Inside the utopian enclave hidden deep in the Indian jungle where there are no police officers and residents live by the teachings of spiritual guru

- German photojournalist David Klammer first visited the town of Auroville for an assignment 15 years ago
- Auroville, located in India, was founded in 1968 as a place of 'peace and progressive harmony for all mankind'
- There, more than 3,000 people from 50 countries co-exist peacefully without a mayor or police

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These stunning images give the world a glimpse of life in an experimental utopian town hidden away in the jungle of southern India.

German photojournalist David Klammer first visited Auroville for an assignment for GEO magazine 15 years ago.

Mr Klammer, from Cologne, said something about the town – where more than 3,000 people from 50 countries co-exist peacefully without a mayor or police – stuck with him.
He's now visited three times – and seen the town change as more people come to live there.

'There is a special atmosphere in Auroville, very energetic,' he said.

German photojournalist David Klammer’s incredible photographs give a glimpse into the lives of Auroville's residents
More than 3,000 people from 50 countries co-exist peacefully without a mayor or police in the town, hidden in the South Indian jungle

'The people living there come from over 50 countries. Plus loads of travellers and tourists in wintertime.

'Everybody has a reason to be there. It is a place like no other on earth.'

Mr Klammer notes that those who chose to move there don't often do the same jobs they did before.

'They come from all different backgrounds,' he said. 'One thing that's common with most Aurovilians is, that they've changed their profession.

'Doctors became masters of waste management, dropouts work in town-planning. People do something for a time and then something else.'

Auroville was founded in 1968 by the spiritual leader Mirra Alfassa, also known as The Mother, as a place of 'peace and progressive harmony for all mankind.'
Its mission statement declared: 'Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities.

Some of the town's residents - who have come from 50 different countries from all over the world - live in small, uniq
But over the years, apartment complexes have been built to accommodate the town's growing population
Matrimandir Inner Chamber (pictured) is a place for Auroville's residents and visitors to go for 'individual silent concentration'

'The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity.'

She envisaged Auroville as a city for 50,000 people from around the world.

Although the idea came to her as early as the 1930s, it was put before the government of India in the 1960s.

The General Assembly of UNESCO backed it as a project of importance for the future of humanity in 1966 and an inauguration ceremony was held two years later on February 28, 1968.

Some 5,000 people gathered near the banyan tree at the centre of the township, in Tamil Nadu, for the ceremony.
David Klammer has been documenting people from the utopian town of Auroville over the course of three visits
As well as residents from more than 50 countries, Auroville is also popular with tourists and backpackers.

Attendees included representatives from more than 100 nations, who brought with them soil from their native lands that were mixed in a lotus-shaped urn that is now a focal point of the town's amphitheatre.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the town, whose citizens apply the ideas of the Auroville Charter into their daily lives.

Mr Klammer adds that over the years, the town is becoming 'more ordinary.'

'There are still those nice and unique houses, but more and more apartment complexes are built,' he said.
An Auroville resident is seen meditating at the Matrimandir Viewing Point, where people go for periods to concentrate.
Mr Klammer compiled his photographs of Auroville into a book – called 'Good Morning Auroville' - that will also include stories from some of the town's residents.

'Auroville receives more citizens, but has no place to grow, as land is too costly to buy. So now, new Aurovilians have to live in small flats, with much less romance as before.'
Their day-to-day lives revolve around 'work yoga' – as advised by the Indian philosopher Sri Aurobindo.

'It means yoga through work. They always do something,' Mr Klammer explained.

'Teach yoga lessons in the morning, work at a horse farm in the afternoon and learn tango in the night.

'It's somehow a bohemian life. It's not for money, it's for learning. Most people in Auroville are poor in our terms but they are rich in their actions.'

Auroville is an experimental community made up of people from all over the world and was founded in 1968 by the spiritual leader Mirra Alfassa, also known as The Mother
This year marks the 50th anniversary of the town, whose citizens apply the ideas of the Auroville Charter into their daily lives.

But he added that Auroville is not a religious sect.
'Everybody can speak openly, and people do,' he said. 'A lot of discussion, arguments and fights. It is an anarchistic structure. Everybody can express his or her opinion - that makes changes very difficult.'

He's compiled his photographs of Auroville into a book – called 'Good Morning Auroville' - that will also include stories from some of the town's residents.

Mr Klammer is now crowdfunding on Indiegogo to help the book be published.
'I'm not trying to explain or justify Auroville,' he said.

'The book should more be like a puzzle, which has to be put together by the reader and show a place that is magic on one side, but also has its problems.'

'One thing that's common with most Aurovilians is, that they've changed their profession,' the German photographer said.
Its mission statement declared: 'Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities'

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