

THE SAPIENS GARDEN



ROOTED IN MEMORY
NURTURED BY PRESENCE
CARVING LIGHT INTO TIME

HOC OPUS MEMORIAE ET LUCIS,
EX CORDE ET CUM REVERENTIA,
IN HUMILITATE OFFERTUR.

My name is Alex Skarshelg. I'm a carpenter.
 Not an architect, not a designer, not a project manager.
 Just a man who worked with wood — with my hands, in silence
 and in solitude.

I have been involved in wood construction for many years. Over time, I came to realize: what I was truly seeking is not building the houses, but shaping of an inner space — not for survival, but for presence.

That is how THE SAPIENS GARDEN was born.

It did not appear according to some plan, but out of necessity.

This is a garden where every tree carries a name.

Where great minds of culture, philosophy and art form a living structure.

A wooden lighthouse stands at its centre — forty-two meters of enduring oak and light, crafted by hand in the ancient style.

Real. Handcrafted. Luminous.

Here, you will find:

- ♦ Conceptual presentation of THE SAPIENS GARDEN.
- ♦ Fragments from A-ETHERIA — a book that emerged from the same silence as the garden itself.
- ♦ Brief CULTURAL OFFER & AUTHOR'S PRACTICE, providing background on my work and the accompanying materials in support of cultural dialogue.

This is shared as a cultural offering, with sincere respect for the mission and values of His Majesty's Household. It is presented for your kind consideration as a gesture of thoughtful engagement with heritage and presence.

Should any aspect of this vision resonate with you, it will have served its purpose. I greatly appreciate the opportunity for dialogue, and I would be honoured to explore its potential contribution to your work in the fields of heritage, craft, and cultural patrimony.

I do believe that this exchange will serve to enrich our shared understanding of both heritage and contemporary culture.

With the deepest respect,
 ALEX SKARSHELG



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THE SAPIENS GARDEN

A CULTURAL LANDMARK IN WOOD AND THOUGHT

Part I

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT
RESPECTFULLY PRESENTED
TO HIS MAJESTY'S HOUSEHOLD

Established on the 25th of May, 2025
London, United Kingdom



THE SAPIENS GARDEN is a cultural and architectural initiative — where traditional craft, philosophical heritage and light unite. It begins with a space that lives — a presence, not a possession.

A wooden Lighthouse stands at its heart:
a post-and-beam oak frame, hand-crafted by master carpenters using time-honoured joinery techniques.

It is clad in larch planks laid ship-lap, like the hull of a wind-battered vessel, built to endure.

It stands as a quiet centre — a place for silence, reflection, and inner concentration.

There is a Garden around it.

Every tree bears a name of a poet, a philosopher, a scientist, a composer.

Each of them is a voice that has changed the way we think, feel and see the world.

Now they return — as a root, as a leaf, as a living form.

More than a park. More than a sculpture.

A place filled with presence.

Where the past does not rest — it grows.

MISSION

To build the world's tallest wooden Lighthouse and to cultivate a Garden that honours memory, thought, and heritage, creating a place where one may:

Pause. Remember. Listen. Return.
Sense the depth and force of human continuity.
Become part of something greater.

This is not a tourist attraction.
It is a quiet place for memories and return.

SYMBOLISM

The Lighthouse — a vertical axis. It does not point the way; it stands as a spine of meaning.

The Sapiens Garden — a living memory. Diverse, rooted and ever-growing.

77 Trees — a symbolic number of completion and wholeness, evoking ancient sevens and layers of time.

The Lighthouse's Timber — about a second life: not merely cut down, but reborn thanks to its beauty and purpose.

The Great Minds — the roots of civilization, transmitting thoughts through generations.

Living Legends — the voices that shape our present. They stand like sapwood — protectors of the tree's heart.

Blossoms — the masterpieces of humanity.

Fruits — the actions that changed the world.

THE SAPIENS LIGHTHOUSE

Inside the Lighthouse, seven chambers rise one above the other — each one is a threshold on the path of ascent:

- ♦ a living library
- ♦ a museum of relics
- ♦ chambers of memory and stillness

Here, one may take a journey — from thought to presence.

NB The figures presented here reflect the evolving canon of the Garden. Further voices, additional opinions will be thoughtfully added to the dialogue with advisors, scholars and cultural partners.

☛ **Hall of Foundations**

Philosophers & Thinkers

They posed questions that still relevant today; they gave shape to the Truth, Virtue, and Existence before such words had names.

