

# MEDIA PUBLICATION

## Inside Story



Qutub Mandviwala

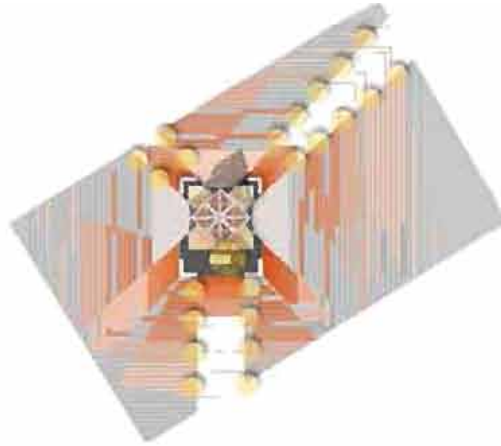


### MANDIR- An Embodiment of Positive Energy

– Mandviwala Qutub and Associates

Flip through the pages of history and you will learn that the ancient homes were built of solid bricks or mud. People only ensured that peace; harmony and prosperity dwelt amid them.

A temple is a manifestation of a heavenly abode for the disciples across the globe to pray or worship in order to ward off the evils and attain prosperity in life. Most people go to the temples routinely and some go at the time of a Hindu festival. The temple is strategically built



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1. The site plan based on principles of Vaastu and traditional Temple planning

2. Stone clad walls with pockets to hold diyas overlooking the Parikrama path

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*diyas* that are pocketed in the walls of the shrine. The plinth of the structure has seats on all four corners for the disciples to embrace the energy and for a peace of mind. The entrance porch is demarcated with a small structure supporting an existing *peepal* tree.

The design of the landscape is a direct translation of what the temple stands for. The avenues and the water bodies are planned in a way that they tend to soar from the ground up to the apex of the temple enforcing it to be the most prominent part of the project. The soft scape on either side of the avenues is mixed with hardscape giving an illusion of a bend as that of a *Swastika*.

In the Hindu religion, the symbol of *Swastika* is a form bending clockwise, which reinforces positivity in the atmosphere around it. In principle, the temple and the landscape, both are derived from symbolic icons of positive energy, *Namaste* and *Swastika*

respectively. The design of the temple and the landscape complement each other showing a cyclical transfer of positive energy from the ground up to the shrine's apex and back again to the ground around it; thus making the surrounding energy of the space as powerful and purifying as the shrine in it. ●

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*Mandviwala Qutub and Associates (MQA) was founded two decades ago by Architect Qutub Mandviwala. MQA as a young Architectural and Interior designing firm with a team of more than ninety people today is proudly striding the set path of creating landmarks in and around Mumbai. The firm approaches the design of a project without preconception; rather, the work is the result of a collaborative search for the most appropriate solution for each client's objectives and aspiration. MQA is the designing architect for more than 150 on-going projects across the country.*

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*'The temple is an embodiment of positive energy' is our key concept for the design of the project*



3-4. The temple and the landscape, both are derived from symbolic icons of positive energy, *Namaste* and *Swastika* respectively

on the most magnetically positive part of a plot. The motive is that besides worshipping the deity, people visit the temple to ward off their own negative energy and imbibe the positive energy. 'The temple is an embodiment of positive energy' is our key concept for the design of the project. Architecturally a temple has four main elements, namely *Garbh Griha* (where the deity is housed), the *Parikrama* path (circumambulatory path around the *Garbh Griha*), the *Shikhara* (the topmost tower presiding over the *Garbh Griha*) and a porch.

The basic form of the temple is derived by evolving the warm gesture of *Namaste*; the gesture that is made by the disciple to pay respect to the God/

Goddess before him. *Namaste* essentially means (not mine); in a way, it is an act of surrendering oneself to the Divine. The form is attained with a perforated screen placed on all four sides of the shrine to form a *Shikhara* further emphasizing on its prominence. The *Garbh Griha* is a four-walled enclosure with an opening facing eastward according to the temple *Vaastu sashtra* (design principles). The walls are clad with locally available stone and two of the faces have pockets that hold *diyas* (lights) which add to the aesthetics and the ambience of the structure. Immediately surrounding the shrine is the *Parikrama* path, which is highlighted with the interplay of the natural light that is sieved through the marble screen surrounding it and the lit