



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
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<http://www.foundationexpo88.org/friendsofthepagoda/>

INFORMATION SHEET THREE THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

THE PAGODA STRUCTURE

The Pagoda has three-levels, and is made of indigenous Nepalese timber, cut and felled from the southern Terai jungle forests of Nepal. Three different types of Nepalese timber were chosen – saal wood for the support beams, asna wood for the floorings and ceilings, and sisso wood for the decorative elements, each chosen for their different strength and stress properties.

The physical structure of the Pagoda itself was constructed without any nails – in tongue-and-groove style, with ancillary elements fastened by bolts where required. This structure also allows for the Pagoda's easy dismantling and erection.

Hand-beaten copper features for some of the decorative elements, as well as wax-mould bells at the Pagoda's tiered eaves, which are each unique in themselves, made from an alloy of several metals in a wax-mould process, where the wax-mould is melted and re-moulded after each bell's creation. These bells also teach us regarding the nature of harmony in the Universe, where for every action, there is a re-action.

The Pagoda has a gold-plated copper finial top, and a sacred overhanging banner, a 'linga' (or, tongue), which descends from the finial, and over the third and second level tiers. The 'linga' represents the descent of the deity from heaven to earth, reminding us that the Pagoda is a place of heavenly and earthly intersection.

The three sets of two doors at the entry of the Pagoda, and the three sets of two doors at the rear of the Pagoda feature six distinct visual icons – representing both Buddhism and Hinduism. There are five doors dedicated to the Buddha, each Buddha in a different recognized meditation position, and one door - the central left door dedicated to a Hindu dancing goddess. These sets of front and rear doors are held in place by two griffins – which guard the corners of the Universe (also represented at the first level tier corner support struts, and at the foundation corners of the Pagoda's Buddhist Memorial Stone) at the left and right set of doors, and, a pair of beautiful smiling female garden nymphs at the left and right of the central set of doors, who face away from each other, in naked and charming simplicity, adorned with a charm necklace and ankle chain, reclining on a bed of flowers, presenting a picture of great fertility and idyllic peace, yet with a watchful gaze.