SOCRATES

IMMANUEL KANT

BOETHIUS

☛ **Hall of Science**

Explorers & Pioneers

They deciphered nature's language, measured the immeasurable, and transformed wonder into law.

ISAAC NEWTON

ROSALIND FRANKLIN

MICHAEL FARADAY

☛ **Hall of Form**

Architects & Artists

They revealed the invisible — in line, colour, and stone. They demonstrated that the visible world is also a language — one more eloquent than words.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

WILLIAM MORRIS

JOHN SOANE

☛ **Hall of Presence**

Contemporary Torchbearers

They create now — rooted in the present, but echoing in time. Their work bridges what is lived with what is eternal.

BRIAN ENO

YO-YO MA

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

☛ **Hall of Words**

Poets & Writers

They named the unspoken. They gave shape to thoughts
and made silence speak.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
GEOFFREY CHAUCER
VIRGINIA WOOLF

☛ **Hall of Sound**

Composers & Musicians

They gave voice to the silence. They took emotion beyond
language and turned stillness into a sacred ritual.

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
EDWARD ELGAR
RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

☛ **The Dome**

Mystics & Visionaries

They did not explain, they burned. They became bridges
between worlds: Time and Eternity, Word and Stillness.

WILLIAM BLAKE
SIMONE WEIL
HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

Together, these seven chambers form a vertical journey —
not upward into height, but inward into meaning.

PARTICIPANTS

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is not a museum of names — it is a living conversation. And those, who take part, — are not spectators, but torchbearers.

This prospective list remains open and will be developed in active dialogue with heritage curators, cultural partners, and relevant advisors.

Prospective participants and envisioned collaborators include:

- Great contemporary minds across the arts, sciences, philosophy, and public imagination; those whose work already shapes the present and will define what follows.
- Descendants and heritage-bearers of the great minds honoured in the Garden; those who carry forward memory not as a monument, but as a vocation.
- Stewards of building traditions, material culture, and land — master builders, woodworkers, horticulturalists, and scholars who understand that meaning is carried in material, ritual, and care.
- Museums, academies, and cultural institutions who act not only as keepers of archives, but also as institutions that transmit knowledge.
- Witnesses: those personally transformed by these figures or works, for whom this inheritance is not abstract, but intimate.

We particularly welcome stewards of shared heritage — those who, like the great oaks, understand that the deepest progress grows from the patient roots.

THE SAPIENS GARDEN welcomes those who do not simply study the past, but extend it — who carry the ember, and walk it forward.

STRUCTURE & LAYOUT

PRINCIPLES

- Clear geometry
- Symbolic layout
- Visual and ritual path
- Sacred simplicity

The names presented in this section are offered as an illustrative starting point of the Garden's evolving canon. All selections will be thoughtfully refined and expanded in close dialogue with cultural advisors, curators, and scholarly partners, in order to honour both the Garden's vision and the richness of Britain's living cultural legacy.

ELEMENTS

1. The Center — a Lighthouse

- One of the tallest wooden lighthouses in the world — 42 m.
- Foundation: The Lighthouse rests upon the stones from every county in England — each one carried by those shaping its vision; each a root in its living foundation.
- The Lighthouse functions as an active navigational beacon.
- Every beam in the Lighthouse will bear a calligraphic engraving — not a number, but a whisper: a phrase once spoken by a mind that moved the world. These words will not be hidden.

They will live along the inner spine of the tower — etched above thresholds, woven into stairwells, resting in oak. Each step upward will pass through a thought — so the Lighthouse may speak.

2. The Inner Circle — 12 Pillar Trees

Twelve foundational thinkers who shaped civilization:

BEDE THE VENERABLE
 GEOFFREY CHAUCER
 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
 ISAAC NEWTON
 ADA LOVELACE

Their trees are planted around the Lighthouse, forming a symbolic root system.

3. The Second Circle — 44 Trees

This orbit forms the trunk: thinkers, poets, composers, scientists — those who carried the tradition forward:

CHARLES DARWIN
 VIRGINIA WOOLF
 WILLIAM BLAKE
 ALAN TURING
 EDWARD ELGAR

4. The Outer Circle — 21 Trees

Living Legends of Britain — voices already resonating through the annals of culture. They do not speak for the age — they carry it within them:

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
 PETER HIGGS
 DAME JUDI DENCH
 BRIAN ENO
 HANNAH REID

5. Lighting

Gas lanterns — evoking the atmosphere of old London, offering soft reflective illumination beneath each tree's plaque.

6. Curated Trees

- ♦ Each tree is curated by a person or institution.
- ♦ They are entrusted with its story — a living narrative of meaning and memory.

