

Vimutti Stupa

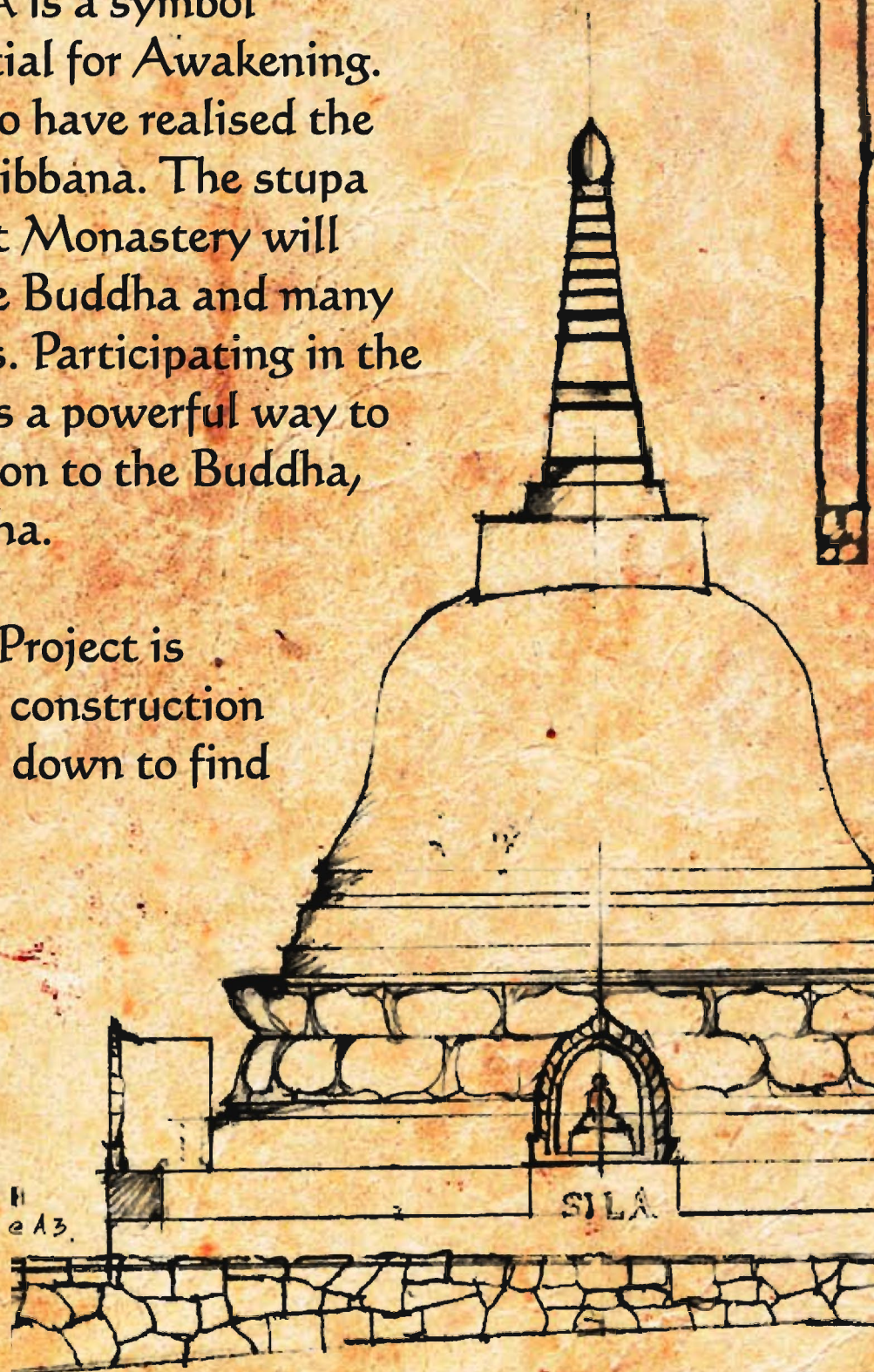
Vimutti Buddhist Monastery

A BUDDHIST STUPA is a symbol of the human potential for Awakening. It honours those who have realised the enlightenment of Nibbana. The stupa at Vimutti Buddhist Monastery will enshrine relics of the Buddha and many of his great disciples. Participating in the creation of a stupa is a powerful way to express one's devotion to the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

The Vimutti Stupa Project is planned to enter the construction phase in 2010. Scroll down to find out more.

