find the shivling buried at the site and that is where he reconstructed the temple complex.

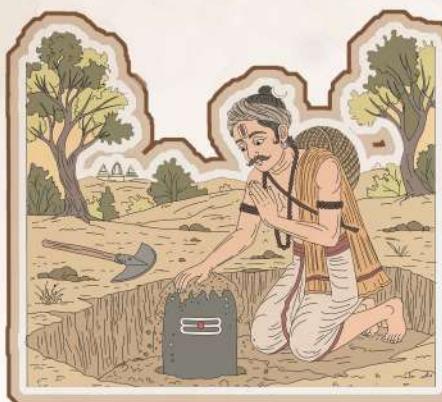


NOTE

1. Since it is a Temple Complex, East (E) direction is denoted on all drawings with respect to IKS (Indian Knowledge Systems) practices.
2. Iconography nomenclatures are done on Elevations & on Plans.
- NM, EM, SM- North, East, South elevations of Mahadev mandir respectively
NS, WS, SS- North, West, South elevations of Shakti mandir respectively.



Introduction



Construction:

Yadav Dynasty- Primary construction of temple- 12th-13th century.

Peshwa period- the temple was further enhanced & expanded, adding to the existing structure & architectural elements.

Main Temple Construction- the main Siddheshwar Mahadev temple is specifically dated to 1767 (Samvat 1823).

The temple was built in 1767 (Samvat 1823) by a Brahman named Vishnu Mahadeva Gajre, at a cost of Rs. 93,000, according to an inscription on the south gate of the temple.

Architecture:

The temple is built in Hemadpanthi style using basalt stone & features a Shivalinga in its sanctum and is crowned with a simple Nagara shikhara.

Sculptures:

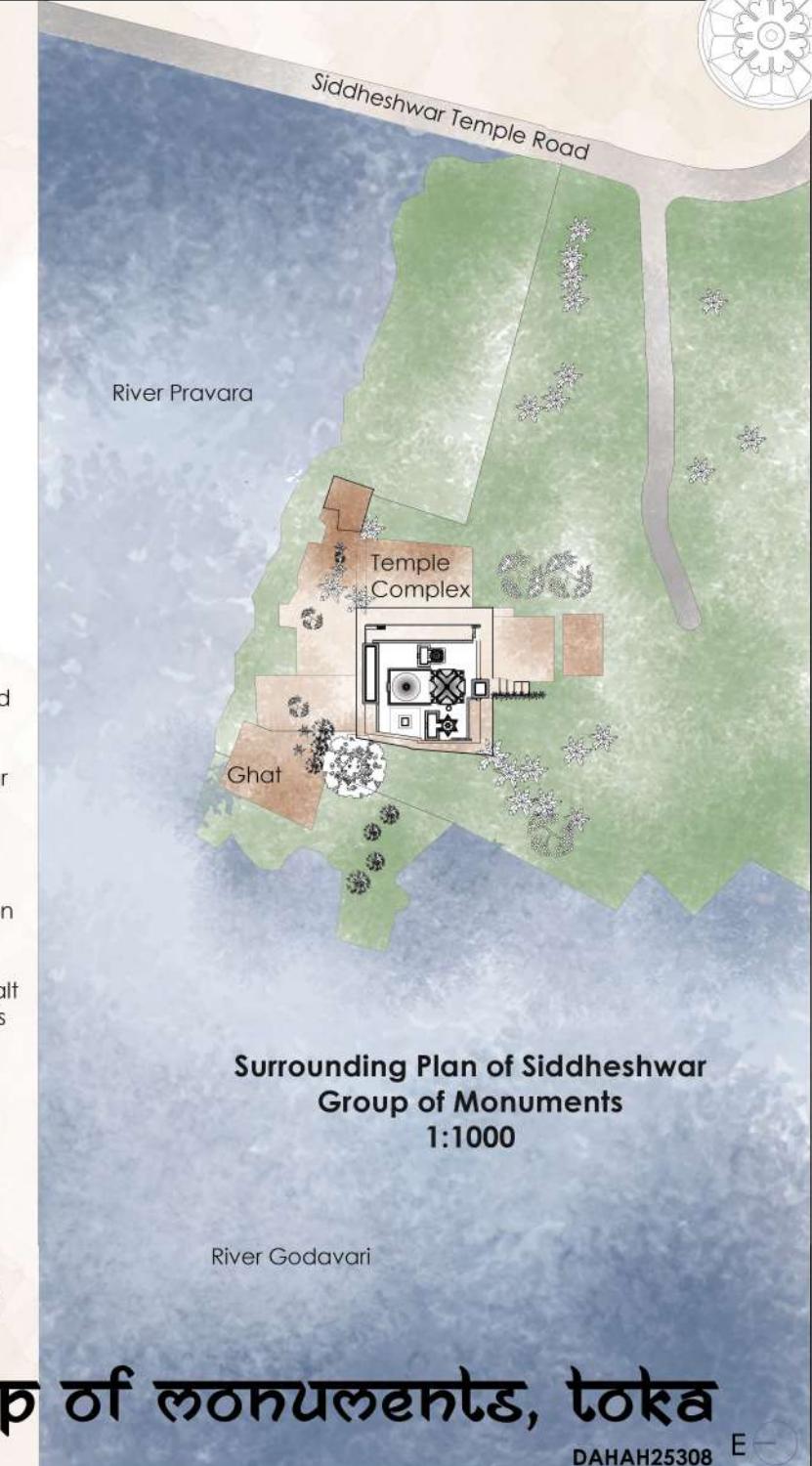
The outer walls of the temple are adorned with high-relief sculptures depicting various gods and goddesses described in the Puranas.

Ghats:

The temple complex includes spacious ghats along the river, providing access to the water. Although mostly submerged underwater most of the year, sometimes gateways surface above water which were initially built above water level on the ghats.

siddheshwar group of monuments, toka

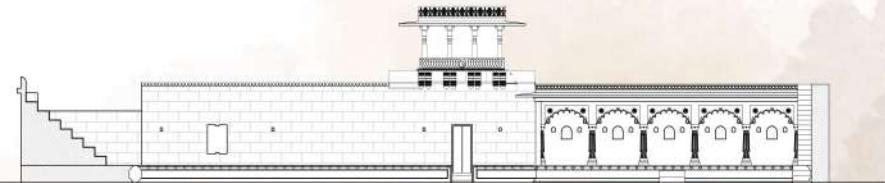
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Elevations

