

the level design of

GONE HOME

Hi

Steve Gaynor

Writer & Designer of Gone Home

Kate Craig

Environment Artist of Gone Home

The Level Design of Gone Home

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- The experiential aims of Gone Home's level design and architecture

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- The intended **FEELINGS** of inhabiting the space and story

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- The intended FEELINGS of inhabiting the space and story
- The constraints (and lack thereof) of literalism/realism toward these aims
- The methods we used to get there

Gone Home: Linear Story, Nonlinear Space

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- **Success! But...**



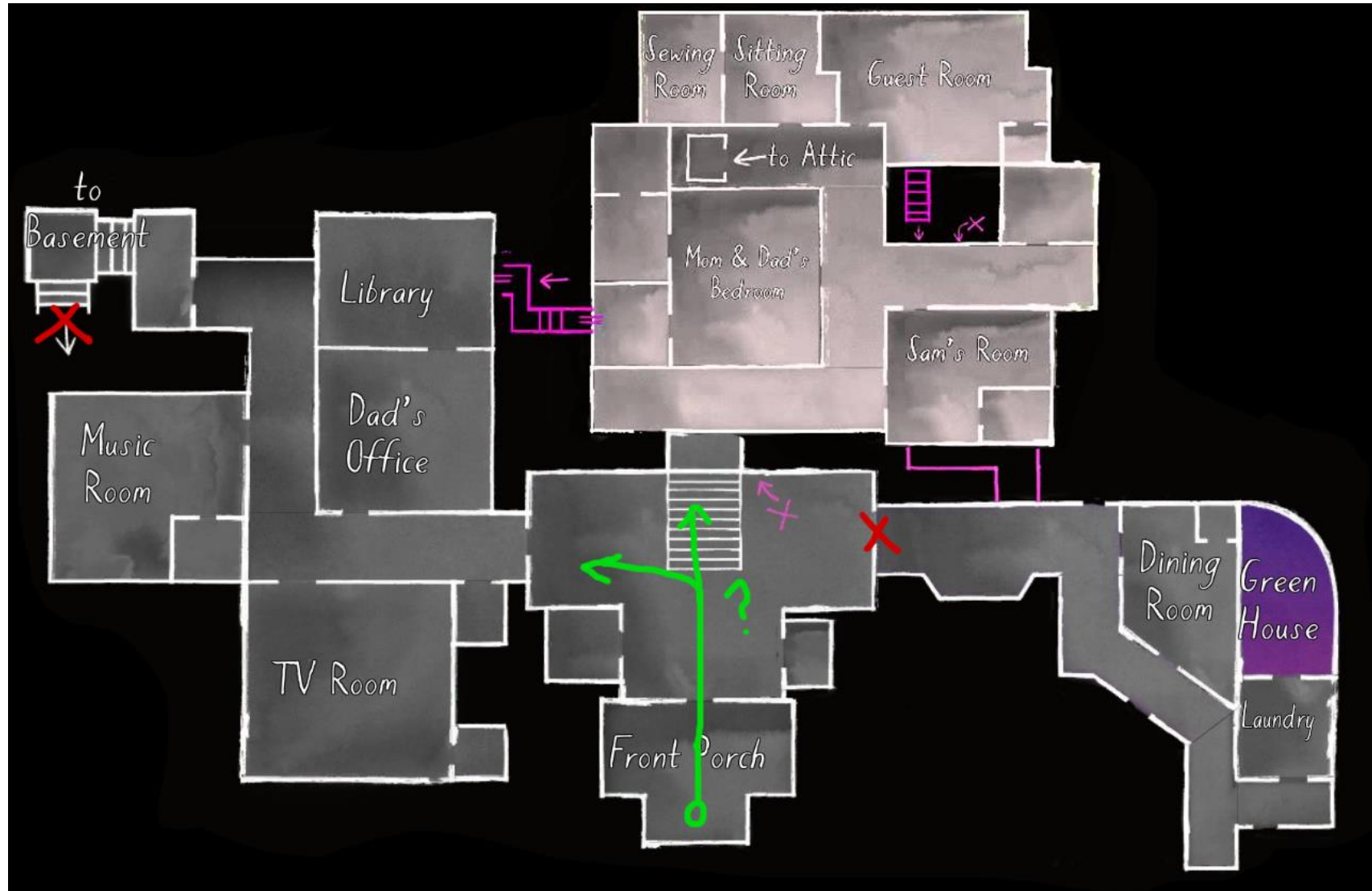


It's an Illusion

Non-Linear



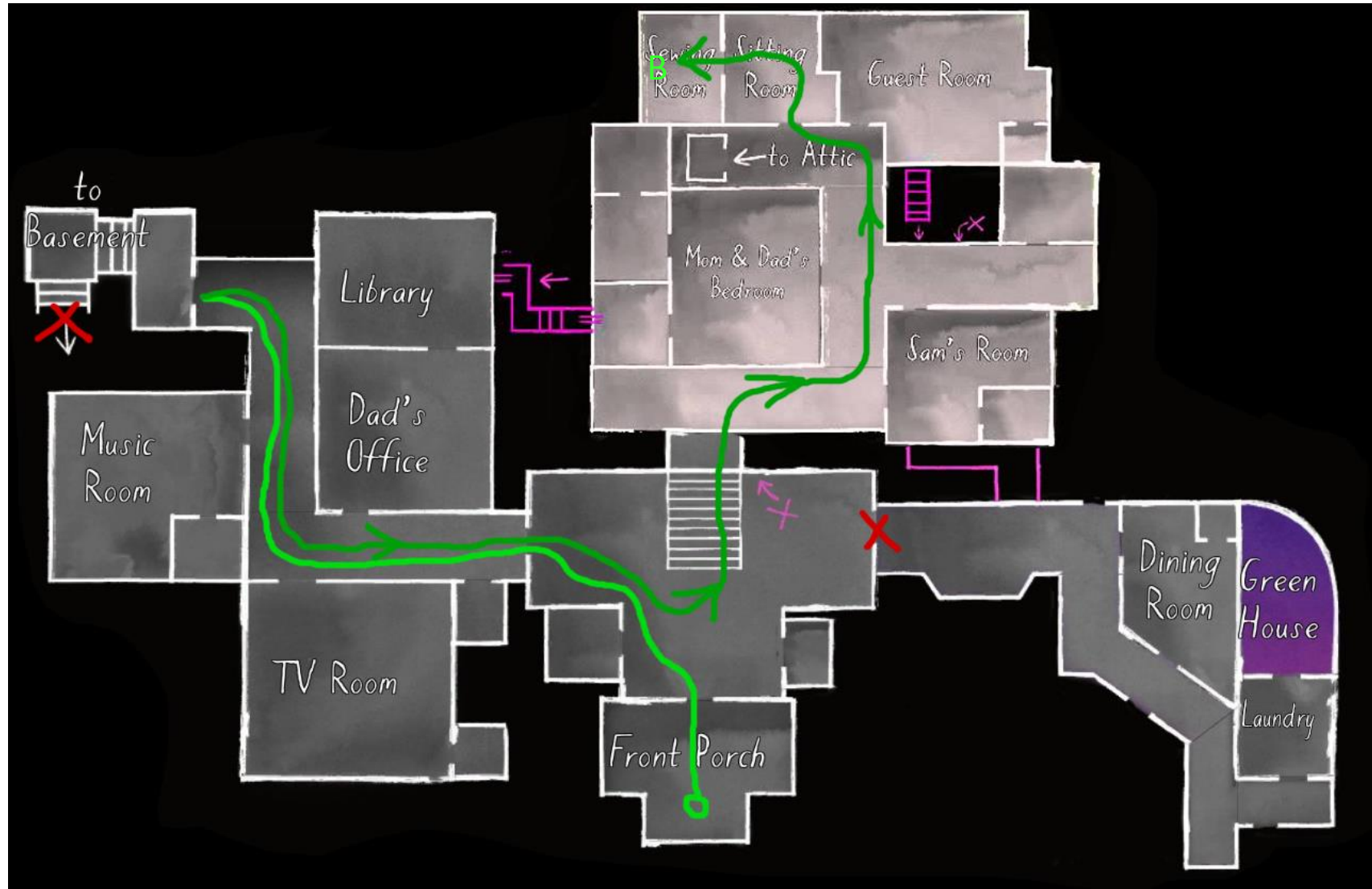
Non-Linear



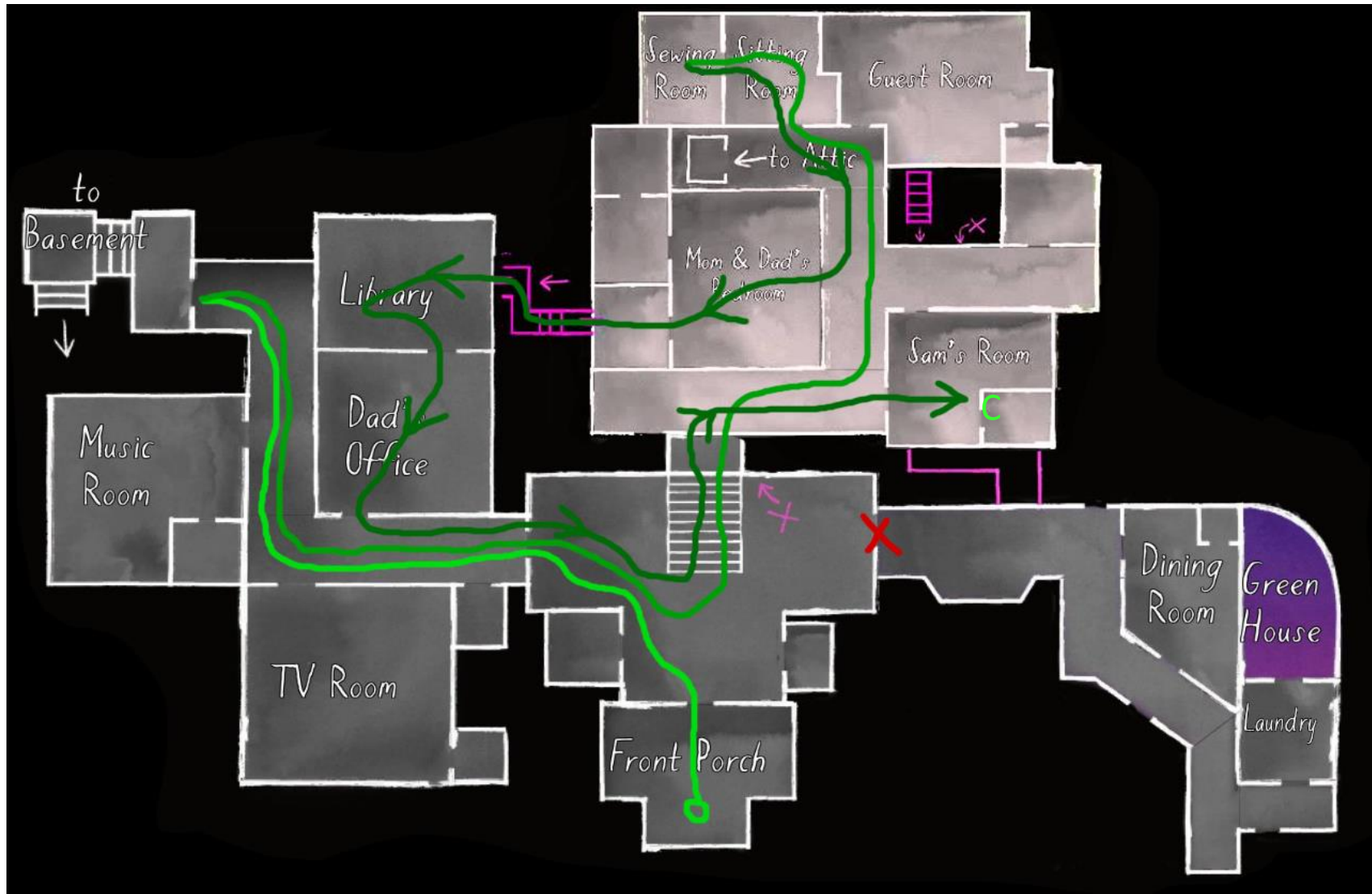
~~Non-Linear~~ Linear



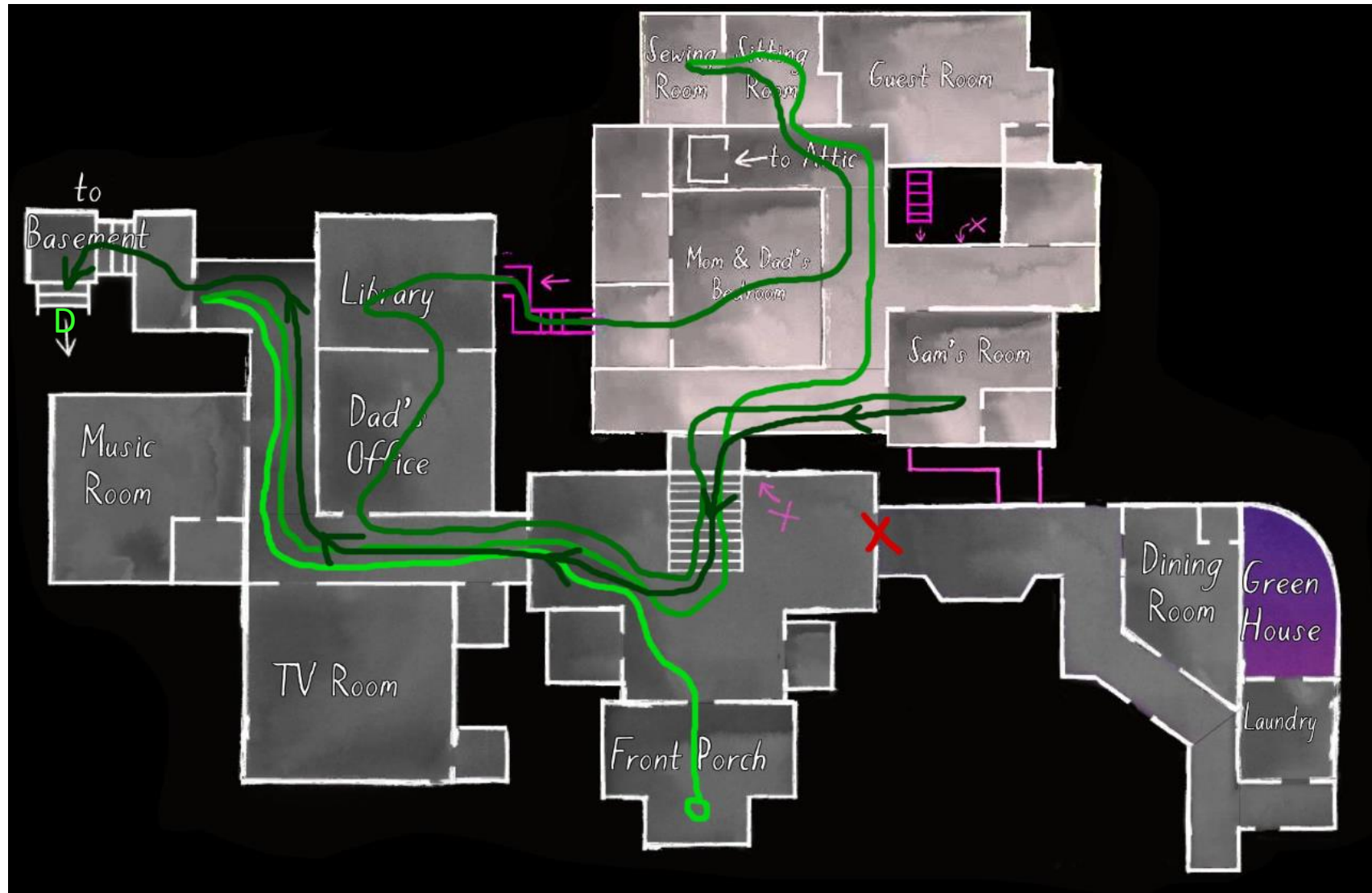
~~Non-Linear~~ Linear



~~Non-Linear~~ Linear



~~Non-Linear~~ Linear



Real



Real Unreal



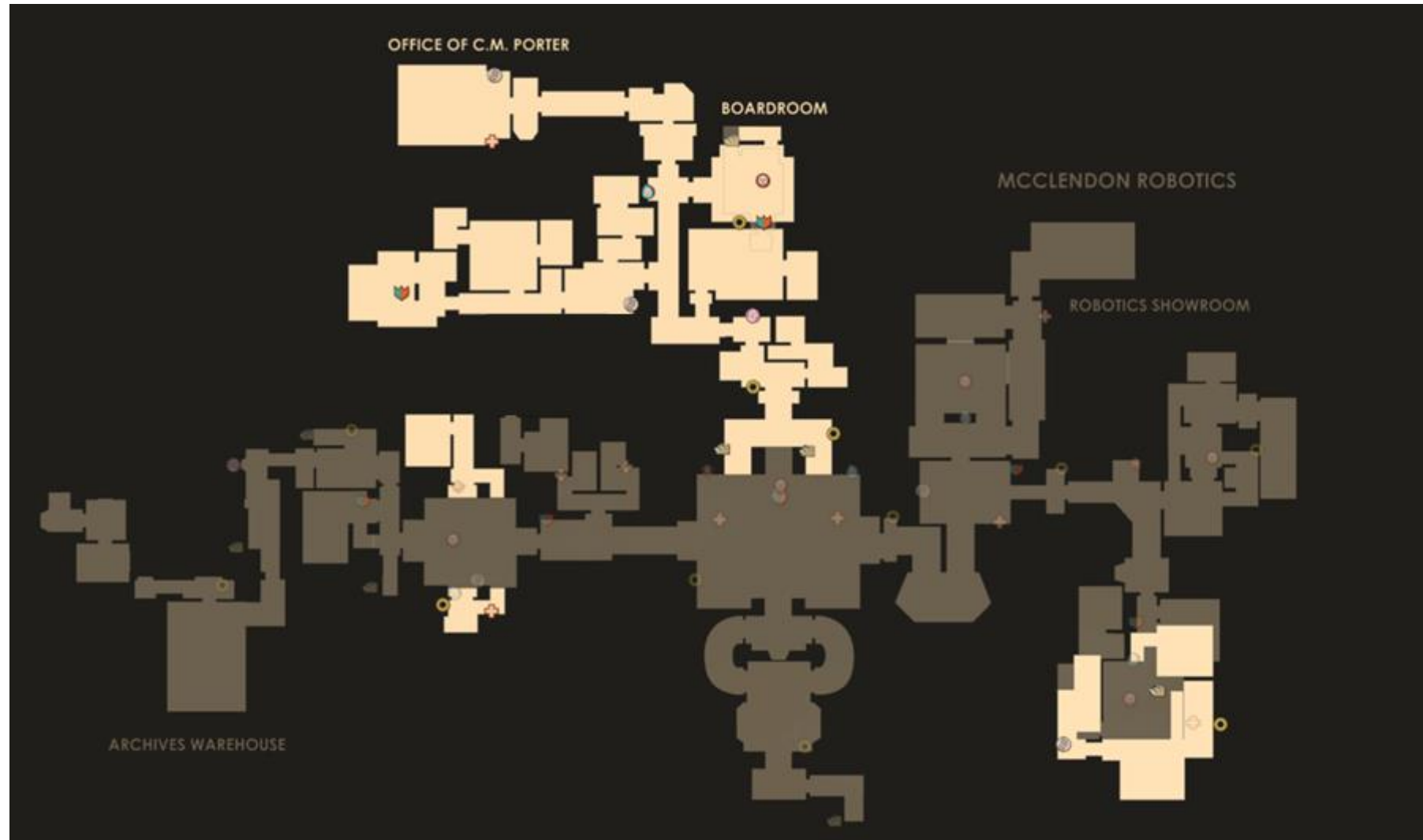
Making the linear FEEL nonlinear

Making the unreal FEEL real

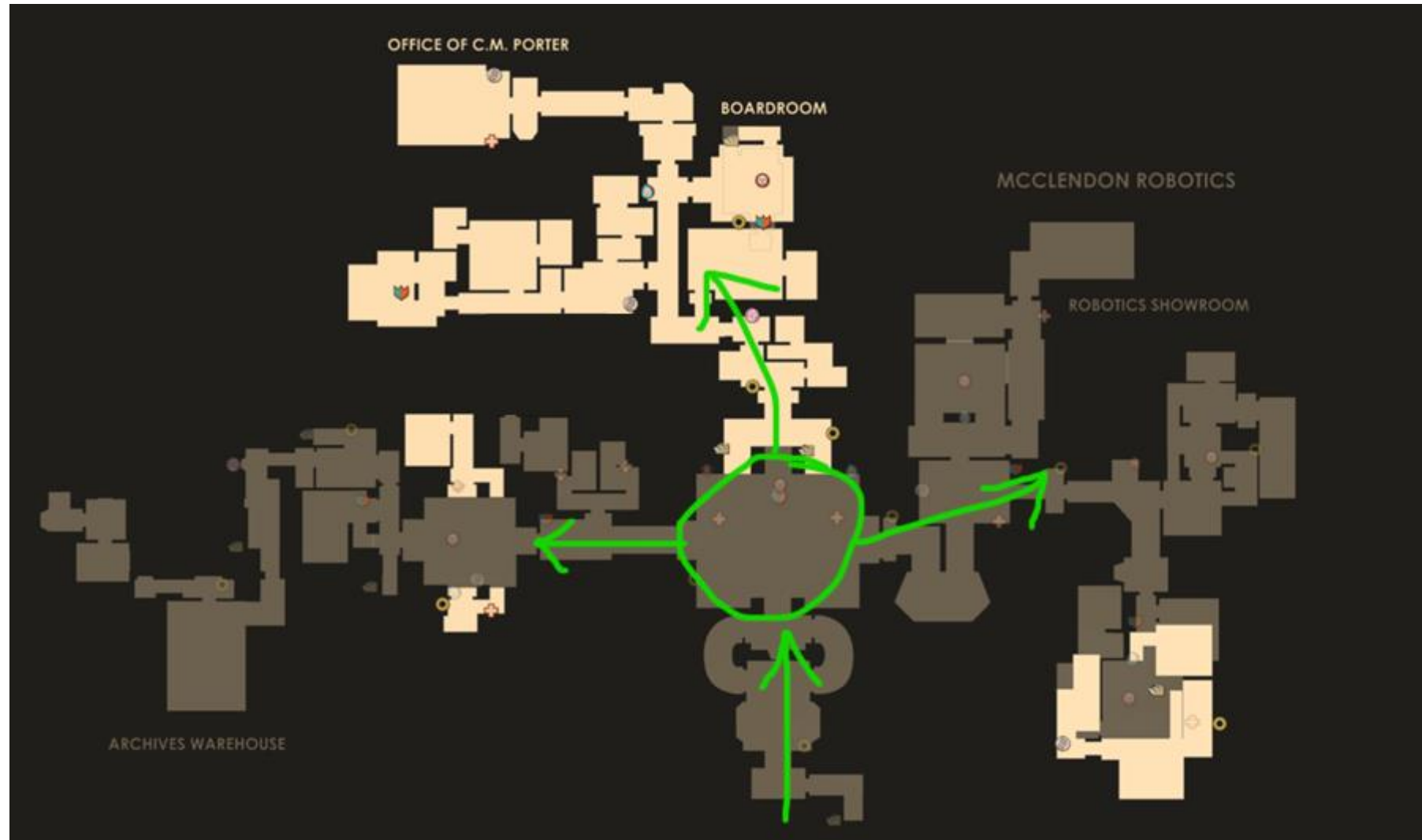
Shape of a House/Shape of a Story



Shape of a House/Shape of a Story



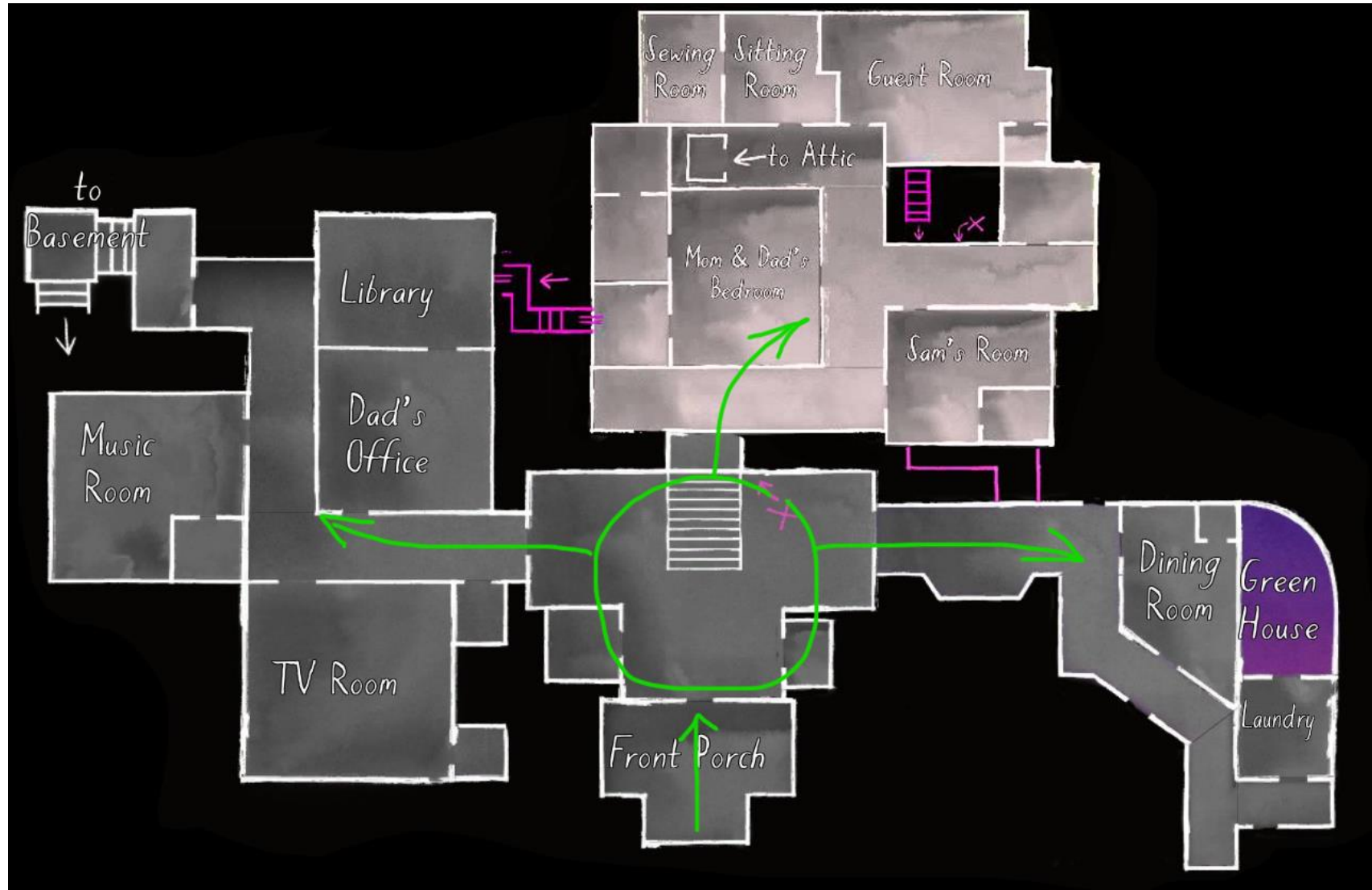
