SPYR-ANAISZ

ABOUT

Spyr-Anais ("SPEAR A-NAZE") is a small drow village built around a cluster of massive stalactites in the Black Loch. This community of about fifty people subsists mainly by fishing and farming mushrooms and is a substantial supplier of food to the nearby drow city of Vlyn'darastyl.

There is only one noble family in Spyr-Anaisz: House Mylgareth. The matron mother, Elzabra Mylgareth, has ruled the village for over 450 years. She is also the head priestess of the village's temple of Lolth.

The entrane to Spyr-Anaisz is a crane lift, located above a set of docks. At the end of the docks, a rock on the shore is engraved with these words, in both Undercommon and Drow:

SPYR-ANAISZ
VISITORS MAY ENTER TO TRADE.
RING THE BELL ON THE PIER.

SOCIETY

The shores of the inlet above which Spyr-Anaisz hangs are a dangerous part of the loch, littered with a variety of carnivorous beasts. The village's founders built their homes high above the ground in order to avoid becoming their prey. Over time, this living arrangement has had a number of unusual effects on the residents here.

While drow tend to be intensely private, there is no privacy to be found in Spyr-Anaisz. The close proximity of the residences and the public walkways running alongside them make it hard to keep secrets here. As a result, there is very little in the way of plotting and scheming going on.

This lack of treachery and underhandedness has, over the years, turned Spyr-Anaisz into a fairly close-knit community. The mistrust and suspicion that runs through most drow settlements is hard to find here. And, while the villagers are not social enough to be described as "neighborly," they do tend to feel that they can rely upon one another.

None of this should suggest that the people of Spyr-Anaisz are any less ruthless than other drow.

The villagers' trust in each other does not extend to outsiders, drow included. While visitors may be allowed into the village to trade, they are closely watched and no mercy is given to troublemakers.

VLYN'DARASTYL

Spyr-Anaisz has always existed in the shadow of the nearby city of Vlyn'darastyl, upon which the village is heavily dependent. The great majority of the villagers' fish and mushrooms-- their primary trade goods-- go to the city.

In addition, children of the village are sent to Vlyn'darastyl for their traditional educations, since the village lacks the facilities to teach them at home.

This is always a terrible experience for the young students. In addition to being shocked by the city's much more cutthroat culture, they are treated with disdain by the locals. Spyr-Anaisz is seen as an inferior place and those born there are often treated as inferior drow. Despite the great wealth and many opportunities available in the city, nearly all villagers return home once their education is finished.

THE MATRON MOTHER

House Mylgareth is not a wealthy house and it is unlikely to ever become so. Matron Mother Elzabra Mylgareth accepted this fact many years ago and is quite comfortable with it.

But, despite being the poorest drow noble family in the Black Loch-- moreso even than the exiled House Vaerixas of the Deep Spire-- Elzabra herself is one of the oldest matron mothers. At 742 years of age, she is a highly esteemed priestess of Lolth, blessed with a degree of power only given to those who have spent many centuries in service to the Spider Queen.

Elzabra is the sole ruler of Spyr-Anaisz, but the village usually requires very little ruling. There is the occasional need for an arbitrator or a judge, but the matron spends most of her time at the temple, tending to her religious duties.

Aside from Elzabra herself, House Mylgareth has only two other members. Her son, Hysail, lives in Spyr-Anaisz and works as a blacksmith. He was formally educated at the College of War in Vlyn'darastyl and is a talented swordsman. In his youth, Elzabra tried to find a noblewoman to take him as a consort, but could not find anyone willing. Eventually, she gave up and allowed Hysail to marry a local commoner.

Thaira is Elzabra's daughter and heir. For the last few months, Thaira has been in Vlyn'darastyl, preparing for a trial by combat that will formalize her entry into the priesthood of Lolth. When she returns, Elzabra plans to begin preparing her to lead House Mylgareth one day.

NOTES

The village has a livestock pen on the bottom level, where they raise goats. While goats are not an animal commonly raised in the underdark, the village acquired them for their manageable size and willingness to eat nearly anything. The goat pen is dimly lit, since the animals will bleat loudly when in complete darkness for too long.

The butchery by the goat pens has large bins of salt for salt-curing meat and fish. Most of the cured meat is packed into barrels and shipped off to Vlyn'darastyl.

The fountain on the bottom level and the baths on the uppermost level are fed from above, not below. The trickles of water feeding them are the same trickles that formed the stalactites over the ages.

There are no slaves in Spyr-Anaisz. Space in the village is at a premium and there is no place to keep them. The possibility of an angry slave throwing someone over a walkway is also a concern.

