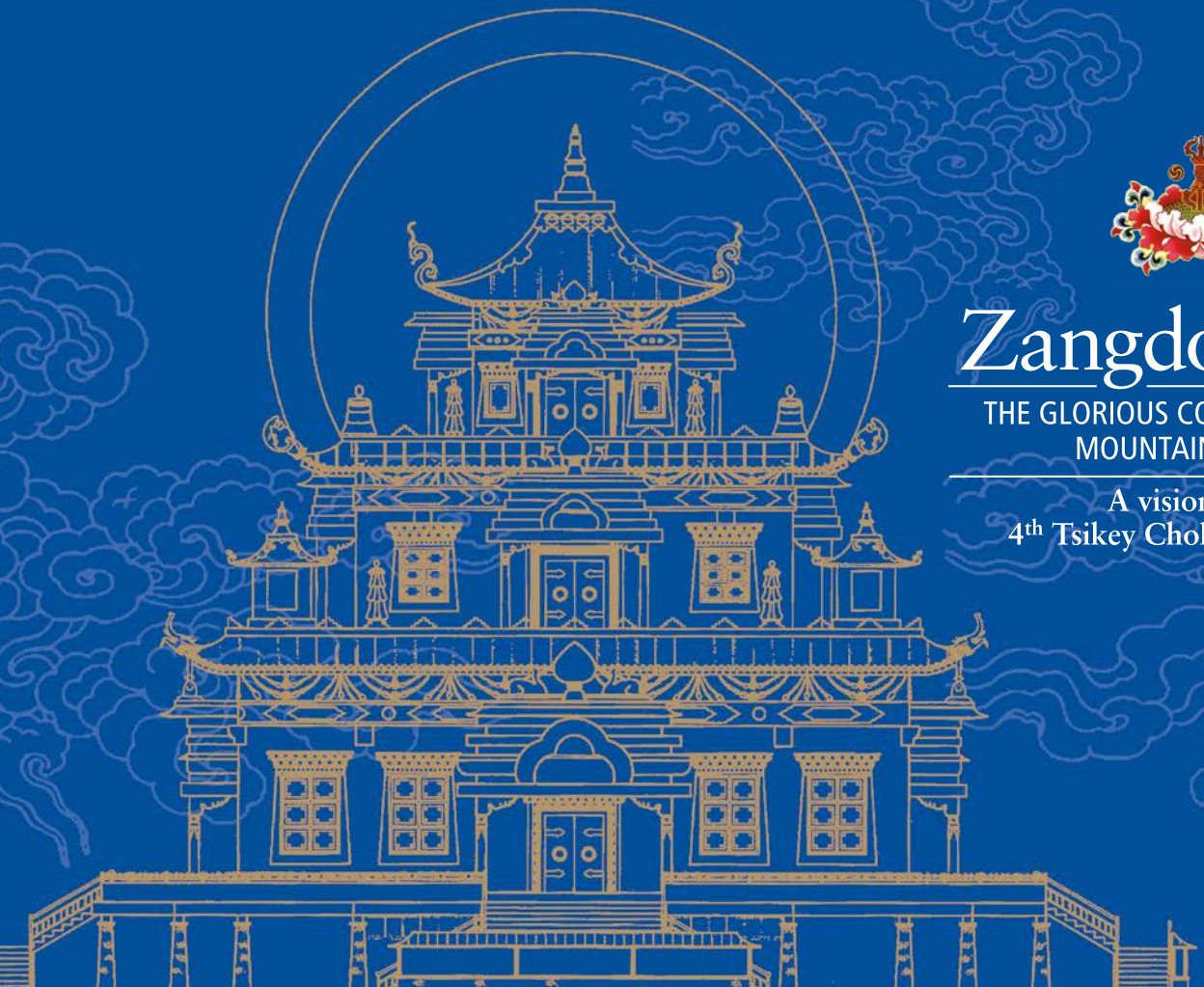

Zangdok Palri

THE GLORIOUS COPPER-COLOURED MOUNTAIN PROJECT

A vision of the
4th Tsikey Chokling Rinpoche

Zangdok Palri

THE GLORIOUS COPPER-COLOURED MOUNTAIN PROJECT

A vision of the
4th Tsikey Chokling Rinpoche

Summary of Copper-cooured mountain Shrine Project activites

MAY 2016

Spurred on by the advice of his root guru, the late Kyabjé Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche, aided by his own dreams, and encouraged by the late Kyabjé Chatral Rinpoche who came to bless the construction site with a geomancy vase, Kyabjé Tsikey Chokling Rinpoche decided in 2005 to build an elaborate model of the pure land of Guru Rinpoche, the Copper-Colored Glorious Mountain Shrine or *Zangdok Palri* in Tibetan, to pacify adversities and bring temporary and ultimate peace and happiness to sentient beings and to Nepal in particular. Merely having seen, touched, circumambulated, made offerings to, rejoiced, or recalled this blessed shrine will eventually bring all those beings without exception to full, complete, and perfect enlightenment.

We broke ground in September 2009 and completed all the major concreting work of the Copper-Colored Mountain shrine by the middle of 2013. As soon as the brick walls and their plastering had been completed, decorative cement carving work commenced from the exterior of the third floor at the end of March 2013. Carvers worked systematically downwards until the interior carvings on the first floor were completed in January this year (see Figures 1 to 6 for a simulated circumambulation of the Shrine and current work on the Sidok Raksha Totreng Tsal Stupa in Figure 7). Decorative blocks over exterior windows were poured and roughly plastered starting from the first floor and were completed for the whole building by early 2015. In July 2015 similar concreting of decorative blocks over doors started on the third floor and has been completed down to the second floor (see Figures 8 and 9). In April 2016, masons began to apply cement putty to the exterior starting on the third floor and our artists have started to paint sample swatches for us to approve selection of colors (see Figures 10 to 11).