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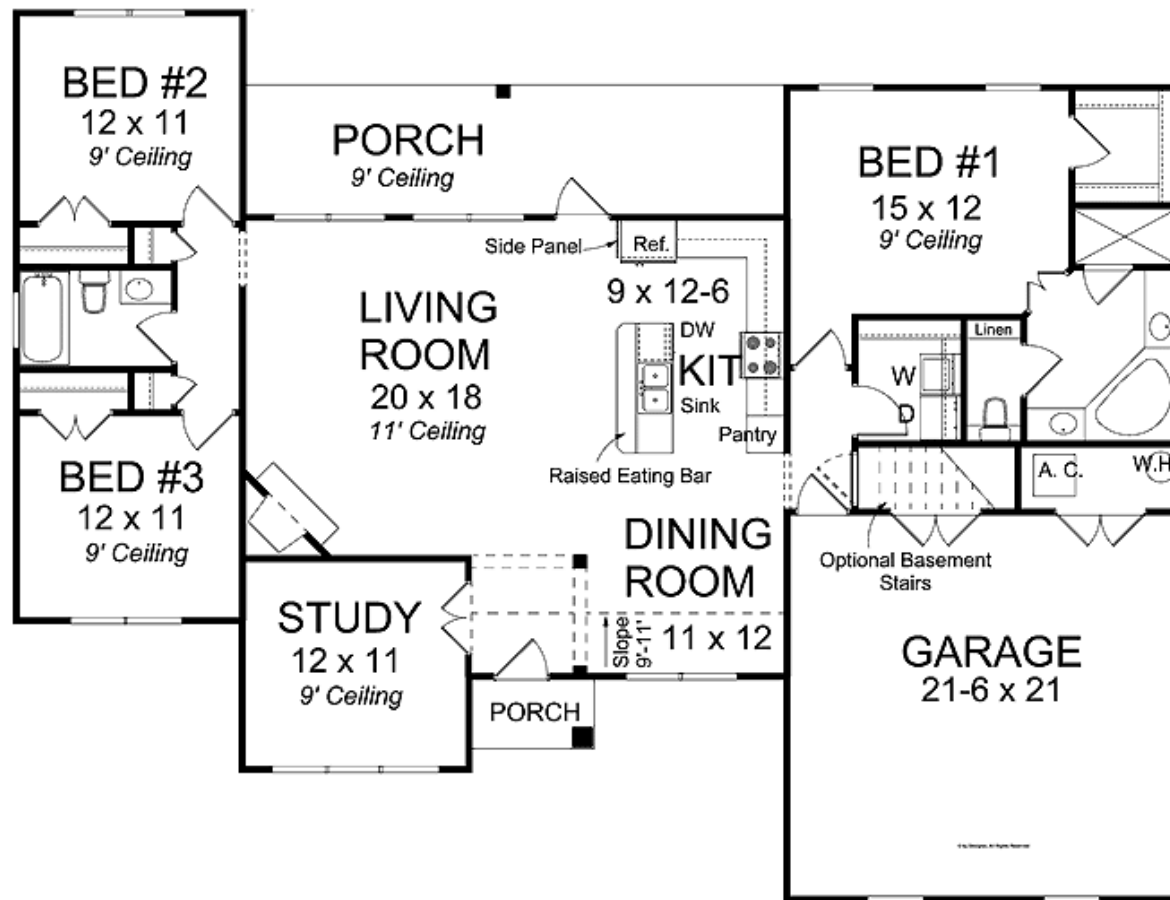
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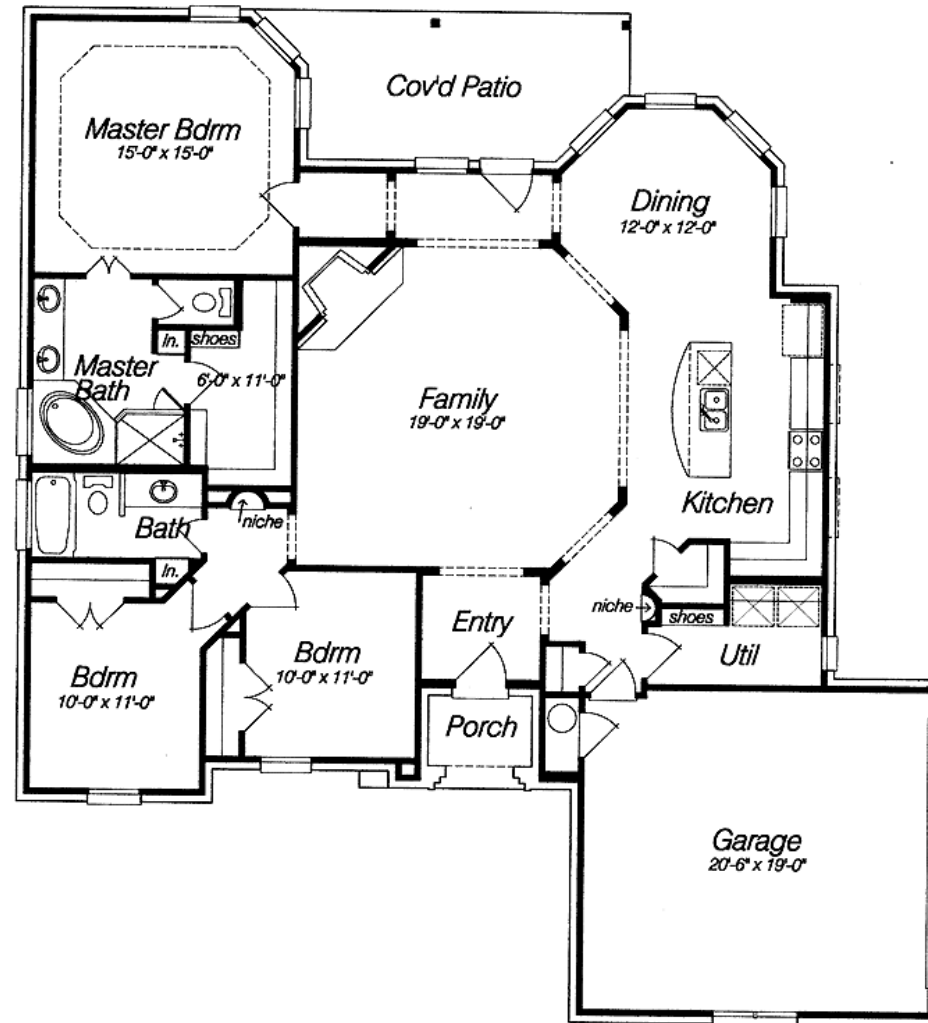
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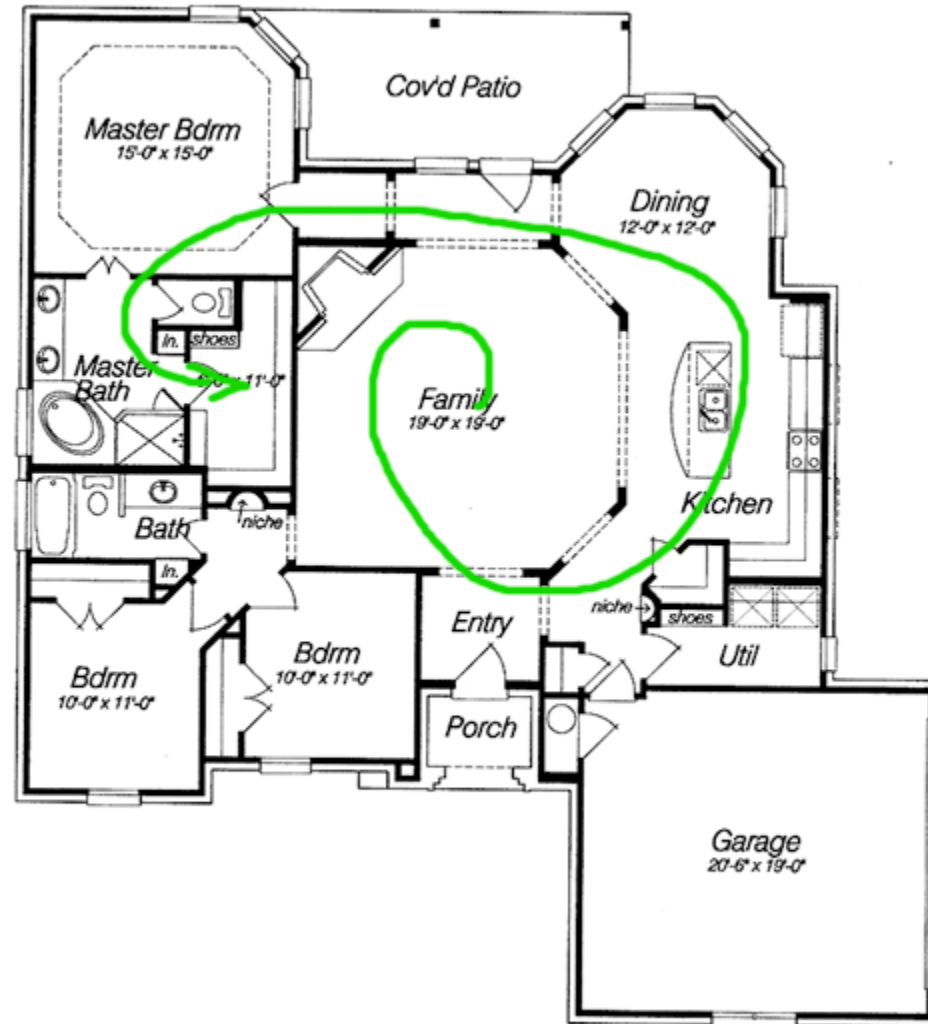
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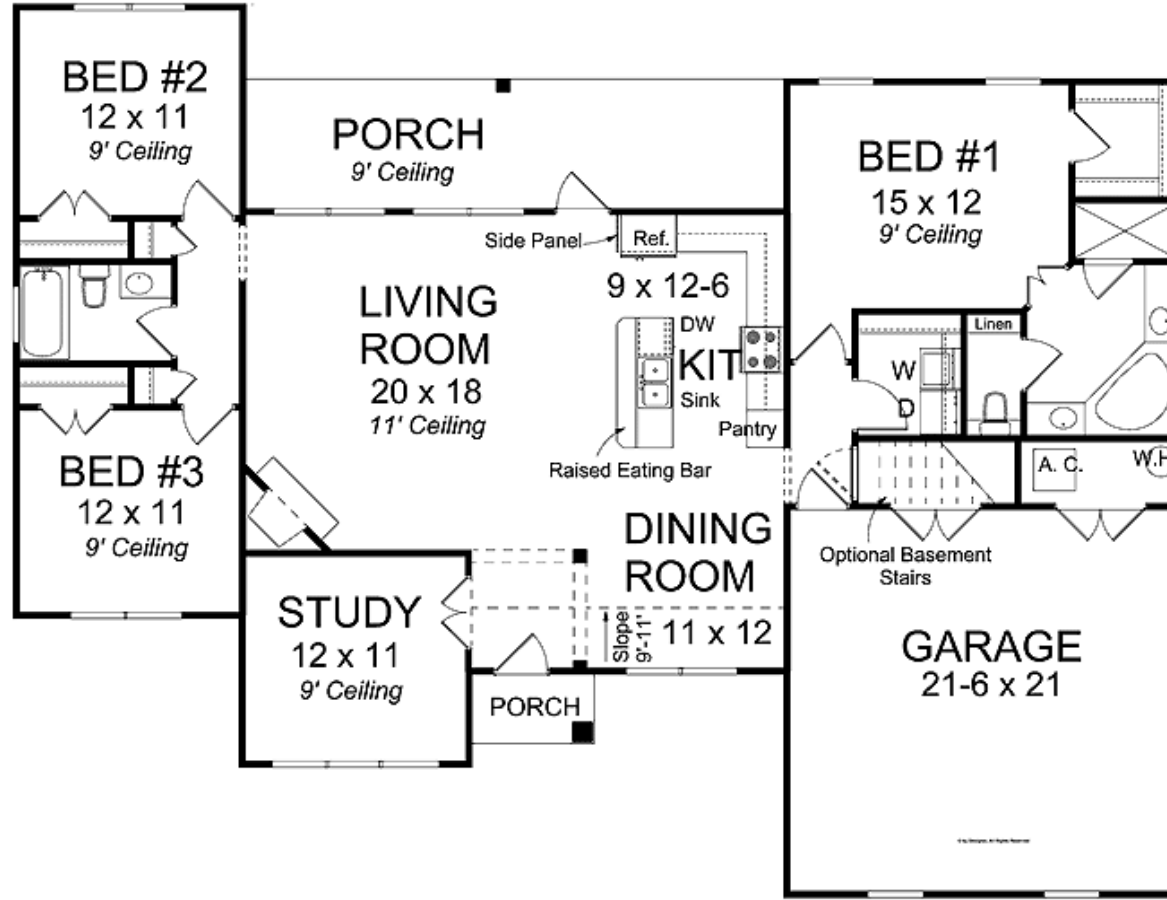
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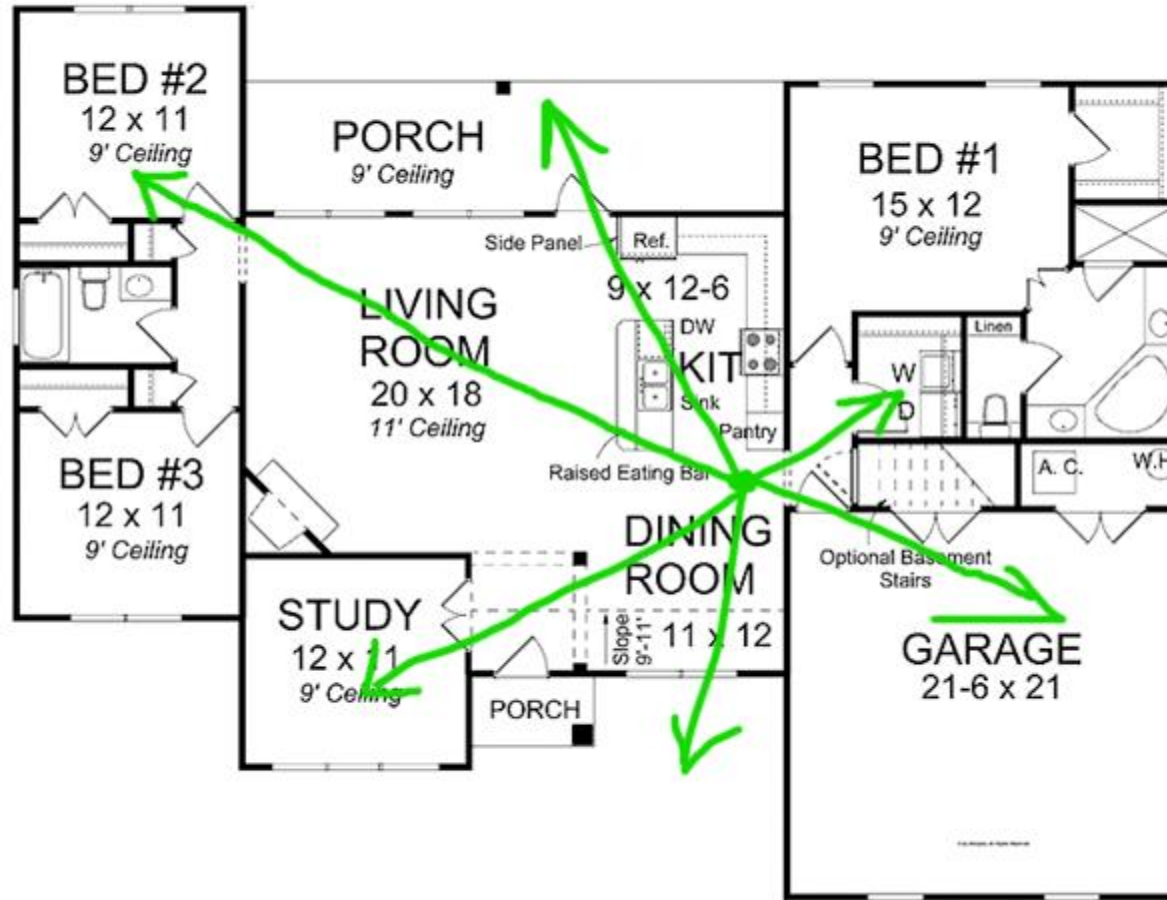
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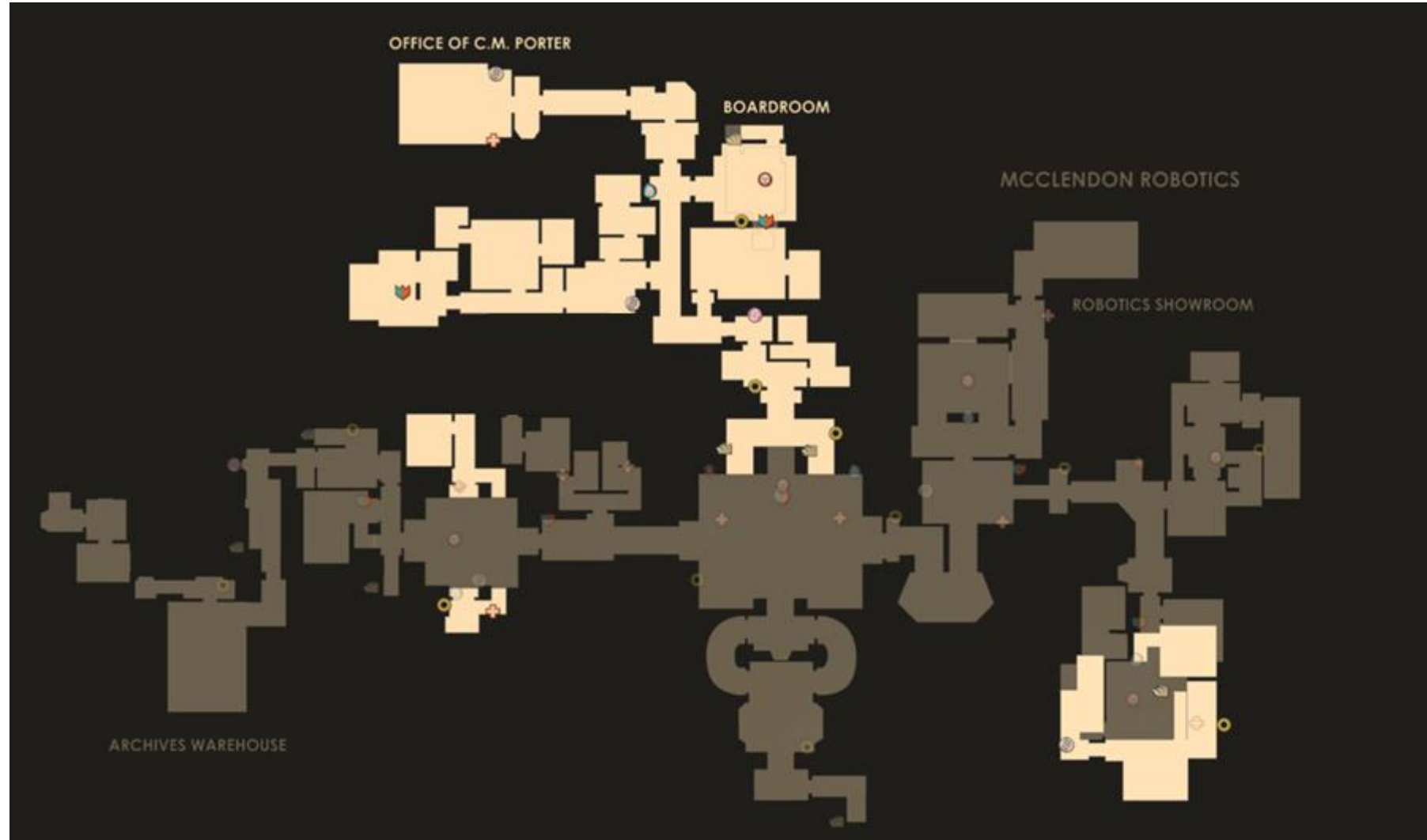
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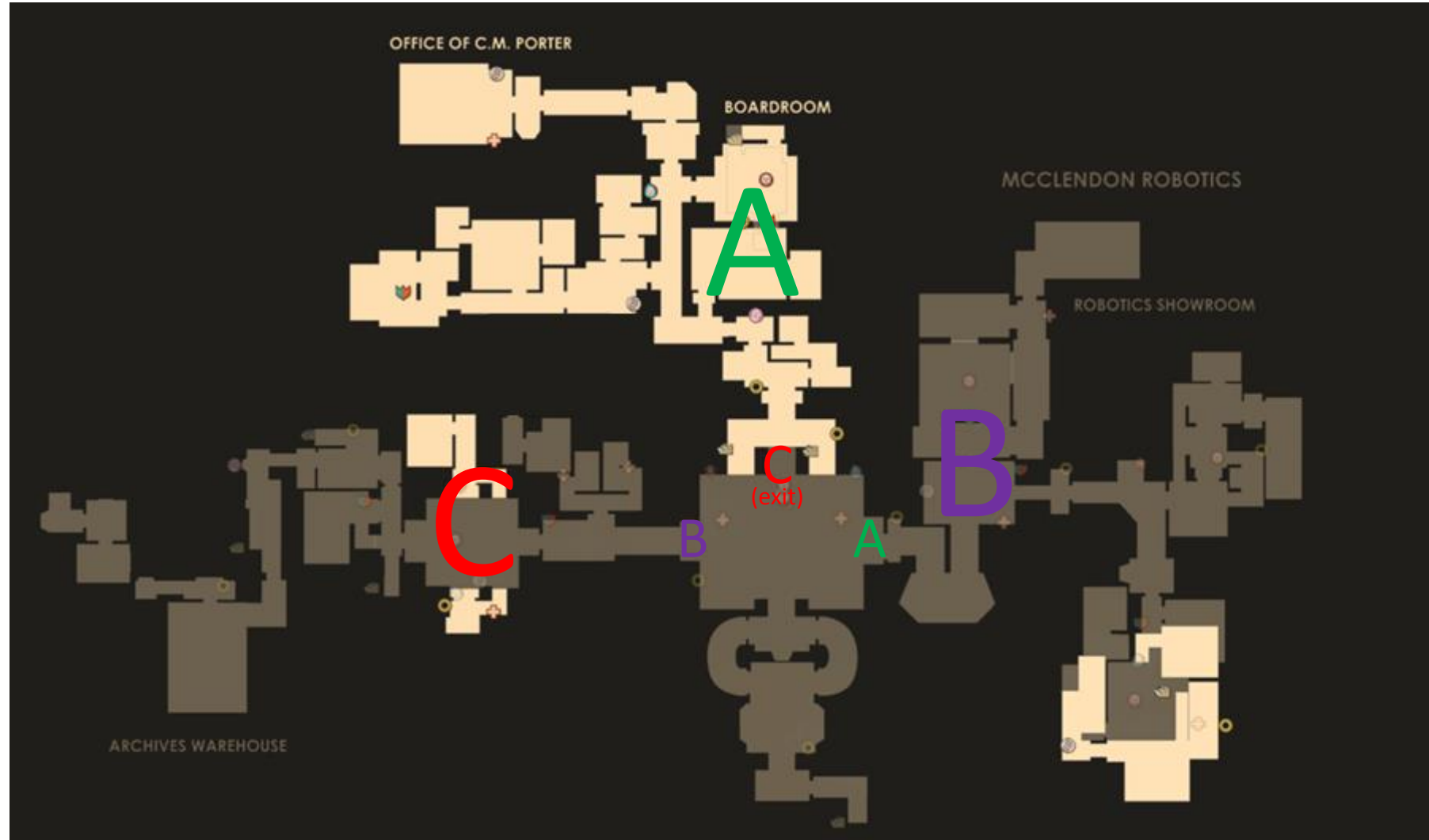