Vimutti Stupa

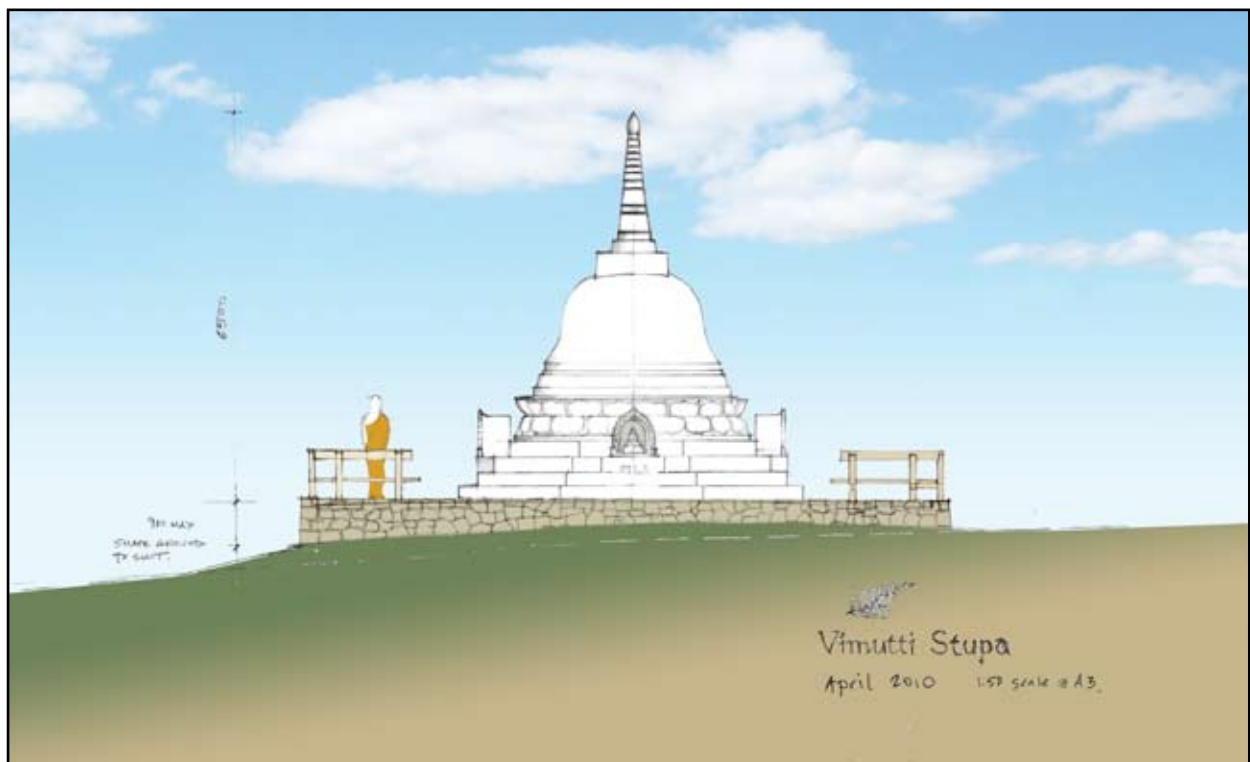
August 2009 1:50 scale @ A3.