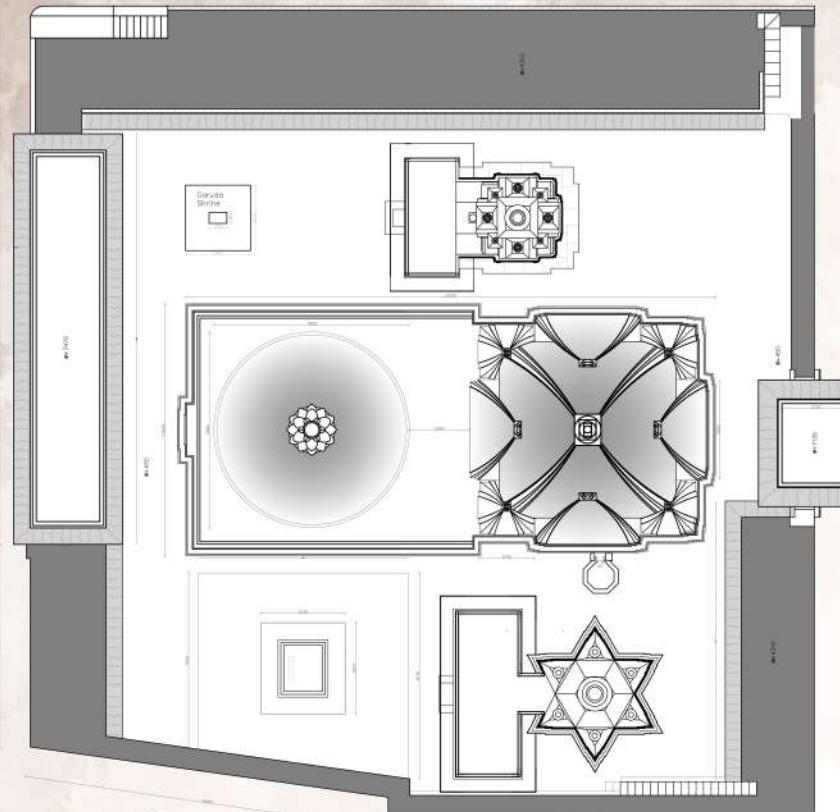


Front wall external elevation
(1:150)

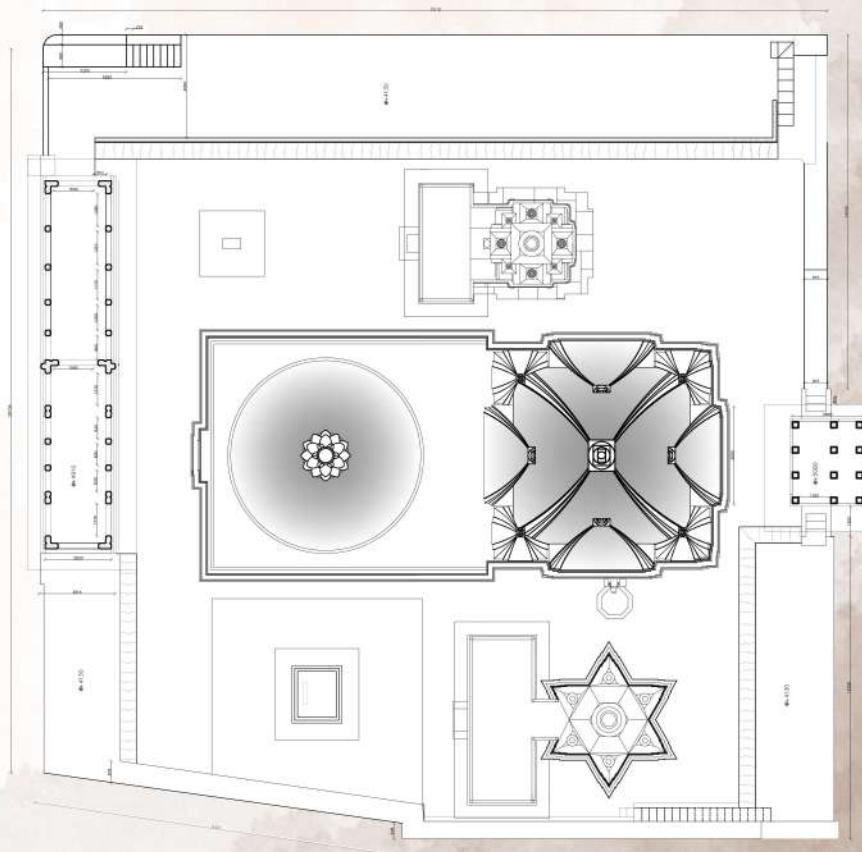


Front wall internal elevation
(1:150)

Plans of Mandir Complex



Roof Plan
(1:150)



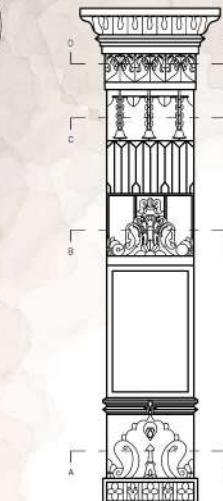
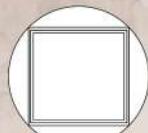
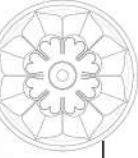
Nagarkhana Ivi Plan
(1:150)

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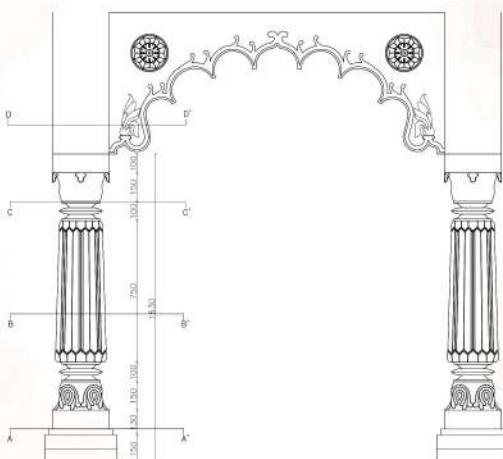
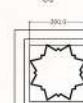
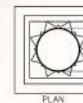
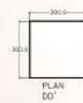
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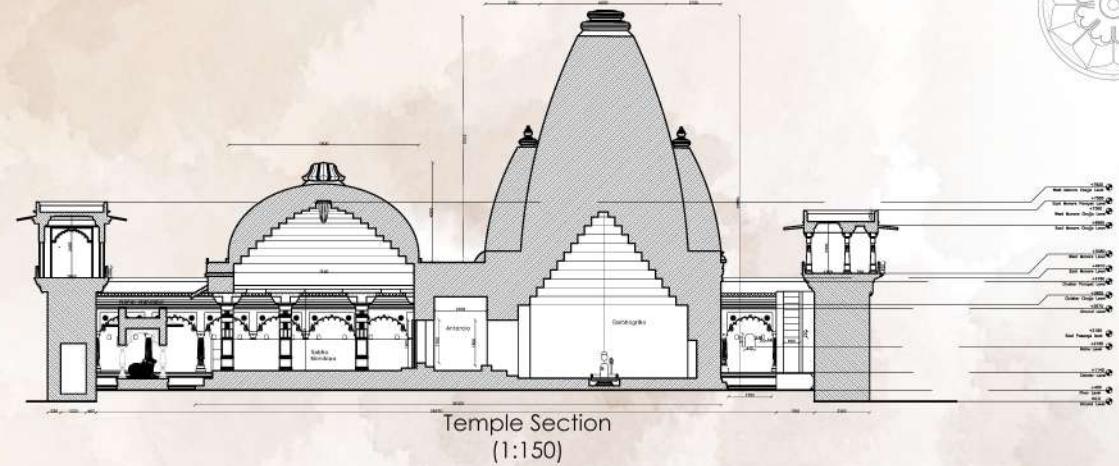
Complex Plan & Section



