

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 shivaling buried at the site and that is where he reconstructed the temple complex.

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 Hemadpanti 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.



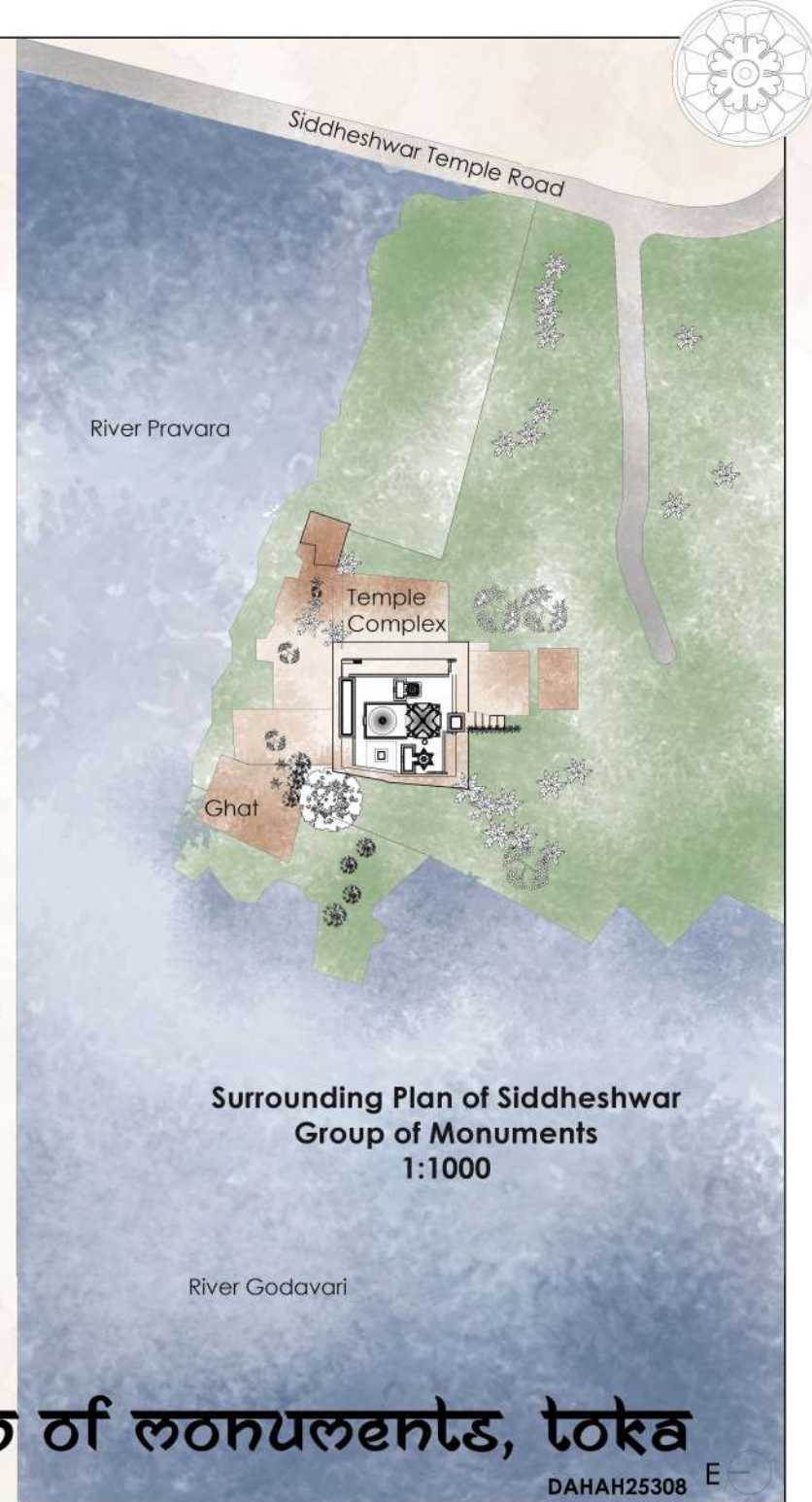
NOTE

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.



Siddheshwar group of monuments, toka

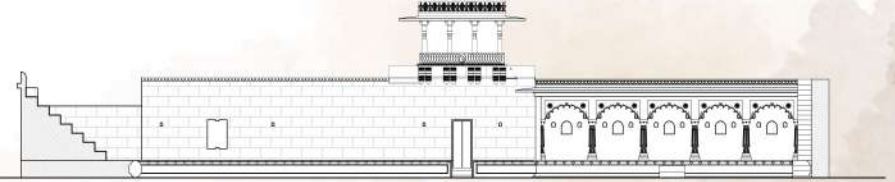
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Elevations

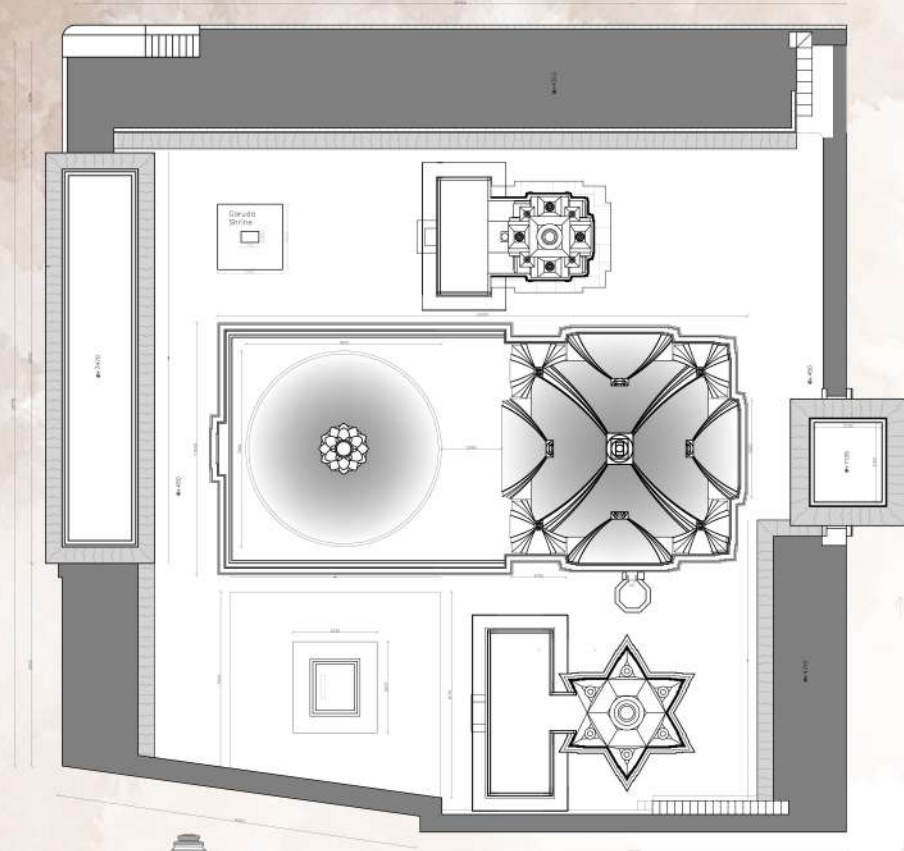


Front wall external elevation
(1:150)