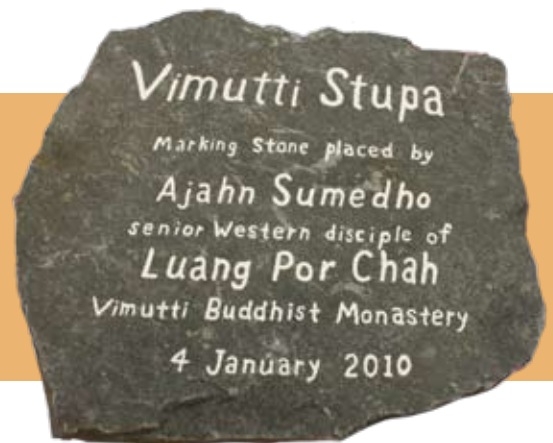
Vimutti Stupa

Tribute to the Awakened Ones

From Ancient times people have honoured the Buddha and the lineage of Awakened Ones by enshrining their bone relics in monuments known as stupas (Pali: chetiya). The Buddha's own relics are recorded to have initially been divided into eight portions for eight stupas in different kingdoms of Northern India. King Asoka later divided these relics into smaller portions and built stupas for them throughout the Indian subcontinent. The Buddha taught that it was appropriate to build stupas to honour fully enlightened masters (Arahants), and at Vimutti Buddhist Monastery we now have the opportunity to continue this tradition here in New Zealand.



Over a period of twenty years, Ajahn Chandako has been offered relics of the Buddha and many of his great disciples, including numerous masters of the Forest Tradition. The relics themselves will be enshrined in miniature stupas, which will then be sealed into the top of the main Stupa. Pali and English versions of the Buddhist Canon will be enshrined below the relics, and the lay community will have the opportunity to add personal items in the base.



The Vimutti Stupa will have four shrines, aligned with the cardinal directions. Each shrine will house a Buddha statue, with a specific hand posture (mudra) representing an aspect of the Buddha's teaching. The mudras will be the ones of 'fearlessness' (corresponding with Sila, morality), 'meditation' (corresponding with Samadhi, serenity), 'teaching the Dhamma' ('Dhammachakka', corresponding with Pañña, wisdom) and 'touching the earth' (corresponding with Vimutti, awakening or liberation).

A stupa is a symbol of inner and outer peace. Our hearts and our world can benefit from such reminders of the source of true happiness. For thousands of years stupas have served as points of inspiration, and it is our wish that the Vimutti Stupa will inspire innumerable beings to create the wholesome kamma that will propel them onwards to the realisation of the Noble Eightfold Path and the full Awakening of Nibbana.



Vimutti Stupa land blessing ceremony, January 2010

The Construction Process

The realisation of the Vimutti Stupa is due in large part to the dedicated efforts of Hugh Tennent, John Constable and Methsiri Weerakkody. Each of them has offered his time freely as an act of great generosity. It was Hugh who designed the stupa. John has been the hands-on architect, while Methsiri has been an ever-resourceful project manager. Without these three people, the stupa may never have gotten past the stage of good intention.