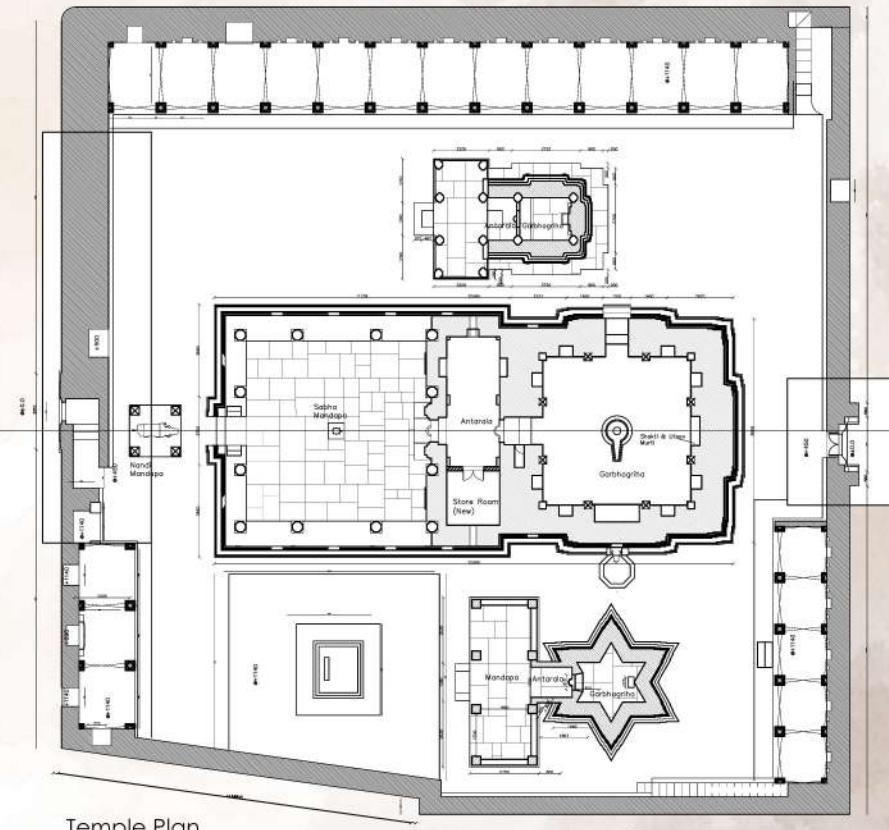
Sabhamandap Column
(1:20)



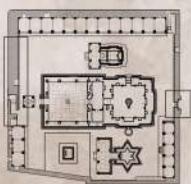
Cloister Column
(1:20)



Temple Section
(1:150)



Temple Plan
(1:150)

