The thesis explores the theme *Architecture as Symbol*. It investigates the fundamental role of the ancient Vedic model (Hindu scripture/philosophy) and its representation in the notion of the *Mandala*.

Listed below is the graphical representation of Hinduism & its philosophy.
To the believers, Vedic philosophy is not theoretical affirmation of something uncertain, it is the philosophy for life, affiliation and spirituality. This is exactly my point of embarkation – its relevance in our modern society. Central to this, the *vedanta* philosophy will be my main concern. The least mystical, the vedanta embodies a transformation achieved not through external ritual but by an inward transformation – a god within—SPIRITUAL SELF.

This 'vedic' approach provides the conceptual framework that offers a simultaneous focus on the *programme* as well as the *architecture*. It deals with the paradoxical nature of vedanta philosophy which is both *inward-looking* symbolically but *dynamic* pragmatically, through responses from the concept of *Unity* which narrates the design brief.

The Vedanta Ashram, a yoga research/residence facility, provides the platform for addressing the above exploration. It emphasizes the intellectual/deeper understanding/practice of Hindu philosophy through modern facilities/methods that inform in parts the overall assemblage of its principle. It is proposed to be located at the edge of Little India in Singapore serving the general public as well as reinforcing a better understanding of the religion/philosophy amongst its modern, young sophisticated followers.

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**ashram** - a community which devotes itself to religious pursuit or *sadhana.*

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