

The Labyrinth

FRONT GARDEN | EARTH

THE OLD RECTORY

Timeline

Wednesday 13 October 1852
00:01:11

- *Place:* Great Dunmow, England, United Kingdom.
- *Time:* Site of Late Neolithic stone circle, grave and chambered barrow. Now an eighteenth century Anglican rectory house has been built on the land, its Gothic Revival gardens; irrigation channels and pathways newly restored in 1848 after a decade of neglect.

Occupant
Tobias Crowe



Like his father before him, Master Tobias Crowe is gardener for Reverend Nathaniel Anthony Grey. After years of inattention, Crowe has restored the labyrinthian paths and gardens to their former Gothic glories, using only plants, vegetables and flowers inspired by the illustrated medieval manuscripts of the British Library in London.

Almanack
First Moon



- *Hunter's Moon:* Of Man
- *Season:* Autumn (Dark half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Fountain Courtyard (Earth vs Water)
- *Daimonion:* Jesus
- *Oracle:* The Gardener's Almanack



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



I

EARTH

- *Sights:* Stepping through the hornbeam thicket, you enter a beautiful yet practical Victorian Gothic Revival labyrinth garden.
- *Sounds:* Mixed with bird calls and the sounds of early Victorian rural life is the sound of the gardener about his work.
- *Smells:* Floral Notes: Floral
 - Top note: Natural flowers
 - Middle note: Natural plants and herbs
 - Base note: Loam soil



Highlights

• THE GARDEN DOOR

At the entrance to the rectory stands an arched garden door. Made from oak using traditional methods and joints, the Gothic design affords a glimpse through the tall hedge of hornbeam, along the brick path and into the medieval-styled gardens beyond.

• THE VEGETABLE PATCH

With its red brick path and curved beds, the rectory's kitchens are supplied by this labyrinth-inspired design. A system of underground channels provide irrigation, while adding the melody of babbling water to the gardens.

• THE COTTAGE GARDEN

Set around the cruciform pattern of Yorkstone paving and box beds, this area is planted with hardy perennials and bulbs. It also houses a beehive-styled composter and water standpipe, improvised from an old gravestone and marble column base.

• THE EARTH-FAST STONE

The house was built on an all-but-lost Late Neolithic stone circle. Though once consisting of over forty stones, set in three rings, now only the earth-fast stone, a pair of tall sarcens and a few outlying stones remain. Upon the back of the standing stone is carved an simple labyrinth, marked with thirteen hollows.

• THE ALMANACK

Inset into the stone paths are four bronze bees (marking the cardinal compass points) and twenty-eight bronze badges (marked I to XXVIII). Using these markers, a basic lunar almanack is created, allowing the gardener to track the moon cycles used when planting and harvesting crops.

The story of The Old Rectory

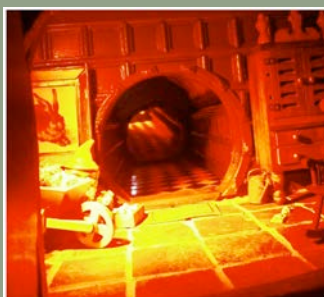
This modest presbytery is pleasantly situated at the rural heart of Essex in the quiet, unspoiled market town of Great Dunmow. Built in the mid-1800s, the romantic Gothic Revival-style labyrinth paths and picturesque gardens were added in 1772. Occupied since 1793 by Reverend Nathaniel Anthony Grey, the rectory survives the church at Newton Hall, which fell into ruins in the mid-eighteenth century.

After the death of the head gardener in 1839, the rectory gardens were untended for many years. When Tobias Crowe took over his father's work in 1848, overgrowth and neglect threatened the once-thriving formal garden. His interest in reviving the styles of the Middle Ages mirrors that of the English Pre-Raphaelite movement, harking back to a former golden age before the progression of industrialisation.

Due to being built upon an ancient pagan worship site, the rectory has always been rumoured to be haunted, and its fall into disrepair only encouraged such tales. Smugglers, known as 'owlers,' (a name originating from their nocturnal activities), have said to be seen slipping behind the overgrown hedges. Even now the garden is being restored to its former glories, it is still a place children dare not enter.

The Rabbit Hole

Between the two stones on the north-east side of the path in the Cottage Garden sits an overgrown tunnel and here a wild rabbit has made his home. Usually the bane of gardeners, this particular visitor is an enchanting and much-loved addition.



The Hall of Mirrors

HALL & STAIRS | WATER

PALAZZO DI OMBRE

Timeline

Tuesday 24 November 1992
02:42:16

- *Place:* Sacro Monte di Varese, Lombardy, Italy.
- *Time:* Built as summer palace and second home for wealthy Italian family on one of the nine Sacri Monti in northern Italy. The owner of this house has recently purchased an abandoned and ruined town nearby, a mere shadow of the splendour of this palatial home.

Occupant
Romano Drago



Romano Drago is an Italian-born photographer and author, best known for his atmospheric black-and-white photographs of abandoned and haunted locations throughout Europe. He is a frequent visitor to many of the forgotten towns and houses of his homeland, including this once-magnificence villa, and its nearby ghost village.

Almanack
Second Moon



- *Blood Moon:* Of Man
- *Season:* Autumn (Dark half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Haunted Bedroom (Water vs Fire)
- *Daimonion:* Saturn
- *Oracle:* The Roman Oracle



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



II

WATER

- *Sights:* An opulent stone staircase in the walls of a splendid summer palace deep in the heart of the Italian landscape.
- *Sounds:* Resonant cello pieces create a forlorn ambient soundscape invoking feelings of loss and the passing of time.
- *Smells:* Fresh Notes: Fruity
 - Top note: Figue-Pamplemousse home perfume
 - Middle note: Diptyque Figuier room spray
 - Base note: True Grace Library room spray



Highlights

• THE FRONT DOOR

This reclaimed exterior door is styled with a stained leaded glass window and eyebrow/moustache design. It is fitted with antique brass keyhole escutcheon plate, winged angel door knocker and lion's head lock cover.

• THE ENTRANCE VESTIBULE

The Italian black and white marbled entrance features niches containing a assortment of clocks and various timepieces, plus other collected objects from different times and places.

• THE STAIRCASE

Flanked by plaster eagles, the solar staircase is built in herringbone bricks, its stone walls hung with long ornate mirrors. Lit by a crystal chandelier and rusted sconces, the once open stair is now covered by a stained glass skylight. At the base of the stairs lies a forgotten leather volume that upon investigation is found to be a journal entitled *The Stranger's Guide To Talliston* containing information about the house locations.

• THE BUTTERFLIES

Somewhere in each and every room of Talliston lies one of our rabble of butterflies. These many-coloured creatures are one of the house leitmotifs, honouring these insects as symbols of transformation. It is the butterfly's metamorphosis that teaches us that life should be a journey of continuous and joyous improvement; from egg to butterfly and beyond. After all, what is more natural and vital than to grow?

• THE ROMAN ORACLE

In a niche halfway up the staircase, a bronze face of Saturn offers oracular council to those who know how to hear its wisdom and auguries.

The story of the Palazzo di Ombre

Leading from the loggia to the upper rooms, this stone staircase, fine ironwork and painted tiles provides a glimpse of the vast splendour of the past. The original name of this building has been lost, though the villagers now call it the Palazzo di Ombre (*Italian; the Palace of Shadows*). Such Renaissance villas would often act as a second home for members of the Italian nobility. Distinct from a maze or labyrinth, the hall of mirrors is a room that uses carefully arranged mirrors to confuse the perception of the audience. The most renowned of these is L'Galerie des Glaces, the central gallery of the Palace of Versailles.

