Dr. V. Ganapati Sthapati
A Tribute to Our Aasthana Sthapati
By Siva Subramanian

The world lost a great Soul on September 6, 2011 at Chennai – Our Aasthana Sthapati, Padmabhushan, Dr. V. Ganapati Sthapati at the age of 84. A small group of 4 devotees brought Dr. Ganapati Sthapati to USA for the first time in 1981, who designed our SSVT, as the first Sri Siva Vishnu Temple outside India. For our congregation I will give a brief biography of our Temple Architect or Aasthana Sthapati and pay a tribute.

Born in the year 1927, at Pillayarpatti, a village near Karaikudi, Tamilnadu, Dr. V. Ganapati Sthapati comes from an illustrious family of temple architects and sculptors. Dr. Sthapati’s family lineage can be traced back to 1000+ years, when his forefather Kunjara Mallan Raja Raja Perunthachan who was commissioned for the work the King Raja Raja Cholan built the Great Brihadeeswara Temple of Tanjavur. This Temple is considered even today as the treasure house of Indian art and architecture and now on the United Nations World Heritage List.

Our Sthapati recounts: “The basic prerequisite for the Sthapati/silpi is his devotion to his tradition and to the God he sculpts. As he is the creator, he assumes the status of a mother in the process ‘Mata-Silpi’ or mother sculptor.”

Our Sthapati was the Principal of the Government College of Architecture and Sculpture (the only institute of this kind in the world) at Mamallapuram, Tamilnadu, India, for 27 years. After retirement from government service, he established Vaastu Vedic Trust and Vaastu Vedic Research Foundation aimed at research, development and globalization of Vaastu Sastra. He is also the head of V. Ganapati Sthapati & Associates. He has built the Tamil University of Tanjavur, Muthiah Mandram in Madurai, Valluvar Kottam in Chennai and Thiruvalluvar Statue at the southern tip of India, Kanya Kumari, measuring 133 feet in elevation, a stone statue of liberty for India, speak of his capacity for designing and executing works of colossal and stupendous nature and has taken him to the pinnacle of his life’s achievement.

In an attempt to popularize and strengthen Vaastu Sastra, Dr. Sthapati, who is noted for his tireless research and commitment to vaastu, has won several national awards and titles. He is solely responsible for the resurrection of the works of the Great Brahmarishi Mayan, who was the progenitor of this Indian science and technology and the founder of this rich civilization and culture. He has established the International Institute of Mayonic Science and Technology, which conducts workshops and discourses all over the world.
He has authored a number of books on the science and technology of Vaastu Sastra including Iconometry, Temples of Space Science, The Building Architecture of Sthapatya Veda, and Commentary on Mayan’s Aintiram. One of his latest books titled ‘Siva Vishnu Temple Complex: Concept and Design’ by Dr. Sthapati throws light on the concept of Unification of Saivism and Vaishnavism. The cosmic space and earth though represented by the aural forms of Siva and Vishnu respectively, both are the dual manifestation at gross level of the ONE GOD or ‘Brahman’ who exists as subtle unmanifest energy.

He has completed temples in America, England, Singapore, Malaysia, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Canada. He has worked and researched the USA, U.K., Australia, France, Fiji, Germany, Holland, Singapore, Malaysia, Mexico, Guatemala and Peru. He has identified the theories of the origin of the Universe and its life forms through his research on the works of Mayan scaling height far beyond the mundane world of modern science and technology.

Awards and Recognition:

Sthapati has earned a number of titles and awards including SSVT’s Aasthana Sthapati and Vaastu Vijnani in 1992 and 1995. SSVT also honored him in 2003 with the title Viswakarma JagadGuru in recognition of his contribution to the building of SSVT and other Temple all over USA and the rest of the world. The Indian Government conferred the title ‘Padma Bhushan’ on the Sthapati in 2009, the Silver Anniversary year of SSVT. Blessed and nurtured by Paramacharyal of Kanchi, Paramacharyal of Sringeri, Paramacharyal of Ahobila mutt. He had numerous other titles conferred on him and is a member of many national and international organizations.

Architectural forms are forms of manifested consciousness. Stillness creates many things. When you are still you contain quintessence of potentiality, which is Vastu. When you are active you manifest the potential substance. The manifested forms are Vaastus. Being is Vastu and Becoming is Vaastu. This principle is applied in building architecture and temple architecture for the indwellers to be blissful and peaceful in life.

VASTUREVA VAASTU, MEANING ENERGY METAMORPHOSES INTO MATTER.
Hindu Temples are sacred geometrical forms. Hence architecture is zenithal achievement of mathematics. All the above is illustrated in his design of our Sri Siva Vishnu Temple, Washington DC, USA.

With all the works of Temples and other sacred forms, there is no doubt that he has attained Moksha. Whenever we see this Sri Siva Vishnu Temple and other Temples all over the world, we will always see him forever.