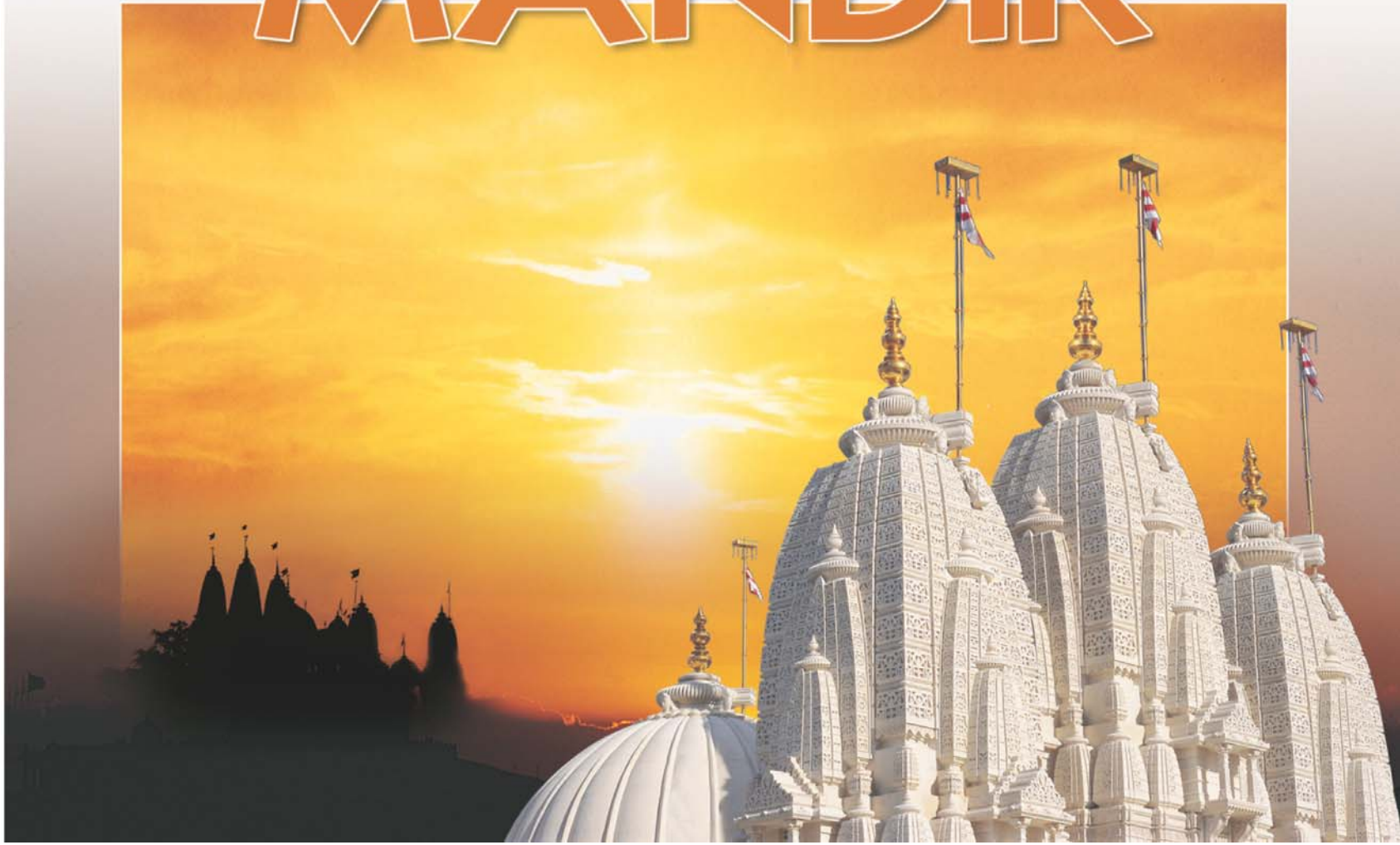


*“A Place of Love, Peace And Harmony”*

# MANDIR







# What is a Mandir ?

Mandir is a holy name for a Hindu Temple.

It is more than a house of worship or a place of prayer.

It is where time stops and the mind becomes still.

A Mandir sustains our search for greater peace, harmony and goodness.

A Mandir is the common soul of humanity  
where people of different beliefs and backgrounds can come together  
and smile through the love of God.