In this hall, as well as originally in the entire house, many mirrors were used to direct light and confuse passage. The overhead skylight brings both daylight and moonlight into this otherwise enclosed corridor, and also focuses on the passing of time, itself filled with clocks and motifs designed to bring the idea of mortality to the visitor and in its near-derelict state, this is made even more poignant.

There are believed to be more than 300 paesi fantasma (*Italian; ghost villages*) in Italy, and new owner Master Balthazard has also acquired the abandoned town upon the other side of this sacred hill.

The Thirteen Clocks

Upon entering the marble floored hall, the visitor encounters a strange and disparate collection of timepieces. Ranging from sundials to eagle-topped wall clocks, these have been taken from each room in the house and placed here.



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The Watchtower

LIVING & DINING ROOM | FIRE

THE MEAD HALL OF TWR-Â-GÂN

Timeline

Wednesday 14 December 1887
05:11:23

- *Place:* Snowdonia, Wales, United Kingdom.
- *Time:* Dark Age watchtower (*Welsh; tŵr gwylio*) in magnificent location in Snowdonia. Current keep built by Welsh prince, Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, in Middle Ages (c. 1210). Reinvented as Bohemian retreat by occult renaissance order in year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

Occupant
Rose Meirion



Mrs Rose Meirion is housekeeper at the castle, a job she has held only since the renovations were completed. Previously, she was head of a boarding house in nearby Llanberis, a job now passed down to her eldest daughter. She is now content with the part-time position of managing the small staff and receiving the master's weekend guests.

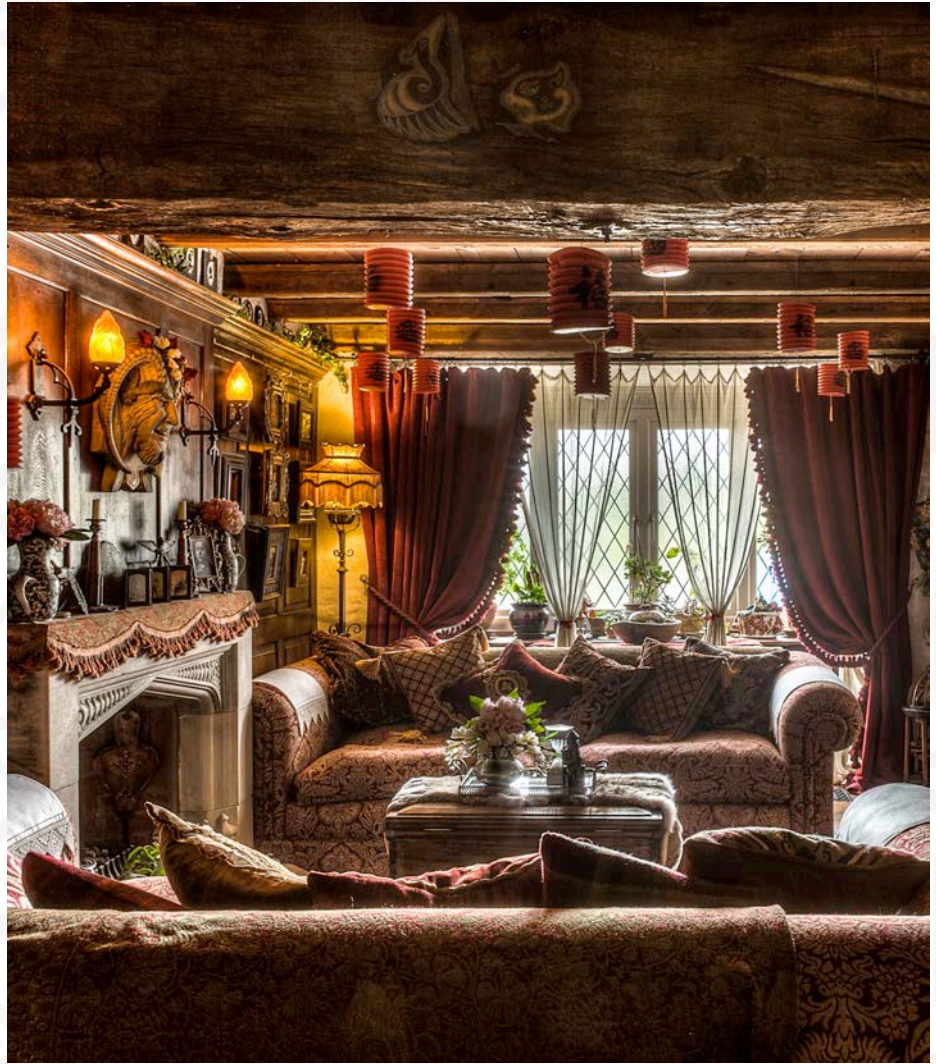
Almanack
Third Moon



- *Raven Moon:* Of Birds
- *Season:* Autumn (Dark half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Starhouse (Fire vs Air)
- *Daimonion:* Pan
- *Oracle:* Obsidian Mirror



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



III

FIRE

- *Sights:* Crossing the threshold, you enter the velvet and silk opulence of this late Victorian living and dining area.
- *Sounds:* The sounds of the moorland mix with that of string-led nocturnes drifting through the castle.
- *Smells:* Woody Notes: Dry Woods
 - Top note: Diptyque Cyprès room spray
 - Middle note: Diptyque Myrrhe (Myrrh) room spray
 - Base note: Prinknash Priory incense



Highlights

• THE OAK DOORS

This pair of internal oak doors are carved with Tudor roses and fitted with Kirkpatrick hinge fronts. The entrance door is finished with a Gothic rimlock.

• THE MEAD HALL

The hall is dominated by a pair of country house sofas, upholstered in Fiore, a seventeenth century design woven in Lucca. Italian influences are also seen in the framed painting of *The Battle of San Romano* by Paolo Uccello.

• THE BOILER ROOM

Through the lefthand door lies a modern boiler; an essential addition for the new residents of the tower. It is decorated with black and gold leaf arched panels and wallpaper, brocaded curtains and ornamental beaded birds and butterflies.

• THE CHAPEL

With its hand-painted Jacobean-style ceiling, leaf mouldings and medieval design, this red curtained anteroom was once the keep's chapel. The tracery windows and piscina are still evident, though now this area is used for dining.

• THE MASK OF PAN

Made from Cornish granite, this fountain mask represents the Greco-Roman Pan. His prominence in the tower is symbolic of wild nature, and the late Victorian resurgence of interest as a motif in art and literature.

• THE MENAGERIE

The Victorian passion for collections is seen in the hall's assortment of animal-themed images and objets-d'art. From fabrics to figurines, chess pieces to taxidermy, all manner of birds and beasts are represented.

The story of the Mead Hall of Twr-â-Gân

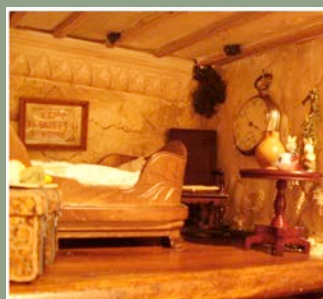
The first record of a settlement on this site is c. 645 AD. Celtic missionaries from Ireland noted a building named 'the Mead Hall of Twr-â-Gân' (*Welsh; the tower of song*) and occupied by tanist and bard Huan Caius Mereddin. There is also mention of ravens roosting in the ruined turrets.

The current watchtower was built by a Welsh prince, Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, in the late Middle Ages (c. 1210-1240), to control a strategic pass upon the cliffs leading through his mountainous kingdom. Impressively situated at the base of Yr Wyddfa (*Welsh; the tomb*) upon the edge of Snowdonia, the keep is served by the nearby Dudrychlllyn Tarn (*Welsh; black mirror*), a copper-blue oval lake.

