

The Bridging Project

Between Life and Death – From Soul to Soul

How We Design Places
To Connect With Our Loved One's
Who Have Passed

Mark A. Miller – Architect



Introductions



Zen +
Architecture

Mark A. Miller Architects/Builders Inc.



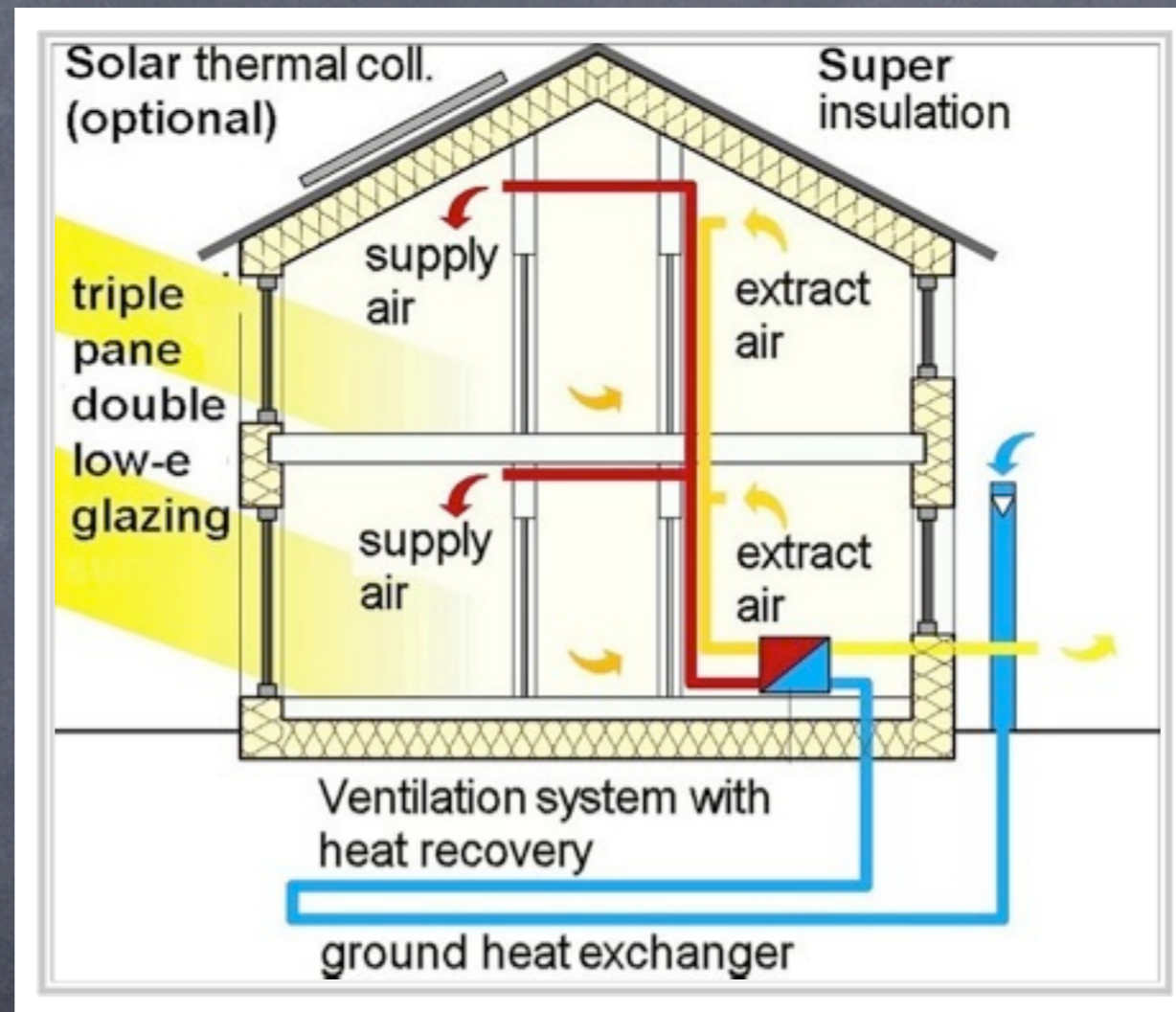
Building Science + Energy Efficiency



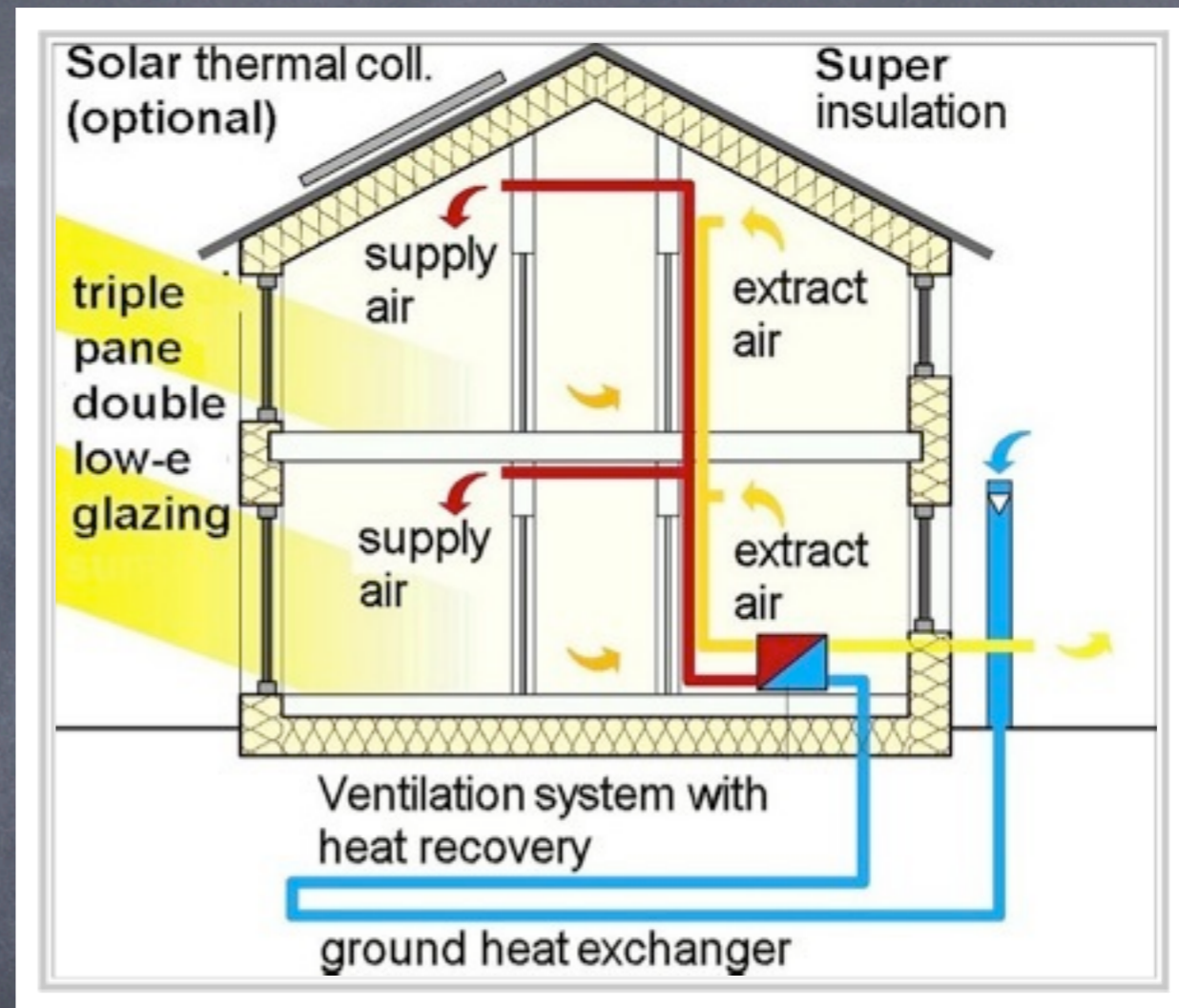




What is Passive House?

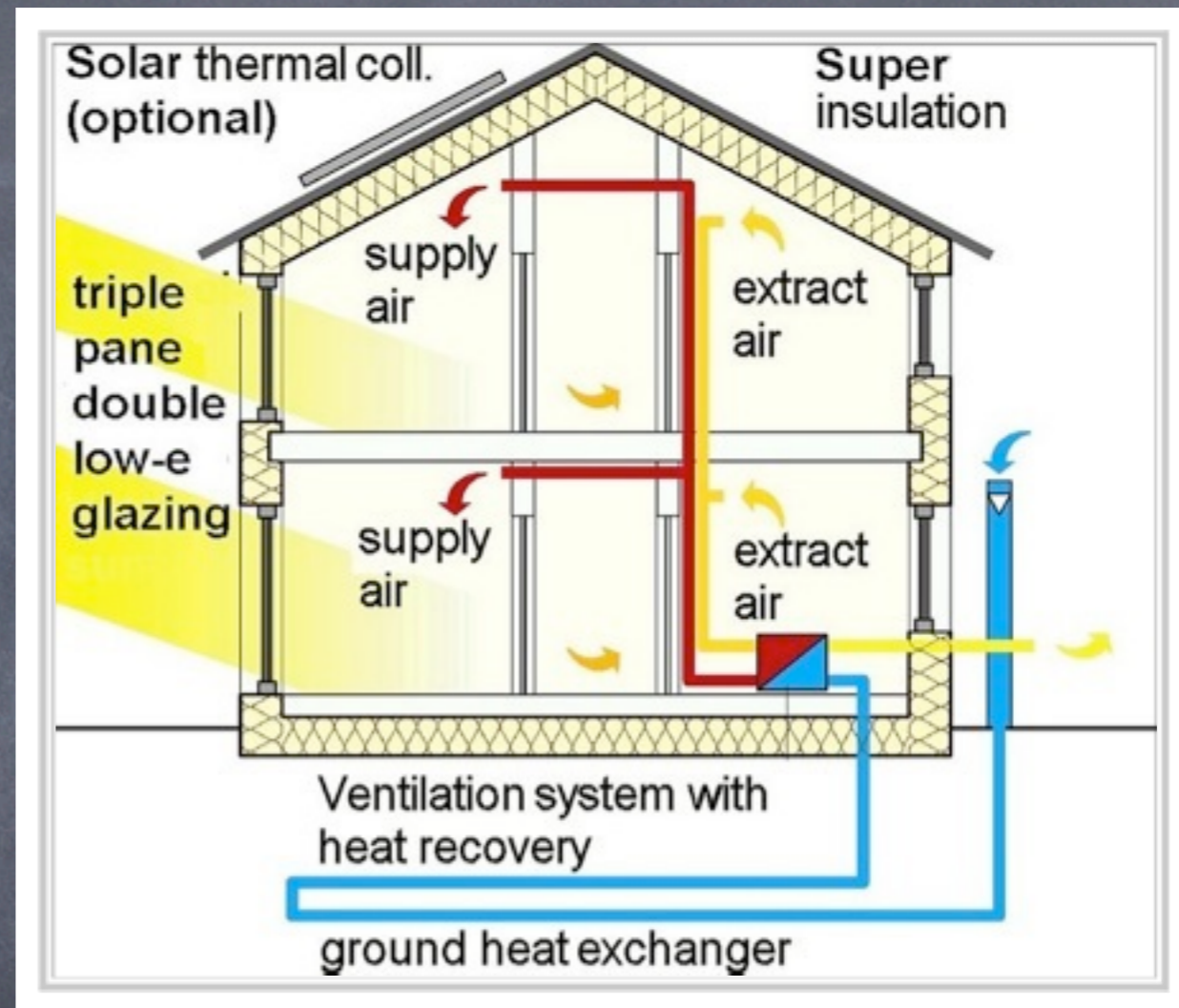


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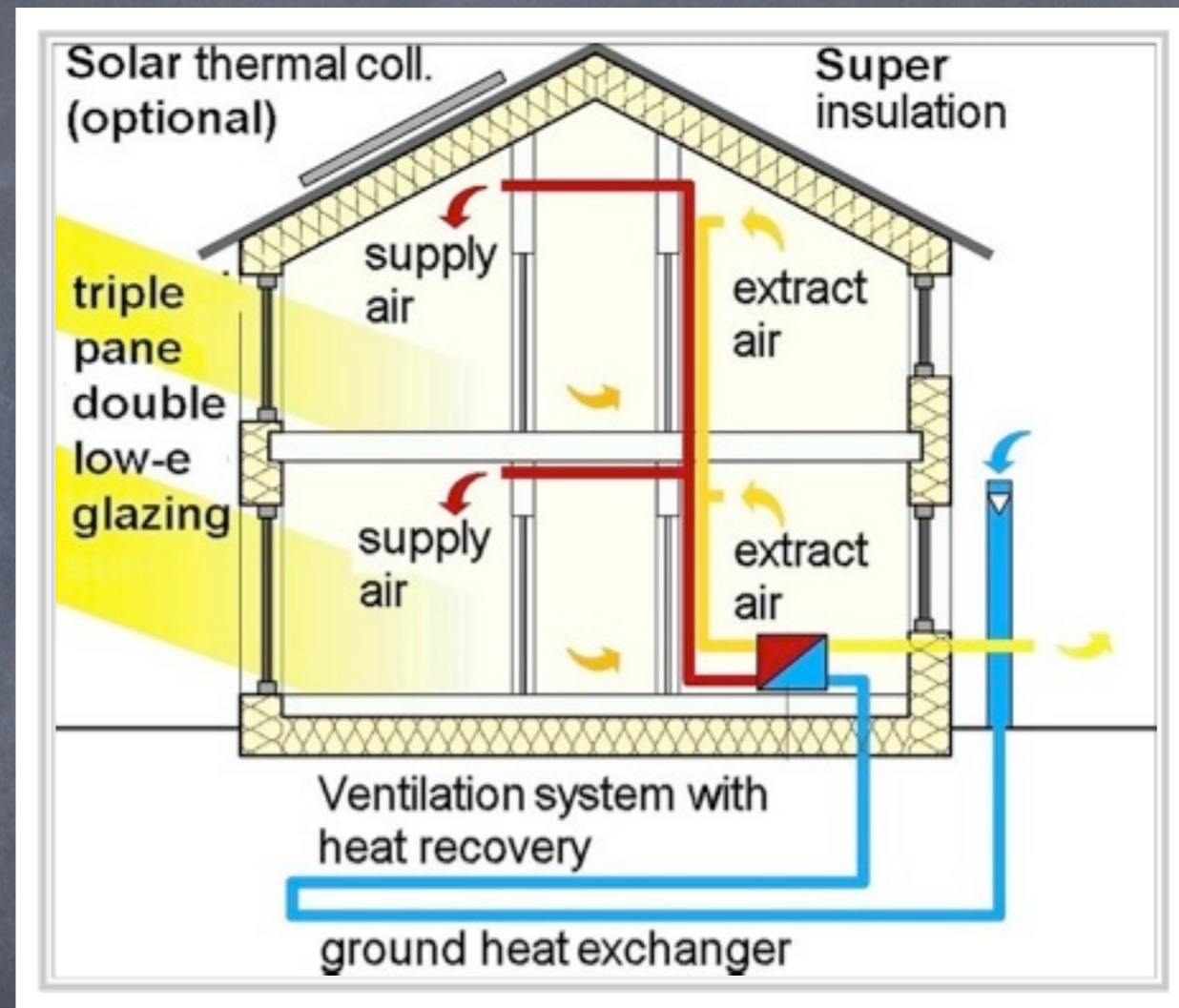
What is Passive House?

