



HENRIETTA SOUTHAM

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Ondaatje's Opus Concept Package

Henrietta Southam Design

165 Crichton St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1M 1W1

Designed By: HS
Composed in Assist By: RD

Date: September 2025

ONDAATJE'S OPUS

WHEN YOU GET A CALL TO MEET THE HEAD OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, JOHN GEIGER, ABOUT A DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT AT THE VENERABLE INSTITUTION LOCATED ON CANADA'S CAPITAL CEREMONIAL ROUTE, YOU TRY TO TAMP DOWN EXCITEMENT WHILE CORRALLING EXPECTATIONS.

WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND HALLS AND ROOMS AND ARE TOLD THAT THEY NEED A DESIGNER TO CONJURE MAGIC EQUAL TO THE GIFT BESTOWED BY NONE OTHER THAN SIR CHRISTOPHER ONDAATJE, WHOSE EPONYMOUS MEDAL IS AWARDED TO OUTSTANDING EXPLORERS EACH YEAR, REALIZATION DAWNS THAT SOMETHING SPECIAL NEEDS TO BE DELIVERED.

INSPIRED BY ONDAATJE'S BIRTHPLACE AND NOVELS, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GIVE THE ROOMS THE VERNACULAR AND HEFT OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED GENTLEMAN EXPLORER. REFERENCING RENAISSANCE'S BEST, WITH A DOUBLE-TIERED LIBRARY BASED ON MICHELANGELO'S FARNESE PALACE IN ROME, HS + CO LAYERED GEOGRAPHICAL AND TIME-TRAVELLING POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WITH INDIAN LINEN PAISLEY, A SOUTH ASIAN MOTIF WALLPAPER, A CHINESE ART DECO RUG, A TURKISH MARBLE, AN ENGLISH-INSPIRED TUDOR FIREPLACE, A PALAIS ROYAL WOOD TROMPE L'OEIL... WITH A NOD TO BOTH THE SEAS AND SKIES ALIKE IN THE BAR PULLS AND CEILING CONSTELLATION BASED ON ONDAATJE'S ASTROLOGICAL SIGN.

SPACES WERE NAMED AFTER THE PROLIFIC AUTHOR'S BOOKS: THE EXPLORER'S ROOM WILL HOUSE THE LARGEST GLOBE MADE BY BELLERBY AND CO, WHILE SERVING AS THE PERFECT CEREMONIAL BACKDROP FOR SOME OF CANADA'S MOST BRILLIANT END-OF-FRONTIER EXPLORERS AND ACTIVISTS; THE LEOPARD ROOM NAMED AFTER ONDAATJE'S "LEOPARD IN THE AFTERNOON" WILL SHOWCASE RCGS'S EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION OF RELATED PARAPHERNALIA AND HOST PUBLIC EVENT ON OCCASION. A MUCH-NEEDED CEYLON CLOAKROOM, BASED ON ONDAATJE'S BIRTHPLACE, WILL ALSO BE CARVED OUT. LET US NOT FORGET, THE HEMINGWAY BAR BASED ON "HEMINGWAY'S LAST SAFARI", IS DISCREETLY TUCKED AWAY WHILE ALSO ENHANCING THE THEATRICAL BACKDROP CREATED.

THE WARM COLOURS WERE BASED ON COMPLEMENTING THE ALREADY EXISTING, NEWLY NAMED "MAP ROOM", WITH OAK PANELLING, OCHRE PAPER, TAUPE WOOL AND HEAVILY VEINED MARBLE, LENDING A WARM AND TIMELESS FEEL OFFSET BY PLEASING RICH GARNET HUES EVOCATIVE OF THE OLD WORLD'S CLUBS OF YESTERYEAR.