Extensively remodeled throughout its history, the tower has most recently been significantly renovated by eccentric Jonathan D'Ante. Part of the Victorian occult renaissance, D'Ante and his bohemian acquaintances are inspired by art, the mysteries and ceremonial magic. To accommodate their extended stays, every door, all the flooring and many architectural features have been renewed, including the addition of a wide Elizabethan-style window and extensive boiler system.

The Mousehole

Beneath the court cupboard, set into the tiled skirting lies an arched oak door. Beyond this a mouse has set up home. Curious visitors will be rewarded with views of his sleigh bed, Tudor-style armchair and pocket watch timepiece.



The Voodoo Kitchen

KITCHEN EXTENSION | EARTH

MANSE L'ESTRANGE

Timeline

Monday 4 January 1954
07:34:36

- *Place:* Bayou St. John, Louisiana, USA.
- *Time:* Colonial Revival manse set upon the banks of the bayou. Original house was all-but destroyed by fire in 1875, then rebuilt in Queen Anne-style with Neoclassic features. Now in the mid-1950s, the kitchen has been redecorated, repainted and fitted with a range of modern appliances.

Occupant

Evangeline



Evangeline is a young Negro maid employed by Madame L'Estrange as the help. One of three staff, Evangeline assists Carlotta in her daily routine, running errands and cooking. Shy and superstitious, the woman does not always see eye-to-eye with her mistress, who views her continued devotion to the old arts as a trifle unsettling.

Almanack

Fourth Moon



- *Wolf Moon:* Of Beasts
- *Season:* Winter (Dark half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Room of Dreams (Earth vs Air)
- *Daimonion:* Papa Legba
- *Oracle:* Ceramic Palmistry Hand



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



IV

EARTH

- *Sights:* Turn-of-the-century New Orleans servants' kitchen, now redecorated as family kitchen in creams and greens.
- *Sounds:* The distant calls and creatures of the bayou are softened by songs and music drifting from the radio.
- *Smells:* Floral Notes: Soft Floral
 - Top note: True Grace Rosemary & Eucalyptus
 - Middle note: The White Company Winter room spray
 - Base note: Durance Cinnamon incense sticks



The story of Manse L'Estrange

Located on historic Bayou St. John (*French: Bayou Saint-Jean*), within the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, Manse L'Estrange is a three-story townhouse in the Colonial Revival-style. Built in 1750, its columned rooms and classical frontage were lost to fire in the late 1800s and rebuilt in the Queen Anne-style for its new owners, the wealthy lawyers of the L'Estrange family.

The Bayou is a scenic waterway in the heart of the Mid City and a vital artery for merchants and vendors linking Lake Pontchartrain to the bustling French Quarter. Legend has it that this locale was a favourite of Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau at the height of her fame and power. Hereabouts she held her wild rituals and sacrifices, and fearful locals insist that the overgrown darkness of the trees near the Bayou's mouth is still a place strictly to be avoided.

The 1950s are a pivotal decade for New Orleans, with major growth in trade and the suburban way of life. Radio, long the dominant force for news and entertainment, is changing and becoming a showcase for the city's bustling rhythm and blues scene. The current occupants are great lovers of jazz and hold annual balls to celebrate art and music.

The Voodoo Altar

Lit by the Victorian transom arched window is a voodoo altar dedicated to Papa Legba. Upon this candle-covered ledge are such items as messenger dolls petitioning the lwa spirits, Hoodoo bottles and a Black Madonna doll's head.



Highlights

• THE OLD KITCHEN

This kitchen survived the 1875 fire, as can be seen from the original brick-pattern pammet flooring and Colonial-style wall tiles. The original house had several slaves working here, though now there is only two maids.

• THE ATRIUM ROOF

Above the moss-hung strings of festoon bulbs, the glass atrium roof provides a sense of space and drama to what would have been a fairly dark and dour room. The palm green slatted blinds and dentil ceilings are all later additions.

• THE RANGE

With its distinctive carved lion pediment and shuttered lower cupboards, the range is painted in dragon's blood red, which would have once been the principal colour in this kitchen, now recently repainted in vintage cream.

• PAPA LEGBA

Papa Legba is the god of crossroads and acts as an intermediary between this world and the next. Images and items representing him lie all about this room including handcrafted dolls in red and black livery, an Ebolite walking cane and his symbolic vever design.

• THE PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS

In the tall utility cabinet are a set of five photograph albums, filled with images picturing the twenty-five year transformation of the house and gardens, from start to finish.

• THE NOTICEBOARD

Upon the kitchen's fabric noticeboard are a selection of photographs, magazine advertisements, cards and images, including jewellery and trinkets.

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The Boathouse

BATHROOM | WATER

THE LIGHTKEEPER'S HOUSE

Timeline

Sunday 9 February 1986
08:29:06

- *Place:* Tranøy, Hamarøy, Norway.
- *Time:* Old boat house beside the lighthouse keeper's cottage high on rocks of rugged islet in the Realm of Knut Hamsun, Norway, once classic Thule. It forms part of a small community including four houses, a red and white lighthouse, and jetties on an island within sight of the Hamarøy mountains.

Occupant
Lars Thorstad



There has always been a need for a lighthouse along the Vestfjord to direct shipping towards the inner parts of the fjord in the direction of Tjeldsund, Ofoten and Tysfjord. Lars Thorstad has been lightkeeper here for the past fifteen years, taking over from his uncle. In the next months the lighthouse is to be automated, ending Thorstad's role.

Almanack
Fifth Moon



- *Snow Moon:* Of Nature (Sea)
- *Season:* Winter (Dark half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Treehouse Sanctuary (Water vs Air)
- *Daimonion:* Odin
- *Oracle:* Bag of Runestones



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



V

WATER

- *Sights:* Previously the boating house for the lighthouse, this room is now remodelled into a contemporary bath and shower room.
- *Sounds:* Lapping waters of a fjord, the stillness broken by owl calls and the haunting sounds of the sea.
- *Smells:* Fresh Notes: Citrus
 - Top note: Diptyque Verveine room spray
 - Middle note: L'Occitane Verbena candle
 - Base note: The Nature Conservancy room fragrance



The story of the Lightkeeper's House

Tranøy Fyrstasjon (*Norwegian: Tranøy lighthouse station*) stands outermost on the island of Hamarøy, facing the approach to the Vestfjord. A red-and white-painted lighthouse towers above a cluster of fisherman's cabins and wharf houses, including the converted boathouse of Fjøssetvar (*Norwegian; barn owl*), now home to the lightkeeper.

The Tranøy Light was first lit in 1864, when it was housed on the roof of what today is the old lighthouse keeper's cottage. Tranøy, like all other lighthouses along the coast, was home to a lighthouse keeper and his family. They reared sheep, a pig and a cow and did a bit of fishing. These painted cabins (*Norwegian; rorbust*) are today popular with visitors to Hamsun's Rike and have now been renovated and are used as accommodation. They normally have a living room, kitchen and sanitary facilities.

Long before the Swedish, Finnish or even the Viking culture had developed, the Scandinavian peninsula was populated by the Sami. The oldest written source of knowledge on the Sami's is the Roman historian Tacitus who describes them in a book from 98 AD.

The Boat Collection

Inspired by the coastal setting of the lightkeeper's house, this room has been used to display a collection of boats and ships, including a single masted yacht, a wherry sailboat and a metal ship mounted on bogwood.