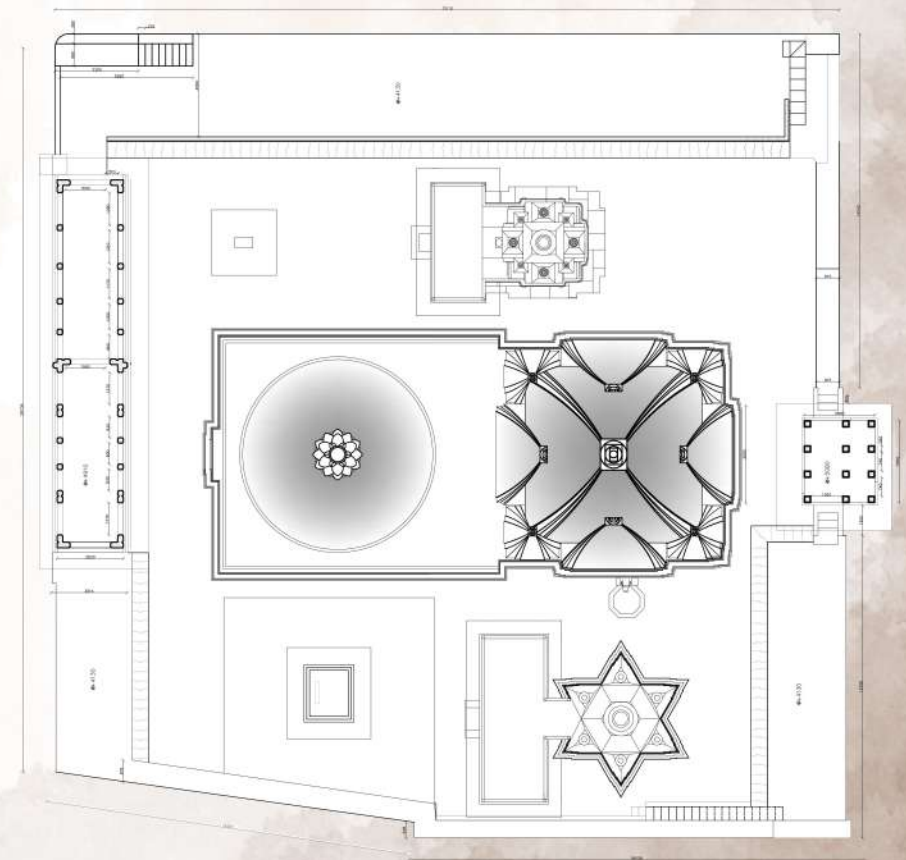


Front wall internal elevation
(1:150)

Plans of Mandir Complex



Roof Plan
(1:150)



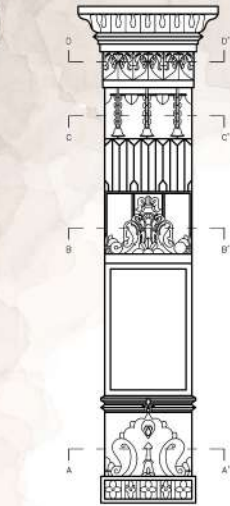
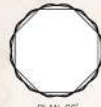
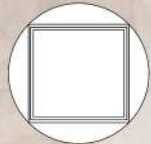
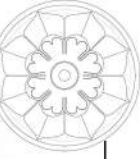
Nagarkhana Ivl Plan
(1:150)

siddheshwar group of monuments, toka

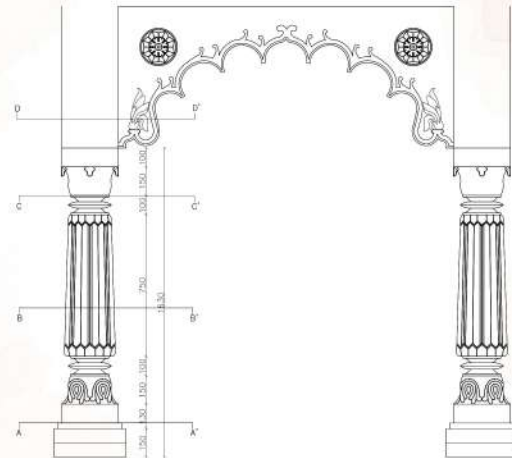
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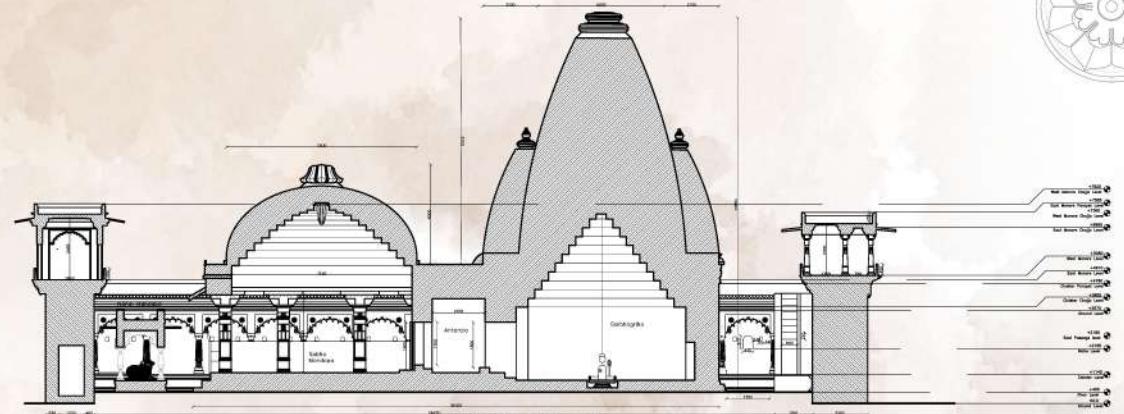
Complex Plan & Section