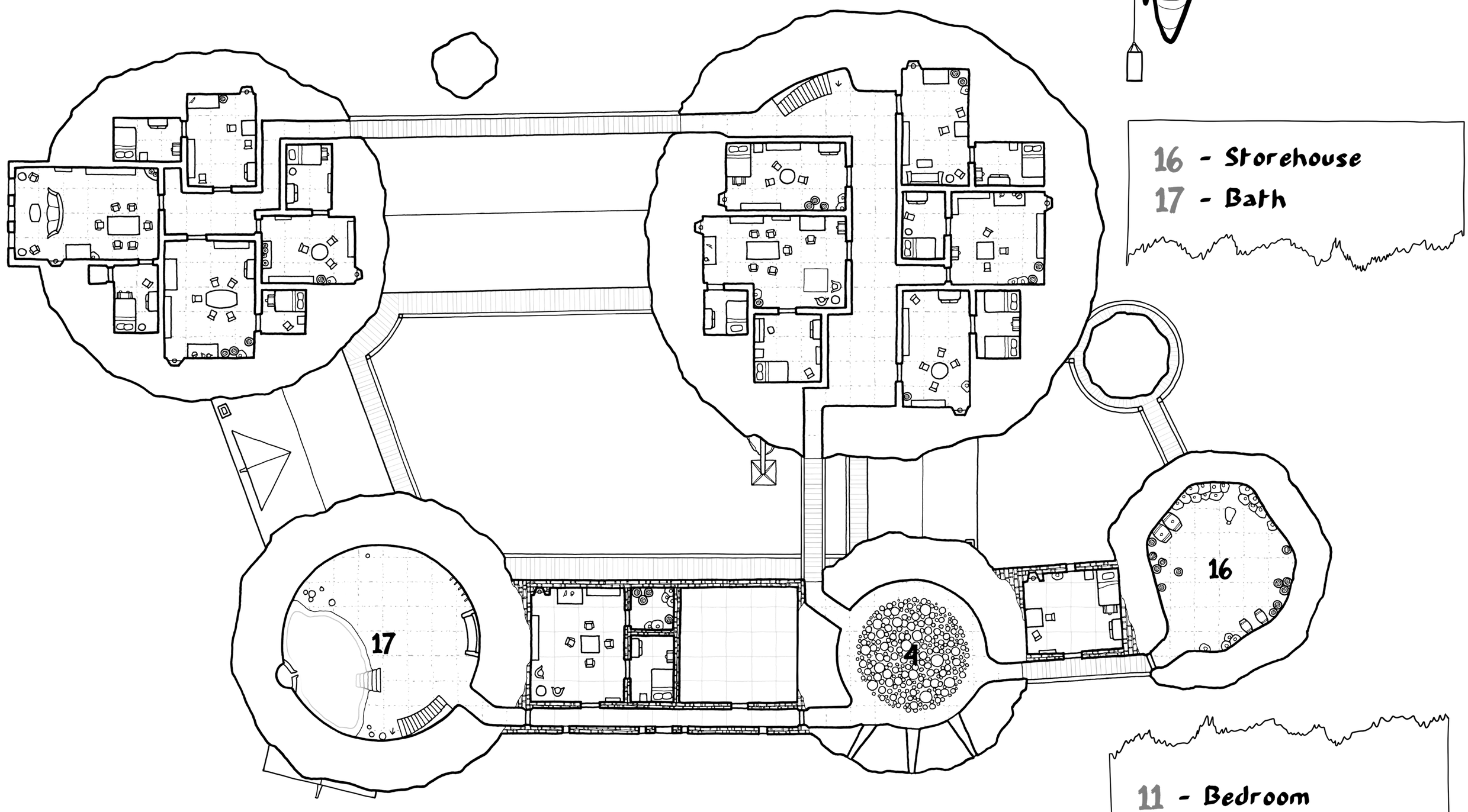
Many of the villagers work as fishermen and there are often a number of fishing boats along the docks.

The tavern here has a wine press in the kitchen, which they use to make an unusual wine out of a mix of mushrooms. It's not great, but it's not terrible. It's definitely interesting.

16 - Storehouse
17 - Bath

11 - Bedroom
12 - Matron Mother's Bedroom
13 - Temple
14 - Kitchen
15 - The Hangman Tavern