Highlights

• THE BOATHOUSE DOOR

Turn-of-the-century pine door made of British Columbian pine inset with glass panel made from old outhouse skylight. The hand-forged grille is inspired by a similar design seen in the Gothic Quarter of Barcelona.

• THE BOATHOUSE INTERIOR

The room is decorated in greens and reds, with its marbled tiles and oak beams originally from a sailing vessel, complemented by a pair of wheelhouse wall lamps.

• THE GLASS ROOF

The glass and hardwood roof allows light to flood into this room, while for particularly bright days four pinoleum blinds can be drawn for shade.

• THE BATHROOM SUITE

The contemporary suite is Italian inspired, with a generous bath, and wall hung toilet and basin. The Deluge thermostat-controlled shower sits behind tinted glass doors. The room is finished with white wooden bathroom fittings with panelled detail on each piece and a curtain adapted from sailcloth.

• THE TRANSOM WINDOW

Framed by hops, this red and white arched window has strands of ivy etched into its glass. Upon the sill below stands a cold bronze sculpture of a barn owl by a local artist.

• THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Framed photographs crowd every wall of this small room, showing such diverse scenes as the Cambridge Boat Race, an Irishman with coracle and a vintage photograph of Cornelius Vanderbilt II steering his yacht.

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The Fountain Courtyard

BACK GARDEN | WATER

TIGH SAMHRAIDH

Timeline

Sunday 26 March 1933
11:45:21

- *Place:* Boyne Valley, Ireland, United Kingdom.
- *Time:* Late nineteenth century country residence in the French Gothic-style, built for church wardens who decorated courtyard with chapel stonework. Now this hilltop cottage sits beside derelict chapel overlooking the Irish village below, home to lone old woman.

Occupant
Madame Lilith



Lasairfhiona MacGeraghty is a retired member of the circus troupe, Pandora's Travelling Fayre, who toured Europe throughout the early part of the twentieth century. A fortune teller by trade, her stage name was Madame Lilith. Now MacGeraghty lives alone, her reclusiveness and fiery temperament branding her a trouble maker and witch.

Almanack
Sixth Moon



- *Eagle Moon:* Of Birds
- *Season:* Winter (Dark half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Labyrinth (Water vs Earth)
- *Daimonion:* The Threefold Goddess
- *Oracle:* Cup of Fortune



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



VI

WATER

- *Sights:* Secluded courtyard garden, fernery, barn and summerhouse.
- *Sounds:* Light classical music drifts across the courtyard, mixing with all the sounds of the Irish countryside.
- *Smells:* Woody Notes: Aromatic
 - Top note: Natural rose
 - Middle note: Natural lavender
 - Base note: Loam soil



Highlights

• THE JARDINIÈRE

Centering the main courtyard is this Regency Gothic octagonal jardinière with double-quatrefoil panels. It has alternate acanthus and rose relief bosses with an upper base in four sections and a lower base in eight sections. It is planted with over one hundred individual bulbs.

• THE BARN

Crowned with a weathervane of a hare jumping over the moon, this bespoke timbered barn is fashioned from green oak and pine weatherboard, and acts as a store and workroom for the cottage.

• THE SUMMERHOUSE

This timber pergola with arched panels and diamond slated trellis roof is walled by willow and hazel screens. A pitch pine pew has been set here for seating, while above the grapes that ramble across the roof, the ridge is finished with a finial carved in the figure of an owl.

• THE TROUGH FOUNTAIN

This large antique stone trough is red sandstone. Well weathered with moss and lichen, it has been transformed into a fountain with the addition of a lead ram's head lavabo wall fountain.

• THE FERNERY

Mossy dell, where the most striking aspect is the Gothic stone planter and vine tree. Its four hexagonal sections are pierced with trefoils, after the original element from the Palace of Westminster.

• THE WOODSTORE

The secondary courtyard is ended with a tile roofed porch with hooks for a metal circular table and chairs, an oak water butt made from whiskey distillery barrel and bust of Zeus upon sundial pedestal.

The story of Tigh Samhraidh

To folks in the Boyne Valley, Samhraidh Cottage (*Irish Gaelic; tigh samhraidh; 'summer house'; tig sow-rig*) is the house of a witch, but the real story is far less straightforward. Constructed in 1875, the French Gothic-style residence now belongs to Lasairfhiona (*'flame of wine'; pron. la-sar-EE-na*), a long-time member of a small circus troupe known as Pandoro's Travelling Fayre. Such association has only fuelled speculation over the owner's background and interests, especially as this walled garden used to be the home of staunch Catholic churchgoers. Evidence of its previous Christian usage is everywhere, from the central gothic jardinière to the broken pieces of church stonework. Now the overgrown wildness and objects in the garden more reflect the pagan Wiccan maiden/mother/crone triple goddess.

The physical arrangement of the courtyard garden bears a close resemblance to a stage set, a similarly enclosed space for playing out fantasy and transformations. In the middle ages, a courtyard of this type was known as a hortus conclusus (*L. hortus, a garden or orchard, conclusus, closed off*), with its most important ornaments being flowers, herbs and intricate trellis work. Sitting above the village, the cottage overlooks the narrow riverside beside a derelict chapel.

The Pet Cemetery

In the corner of the garden, just beside the porch, two bronze mice mark this burial ground. A variety of household pets lie buried here in this simple grave. Like other pieces, the gothic stonework was sourced from the local chapel.



The Cabin

GARDEN SHED | EARTH

WISAKEDJAK LODGE

Timeline

Friday 9 April 1948
13:07:05

- *Place:* Kingsmere Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- *Time:* Cree hunting grounds in the forested wilderness of Canada's Saskatchewan province beside Kingsmere Lake. Now site of a log cabin in the woods, hand-built by an Englishman turned trapper and guide, who now lives here with his native bride.

Occupant

Tipiskisiw



Born in early 1900s England, the man who became He Who Walks By Night always fantasised of a life in the wilderness. In 1932, he emigrated to Canada to make his living as a trapper, guide and forest ranger. Building this cabin in the woods beside Kingsmere Lake, he married a Cree woman and retired to life in the wilds.

Almanack

Seventh Moon



- *Storm Moon:* Of Nature (Land)
- *Season:* Winter/Spring (Dark/Light)
- *Opposition room:* The Office (Earth vs Fire)
- *Daimonion:* Torngarsuk
- *Oracle:* Anguekkok Spirit Bottle



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



VII

EARTH

- *Sights:* Hand-built and functional trapper's wilderness log cabin in the depths of the Canadian wilds of Saskatchewan.
- *Sounds:* Sounds of the animals and elements of the wilderness background blues and cajun music.
- *Smells:* Woody Notes: Mossy Woods
 - Top note: True Grace Forest Air room spray
 - Middle note: Natural pine oil
 - Base note: Cedar smudge stick



Highlights

- **THE CABIN DOOR**

This white arched door is inset with nine panes of vintage glass. An Arts & Crafts style lantern hangs above, its orange marbled glass and elk and tree silhouette design illuminating the entrance to this rustic home.

- **THE CABIN INTERIOR**

The entire interior of this timbered cabin is constructed from a variety of natural woods from the region. Included in the design are turned newel posts, lapped boarding and a vintage ladder.

- **THE SNUG**

Set against the store room wall, a stepladder leads to a galleried bed area. Set with mattress, lantern and blankets, it forms the sleeping area of the cabin.

- **THE CELLAR**

Beneath the furniture and sets of wicker baskets lies a root cellar, built for the storage of objects and food stuffs not able to fit in the cramped living quarters of the main cabin.