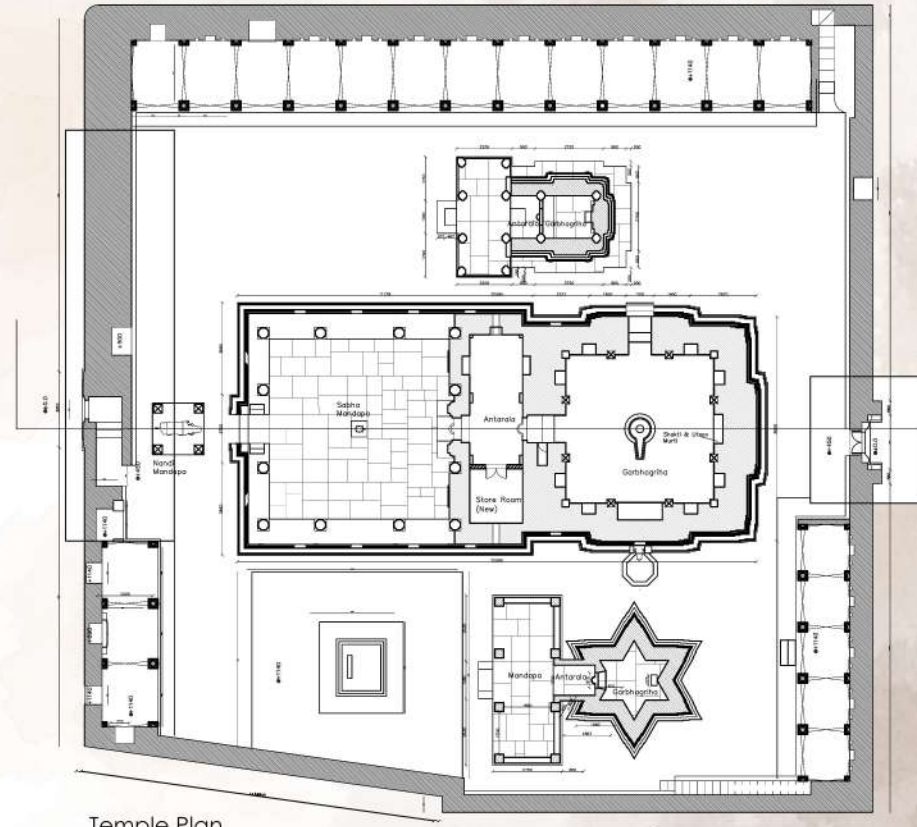
Sabhamandap Column
(1:20)



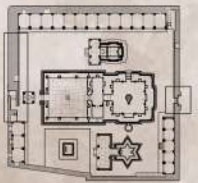
Cloister Column
(1:20)



Temple Section
(1:150)



Temple Plan
(1:150)



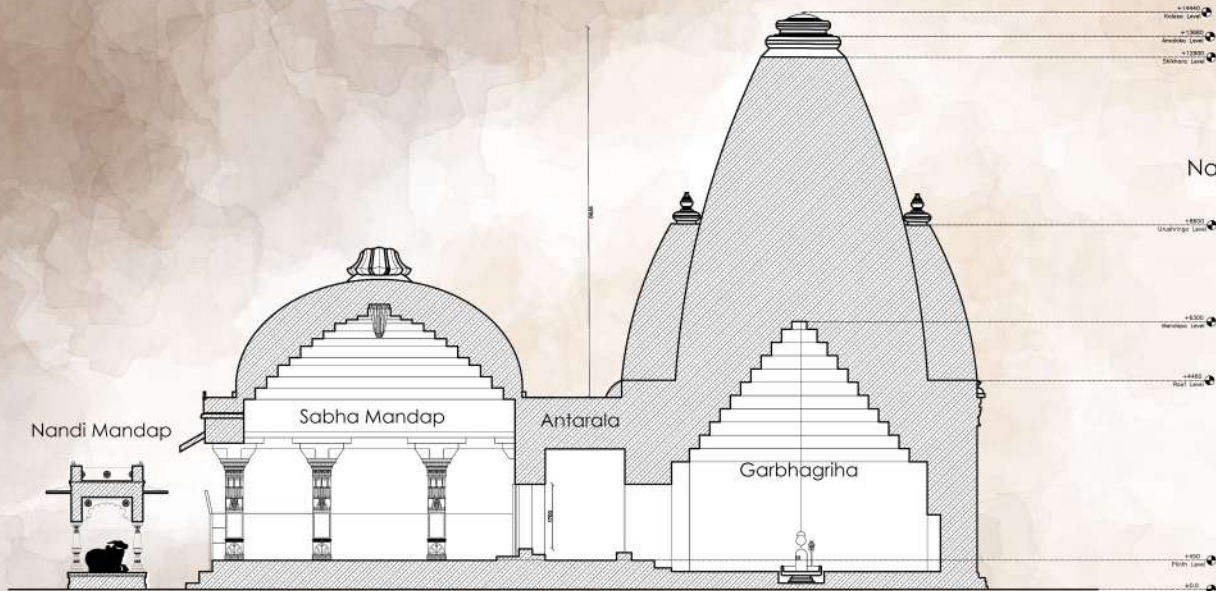
Key Plan



śivdeshwar group of monuments, toka

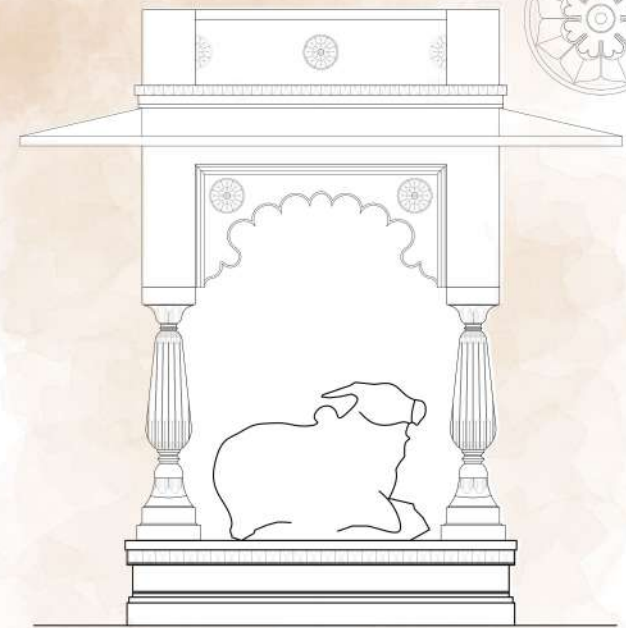
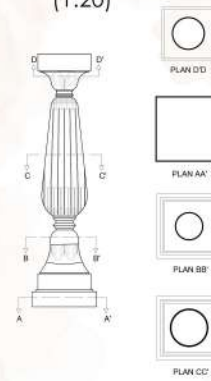
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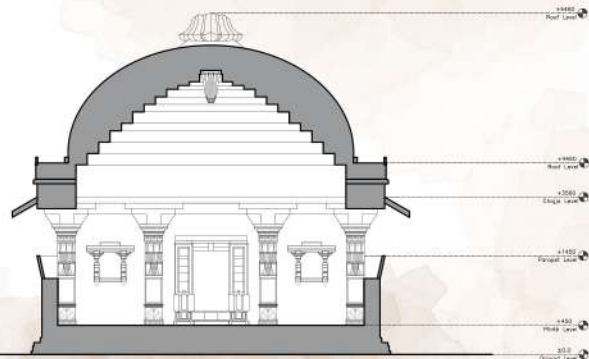