1. Climate Specific Strategic Design



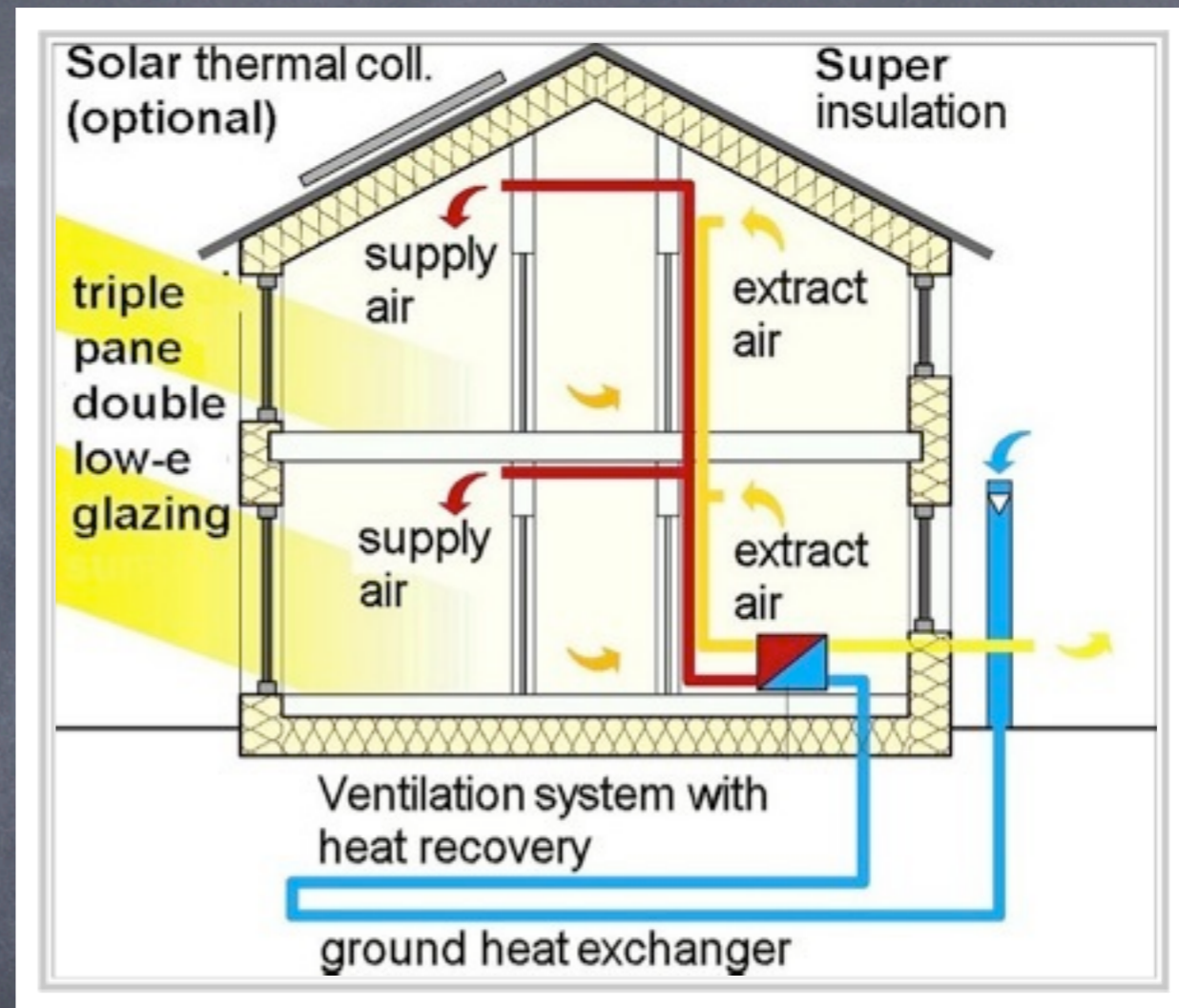
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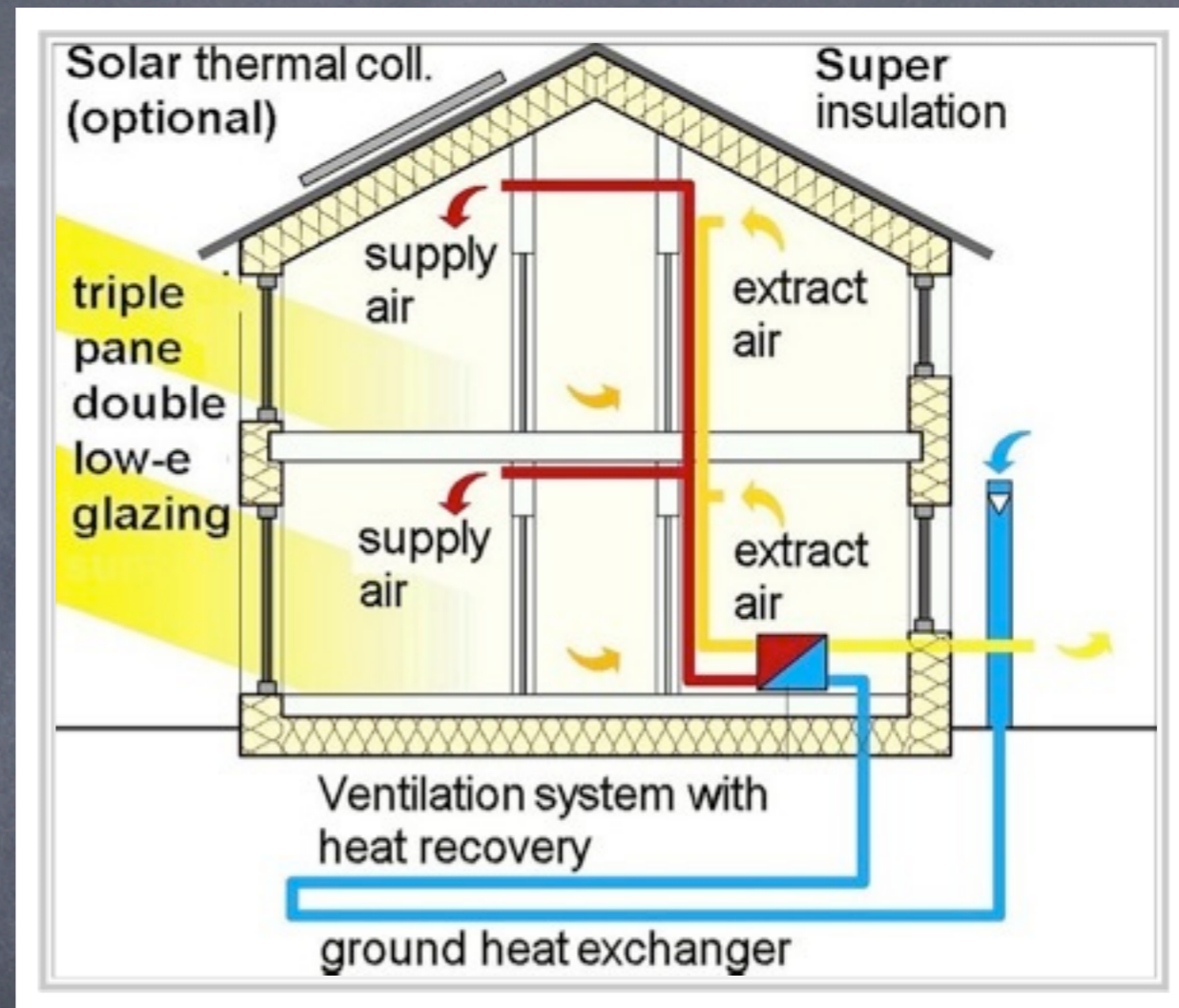
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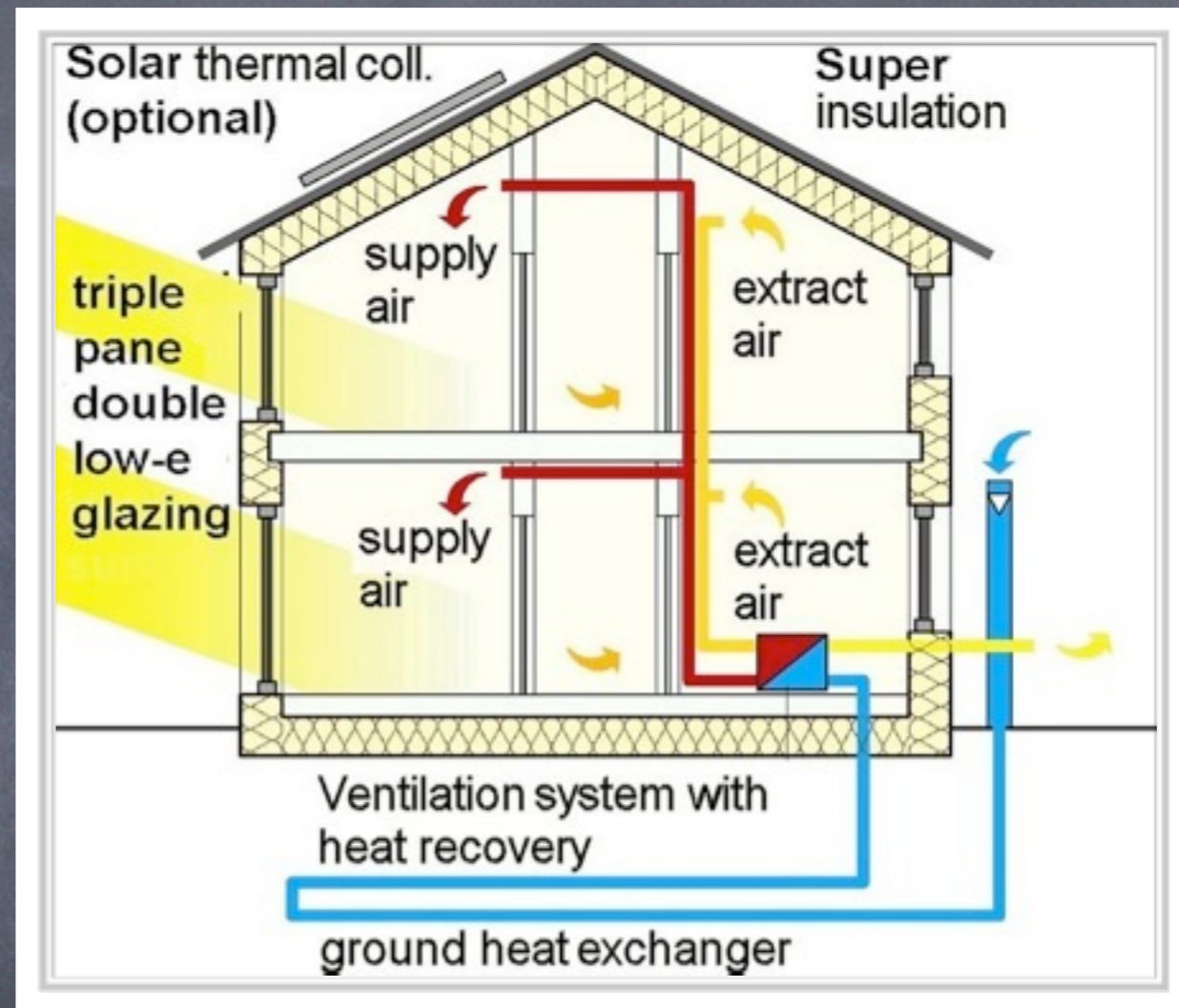
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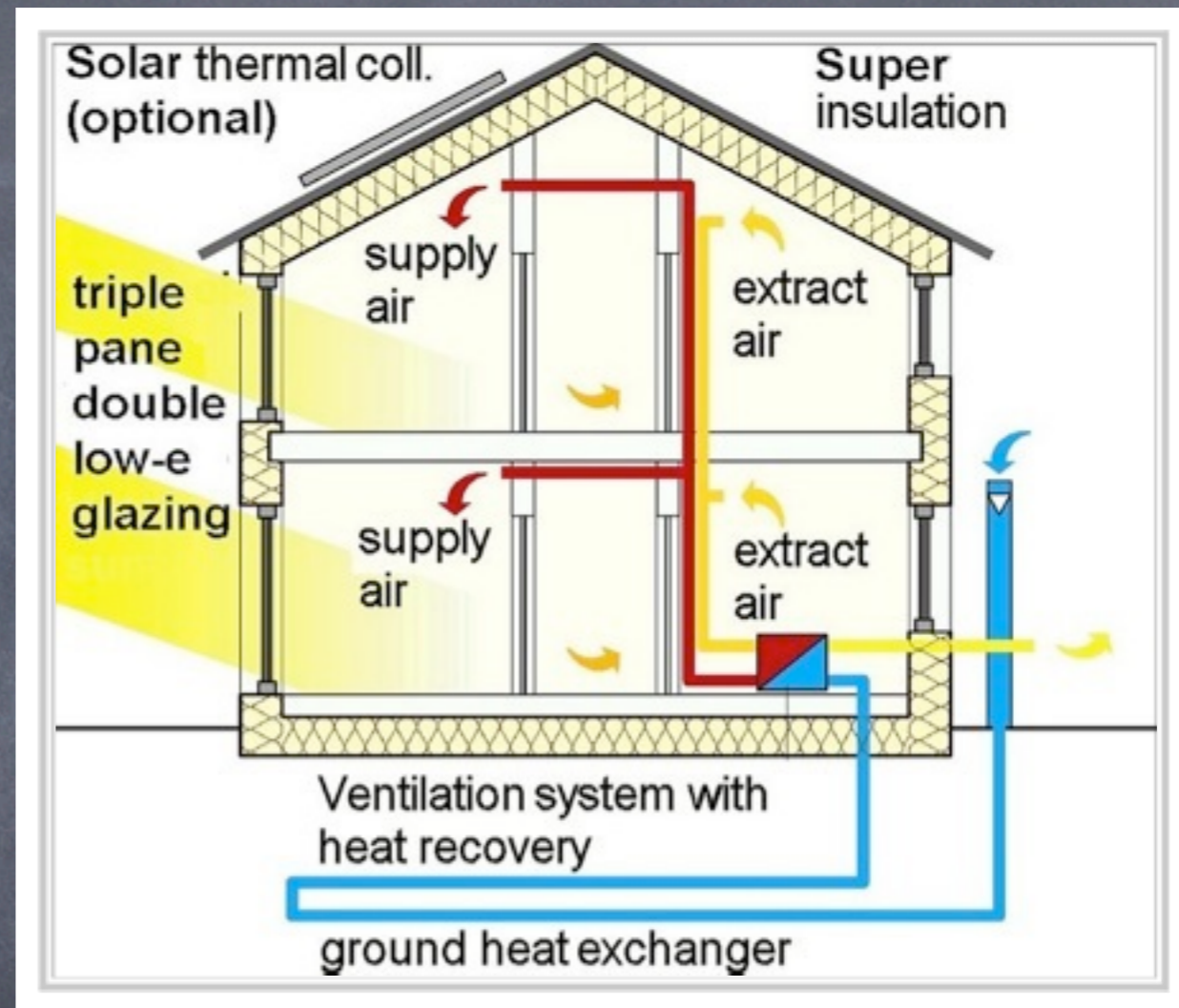
What is Passive House?

1. Climate Specific Strategic Design
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4. Air-Tight Construction
5. Balanced Ventilation



What is Passive House?

