

The Statues of Tabo's Vajradhatu Mandala in Clockwise Direction

(Attributes in parentheses appear in the textual source, but are missing at Tabo)

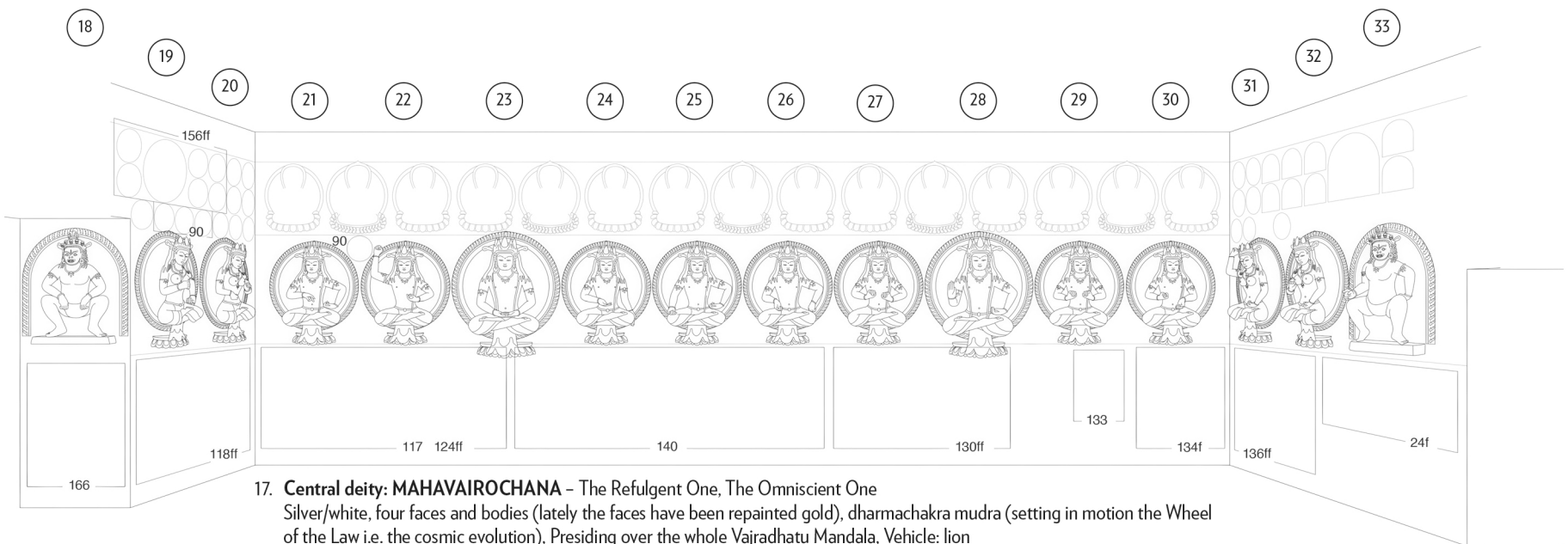
Southern walls (southeast): Akshobhya's Realm - Vajra Family

1. Guardian of the East **Vajrankusha** - Hook
Blue, (hook)
Power of attraction
2. Outer Offering Goddess **Vajradhupa** - Incense
White, (incense grater)
Removes impurities
3. Inner Offering Goddess **Vajralashya** - Dance
White, (two vajras)
Praises the happiness of awakening the heart of Buddhahood
4. Bodhisattva **Vajrasattva** - Being
White, (bell and five-headed vajra)
Awakens beings from their prolonged slumber
5. Bodhisattva **Vajraraja** - King
White, (hook), fists closed with thumbs between fingers
Sacrifices his own liberty so that all passions become obedient
6. Tathagata **Akshobhya** - The Unshakable
Blue, bhumisparsha mudra (invocation of the earth as a witness for enlightenment)
Presides over the east, Vehicle: elephant
Firmness of the heart of Buddhahood destroying demons and passions
Absorbed in contemplation on the mirror-like illusion
7. Bodhisattva **Vajraraga** - Love
Red, (bow and arrow)
Virtue of compassion for the beings; the merit of the heart of Bodhi
8. Bodhisattva **Vajrasadhu** - Bliss
Blue, hands held in approval
Satisfaction