7. Pathways

Laid with reclaimed antique bricks — as a tribute to building materials.

8. Open-Air Stage

- ♦ A small wooden amphitheater.
- ♦ Only chamber music. Only live performance.
- ♦ Reserved for evening readings, private concerts, and ceremonial gatherings.

9. Pier, Sea Stair, and Boats

- ♦ A wooden stair descending from the Lighthouse to the sea.
- ♦ Wooden piers stretching over the water.
- ♦ Historic ships — drakkars, barks, fishing schooners.
- ♦ Visitors may sail the coastline, as if stepping not into history, but into memory.

TREE SPECIES IN THE SAPIENS GARDEN

The Living Archetypes

Seven trees. Not as a limitation, but as a guiding principle.

Each of the 77 trees is selected from a palette of seven resilient species chosen for both their suitability to London's climate and their deep symbolic resonance within European heritage.

The examples provided in this document are illustrative only, and do not represent a final selection. While seven species guide the vision, curators may adapt them where contextually appropriate.

Why limit the palette?

- ◆ It creates rhythm, repetition, and visual coherence
- ◆ It brings harmony — even across a vast scale
- ◆ It simplifies maintenance, orientation, and spatial logic
- ◆ The Garden becomes legible — a sacred text one can walk

Tree Archetypes

OAK — strength, wisdom, ancestral knowledge

BEECH — poetry, structure, philosophical depth

ROWAN — insight, voice, musicality

MAPLE — intelligence, scientific clarity, discovery

LINDEN — care, feminine energy, spirit of the home

APPLE TREE — myth, fruit, knowledge, temptation

HORNBEAM — craftsmanship, order, creation

THE 77 HONORED FIGURES & THEIR TREES

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is rooted in presence, but grown from memory. Each of the 77 trees will stand not only as a species, but as a soul — carrying within itself the heritage of one whose mind reshaped the world. These figures are not selected for fame, but for the power of their meaning.

Their work echoes across time.

Their names do not fade in wood — they take root.

Each tree becomes:

- ♦ a vessel of memory
- ♦ a beacon of thought
- ♦ a living threshold

The list will be curated in dialogue with scholars, creators, and the descendants of those whose voices still ring out. The examples referenced in this document are illustrative only and do not constitute a final selection.

Some names are carved in stone.

Others are still breathing.

Some of them have not yet been spoken.

Each plant is an offering. Each tree is a chapter.

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is a canon in wood.

ALLIES IN CREATION

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is not built alone.

It takes root in shared skill, memory, and vision — a fellowship of minds and hands. The following institutions embody values that strongly align with the vision of THE SAPIENS GARDEN, and with whom dialogues are being pursued.

Aspirational and prospective partners under consideration include:

Heatherwick Studio, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the Prince's Foundation, Art Fund UK, Historic England, the Crafts Council UK, UNESCO, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), curators of national archives and heritage collections, universities and academic research centres, contemporary composers and musicians, master artisans and traditional builders, resident writers, poets, and visual storytellers.

Engagements with these and other potential partners remain subject to ongoing dialogue and mutual alignment of vision.

VOX SAPIENS

To hallow THE SAPIENS GARDEN, history will witness a single moment — never to be repeated, never to echo again.

VOX SAPIENS is a choral invocation of 72 voices, composed not to perform, but to consecrate. A sacred sound, shaped by resonance and stillness, inspired by the great modern masters of tone. Not a concert, but a communion.

One note trembling in the dark.
One breath held across generations.
One utterance, shared outside of time.

But before VOX SAPIENS is sung, the Earth must be heard.

In silence, stones gathered from every county in Britain will be laid into the Lighthouse's foundation — each one is a fragment of place, each placed by hand. They will be blessed in a ritual of stillness — led not by clergy alone, but by stewards of spirit: an Anglican bishop, elders of craft, guardians of memory. THE SAPIENS GARDEN will commence not with planting, but with sanctification.

THE LUMEN SAPIENS AWARD

This is a recognition bestowed upon those who choose depth over noise, truth over power, and clarity over acclaim.

Once a year, beneath the boughs of THE SAPIENS GARDEN, a single Name is spoken. A sapling is planted. The Garden receives a new root.

The laureate is entrusted with an emblem: a wooden Lighthouse, crowned with mountain crystal, cradling a handful of soil from the Garden itself.