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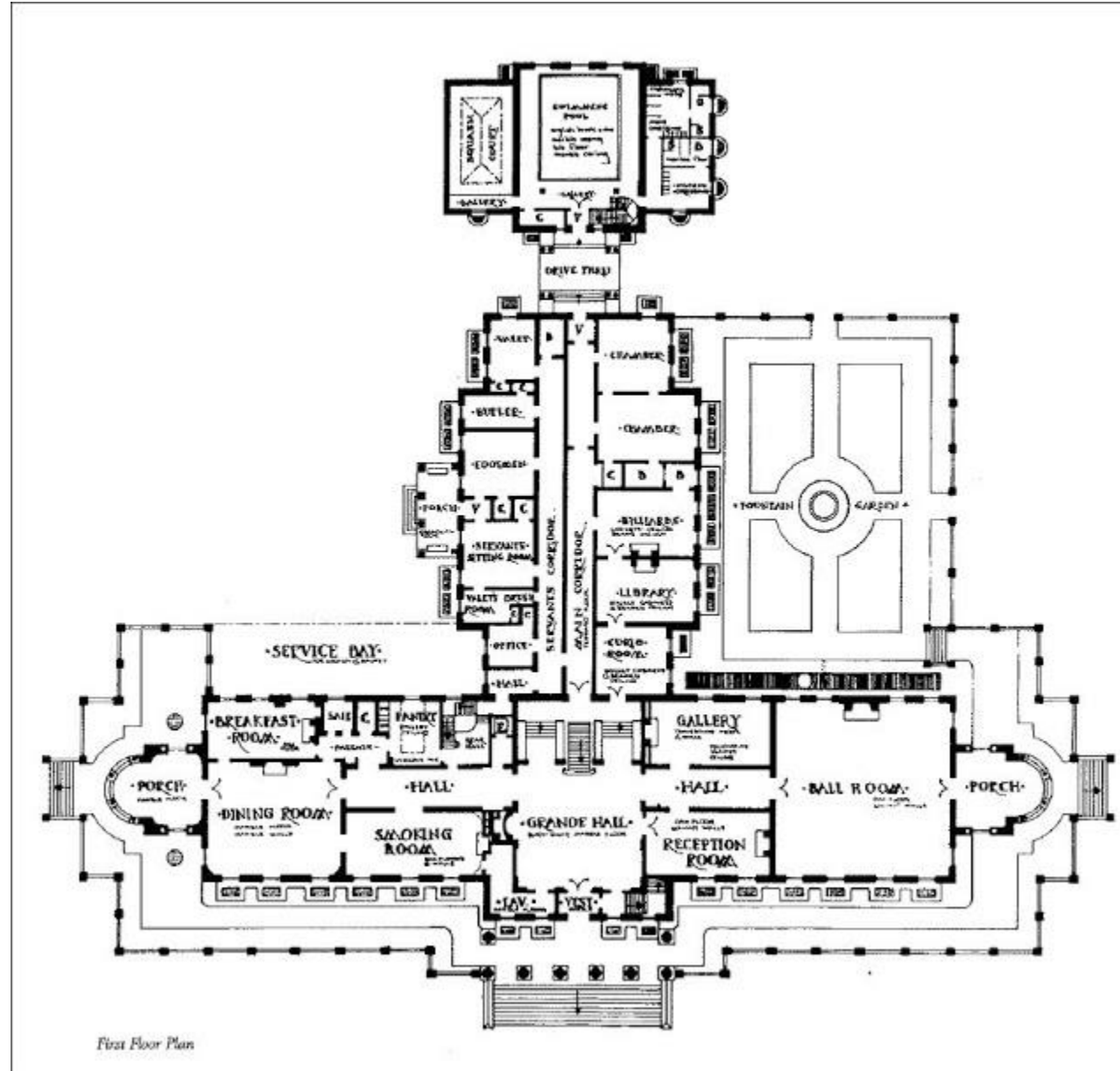
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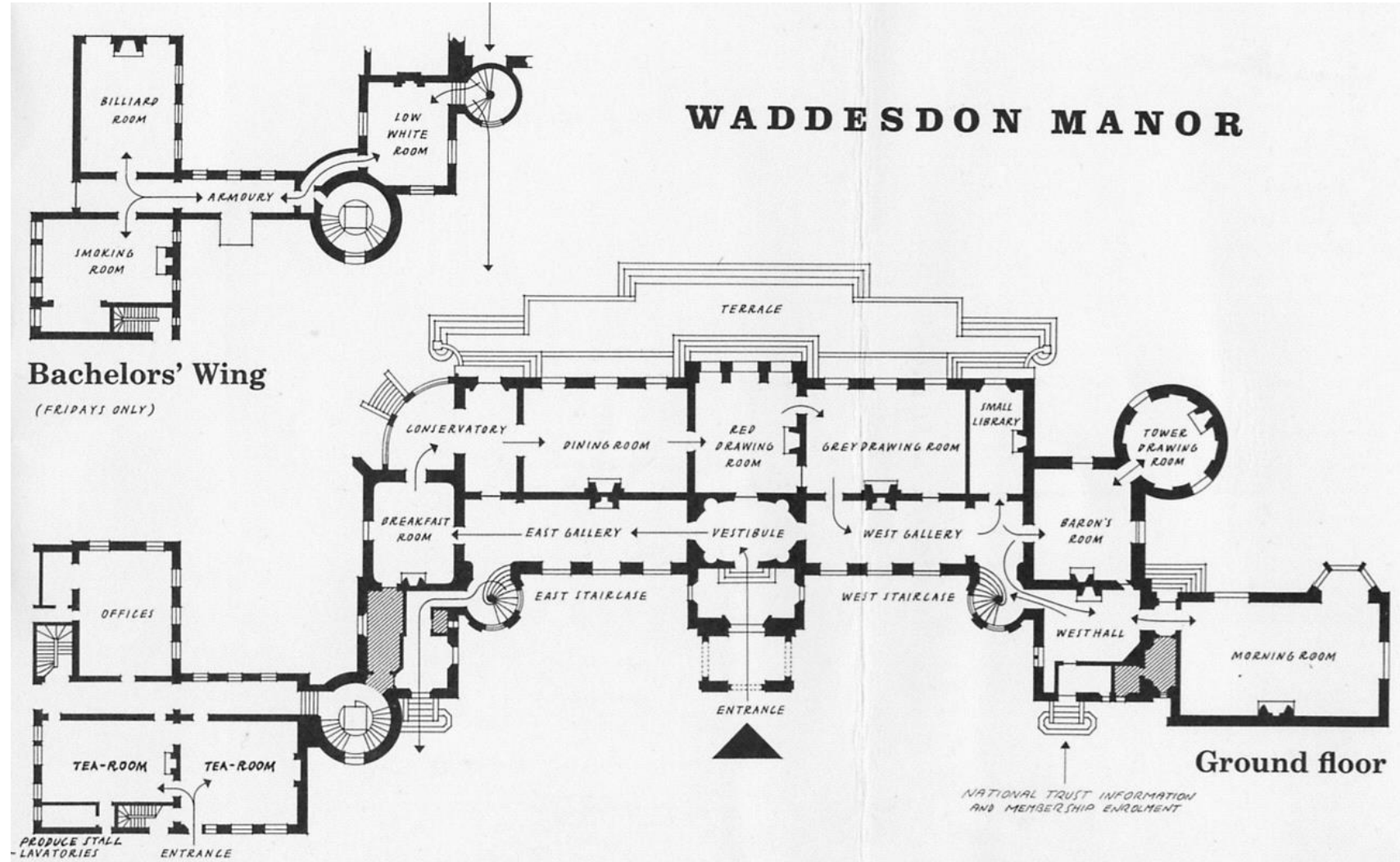
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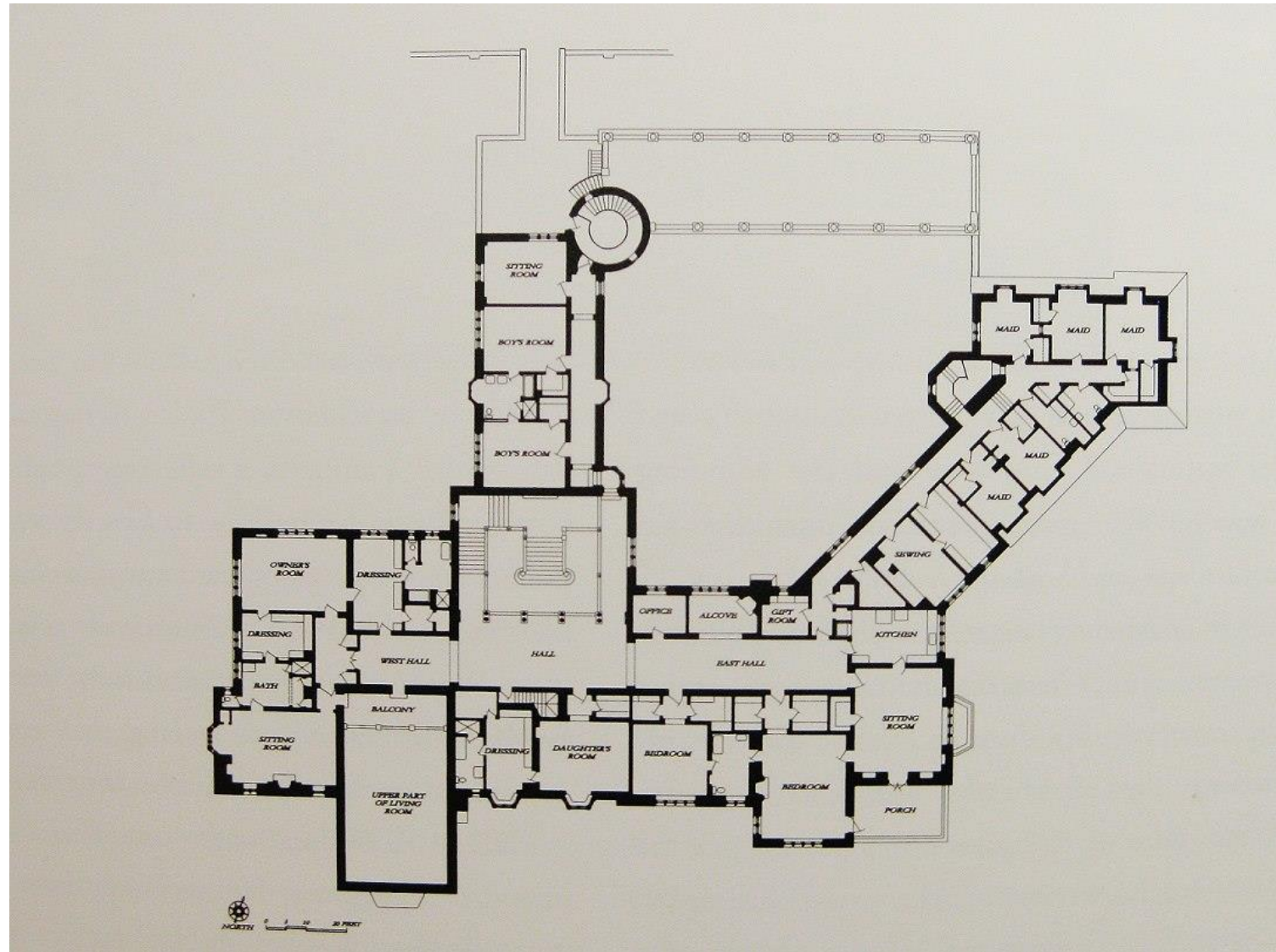
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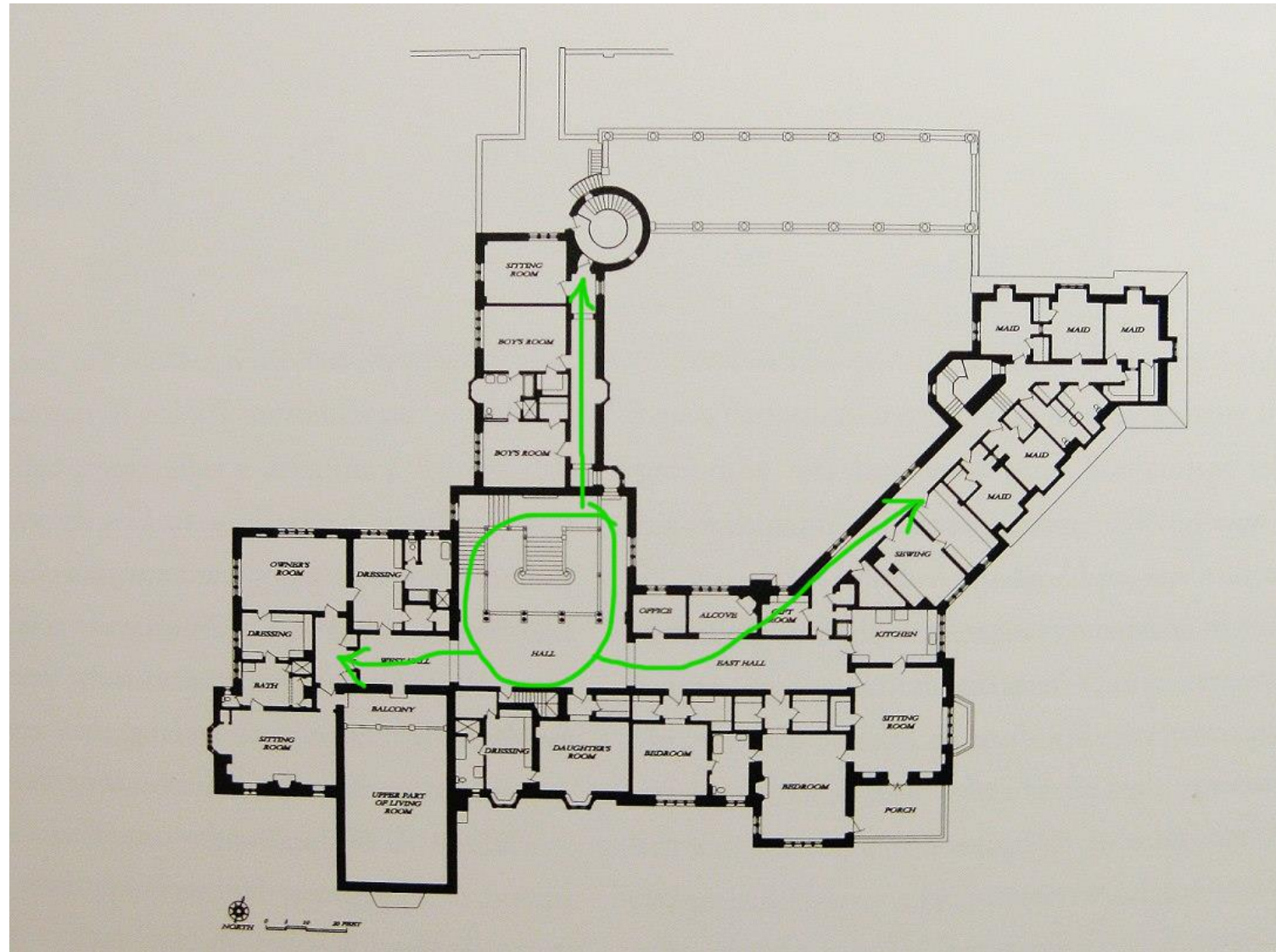
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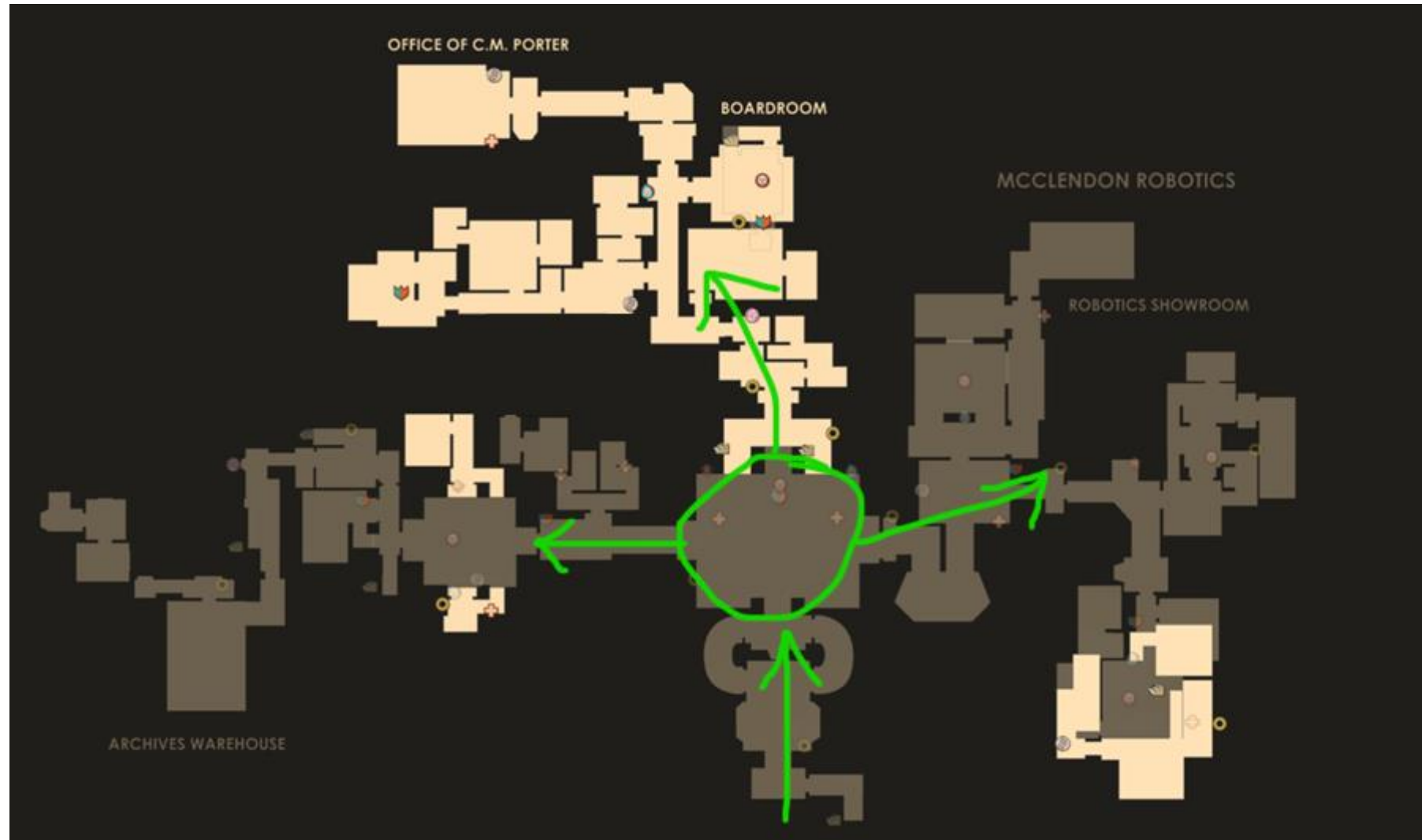
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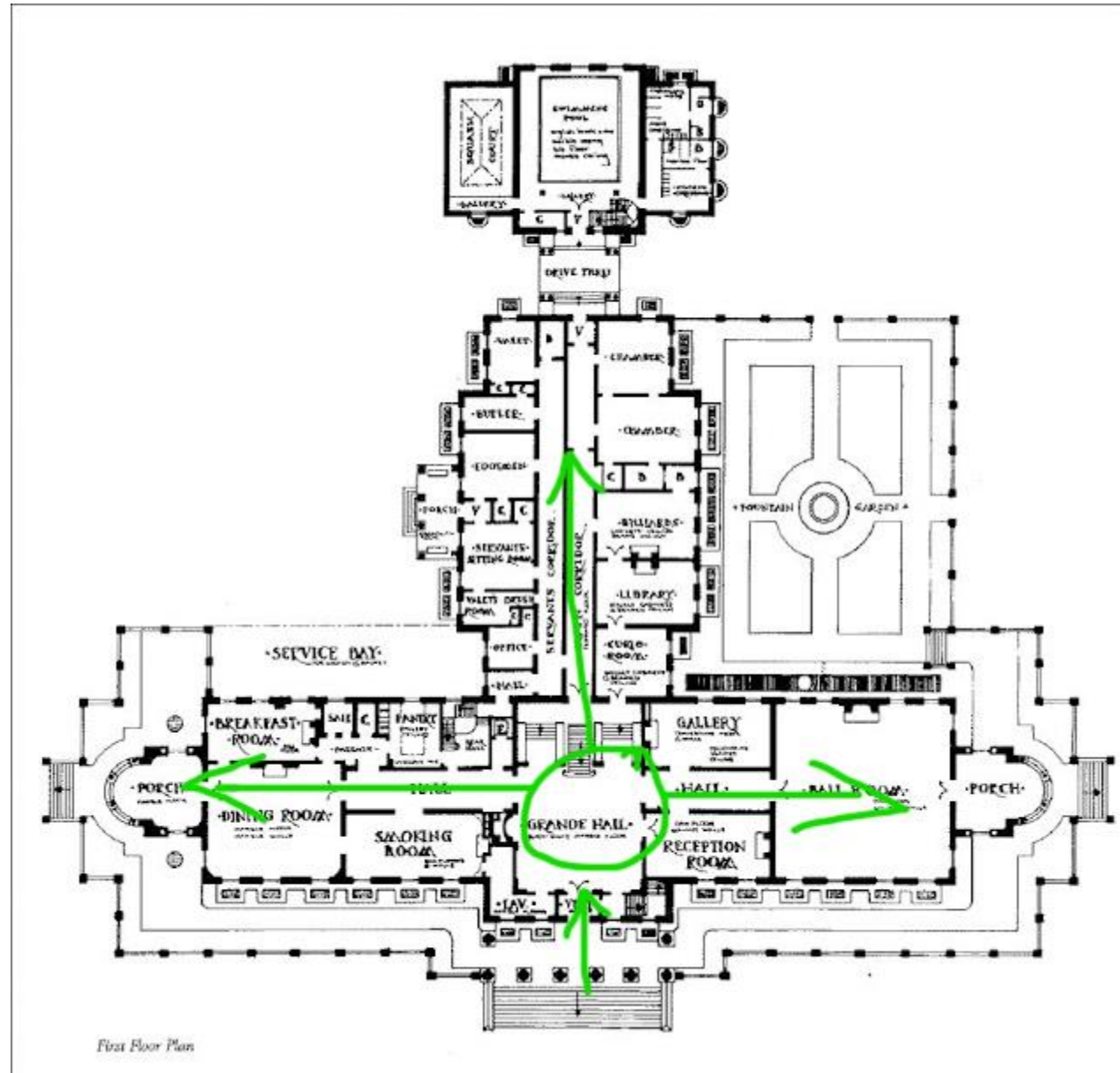
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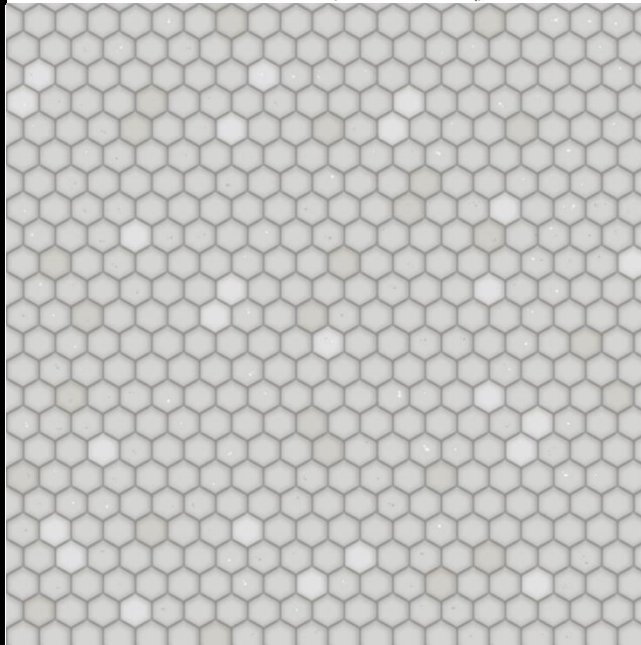


