

# 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.

**M**y 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 UNESCO — to safeguard and celebrate the world's tangible and intangible heritage.

It is presented for your kind consideration as a gesture of dialogue between craft, memory, and cultural continuity.

Should any aspect of this vision resonate with your work in heritage preservation or living culture, it will have fulfilled its purpose.

I deeply value the opportunity for exchange and would be honoured to explore how THE SAPIENS GARDEN might contribute to UNESCO's broader mission of advancing cultural sustainability and human presence in the 21st century.

With profound respect,  
 ALEX SKARSHELG





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# THE SAPIENS GARDEN

A CULTURAL LANDMARK IN WOOD AND THOUGHT

Part I

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
TO UNESCO FOR CONSIDERATION

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

# SUBMISSION RATIONALE

This document is submitted to UNESCO under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, presenting THE SAPIENS GARDEN as a prospective candidate for recognition under the ICH framework. The project aligns particularly with the following thematic criteria:

- ◆ Transmission of traditional knowledge and craft — including timber joinery, symbolic horticulture, and site-based vernacular practices
- ◆ Ritual and ceremony — embodied through VOX SAPIENS, tree dedication rites, and ceremonial award consecration
- ◆ Cultural continuity — supporting intergenerational and cross-cultural memory through tangible and embodied forms
- ◆ Innovative heritage practice — a 21st-century evolution of ritual architecture rooted in ancestral lineages
- ◆ Collective engagement and stewardship — fostering public participation in cultural preservation and meaning-making

We believe this initiative offers a living model for how cultural memory can be materialised, transmitted, and sustained — in harmony with ecological, spiritual, and humanistic forces.



THE SAPIENS GARDEN is a cultural and architectural initiative where traditional craftsmanship, philosophical heritage, and cultural enlightenment converge. It begins with a space that lives — not as a static object, but as a dynamic presence. A wooden Lighthouse stands at its heart. Its body is a post-and-beam oak frame, hand-crafted by master carpenters using traditional joinery — no nails, only wooden joints. It is clad in larch planks laid ship-lap, evoking the hull of a wind-battered vessel, built for endurance. It stands as a quiet centre: a place for silence, reflection, and inner orientation. It is more than architecture; it is a symbol of legacy and endurance. A light that remains, even in darkened skies. There is the Garden around it. Each tree bears a name — a poet, a philosopher, a scientist, a composer. Each represents a voice that reshaped how we think, feel, and see the world. Here, they return — as root, as leaf, as living form. More than a park, more than a sculpture. It is a living landscape imbued with presence.

# MISSION

To build an exceptional wooden Lighthouse — a beacon of cultural memory and human heritage — creating a place where one can:

**Pause. Remember. Listen. Return.**

Sense the depth and force of human legacy.

Become part of something greater.

The Garden is conceived not as a tourist attraction, but as a site for profound cultural and personal engagement.

It is a quiet place for memories and return.

# SYMBOLISM

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

**The Sapiens Garden** — memory made living. Diverse, rooted, and ever-growing cultural expression.

**77 Trees** — A symbolic number representing completion and wholeness, evoking ancient sevens and the layers of time.

**The Lighthouse's Timber** — Embodying a second life: timber not merely harvested, but reclaimed and elevated through artistry and purpose, reflecting principles of sustainable use.

**The Great Minds** — The roots of civilization, carrying intellectual and creative heritage across generations.

**Living Legends** — Voices shaping our present. They stand like sapwood — protectors of the tree's heart.

**Blossoms** — Humanity's masterpieces.

**Fruit** — The tangible actions and ideas that changed the world.

# THE SAPIENS LIGHTHOUSE

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

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

Here, one may journey from thought to presence.

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

### ☛ **Hall of Foundations**

#### *Philosophers & Thinkers*

They posed questions that still burn. They gave shape to Truth, Virtue, and Existence — before such words had names.

SOCRATES

IMMANUEL KANT

LAO TZU

### ☛ **Hall of Science**

#### *Explorers & Pioneers*

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

ISAAC NEWTON

ROSALIND FRANKLIN

NIKOLA TESLA

### ☛ **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

ZAHA HADID

### ☛ **Hall of Presence**

#### *Contemporary Torchbearers*

They create now — rooted in the present, yet echoing across time. Their work bridges what is lived with what endures.

BRIAN ENO

YO-YO MA

SOPHIA CALLE

### ☛ **Hall of Words**

#### *Poets & Writers*

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

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

LEO TOLSTOY

VIRGINIA WOOLF

### ☛ **Hall of Sound**

#### *Composers & Musicians*

They gave voice to the silence. They distilled emotion be-  
yond language and turned stillness into sacred ritual.