Section AA'
(1:100)

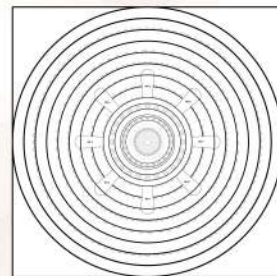
Nandi Mandap Column Detail
(1:20)



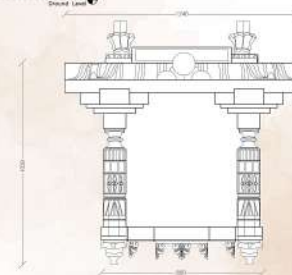
Sectional Elevation
(1:20)



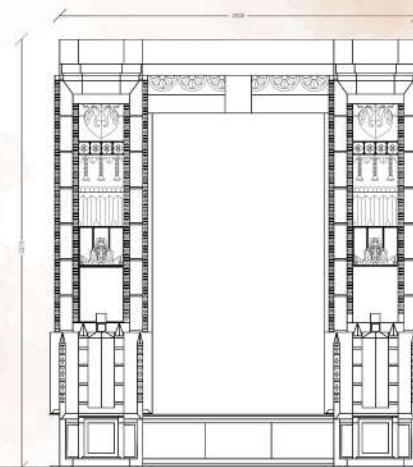
Section BB'
(1:100)



Reflected ceiling plan of Sabha
Mandap
(1:100)

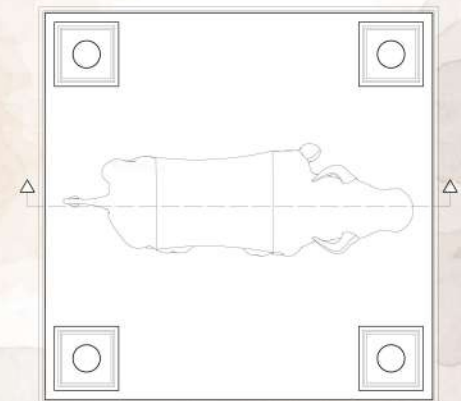


Dwarshakha Details
(1:20)



Key Plan
(1:250)

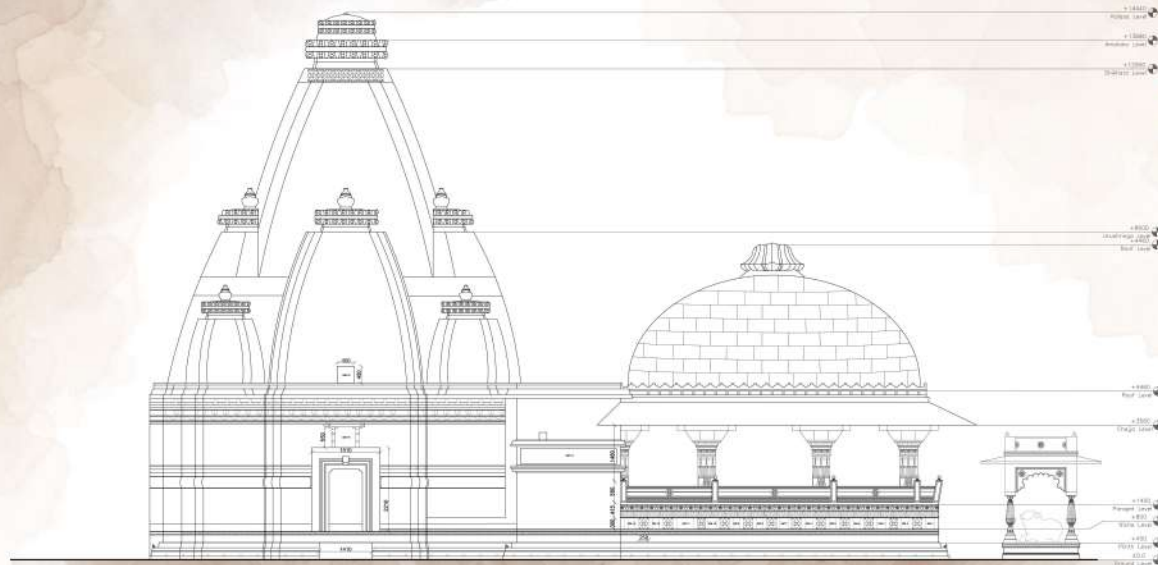
Plan
Nandi Mandap
(1:20)



Śivdeshwar group of monuments, Toka

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Elevations of Siddheshwar Mahadev Mandir



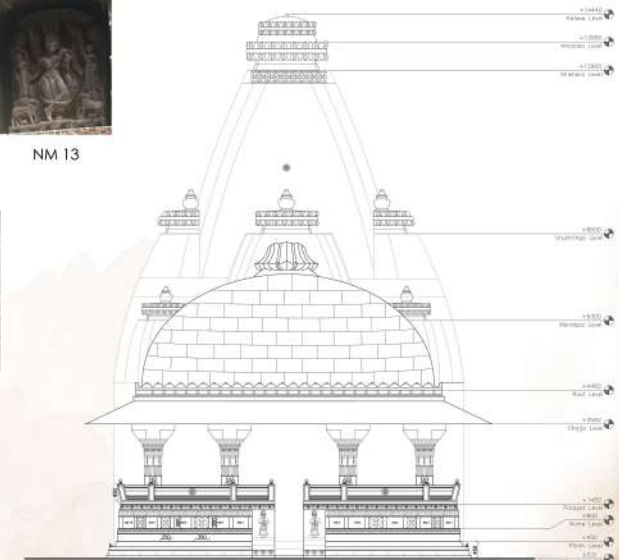
South Elevation of Main Temple
(1:100)