Each part holds a meaning:

- ◆ Crystal: clarity, guidance, and enduring purpose
- ◆ Unpolished oak: courage and quiet fortitude
- ◆ Soil: not a metaphor, but a bond — a living tie between name and place.

PRIORITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

It is with respect that I extend this early invitation to the United Kingdom.

This project naturally aligns with Britain's heritage — as both a guardian of heritage and a pioneer of progress. Not because it is convenient, but because it is right.

Britain holds a rare place in cultural history: a nation that both preserves and pioneers, that honours the past not with silence — but with continuation. THE SAPIENS GARDEN does not belong to any country.

But its beam first rose from British shores. Before this project expands, we offer the opportunity for British institutions to help shape its root system — to lend it soil, care, and presence.

A Lighthouse must be built where the horizon is trusted. And we trust it here.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am ALEX SKARSHELG, a carpenter by profession, working with wood, hands, and silence.

My family has always built upward. My grandfather raised towers of steel and concrete; I choose timber and time.

I honed my craft under Utter Romtveit of Rauland, one of Norway's foremost traditional woodworkers.

For over fifteen years I have been building wooden houses of all shapes and sizes. When axe meets pine, the mind grows quiet. In that quiet, I began to seek something beyond shelter — something that holds memory. I have long wished for each space I build to draw people closer: to themselves, to nature, to presence.

Today, I'm creating THE SAPIENS GARDEN — not as a monument, but as a place for those who once sought light — and now carry it forward.



POST SCRIPTUM

Like Shakespeare's quill upon the Thames, this Lighthouse was born of British shores — but its light belongs to every coast that has ever dreamed in wood and stone.

That which is truly honoured — it endures. We begin with silence, so that radiance may speak.

FINAL NOTE

This initiative is being developed under the auspices of an emerging global cultural foundation, that welcomes support from cultural patrons, visionary institutions, and private contributors across the world.

It is conceived as a living space — where cultural memory fosters clarity, resilience, and shared guardianship, while providing present and future generations with a ground for reflection and renewal.

A detailed project roadmap has been prepared — phased, grounded, and designed to align with UK heritage and regulatory frameworks.

I do not walk alone.

A small, highly skilled team of traditional builders stands behind this vision — it is a team of carpenters, joiners and material stewards — whose hands know both precision and patience.

If further information is required, I will be happy to provide additional materials with care and attention.





THE SAPIENS GARDEN CONCEPTUAL VISION

Part II

ROOTED IN MEMORY
NURTURED BY PRESENCE
CARVING LIGHT INTO TIME





THE SAPIENS LIGHTHOUSE

PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Part III

he following specification reflects the preliminary design intent. Full engineering development and statutory approvals will be conducted in accordance with UK building regulations and heritage conservation standards.

This section outlines key structural and material specifications for the central Lighthouse within THE SAPIENS GARDEN.

All data reflects the concept design stage and is subject to refinement during the full engineering stage.

1. GEOMETRY AND STRUCTURE

Total Height

42 metres (including 3m stone plinth)

Tower Shape

Octagonal, tapering from 9m at base to 7m at summit

Wooden Structure

- ♦ Traditional post-and-beam timber frame
- ♦ Primary Material: European oak
- ♦ Joinery technique: Mortise-and-tenon

Cladding

- ♦ Material: Siberian larch
- ♦ Finish: Ship-lap, evoking the hulls of 19th-century sailing vessels

Basement

- ♦ Depth: 3 metres
- ♦ Function: Plant room and utilities

Foundation

- ♦ Type: Reinforced concrete
- ♦ Cultural Feature: Embedded stone from every county in England

Wind Resistance

- ♦ The central structural axis of the lighthouse is a unique engineering solution
- ♦ CAMBIUM SYS — with no precedent in global practice — the Morphogenic Axial Armature with Variable Stiffness Regime

This system functions as an intelligent structural core with actively controlled stiffness properties. It is equipped with integrated sensors that continuously monitor loads, deformations, and external forces in real time, while autonomously adjusting its pre-tensioning states in response to environmental changes.