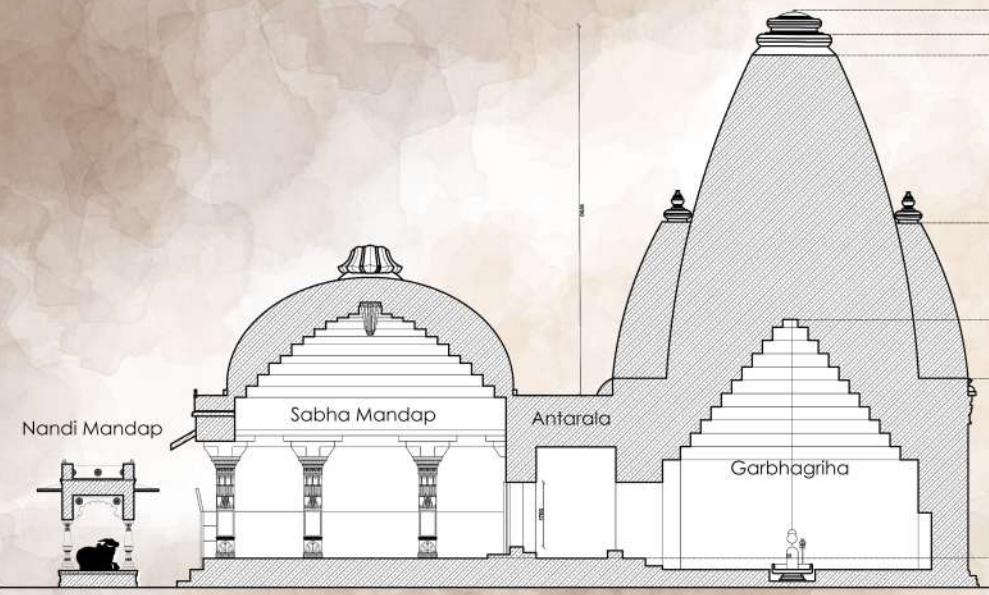


Key Plan

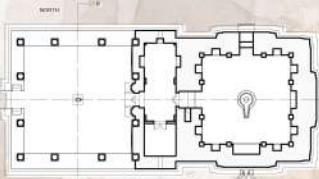
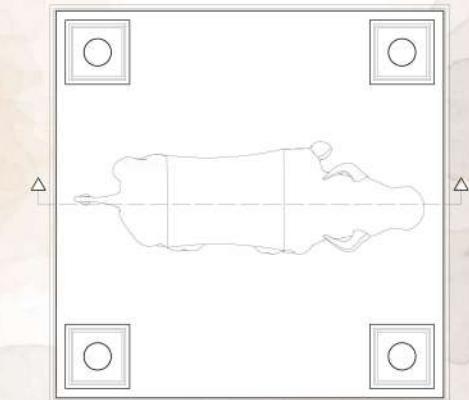
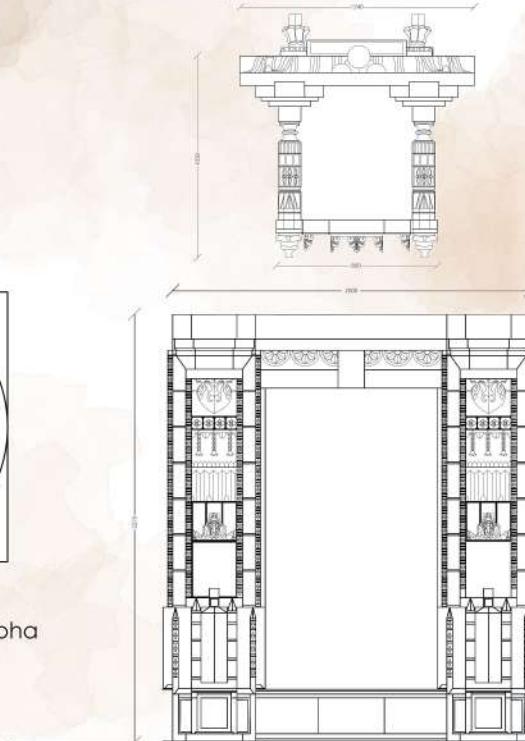
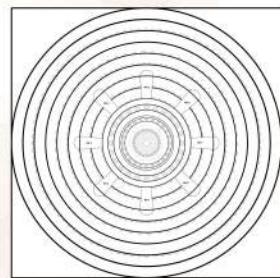
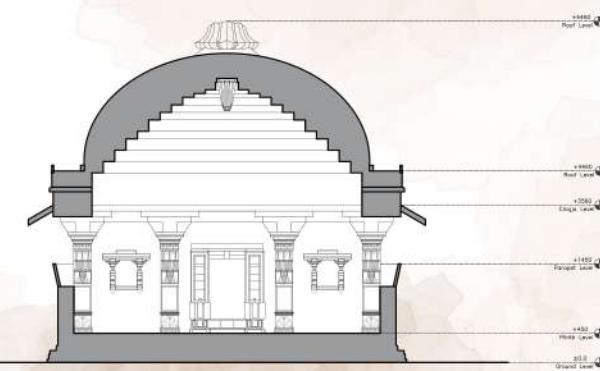
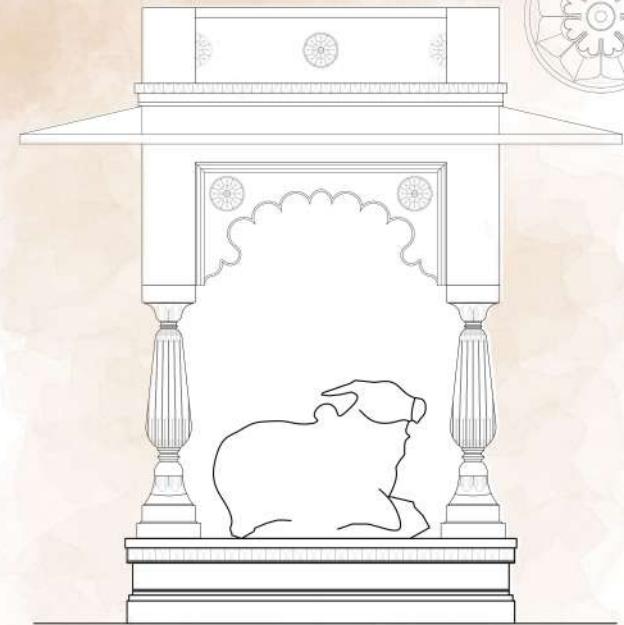
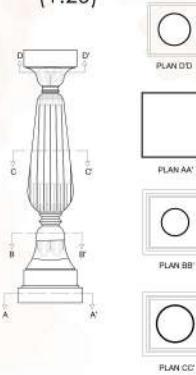
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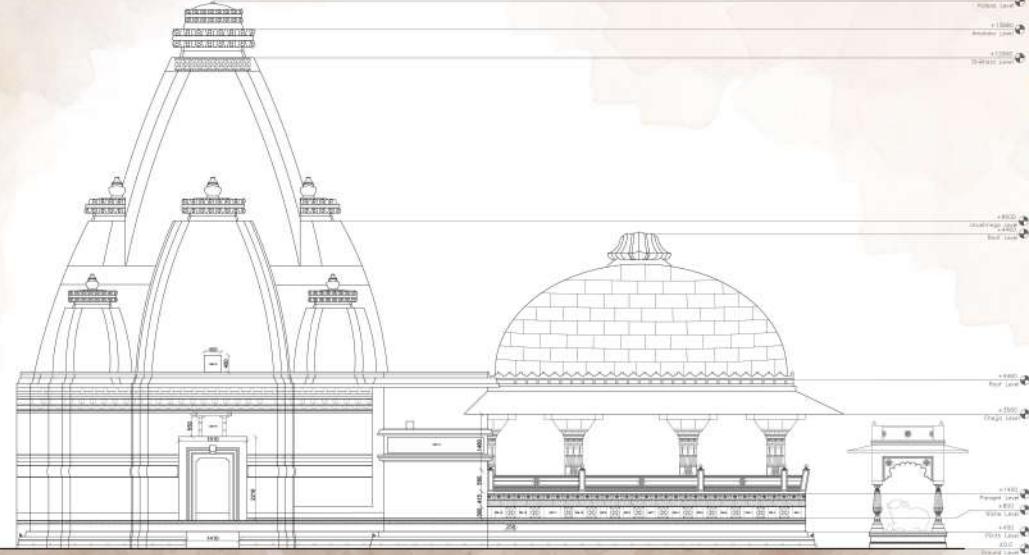
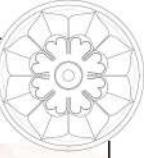
Nandi Mandap Column Detail
(1:20)



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Elevations of Siddheshwar Mahadev Mandir



South Elevation of Main Temple
(1:100)

The temple facade panels depict various mythological stories. Iconographic nomenclature is marked on elevations and plans as follows:
Mahadev Mandir: NM,
EM, SM (North, East, South elevations)



EM 1 EM 2 EM 3 EM 4 EM 5



EM 6 EM 7 EM 8 EM 9 EM 10



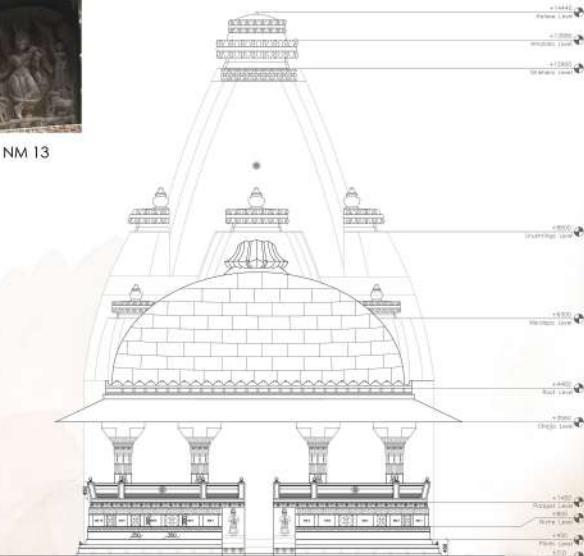
NM 1 NM 2 NM 3 NM 4 NM 5
NM 6 NM 7 NM 8 NM 9 NM 10
NM 11