NM 12



NM 13



East Elevation
(1:100)

Key Plan

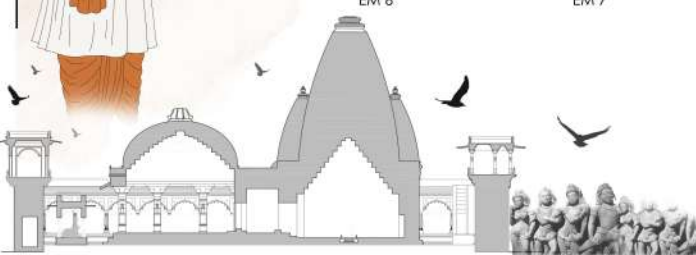


The temple facade panels depict various mythological stories. Iconographic nomenclature is marked on elevations and plans as follows:
Mahadev Mandir: NM, EM, SM (North, East, South elevations)

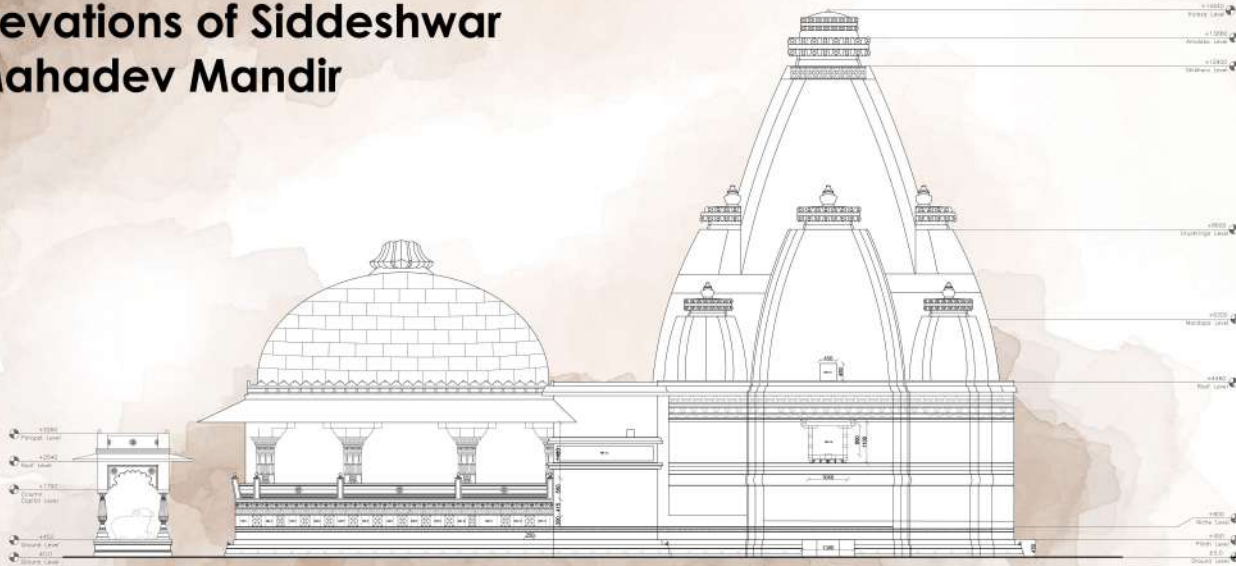


Siddheshwar group of monuments, Toka

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Elevations of Siddheshwar Mahadev Mandir



South Elevation
(1:100)



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 14



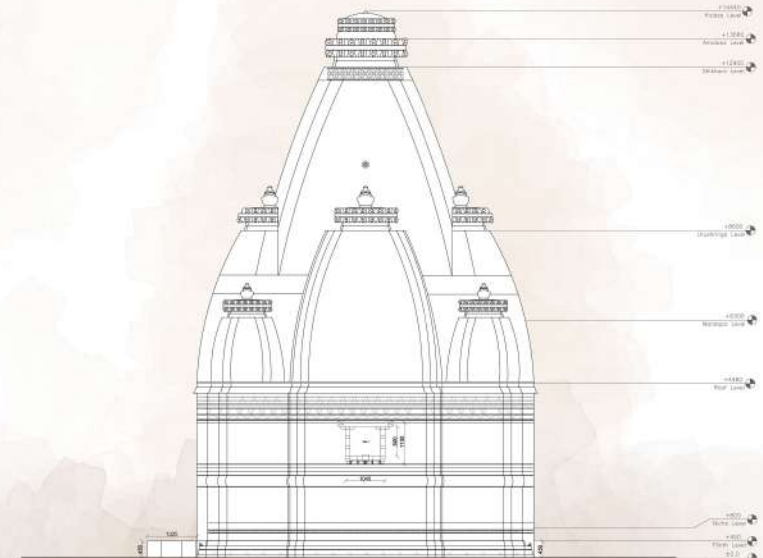
SM 13



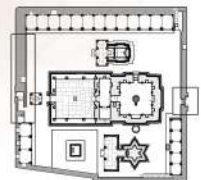
SM 16



WM 1



West Elevation
(1:100)