Southern walls (southwest): Ratnasambhava's realm - Gem Family

9. Bodhisattva **Vajraratna** - Treasure
Red, (bell and vajra with wish-fulfilling gem)
Offers prayer; the merit produced by numberless performances of great compassion
10. Bodhisattva **Vajratejas** - Light
Red, (radiant sun) closed left hand
Blazing virtue-treasures of all asceticism, helps to dispel the darkness of ignorance
11. Tathagata **Ratnasambhava** - Being Born From A Gem
Gold, varada mudra (prayers being exhausted)
Presides over the south, Vehicle: horse
Treasure of fortunate virtues that are the results of asceticism
Absorbed in the knowledge of the equality of nature, he exhausts the prayers of all beings with this treasure of virtue
12. Bodhisattva **Vajraketu** - Banner
Blue, (wish-fulfilling gem in right)
Fulfillment of all the hopes of all the Buddhas
13. Bodhisattva **Vajrahasa** - Smile
White, (vajra with two garlands), hands raised symbolizing joy
Presenting the wish-fulfilling gem of the thousand well-beings
14. Inner Offering Goddess **Vajramala** - Garland
Red, (garland)
Embellishment of the bliss of asceticism
15. Outer Offering Goddess **Vajrapushpa** - Flower Basket
White, (basket of flowers)
The decoration of perfection
16. Guardian of the South **Vajrapasha** - Noose
Yellow, (noose)
Power of beauty

Fig. 4 The Vajradhatu sculptures of the southern walls and the locations of subjects discussed in this book. Drawing courtesy of Gerald Kozicz.



17. **Central deity: MAHAVAIROCHANA** - The Refulgent One, The Omniscient One
 Silver/white, four faces and bodies (lately the faces have been repainted gold), dharmachakra mudra (setting in motion the Wheel of the Law i.e. the cosmic evolution), Presiding over the whole Vajradhatu Mandala, Vehicle: lion
 Possesses all features of self-realization, being the personification of the highest intelligence from which the world emanates

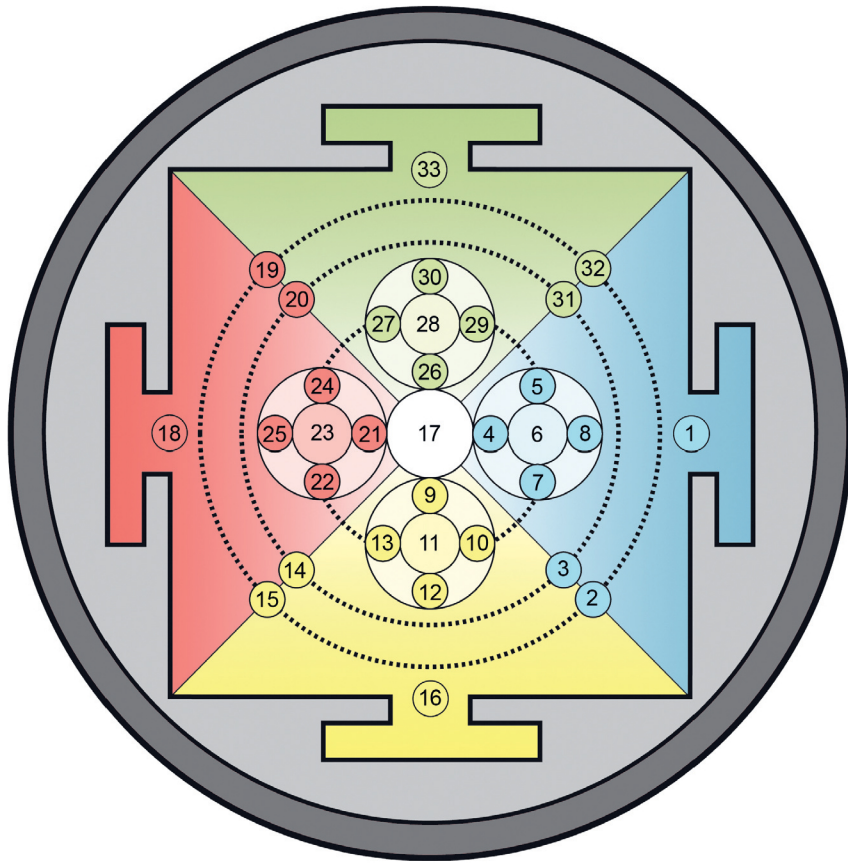
**Northern Walls (northwest):
 Amitabha's Realm - Lotus Family**