1. Climate Specific Strategic Design
2. Continuous Insulation
3. HP Windows/ Doors
4. Air-Tight Construction
5. Balanced Ventilation
6. Reduced Mechanicals



R. Buckminster Fuller



R. Buckminster Fuller



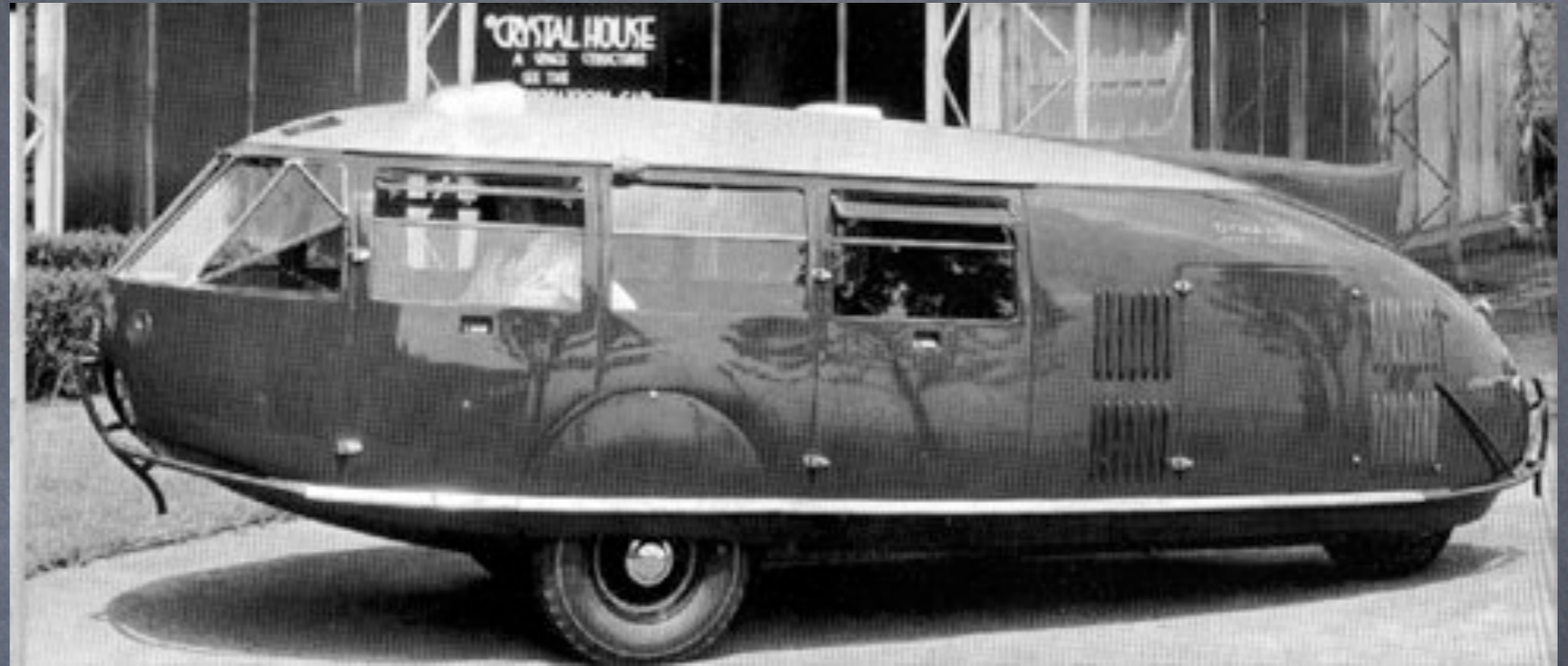
- Architect
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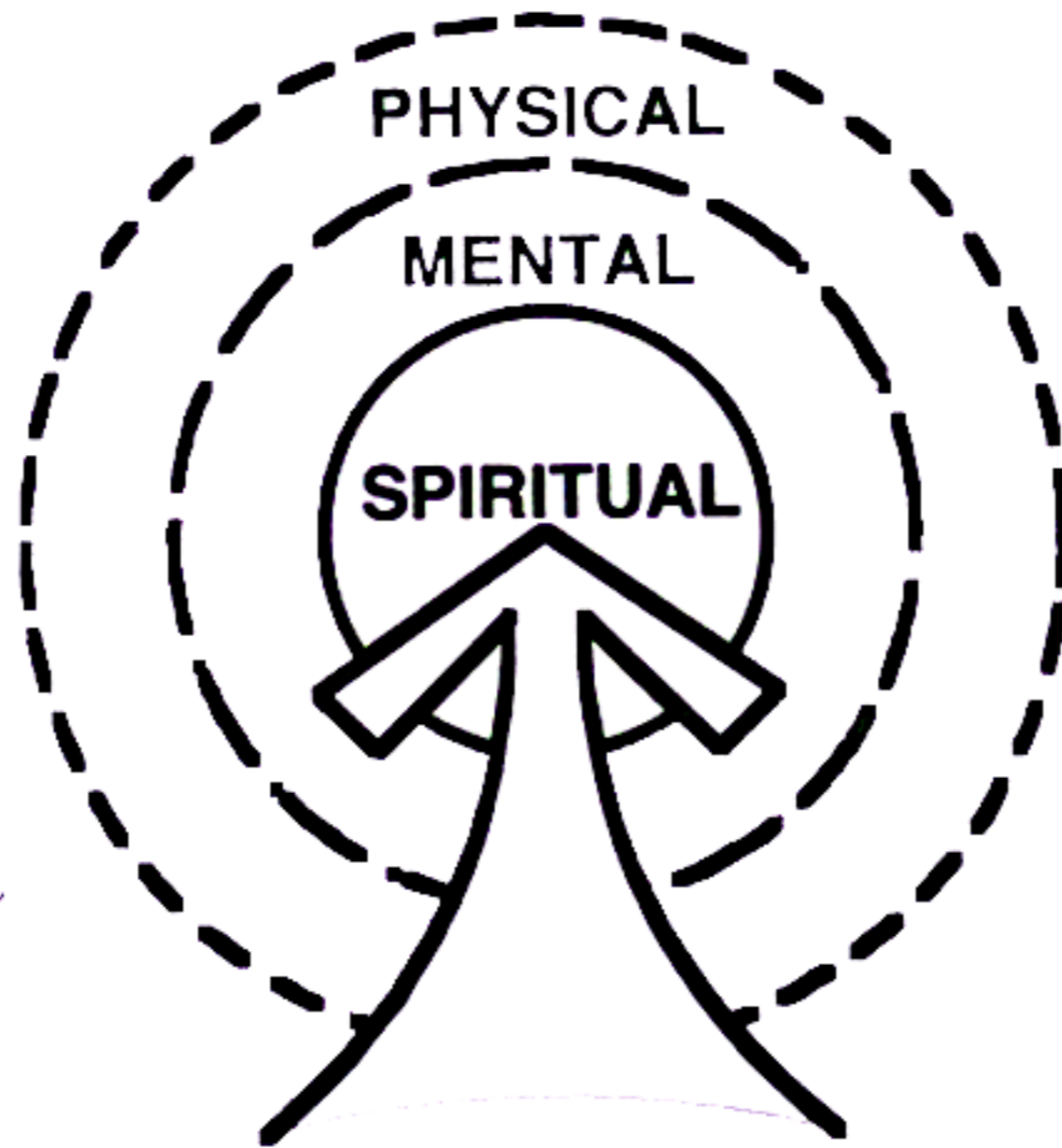
Martial Arts

as Spiritual Path



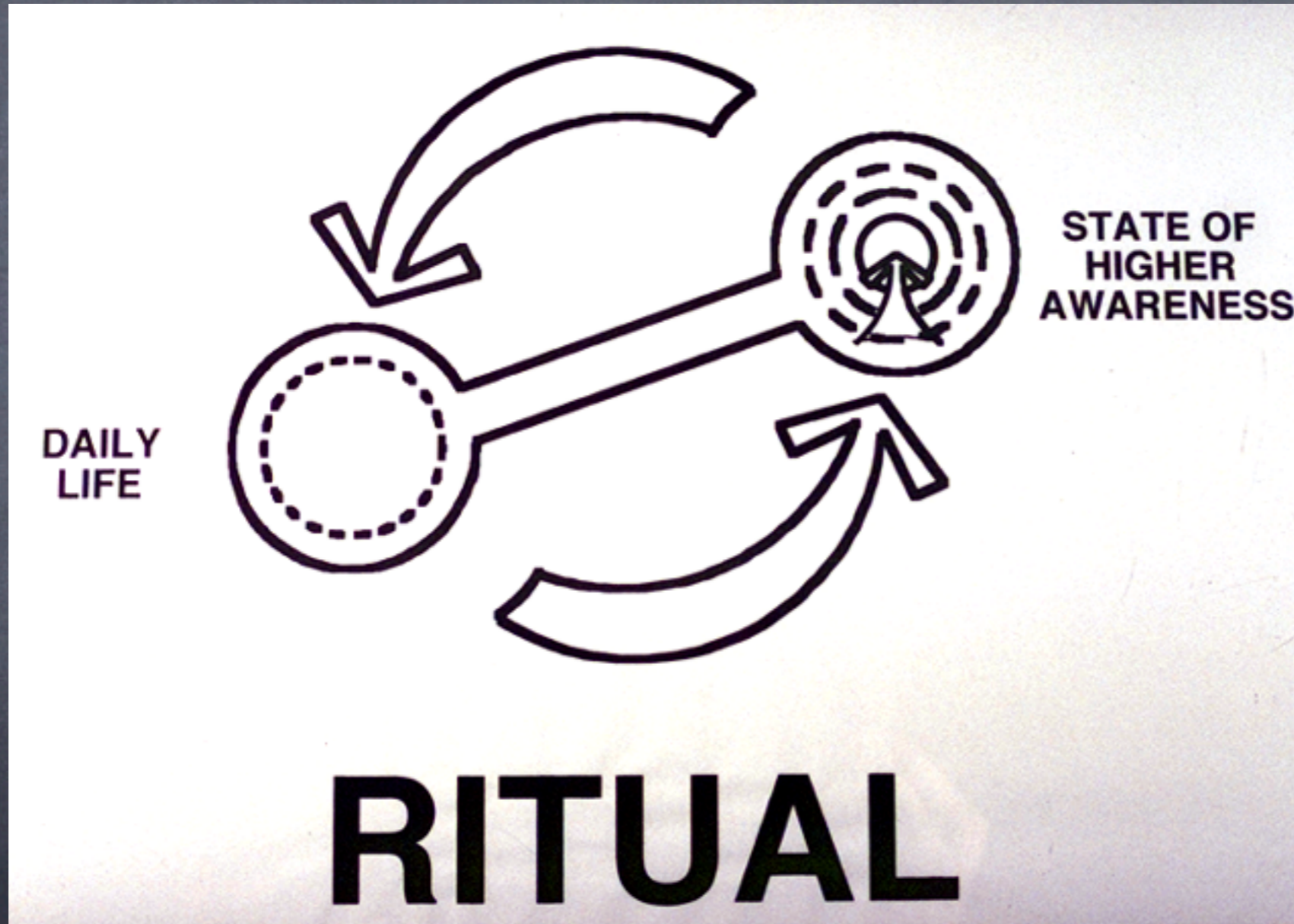
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Martial Arts

as Spiritual Path:
Themes

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Themes



Martial Arts

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Themes



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Procession & Transition

Martial Arts

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Themes



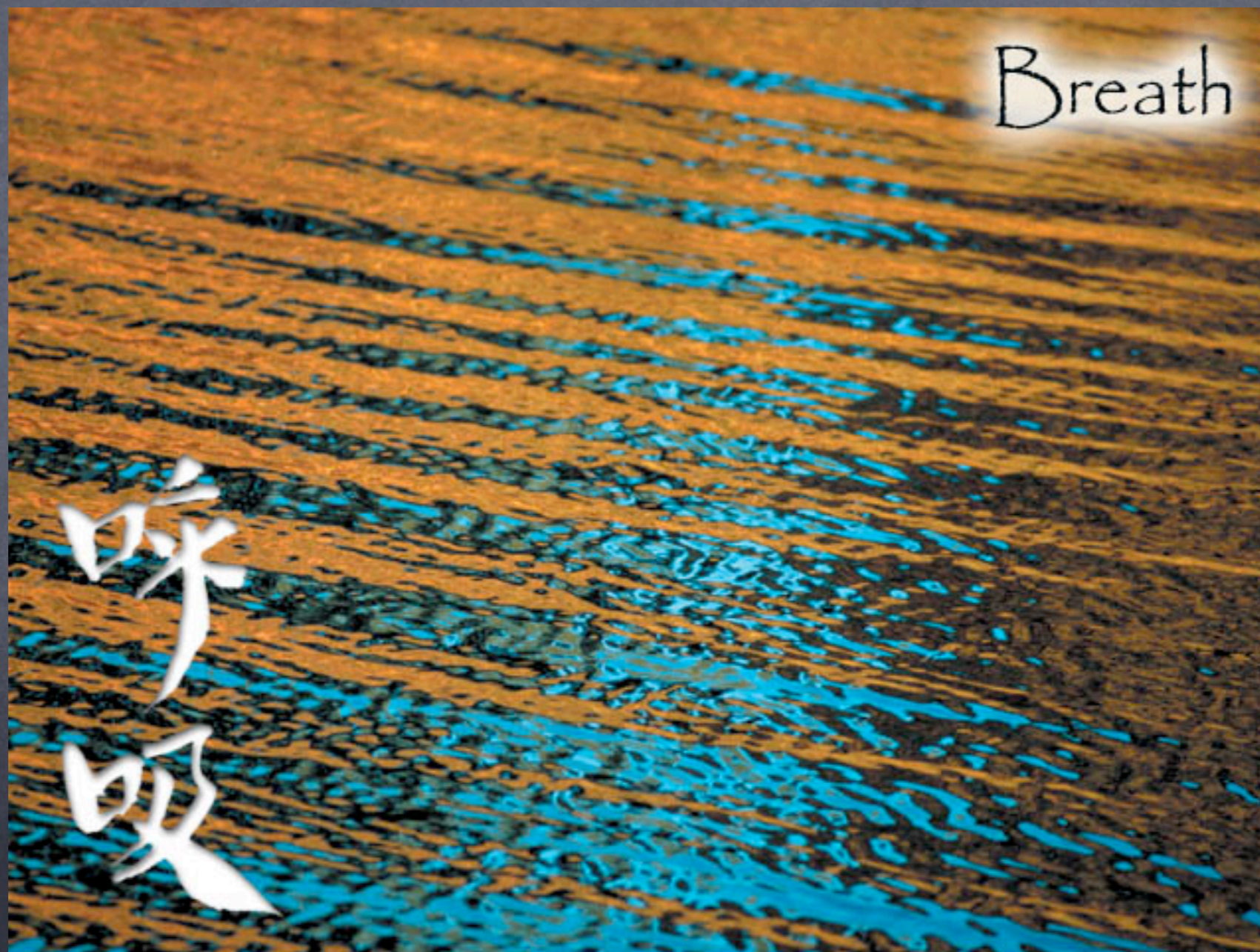
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Martial Arts