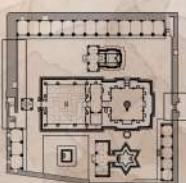
NM 12



NM 13



East Elevation
(1:100)



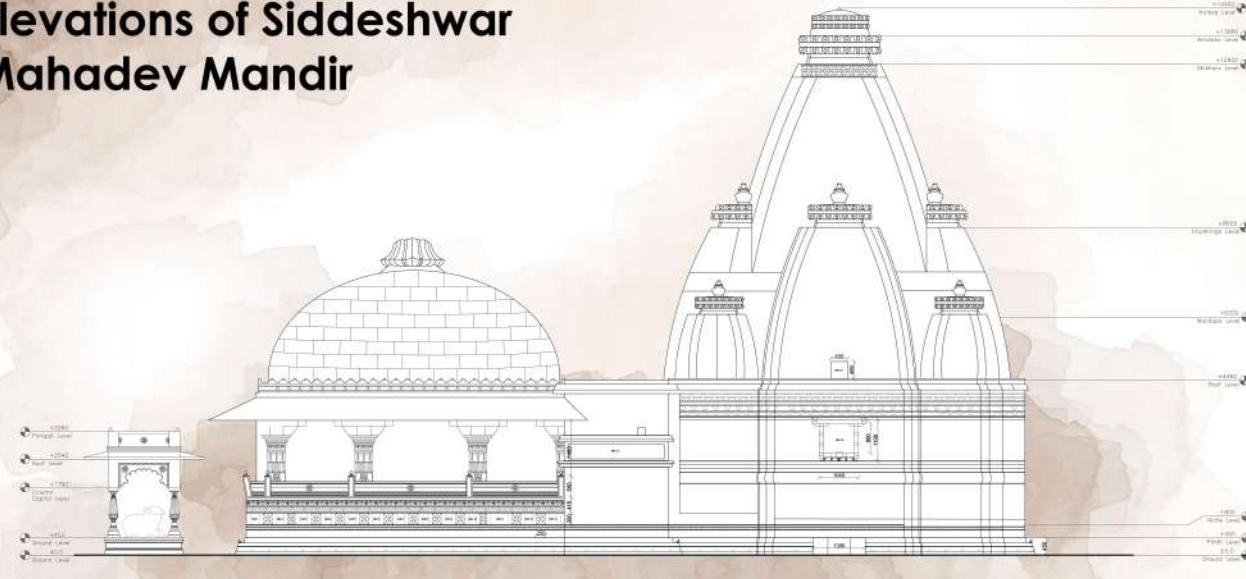
Key Plan

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Elevations of Siddeshwar Mahadev Mandir



South Elevation
(1:100)



The temple facade panels depict various mythological stories. Iconographic nomenclature is marked on elevations and plans as follows:
Mahadev Mandir: NM, EM, SM (North, East, South elevations)



SM 14



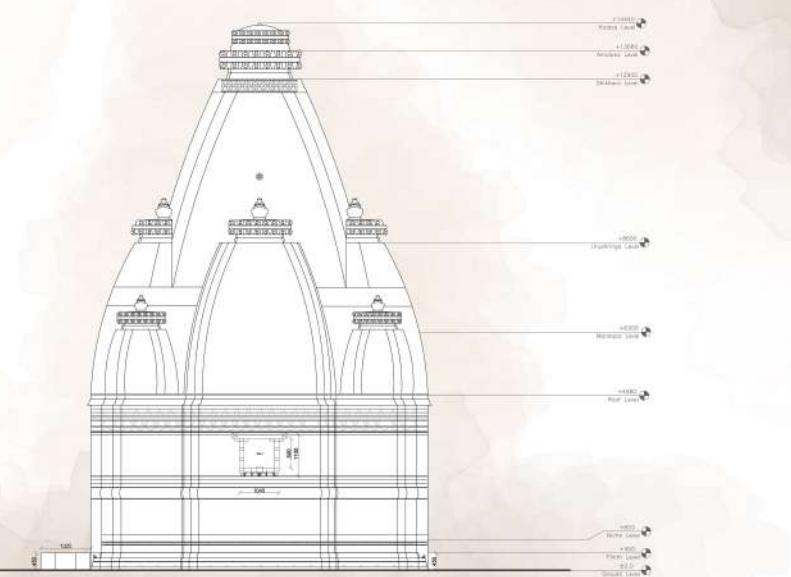
SM 13



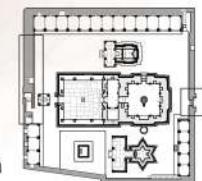
SM 16



WM 1



West Elevation
(1:100)