1 - Entry Lift
2 - Smithy
3 - General Store
4 - Mushroom Farm
5 - Matron Mother's Residence
6 - Kitchen
7 - Livestock Pen
8 - Butchery
9 - Apothecary
10 - Fountain Plaza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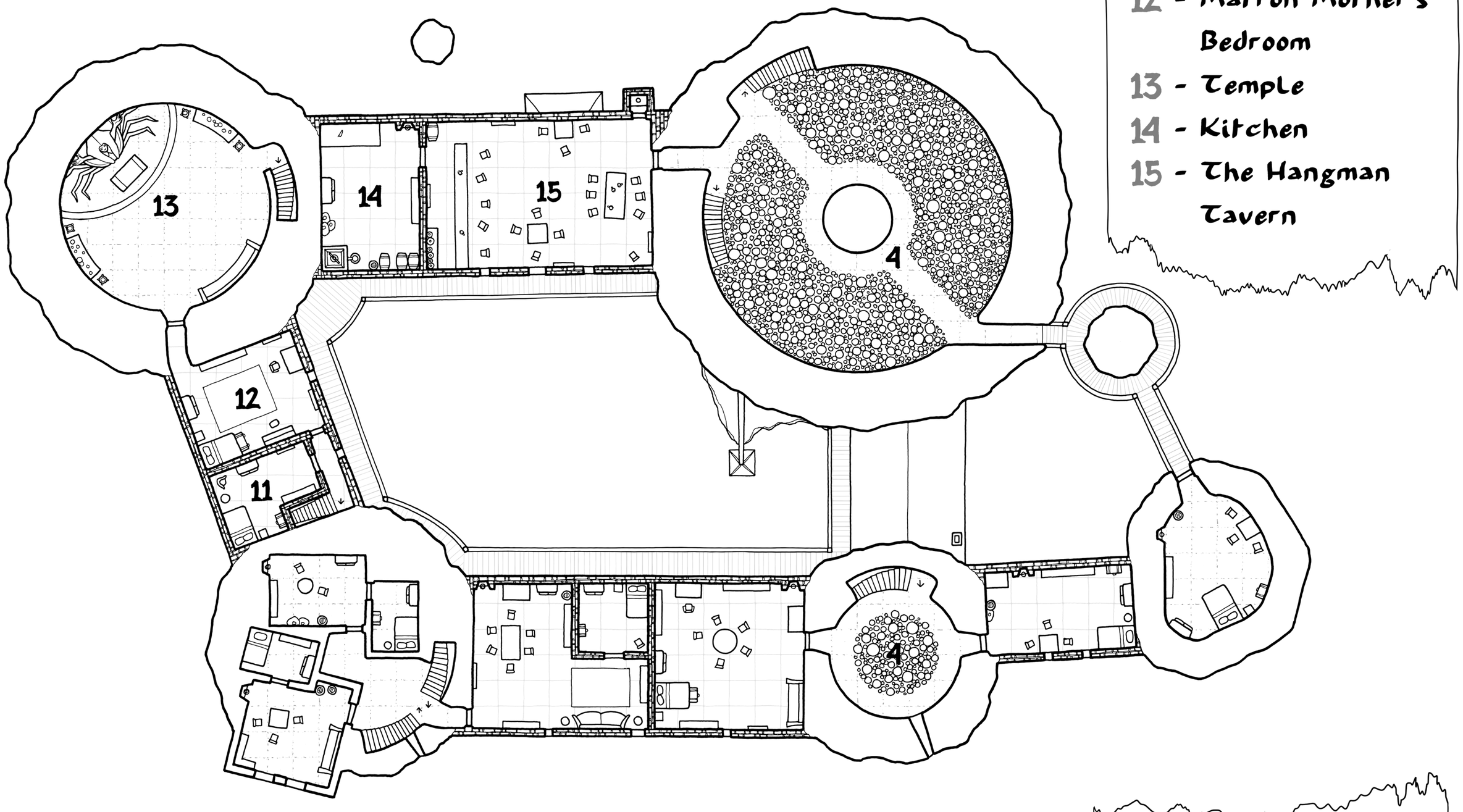
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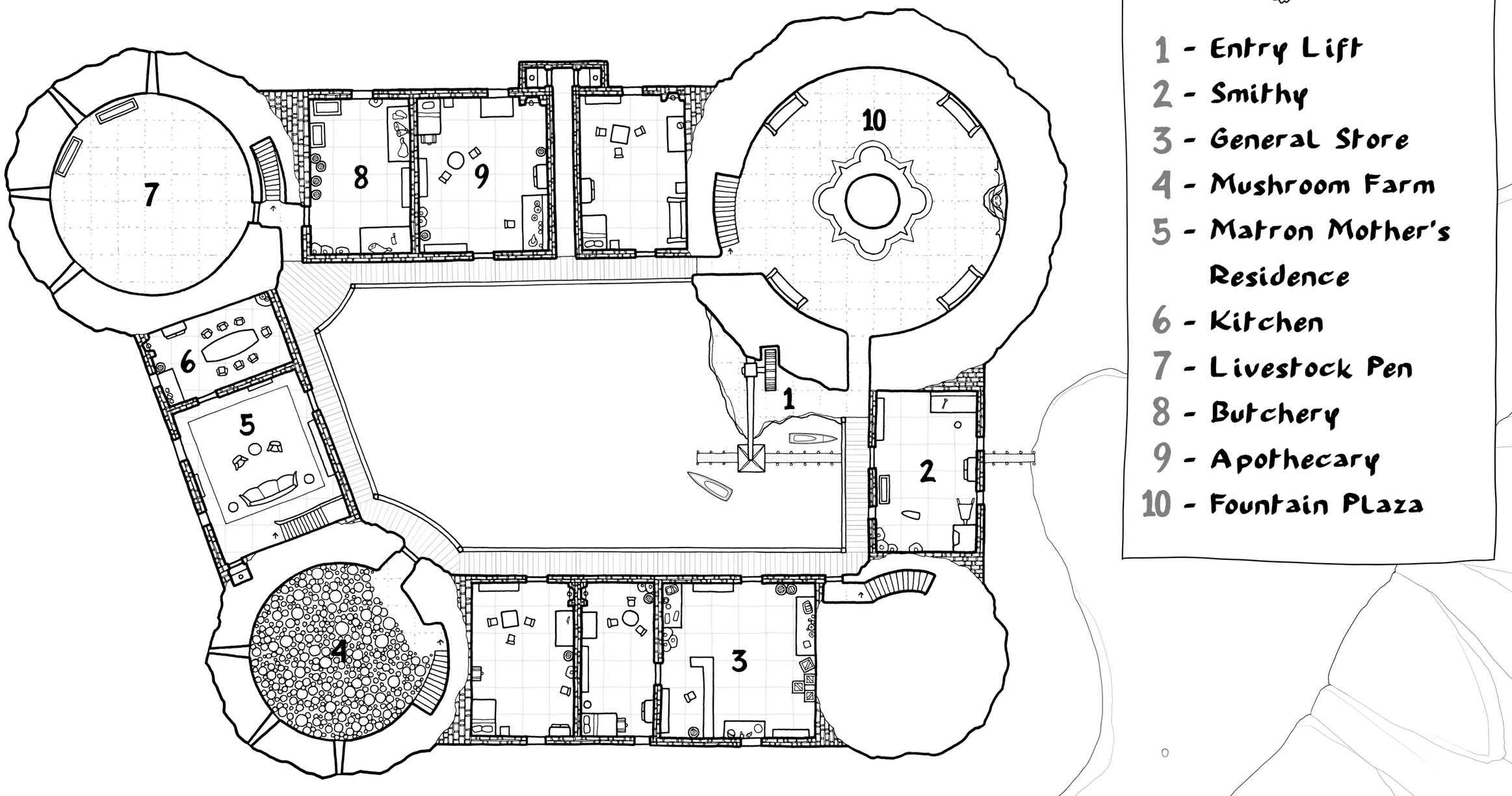
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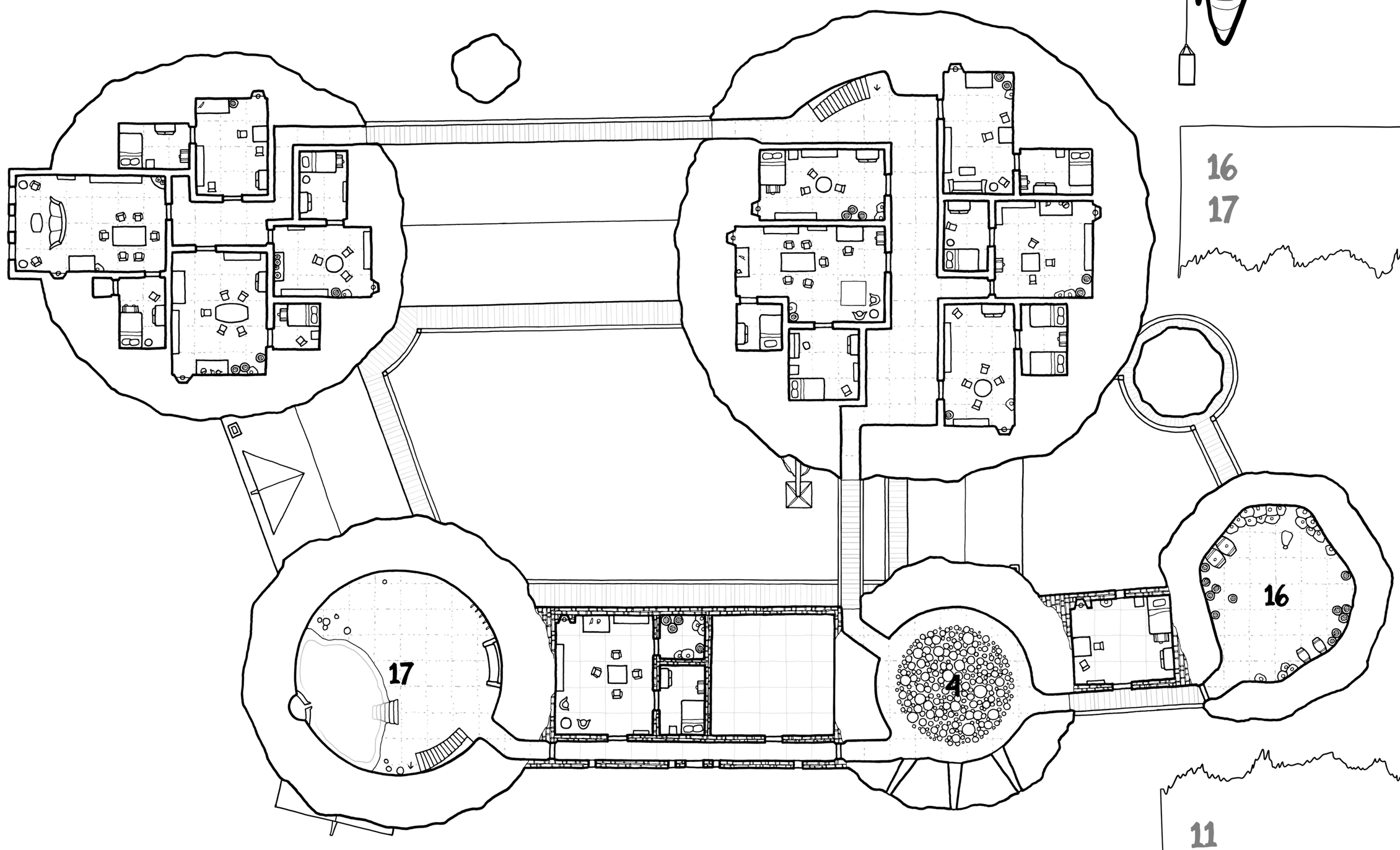