18. Guardian of the West **Vajrasphota** - Chain
 Yellow, (chain)
 Binding power
19. Outer Offering Goddess **Vajraloka** - Light
 Red, (lamp)
 Virtue of knowledge
20. Inner Offering Goddess **Vajragita** - Song
 Red, (violin or lute)
 Virtue of predication
21. Bodhisattva **Vajradharma** - Doctrine
 Red, (lotus flower)
 Purity of all Dharmas, compared with a lotus that does not become impure by mud
22. Bodhisattva **Vajratikshna** - Gain
 Blue, (book of wisdom in hand), arm raised (holding a sword)
 Makes beings penetrate to the principle of original purity
23. Tathagata **Amitabha** - The Immeasurable Light
 Red, dhyana or samadhi mudra (state of non-dualistic consciousness)
 Presides over the west, Vehicle: peacock
 Virtues of attention of the Buddhahood
 Absorbed in the knowledge of the illusion of marvelous discernment
24. Bodhisattva **Vajrahetu** - Cause
 Yellow/green, (vajra wheel)
 The cause that adheres beings to the Wheel of Law
 Destroys obstacles to the attainment of Buddhahood and understands the true nature of the heart
25. Bodhisattva **Vajrabasha** - Speech
 Red, (five pointed vajra)
 Excellently explains the Wheel of Law by means of secret utterance of the Tathagata

**Northern walls (northeast):
 Amoghasiddhi's Realm - Action Family**

26. Bodhisattva **Vajrakarma** - Action
 Blue, (fourfold vajra and fourfold vajra bell)
 Consecrates the completion of action
27. Bodhisattva **Vajraraksha** - Protection
 Red, (diamond talisman)
 Great compassion, bravery; protection against passions
28. Tathagata **Amoghasiddhi** - The Almighty One, The Realizer Of Aims
 Normally green, here black/blue, abhaya mudra (great compassion and removal of sufferings)
 Presides over the north, Vehicle: Garuda
 Virtues of perseverance in the conversion of beings and in nirvana
 Absorbed in the knowledge of the illusion of acting
29. Bodhisattva **Vajrayaksha** - Fang
 Blue, (teeth-like vajra)
 Inspires fear in sinners who are difficult to convert
30. Bodhisattva **Vajrasandhi** - Fist
 Red, (vajra), hands formed to fists
 As the last Bodhisattva, he contains all of their virtues
31. Inner Offering Goddess **Vajranritya** - Dance
 Blue, (three-pointed vajra)
 Worship through dancing
32. Outer Offering Goddess **Vajraghanda** - Incense
 Blue, (shell filled with perfume / sandal grater)
 Purifies the heart
33. Guardian of the North **Vajravesha** - Bell
 Blue, (diamond/bell)
 Power of entering Nirvana