The presence of a Mandir, wherever it may be, not only  
raises consciousness of civilization but ushers the dawn of  
divine grace into our world.

A Mandir embodies and symbolizes the Hindu way of life.

## *A Mandir*

*is a center for realizing God*

*is where the mind becomes still*

*is a place of paramount peace*

*inspires a higher way of life*

*teaches us to respect one another*

*preserves our cultural values*

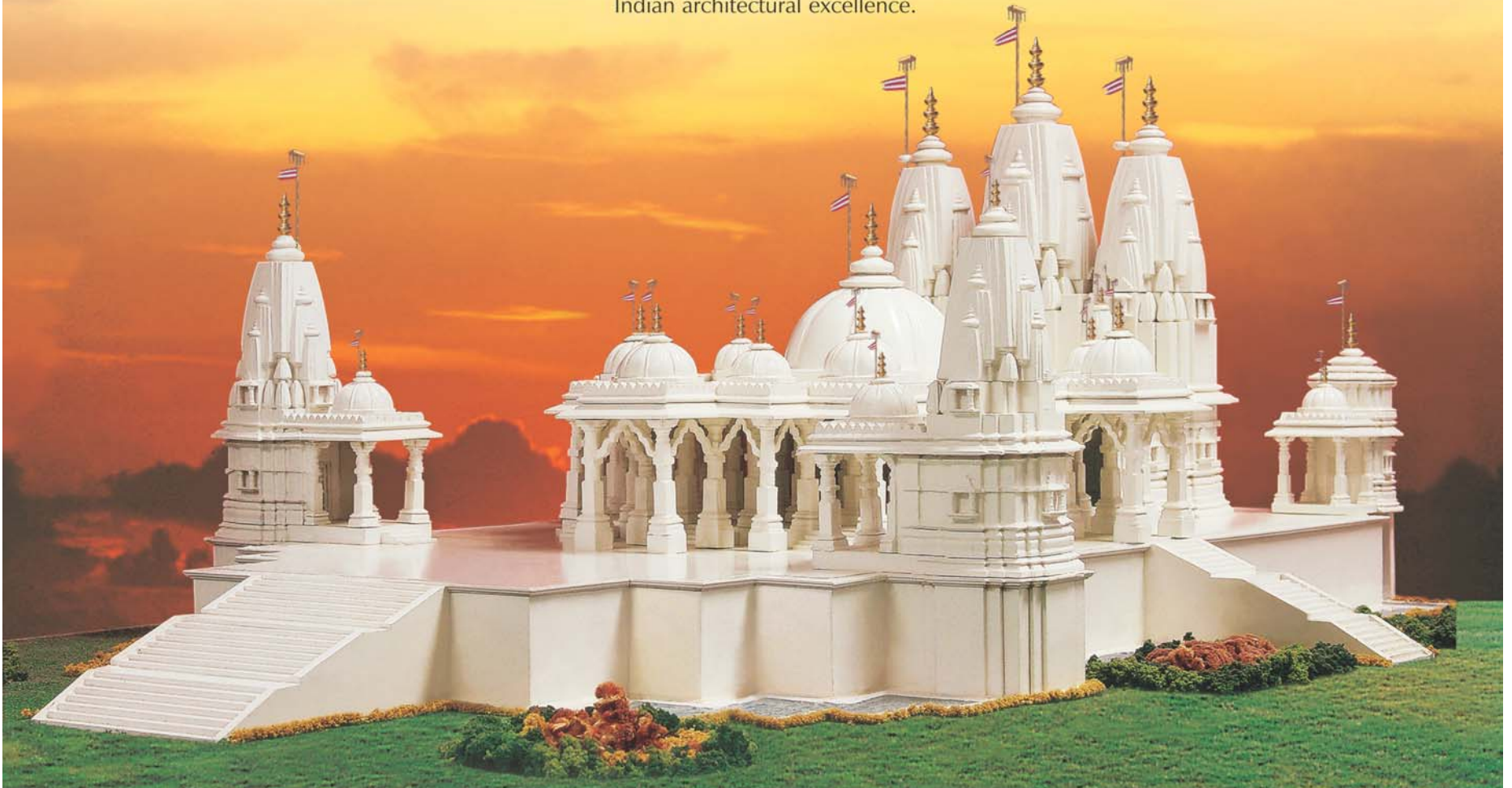
*sustains our unique identity*

*- His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj*



# Shree Swaminarayan Mandir A Wonder of Houston

As a grand expression of their profound spiritual faith, Hindus created magnificent Mandirs.  
This graceful poetry in marble and stone has its roots in the divine faith of generations of people.  
The BAPS Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Houston is one such creation  
that embraces the essence of Hindu divinity, humanitarianism and  
Indian architectural excellence.