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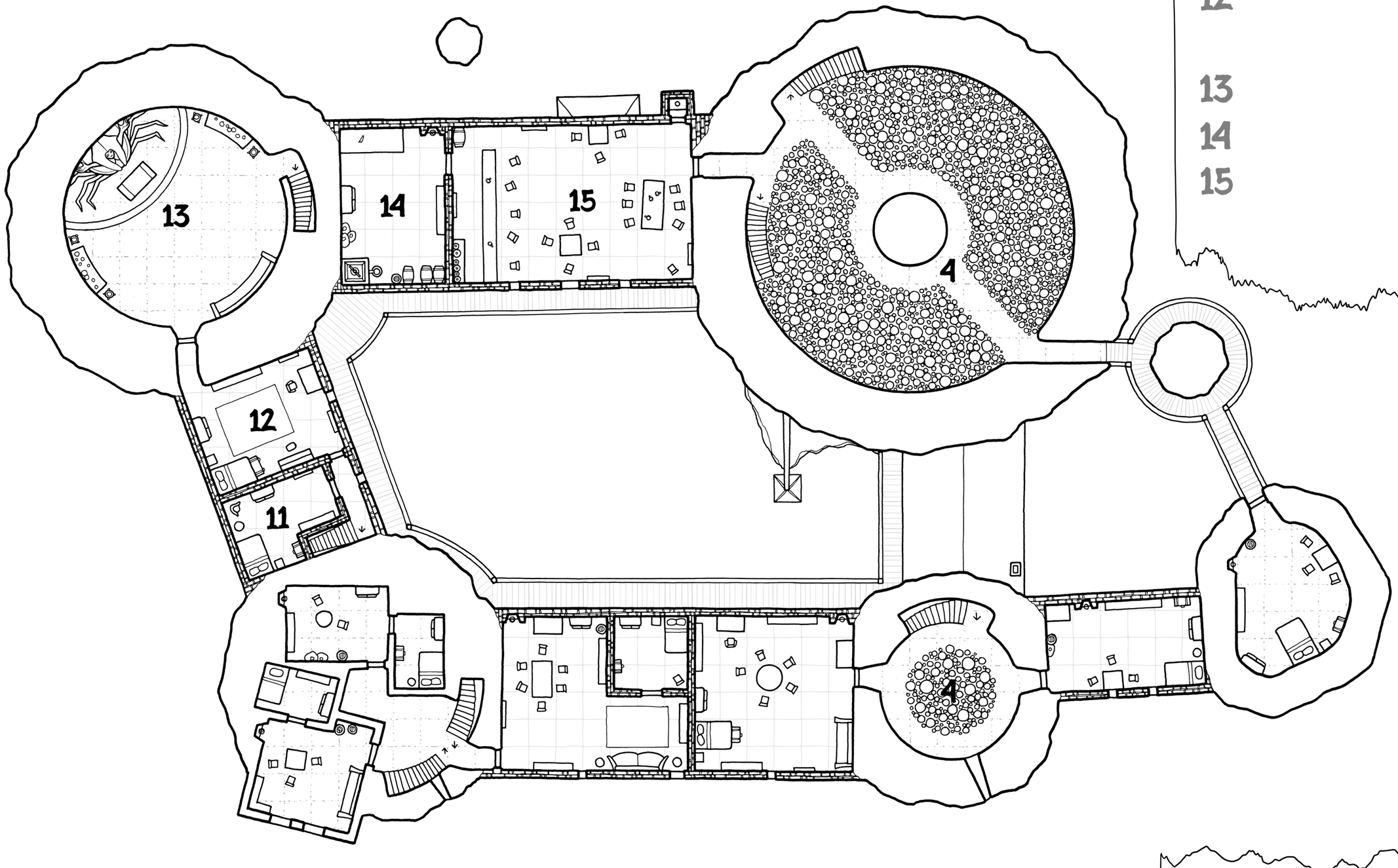

