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## Hindu Temple of Antelope Valley



Building type  
Religious and Cultural

Location  
Lancaster California

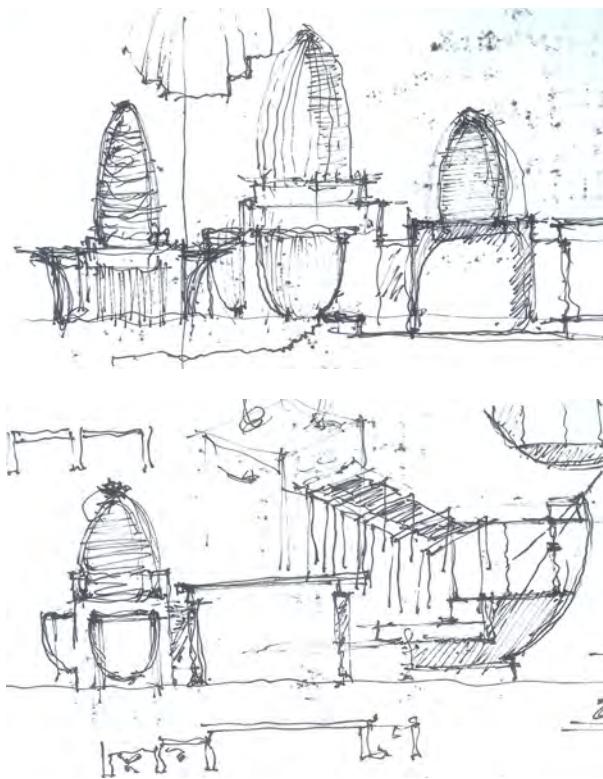
Site Area  
91,930 sf  
Project Area  
18,237 sf Phase 1 (includes walkways)

Client  
Hindu Temple of Antelope Valley

Completion Year  
Substantial Comp. Oct 2014

**History:** The Hindu population of the Antelope Valley region near Los Angeles consists of roughly a half dozen immigrant groups vibrantly practicing the rituals of their faith. For years congregants have been worshipping out of temporarily rented reception areas acquired on a weekend basis, a situation inadequate for the physical needs of the community and the sanctity of their worship. Accordingly, a visionary cardiologist approached our firm to create a permanent sanctuary, with a core group of community leaders in the area working to transform the complex into a reality.

**Client Brief:** The clients requested a Temple dedicated primarily to Lord Vishnu, one of the major deities of most Hindu traditions and the Supreme God of the Vaishnavite tradition. The client also requested additional accom-

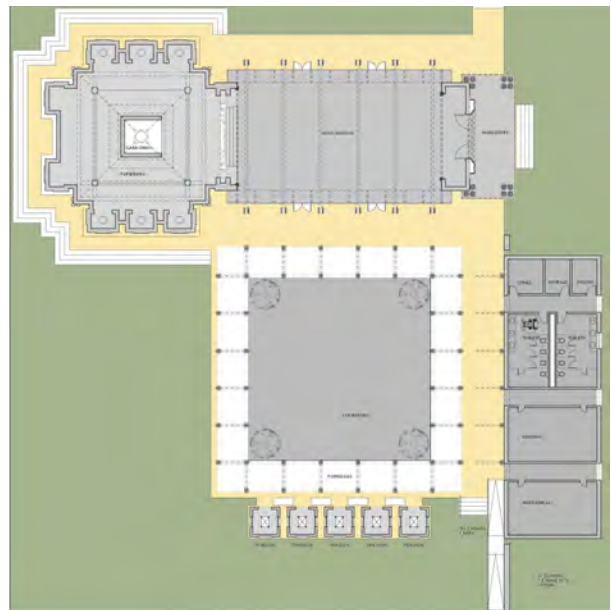


Top : Dusk view from courtyard  
Bottom Rows: Conceptual sketches evolution of form

modations for 6-8 other deities of the Hindu pantheon as selected by the community, with a traditionalist Temple of northern and southern Indian confluence placed behind modernist supporting facilities designed to inspire younger generations to fervent worship.

**Approach:** Having reviewed numerous precedents, our office chose to design the temple finial after the pattern of a Shikhara found in the Kangra temple district of the Himachal Pradesh region of northern India. The selection pays homage to the cultural attribution of Kangra as a birthplace of Hinduism, noting that the quadripartite Shikhara at Kangra is also one of few Indian temples to successfully conjoin the traditions of Vishnu and Shiva worship. This style of temple is also appropriate as a geographically synthetic typology, given similar examples can be found in diverse regions of India, notably Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

Our office designed the main entrance sequence, or 'Maha-Mandapa,' as a series of gateways similar to that of a hypostyle hall, which is a traditional motif found in most classical architectural styles; however, we inserted a modernist glass cube into the space to create a year-round structure that is both transparent and weather-proof. The transparency of the 'Maha-Mandapa' thereby inspires the devotee to pass through each portal in cognition of a journey from the profane to the sacred, with the



Top: Interior view of main hall  
Bottom L: View of main entry from south  
Bottom R: Plan



Top: View from entry

Bottom: View of main hall from south east



structure of the Temple itself elevated on a plinth. We designed an interior courtyard that can—depending on future expansion—be enclosed by a wall concealing office space on one side, with additional allocation of space for the future expansion of minor 'templums.' The fourth visual wall of the interior courtyard is to be enclosed by landscaped contours. The complex is designed to allow for over 35,000 Sq. Ft. of future expansion.

**Intent and Recognition:** The building has been published in the Antelope Valley Press, India West daily and Faith & Form Architecture magazine

Team

Cyrus Subawalla-Principal Designer  
Sangwan Seo-Project Designer  
Mary O'Toole-Technical Lead & Contract Documents

Consultants

Structure  
Martin Consulting Group  
MEP/FP  
Hovde Engineering  
Civil & Architect of Record  
A.V. Engineering

Top : View of main temple from west  
Bottom R: View from Hull Park

