

From the Depths of Mud and Darkness

The Lotus flower (*Nelumbo nucifera*) embodies fertility and peace as well as a hidden lesson. Its common names are Sacred Lotus, Indian Lotus, and Sacred Water Lily. The Pink Lotus is the national flower of India. The Lotus is an aquatic perennial, native to southern Asia and Australia. It prospers in many climates across India and China where it is much beloved in water gardens. In Buddhism, a lotus bud symbolizes potential. A Lotus with eight petals represents cosmic harmony. The flower is truly sacred for many reasons.



photo credit: Wikipedia

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Did You Know ?

We are the leading local provider of tools and resources for people planning on adding on to, renovating or building a home.

We have several consumer guilds to help you.

One of our recent publications is...

"How to Hire a Contractor"



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Archi-fact:

The Lotus Temple

While all the Houses of Worship of the Bahai community feature a dome in the center of the structure, the Lotus Temple of New Delhi does not have a central dome.

More than 10,000 different sizes of marble were used in the construction of the Lotus Temple.

Iconic Building Of The Month

This month's Iconic Building is The Lotus Temple in New Dehli, India.

A welcoming exterior reflects the spiritual atmosphere of The Lotus Temple in New Dehli, India. Iranian architect Fariborz Sahba designed the place of worship to resemble a blooming lotus, an example of expressionist architecture. Also known as the Baha'i House of Worship, it offers a sanctuary for Baha'is and others who seek peace.



photo credit: Wikipedia

Completed in 1986, the white marble exterior welcomes 3.5 million visitors each year, according to Architravel.com. Nine sides to the temple form 27 marble petals arranged in groups of three. The nine doors, reminiscent of the nine-pointed star in Baha'i Faith, lead to a 131-foot (40-meter) high prayer hall that can hold 2500 people. Its marble floor came from the Penteli Mountain in Greece. It is one of the first temples in Dehli to use solar power. Fittingly, ponds and gardens enchant visitors at the gates. The property is 26 acres.

Sahba chose the lotus for inspiration because it is special to several religions, including Hinduism and Buddhism. A blooming flower embodies Baha'i beliefs such as the progressive revelation of religious truth. For this creation, GlobArt Academy in Vienna, Austria, granted him an award for his ability to promote unity.

Archi-Quote

[Fariborz Sahba in speaking about the design for the Lotus Temple in New Dehli, India.](#)

"I was looking for a concept that would be acceptable to the people of all the different religions that abound with such rich diversity in India."

*Architect
Fariborz
Sahba*



photo credit: Wikipedia



photo credit: Wikipedia

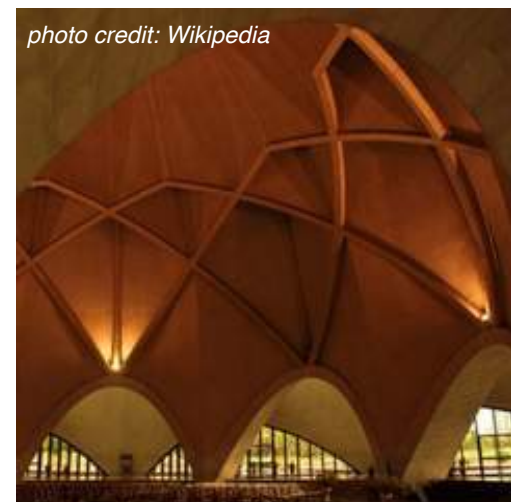


photo credit: Wikipedia

From the Depths of Mud and Darkness

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Lotuses notably showcase vibrant shades of pink, while dabbling in white and purple hues. They thrive in murky waters. Emerging from darkness, they lodge roots in the mud and send out long stems. Their long stems contain air spaces to keep their flowers afloat. Sometimes even the leaves stay above water. The flower opens in the morning and shares its alluring aroma. The petals fall later in the afternoon.

When the plant's fruits are ripe, the seed pod gradually falls toward the water and releases the seeds to their bidding. Gardeners who grow lotuses can winter over the plants if the pond depth is below the local freeze line, or they can store the tubers in a cool but frost-free location until late spring.

We can learn a valuable lesson from the lotus. In the depths of despair, we may feel stuck. The lotus manifests its purpose (to bloom) in the face of obstacles. In fact, the plant uses the darkness and the sticky mud to its advantage. It has learned to adapt to messy surroundings, journeying across several continents to share this way of life. Freely releasing its seeds into the clouded waters below, the flower survives with little help from a gardener. The seemingly delicate flower displays a strong example of resiliency. Beaming in full sunlight, it inspires onlookers to push forward, onward and upward.

You, too, can pursue your dreams and keep your head above water. Build a foundation and use challenges to your advantage. Let the seeds fall where they may, nurture them, and watch your project grow petal by petal.

Source: theflowerexpert.com

Archi-Speak

Can You Find These Traits Of The Lotus Temple ?

Lotus	Temple	India	Progress											
X	E	C	H	A	L	E	T	S	S	H	G	L	K	Y
K	L	X	A	P	P	V	C	V	H	R	O	H	Y	H
H	P	L	T	V	N	H	Z	E	T	M	A	F	C	I
I	M	A	X	D	C	R	Z	L	W	D	X	T	L	T
D	E	I	F	Q	B	P	L	Y	L	B	J	O	A	G
X	T	T	U	H	D	I	Z	F	N	Y	D	T	M	P
L	Y	N	N	K	A	N	K	N	N	Q	K	M	Q	B
R	D	E	L	I	E	D	W	R	F	O	J	Q	Y	M
P	F	T	B	L	W	I	G	R	U	F	N	H	N	Z
O	K	O	H	H	F	A	E	Q	Y	G	X	X	V	W
H	N	P	P	R	D	X	R	J	H	Z	Q	Q	J	P
N	I	Z	D	C	T	J	S	J	O	O	F	E	O	N
F	D	S	H	S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	Q	Y	X
L	O	T	U	S	S	Y	L	Z	G	R	X	H	R	N
I	V	L	Q	N	V	C	V	P	S	W	C	Q	S	U

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character "M" heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007.

When contemplating adding on to you home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like "M" on your side. Each month the "Ask M" column will answer a reader's question to place more information at your finger tips.

This month's question.

Can I combine two apartments into one apartment?

Dana J.

Dana

Most communities do permit the combination of two apartments into one apartment. Depending on the rules of the community an architect may be required to file drawings along with an application for the construction work which will be required.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com ,and in the subject line type in "Ask M". We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone's satisfaction.

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About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB
President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

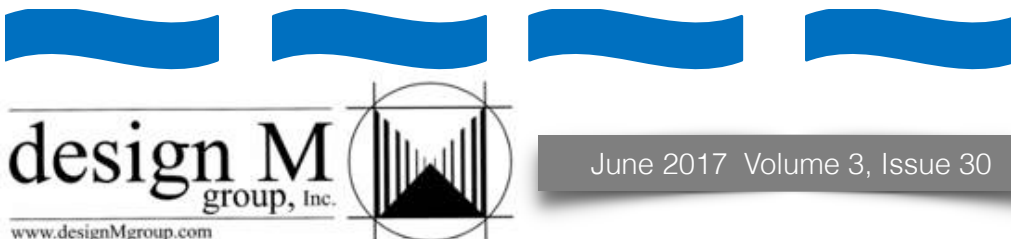
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Architects should help provide information to our fellow world citizens about their homes, offices and the built environment in general.

Your Home should move you emotionally like your favorite song does.

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info@designMgroup.com

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