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Connection to Nature

自然との
接触



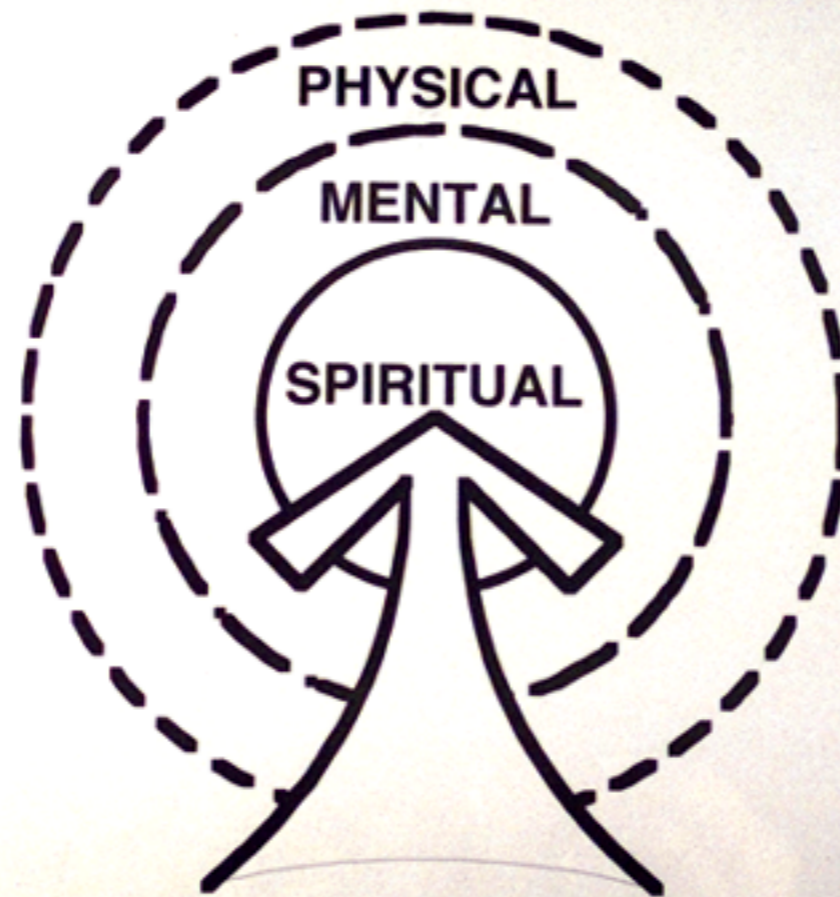
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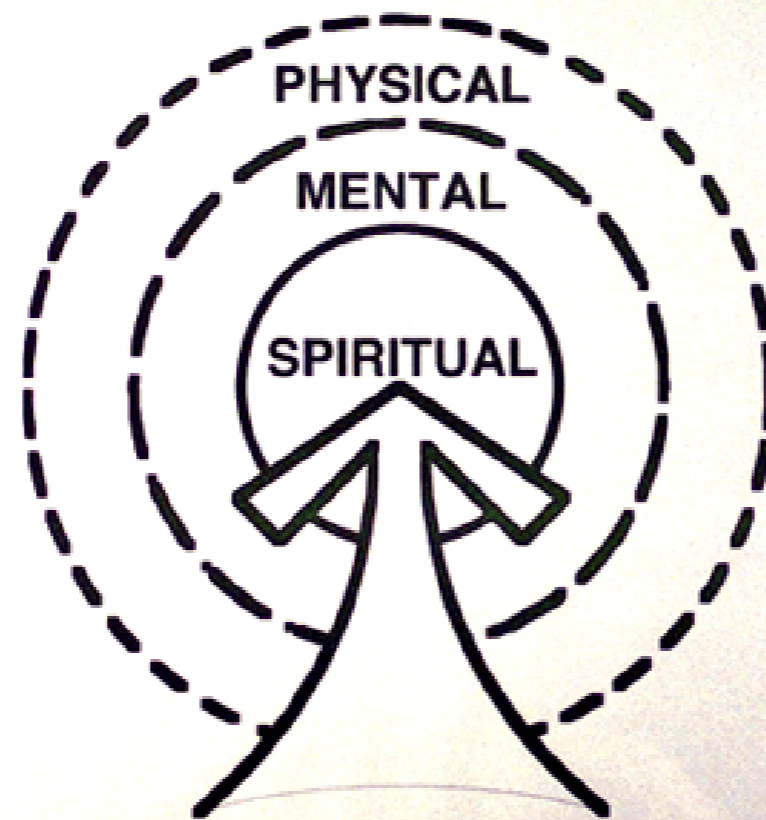
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BODY

Martial Arts

as Spiritual Path



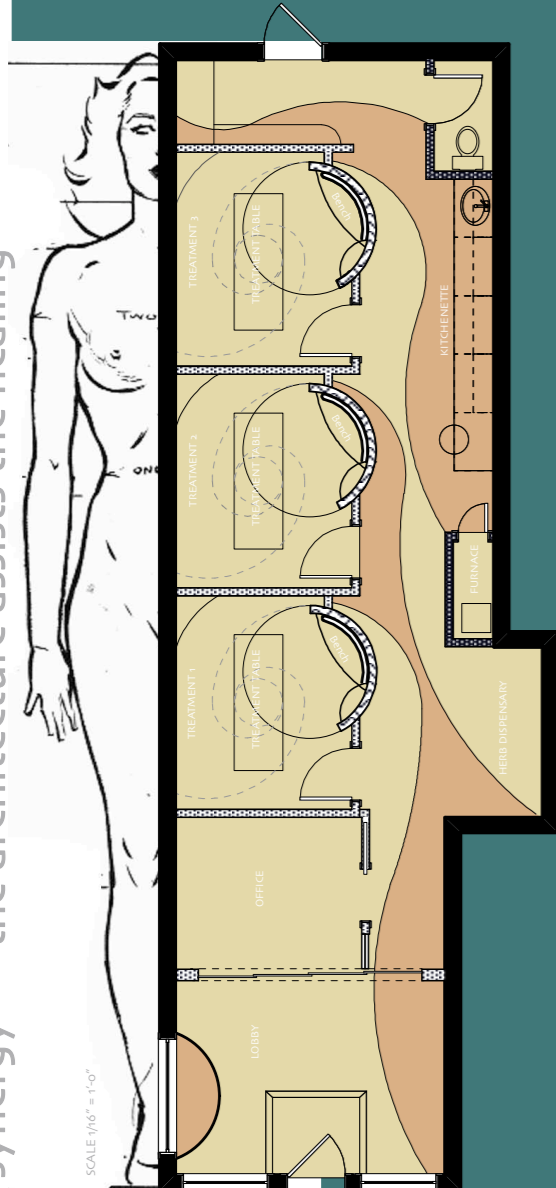
ARCHITECTURE

center for health and well being

4650 north rockwell st. chicago

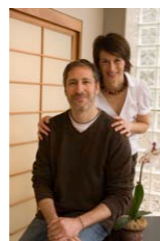
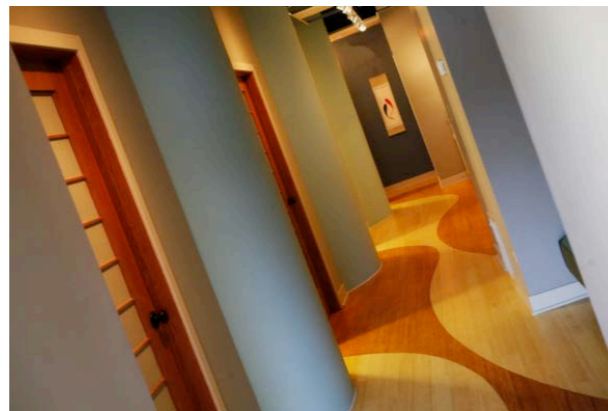
15 years ago, Ray Kohl bought a 2 flat and an adjacent empty lot in a Chicago neighborhood where gang activity was the norm. Today, the Ukrainian Village where Kohl resides has turned around and through extensive renovation, Kohl's home has become a centerpiece for his love of gardening and his interest in the Japanese philosophies embodied in his

synergy = "the architecture assists the healing"



acupuncture clinic

mark a miller architects/builders



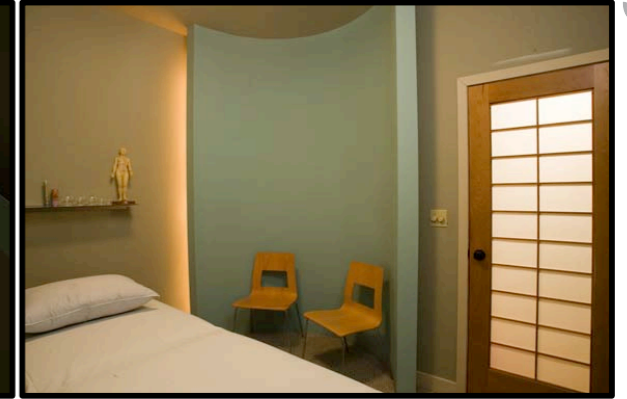
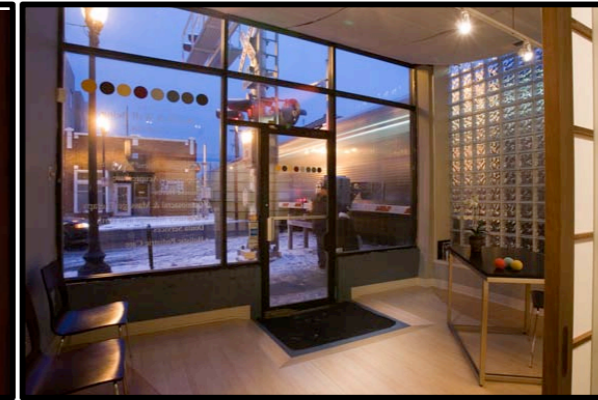
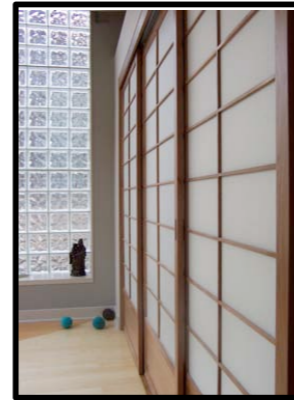
CLIENT: Jennifer Paschen - Owner
 DESCRIPTION: 2007 Commercial Renovation
 LOCATION: Chicago IL - Ravenswood Manor
 TOTAL BUDGET: \$25,000
 CONSTRUCTION MGR.: Mark A. Miller Architects/Builders

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As luck had it, Jennifer has her children at the Chicago Waldorf School. During a parent night, she met the wife of local architect/builder mark a. miller, who's son is in the same class. Learning that mark was an architect that specialized in incorporating eastern zen philosophy into the design of western architecture, she knew she had to work with him. This was the beginning of a wonderful collaboration as both acupuncturist and architect discussed the design of the space in the same vocabulary Jennifer uses to assist the healing process of her patients.

As soon as one walks into the door they are immediately aware that they are in a sacred place. Warm bamboo flooring; japanese shoji screens & a soft billowing fabric ceiling set the environment while visitors sit in the waiting area. A flowing pattern is stained cherry, into the bamboo flooring. Like the flow of a river, the shapes lead patients to one of the three treatment rooms. The shape continues to "flow" into the rooms as the wall changes from flat to curved. The curved wall is held back from meeting the adjacent wall and hidden lighting implies the flow of ki energy is coming into the treatment room to benefit the patient. (see photo X)

The curved wall also makes a safe secure spot for therapist and patient to have their consultation. A shield from the stresses of their daily life, to encourage them to listen to the wisdom found in the feelings of their bodies, and to share it with the acupuncturist. The ceiling design is critical for professional services requiring a patient to be on their back. Their longest experience in the space is the ceiling, so miller installed fiber optic lighting, which twinkles gently like stars in the night sky, poking out from the drywall of the ceiling. The effect is amazing. By the time a session is over the patient can tangibly feel the re-awakened movement of ki, a tingly feeling, in their bodies. When they open their eyes, they now find the ceiling and room to be matching the feelings in their bodies.

The Themes:

SYNERGY: This brings us to some themes found throughout mark's work. The way the architecture is assisting the effectiveness of the acupuncturists treatment creates a synergy, where the "whole is greater than the sum of the parts". Magic occurs when design can create synergy.

Flow Eastern Philosophies believe health and happiness occur when *ki* (chi) energy is unrestricted in one's body and throughout the environment. Acupuncture uses needles to assist restrictions found in the body, returning an awareness of the healthful flow to the patient. Martial arts, yoga, massage therapy and meditation are all eastern disciplines working with *ki*, which are being embraced by more and more americans each day. The shapes of the floor patterns; the curved walls and the circulation throughout the center attempts to assist visitors in being conscious of "flow".

Separation Meditation attempts to still the mind of the noises of daily life, to allow higher levels of awareness and inner calm to occur. Likewise the design of the center's calm environment created by the finish materials, soft lighting, sculpture and water fountain; assist patients in leaving the stresses of their daily life, come into a very different calm place, allowing them to focus on their healing and well being treatments while in the grace of the center.

commercial remodel

Hospice Volunteer



But Enough About Me.....

When I Became A
Father....

When I Became A Father.....



Traditional Cemeteries



Issue One:

Cemeteries & Graveyards

Results:



Issue One:

Cemeteries & Graveyards

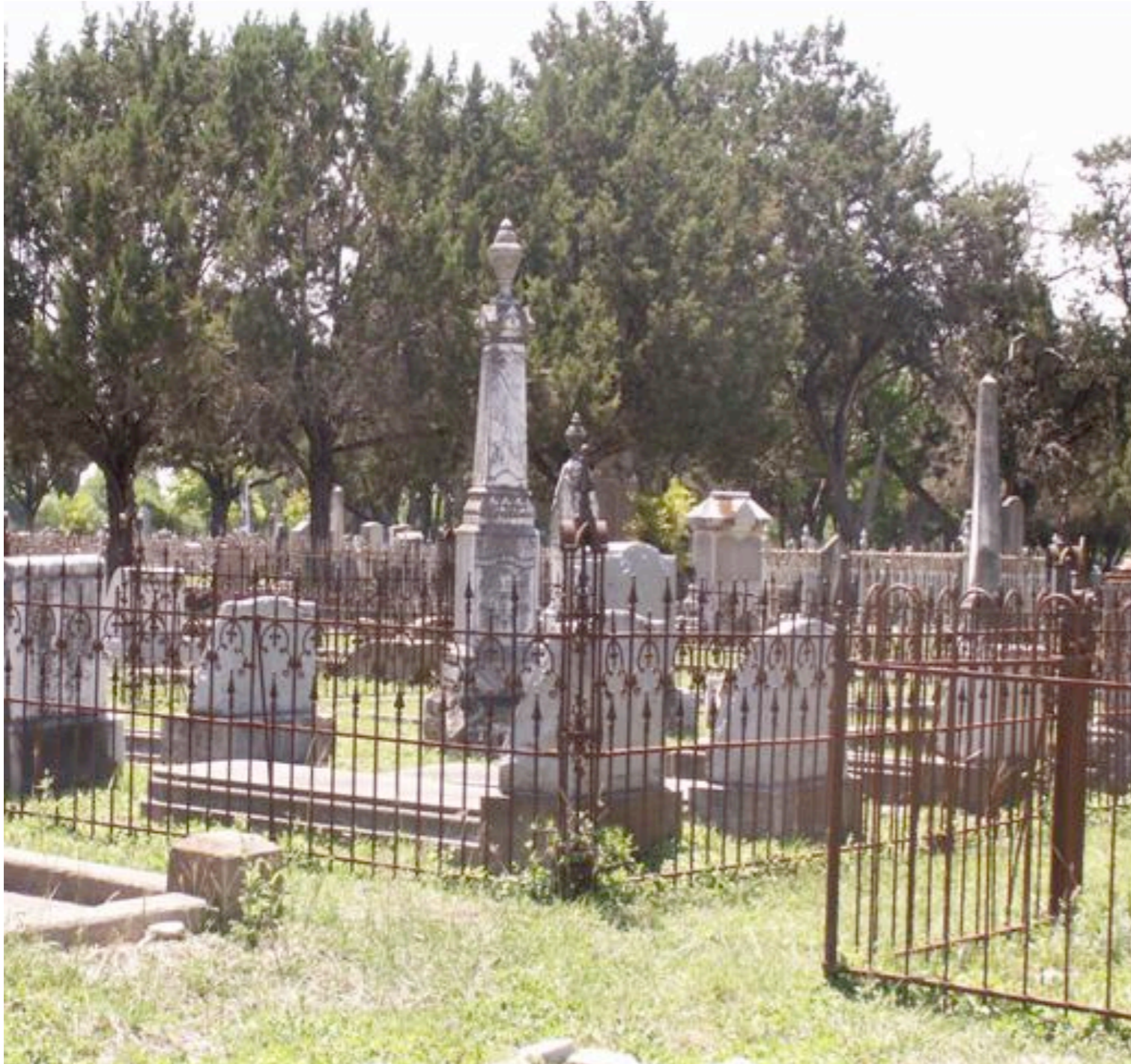


Results:

- Short Visits

Issue One:

Cemeteries & Graveyards

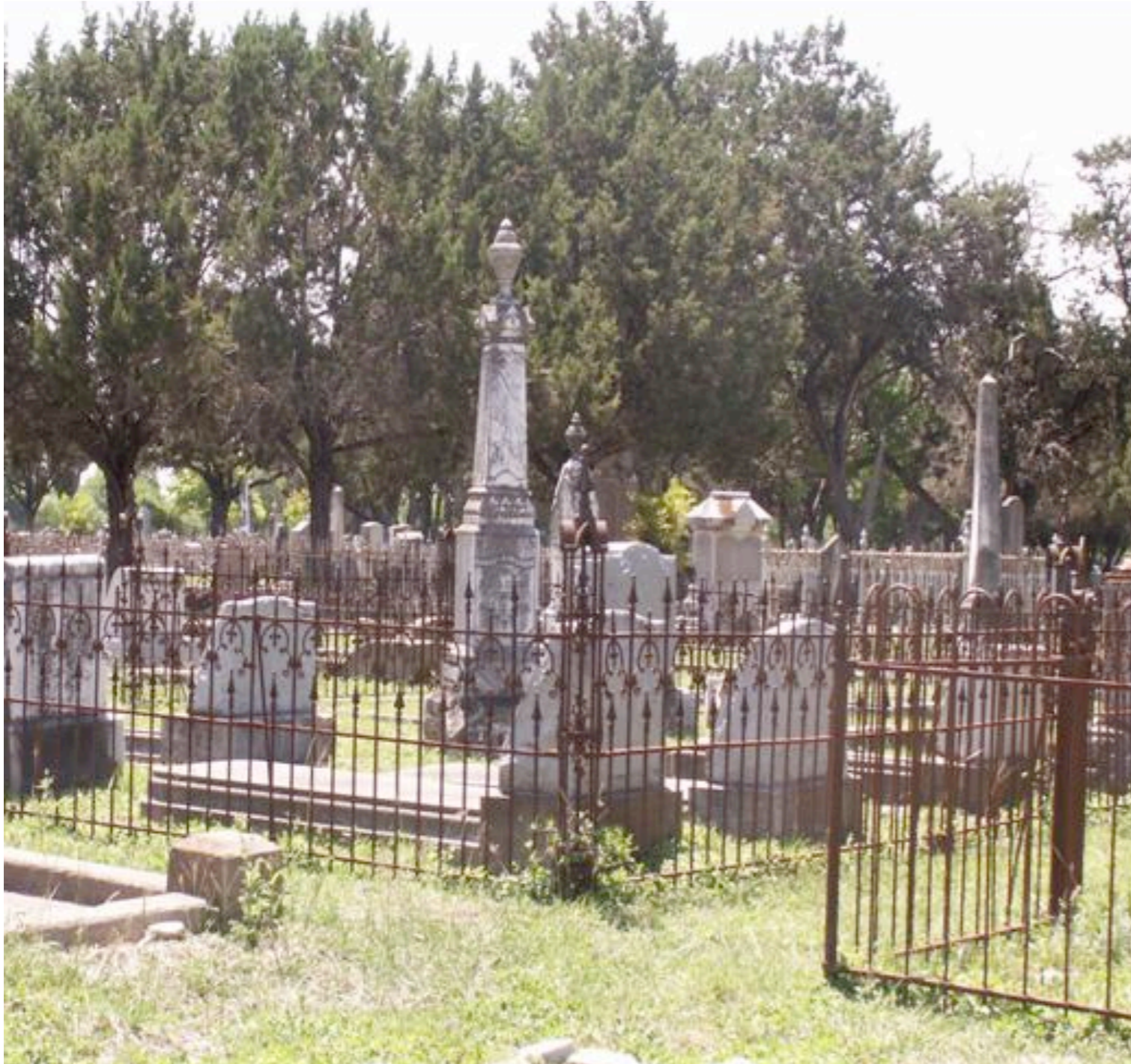


Results:

- Short Visits
- No Visits

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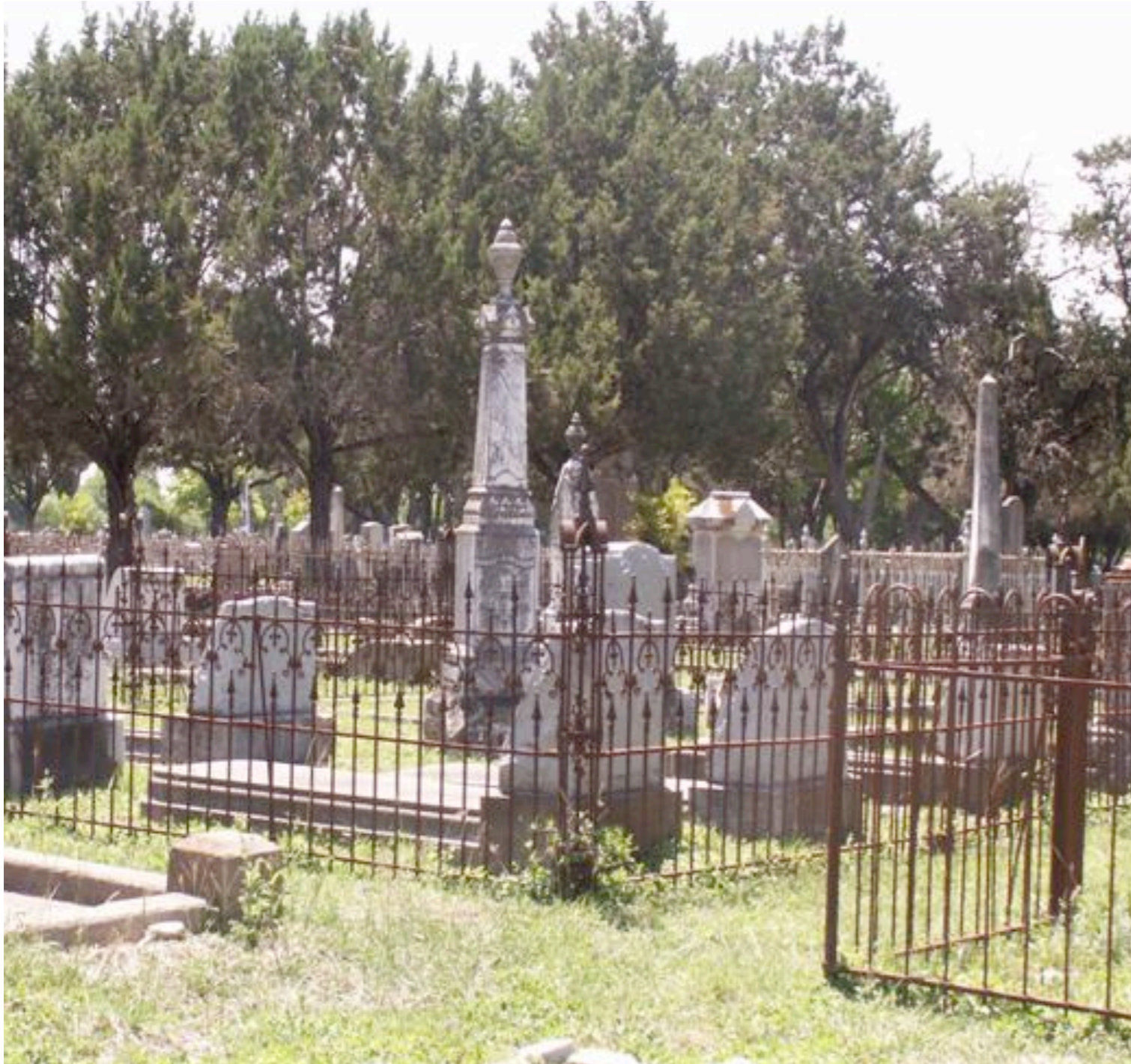


Results:

- Short Visits
- No Visits
- Lose of Connection

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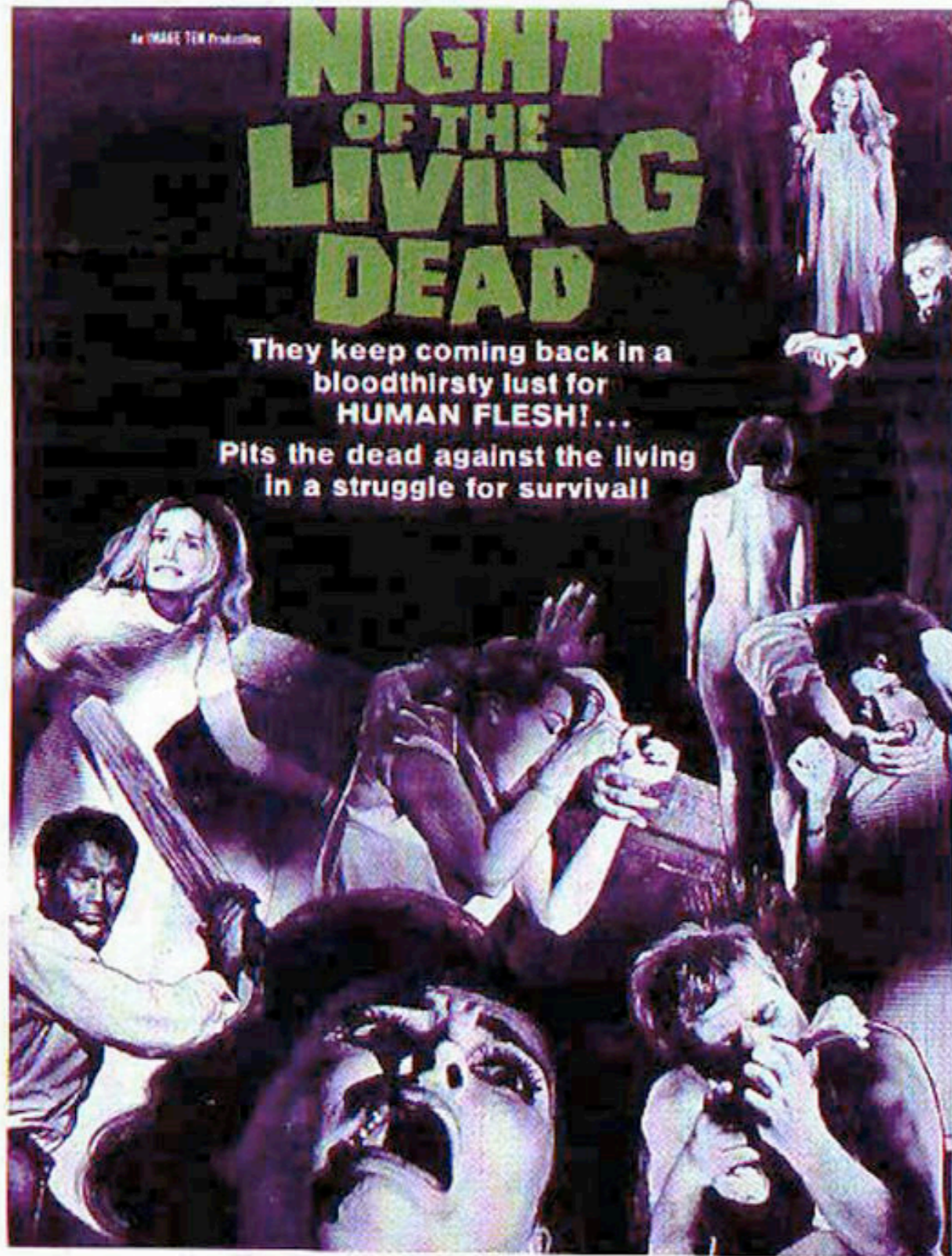
Cemeteries & Graveyards



Results:

- Short Visits
- No Visits
- Lose of Connection
- Feelings of Guiltiness

THEY WON'T STAY DEAD!



Issue One:

Cemeteries & Graveyards

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Issue Two:

Time To Grieve



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- Very limited compared to other societies



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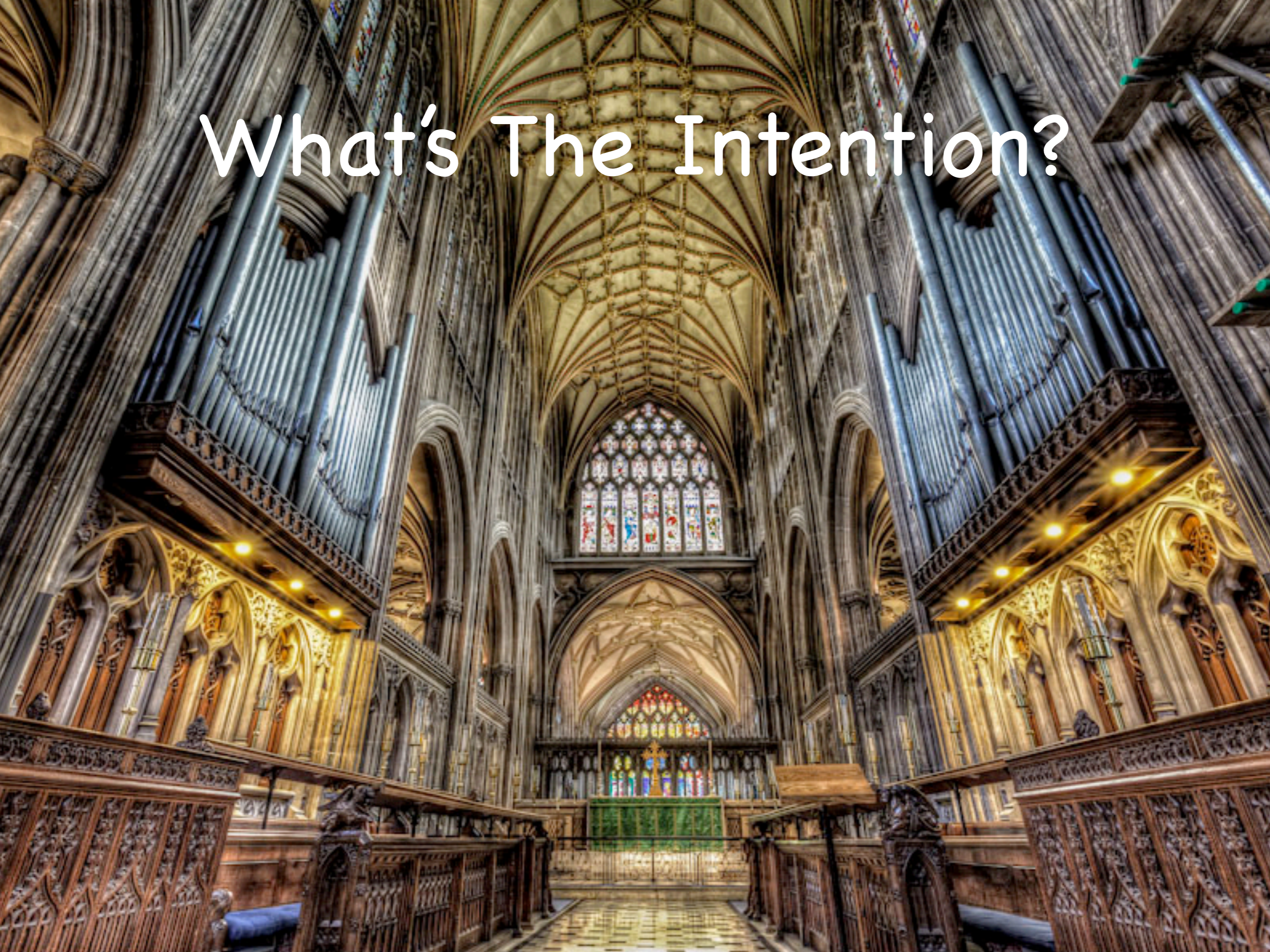
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Parent's Intention:



What's The Intention?

Parent's Intention:
To Love and Support Their Children



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Child's Intention:

What's The Intention?

Parent's Intention:

To Love and Support Their Children



Child's Intention:

To Love, Care and Celebrate Their Parent's Life

Issue Three:

What's the Intention?