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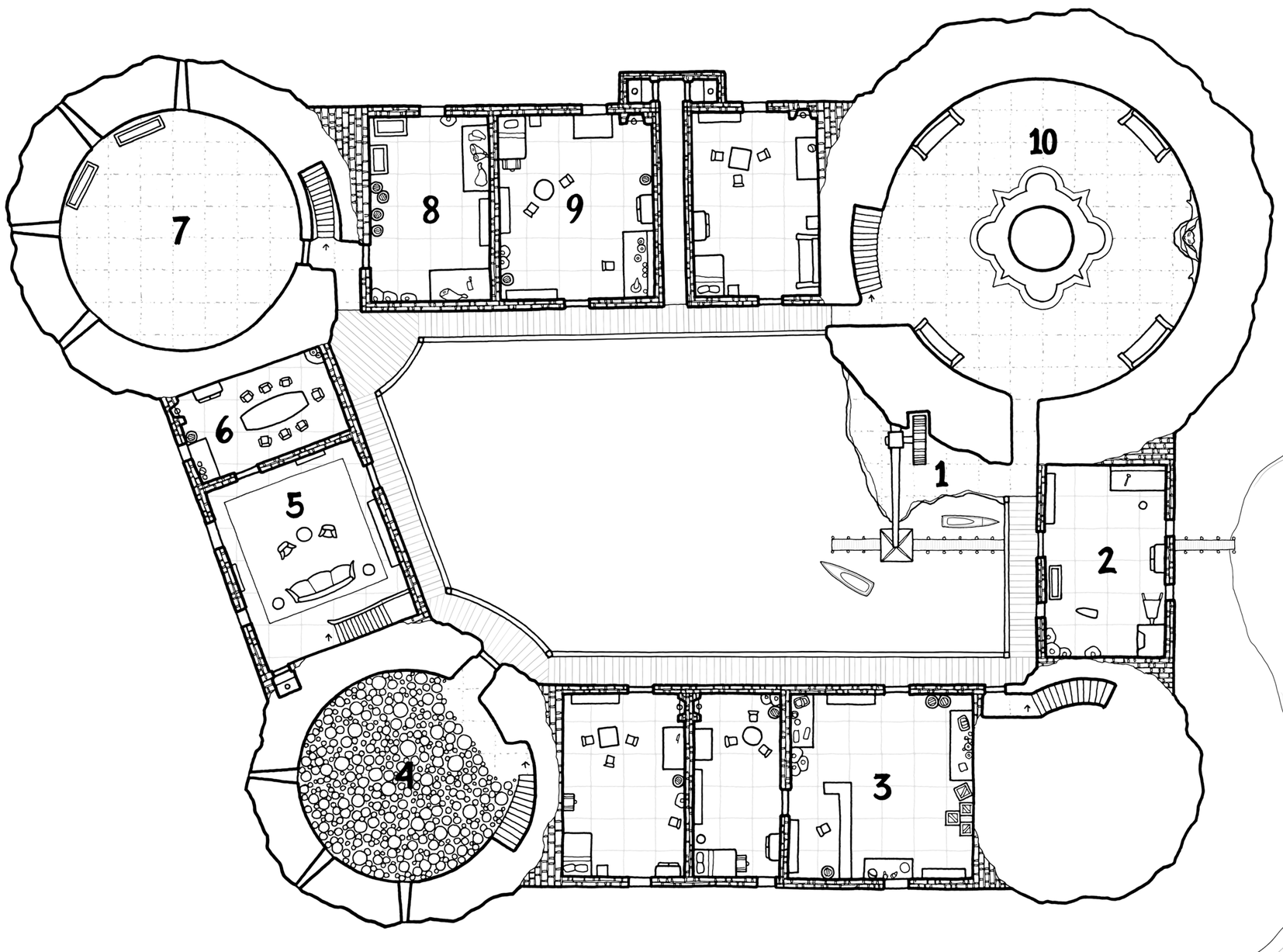

