



# Stupa Sponsorship Appeal

## THE VENERABLE KHENPO RINPOCHES REQUEST YOUR PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING THE STUPA GARDEN AT PADMA SAMYE LING.

The Main Stupa will be surrounded at the directional points with large 8 foot solid volcanic stone stupas handcrafted in the manner of the 8 types of Tibetan stupas according to lineage instructions. Smaller, identical 2 foot stupas around the perimeter of the main and large stupas will complete the Stupa Garden.

### LARGE STUPA SPONSORSHIP

\$4,500 (USD)

### SMALL STUPA SPONSORSHIP

\$800 (USD)

Contact Laia or Pema Dragpa at (607) 865-5862  
or [jowozegyal@catskill.net](mailto:jowozegyal@catskill.net) for more details.



## THE MEANING OF THE STUPA

The reliquary stupa represents the mind (*dharmakaya*) of the Buddha. Symbolically the stupa embodies a complex range of iconographic meanings, with each of its components representing a specific aspect of the path to enlightenment. The base of the stupa is fashioned in the form of a many-stepped square throne or plinth, known as a “lion throne”. Above this ascend the stupa’s hemispherical dome; a square reliquary chamber or *harmika*; an upper spire composed of up to 13 umbrella wheels, and a crowning finial of a lotus umbrella, crescent moon, sun disc and dissolving flame.



As is true for much of Buddhist art, the symbolism of this architectural image operates on several different levels simultaneously. A stupa incorporates five basic geometric shapes corresponding to the five elements—earth, water, fire, air and space—out of which the world and all the atoms within it are composed. Furthermore, the overall shape of a stupa bears a close resemblance to the image of a seated Buddha. Merely by viewing such harmoniously balanced images we receive subtle benefit, experienced as a feeling of peace, well-being and wholeness. Finally, it should be noted that the various levels of the stupa correspond to the various levels of the spiritual path culminating in full enlightenment.