- ♦ Performance Rating: Certified up to 100 m/s
- ♦ Safety factor: 1.8 (Compliant with EN 1991-1-4:2005)

Structural Stability

- ◆ Monitoring system: Real-time MEMS gyroscopic tracking

Vertical Organization

- ◆ Seven storeys, each with thematic interior
- ◆ Average clear floor height: 4.4 m

Design Life

Minimum 200 years, subject to standard maintenance and conservation practices

2. MATERIALS AND DETAILING**Structural Frame**

- ◆ Material: European oak
- ◆ Properties: High compressive strength, minimal deformation over time

External Cladding

- ◆ Material: Siberian larch
- ◆ Properties: Naturally resistant to moisture, ultraviolet exposure, and salt spray
- ◆ Finish: Allowed to weather gracefully to a natural grey patina over time

Roofing

- ◆ Material: Natural dark Welsh slate, with copper flashing
- ◆ Details: Wrought iron fittings; pre-patinated copper elements

Interior Floors & Staircases

- ◆ Flooring: oak joists
- ◆ Staircases: Custom-built from matching oak; hand-assembled using traditional carpentry techniques

Windows

- ◆ Style: Traditional sash; four windows per level
- ◆ Material: English oak frames with leaded glass

- ♦ Joinery: Traditional English mortise techniques

Main Entrance Door

- ♦ Material: Solid oak
- ♦ Hardware: Forged wrought iron with reinforced hinges

Lantern Room (Top Chamber)

- ♦ Form: Octagonal, panoramic
- ♦ Glazing: Timber-framed panoramic windows
- ♦ Function: place for a navigational beacon; includes a viewing platform for a public use
- ♦ Perimeter balcony: Oak-framed with wrought iron railings
- ♦ Decking: 100 mm thick Siberian larch planks

Discreet Camera System

- ♦ Type: High-resolution, gyrostabilized, weatherproof imaging unit
- ♦ Location: Apex-mounted for minimal visual impact
- ♦ Feature: Live 360° panoramic stream to official website

Drainage

- ♦ Gutters: Copper, with bespoke wrought iron brackets

Lighting

- ♦ Style: Victorian-inspired ambient illumination
- ♦ Application: Subtle integration throughout the interior spaces and perimeter balcony

3. ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

Navigation Light (Beacon)

- ♦ Type: IALA E-210 compliant
- ♦ Output: LED/gas hybrid beacon

with automatic daylight calibration for seasonal variation

- ◆ Backup System: AGA 1909-type pressurised gas lamp with piezo ignition
- ◆ Optional feature: Dynamic colour-temperature modulation:
 - White-blue for clear weather
 - Red for storm warning

Power Supply

- ◆ System: Off-grid hybrid (50 kW capacity)
- ◆ Components: Diesel generator combined with battery storage array
- ◆ Backup: Manual override system available for full control in emergencies

Ventilation & HVAC

- ◆ Ventilation: Mechanically assisted, routed through the basement system and a central service shaft
- ◆ Heating: External boiler house within an isolated safety enclosure

Water & Plumbing

- ◆ Potable water system: Standard pressurized supply
- ◆ Drainage: Gravity-fed, directed toward naturally absorptive landscape zones

Lightning Protection & Grounding

- ◆ Standards Compliance: Fully certified to BS/EN/ISO regulations
- ◆ System: Integrated copper conductor spine within structural timber core

Fire Safety

- ◆ Detectors: Optical smoke detection on every level
- ◆ Suppression: Passive systems supplemented by locally distributed fire extinguishers

4. ECOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

Reforestation Commitment

- ♦ 80 new oak trees
- ♦ 90 new larch trees
- ♦ Total: 170 trees within the project vicinity

Offset Ratio

- ♦ 1.2:1 (trees planted versus timber used)
- ♦ It ensures a net-positive ecological footprint

Purpose of Reforestation

- ♦ To establish a long-term sustainable timber reserve
- ♦ To support local biodiversity preservation
- ♦ To offset project-related carbon emissions
- ♦ To ensure genetic continuity of native tree species through a 200+ year cycle

Location Strategy

- ♦ Distribution: Trees to be planted across varied soil compositions
- ♦ Positioning: Balanced between inland and coastal areas of the site
- ♦ Monitoring: Managed through scheduled seasonal forestry reports

Stewardship

- ♦ Partners: Collaboration with local land trusts and national ecological foundations
- ♦ Ongoing Maintenance: Entrusted to experienced forestry and land-care specialists





IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS WORK,

THE SAPIENS GARDEN AND A-ETHERIA ARE

LIKE STARLIGHT AND THE OCEAN'S WHISPER,
TWO HALVES OF A SINGLE SOUL.
TO UNITE THEM IS TO RECALL ETERNITY.

Part IV



“A MIRROR FOR THE ONES
WHO NEVER FIT IN”

About

A-ETHERIA

A-ETHERIA speaks most deeply to women who have experienced self-erasure, who have endured the long pain of loneliness and the silent betrayal of their own nature. But this book is not only for women — it is for all who feel too deeply, and who has long searched not just for words, but for a language to live within.