Sketch by Dhammika De Silva

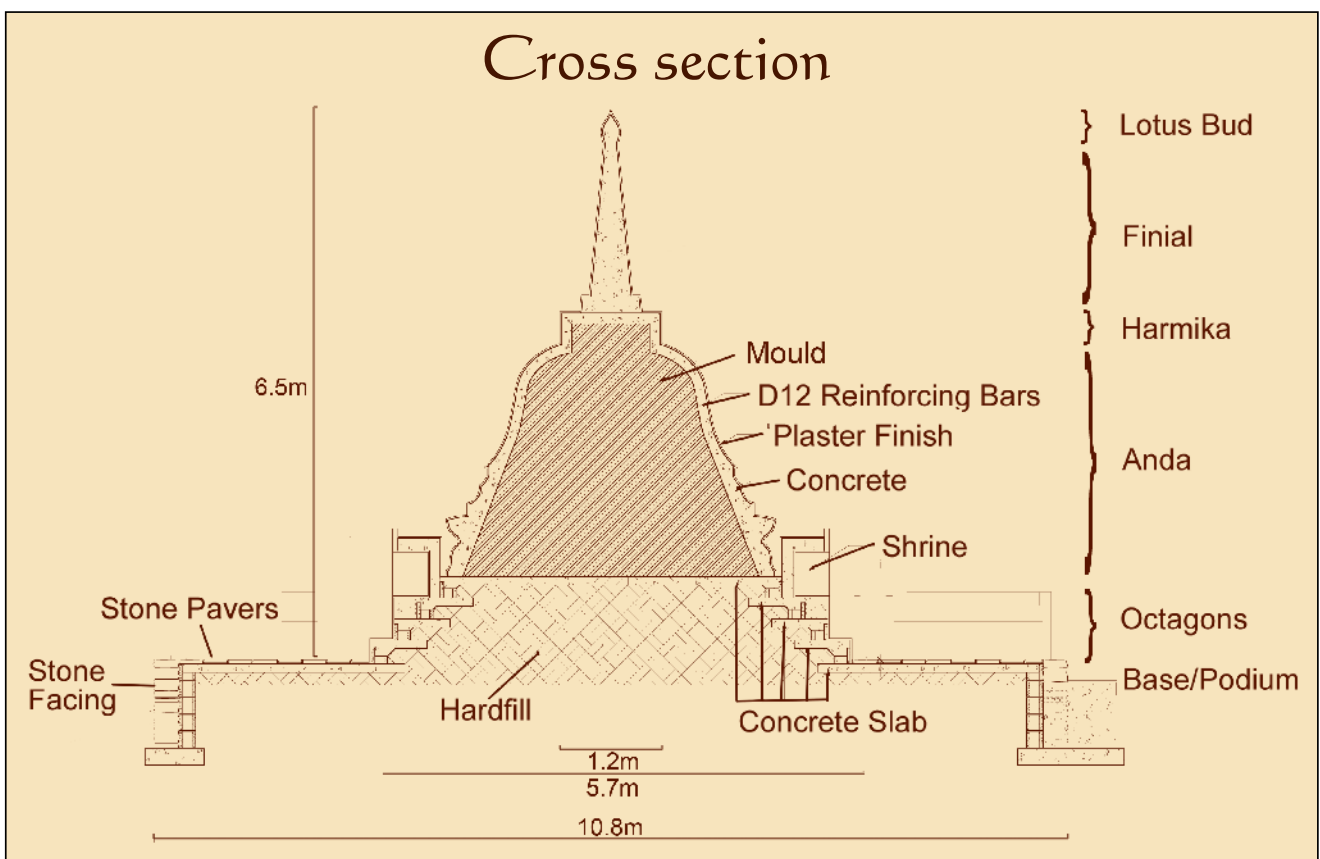
The total height of the Vimutti Stupa will be over seven metres, and it is planned that building will begin in late 2010. The architects will make use of modern construction materials in order to ensure durability, and the main body will consist of sprayed reinforced concrete over a computer-generated mould.

The relics of the Buddha and Buddhist masters will be placed inside a protective metal case in the square (harmika) near the top of the stupa. Above that will be a twelve-ringed spire (finial) symbolising the twelve links of dependent origination. These will be topped by a lotus bud that represents the blossoming of enlightened wisdom.