Arbor Hill, 2012

Building Arbor Hill



Building Arbor Hill



Building Arbor Hill



Building Arbor Hill



Building Arbor Hill



Complementary Architecture



- Grand front rooms set a tone



PLATE 11. The coffered ceiling, honey-colored oak paneling, and floor-to-ceiling door frames of the great hall offered a foretaste of the Knapp house's grandeur.

- Grand front rooms set a tone
- High ceilings with visually interesting detail

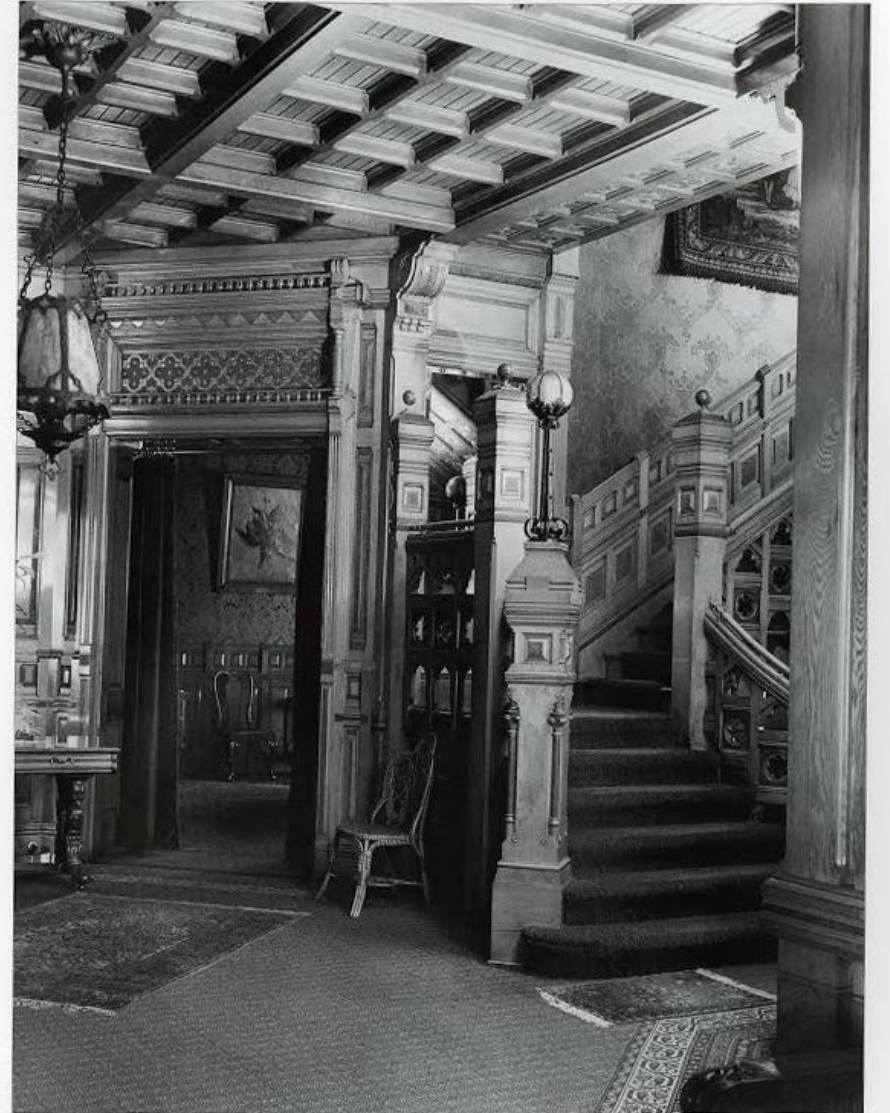


PLATE 28. Two carved oak newel posts with uniquely fashioned iron lamp standards flanked the base of the staircase in the great hall. A tapestry was hung above the carved oak paneling on the stairway.

Complementary Architecture

- Grand front rooms set a tone
- High ceilings with visually interesting detail
- Pocket doors resolve some player collision issues



- Grand front rooms set a tone
- High ceilings with visually interesting detail
- Pocket doors resolve many player collision issues
- Symbolism and allegory in décor for ambient storytelling



PLATE 76. The wall treatments glimpsed in the previous two photographs are shown in an image that highlights the architect's complex vision.

- Wide main hallways and grand front rooms feel natural
- High ceilings with visually interesting detail
- Pocket doors resolve many player collision issues
- Symbolism and allegory in décor for ambient storytelling
- Closed concept, rooms aren't viewable at once



PLATE 42. The magnificent doorways on either side of the small heat register dominated one end of the room.

... and Less Than Complementary Architecture

- Time consuming to create decorative elements

... and Less Than Complementary Architecture

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- Narrow, dark service passages and had to be pushed towards modern proportions

... and Less Than Complementary Architecture




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... and Less Than Complementary Architecture





- Time consuming to create decorative elements
- Narrow, dark service passages and had to be pushed towards modern proportions
- Required visual research of old technology

Google

victorian architecture



+Kate



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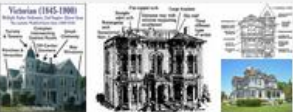
Interior




Drawings




Houses





































Characteristics



Gothic



Modern



Victorian (1845-1900)

Multiple Styles Influenced, Did Evolve, Queen Anne
The variety: Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Italianate, etc.

Turrets & Towers

Complex Intersecting Gabled Roofs

Small Chimney

Off-Center Windows

Bay Windows

Porches & Verandas

♥ Newel posts

♥ Gingerbreeding

♥ Frieze

♥ Mullions

♥ Octopus furnace

♥ Picture moulding

♥ Cornice moulding

♥ Crenulation

♥ Eastlake style

♥ Hemacite

♥ Grille

♥ Pediment

HERITAGE LOST

Two Grand Portland Houses
Through the Lens of Minor White

— FRED DEWOLFE —



PLATE 22. Some of the ornate old fireplaces were converted to gas. The ornamental facings of this hearth complemented the iron insert with its molded scrollwork and partially concealed animal head.

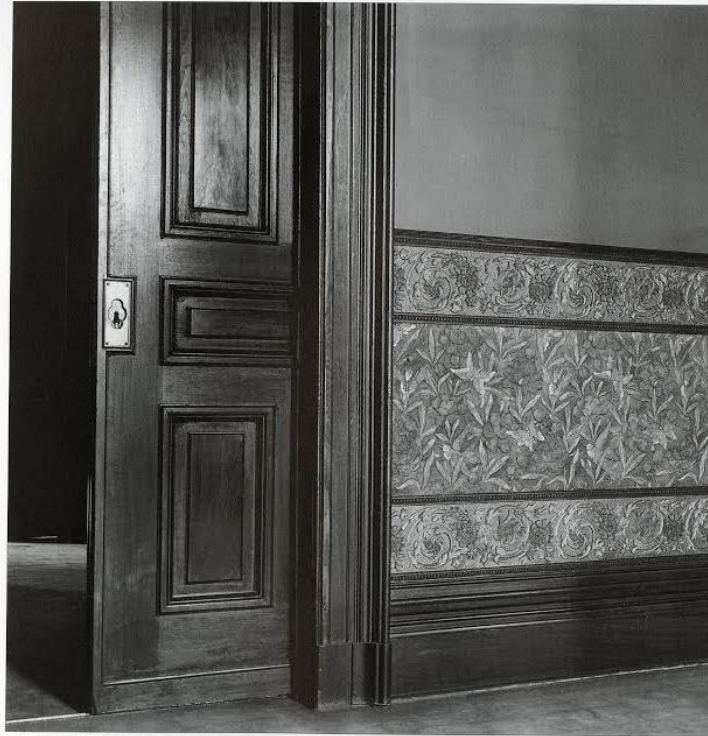


PLATE 58. The camera lingers on a pocket door and elaborate embossed wain



PLATE 54. Before entering the house, White trains his camera on the bracketed cornice and pediment—Williams' architectural signature.

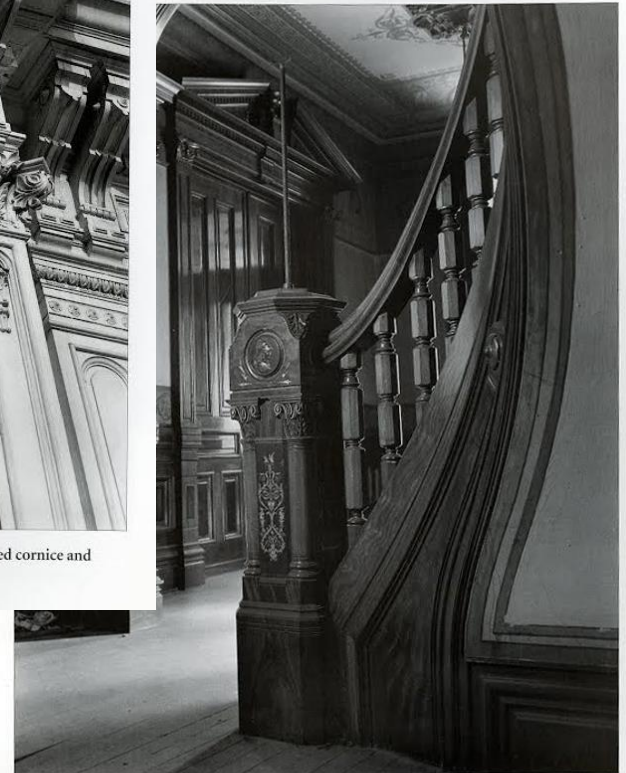


PLATE 69. The carved walnut newel post had once been outfitted with a lamp, but by 1942 only the bare standard remained.









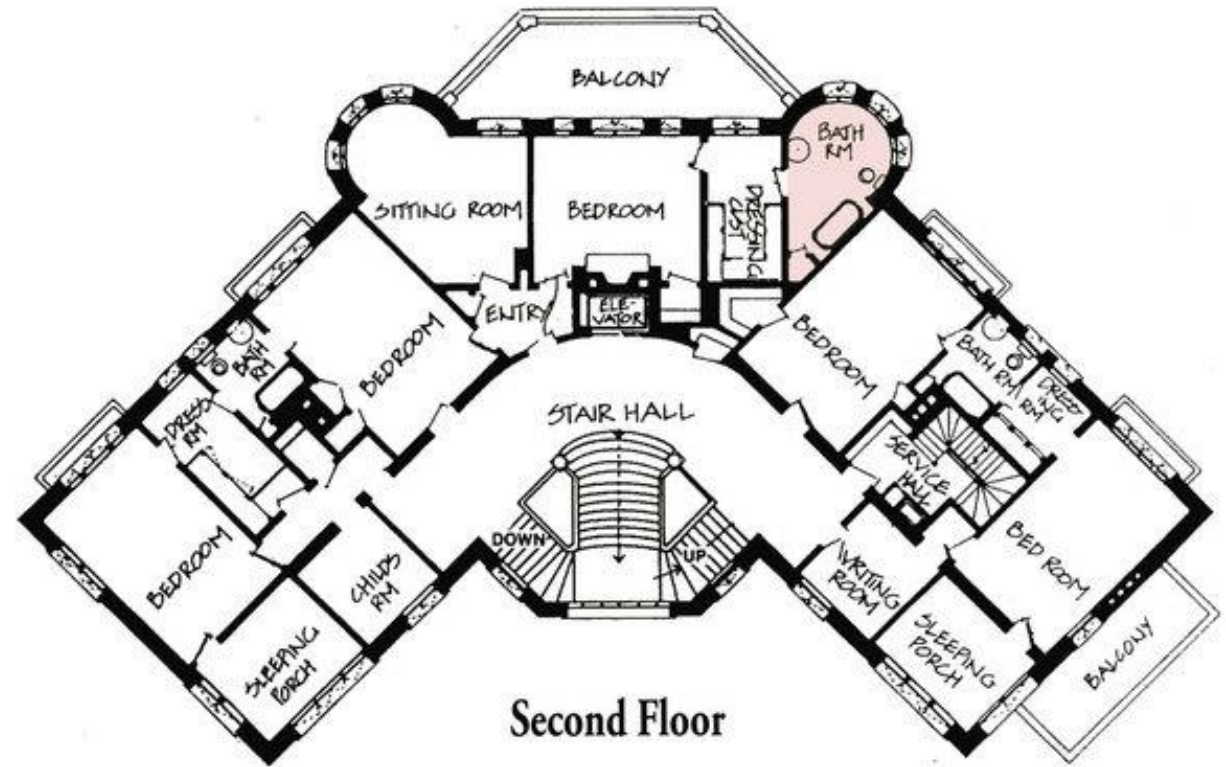
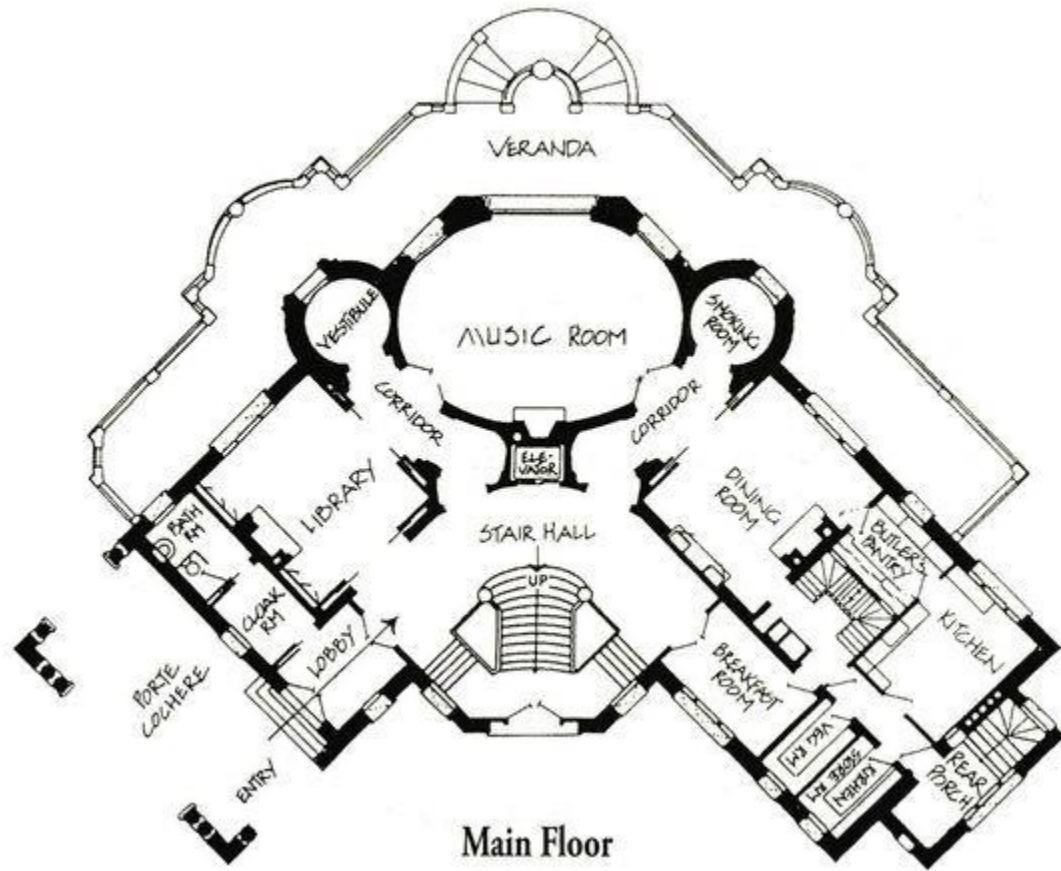


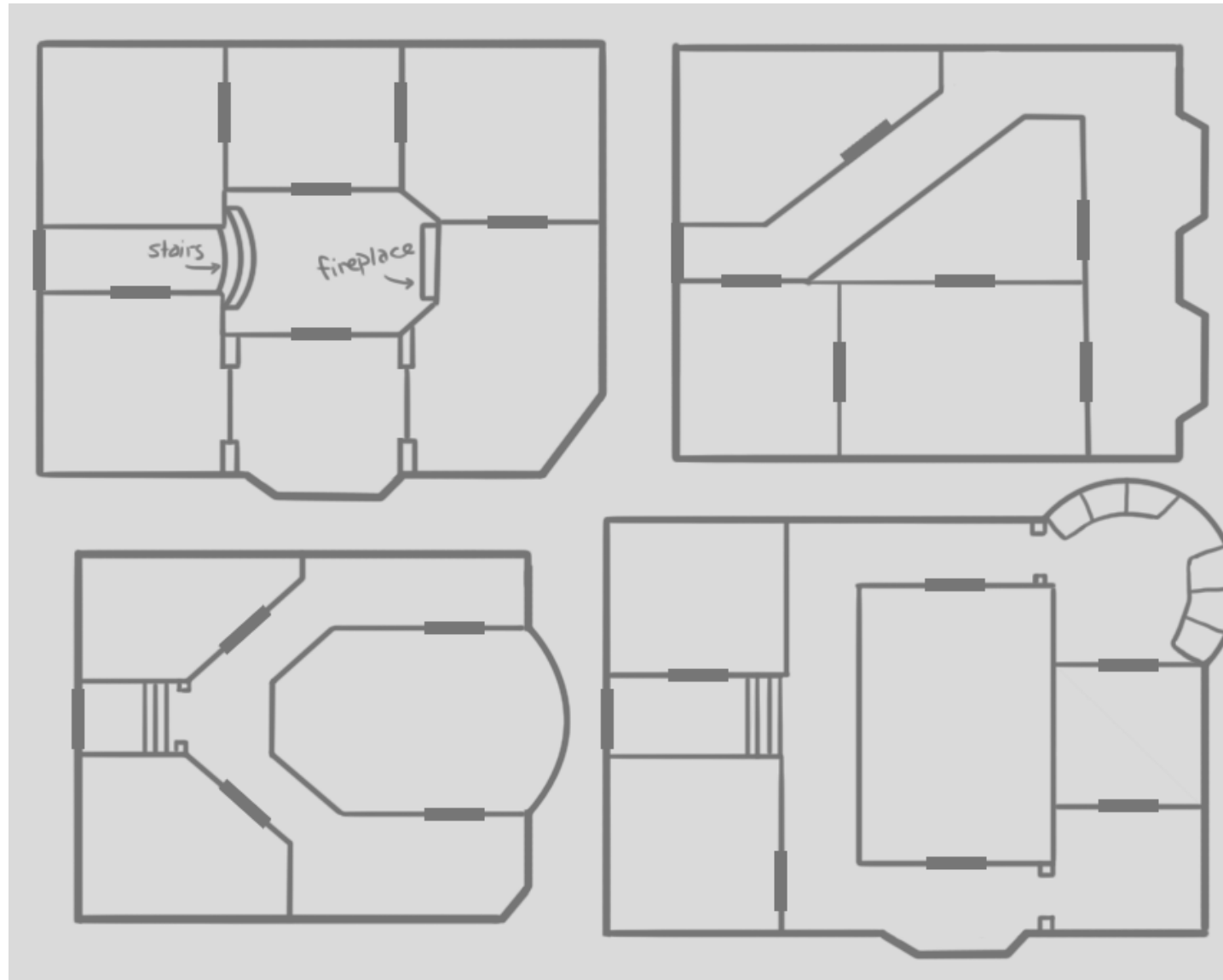
Practical Uses!

East and West



East and West





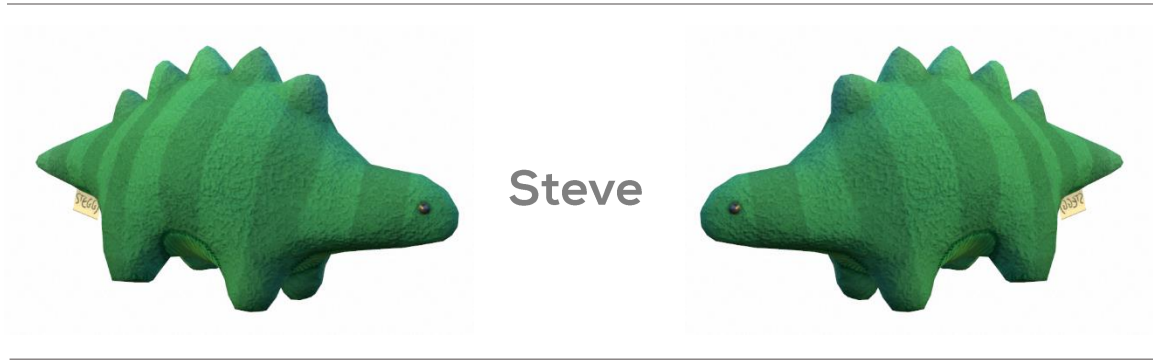


East and West





PLATE 6. The camera lingers on the romantic tower—embellished with decorative shingles, stained-glass windows, and elaborate iron cresting and watched over by a whimsical owl (middle right).



