

# Parts of the Mandala

**Disc of space** (dharmadhatu) - great expanse - basic space of phenomena

## Protection circles

1. Wisdom fires - 5 colours = 5 wisdoms - ultimate bodhichitta
2. Vajras = Conventional bodhichitta and compassion
3. Lotus petals = moral discipline and renunciation

Together = 3 principal aspects

**Crossed vajra** - vajra ground = inseparable bliss (awareness) and emptiness  
12 'enclosures' = complete purity of the 12 links of dependent origination

## Palace

- Square shape = no aberration in the dharmadhatu
- Four doors = four activities - pacifying, increasing, magnetizing and subjugating
- Eight levels of architraves = 8 vehicles of gods, humans, sravakas, pratyekabuddhas, bodhisattvas, action-, performance- and yoga-tantras  
OR 8 yantras of sravakas, pratyekabuddhas, bodhisattvas, action-, performance-, yoga-, and highest yoga-tantras (effortful paths) and mahamudra/ati (effortless path)
- Four pillars = four right exertions - preventing non-virtue from arising, restraining existing non-virtue, creating virtue where there is none and increasing existing virtue.
- Five-layered walls = 5 faculties that govern complete purification - faith, diligence, mindfulness, concentration and wisdom
- Various features of the walls = 5 strengths and 7 factors of enlightenment
- (eg. mindfulness, discernment, joy, equanimity, pliancy etc.)
- Eight pillars - (2 in each quadrant) = noble eightfold path - right view, thought, speech, action, livelihood, effort, recollection and concentration
- Four beams = four fearlessnesses - that all has been (1) abandoned and (2) realized for one's own benefit and to show (3) the path and (4) it's obstacles for the benefit of others
- 28 rafters = 18 types of emptiness and 10 perfections OR the Buddha's 10 powers and their 18 unique qualities

- Parasols = protecting beings with great compassion
- Pennants = compassion itself
- Victory banners = victory over the maras and the prevailing of the Dharma
- Bells resound with the sound of teachings on emptiness
- Light radiating in all direction is the adornment of enlightened body, speech and mind
- The whole palace's non-obstructing, radiating appearance that is, at the same time, translucent shows that everything is none other than inseparable appearance-emptiness (bliss-emptiness)
- Blazing fires = fire of wisdom destroying maras and delusions
- Vajra fence, tent and canopy = non-conceptual wakefulness, by nature utterly indestructible
- 

Offering goddesses

Wish-granting tree with precious possessions of a king

Lotus Throne

Sun / moon cushions

Deity

Retinue Deities

Corner dakinis