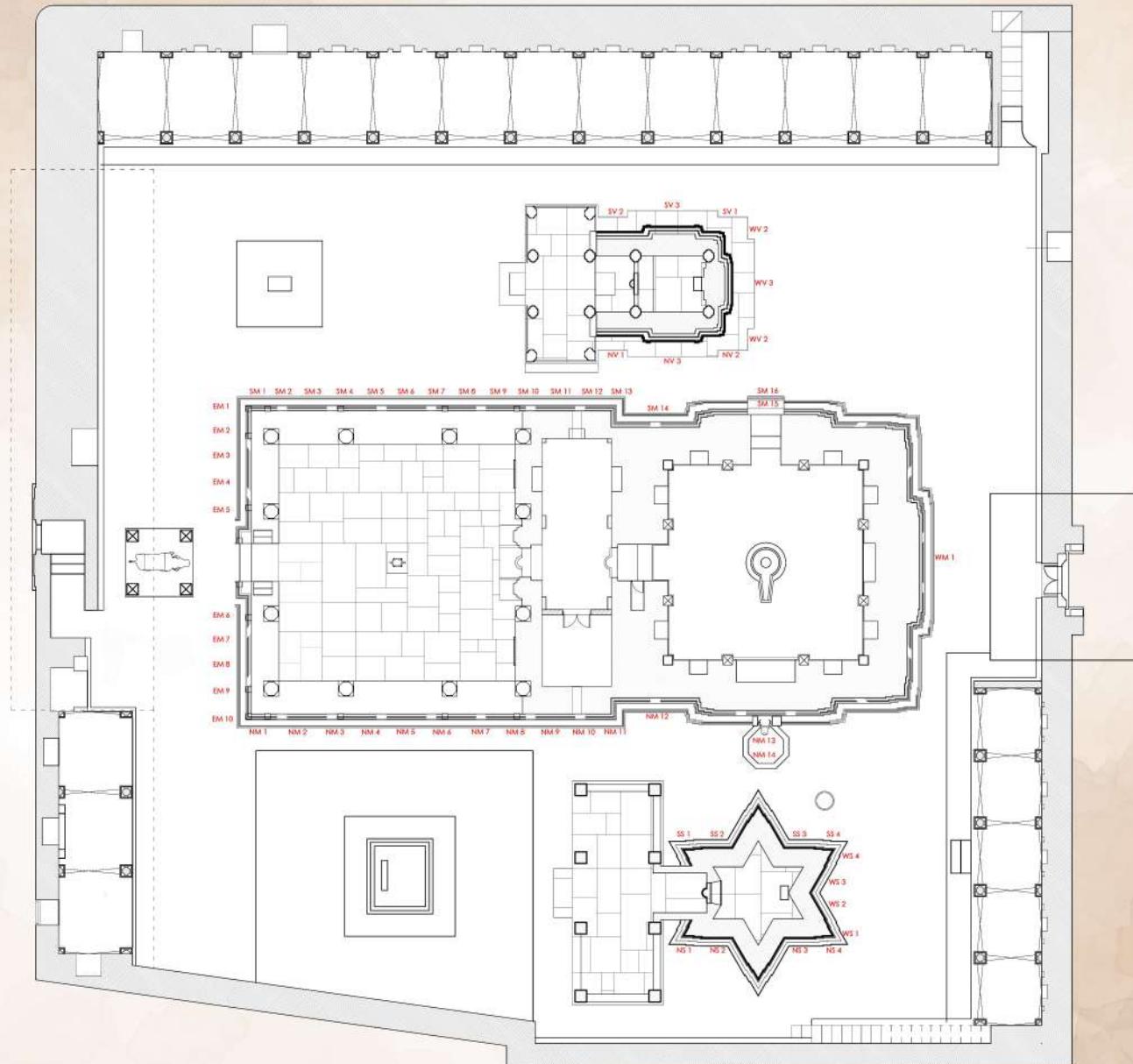
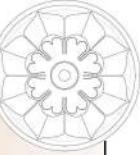
Key Plan

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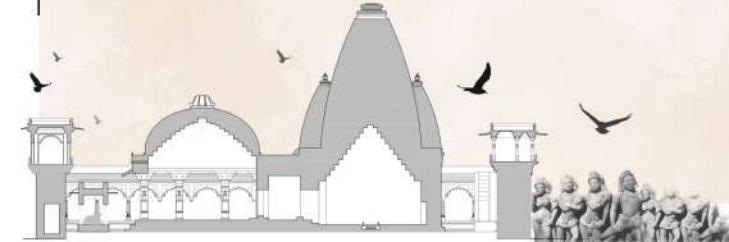


Iconography Map



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Iconography of Siddheshwar Mahadev Mandir

1. Dashavatara Panel



EM 1

EM 2
Matsya
The sculpture shows Vishnu in Matsya avatar probably along with Hyagriva- the asura which was defeated by the avatar.EM 3
Kurma
The sculpture shows the story of Samudra Manthan with Vishnu in Kurma avatar. The asuras on the right & devas on the left holding Vasuki naag. Kurma avatar is shown in the middle.EM 4
Varaha
The sculpture shows Vishnu in Varaha avatar. He can be seen holding the earth- animals are visible on the earth sculpture. He is seen defeating the asura Hiranyaksha.

2. Story Panels- North elevation

NM3
Unidentified Story.
Theory- the panel could be about Ravana visiting Kailash & mocking Nandi, mistaking him for a normal bull. Ravana mocks Nandi, calling him a monkey. Enraged Nandi, curses Ravana that one day a monkey will burn down his entire kingdom of Lanka. Hence, Hanuman is shown on top right above (Uma) Maheshwar.



NM 1



NM 2



NM 3



NM 4



NM 5



NM 6



NM 7



NM 8



NM 9



NM 10



NM 11



NM 13



Natha Siddha Ascetic above exit of Garbhagriha



NM 12



Yaksha



Nandi Idol in Nandi Mandap



Variety of Floral motifs on beams of Sabhamandap

3. Radha Krishna Sculptures- Ceiling of Sabhamandap



RK-1



RK-2



RK-3



RK-4



RK-5



RK-6



RK-7



RK-8

4. Panels on South Elevation of Mahadev Mandir



SM 1



SM 2



SM 3



SM 4



SM 5



SM 6



SM 7



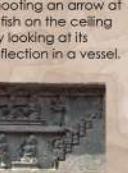
SM 8



SM 9



SM 10



SM 11



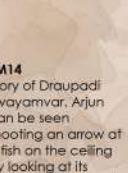
SM 12



SM 13



WM 1

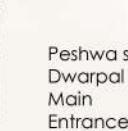


SM 14

Figure on Dwarshaka



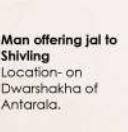
EM 9



EM 10



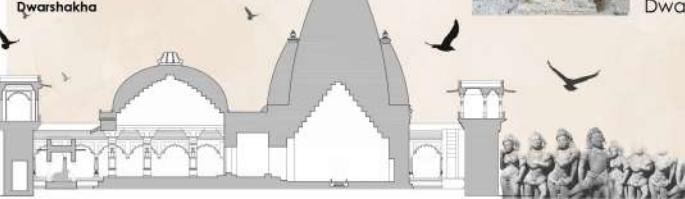
Peshwa style Dwarpal at Main Entrance



Man offering jal to Shiving Location- on Dwarshaka of Antarala.