Micro to Macro and Back

- AUTHENTICITY





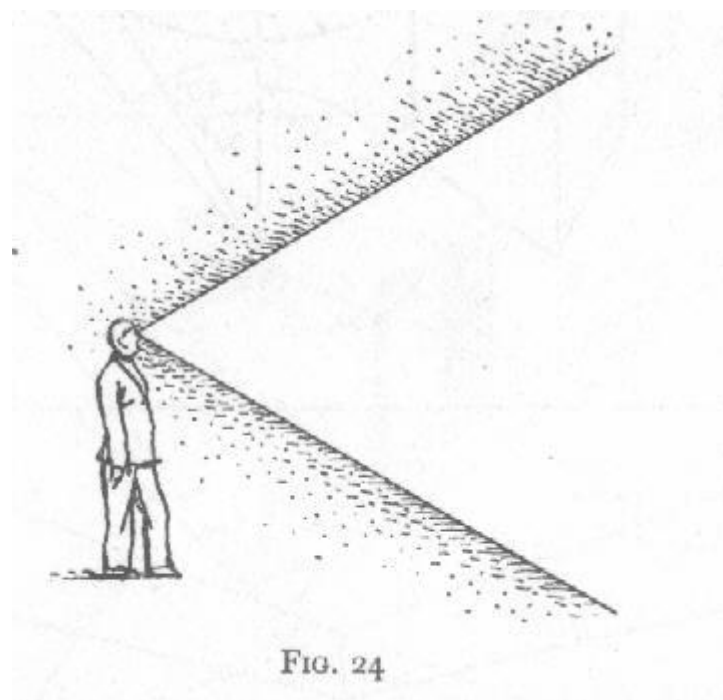


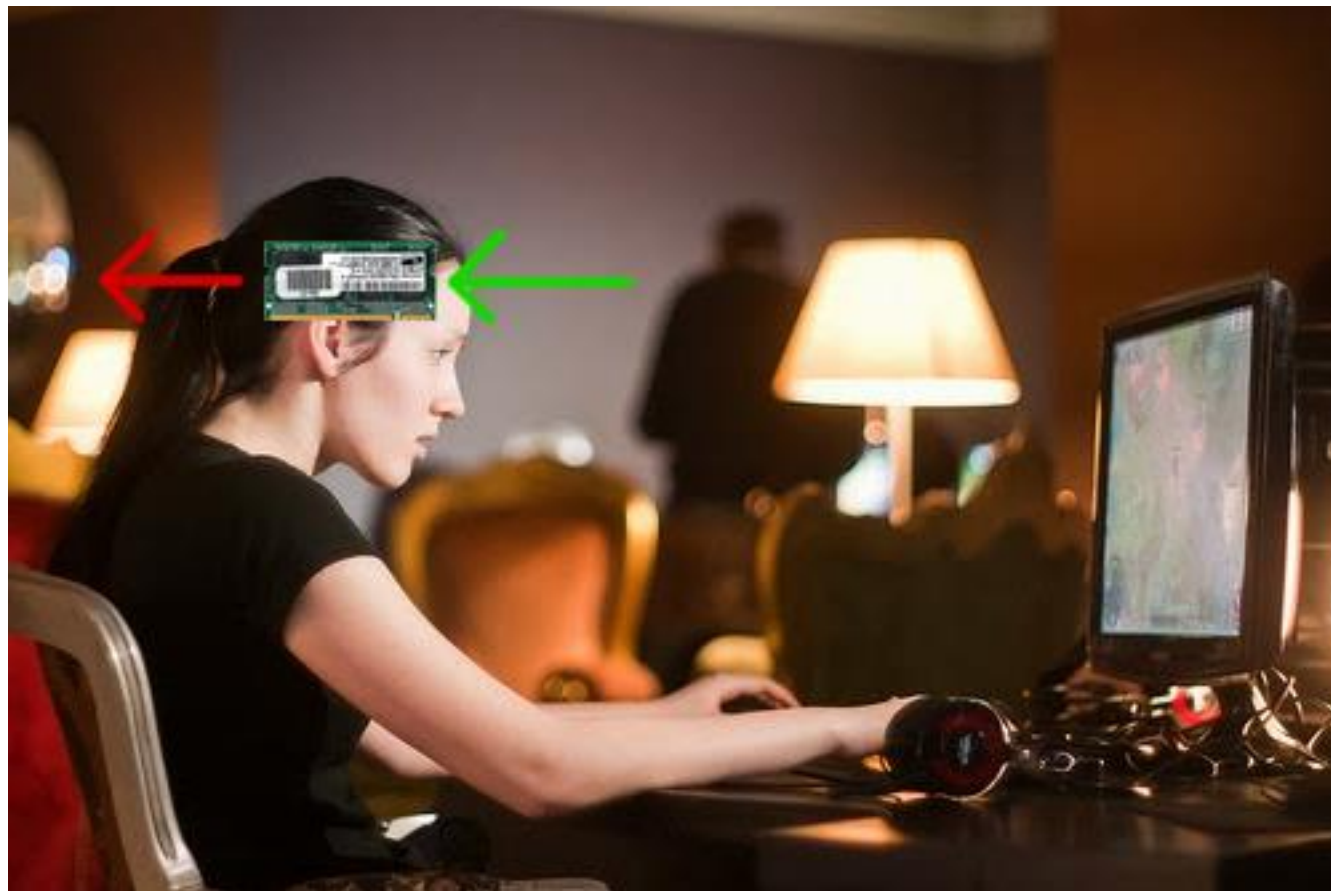
FIG. 24



















KEN LEVINE

■ **WHO:** General Manager/
Founder of Irrational Games



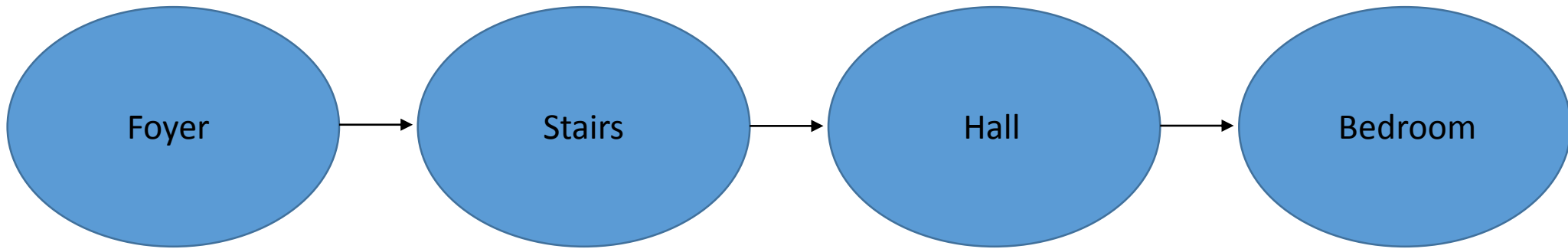


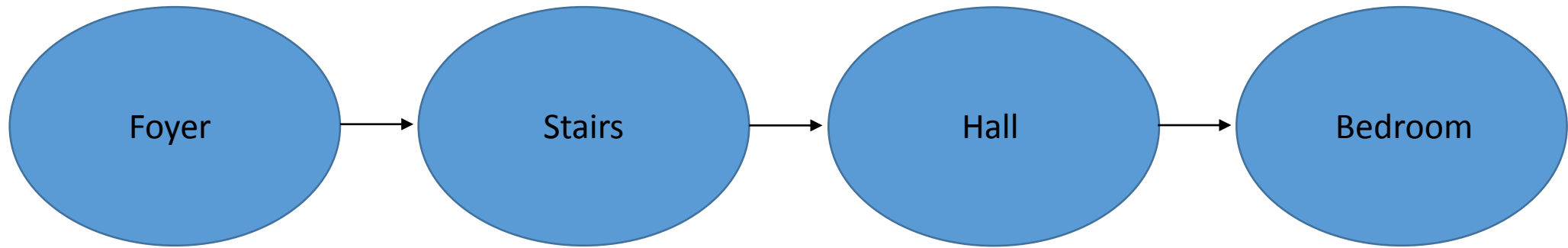




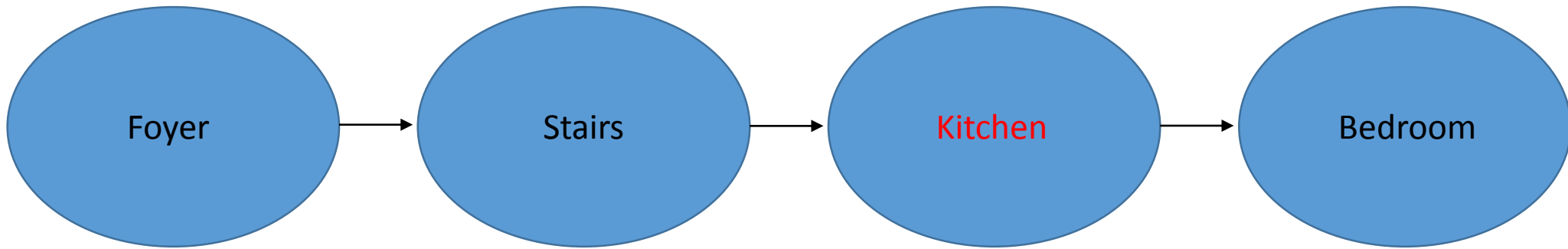


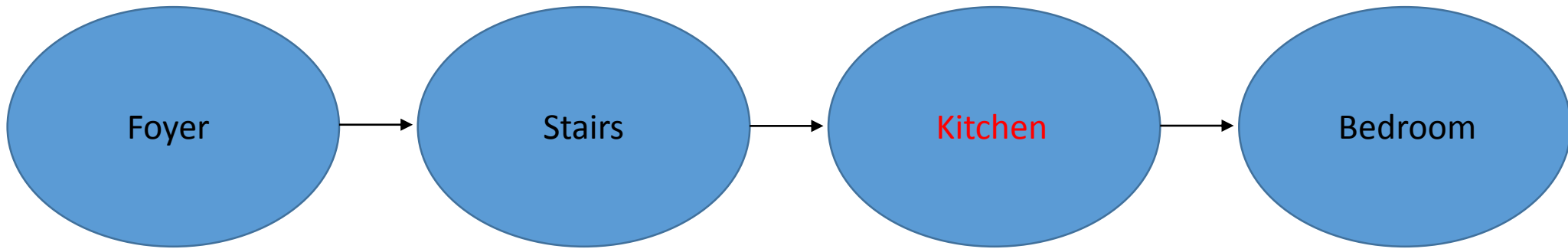






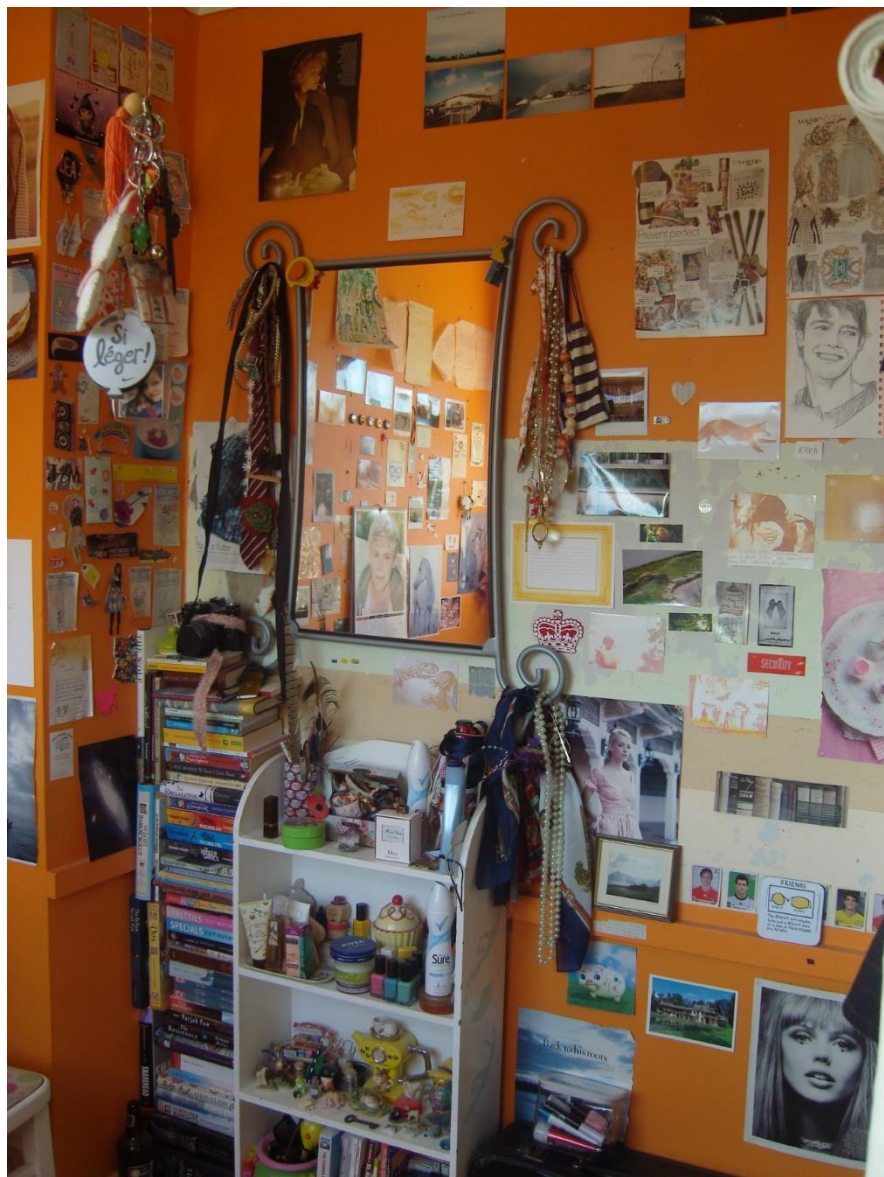
OK!





NO





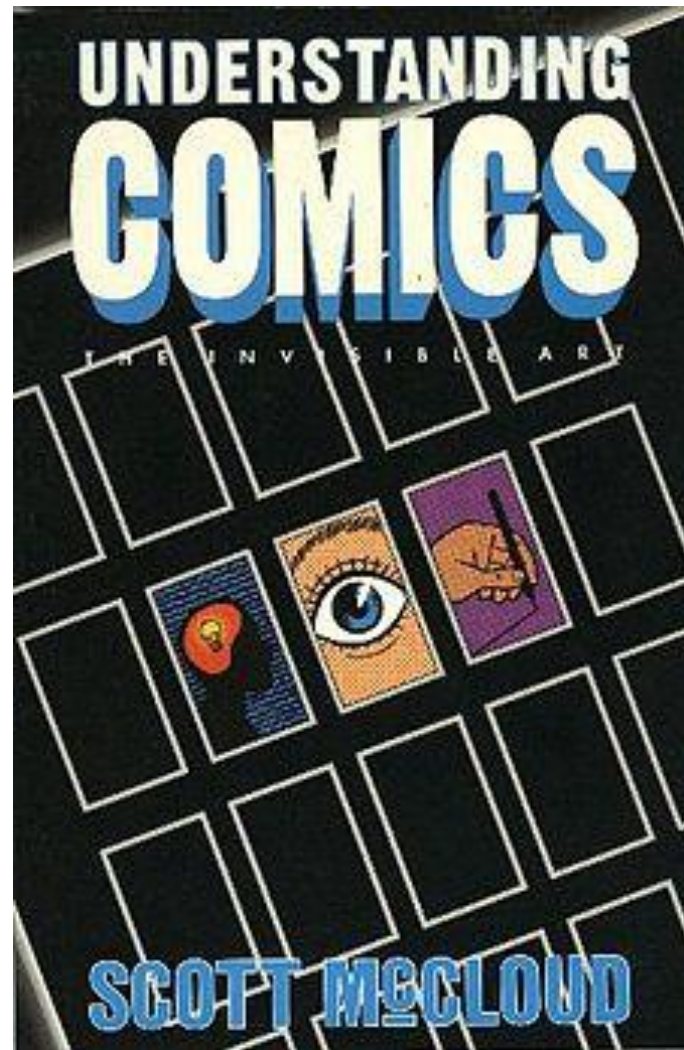
teenagebedroom.tumblr.com





- "The bedroom of an angsty teenager feels like the bedroom of an angsty teenager... Gone Home's world just feels straight-up real." -IGN

- “The bedroom of an angsty teenager **feels** like the bedroom of an angsty teenager... Gone Home's world just **feels** straight-up real.” -IGN



DEFINING THE
CARTOON WOULD
TAKE UP AS MUCH
SPACE AS DEFINING
COMICS. BUT FOR
NOW, I'M GOING TO
EXAMINE CARTOONING
AS A FORM OF
*AMPLIFICATION
THROUGH
SIMPLIFICATION.*



WHEN WE
ABSTRACT AN IMAGE
THROUGH *CARTOONING*,
WE'RE NOT SO MUCH
ELIMINATING DETAILS
AS WE ARE *FOCUSING*
ON *SPECIFIC
DETAILS.*

BY *STRIPPING
DOWN* AN IMAGE
TO ITS ESSENTIAL
"MEANING," AN ARTIST
CAN *AMPLIFY* THAT
MEANING IN A WAY
THAT REALISTIC
ART *CAN'T.*