It is not a map, but a hush beneath the skin. And I invite those, who have grown transparent beneath the weight of others' gaze, — to walk its pages. This book does not bow to passing fashion. It speaks instead of inner, eternal geographies.

Inside these pages you will find

- ♦ Sixteen meditative essays
- ♦ Fourteen luminous feminine archetypes, each drawn from the brightest, most hidden part of your being

Also included: a symbolic reflection — “*What are you truly seeking to return to?*”

It will not name you. It will gently reveal the way home.

A-ETHERIA is for the ocean of the unsaid. For those whose inner world burns too quietly. For those who are done wearing masks. There is no performance here, only one gesture: *To offer a glass of spring water — and let You catch your breath.*

The Philosophy of
A-ETHERIA

You are tired of being someone — instead of simply being.
You walk your own path — even when the stones cut your feet.

A-ETHERIA is a quiet space where your own voice returns.

Here, you do not have to shrink into “acceptable”.
You’re free from the charade of “appropriate”.

Here, you are simply allowed to live.
No expectations. No assigned roles.

You have always been more than the world tried to make you believe.
You are not a showcase.

You are a flame.

Your light flows like a river —
because stillness was never part of your design.

Truth is not a rulebook.
It lives in the subtlety of feeling.
In the courage to remain yourself.

Real beauty has spoken through you since your very first breath.



This is how A-ETHERIA sounds when no one is speaking

EXCERPTS FROM THE MIRROR

“YOU FEEL THE WEIGHT OF YOUR OWN INSUFFICIENCY.”

Do you remember how you loved — so deeply it stole your breath? Then he left. To your friend. You worshipped him. You held your breath every time he looked your way. You went quiet in the lightning of his eyes. Everything in you whispered: *“Just choose me.”*

But he did not even say goodbye. You heard it from the others. So, you sat under the shower — water too hot, time too long, trying to punish your skin for the sin of hope.

Trying to scorch yourself the way your heart burned when you realized: He saw you — and turned away anyway. You did not scream. You learned silence instead. Now you laugh softer. You expect less. You bury your hunger deeper. You have started to believe that love is a lottery — and your number never wins. But listen — You were not too much. He was never meant to hold a sun. He was busy window-shopping.

You? You did not overflow — he just came with a thimble. Turn off the scalding water. It will not rinse away what mattered. Just meet your own gaze in the mirror...

“YOU WERE AFRAID TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT — IN CASE IF IT BLINDS OTHERS.”

Remember how you hide your diary at the very back of the deepest drawer, terrified your thoughts might be discovered? Since then, you write in fading pencil lead — scoring out whole lines, erasing tender words, burying dreams in the hollow margins. You’ve crammed yourself into boxes like feet into school plimsolls two sizes small. Stopped singing so as not to disturb the silence. Diluted all your colours to respectable greys — for fear your brightness might unsettle them. Even learned to swallow tears in case they revealed how fiercely you still want to live.

But darling — who told you your warmth was an inconvenience? Your diary survived. Its pages — faded but unforgotten — still breathe the truth: *“You buried galaxies alive beneath your fear.”*

Those unfinished poems? Not failures — snowdrop bulbs sleeping under the winter soil.

Those unshed tears? Not weakness — April rain is waiting to wake them. You scribbled yourself into margins no one was meant to read — but the words remain, patient as penmanship, right where you left off... Now turn the page, where the pencil stopped.

**“YOU GAVE THE KEYS TO SOMEONE WHO
BROKE THEM.”**

Do you remember how you told him something you barely dared to whisper? You shared the password to your soul — and in return, he vanished. No words. Just his back at the door... He held your heart like a porcelain dove — then dropped it on the pavement, just to hear it shatter.

And after that — shards in your chest. Like a stained-glass window smashed, each colour, once sacred, — is now scattered. And the shame that cut your throat: *“How could I have been so foolish... I should have stayed silent...”*

But broken locks are not loss. Sometimes, they are beginnings. You are gathering the fragments now — not of his silence, but of your memory. Not *“Why did I trust him?”*, but *“How did I survive?”*

Your wounds are not weakness. They are new locks on doors that now open only to your breath. You learn to trust again — starting with a quiet whisper to yourself: *“My heart is not broken — it simply learned to hear the truth.”*

PS: These are three of sixteen essays.

ARCHETYPE EXCERPTS

ASTELIA

Will. Determination. Instinct of action.