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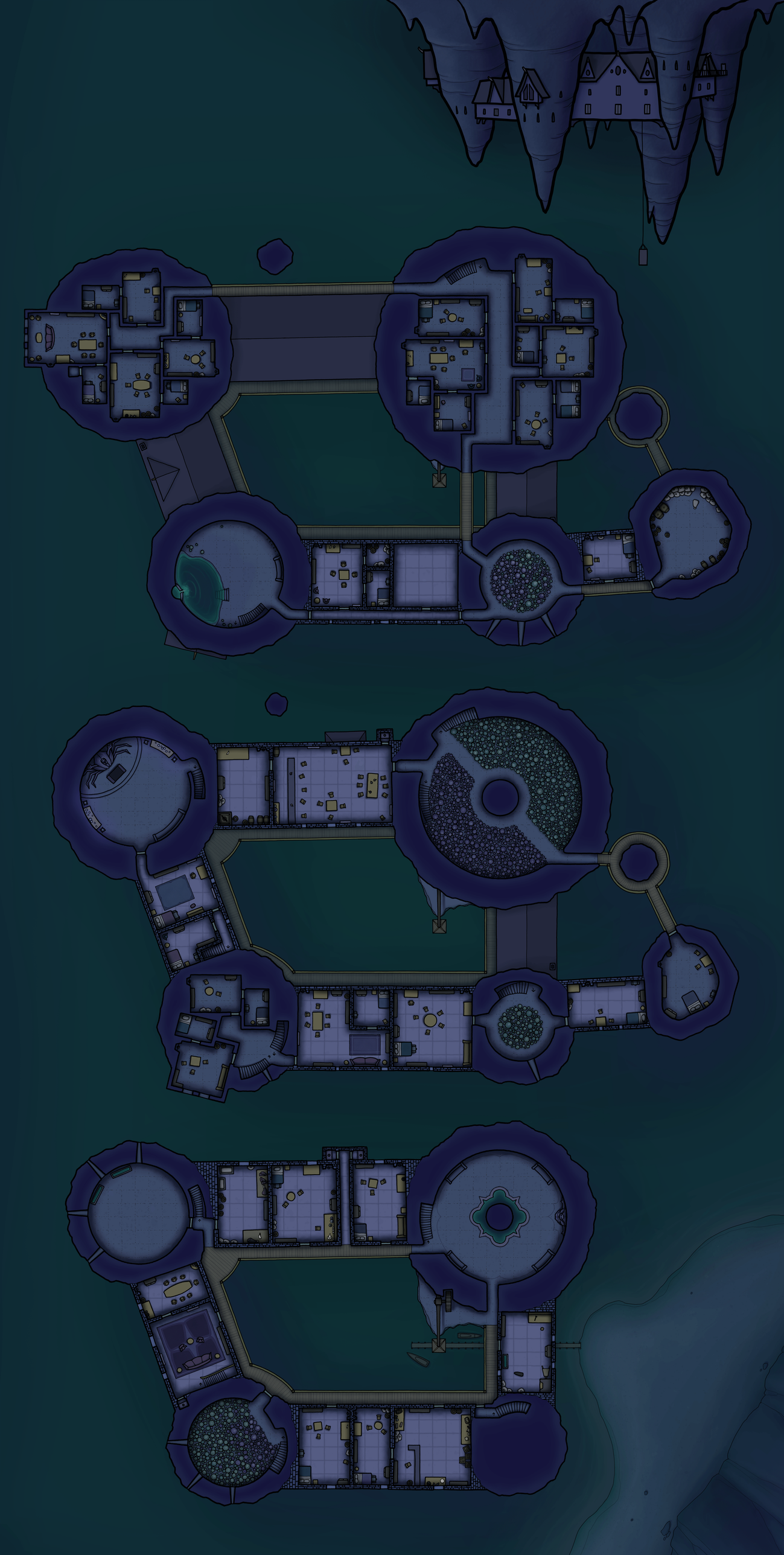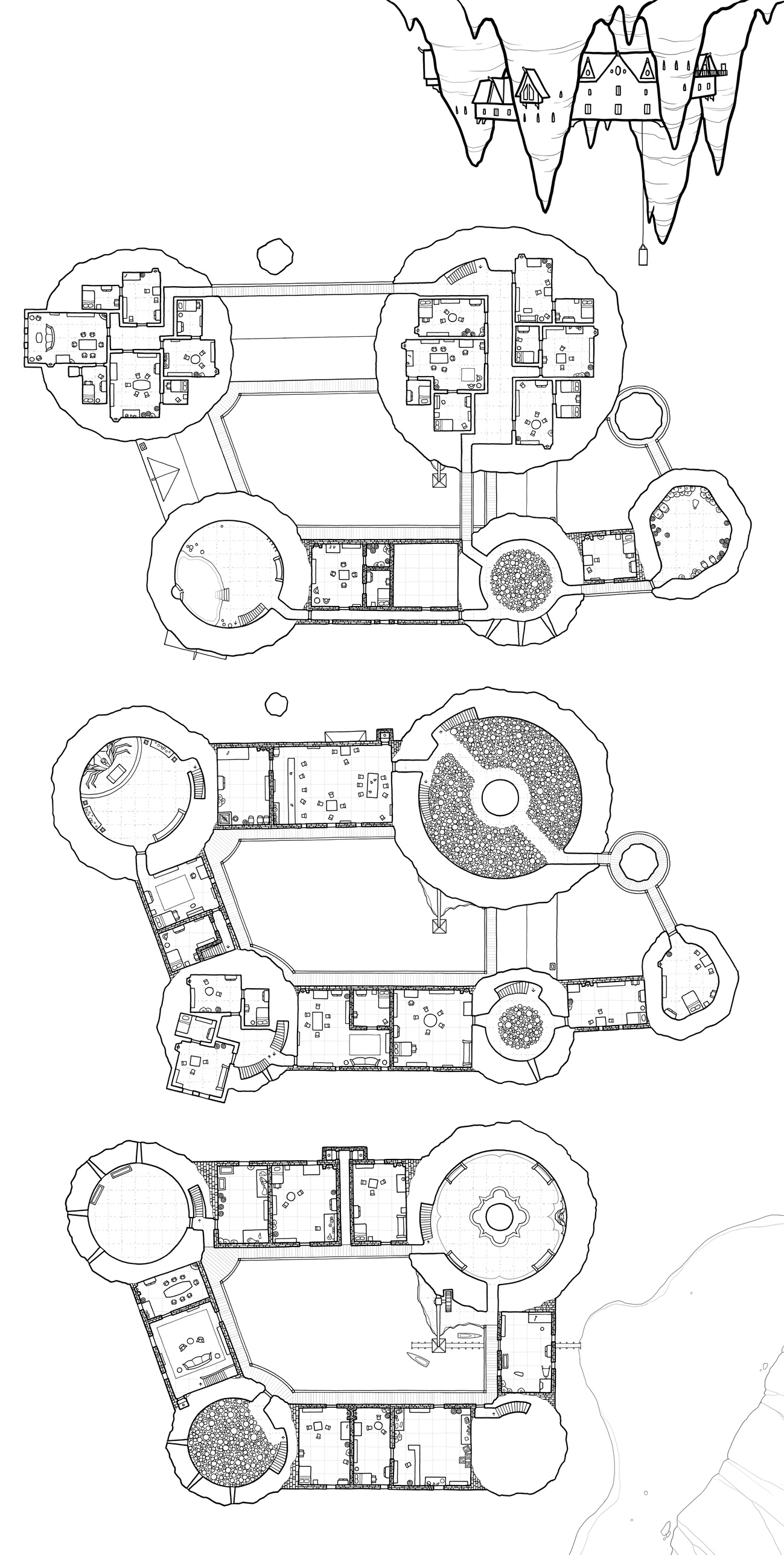