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Issue Three:

What's the Intention?

- Does it really say “Thank You”?



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- Cremation more popular than burial
- Message potential not fully realized

Issue Three:

What's the Intention?



Tremendous room for improvement

Other Cultures?

Dia De Los Muertos



Dia De Los Muertos



Dia De Los Muertos

Happy
Festive
Holiday

Celebrates
Lives of
Loved Ones



Japan

Bon Festival



Koyosan



Koyosan



Koyosan



Koyosan



Butsudan



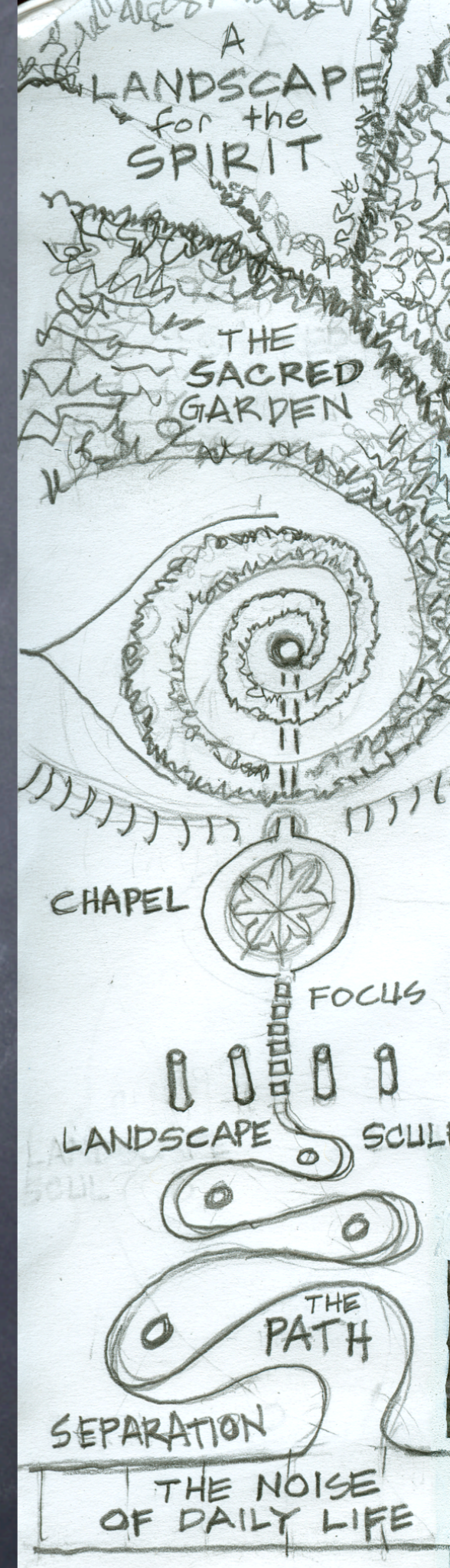
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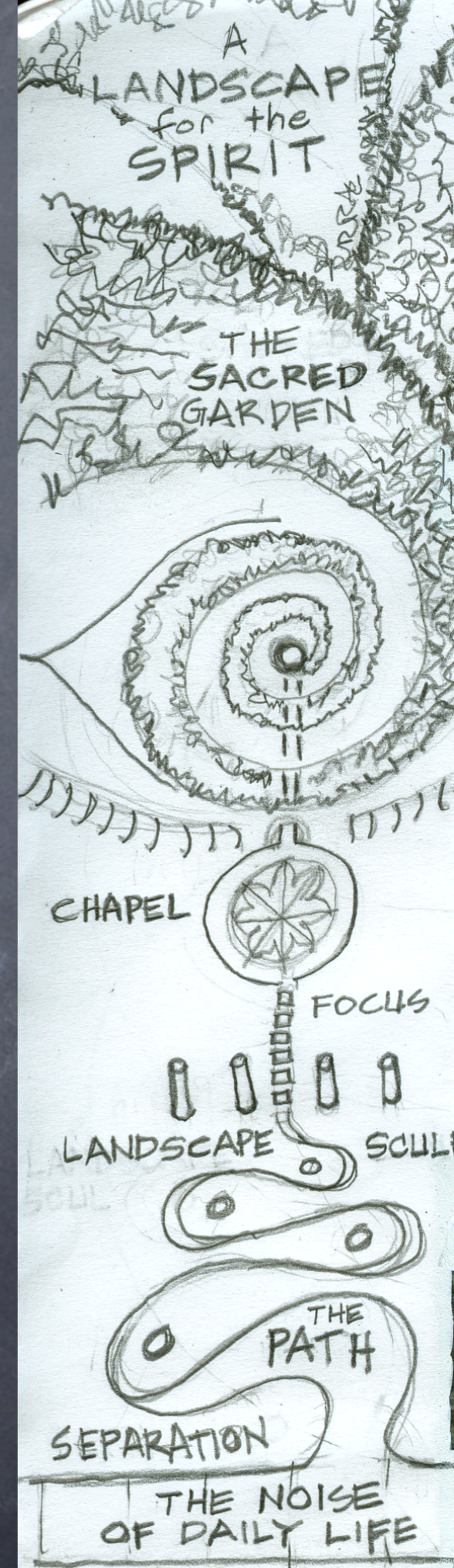
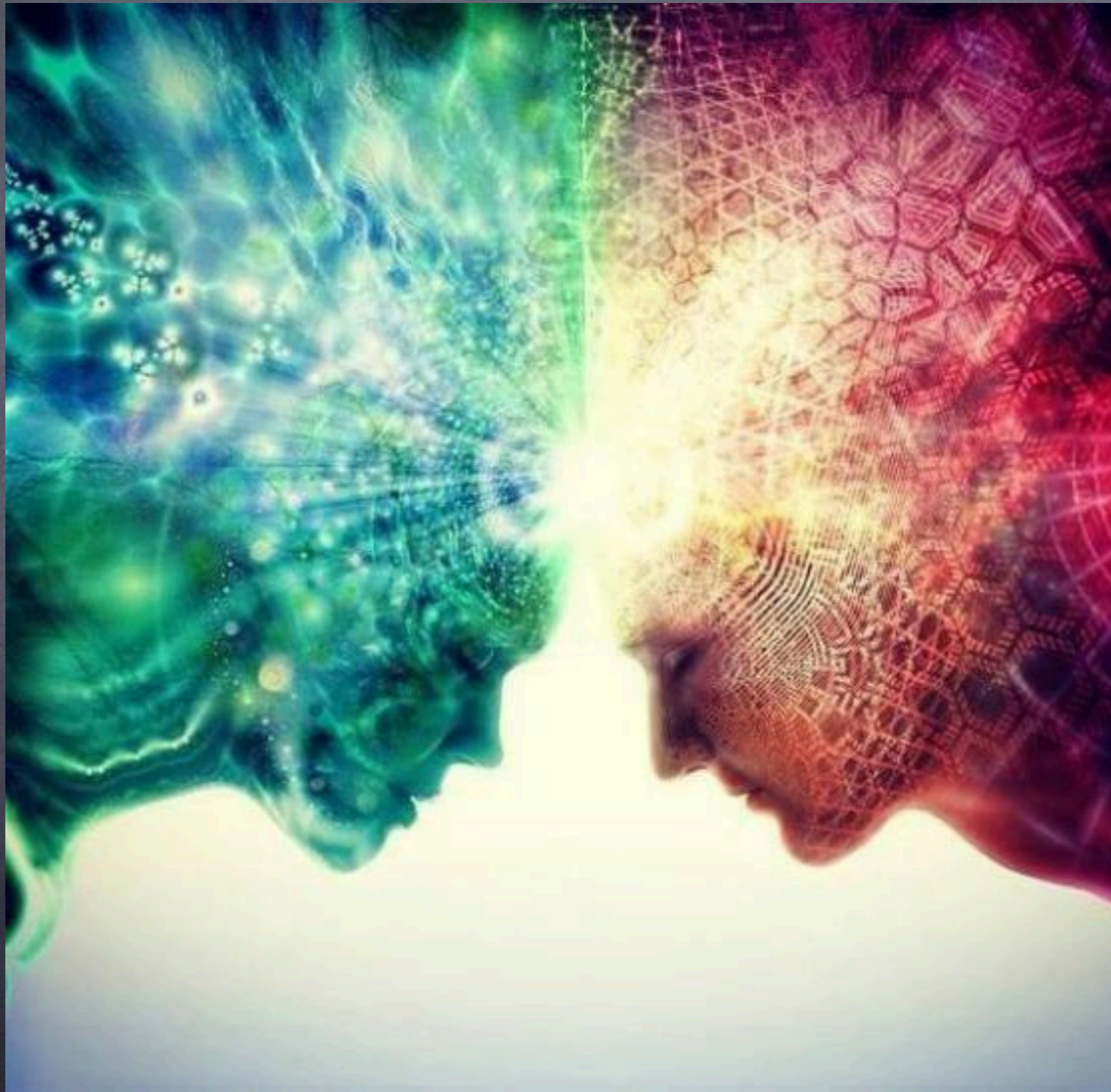


Inspiration from Steiner Lectures

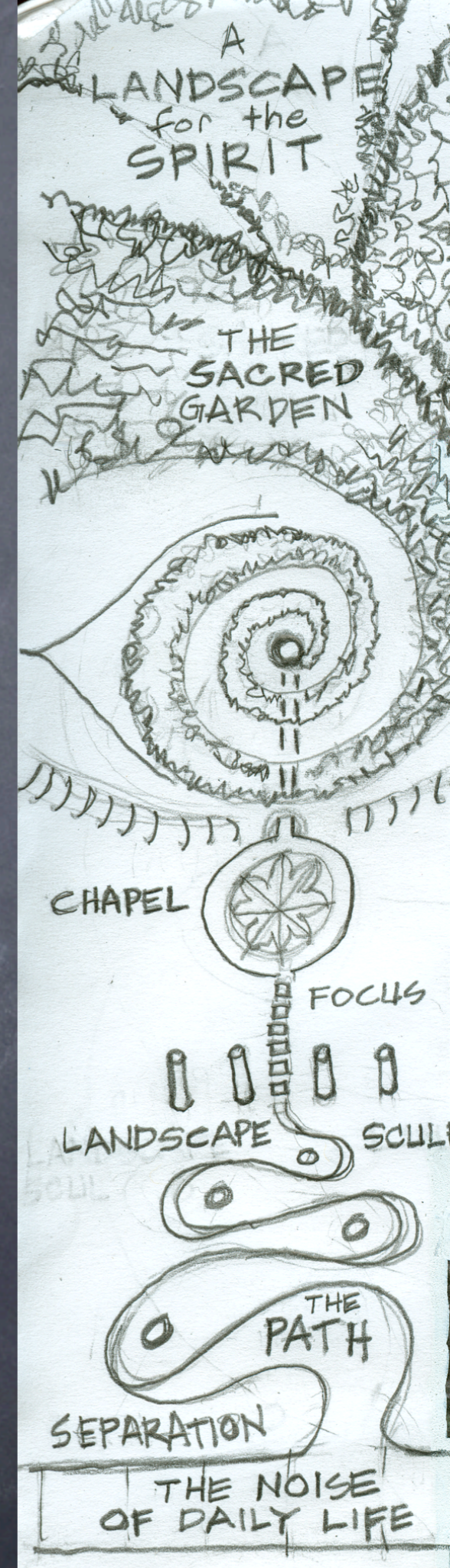


Inspiration from Steiner Lectures

- Connect our consciousness with the presence of the souls of the dead

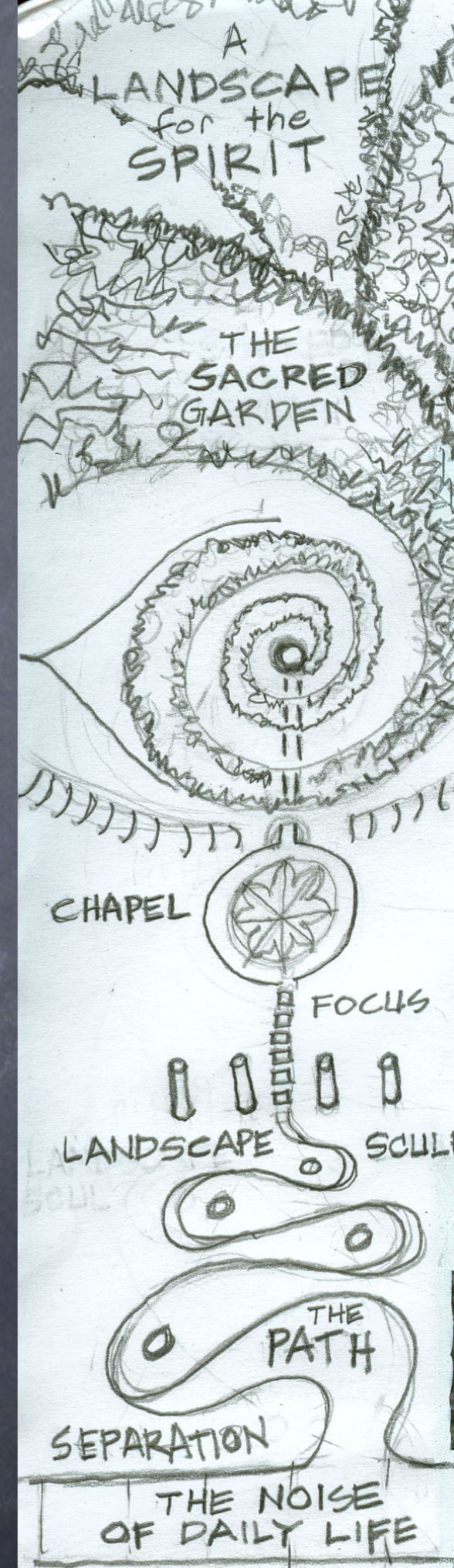


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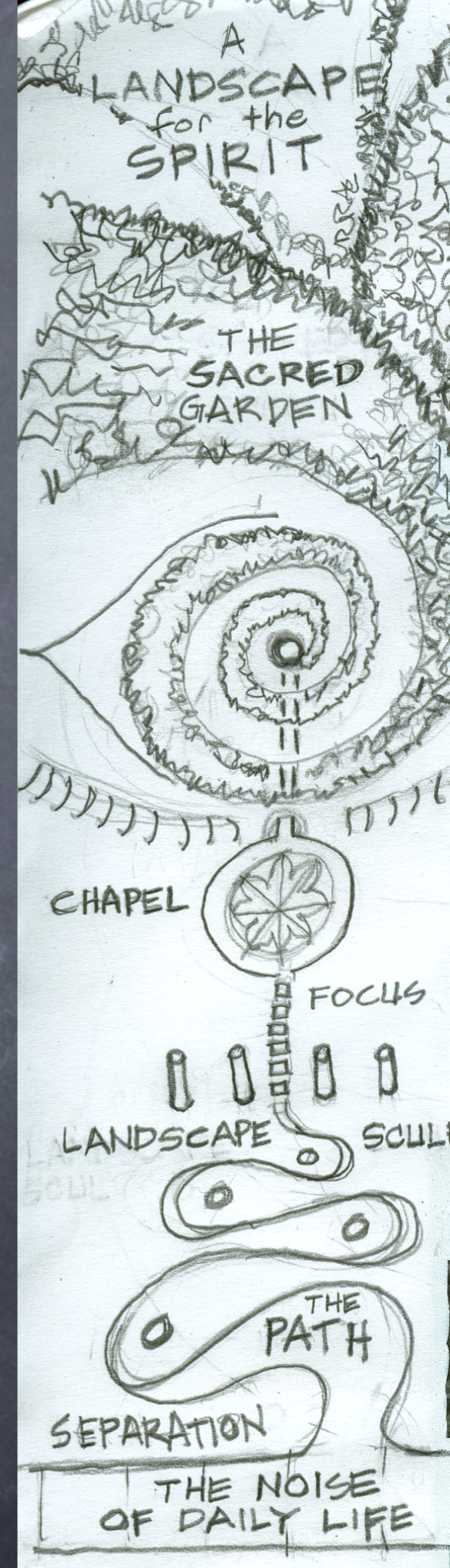


Inspiration from Steiner Lectures

• We can hear the dead through listening to our soul.