# Amazing Feat

The detailed planning of the project began in September 2000 after His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj performed the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony (Shilanyas Vidhi).

In tune with Vedic traditions, the foundation of the Mandir was specially designed without any metal or rebar. This makes it a unique foundation.

Splendid white limestone from Turkey was selected for the exterior of the Mandir along with beautiful Italian marble for the interior.

The stone and marble were quarried in Turkey and Italy respectively and shipped to India. Skillful Indian craftsmen intricately carved the stones with a God-given art that can never be performed by a machine. The carved stones were then shipped to Houston, where they were meticulously pieced together like a giant 3D jigsaw puzzle with modern accuracy of millimeters !

For the first time a monument of such exquisite craftsmanship is being built in the Southwest Region. It reveals the splendour of ancient Vedic architecture (shilpashastra) built to last more than a thousand years. Inspired by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj the Mandir is being built on the gift of time and labor of hundreds of volunteers.

Upon completion, we will witness something divine, something eternal in the form of a Mandir.





# Fact Sheet



Length: 125 Ft.

Width: 95 Ft.

Height: 73 Ft.

Total Area: Mandir - 11,500 Sq. Ft.

Deck - 25,620 Sq. Ft.

Shikhar (Pinnacle): 5

Ghummat (Central Dome): 1

Ghumti (Small Dome): 11

Sthambh (Carved Pillar): 136 (7 Unique Designs)

Kamaan (Archway): 122

Decorative Ceiling: 70 (24 Unique Designs)

Garbh Gruha: 11

Saamran: 4

Turkish Limestone: Approximately 29,000 Cu. Ft.

Italian Marble: Approximately 22,000 Cu. Ft.

