

LOOR

Living With Our and Others' Religions
Together in Diversity



Sri Kamadchi Ampal Temple (Hinduism) Hamm/Germany

number:

Germany	RS am Jungbornpark	6
country	school	Serial number

photos



description

The Sri Kamadchi Ampal Tempel located in Hamm is the biggest Hindu temple in Germany and the biggest Tamil temple in Europe. It is dedicated to the female God Sri Kamadchi Ampal. In the 80s, a lot of Tamils came to Germany seeking asylum. They wanted to escape from the dangers of the civil war in Sri Lanka. The temple's priest also came to Hamm in 1985 seeking asylum and gathered a fast growing congregation. So, an apartment and, later, a bowling alley got too small for the fast growing community.

Position object

The temple is located in an industrial area in Hamm-Uentrop. The relocation from a residential area to the industrial area happened because of various reasons. On one hand, the growing number of believers caused complaints from residents. On the other hand, the community searched for a location that was easy to get to from the Interstate and that had enough parking spaces for up to 12000 visitors. Furthermore the location needed running water for the ritual of washing the female God Sri Kamadchi Ampal and for other ceremonies.

size

The outside walls measures 27 x 27 m. The inside of the temple is 700m². The temple’s portal (Gopuram) is 17 m

materials

The temple is a construction made out of brick, metal and wood.

date of building/
epoch:

The laying of the foundation stone and sanctification of the place took place in 1999. In 2002, it was opened. Its style is typical for southern India.

architect
artist:

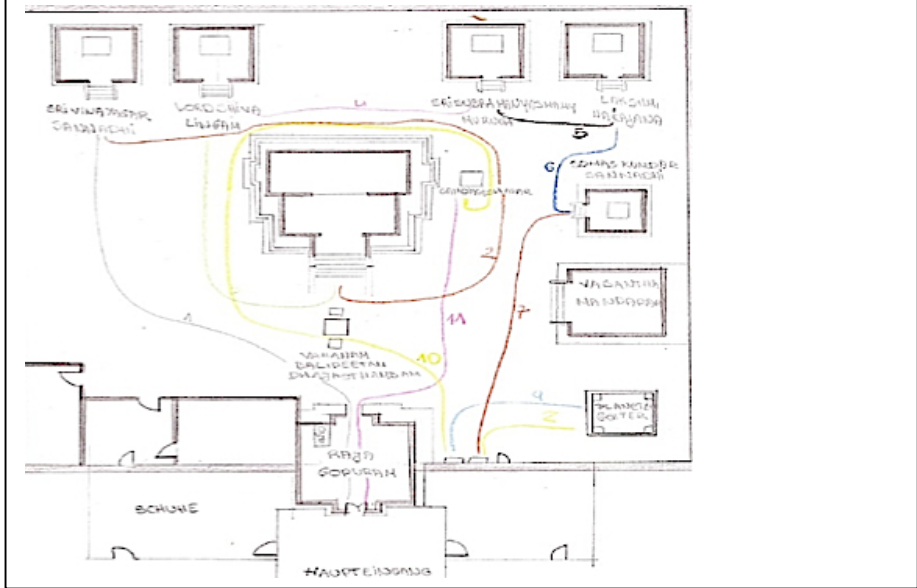
The temple’s architect is the German Heinz –R. Eichhorst. He strictly followed southern Indian restrictions during the planning stage. Temporarily, more than 7 artists from India were in charge of designing the temple. They designed the shrine and more than 250 figures.

renovation,
restoration
(when, by whom
who paid, why):




The temple was financed through donations and loans from believers.

Sketch outline:

Numbered coloured lines indicate the way of the priests and believers during the Pooja (service).



Decor

Picture	title	function
	<p>Flagpole</p>	<p>In front of the main God's shrine, there is a flagpole. Only priests and their helpers are allowed to be in this holy area.</p>
	<p>Sanctum</p>	<p>The holiest part is the main God's shrine, the sanctum. Only priests are allowed to go to this shrine. Before each Pooja, the shrines are covered with a curtain and uncovered with a ritual during the service. During the Pooja the priest and his community walk from shrine to shrine. This has to happen in a clockwise direction.</p>
	<p>Procession wagon</p>	<p>On important holidays, the Gods are shown on procession wagons.</p>

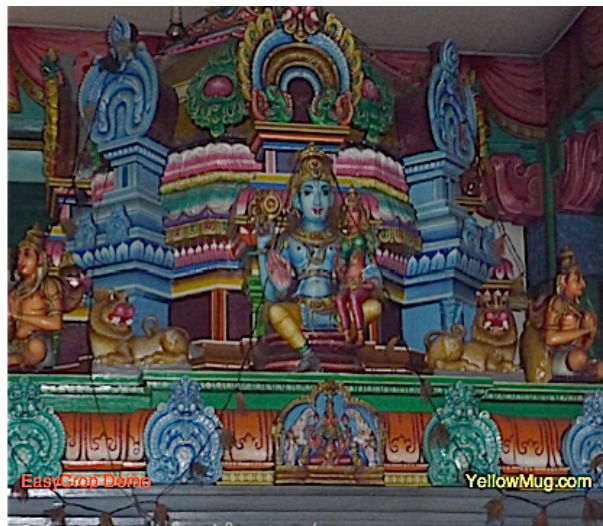


The procession wagons have different sizes. You can see this by looking at the garage which is 10m high and was especially built for the procession wagons.



Tika

The Tika is a sign of blessing which is applied after a Hindu ceremony. It doesn't always have to be a dot; variations of lines are also possible.



Picture of a God

Hindu temples are decorated with numerous pictures and statues of different Gods and their animals.



Ganesha

Ganesha is the god of wealth and wisdom He is one of the favourite gods in Hinduism