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

EDWARD ELGAR

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

### ☛ **The Dome**

#### *Mystics & Visionaries*

They did not explain — they burned. They became bridg-  
es between worlds: Time and Eternity, Word and Stillness.

RUMI

SIMONE WEIL

ST. 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. Those who take part are not spectators, but active torchbearers in the transmission of heritage.

**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 monument, but as a living vocation.
- ♦ Stewards of traditional craft, heritage, and land — master builders, woodworkers, horticulturalists, and scholars who understand that meaning is carried in material, ritual, and care.
- ♦ Museums, academies, and cultural institutions that act not only as keepers of archives, but as sources of knowledge transmission.
- ♦ Witnesses — those who have been personally transformed by these figures or works, for whom this heritage is not abstract, but intimate.
- ♦ Composers, vocalists, and instrumentalists — not performers, but keepers of resonance, shaping sacred sound and ceremonial space. Their task is not to entertain, but to attune.

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

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

*Participation will be guided by cultural ethics protocols and curated in partnership with academic, spiritual, and artisanal institutions across UNESCO networks and in accordance with the Operational Directives of the 2003 Convention.*

# 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 — 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 stones gifted from places of meaning — each one carried by those who shaped its vision.
- ◆ 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 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 cultural voices — those whose presence defines the current of time. They do not speak for the age, but carry it within them:

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH  
 PETER HIGGS  
 SOPHIA CALLE  
 ZADIE SMITH  
 JASMINE VAN DEN BOGAERDE

## 5. Lighting

- ♦ Soft lanterns evoking historical European maritime lighting
- ♦ Soft reflective illumination under 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 ancient building materials.

## 8. Open-Air Stage

- ◆ A small wooden amphitheater.
- ◆ Only chamber music. Only live performance.
- ◆ Used for evening readings, private concerts, and ceremonies.

## 9. Pier, Sea Stair, and Boats

- ◆ A wooden stair leading from The Lighthouse to the sea.
- ◆ Wooden piers.
- ◆ 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.  
Seven species. Seven archetypes.  
Each of the 77 trees is selected from a palette of seven resilient species — chosen for their symbolic depth and adaptability to temperate environments and their deep symbolism in 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 where 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

CYPRESS — stillness, spiritual endurance, voice of remembrance

MAPLE — intelligence, scientific clarity, discovery

LINDEN — care, feminine energy, spirit of the home

APPLE TREE — myth, fruit, knowledge, cultural symbolism

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 the legacy of one whose mind reshaped the world. These figures are not selected for fame — but for force of 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

Some names are carved in stone. Others still breathe. A few — not yet spoken. Each planting is an offering. Each tree is a chapter.

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is a canon in wood.

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

## ALLIES IN CREATION

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is not built alone. It takes root in shared craft, memory, and vision — a fellowship of minds and hands. Institutions whose values and work strongly align with the vision of THE SAPIENS GARDEN, and with whom dialogues are being explored.

**Aspirational and prospective partners under consideration and alignment dialogues include:**

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), ICOMOS, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Heatherwick Studio, Tate, Serpentine Arts Foundation, MIT Media Lab, Snøhetta, The Architectural Association (AA), 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.

This initiative is being developed with the active engagement of local communities, craftspeople, and intergenerational knowledge holders — ensuring that cultural transmission and community participation remain at its heart.

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

# VOX SAPIENS

A choral invocation of seventy-two voices, composed not to perform, but to consecrate. A sacred sound, shaped by resonance and stillness, inspired by the tonal innovations of 20th- and 21st-century choral and contemporary music masters.

Not concert — communion.

One note trembling in the dark. One breath held across generations. One utterance, shared outside of time. Yet before VOX SAPIENS is sung, the Earth must be heard. In silence, stones gathered from ancestral lands and meaningful sites across cultures will be laid into the Lighthouse's foundation — each 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: Spiritual leaders from diverse traditions, elders of craft, guardians of memory.

The SAPIENS GARDEN will not begin with planting — but with sanctification.

# THE LUMEN SAPIENS AWARD

This is not merely an award. It is 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:**

- ♦ The crystal: clarity, guidance, and enduring light
- ♦ The unpolished oak: courage and quiet fortitude
- ♦ The soil: not metaphor, but bond — a living tie between name and place.

## 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 build with timber and time. My craft was shaped under Utter Romtveit of Rauland — one of Norway's foremost traditional woodworkers. For over fifteen years, I have built wooden homes of many forms and scales.