Since March 2013 a small team of sculptors has been making the majority of clay models of exterior decorative artwork moldings including garlands starting from the smallest for the third floor to the largest for the first floor. As soon as a model was finished, a second larger team starting in May 2013 started pouring pre-cast fiberglass moldings in the quantities required (see Figures 12 to 18). A third group of sculptors came to specially make a set of four 6-feet tall male wrathful messengers, known as *gings* in Tibetan, and a set of four 6-feet tall female offering goddesses replete

with gorgeous silken garments, ornaments and a variety of offerings. As soon as those models were completed, the second team would pour a full set of 16 pre-cast fiberglass gings and goddesses. The very last of the goddesses was completed recently in April 2016 (see Figure 19) and our artists have begun to paint the moldings with primer and paint (see Figures 20-21).

At each floor starting from the top, masons plastered the ceiling and beams with wall putty while carpenters clad the walls with plywood panels on studs. Then the artists glued canvas onto the wood cladding and began the mural paintings. The paintings of the Red Amitayus mandala on the third floor roof down to the wall mural paintings of Amitayus Buddha and retinue took roughly eight months and were completed in early 2015. Similarly, paintings of the roof mandala of Avalokiteshvara as Ngensong Dongdruk on the second floor down to the wall mural paintings of Ngensong Dongdruk and retinue took roughly a year and a half and were finally completed last month after delays caused by the recent earthquake and border blockade. The central high ceiling paintings on the second floor will only be completed after the completion of the installation and painting of roof beam decorative blocks (Figure 22). Painting of the first floor roof mandalas has been ongoing since the end of last year (Figure 23).