Key Plan

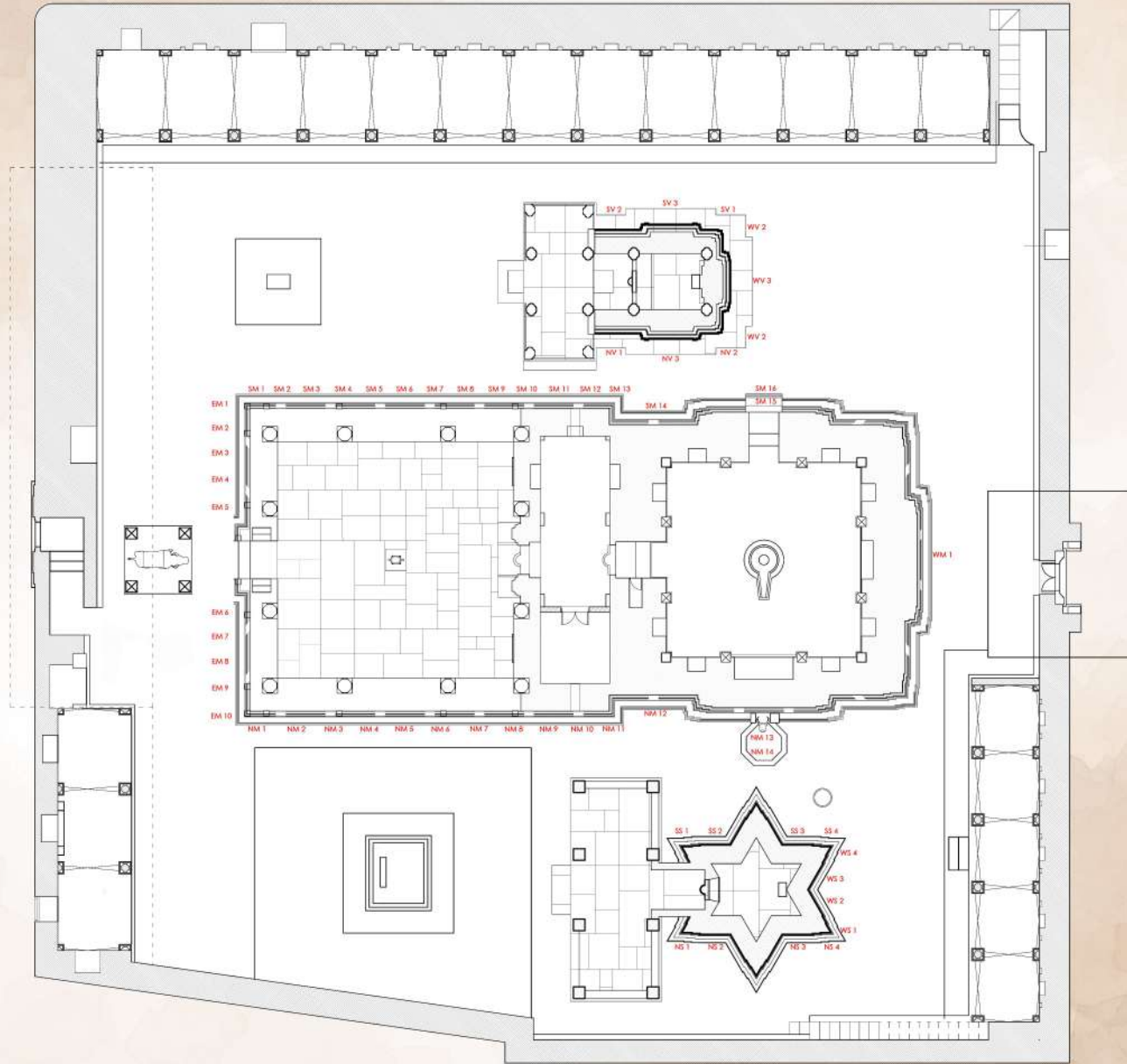
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Siddheshwar group of monuments, Toka

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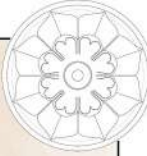
Iconography Map



siddheshwar group of monuments, toka

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Iconography of Siddheshwar Mahadev Mandir

1. Dashavatara Panel



EM 1

Matsya
The sculpture shows Vishnu in Matsya avatar probably along with Hyagriva the asura which was defeated by the avatar.



EM 2

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 3

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.



EM 4

Narasimha
The sculpture shows Vishnu in Narasimha avatar emerging out of a stambha & tearing apart the asura Hiranyaksha on his lap & his son Prahlad on the right.



EM 5

Vamana
The sculpture shows Vishnu in Vamana avatar. The scene shows Vamana avatar on the left arriving in the court of the asura king Mahabali on the right, who had conquered the three worlds, exiling devas from swarglok.



EM 6

Parashurama
The sculpture shows Vishnu in Parashurama avatar. The scene shows Sahasrabahu (who was granted 1000 arms by Dattatreya) in the centre, being killed by Parashurama on the right with the sacred cow Kamadhenu on the left which was stolen by Sahasrabahu.



EM 7

Rama
A scene from Ramayana is shown with Ram & Lakshman on the right, Hanuman, probably carrying Sanjeevani buti.



EM 8

Krishna
Top left- Vasudev & Devki imprisoned by Kansa. Bottom left- Krishna beheading Shishupala. Right- Krishna pulling on Kansa's hair (his crown can be seen flying off).



EM 9

Buddha
Buddha in the centre with four arms can be seen meditating with two figures.



EM 10

Kalki
A man can be seen holding Devdatta, Kalki avatar's horse.

Peshwa style Dwarpal at Main Entrance



Figure on Dwarshakha



Man offering jal to Shivaling
Location- on Dwarshakha of Antarala.



Shaiva Dwarpal at Garbhagriha Dwarshakha

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 Sidha Ascetic above exit of Garbhagriha

NM4

Bhima's Garvahan with Hanuman where Bhim could not budge the tail of Hanuman disguised as a monkey.

NM5

Arjuna's Garvahan with Hanuman where Hanuman disguised as a monkey was breaking every arrow bridge built by Arjuna, until he built one out of devotion to Lord Krishna & not to overpower Ram setu.

NM8

Krishna sitting on tree with the stolen garments of gopis.

NM10

Scene of Balakrishna in Gokul.

NM12

Scene of the then king visiting Siddheshwar Mahadev temple. Theory- this panel could possibly be a later addition post construction considering the change in colour of material. The Garuda on the left must probably be part of the original panel. Also the temple of Siddheshwar Mahadev can be seen complete in the panel which supports the idea that it was added later.



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



SM2-SM12
Sculptures of women & man (SM6) carrying out daily activities & performing arts, playing instruments, etc.



WM 1

SM14
Story of Draupadi Swayamvar. Arjun can be seen shooting an arrow at a fish on the ceiling by looking at its reflection in a vessel.



