



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
PO BOX 232 MOOROOKA BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA 4105
<http://www.foundationexpo88.org/friendsofthepagoda/>

INFORMATION SHEET TEN

THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

THE PAGODA'S ICONOGRAPHY (V) THE PAGODA FIRST LEVEL INTERIOR

The themes of the interior of the First Level of the Pagoda reflect the calm and tranquility of the meditating Buddhas on the Pagoda doors.

In contrast to the frenzied activity of visual activity as indicated at the Pagoda's exterior first, second, and third levels, which can also represent 'the world', and all its vice, virtues and attractions, the interior of the Pagoda, entered through the path of prayerful meditation, reflects a calm tranquility, a natural garden of eden where nature has joined in with man's creation in a peaceful harmony of love, fertility, and blossom.

A tapestry of vines, leaves, and flowers naturally entwine themselves vertically around the Pagoda's principal four support beams, each made of a singular trunk of timber that runs from the foundation of the Pagoda and through the Pagoda's first, second, and third levels, almost as if to say we are visiting a rainforest jungle temple, where nature has decided to add her hand to man's creation.

Huge sunflowers blossom at the top of each support beam, engaging our eyes towards the natural ceiling vault of the first level.

And, at the first level ceiling corners, four carved panel friezes, a set of dragons at the front and rear pair, and, the left and right pair depicting scenes of the Buddha in meditation attended to by a pair of phoenixes and a pair of dragons, as well as, a scene of the Buddha in meditation attended by village merry-makers and do-gooders, complete the ceiling's art work.

Once again, as in the Pagoda exterior, we can see at the apex of each window panel here, a pair of garudas, the guardian mythological bird-beasts of the Mountain at the centre of the Universe, Mt Meru, resplendent, facing each other.

During World Expo '88, the First Level of the Pagoda was occupied with several pot plant palm trees, and a statue of the Buddha in the centre of Pagoda, on a raised dais.

Other features here at the First Level include three icons carved within three circles along

the first level internal stairwell, which are (i) the State Flags of Nepal, (ii) a Mandala accompanied with a lotus flower in blossom, and, (iii) a set of flowers, possibly the National Flower of Nepal.

One can also view here the Pagoda Display cabinet, which contains references to Temples in Nepal, and brief excerpts of the Pagoda's during-Expo, and post-Expo heritage.

And, the statue of the Lokewesaar Goddess, which occupied the Pagoda's Second Level Nepalese Tea House during World Expo '88, can also be seen here in its new custom-built enclosure.

It is the vision of Foundation Expo '88 and The Friends of the Pagoda Association that the First Level usage of the Pagoda remain as it is today, an open forum for all visitors the South Bank Parklands, with scheduled open activities for similarly minded organisations working for World Peace. i.e. A 'pre-work' weekly Wednesday Morning meditation session could feature from 7:50am to 8:20am, lead by some of Brisbane's leading meditation leaders. A Saturday Epistle, of an hour, a rotating sermon by each of the many religious communities in Brisbane, co-ordinated by the Office of the Multifaith Centre of Griffith University. Occasional Public Lectures organized by same. Also at the First Level.