

# U.S. Pavilion Newsletter

September – December 2006

U.S. Pavilion \* Auroville \* Tamil Nadu \* 605101 \* India

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*Please forgive (and begin to appreciate) the simplified version of this newsletter.  
Thank you to Avipro for editing.*

## The Vision and the Team

The beginning of September saw the departure of David, Nadia, and Tristan, three lovely beings who awakened the U.S. Pavilion and brought it to function. David and Nadia have professional skills in building and design. They worked countless hours to create a kitchen, walkways, and composting toilets. These are just a few of the things they did to make the building useable. After their departure, it was decided that a next phase to consider is: maintenance, to care for the building and to breathe more life into it.

Ing-Marie has taken up this caretaker-ship and she feels fully supported by Chris (finances and on-the-ground support), David (greenwork), Paco (carpentry/solar), and Chandresh (technical support, accounts, and AVI connection).

## September 30<sup>th</sup> Event: “Super Size Crocodile” presented by Rom Whitaker

Over fifty people attended the debut of Rom Whitaker’s show: “Super Size Crocodile”, which took place at the U.S. Pavilion on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Under an open sky, Aurovilians and guests sat comfortably together to watch the film, projected upon a large screen, mounted on the Pavilion’s porch.

After the showing, Rom discussed the film and answered questions about it, in what proved a warm and informative gathering. What followed was a dinner of biryani, raita, bean salad, and an eggplant dish; after which the Auroville musicians Suriyan, Matthew and Andy played jazz well into the night.

Overall, a splendid evening!!!

*A more thorough description of the event was sent out in early October. Contact Ing-Marie to receive a copy.*

## Preparation for UW Student Group

Most of the monsoon months were spent in arranging the various details for the stay of six students from University of Washington; at the U.S. Pavilion, scheduled for January -March 2007. In the face of accommodating such a large group, the smallest things needed to be worked out, such as: key chains for rooms/bicycles, proper kitchen utensils, having the composting toilets in working order, preparing a fleet of sixteen bicycles, as well as various other points of attention, to guarantee an agreeable stay. In addition, of course, meals needed to be arranged. Luckily, the U.S Pavilion is located centrally to three eateries providing scrumptious edibles: Solitude Farm (100% organic), Indus Valley (run on donations by users) and the Visitor Center Restaurant.

Everything, as far as we could see ... has been done and we are looking forward to the students' arrival!



## People

During the rain and planting season, the U.S. Pavilion was glad to host an active variety of guests, among whom two very special friends, Freddy and Ilona, from Germany.

Freddy and Ilona have been committed to Auroville since its inception, and this year they spent innumerable hours in landscaping the back terraces of the Pavilion. Freddy's knowledge of plants, spanning thirty loving and dedicated years, proved a tremendous and beautiful contribution. Ilona's sense of harmony and appreciation for details were very helpful in the kitchen design and its functionality. A hearty thanks and much love to two dear friends!



In addition, during the past three months, over 200 people toured the U.S. Pavilion, most of them young architectural students. The combination of beauty and sustainability, which the Pavilion displays, attracts people from all over the world .....



## The Building

Paco and his team have completed the kitchen cabinets, which are up and being used. There are also two counter tops, finished and gleaming (made of Madurai Gold granite) that are as functional as they are beautiful. All parts of the make-shift kitchen have been designed with the idea that they can easily be moved to the second phase of the building: the kitchen/dining hall.



Just before the monsoon, the solar panels were installed and fully hooked up. The panels now supply electricity to nearly all of the Pavilion's outlets; with the exception of a few large power consumers, such as the refrigerator. In addition, the solar water heater was installed. And hot water showers are truly a welcome treat during the comparatively "cold" winter months.

The U.S. Pavilion team continues to work closely with Aurore, as we become accustomed to their solar and heater systems; learning how to iron out the quirks. The final stage together (before the last payment) will be to write an easy to read manual for the current/future caretakers and guests of the Pavilion. It's yet another example of how the design of the building, and its new technology, pushes one to be involved. You don't just live here, you participate, thus becoming more conscious of your own ways.

## Call for Films

"Just as each individual has a psychic being, which is his true self and which governs his destiny more or less overtly, so too each nation has a psychic being which is its true being and moulds its destiny from behind the veil: it is the soul of the country, the national genius, the spirit of the people, the centre of national aspiration, the fountainhead of all that is beautiful, noble, great and generous in the life of the country." -The Mother

In the spirit of the International Zone, the U.S. Pavilion team wants to start showing films that touch on aspects of American culture: its genius and follies, its role in the world. We would like to have showings once a month, in our open-air theater, and to serve tea/biscuits afterward, to encourage interaction and discussion. We will start a small collection of America oriented films that can be part of the Pavilion's library.

*Can anyone help further??? If you have any title suggestions for important films, please send them to Ing-Marie via email. If you would like to donate a film, kindly send it directly to the U.S. Pavilion (address above). Thanks for your help!*

## Guest Donation Report

For one year, the U.S. Pavilion has been running purely on donations. The spirit behind this is to recognize the countless hours of service (instead of money) that volunteers contribute to Auroville and the Pavilion. But the question arises: "Is this sustainable?"

We recently calculated that it takes roughly Rs 10,000 (or US\$225) for one month of running the Pavilion. As you can see below, the total amount of donations for last year was Rs 72,077,- ; which only covers basic costs for about seven months.

We are trying to figure out how to keep the spirit of giving through work alive, meanwhile also meeting the financial needs of the Pavilion.

*We'll keep you updated!*

<b>January</b>	<b>Rs 15,840</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Rs 8,770</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Rs 14,341</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Rs 8,224</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Rs 1,495</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Rs 13,407</b>
<b>July-August</b>	<b>Rs 1,280</b>
<b>September-October</b>	<b>Rs 2,280</b>
<b><u>November-December</u></b>	<b><u>Rs 6,440</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs 72,077</b>



## Summary of Accounts from Chandresh

Here is the summary of the accounts for the US Pavilion (as of January 17, 2007). We had the following major cost expenses in June-December of 2006:

- 1) Landscaping (Rs 40,000)
- 2) Kitchen cabinets and upgrade work (Rs 72,000)
- 3) Solar water heating and solar electrification (Rs. 7,00,000)
- 4) Dynamized water purifier (Rs 20,000)

Notes:

The average monthly expense for the U.S. Pavilion is coming to approx Rs 10,000 plus or minus (\$225). In summer we approximated the monthly running cost at Rs 5000 (\$125). Obviously it was underestimated then.

The income side I am trying to get a handle on. Up until now, we had only a guest or two here and there. During the next three months we will have all six beds in two rooms occupied, as well as fourteen bicycles being rented out. We may be breaking even or have a small surplus. Of course all the work done by Ing-Marie, Chris, Paco and I is voluntary work. Once Ing-Marie becomes a full time Aurovillian, we should look into getting her maintenance covered too.

I am trying to bring clarity into the US Pavilion accounts and requesting always to get estimated budgets so that we can see what we spend and where.

Thanks,  
Chandresh