Inception: March 2002

Completion: July 2004

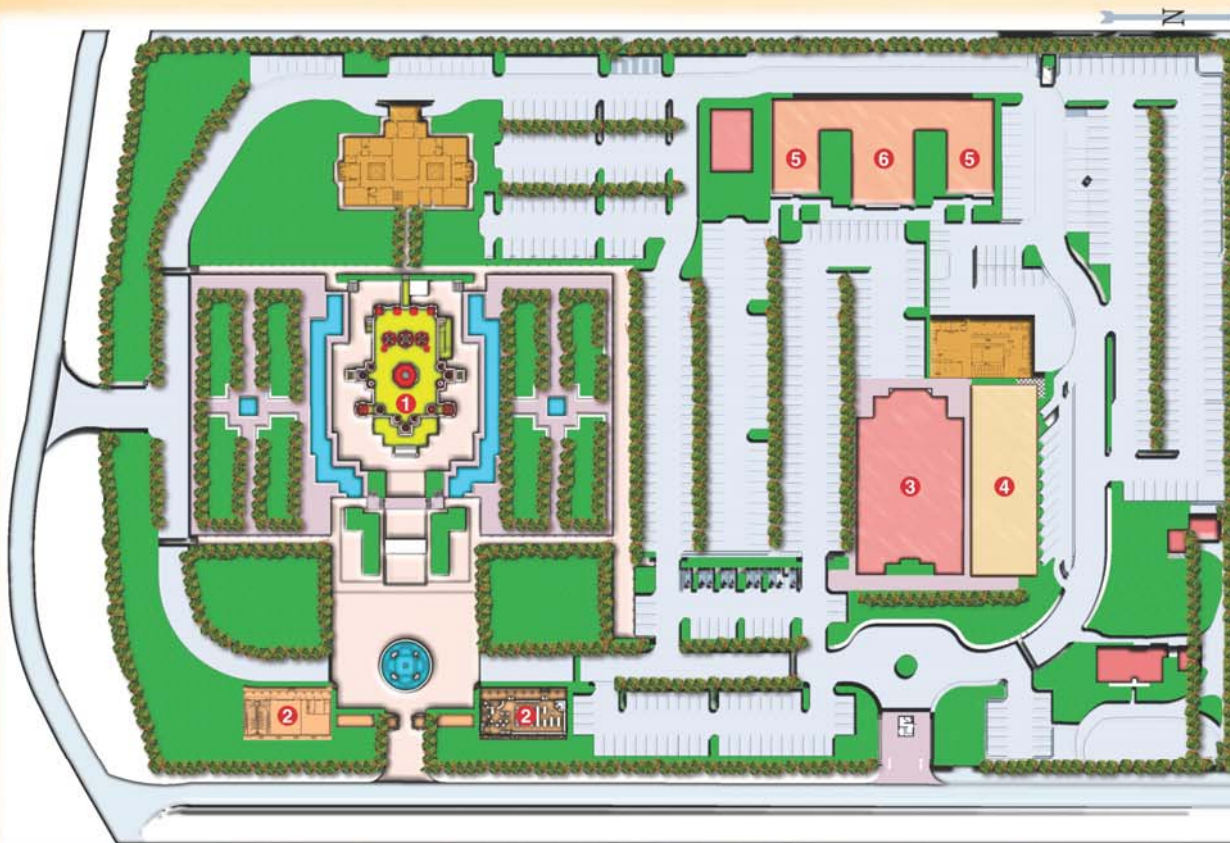
Grand Opening Ceremony: 25 July, 2004





# Site Layout

The 18 acre site on Brand Lane in Stafford, Texas is the home to the first traditional stone and marble Mandir in the Southwest Region. With its design rooted in classic, graceful Indian architecture, the Mandir features a vast entrance accented by beautiful lawns and gardens. The Mandir site has several facilities including an assembly hall and classrooms, an inspiring exhibition on Indian Culture, a visitor center, a gymnasium, a children's playground, a dining hall and ample parking space.



## Legend

- 1. Mandir
- 2. Visitor Center and Exhibition
- 3. Assembly Hall
- 4. Dining Hall
- 5. Classrooms
- 6. Gymnasium





Shri Harikrishna Maharaj  
Shri Radha Kirshna Dev



Shri Akshar Purushottam Maharaj



Sukh-Shaiya



Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj

## Sacred Murti ( Deities )

The Murti is the soul of the Mandir, the point of divine power where prayers are offered and blessings received.

Hinduism believes that whatever we enjoy should be offered to God first.

And so, flowers and food, garments and ornaments, music and festivities are offered to God as a part of daily devotion.

Hinduism teaches: Once we learn to see God in the Murti of the Mandir, we shall soon see His presence everywhere.



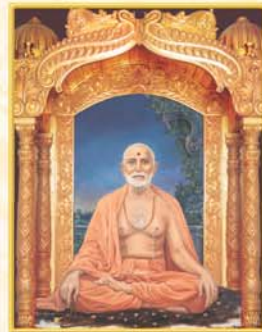
Shri Shiv Parvati  
Shri Ganeshji



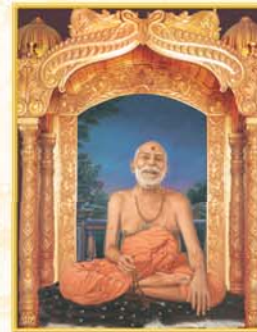
Shri Sita Ram  
Shri Hanumanji



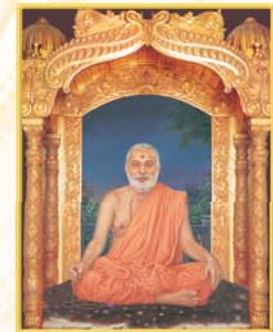
Shri Bhagatji Maharaj



Shri Shastriji Maharaj



Shri Yogiji Maharaj



Shri Pramukh Swami Maharaj



# Preserving Heritage

The Mandir does not consist of mere bricks, stone and marble. It is a shrine which resonates with the deep devotion of devotees, where one can participate in spectacular celebrations to savour the rituals, festivity and divine joy of Hindu festivals.

The mosaic of rituals, music, dance, discourses and devotion provides an exciting experience of India's ancient tradition of celebrating and revering its deities.

By inspiring the Mandir, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj has provided an opportunity for future generations to learn about the rich cultural heritage of India.