TWO DOTS + A LINE
IN A CIRCLE

=

A FACE



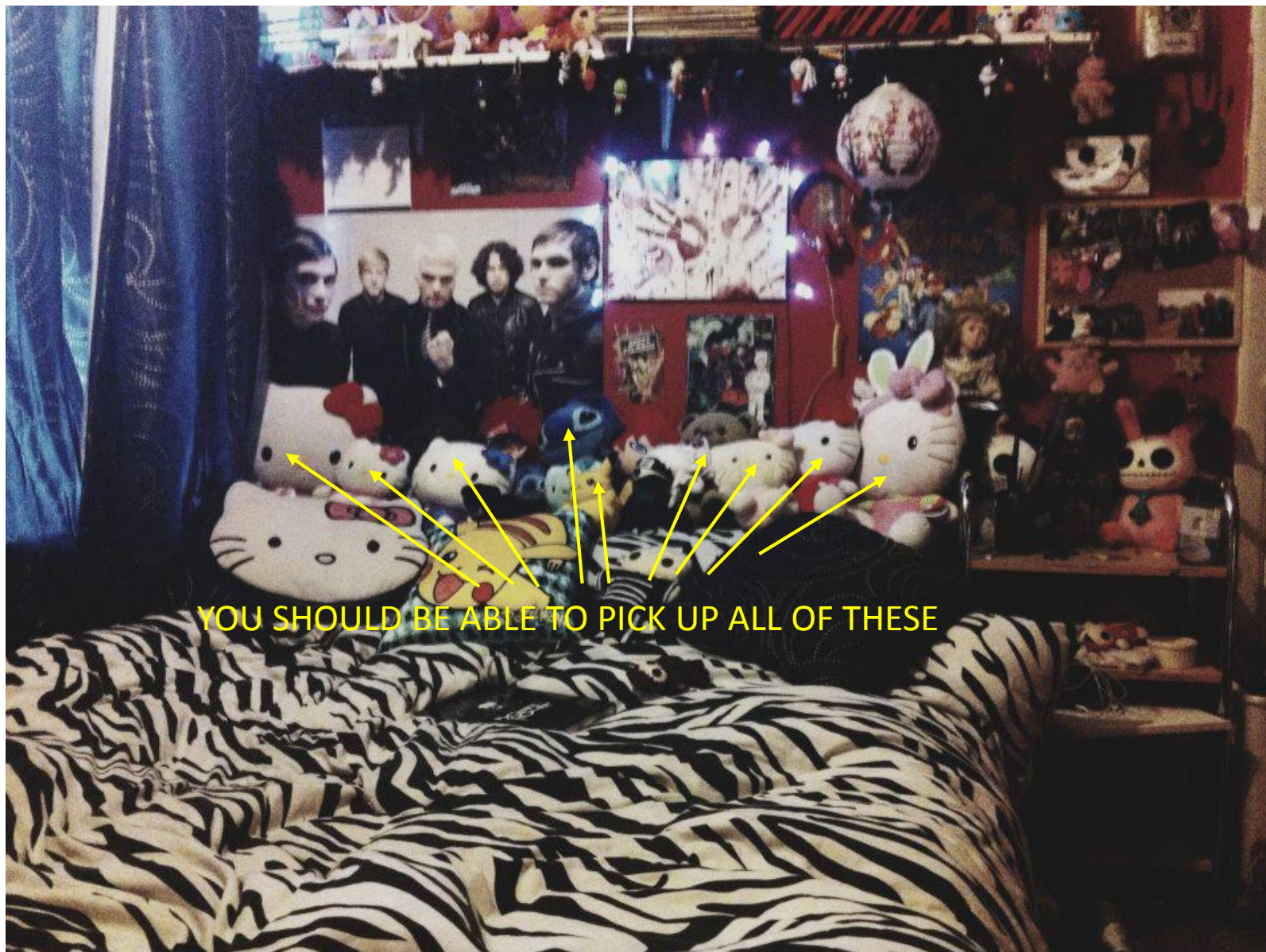
BED + POSTERS +
HOMEWORK +
CELEBRITY PHOTOS +
STUFFED ANIMALS

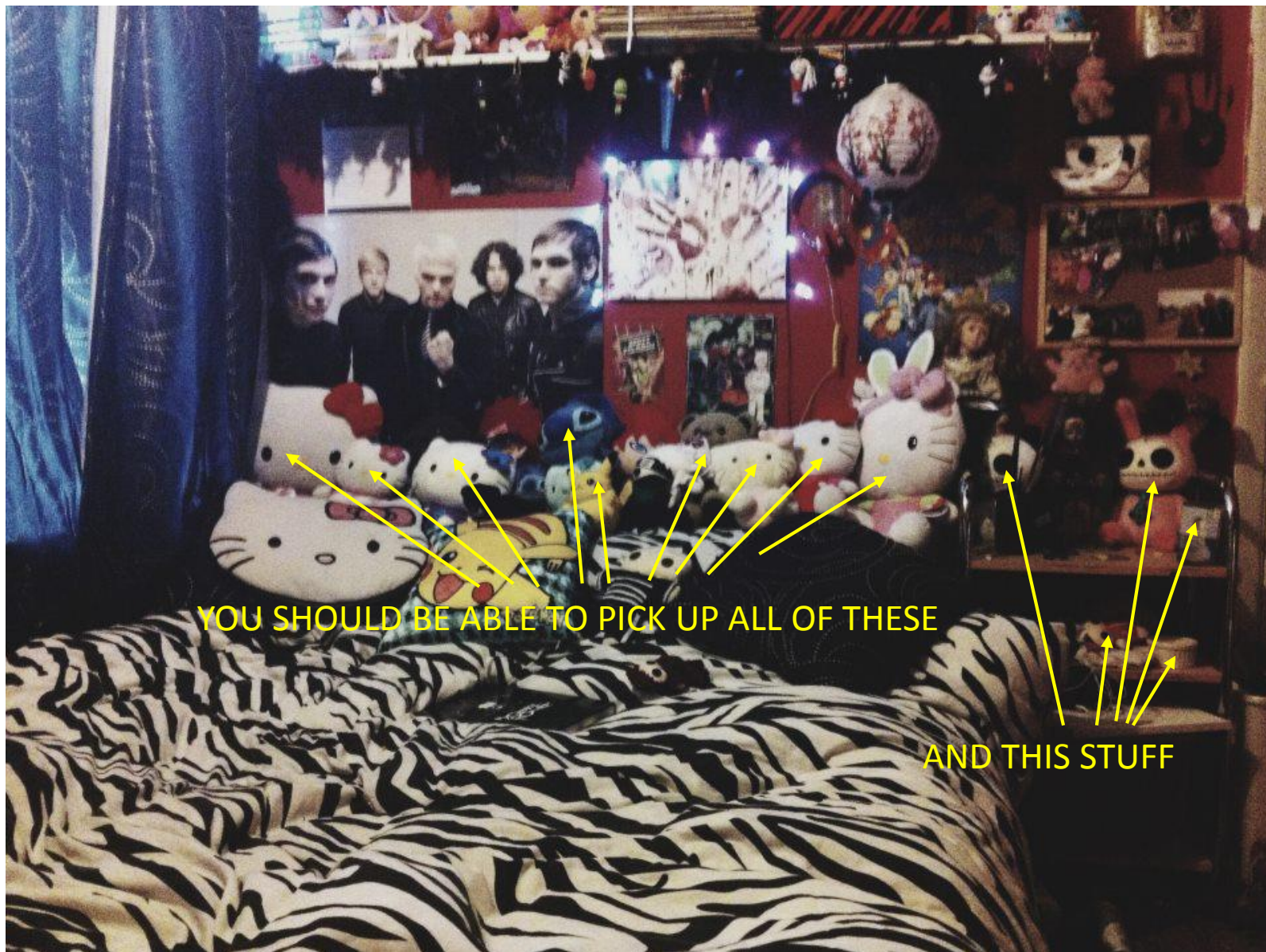
BED + POSTERS +
HOMEWORK +
CELEBRITY PHOTOS +
STUFFED ANIMALS
=TEEN GIRL'S ROOM

THERE IS NO LIFE HERE
EXCEPT THAT WHICH YOU
GIVE TO IT.



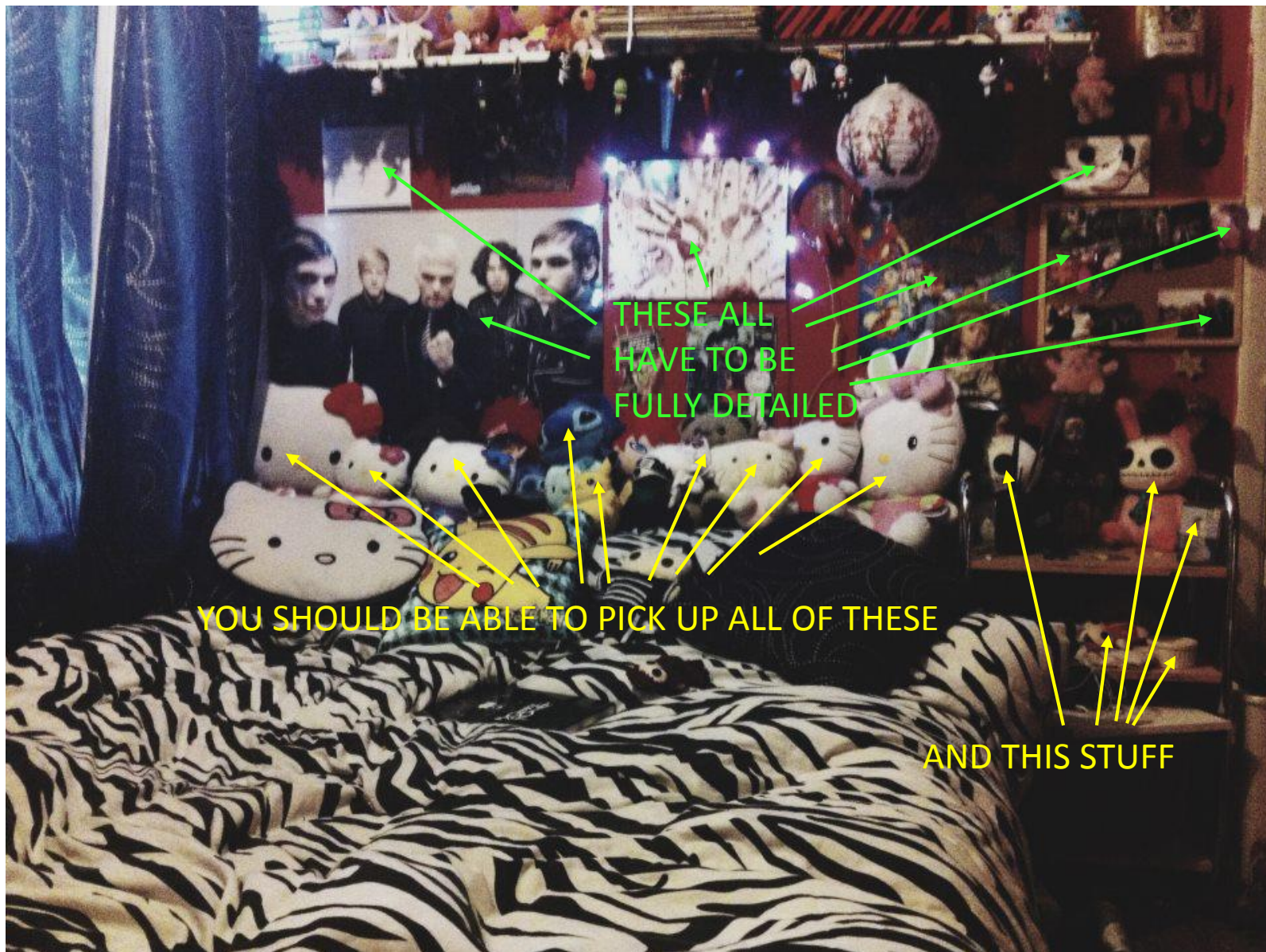


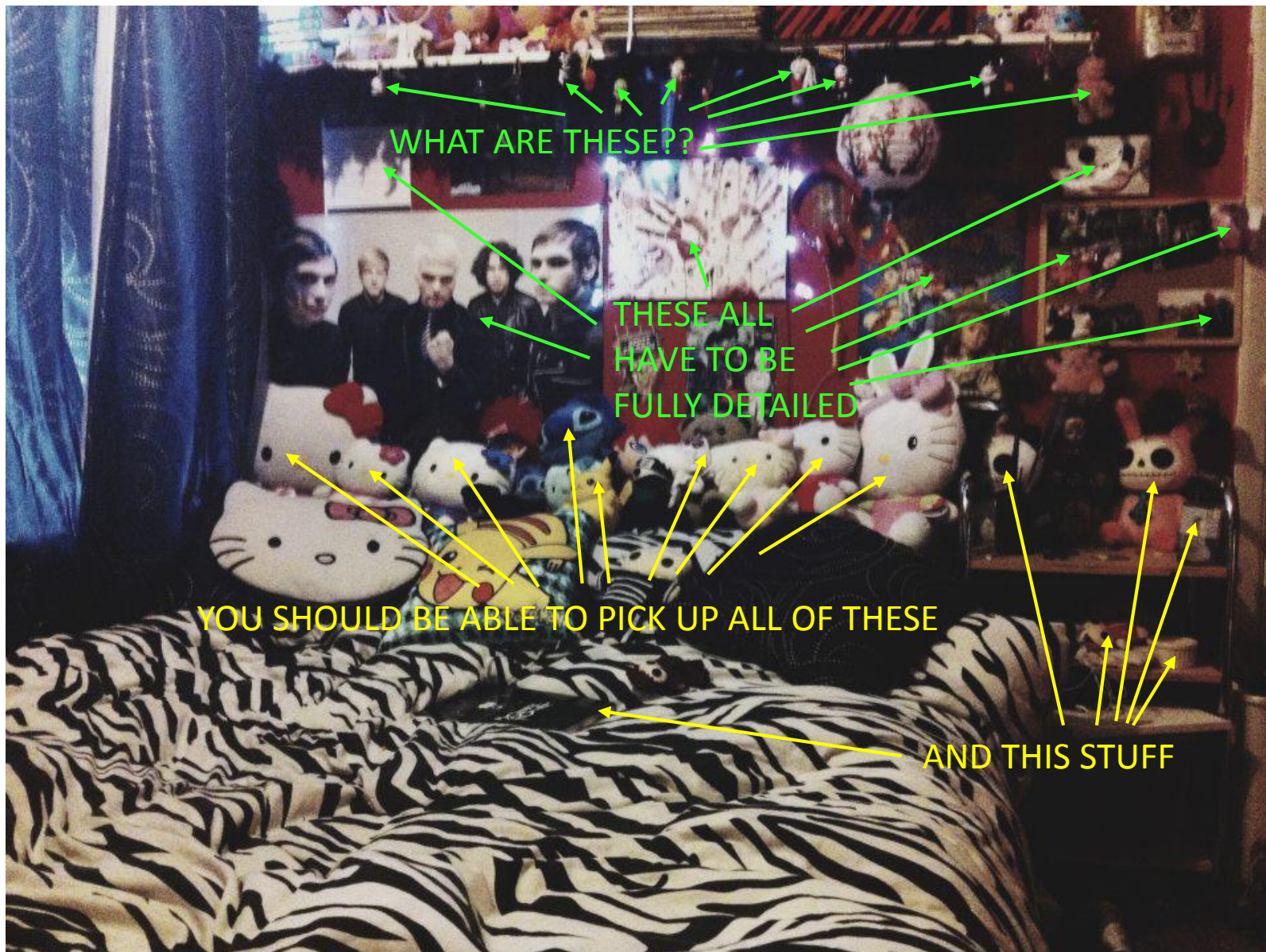




YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP ALL OF THESE

AND THIS STUFF





WHAT ARE THESE??