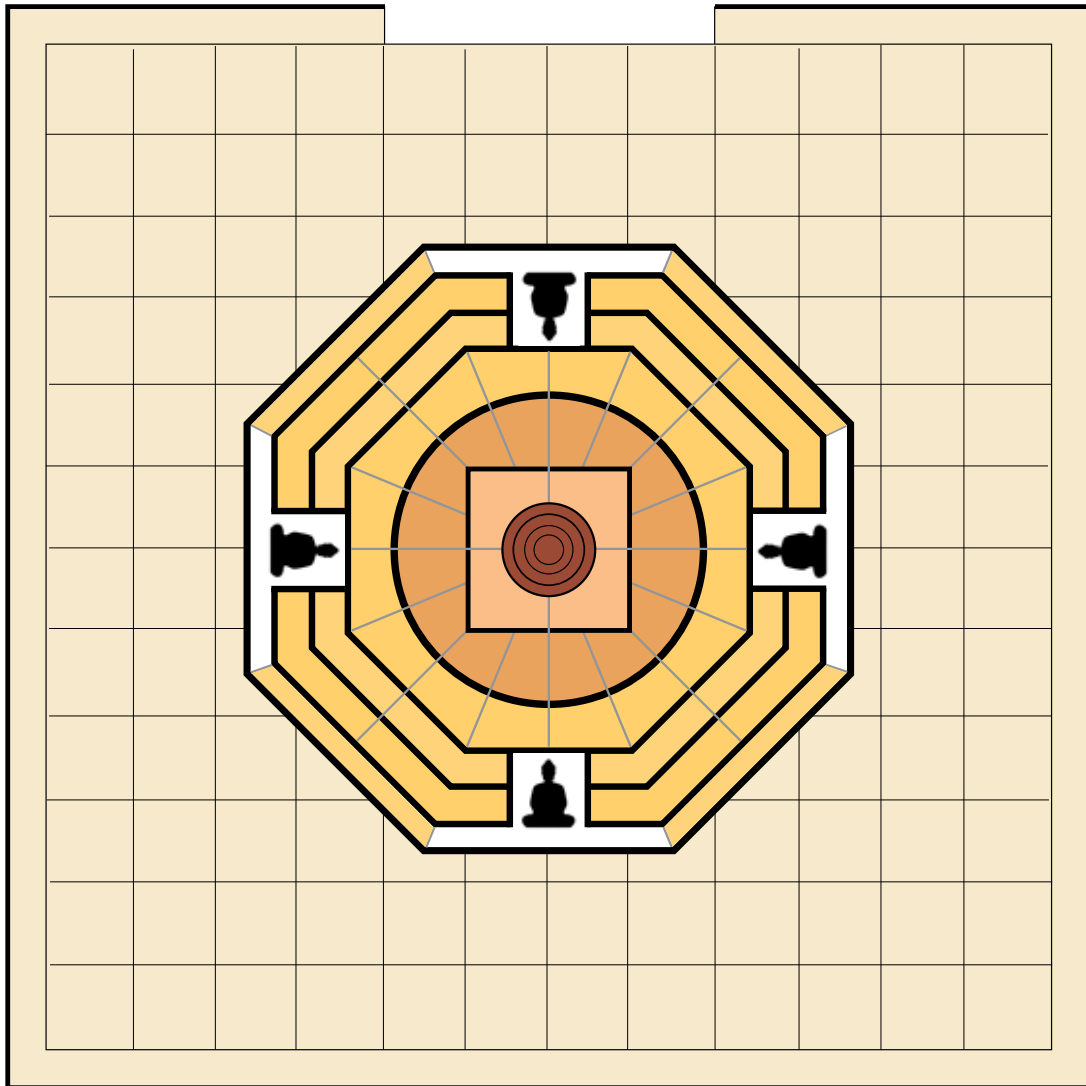
The shape of the main dome (anda) is based on the style of the Borobudur temple in Indonesia, and inside this section the Pali Canon and English translation (Tripitaka) will be encased in a sealed, airtight container. The anda will have a frieze of lotus petals and four shrines, and the four Buddha statues in the shrines will be cast in bronze in Thailand. The heartwood of a tree from the site will be encased in the central axis of the anda. Four octagonal pedestals supporting the stupa symbolise the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path. The walkway around the stupa will be covered with flagstones, providing an area for circumambulation, while benches at the corners will allow seats for contemplation. The sides of the base will be covered with rock facing.







In the base of the stupa we plan to encase items of personal and social support. The wider community will have the opportunity to include objects that they feel have been supportive in their lives or that represent what is supportive for society as a whole. This in effect will create a time capsule that contains significant aspects of our current age. If you wish to include a personal item in the stupa, please contact the project manager:

Methsiri Weerakkody: MethW@flexibleautomation.co.nz;
 work (09) 273 5170; mobile 021 1540188; home (09) 818 4162.



Vimutti Stupa Sponsorship



| | |
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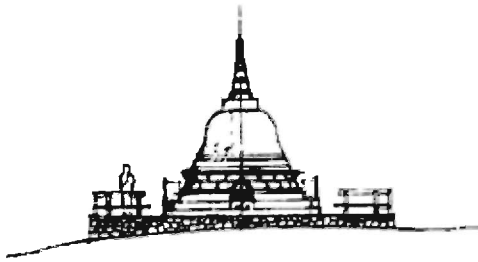
Suggested donations for this stupa have been divided into the levels indicated to the left.

[click here to donate](#)

Vimutti Stupa Project

Sponsorship form for printing

Vimutti Buddhist Monastery
PO Box 7
Bombay, 2343
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www.vimutti.org.nz



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The Sangha would like to express our gratitude and offer our blessings to you for your generous donation. May this offering be a cause for wellbeing in this life, happiness in future lifetimes, and awakening to the realisation of Enlightenment, Nibbana.