- **THE FURNITURE**

Arts and Crafts revival furniture form the main pieces in the lodge. Brought from England, these include a 1930s oak dresser, galleon-carved dining room sideboard and 1940s oak bureau with integral writing desk and double bookshelf beneath. Other pieces have been sourced locally or made especially for the cabin.

- **PAINTED FOLK ART**

The interior of the lodge is decorated with images of native Canadian folk art, power animals and patterns. Ox blood paint is used to adorn the woodwork, along with other natural stains and dyes.

The story of Wisakedjak Lodge

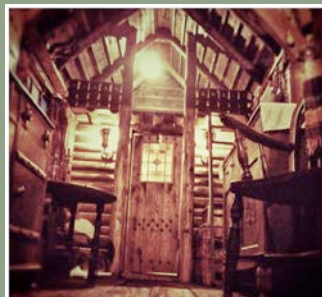
In the forested heart of the Canadian wilderness stands Wisakedjak Lodge (*Cree; Wesakechak; Whiskey-Jack; benevolent trickster hero in folk tales*), a red and white log cabin constructed of cedars, weathered boards and shingle. Here in the late winter of 1948, we find all the rough comforts of this hideaway, its worn chairs, folk art painted furniture and woodstove; a place for quiet contemplation. With few trails and wild woodland in every direction, the only sensible way to approach the cabin is by canoe, across the great lake of Kingsmere.

The prairie province of Saskatchewan was first explored by Europeans in 1690 who settled in 1774, having also been inhabited for thousands of years by various indigenous groups. Originally Sakawiniwug (*Cree; Woodland Cree*) grounds, these hunters and horsemen settled here.

As more Western settlers came to the prairies on the railway, the population grew. One of these was the Englishman who married a local Cree and came to be known as He Who Walks By Night (*Cree; tipiskisiw*). His move to this region in 1932 introduced him to real winter, the severity of which the dramatic figure dressed in buckskins and leather was ill prepared for.

The Store Room

At the back of the main living room, and beneath the galleried bedroom is the lodge's store. This cool, dry place is used for storing food stuffs, supplies and tools, plus those few items that are best kept locked away.



The Starhouse

CONSERVATORY | AIR

THE WAYSTATION AT TZU

Timeline

Monday 8 May 2282

14:59:12

- *Place:* Shiretoko Peninsula, Hokkaido Island, Japan.
- *Time:* One room of expansive temple complex and living quarters, this crystal vivarium melds traditional Shinto elements of Oriental tea house and Art Deco styling. This arkspace is owned by the Malorian family, and forms part of the D'Arkadia near-space laboratory.

Occupant
Nirromelhe



Nirromelhe is the custodian of this near-abandoned temple and waystation. Part-sorcerer, part-priest he has devoted a third of his life to keeping the sanctuary of the shrine and upkeeping of its integral systems. Lonely since the abandonment of the waystations, he spends most of his time conversing with Home, the station's sentience.

Almanack
Eighth Moon



- *Hare Moon:* Of Beasts
- *Season:* Spring (Light half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Watchtower (Air vs Fire)
- *Daimonion:* The Amen
- *Oracle:* Crystal Sentence



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



VIII

AIR

- *Sights:* Recreational room of self-contained crystal arkspace within the near-space starstation of Malorian Industries.
- *Sounds:* The unvarying noise of the corporate ark engines mixed with ambient modernistic soundscapes.
- *Smells:* Oriental Notes: Oriental
 - Top note: Lemongrass essential oil
 - Middle note: Herve Gambs Terre D'Épices Home Spray
 - Base note: Opia Vanilla Room Spray



Highlights

• THE HATCH

The entrance to the arkspace shrine is through a wood and glass hatchway. Crafted to resemble an air-tight submarine or space portal, it visually melds modern and classic design.

• THE OUTER TEAHOUSE

Set on the black Shanxi bookcase, a Burmese gilded altar is set upon a handwoven mat. Atop this is an antique hand-carved galleon, planted with a Japanese elm bonsai. A granite water basin (*tsukubai*) serves as place for visitors to rinse hands and mouth in symbolic purification.

• THE TORII GATE

Symbolically marking the transition from the profane to the sacred, these archways have no gates, illustrating that the temple is always accessible.

• THE INNER TEAHOUSE

The tea ceremony and recreation area is centred by a low opium table inset with a bronze celestial astrolabe. Around the table is a set of rush cushions; above a cluster of silk lanterns.

• THE ARKSPACE VIVARIUM

In such confined near-space environments, trees and plant life are very important to dwellers' wellbeing. The vivarium uses silver birch, palms and orchids to create a feeling of almost palpable peace and security.

• THE ETERNAL ONES

Shinto does not split the universe into a natural and supernatural world, but regards everything as part of a unified creation and this is a place of devotion to invisible spiritual beings known collectively as The Eternal Ones.

The story of the Waystation at Tzu

津宿

Currently docked at the Tzu Waystation on Japan's northernmost prefecture, this recreational arkspace with its melding of Oriental tea house and Art Deco styling is just one room of a tiered temple complex and apartments. Situated off the main living hub, the vivarium shrine houses the entertainment and art areas, including the core replication for the Home sentience. Governed by a sentient bioanima construct named simply 'Home', the vivarium is controlled by owners of the laboratory starstation of D'Arkadia.

Near-space is made up of thirteen distinct structures or stations, one for the XEs sentience on the real moon and one each for the dozen macrocorporations, wealthy individuals or private companies. Grown from crystals, and engineered using technologies such as organic materials and metals, the entire is home to many billions of former Earth inhabitants.

This section of the waystation is modeled around a Shinto shrine (*jinja*), a sacred place where the spirits (*kami*) live. The outer and inner teahouses are linked by a torii gate, being the boundary between the everyday and infinite worlds, featuring a granite water bowl for purification and steps leading to the lower worship hall.

The Crystal Sentience

Within the ancient Japanese carved bookcase stands a white selenite crystal. Set upon the raked sand of a Japanese garden, a cluster of powerful lasers pulse. Here is the central core of Home, the sentient controller of the waystation.



The Haunted Bedroom

MASTER BEDROOM | FIRE

RAVNSBRAE MANOR

Timeline

Monday 26 June 1911
17:23:49

- *Place:* Stonehaven, Scotland, United Kingdom.
- *Time:* Ninth century Pictish settlement, invaded by Vikings c. 895. Fourteenth century Tower House, built by prominent Earl Marischal, followed by sixteenth century country mansion, with later Gothic additions. Recently remodelled internally in modern Art Nouveau-style.

Occupant

Jack Macpherson



Seathan Macpherson was only seven years old when his parents found him dead in this room. The boy, always known as 'Jack', was a reclusive, solitary child, and after his death, the room was locked and unused. The child's ghost was said to have been seen in the corridors, so the salon was blessed by a priest, warded and completely sealed.

Almanack

Ninth Moon



- *Thunder Moon:* Of Nature (Sky)
- *Season:* Spring (Light half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Hall of Mirrors (Fire vs Water)
- *Daimonion:* Pazuzu
- *Oracle:* Ouija Board and Planchette



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



IX

FIRE

- *Sights:* Edwardian child's nursery bedroom, now kept locked and sealed after boy's fateful death.
- *Sounds:* Stillness and dread are invoked by a resonant presence in the midst of a passing thunderstorm.
- *Smells:* Fresh Notes: Water
 - Top note: Paddy Wax Ocean Tide and Sea Salt room spray
 - Middle note: Diptyque John Galliano room spray
 - Base note: St Eval Embers scented candle



Highlights

- **THE WALLED-UP DOOR**

Behind broken brick and plaster lies this locked antique oak door and frame. Fitted with original door furniture such as a vintage rimlock, doorknob and brass fingerplate, it is also hung with crucifixes and other warding signs.