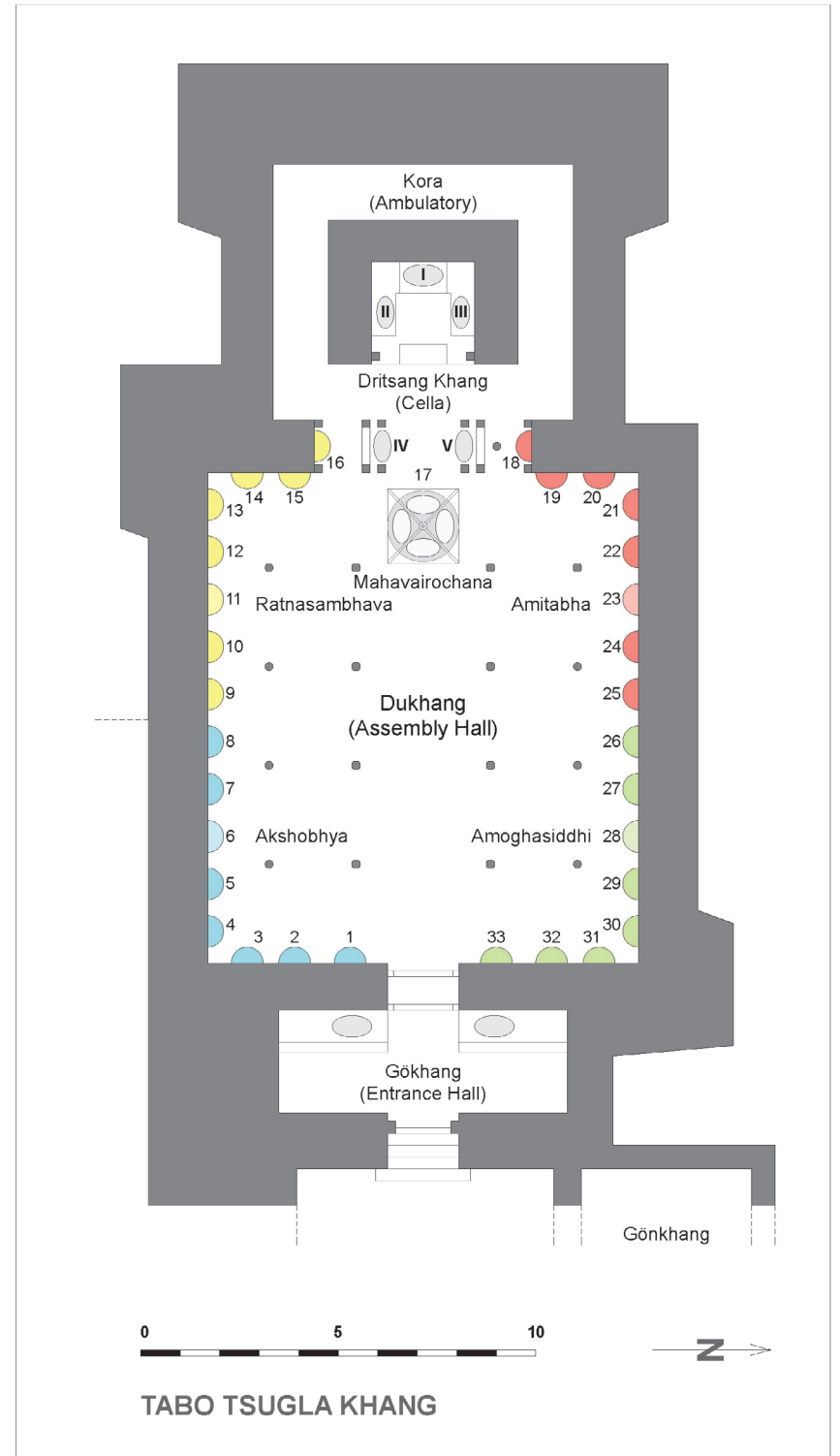
Fig. 5 The Vajradhatu sculptures of the northern walls and the locations of subjects discussed in this book. Drawing courtesy of Gerald Kozicz.



- East: Family and realm of Akshobhya
- South: Family and realm of Ratnasambhava
- West: Family and realm of Amitabha
- North: Family and realm of Amoghasiddhi
- Center: Mahavairochana

Fig. 6 Schematic diagram of the Vajradhatu Mandala with its thirty-three deities arranged according to the program of Tabo's Tsugla Khang.

Fig. 7 The Tsugla Khang of Tabo and the spatial distribution of the Vajradhatu figures. Drawing courtesy of Michael Beck.



TABO TSUGLA KHANG