

A cylindrical tower with three floors. The exterior consists of a grid of vertical glass windows divided by malachite mullions such that only those two materials are visible. A stairway made of thick, deep blue glass spirals step by step up the grid, passing by each floor, until finding the roof. The stairs are coated in a hydrophobic chemical and are thus incapable of being wet. A central core pumps water from bottom to top, ending in a sunlit fountain on the roof and recirculating back to the base in a closed loop.

The tower is a small tea plantation producing three varieties of green tea differentiated by the quantity of light the plants receive. Trees lend shade to the first floor, the second floor receives partial shade from the roof, and the roof receives full sun. The plants on the roof are misted by a sprinkler system that, when active, produces a dome of mist. The water is collected by the roof and reused to shower the tea plants on the second and first floors via openings in the central core.

Harvested leaves are loaded into pockets of translucent vinyl perforated by tiny air holes, which are attached together to form several enormous ring-shaped kites. These are tethered to the roof and can be outfitted with weather balloons when there is not enough wind to keep them aloft. Together, the circular roof, the kites, and the balloons look like a sort of alien bloom.

The third floor is a living quarter. Domestic plumbing is connected to a potable line in the central core separate from the reused water that the tea plants drink. Green curtains can be used to block out sunlight. The rows of tea plants on the roof leave space for thin paths and a pair of benches, also coated with hydrophobic chemicals, and when the plants are not being watered the core bubbles up as a gentle fountain in the center of a garden.