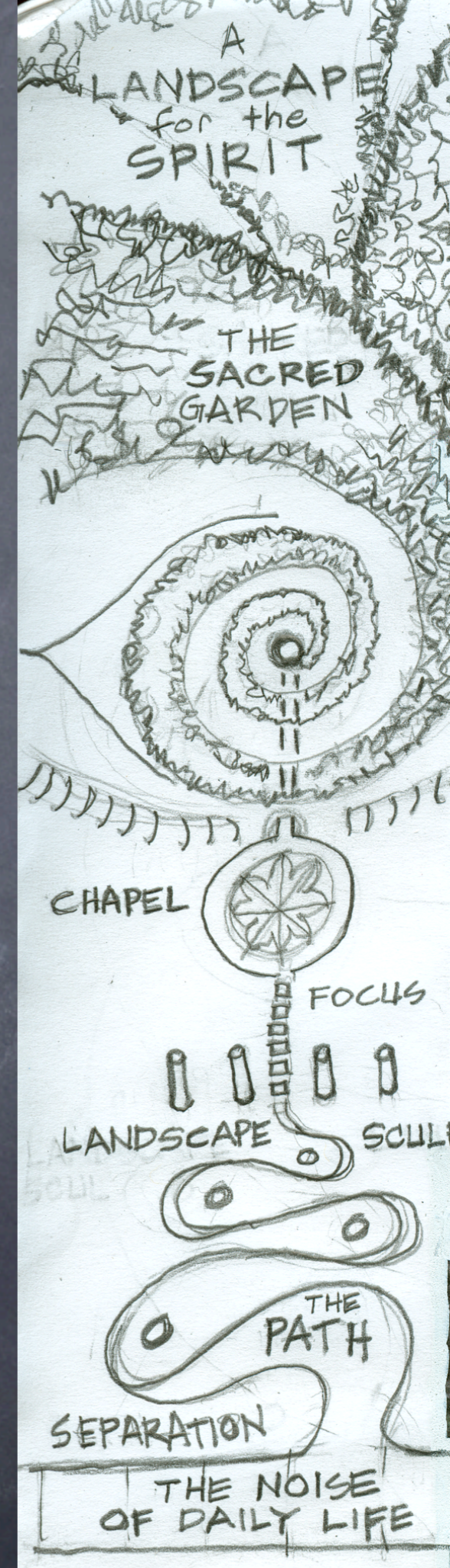


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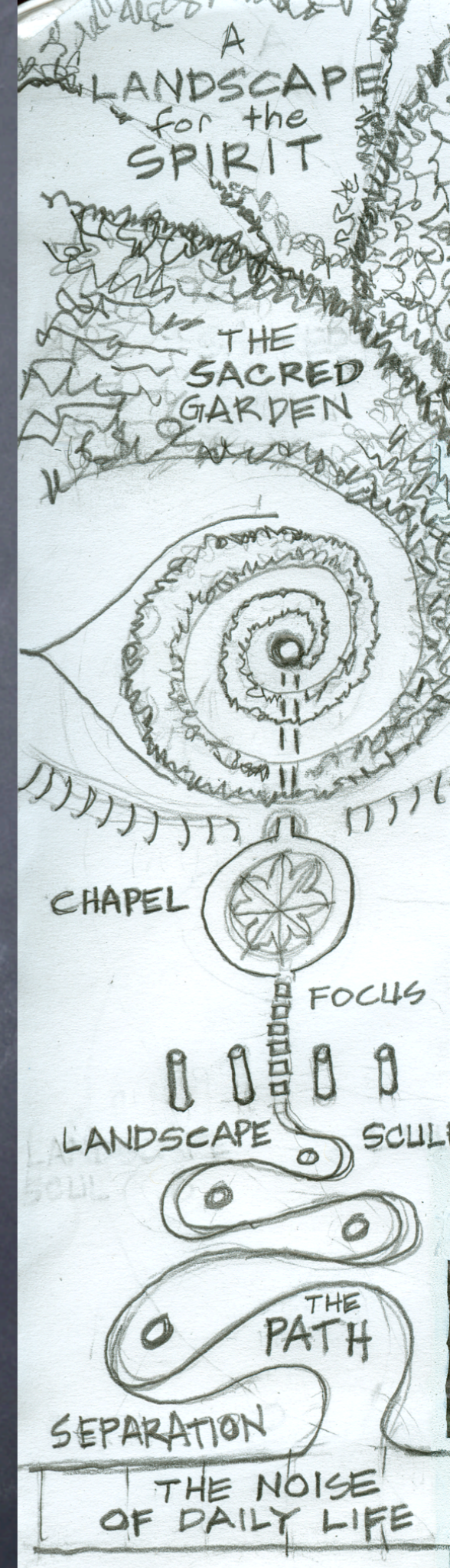


Inspiration from Steiner Lectures

- A spiritual elemental connects from the universe to the physical elements on earth.

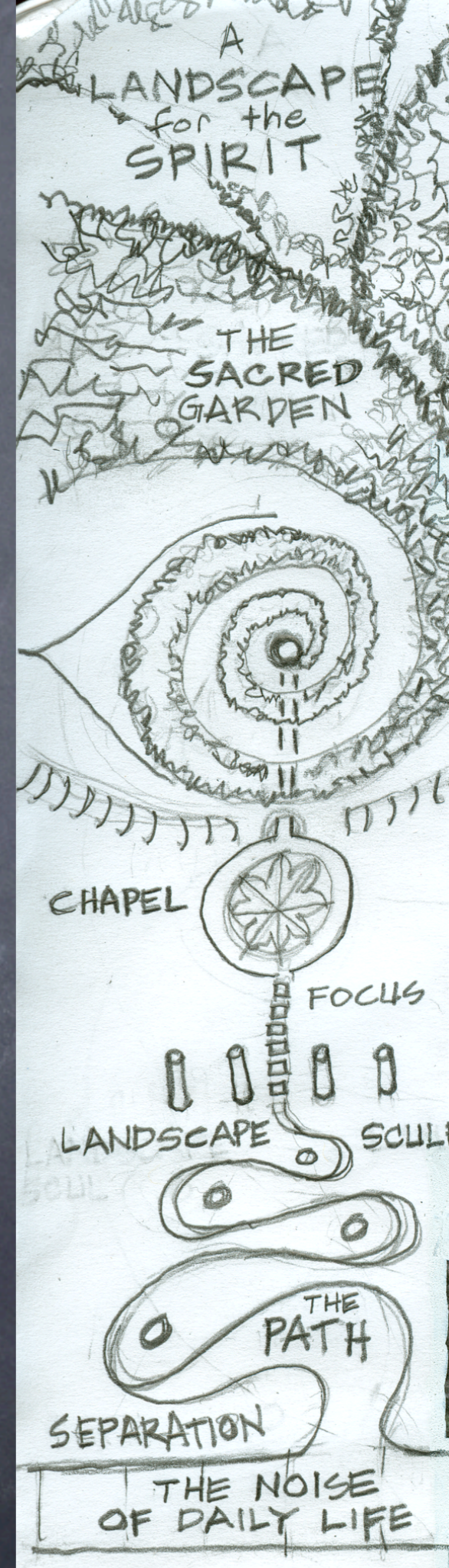


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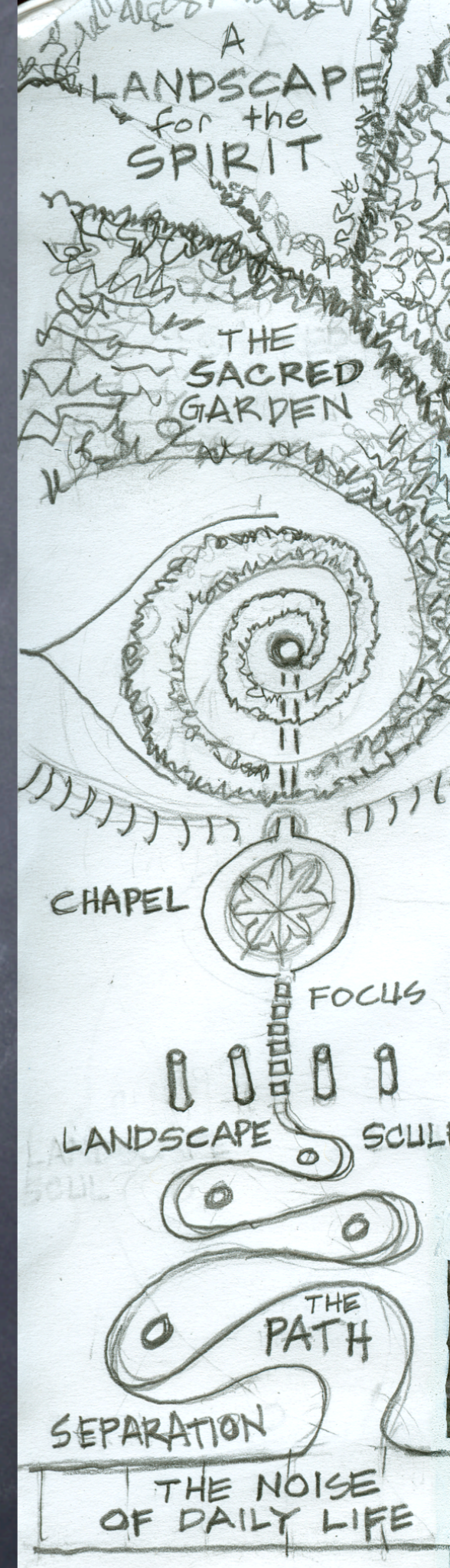


Inspiration from Steiner Lectures

- Breath: our tool for connecting to the spiritual realm.

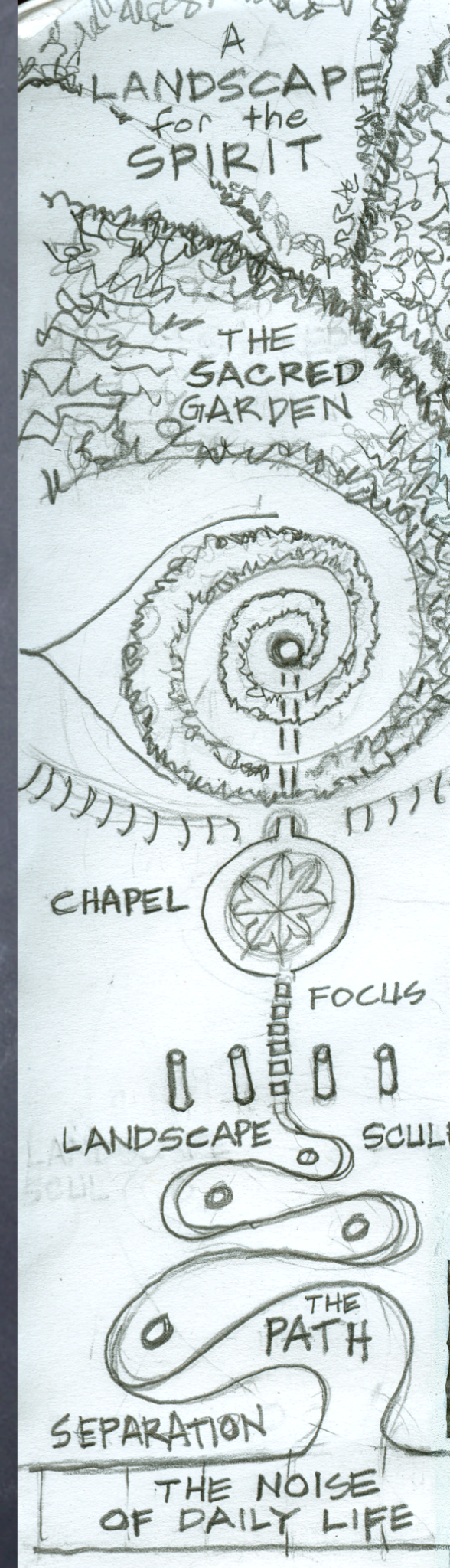


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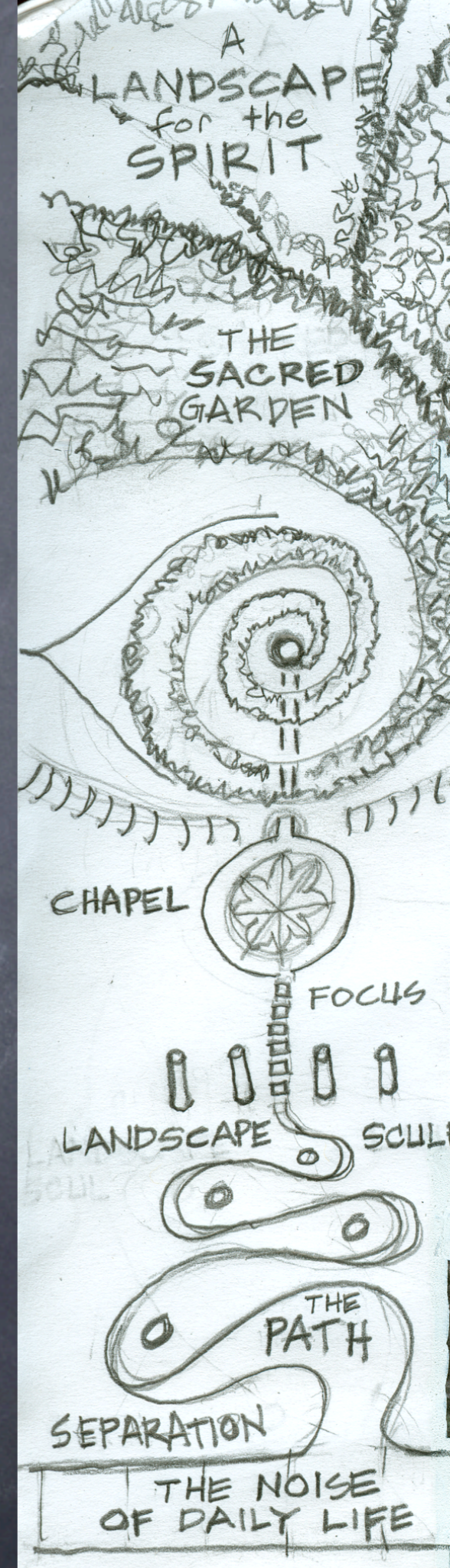


Inspiration from Steiner Lectures

- The dead can see greater spiritual perspective.