SM 16



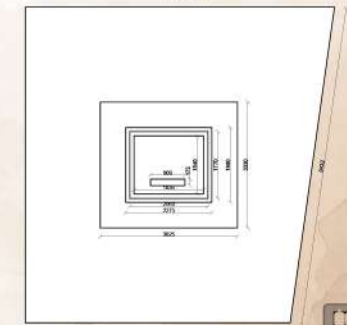
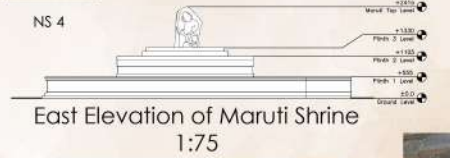
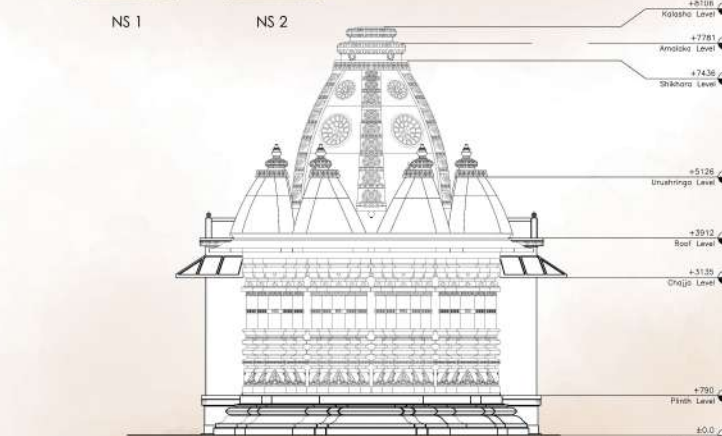
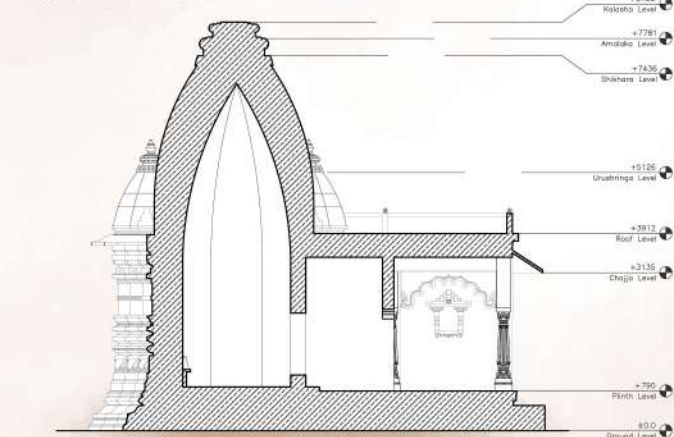
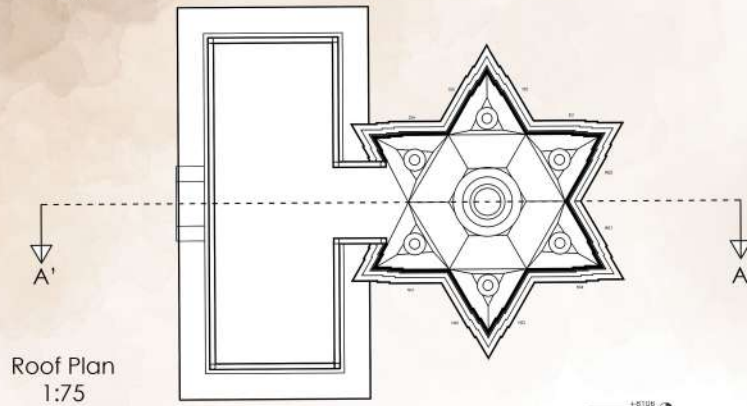
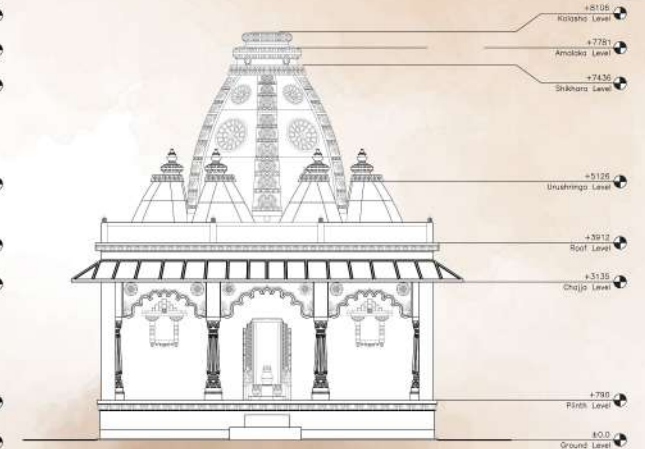
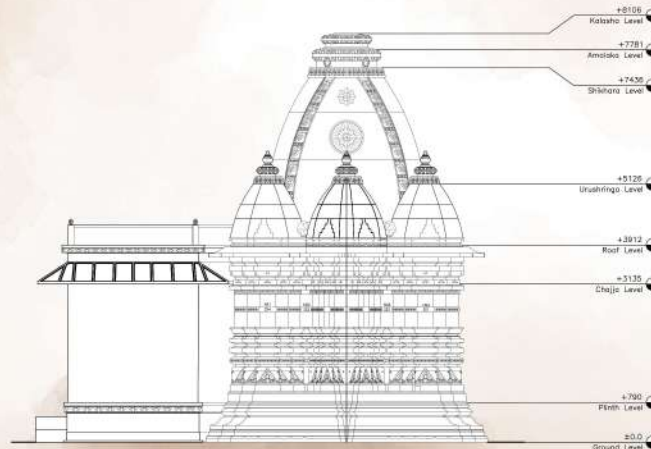
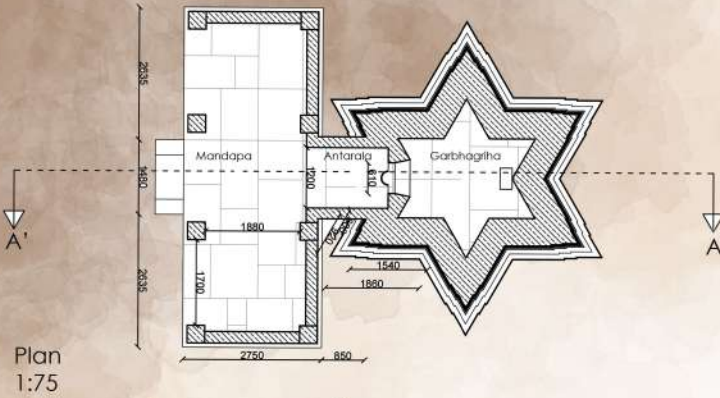
SM 14

