

# DESIGN PROCESS

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR PHASES that will lead to a final design:

**PHASE ONE:** An ad-hoc committee of five individuals (composed of trustees, architects, and an Archives Department representative) will request submissions of design proposals from the worldwide Baba family; these will be reviewed, and a shortlist of up to seven potential designs will be provided for the Trust's approval.

**PHASE TWO:** A review panel of seven individuals (composed of trustees, architects, and an Archival Department representative) will assess the short-listed designs and winnow it down to the most promising three designs. These three designs will be shared with the worldwide Baba family for feedback. Then in consideration of the feedback, the review panel will refine the three designs and present these to the trustees to decide on a final design.

The final design may well incorporate features from several of the proposals. The Trust views this as an opportunity for collaboration among designers to discover the most creative ideas that will contribute to a Super-Structure inspired by the Avatar of the Age.

*Note that the Trust may make adjustments to this process as warranted.*

## Requirements and Guidance for Submissions

Anyone may submit their ideas for the overall design of the Super-Structure. We request all submitters to do their best to enable the reviewers to clearly visualise your design. This may be through providing one or more of the following:

- Artistic drawing
- Elevation views
- Floor plan
- Model

Designs should meet the following criteria:

- meet the specifications within the Trust Deed, i.e., a minimum of 50' on either side of the Samadhi;
- be in keeping with Mani's vision (per the Trust's resolution, "*The Board and Ad-hoc committee to establish this being the absolute primary requisite for all design submissions.*");
- the view of the Samadhi should not be impeded for those who are on the Hill;
- the design should conform with the atmosphere of simplicity at Meherabad.
- The following should not be disturbed:
  - the Samadhi as well as the graves of the women mandali;
  - Baba's Cabin and the Mast Ashram/Cage Room building;
  - the wall around the Meher Retreat;
  - the graves of Baba's parents, close disciples, and pets.

Your submission may also incorporate some or all of the following elements within the overall design:

- Colours
- Shapes
- Textures
- Features (e.g., images, quotes, figures, etc.)
- Lighting
- Materials (e.g., marble, composite, glass, etc.)
- Detailed design of interior/floor plan (e.g., railings, paving patterns, etc.).

It should be noted that Trust policy prohibits anything from disturbing or destroying anything from Baba's time, such as:

- posts from the gate to Baba's compound;
- mutka stand from Baba's time;
- the trees from Baba's time.

However, if warranted an exception to some of these restrictions may be considered for the Super-Structure, since it is being constructed according to Baba's direction. Note that the Sabha Mandap, the Samadhi portico, and anything constructed after 1969, will eventually be removed.

Each submission should help the Trust visualise the proposed Super-Structure, providing sketches and any other relevant information so the proposal can be fully considered. You may also include an explanation of your design that highlights key ideas and your design choices.

Also please note all submissions should:

- include a brief introduction about yourself and your background, as well as anyone else involved in the preparation of your submission;
- provide your e-mail address or other contact information;
- be submitted either electronically to [samadhi.superstructure@gmail.com](mailto:samadhi.superstructure@gmail.com), or have a copy sent by registered mail to: Chairman—Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust, Post Bag 31, King's Road, Ahmednagar, MS, India; PIN code: 414001 (attention: Super-Structure Committee).

It would also be helpful for the Trust to be informed of your interest in making a submission, so you can be notified if there are any changes to the process or time frames or additional information that could be helpful as you prepare your submission.

All submissions should be received by the Trust no later than 1 January 2025.

Also please note:

- any questions may be submitted to the committee at [samadhi-superstructure@gmail.com](mailto:samadhi-superstructure@gmail.com); the responses to questions will be consolidated and shared with all submitters;
- the submitters should be available for follow-up questions from the Trust, as needed;
- the Trust will offer no compensation for the design submissions and we discourage payment to any designers; instead we hope that all submitters will be inspired by their hearts to contribute their ideas for Baba's Samadhi Super-Structure;
- all submissions will be considered the property of Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust (AMBPPCT).

Finally, it should be understood that there is no expectation that the person/s whose design is selected will necessarily be involved in detailed design drawings or construction; as noted earlier, the timeline for actual construction of the Super-Structure cannot be determined at this time.

Upon receipt, the Trust will acknowledge receipt of the submission by e-mail.

For further detailed information that may aide the design of the Samadhi Super-Structure, all who are submitting a design are invited to visit the AMB Trust website: <https://avatarmeherbabatrust.org/>

We look forward to the bounty of creative expression that will be released in the design of Beloved Baba's Samadhi Super-Structure.