Shaiva Dwarpal at Garbhagriha Dwarshaka

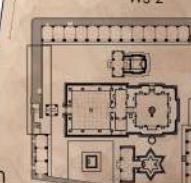
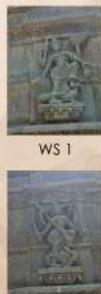
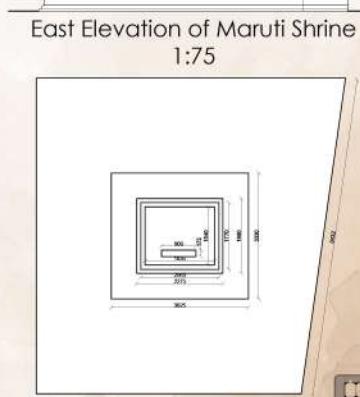
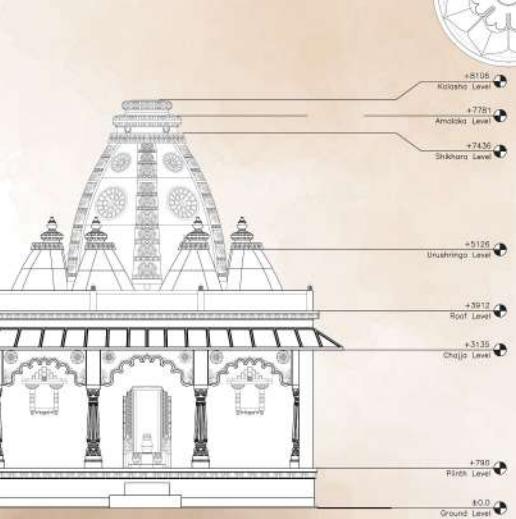
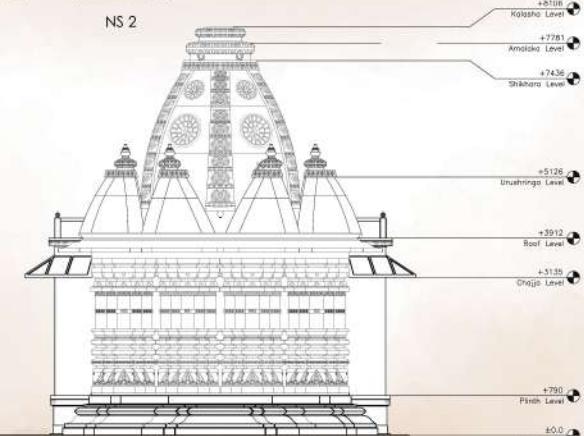
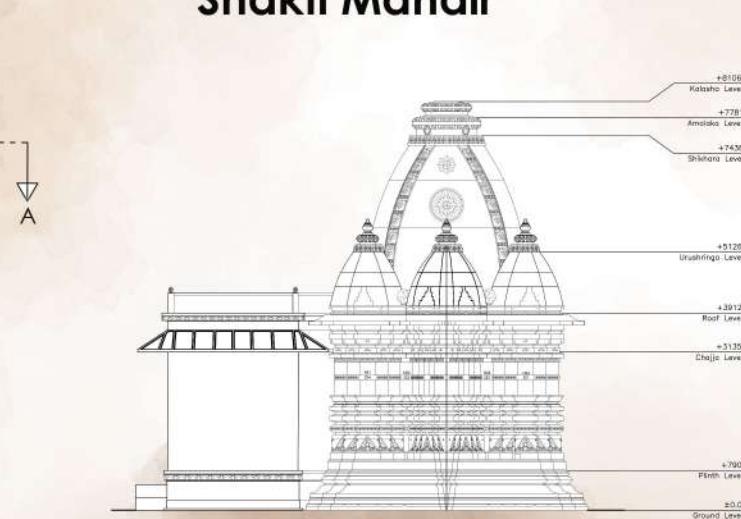
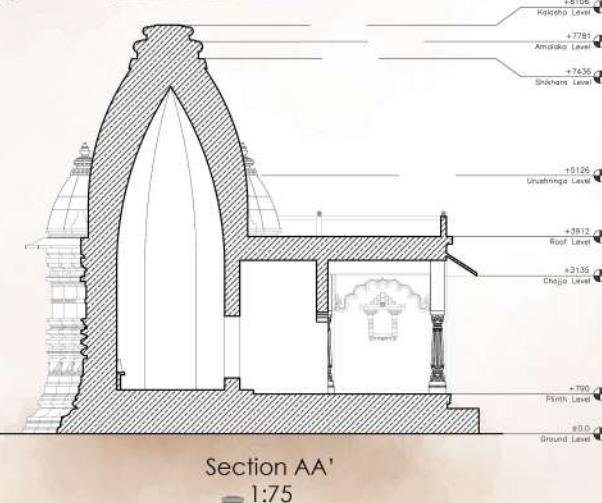
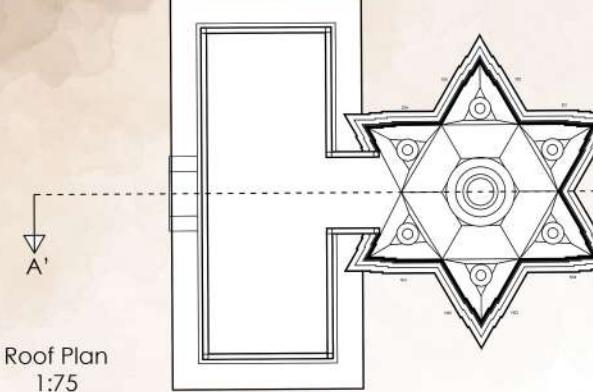
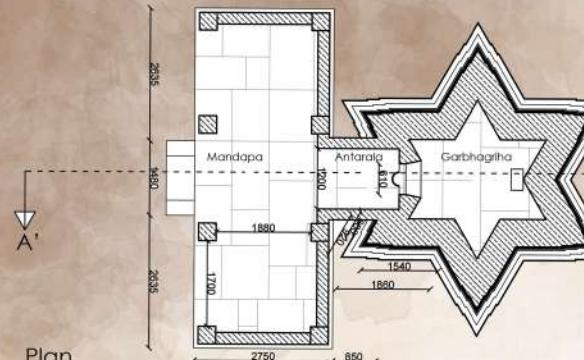