- **THE NOUVEAU INTERIOR**

The Art Nouveau style was first recognised in 1883, and popularised in Scotland with the creations of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his colleagues.

- **THE FIREPLACE**

The cast iron fireplace with black marble hearth and ornate brass fire fender is finished with a companion set styled as a masted sailing ship with dragon prow, and copper Arts and Crafts fire screen depicting Siegfried the Viking.

- **THE BED**

The golden oak Henri II double bed has hand carved spire finials and features.

- **THE WARDROBE**

Big enough to house an entire country, this Victorian breakfront oak wardrobe was sourced from Scotland, then completely restored and polished.

- **THE SHIELD COLLECTION**

Twenty-eight shields decorate the crenulations that form part of the Georgian latticed ceiling. These are fantasy versions of the ancestral arms painted specially for this bedchamber.

- **THE SECRET PLACE**

Before the boy passed away, his parents heard him talk of a secret hiding place within the room. It is unknown if such a place exists, as it was never discovered prior to the bedroom being closed up.

The story of Ravnsbrae Manor

With its dramatic cliff top location mid-way between Aberdeen and Dundee, Ravensbrae (*Danish: ravn; raven, Scots: brae; hillside*) Manor has a rich and fascinating history. Beginning as a Pictish settlement, the first recorded inhabitants were Vikings who, after invading, built a beacon fire on the promontory. Over the centuries various lairds have claimed the land, most notably the 1st Earl Marischal who, in 1545, built a tower-house on the site. Always a secluded location, the estate is mainly uncultivated fir woodland save for a few acres of farmland.

The current mansion is a mix of Victorian Gothic added over its sixteenth century core. The present owners have extensively remodeled the interior in the modern Art Nouveau-style, also adding an Italian Renaissance garden that runs almost all the way to the cliffs.

This bedchamber, with its black woodwork, fretwork altar panels and emerald trellis, and quatrefoil fabric walls, was decorated for the Macpherson's first child. Jack always complained of noises in the night, but it was only after the boy's death that the first true hauntings began. Due to this, the superstitious couple locked the room, sealed it with various holy symbols, and vowed never set foot in it again.

The Throne Toilet

This Victorian throne seat serves two purposes; that of reading chair and thunderbox. It is carved in the Scottish baronial style, popularised by author Walter Scott and, surmounted by lions rampant and inset with a vine leaf motifs.



The Room of Dreams

GUEST BEDROOM | AIR

EISH AL KAMAR

Timeline

Saturday 16 July 1977

18:56:01

- *Place:* Alhambra, Granada, Spain.
- *Time:* Ninth century Arabian military fortress, turned exquisite Moorish palace and Christian court. This contemporary guestroom is situated in the Court of the Myrtles, at the heart of the Casa Real Vieja. The entire structure has been extensively restored after being declared a national monument in 1870.

Occupant

Lia Josefina



Despite her slight form and advancing years, travel writer Josefina is still an ardent world traveller. Her current tour recreates the journey of T. E. Lawrence, in his book, *Crusader Castles*, starting in England and taking her on a tour of important strongholds along the route to the Holy Land. For the past weeks she has been a guest in this Alhambra room.

Almanack

Tenth Moon



- *Honey Moon:* Of Man
- *Season:* Summer (Light half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Voodoo Kitchen (Air vs Earth)
- *Daimonion:* Oya
- *Oracle:* Crystal Ball



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



X

AIR

- *Sights:* Moorish bedchamber, complete with collection of artefacts and treasures collected from travels around the world.
- *Sounds:* A vibrant world of sultry heat and teeming wildlife of the southern Spanish hills.
- *Smells:* Floral Notes: Floral Oriental
 - Top note: Moroccan Orange Blossom, Jasmine and Basil
 - Middle note: Provence Lavender essence
 - Base note: Kenneth Turner room cologne



Highlights

• **THE STAINED GLASS DOOR**
This blue-painted studwork door is inset with an Art Deco inspired stained glass diamond panel inspired by Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* Oscar-winning film. The deep colouring of this door has been achieved by adding crushed lapis lazuli to the base paint mix.

• **THE TILED WALL PANELS**
The intricate Zellige-styled tiled wall panels were created in Morocco. These dark blue tiles are completely hand-made using techniques unchanged for hundreds of years. They are particularly attractive due to the tonal variations of colour of each tile.

• **THE TERRACOTTA FLOOR**
Blended from five different Saltillo clay sources, these tiles were hand slurried and left to dry in the sun. To this end, hand and animal footprints can be seen in several of the individual tiles.

• **THE BRASS BED**
Dominating the chamber, the king-sized iron and brass bed. Made in 1872 and decorated with Corinthian columns, it is dressed with goose down pillows, feather duvet, and white cotton linen with hand-drawn thread-work and fine crocheted edging.

• **THE COLLECTION**
Upon the walls of the bedchamber are hung many important works of art and antiquities, acquired over many years of holidays, visits and world travels. Included in the eclectic collection are many artefacts from around the globe such as Africa masks, Mexican statues, Nubian swords, Indian idols, Thai hand-carved temple stonework, and Native Canadian vulture feather fans.

The story of Eish Al Kamar

عش القمر

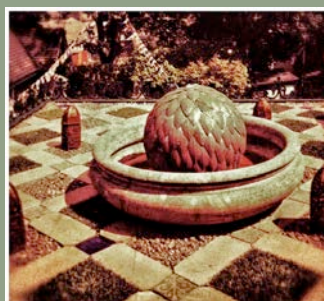
Known by the Arab name, Eish Al Kamar (*Arabic; the moon's nest*), this bedchamber is a private guestroom in the Alhambra palace, in Granada, Spain. It is situated in the Court of the Myrtles (*Patio de los Arrayanes*) in the Old Royal House (*Casa Real Vieja*). Fully restored in the early twentieth century, this romantically-named salon provides modern accommodation for guests of the palace.

Originally a military fortress, the Alhambra (*Arabic; red or crimson castle*) is fortress (*alcazaba*), palace (*alcázar*) and small city (*medina*), all in one. The founder of the Moorish dynasty, Muhammed Al-Ahmar, began restoration in the ninth century. The construction of the palaces where the bedchamber currently stands date back to the early fourteenth century. During the 18th century, the Alhambra fell into neglect, while in the early nineteenth century Napoleon's troops converted the palaces into barracks. In 1870, the Alhambra was declared a national monument and is now protected and preserved.

The room's name refers to the seasonal rising of the moon behind the Sierra Nevada mountains, appearing as an ivory egg in the bowl-shaped nest cradled against the shadows of the peaks.

The Rooftop Garden

Centred by a stone urli bowl, the grass is set with white cobbles forming a parterre shaped in the universal symbol of the endless knot. Lavender and rosemary are planted amongst metal lanterns to form a scented garden outside the window.



The Office

BOX-ROOM | FIRE

TREVELYAN VEAN

Timeline

Monday 5 August 1929
21:18:09

- *Place:* New York, New York, USA.
- *Time:* Châteauesque mansion on Fifth Avenue on the Upper East Side overlooking Central Park. Built 1882–87, the design of the three-and-a-half-storey French Renaissance-style mansion is a blending of late French Gothic style and Beaux-Arts refinement.

Occupant

Antony R. Kane



Antony R. Kane is an author, publisher and investigator specialising in the exotic and esoteric. He is also head of an international society known as Occultus Earth and runs his business from this rented office in New York overlooking Central Park. His work takes him all around the world and many of his collected artifacts are seen in this room.

