

# BUILDING A SHOWROOM AT PONDICHERRY



On the request of the NGO *Volontariat*, the Auroville Earth Institute is building a showroom in Pondicherry with the help of a local contractor, Mr. Kanu Mistry.

*Volontariat* is a social organization doing voluntary work in Pondicherry for the most underprivileged people since more than 40 years. Among their social activities, they take care of the education of poor children from crèche to craft apprenticeship.

For many years, all the handicrafts done by these youth were not displayed at their advantage in a proper place. Therefore it was necessary to show the quality of these crafts in a suitable place.

This showroom is being built in the premises of Shakti Vihara School, run by *Volontariat* and where a few handicrafts are being taught and done. This School had been built between 1990-1994 by the Auroville Earth Institute and Mr. Kanu Mistry,

The concept for the roof of this showroom is based on an equilateral groined vault, so as to display these crafts in a beautiful and ample space. The foundations and walls were executed by the contractor Kanu Mistry. The vaulted structure has been built free spanning (without support) by the team of the Auroville Earth Institute in about 37 days by 6 to 8 masons. It was the occasion to train some local unemployed youth, labour and masons from Pondicherry area. The raw construction is over and the finishes started under the supervision and organisation of Mr. Kanu Mistry.



1-starting-vault



2-building-steps



3-earth-concrete



4-vault-in-progress-1



5-bond-1



6-bond-2



7-bond-3



8-vault-in-progress-2



9-vault-in-progress-3



10-vertical-courses



11-prepa-keystone



12-laying-keystone



13-vertical-courses



14-vault-in-progress-4



15-laying-slab-1



16-laying-slab-2



17-vault-in-progress-5



18-bond-1



19-bond-2



20-bond-3



21-bond-4



22-bond-5



23-bond-6



24-bond-7



25-bond-8



26-keystone-plaster



27-vault-in-progress-6



28-last-blocks



29-vault-in-progress-7



30-vault-in-1



31-vault-in-2