

My name is Maria Francesca di Chiara, sannyas name Ma Atit Maria. I am an architect, and have an architect's office in Palermo, Italy. I got my degree in Palermo. Then I had a scholarship for Egypt, where I got very interested in the relationship between man and his social organisation in the world, especially in relation to architecture, as architecture can satisfy men's spiritual and material needs. Man needs only a few simple and essential things; a place to sleep, eat, work, meet with others, etc.

Looking around at the existing architecture I was aware that, though some of these needs were satisfied, there was still a jarring note; people were not happy with it and I myself wanted to create something better.

Very few architects in the world have been able to really come close to these human needs. I studied all the works from Michelangelo to Lloyd Wright, the American architect of our century, to Le Corbusier, who is a genius. At that time also I started reading Bhagwan's books. The poetry existing in His words, His way of dressing, the photos of His house, His garden, His commune, were fascinating me. Everything was so simple, yet so creative! Maybe, I thought, here is someone who can help me in my work, teaching me a new way.

So I left for India.

If I were expecting something, I definitely found much more. I found a world of harmony; the gardens, the fountains, the dancing space, the boutique, the snack bar - all the spaces had found a simplicity, a fragrance, a colour that was harmonious and flowing. For every need, there was an elegant and harmonious answer.

The same happened in Rajneeshpuram. I could say that I had found the professor of architecture. With Him, all my efforts in the planning and designing fields are disappearing.

*Maria Francesca di Chiara.*