Almanack

Eleventh Moon



- *Owl Moon:* Of Birds
- *Season:* Summer (Light half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Cabin (Fire vs Earth)
- *Daimonion:* Cthulhu
- *Oracle:* Tarot Deck



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



XI

FIRE

- *Sights:* Office-turned-study for writer and collector of the occult and the bizarre.
- *Sounds:* Early jazz and moody standards create a backdrop just like its very own unique cabinet of curiosities.
- *Smells:* Floral Notes: Soft Oriental
 - Top note: Diptyque Feu De Bois room spray
 - Middle note: Satya Sai Baba Nag Champa
 - Base note: L'Artisan Parfumeur amber solid and oils



Highlights

• THE OFFICE DOOR

Teak door with reeded glass and gold lettering announcing this as room number 11, J E Trevillian & Associates, Estd. 1925. Behind the glass hangs a custom-made roller blind of Scottish Holland cloth.

• THE ROLL-TOP DESK

Quarter-cut American oak S-shaped desk with bow front drawers and turned handles with green leather Edwardian rocker chair. Upon the desk is a Royal typewriter, made in the USA.

• THE BOOKCASE

Apothecary-styled bookcase again in quarter-cut American oak, designed to perfectly match the roll-top desk in both style and proportion.

• THE OWL PHOTOGRAPH

Jedediah kept a variety of animals and birds, including this snowy owl (*Nyctea Scandiaca*). To the ears of a young boy, the name was heard as 'Tarrow', hence the spelling on the brass plate of this framed photograph, hung here after the bird's recent death.

• THE PAINTINGS

The office is hung with many photographs and framed pictures including framed reproductions of famous works of art such as Island of the Dead (Arnold Böcklin, 1800), The Tower of Babel (Pieter Bruegel the Elder, c.1563) and St John the Baptist (Andrea del Sarto, 1528).

• THE HOUSE DIARIES

In the tambor-fronted corner cabinet are stored twenty-six diaries covering each and every one of the 9,132 days spent constructing the house and gardens.

The story of Trevelyan Vean

Set within this grand Jacobean mansion lies the office of writer and wealthy publisher, Antony R. Kane. Its mix of oak furniture and cabinetry is less grandiose than other areas of the building, but does showcase the owner's interest in the peculiar, the exotic and strange.

In late 1925, Jedediah Elston Trevillian (*English: habitation name from Trevelyan; 'house at the mill'*) died in his home in Cornwall – and in a bizarre final twist to the eccentric's life, his estate, company and fortune were willed not to his squabbling family, but instead to a boy caught trespassing in the grounds on the day of his death.

Included in the many Trevillian properties was Trevelyan Vean, a Châteauesque mansion on Fifth Avenue on the Upper East Side in New York City. Close by the mansions of the Astors and Vanderbilts, the French Renaissance-style chateau was designed as a blending of late French Gothic style and Beaux-Arts refinement for the design of the three-and-a-half-story mansion. Unused, the house and second-floor office are now rented by Kane and his scant staff with many of the objects detailing the life of its new occupant, his global explorations, investigations and adventures.

The Puppets

Bizarre collection of handmade puppets consisting of four exotic characters:

- The Masquerader: a masked dancer
- The Ratcatcher: a cloaked skeleton
- Dr Abomination: a masked surgeon
- Captain Maniac: an adult Boy Scout



The Treehouse Sanctuary

ATTIC | AIR

SAN PHRA PHUM

Timeline

*Saturday 25 September 1965
23:17:51*

- *Place:* Kampong Phluk, Tonlé Sap, Cambodia.
- *Time:* Bamboo spirit house built in ancient Mreah Prew Phnom tree in jungle ruins near Kampong Phluk, upon the flood plain of the Tonlé Sap Lake, Cambodia. This is now converted to a makeshift lodging for travellers exploring the temples of Angkor Wat and surrounding regions.

Occupant
Ilari Lazarev



After hearing stories of the magnificent temples being reclaimed from the Cambodian jungles of this exotic East Asian subcontinent, Lazarev left his home in Minsk to travel in search of the fabled Angkor Wat. After several weeks in Siem Reap, he is now touring the Tonlé Sap Lake region, with his current lodging in this converted spirit house.

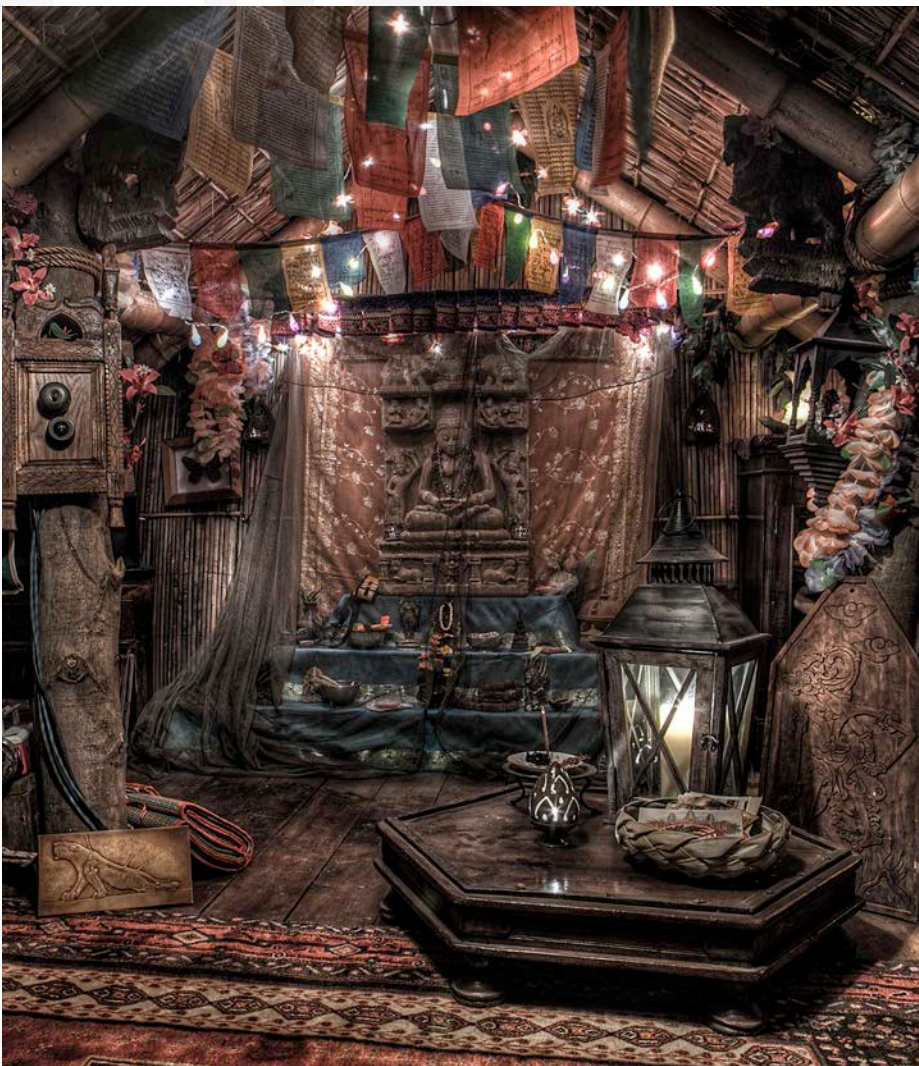
Almanack
Twelfth Moon



- *Stag Moon:* Of Beasts
- *Season:* Summer (Light half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Boathouse (Air vs Water)
- *Daimonion:* Buddha
- *Oracle:* Oracle of Kuan Yin



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



XII

AIR

- *Sights:* Climbing the rope ladder from the rooms below, you emerge into the light and colour of the bamboo-built spirit house.
- *Sounds:* Bird calls rise above the wind through the leaves and the creaking of the wooden building.
- *Smells:* Fresh Notes: Green
 - Top note: White Company Flowers room fragrance
 - Middle note: Esteban Paris Sous Les Feuilles home fragrance
 - Base note: Tibetan and Cedarwood incense sticks



Highlights

• THE TRAPDOOR ENTRANCE

Access to the sanctuary is via custom-made rope ladder, through a Rajasthan Shekewati Jali window repurposed as an ornate hatch. Surrounding this stands a hardwood balustrade formed of Grecian columns, top railing and cleats.