She does not wait for things to get easier. She does not ask when it is “*allowed*”. Astelia appears where it is still cold, but something inside you is already pulling you forward. She helps you get out of bed when the blizzard rages outside and frost lingers in your bones.

She is the impulse. The uncelebrated step. The voice that whispers: “*Fear is not a barrier. It is just snow.*” Snowdrops are in her hands, stiff from the morning frost. Two of them are like choice and action.

Two, like left and right. Like a footstep — and the mark it leaves behind. Like “*I want*” and “*I go.*” They grew not from pity, but from the resolve to live — no matter what. With Astelia, it will not be easy. Nor will it be perfect. It will be real — scraped knees and a handful of soil earth in your palms.

MIRELENA

Care. Home. Foundation.

When others’ “*musts*” choke you, when your strength is down to its last drop, Mirelena arrives. She gently lifts the weight of those burdens you’ve carried for so long. She places a mug of honeyed milk in your hands, untangles your hair, and whispers: “*You don’t have to carry it all alone. And remember — even ashes hold warmth.*”

With her, you rediscover the one who laughed without glancing at the clock. The one who can shout “*enough*” and hug herself like she did at five years old. Her strength lies not in sacrifice, but in striking a match in pitch-black darkness. So, remember: even when no shore is in sight — you are the glow. And it never goes out.

ELARIA

The bearer of sorrow. The companion in healing. Trauma transformed through shared presence.

She enters already knowing the shape of your silence. Her tears are not weakness. They are wildflowers blooming in her palms, fragile and luminous — like fallen stars cradled in light.

Elaria sits beside you when you believe you are alone. She is not afraid of your pain. Because she knows — it is a river where every wave remembers a love that once burned.

She does not say: *“You will get through this.”* She whispers: *“I am here. As long as you weep — I won’t leave.”*

With her, you can:

- ♦ Be an open wound without concealing the scar
- ♦ Tremble like a leaf in the wind, unashamed of your fragility
- ♦ Scream into the silence, knowing you will be heard.

In her eyes — there is a lake where pain is not an enemy, but a bridge between «then» and «now». In her hands — there are your tears, transformed into flowers.

With Elaria, you do not become stronger.

You’re simply no longer alone.

PS: These are three of fourteen archetypes.

EXCERPT FROM THE A-ETHERIA REFLECTION GUIDE

“WHAT DO YOU WANT TO RECLAIM?”

- The ease of dancing in the rain — like in childhood ☞ Esfelaya
- The beam of the lighthouse, even if the shoreline vanishes in fog ☞ Talireya
- The spark that sets butterflies loose in your stomach ☞ Freyana
- The calm, like warm bread and “Good morning, Mom” ☞ Mirelena
- The resolve that once lived quietly in your hands ☞ Astelia
- The smile in which I dissolve into — like coming home ☞ Mirael

“WHAT NEVER LEAVES YOU,
EVEN WHEN UNSEEN?”

- A faded ticket to Paris — long expired, never forgotten ☞ Nimelia
- The anger you never allowed to rise ☞ Afrilia
- The quiet care that still untangles your knotted hair ☞ Mirelena
- The stubborn glint of light you refuse to stop believing in ☞ Aratheia
- Wildflowers woven into your hair — by his hands, long ago ☞ Mirael
- The truth: every step leaves a trace, even on ice ☞ Astelia

“YOU PASSED THROUGH YOURSELF.

THE FINAL ROOM. BEHIND THE HALF-OPEN DOOR —
MORNING. WHAT WILL YOU TAKE WITH YOU?”

- The word I searched for — and now, hold ☞ Ephesta
- The colour that once reminded me who I am ☞ Freyana
- Joy — simple and full. I feel again. ☞ Esfelaya
- Peace — not silence, but the sense: “I am home” ☞ Aurelia
- A flower — fragile, but mine. We are friends now ☞ Astelia
- A cluster of grapes and two apples. I grew them myself ☞ Afrilia

PS: These are three of nine steps.

COLLECTOR'S EDITION IN A HAND-AGED PINEWOOD BOX

This box is a handcrafted object created to accompany the collector's edition of the book. It embodies the human soul — gathering itself once more into wholeness after wounds, losses, and upheaval.

Its material simplicity contains a metaphor for the inner path: what has been endured — it remains within us — not to destroy, but to deepen. Each mark becomes part of a new, more luminous beauty.

Every box bears a visible “wound”, repaired by hand with gold using the ancient Japanese art of kintsugi. Inside, fragrant pine shavings cradle the book — like the breath of the tree itself, holding memory, time, and healing.