We will install the shrine's crest ornament of Thirteen Dharma Chakras with parasol and half-vajra and consecrate it along with the first floor throne on Lhabab Duchen, November 22, 2016. We are currently repairing minor cracked plasters and brickwork from last year's earthquake and aftershocks. We are commissioning the remaining gilded copper works[1] as donations come in. We plan to finish the wall mural painting on the first floor, fabrication and installation of both the first and second floor interior beam decorative blocks, carving of decorative blocks over doors and windows on the first and second floors, painting and fixing of all exterior fiberglass decorations[2], painting of exterior walls, and detailed decorative carvings within one year. We will repurpose the ground floor partitioned rooms for a Sidok Raksha Totreng Tsal's shrine. We hope to design and complete within two years the ground floor's exterior mural, and twelve dioramas for Chokgyur Lingpa's pure vision of the Twelve Lands on his pilgrimages to the Land of Rakshasa's Copper-Colored Mountain to see Guru Rinpoche. We will also lay the interior and exterior stone flooring, cast and carve the cement stair railings for the ground and first floors, fabricate and install wrought iron railings inside the first, second, and third floors, and install doors and windows. Lastly, we will install lighting, sound, and security systems, domestic lift, and hook up the utilities.

Figure 1. North Side of Zangdok Palri Shrine

Figure 2. Northeast Corner of Zangdok Palri Shrine

Figure 4. South Side of Zangdok Palri Shrine

Figure 3. Southeast Corner of Zangdok Palri Shrine

Figure 5. Southwest Corner of Zangdok Palri Shrine

Figure 6. Northwest Corner of Zangdok Palri Shrine

Figure 7. Recent Cement Carvings on the Sidok Raksha Totreng Tsal Stupa

Figure 8. Recently Rough Plastered Decorations above the West Door on 2nd Floor

Figure 9. Close-up of Cement Decorative Blocks above the West Door on 2nd Floor

Figure 10. Recently Applied White Cement Putty on Underside of 3rd Floor Curved Roof and Archway

Figure 11. Recently Painted Color Swatches for Underside of 3rd Floor Curved Roof, Roof Beam, and Decorative Column

Figure 12. Array of Decorative Block Model for 2nd Floor Interior Roof Beams Before Rubber Molding

Figure 13. Same Decorative Block Model After Rubber Molding

Figure 14. Model of “Chuzin” for Decorating Corners of 1st Floor Curved Roof, Before Rubber Molding

Figure 15. “Chuzin” Model After Rubber Molding

Figure 16. Pre-casted Jewel Tip for Decorating Corners of 2nd Floor Curved Roof

Figure 17. Model of "Pata" for Decorating Corners of 3rd Floor Curved Roof, Before Rubber Molding

Figure 18. Model of Base for "Pata" for Corners of 3rd Floor Curved Roof, After Rubber Molding

Figure 19. Three Samples of Painted 2nd Floor Garlands

Figure 20. Last of the Sixteen Offering Goddesses for 1st Floor

Figure 20. An Offering Goddess After Painted with Primer Paint

Figure 22. Partially Completed Central Roof Mandala Painting for 2nd Floor Waiting for Installation of Roof Beam Decorative Blocks (see Fig. 12)

Figure 23. Painting in Progress for 1st Floor Roof Mandala at Northwest Corner of Shrine

Acknowledgement

The Rinpoches, lamas, sangha, staff, and volunteers at Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery, its branches, affiliates, and the Chokgyur Lingpa Foundation gratefully acknowledge the generous patronage, donations, and well wishes of our worldwide benefactors, supporters, disciples, and friends.

For more details, please visit our website, www.cglf.org, or e-mail us at info@cglf.org

Endnotes:

1 Amitayus Buddha, Four-armed Avalokiteshvara, Yeshe Tsogyal & Mandara consorts, twelve sets of Dharma Chakra and Deers, throne claddings, door claddings, victory banners, and silk pendants

2 Curved roof's corner ornaments (*chuzin, nortog, pata*), gings, offering goddesses, gate-supports, half-vajra & crescents, standing vajras, garlands, snowlion heads, garuda heads, jewel tips, and so forth

Zangdok Palri

THE GLORIOUS COPPER-COLOURED MOUNTAIN PROJECT

A vision of the
4th Tsikey Chokling Rinpoche