Love in Baba,  
Framroze Mistry  
Chairman, AMBPPCT



Mani's sketch of her vision

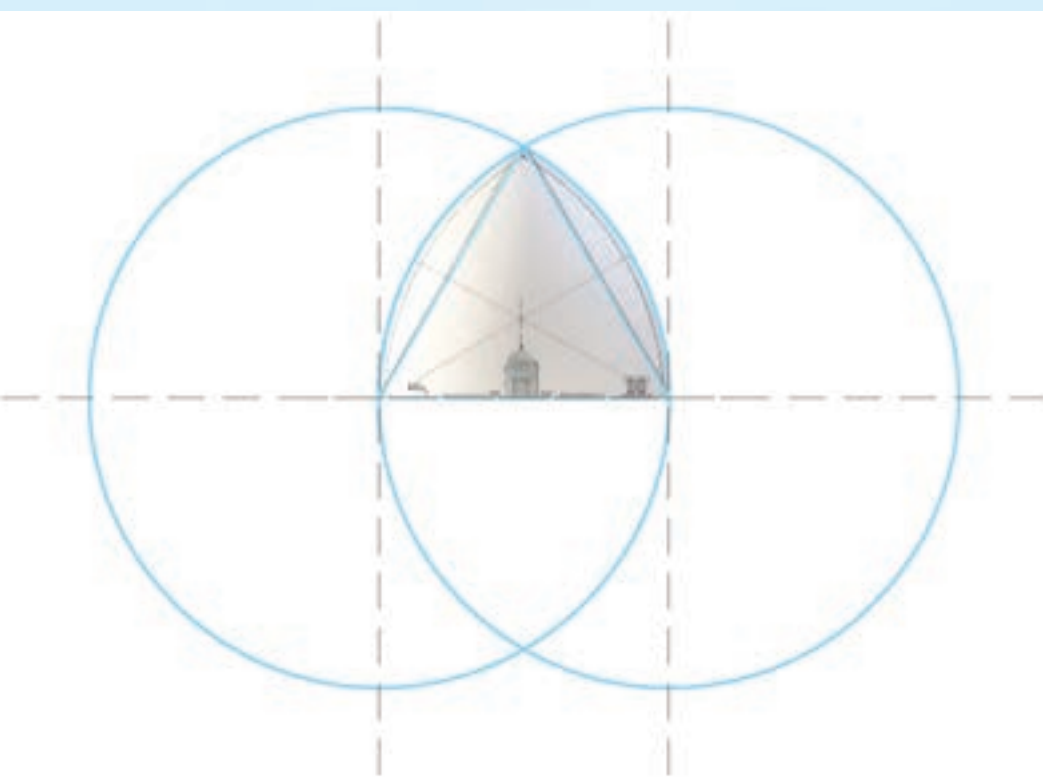


From newspaper article in The Times of India shown by Mani depicting a vesica piscis

Mani also said the Super-Structure should be a canopy over the Tomb and the Samadhi should be easily seen from the outside. Ted made a wire model and showed it to Mani. She did not comment on it but kept it until she went to Baba. Mani's sketch, the newspaper photo, and the model are now in the Trust's archives at Meherabad.

In addition, Eruch Jessawala, long-time mandali member, encouraged that the Super-Structure not be embellished in a way that detracts from the simplicity of the atmosphere of Meherabad. He noted that an over-focus on decoration of the structure "will not help glorifying Him but will detract the pilgrims from focusing entirely on Him." He also suggested a prism be incorporated, projecting the colours of Baba's flag.

The Trust passed a resolution 19 April 2023 that the Super-Structure design is to be based on Mani's vision, as follows: "*The Board and Ad-hoc committee to establish this being the absolute primary requisite for all design submissions.*"



Depiction of vesica piscis overlaid on Samadhi

## Super-Structure Announcement

*Continued from page 1*

was developed for the Master Plan that the Trust has approved; however, it is an illustration for how the increase in numbers of pilgrims could be accommodated for darshan, recognizing that the actual plan for the darshan experience will likely evolve over time, as needed.

### Mandali Perspectives

Mani S. Irani was Meher Baba's sister and was among the most intimate of Meher Baba's mandali. For many years, she also served as chairman of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust. One morning in October 1992 in the Trust Office, Mani told Ted Judson (Trust architect and Meherabad resident) about a vision she had the night before. She specifically said it was not a dream but a "vision." Mani made a sketch to describe it but said it was not very accurate.

The next morning she saw a photo of a building in the newspaper, a portion of which she said was the exact shape of her vision.

The shape is referred to as a *vesica piscis*, which has been described as symbolising "the interface between the spiritual and physical worlds, represented by the two circles."

Bhau Kalchuri recalled a time when Baba seemed to be referencing the Super-Structure when he noted that "in 1965 Baba Himself in Mandali Hall called for a matchbox, took out some matches, and made a design with them. At one point, He made the matches into a triangle."<sup>3</sup> This is consistent with the notion of the *vesica piscis*, which has an equilateral triangle as the essential shape that underlies the form.

3. <https://avatarmeherbabatrust.org/article-2/>



Ted Judson's wire model based on Mani's vision