CULTURAL OFFER & AUTHOR'S PRACTICE

Part V

SPACES OF MEMORY
SOUND OF PRESENCE
RITUALS OF INNER TIME

This Author's practice presents the cultural, philosophical, and experiential foundation of the work enclosed. The included projects form a cohesive practice of architecture, sound, ritual, and craft — a living exploration of memory, presence, and embodied cultural experience.

Alexander Tsvelev

Artistic pseudonym: Alex Skarshelg

Core Identity & Practice Statement

I create spaces — both public and private — where people can reconnect with memory, presence, and inner time.

Through architecture, sound, ritual writing, and crafted objects, I explore how culture could offer new forms of slow, embodied experience in a world that moves too fast.

My work is a living dialogue between tradition and innovation, rooted in deep craft and open to cross-cultural conversation.

Core Themes

- ◆ Memory — collective and personal
- ◆ Presence — slow time, embodied experience
- ◆ Inner time — ritual, rhythm, and reflection
- ◆ Cultural ecology — sustainability through practice
- ◆ Cross-cultural dialogue — through craft and artistic form
- ◆ The architecture of silence — resonance over noise

PRACTICE PILLARS**Architecture**

THE SAPIENS GARDEN + NORLAFT

Spaces of collective memory, ritual presence, and sustainable handcrafted architecture.

Sound

IND.LAB.

Sonic architecture and emotional landscapes — compositions that hold space, rather than fill it.

Literature

A-ETHERIA

An embodied ritual practice and poetic-philosophical companion to THE SAPIENS GARDEN

Educational & Transmission Practice

EVERHELG ART SCHOOL + NORLAFT

Masterclasses Craft education, cultural transmission, and embodied learning

Artefact Craft

LUX MEMORI

Temporal artefacts and personal ritual objects for contemporary reflection and inner rites

Cultural Diplomacy & Exchange

SAPIENS DISPATCH

Artefact-led cultural dialogue and cross-cultural transmission

Ecological Practice

NORLAFT REFORESTATION

Regenerative forestry, cultural landscapes, and living heritage ecosystems

Institutional Positioning

Alexander Tsvelev is a cultural architect whose practice bridges architecture, sound, literature, and craft — while creating spaces of memory, presence, and embodied meaning.

His work contributes to the evolving fields of ritual architecture and embodied heritage, offering new pathways for cross-cultural dialogue and sensory cultural experience in the contemporary world.

Tagline

“Spaces of memory. Sound of presence. Rituals of inner time.”

Intellectual Resonances

(As perceived through practice)

The ideas underlying THE SAPIENS GARDEN did not arise from academic study, but from years of embodied engagement — with space, sound, material, and ecology.

Only through later reflection did I come to recognize deep kinships with key traditions in European and global cultural thought.

These thinkers were not original sources of inspiration, yet their voices echo through the work’s forms and themes:

- ◆ GASTON BACHELARD, philosopher of space and poetic dwelling (*The Poetics of Space*)
- ◆ MIRCEA ELIADE, sacred space and the architecture of time (*The Sacred and the Profane*)
- ◆ JOHN RUSKIN, moral aesthetics of craft and architecture (*The Seven Lamps of Architecture*)
- ◆ CHRISTIAN NORBERG-SCHULZ, genius loci and the spirit of place (*Genius Loci*)
- ◆ JUHANI PALLASMAA, embodied architecture and tactile experience (*The Eyes of the Skin*)
- ◆ CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER, timeless patterns of human-centered architecture (*The Timeless Way of Building*)
- ◆ WILLIAM BLAKE, visionary poetics of the sacred imagination and inner worlds (*Songs of Innocence and of Experience, Jerusalem, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*)

Thus, THE SAPIENS GARDEN became a living bridge between material practice and enduring cultural archetypes — affirming the timeless universality of these forms in contemporary creative work.

Context for the Enclosed Offer

This Cultural Offering & Author's Practice outlines the foundation and vision behind the accompanying works.

They are not standalone projects — they are deeply interwoven within a unified practice spanning architecture, sound, ritual, and craft. Together, they represent a vibrant exploration of cultural continuity, sacred presence, and the internal geography of human experience.

This practice has also included bespoke cultural offerings for members of the UK's contemporary creative and musical community, as part of an ongoing dialogue between craft, memory, and cultural presence.





CONTACTS

Part VI

With timeless regard,

Alex Skarshelg

Cultural Architect & Master Craftsman

77 St Marks Road

London W10 6JT

United Kingdom

Email: alexskarshelg@gmail.com



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