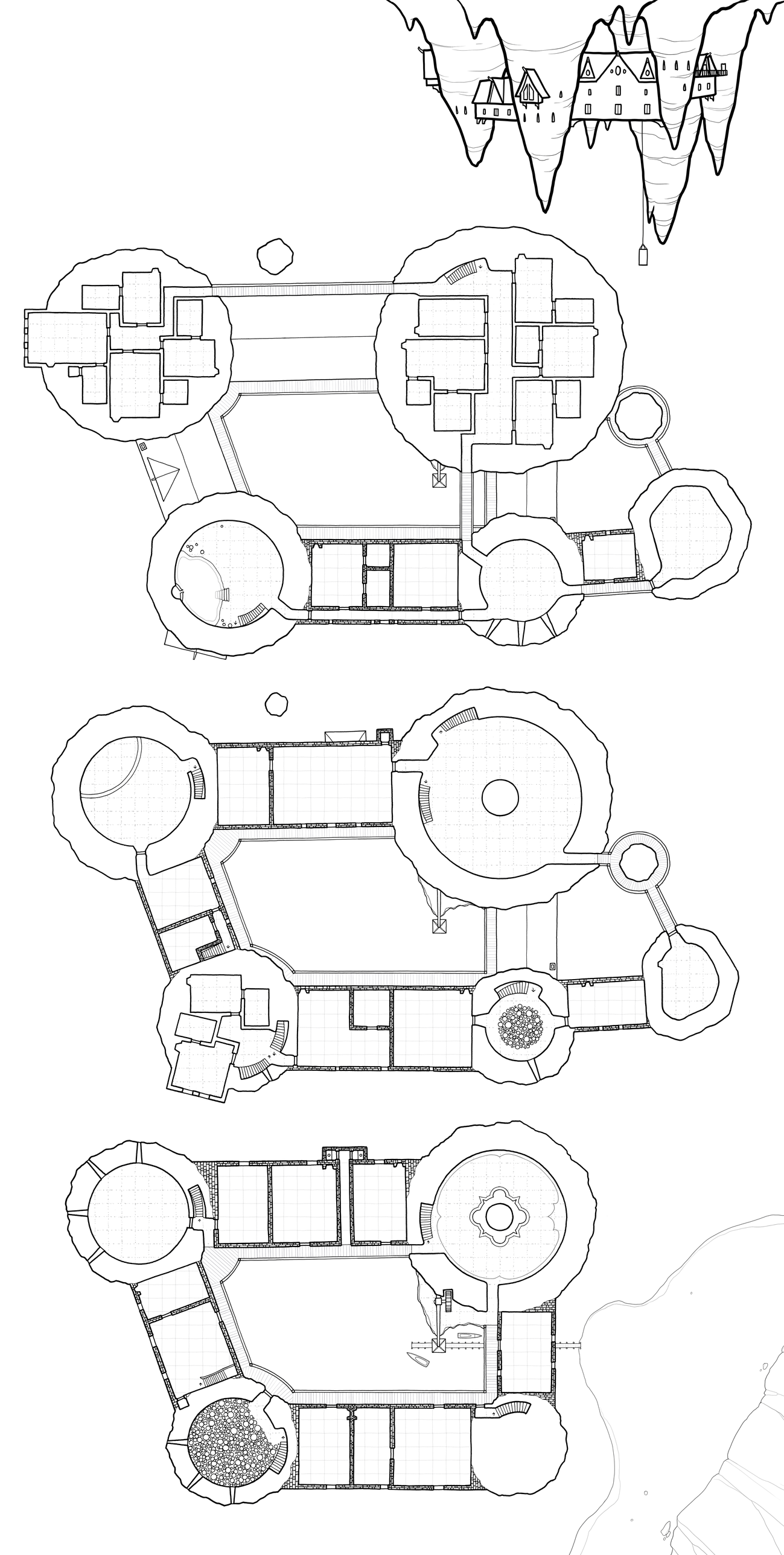
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