THESE ALL
HAVE TO BE
FULLY DETAILED

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP ALL OF THESE

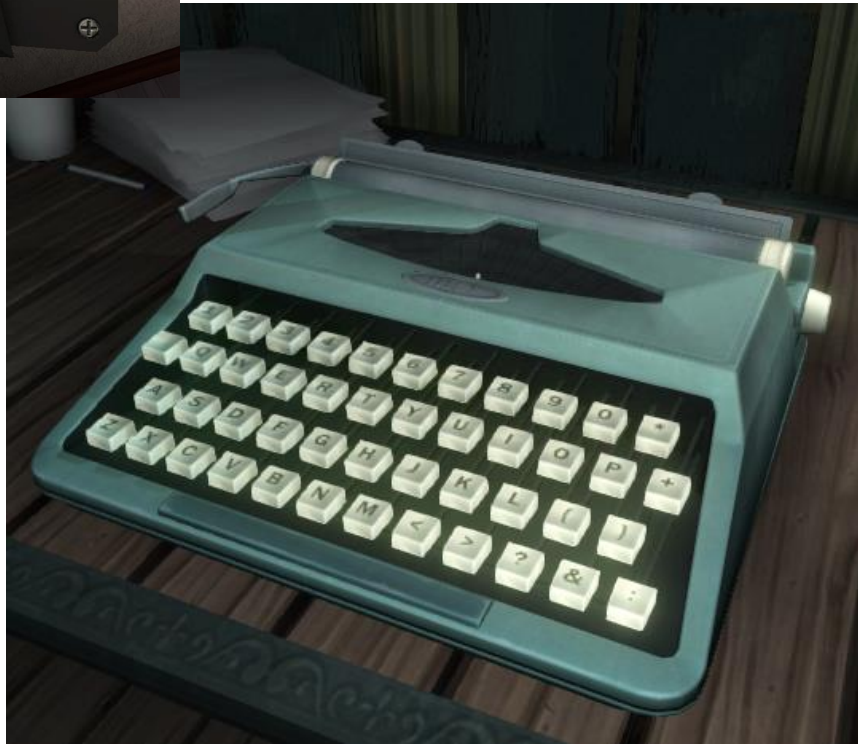
AND THIS STUFF



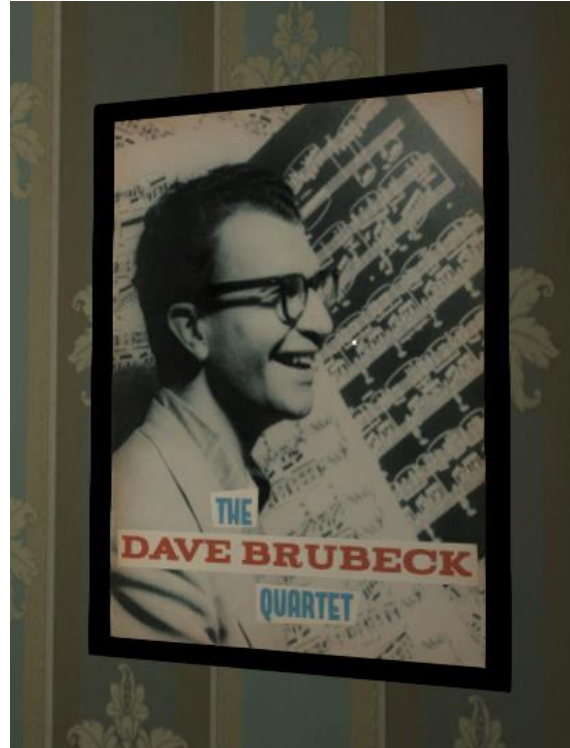
The House With No Text or Audio Clues



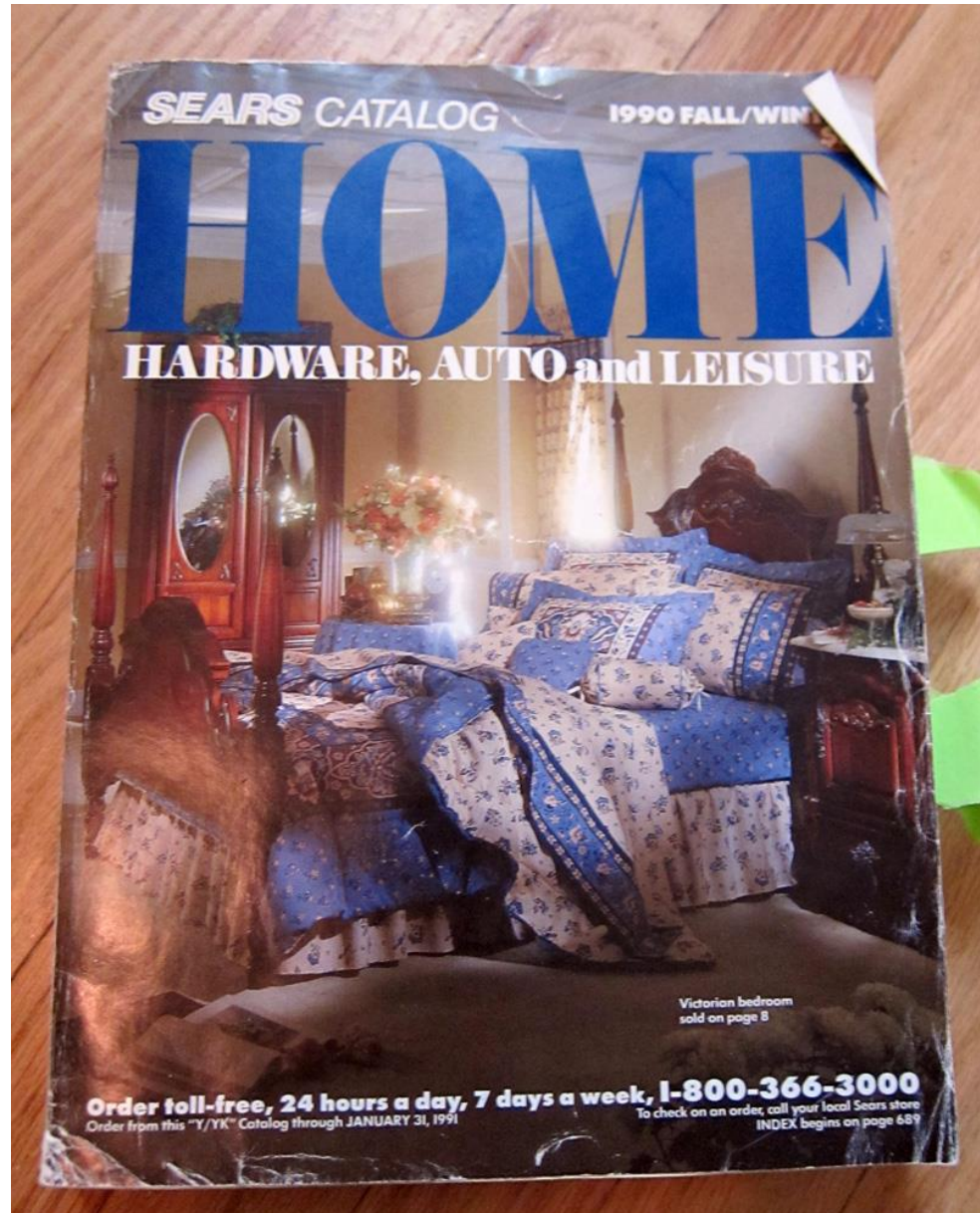
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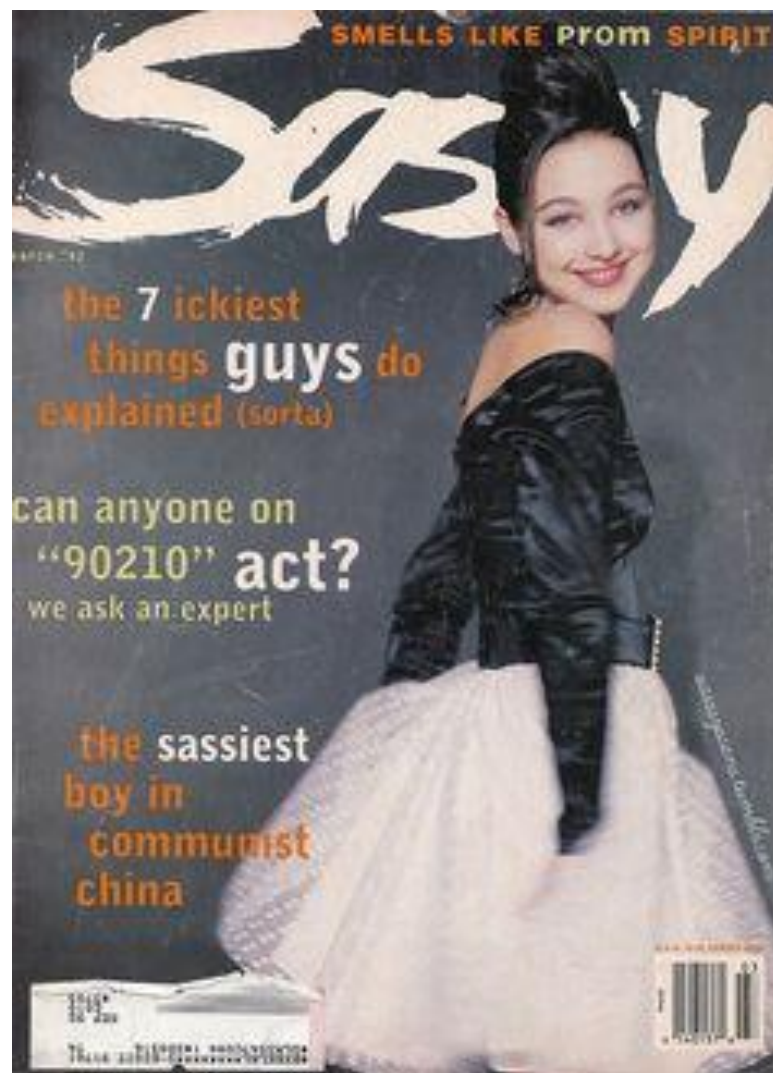


The House With No Text or Audio Clues



The Catalogue





The Catalogue

KROEHLER
Quality craftsmanship \$699
Sleeper is only \$150 more!

SAVE \$49 when you buy in sets!
A thru F. NEW! SEATING PRICES now have wood frames reinforced with steel springs. Sofa sleepers have fold-down steel mechanisms. Beds allow easy conversion from bed to sofa. Cushions are reversible for added wear. Sleepers come queen-size beds, approx. 75 in. long, with 20 thick polyurethane foam mattress. Made in USA.

Country \$699
Sleeper is only \$150 more
A and B. COUNTRY SEATING has place of 100% olefin.

Traditional \$599
Sleeper is only \$100 more
C and D. TRADITIONAL with 100% olefin fabric.

Contemp \$499
Sleeper is only \$150 more
E and F. CONTEMPORARY with 100% olefin fabric.

SETS
Sofa and loveseat: \$699.00
Sofa, chair and ottoman: \$699.00
Sofa sleeper and loveseat: \$799.00
Sofa sleeper, chair and ottoman: \$799.00
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THRU E. KITTEN NATES
40% polyester, machine washable. Includes 1 flat and 1 elasticized pillowcase. Made in USA.

A. BED COORDINATES
Size Catalog No. Price
Twin 96 Y 8763 1.44 \$26.77
Full 96 Y 8764 1.69 \$33.77
Queen 96 Y 8765 2.44 \$52.77
King 96 Y 8766 3.13 \$69.77

B. HAMPER
of machine washable and polyester fabric over hardwood frame. Assembly required. Measures 21 1/2 x 14 1/2 x 14 1/2 in. overall.

C. ROD-POCKET WINDOW FASHIONS
Each ruffle has a 3-inch high headband. Includes 1 flat and 1 elasticized pillowcase. Made in USA.

D. DAYBED COMFORTER SET
Includes 1 flat and 1 elasticized pillowcase. Made in USA.

E. BLANKET
of polyester and acrylic measures 72x90 inches long. 96 Y 8767—Twin/Full—\$14.77. 96 Y 8768—Queen/King—\$24.77.

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J. THRU P. UNICORNS COORDINATES
NATES are woven of 60% cotton and 40% polyester. Machine wash. All are PERMA-FRESH® items (except blanket and require no ironing when tumble dried).

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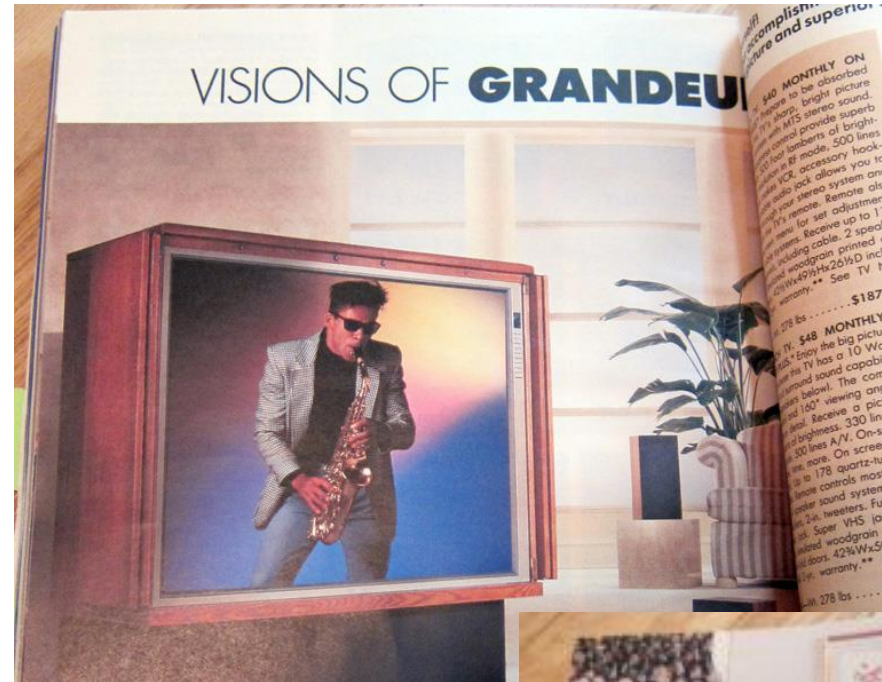
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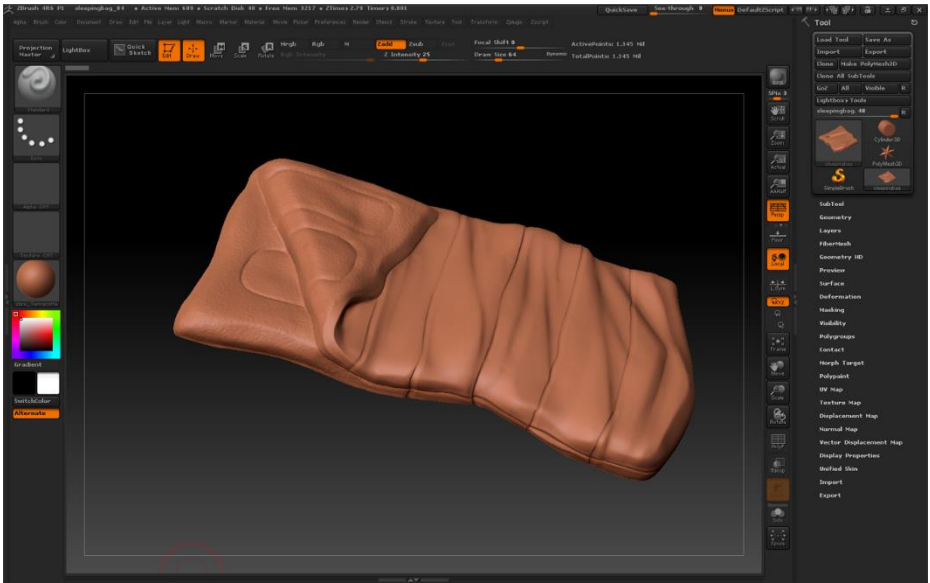
The Catalogue



The Catalogue



The Catalogue



Order this month:

2 cases brandy
2 cases rum
1 barrel whiskey

Governor remains very pleased with
enforcement in Bon County.
Believe this arrangement shall hold
for some time.

W. R.

Mar. '27

Too Subtle?



Too Subtle?



Too Subtle?



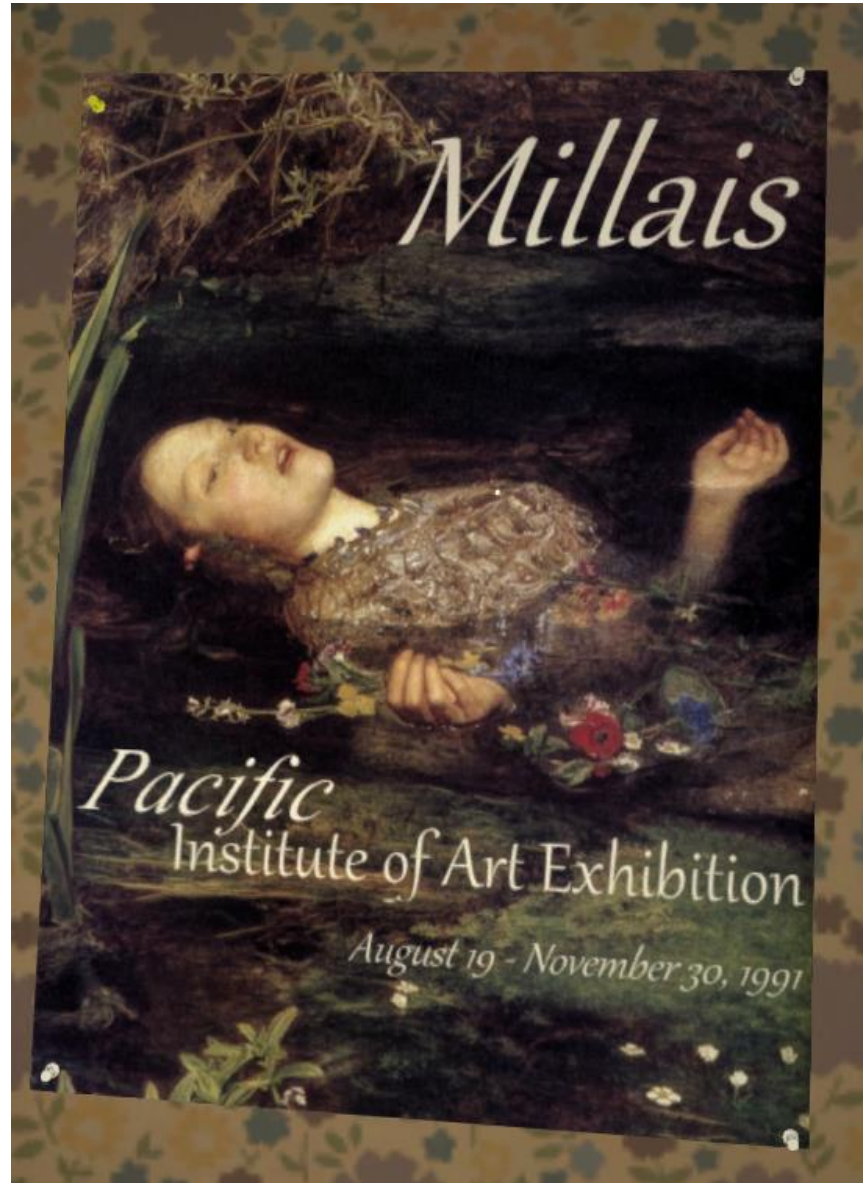
Too Subtle?

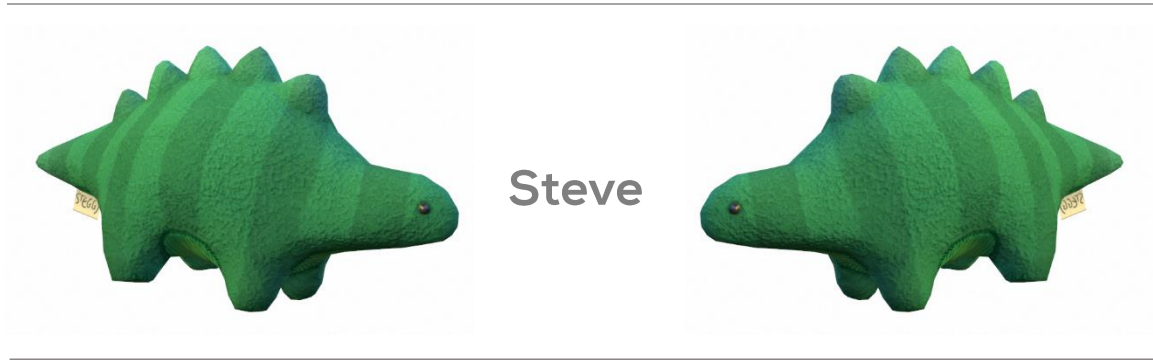


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Spaces Support Gameplay

Gameplay Supports Spaces



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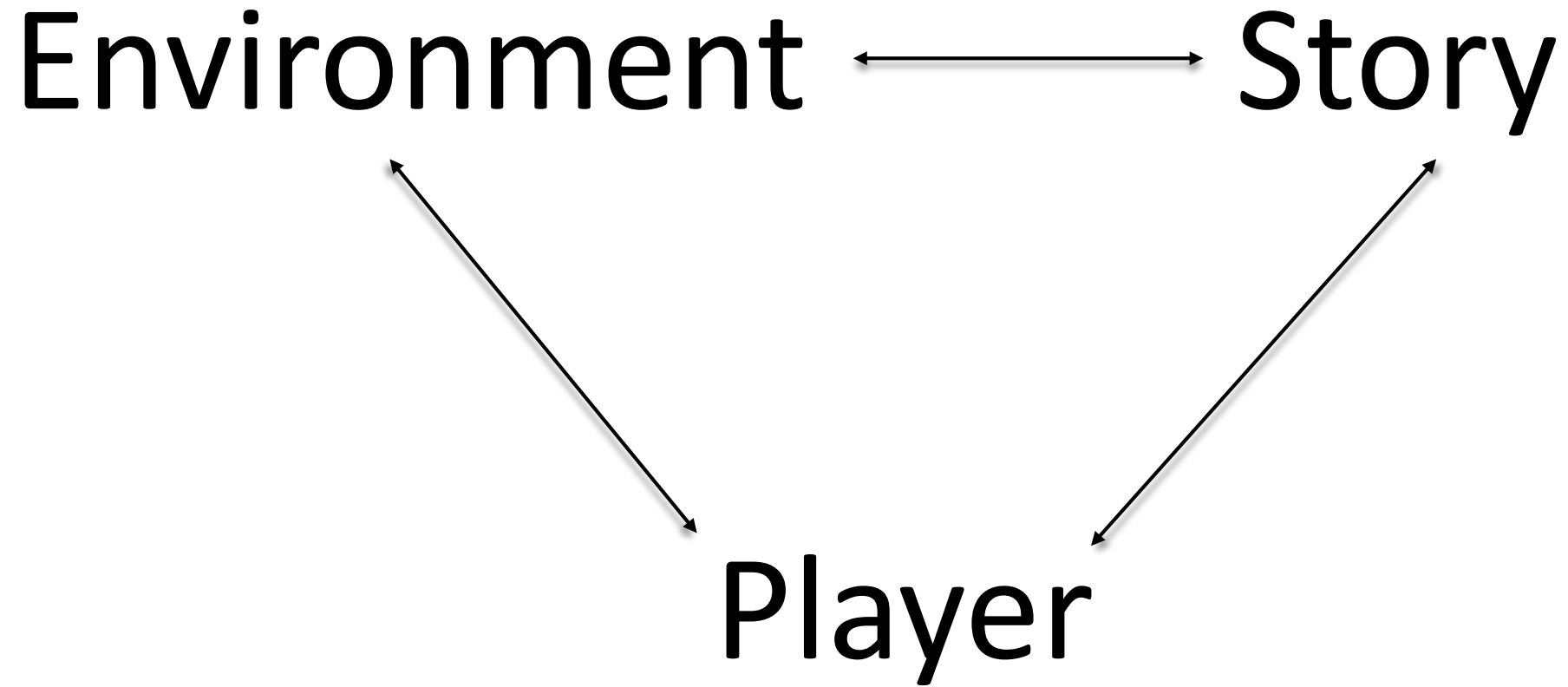
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- **Tune the density of environment decoration to read as authentic, without overloading the scene with a "realistic" amount of visual noise**



Thank you!

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