Siddheshwar group of monuments, Toka

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Shakti Mandir



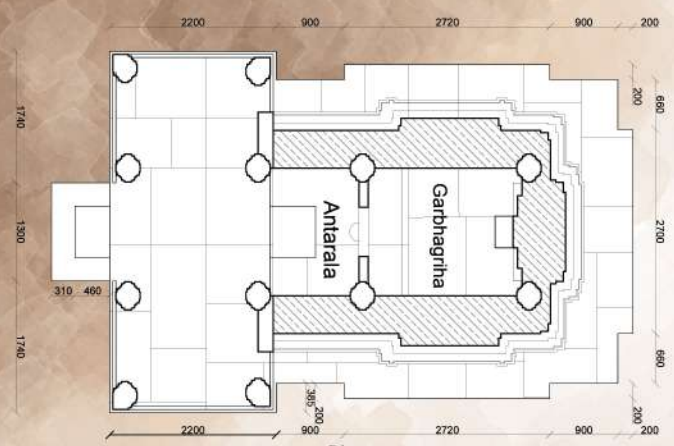
Śāṅkhaśekhara group of monuments, Toka

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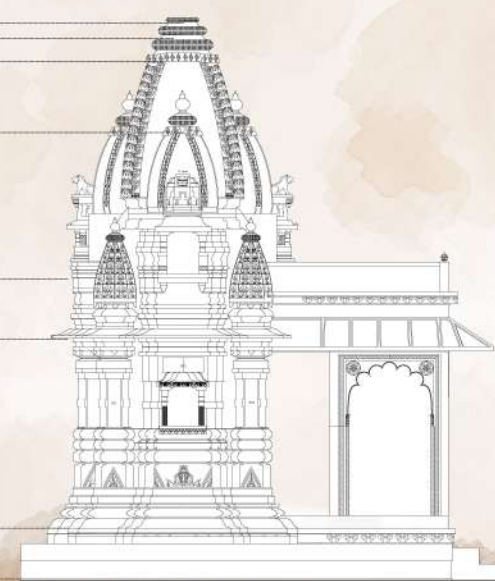




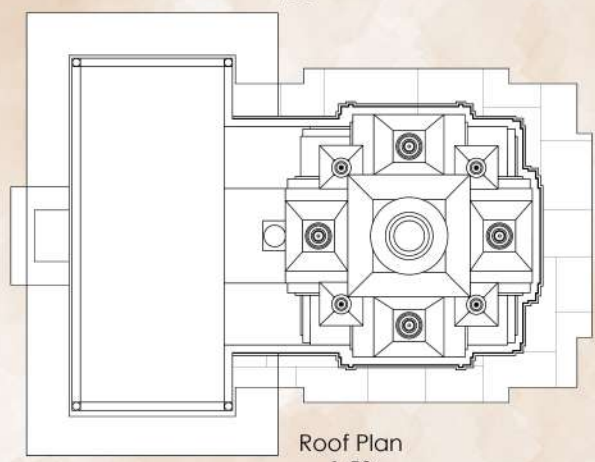
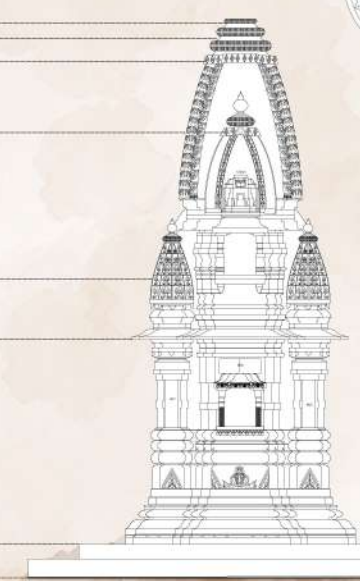
Vishnu Mandir



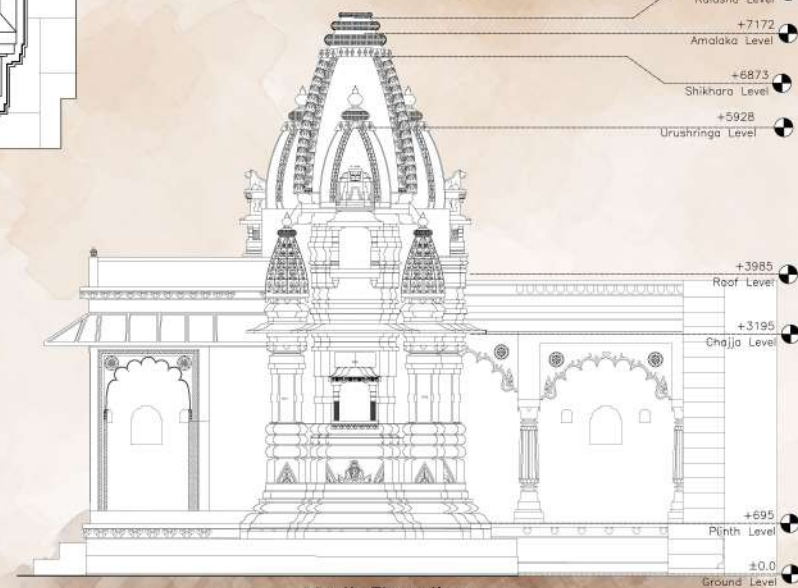
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- +7172 Amalaka Level
- +6873 Shikhara Level
- +5928 Urushringa Level



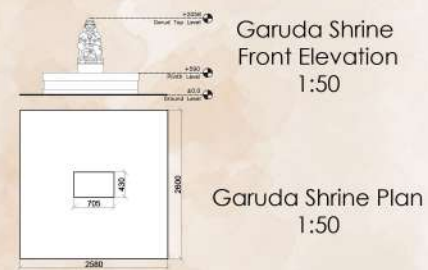
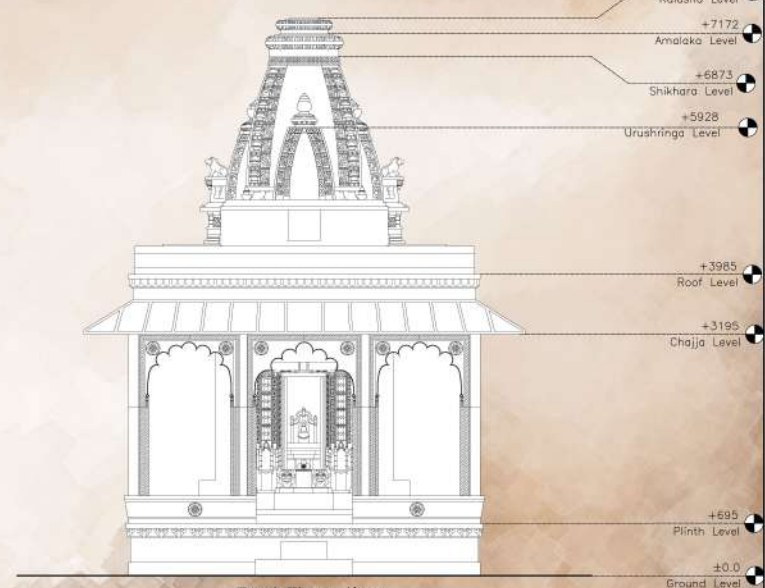
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Siddheshwar group of monuments, Toka