• THE BAMBOO TREEHOUSE

Authentically designed and built, the treehouse is constructed from bamboo cane poles on a reclaimed teak base. The walls are bamboo slat and brushwood thatch screening, the rush roof and poles handtied to form a supporting grid.

• THE TREE TRUNKS

As Mreah Prew Phnom trees are hard to find in Europe, ours are solid chestnut. Sourced from local timber mill, they were chosen due to their longevity and ability to retain their bark after felling.

• EATING AND SLEEPING

By day, the hexagonal bajot and Kaunaphok rush cushions form a focal point to the room. By night, sets of Mughal Jal padded floor cushions and hand printed bedding provide comfortable sleeping upon the deep-pile Koliai tribal rug.

• THE FLOCK OF BIRDS

In our treetop abode, guests have brought many styles of birds. Look out for the coconut shell and bamboo vulture wind chime, hanging bird sculpture made from banana leaves, and silver-plated box in the shape of a quail.

• THE TRAVEL JOURNALS

In a vintage trunk are stored an assortment of leather-bound books and hardcover journals, representing all the world-wide journeys made during the construction of the house and gardens.

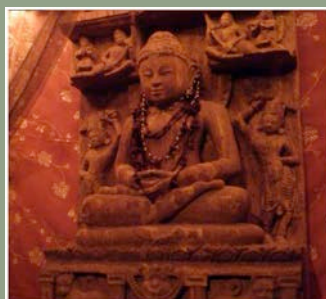
The story of San Phra Phum

Upon the flood plain of Cambodia's Tonlé Sap Lake (*Khmer; great lake*) is Kampong Phluk (*Khmer; harbour of the tusks*), a floating village with rustic and colourful double-storied houses on stilts. Home to nearly 500 families, Kampong Phluk's homes rise to nearly six metres above the ground. Hewed from special wood, the colorfully painted hamlet, decorated with kitschy fake flowers sits in sharp contrast with the mud-coloured, silt-heavy water flowing by. In the jungles not far from the outskirts of the village, the House of the Spirits (*Khmer; san phra phum*) sits in a massive Mreah Prew Phnom tree growing from ancient ruins.

Traditionally, spirit houses are shrines to the animist spirits. These structures, which can be found primarily in the Southeast Asian cultures of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, are usually placed in an auspicious corner of the town or property, determined by a Brahmin priest. Votive offerings are left at the house to propitiate the spirits. More elaborate installations include an altar for this purpose. This particular spirit house is no longer used to house the village's household gods, as a larger temple has now been built off the flood plain. Now this chamber is a comfortable extra room for travellers seeking lodging in the area.

The Stone Buddha

This finely crafted Buddha is cut from sandstone by local craftsmen and stands as the central deity to the sanctuary building. Offering bowls, incense burners and symbols of peace and good luck adorn the three silk-covered tiers.



The Tipi

TENT | SHADOW

BAH-HAS-TKIH

Timeline

Now

00:00:00

- *Place:* Monument Valley, Arizona, USA.
- *Time:* Ancient Navajo (*Navajo; Diné*) sacred site in one of the longest continuously inhabited landscapes in North America. Here a cloth and pole tipi is camped at the base of Agathla Peak, near Monument Valley (*Navajo; Tsé Bii' Ndzisgaii, valley of the rocks*).

Occupant
Mágl'izhini



This Amerind Navajo shaman is religious leader and healer for his people. His name means 'night black money' and he journeys on a spiritual quest between this world and the other. This man is also a skinwalker, one who can transform into animal form to seek knowledge and guidance, traits that make him a much-sought shaman guide.

Almanack
Thirteenth Moon



- *Oak Moon:* Tree of Life/Tree of Night
- *Season:* Summer (Light half of year)
- *Opposition room:* None (Shadow vs Shadow)
- *Daimonion:* Coyote
- *Oracle:* Navajo Medicine Bag



TALLISTON
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



XIII

SHADOW

- *Sights:* Navajo tipi set for summer living in the heat and barren beauty of the Arizona wilderness.
- *Sounds:* In the lost room inside the hidden place, we experience the mysterious chants of our ancient forefathers.
- *Smells:* Oriental Notes: Woody Oriental
 - Top note: Lemongrass incense
 - Middle note: Sage smudge sticks
 - Base note: Cedar wood smoke



Highlights

- **THE SKIN DOOR FLAP**

The entrance to the tipi is via a half-circle door flap. This can be left open, or rolled up, in hotter weather, while during the colder months a skin is added to provide a welcome second layer when the firepit is blazing inside.

- **THE SACRED MOUNTAIN**

Situated in northeastern Arizona and towering more than 1,500 feet about the desert floor, Agathla Peak (*Navajo: Aghaalqa, Spanish: El Capitan*) is sacred to the Navajo tribesmen. It is legended that climbing to the top of the mountain ensures the receiving of answers from the gods.

- **THE TIPI**

Tipis were first designed and used by people on the Plains of America, the name referring to the conical animal skin tent common to these prairie people. Fashioned like a canvas chimney, it has a central fireplace and smoke flaps that can be moved in order to help the smoke flow up and out.

- **THE LIVING AREA**

In the centre of the floor area a raised iron brazier is seated on metal tripod. This provides a small fire for heat and cooking. The smoke is carried with the updraft, and exits the top of the tipi via a pair of adjustable smoke flaps. The main objects carried on the journey are stored in a series of wicker baskets, one each for bedding, foodstuffs and other items.

- **THE SLEEPING AREA**

To each side of the tipi lie the areas designated for sleeping. Simple mattresses, covered with skins and blankets form easily packed and carried bedding used by the two travellers who dwell here.

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The story of Bah-Has-Tkih

In the heart of the Navajo ancestral lands (*Navajo: Diné*), Agathla Peak (*Navajo: Aghaalqa, Spanish: El Capitan*) stands like a sentinel at the southern gateway to Monument Valley, Arizona. It is one of many volcanic diatremes found in Navajo country and upon the lowest heights of this eroded volcanic breccia lies the tall white shape of a Native American tipi.

Overlooking State Highway 163 and a few miles north of Kayenta, here is the tent home of a traveller and his Amerind shaman passing through this inspiring landscape in search of enlightenment. The Navajo believe that the Holy People instructed them never to leave the land between their four sacred mountains geographically situated in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

The construction of Bah-Has-Tkih (*Navajo: the lost room; lit. 'secret camp'*) is sacred, symbolising the Diné lands: the posts represent the sacred mountains, the floor is mother earth (*earth; kay-yah, sea; tal-kah*), and the roof is father sky (*sky; nilchi*). The entire structure represents the journey from earth to the spirit world; the link between man and Wankan-Tanka, the Great Mystery.

The Lost Room

Of all the locations within the house of Talliston, this room does not sit within the whole, but is set apart and separate from it. Its role is that of a travelling 'room', a place that may tour and explore wherever and whenever, without bonds.