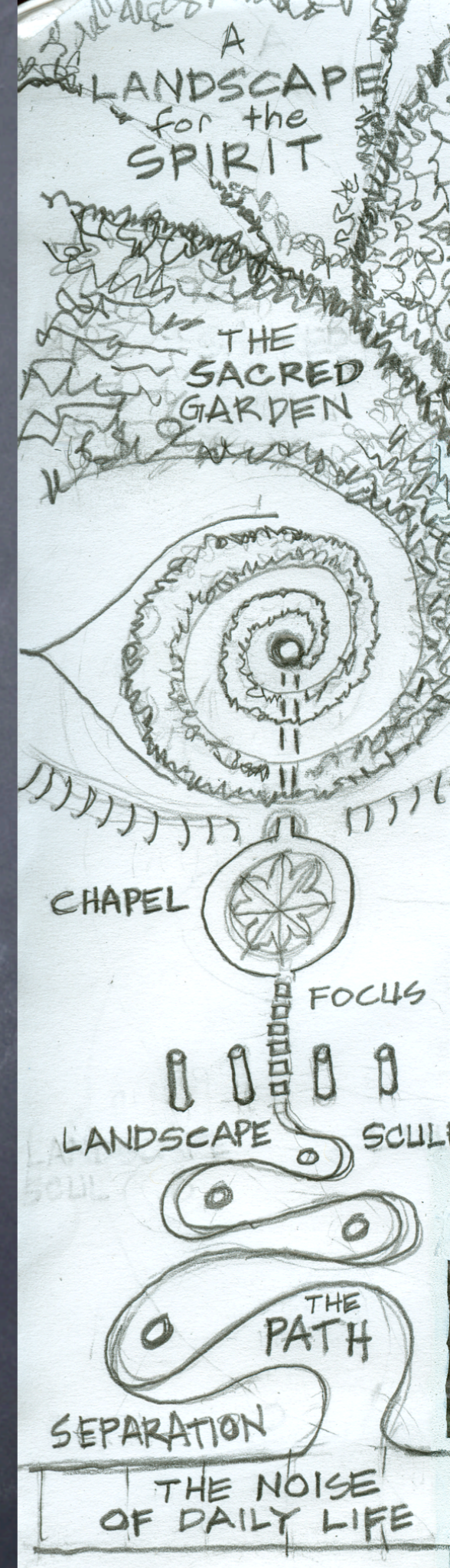


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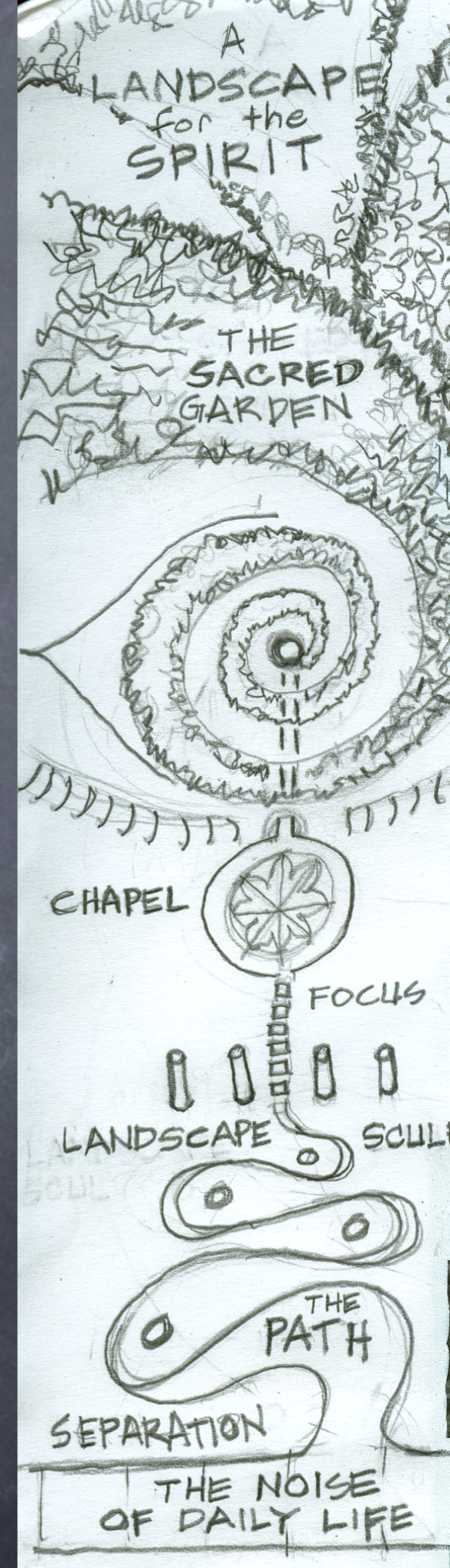


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- We need to understand we live amongst the dead.

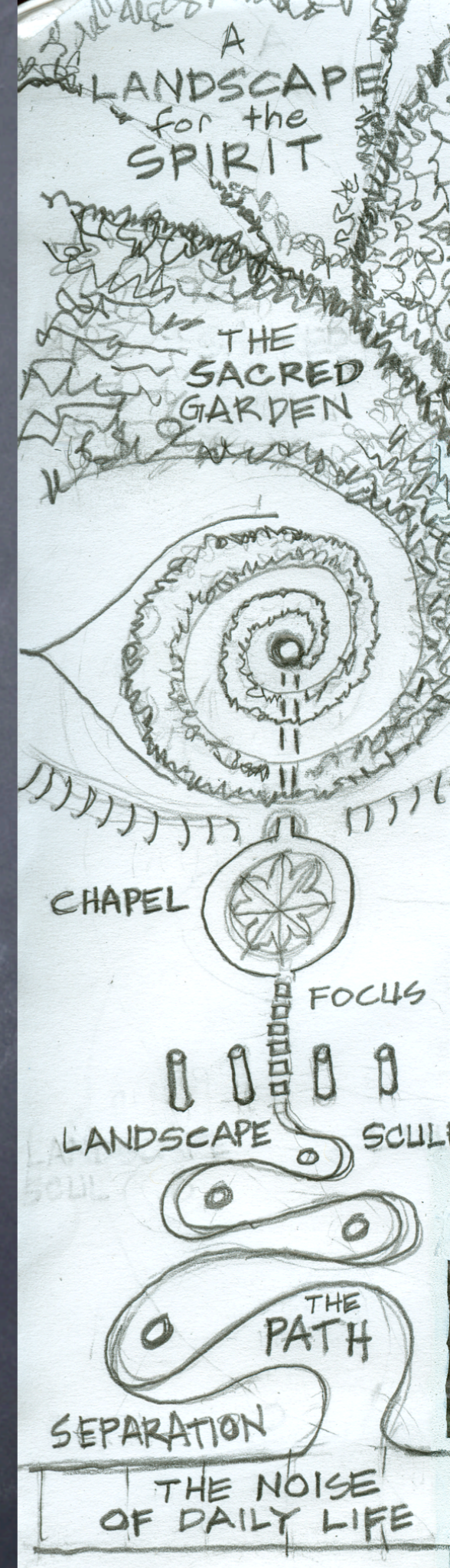


What's Next? Spirit Parks.



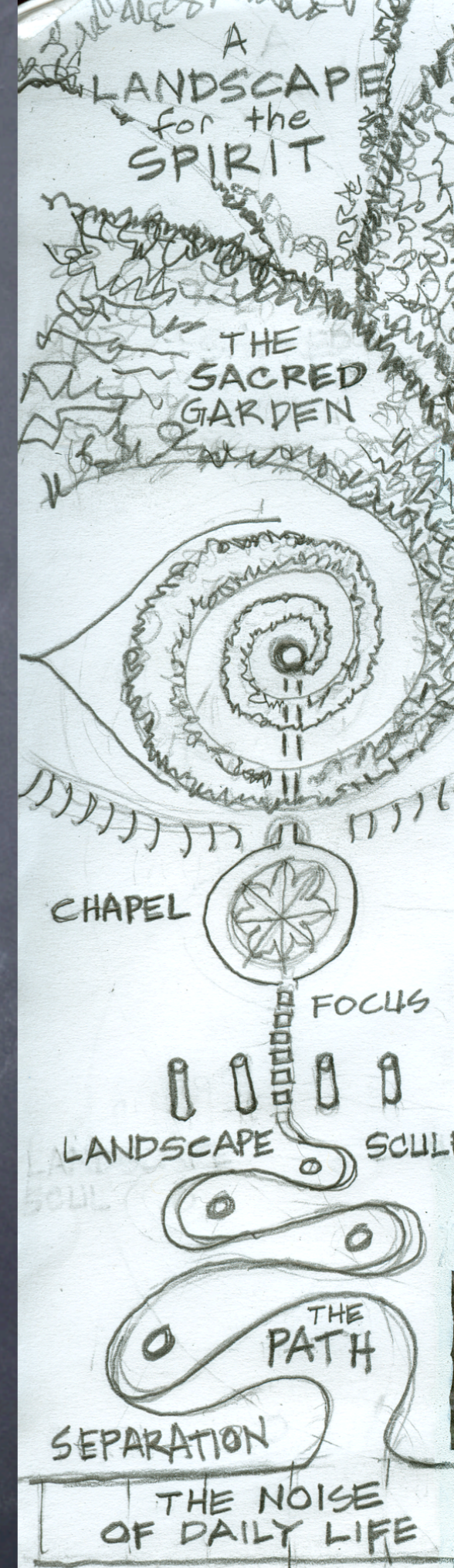
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- A place to help us see into the spiritual realm that is all around us



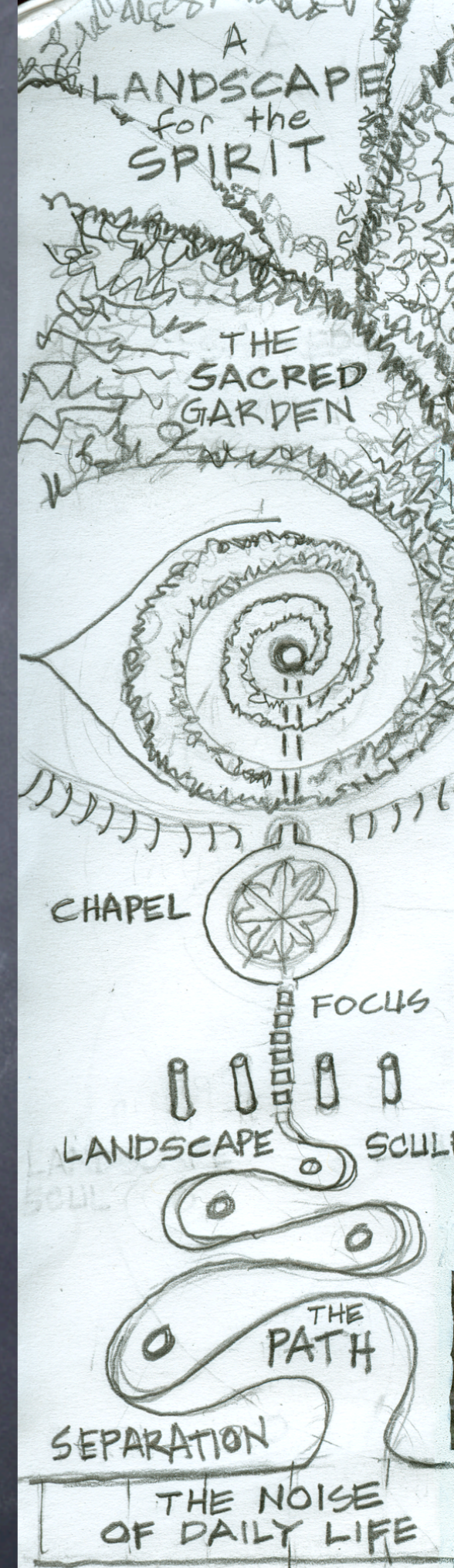
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- An environment to assist humans to hear the spiritual impulses of the dead



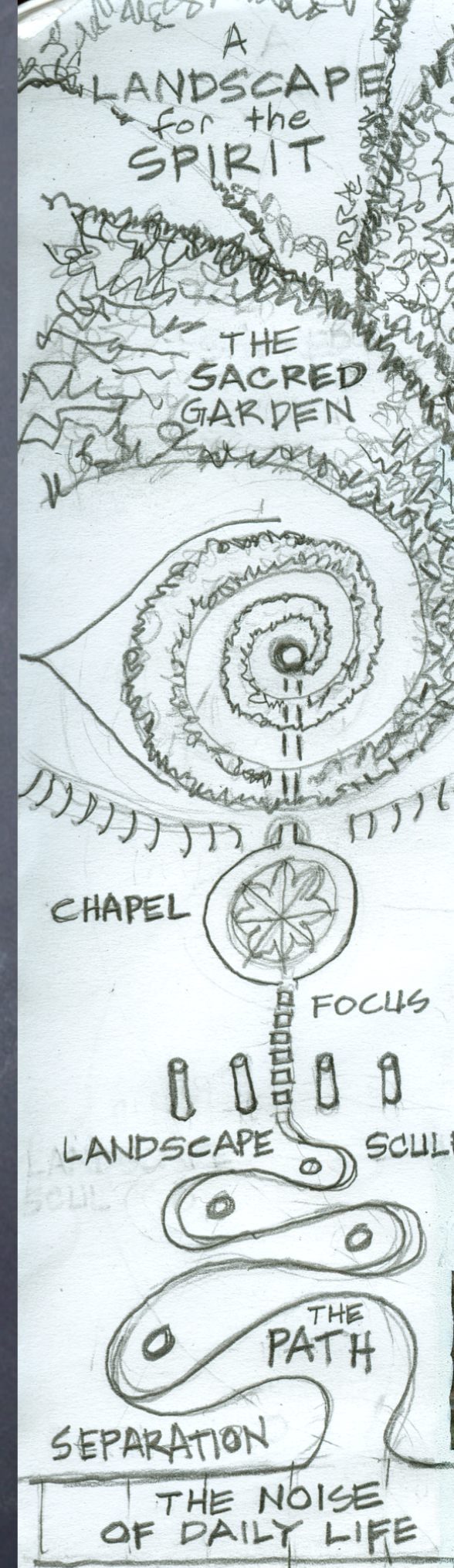
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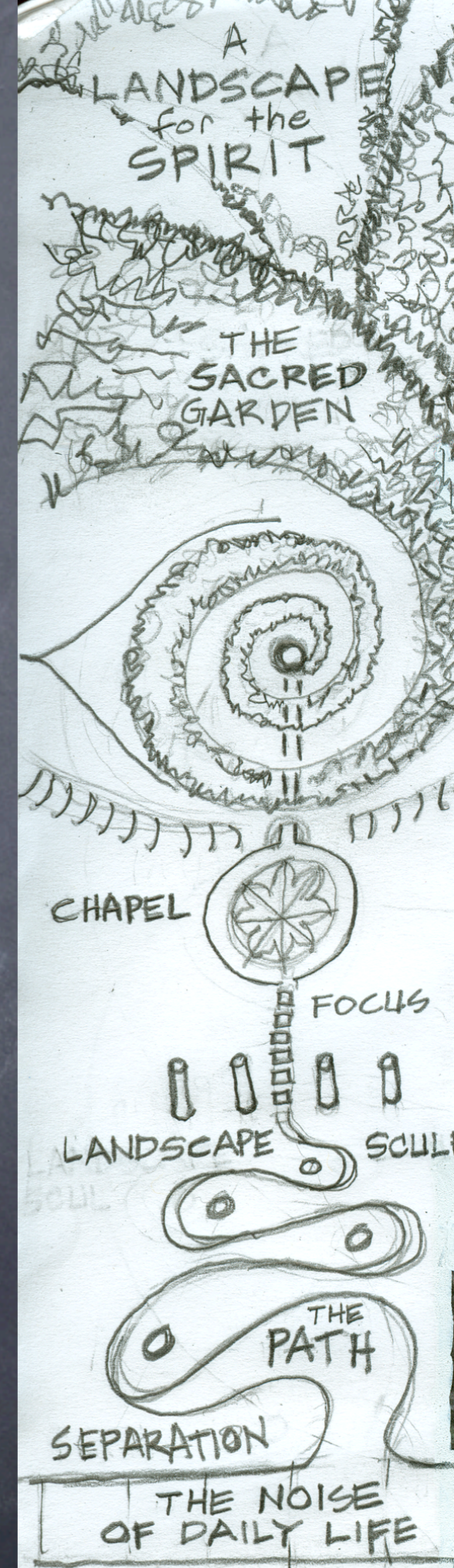
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- A place to archive the ideas of loved ones who've passed i.e. wisdom for those still on their physical journey
- A place to connect with the spirit that has loved and supported us
- (Steiner) A place of "Wonder, Revelation, Intuition, Imagination, Inspiration"



The Bridging Project

Between Life and Death - From Soul to Soul

Thank You!

Mark A. Miller - Architect

mark@ZENplusARCHITECTURE.com