When axe meets pine, the mind becomes quiet. In that quiet, I began to seek something more than shelter — something that holds memory. I wanted every space I built to bring people closer: to themselves, to nature, to presence.

Now I shape THE SAPIENS GARDEN — not as a monument, but as a place for those who once needed light — and have since become its bearers.



# GLOBAL MOMENTUM

## **Current International Engagements & Submissions**

As of December 2025, THE SAPIENS GARDEN initiative is advancing through multiple international dialogues and has been formally submitted to leading cultural institutions and heritage bodies:

**Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education** — concept submission and artefact dispatch delivered for review and dialogue.

**Royal Household of His Majesty King Charles III** — cultural presentation and project dossier submitted for consideration and potential dialogue on intangible heritage and sacred spatial traditions.

**LUMA Arles** (France) — concept dossier and artefact dispatch delivered to institutional board.

**Maison des Cultures du Monde** (Paris) — cultural positioning document submitted; dialogue and review in progress.

This growing network of international engagements reflects the broad cultural resonance of THE SAPIENS GARDEN vision — and underscores its positioning as an open, living cultural initiative, responsive to global dialogue and aligned with contemporary heritage priorities.

## POST SCRIPTUM

*Like a quill raised by memory above any river, the Lighthouse was born not of nation, but of necessity, but its light belongs to every coast that ever dreamed in wood and stone. That which is truly honoured — endures. We begin with silence, so that radiance may speak.*

# FINAL NOTE

## UNESCO Framework & Compliance

This initiative is submitted for consideration under the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), in full compliance with Articles 2, 11(b), and 15.

Its development is rooted in the principle of active and informed participation of local communities, craftspeople, and intergenerational knowledge holders — in full alignment with community-based safeguarding approaches as outlined in the Operational Directives (paras 171–182). Further alignment includes:

- ♦ **Para. 96** – Support for sustainable education and craft-based heritage
- ♦ **Paras. 104–110** – Measures ensuring viability of traditional knowledge systems
- ♦ **Para. 116** – Engagement of women, youth, and intergenerational transmission
- ♦ **Paras. 128–131** – Long-term safeguarding without commodification
- ♦ Relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ♦ **SDG 4.7** – Quality education through cultural literacy and intergenerational learning
- ♦ **SDG 11.4** – Strengthening protection of cultural and natural heritage
- ♦ **SDG 12.8** – Fostering awareness for sustainable cultural practices and memory
- ♦ **SDG 16.7** – Inclusive, participatory, and representative cultural processes
- ♦ **SDG 17.17** – Multi-stakeholder partnerships for cultural sustainability

It is supported through a global philanthropic foundation currently in formation—welcoming contributions from cultural patrons, visionary institutions, and private supporters committed to long-term cultural sustainability. THE SAPIENS GARDEN is not a commercial venue, nor does it aim to generate economic gain. Its model is nonprofit, enduring, and symbolic — prioritizing cultural significance, collective stewardship, and the living transmission of memory over tourism or spectacle. This is not a monument to the past — but an invitation to carry memory forward through living presence and responsible cultural guardianship.





# 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

The following technical dossier is presented in alignment with the guiding principles of the 2003 Convention and the Operational Directives for safeguarding traditional knowledge, sustainable use of materials, and long-term ecological integration (cf. paras 96, 110, 128–131).

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 region of Italy

### Wind Resistance

- ♦ The central structural axis of the lighthouse is a unique engineering solution 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 83 m/s (300 km/h)
- ♦ 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: 4.5 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 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: oak frames with leaded Murano glass
- ◆ Joinery: Traditional 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; it 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: Ambient illumination in the tradition of French artisanal lighting, with emphasis on soft tonal warmth and architectural integration
- ♦ 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**-peaks 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 hid your diary at the very back of the deepest drawer, terrified your thoughts might be uncovered? 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.*

# PROFILES OF SOUL-FORMS

## ASTELIA

*Will, determination, the instinct to act. The birth of ego.*

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 already leans forward. She helps you rise from 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.*” In her palms are snowdrops, kissed by the morning frost. There are two, 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 earth in your palms.

## MIRELENA

*Care, home, foundation. The formation of self.*

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 transmuted 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. You’re simply no longer alone.

*PS: These are three of fourteen profiles of soul-forms*

# 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 can 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 Works**

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.





# CONTACTS

Part VI

**With undying respect,**

Alex Skarshelg

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THE SAPIENS GARDEN is an original cultural and architectural vision authored and developed by Alex Skarshelg.

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