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E

Shakti Mandir

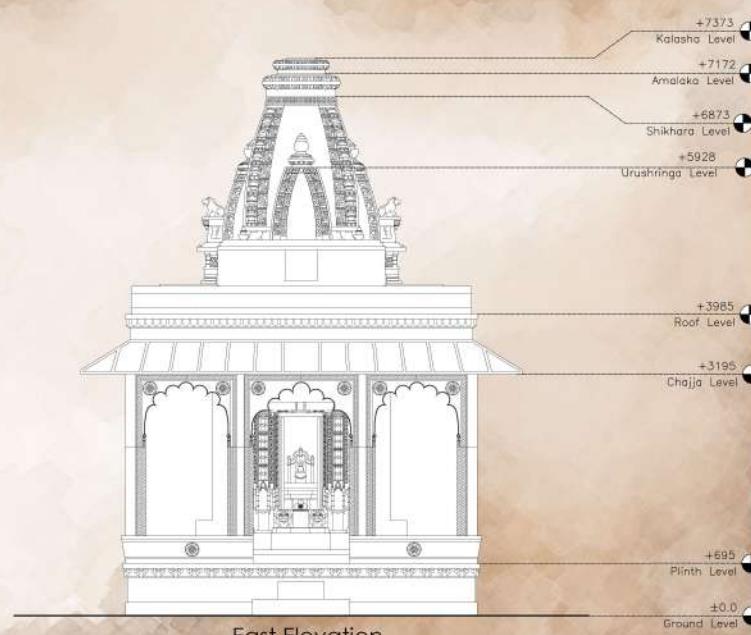
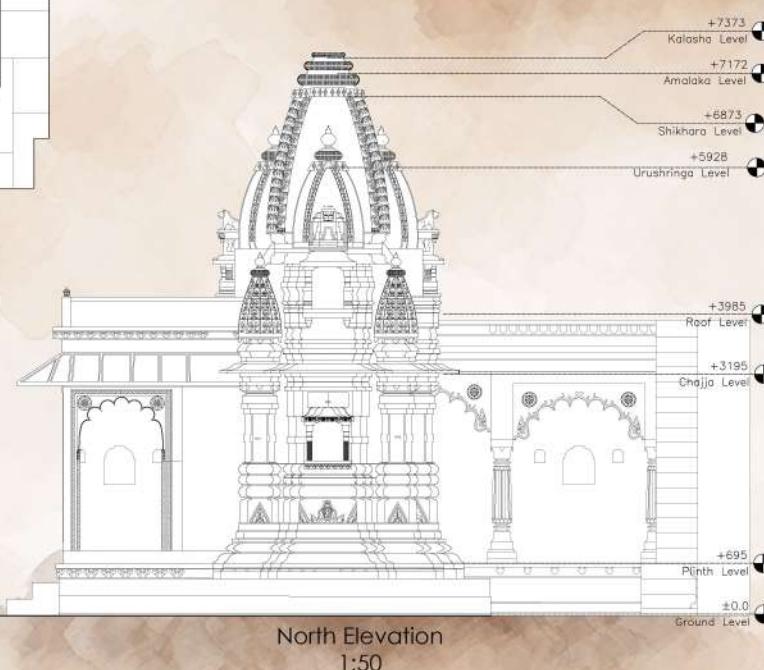
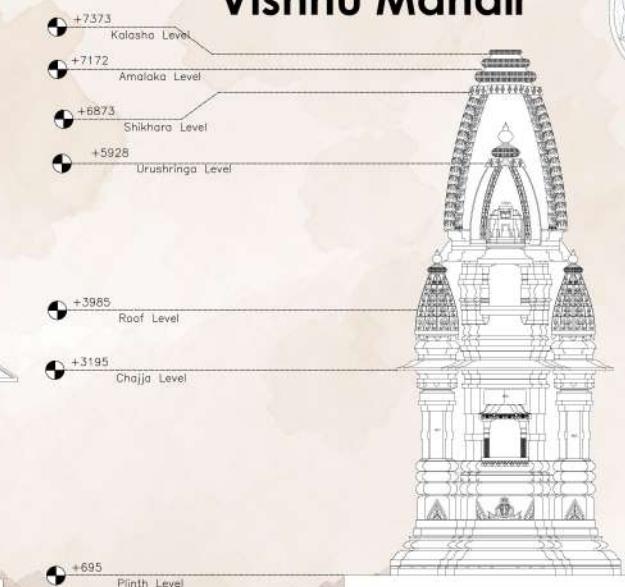
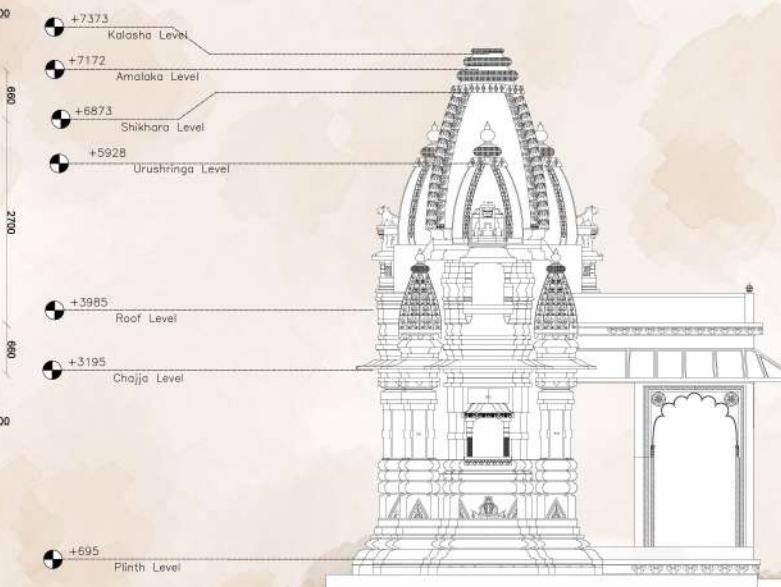
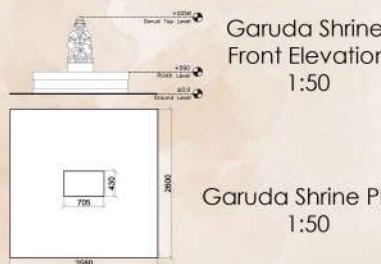
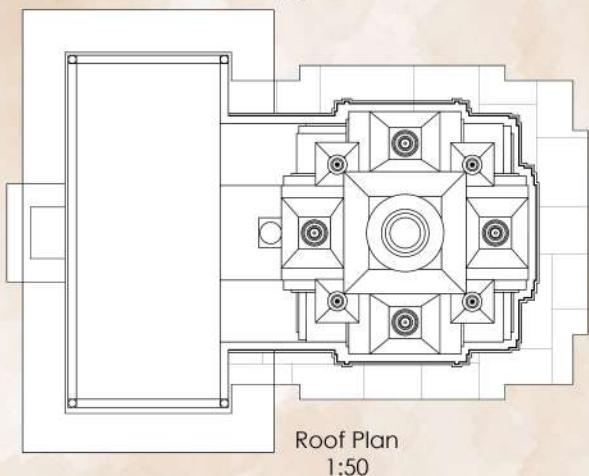
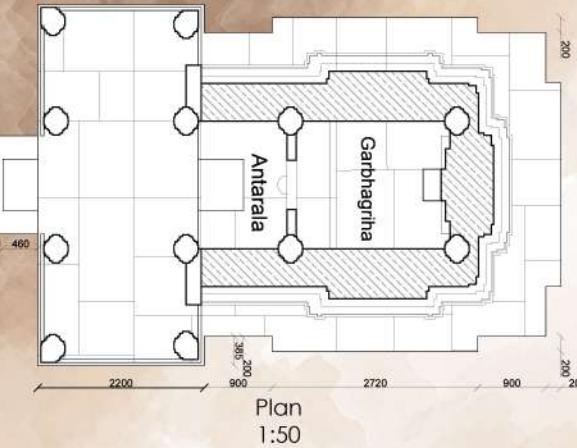
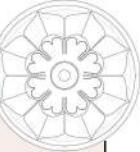


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Vishnu Mandir



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