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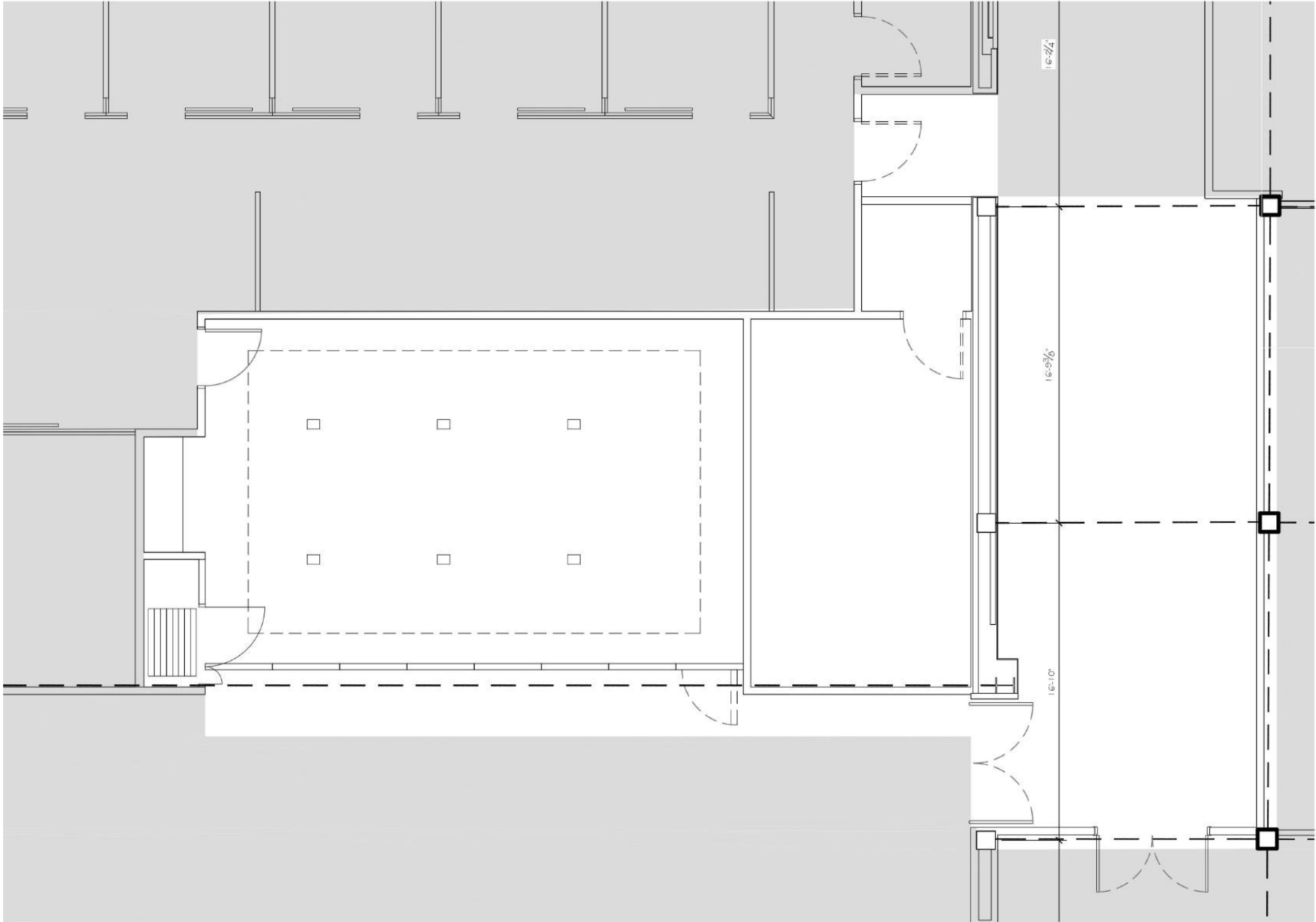
Ondaatje's Opus Mission Statement

Henrietta Southam Design
165 Crichton St.
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K1M 1W1

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Date: September 2025





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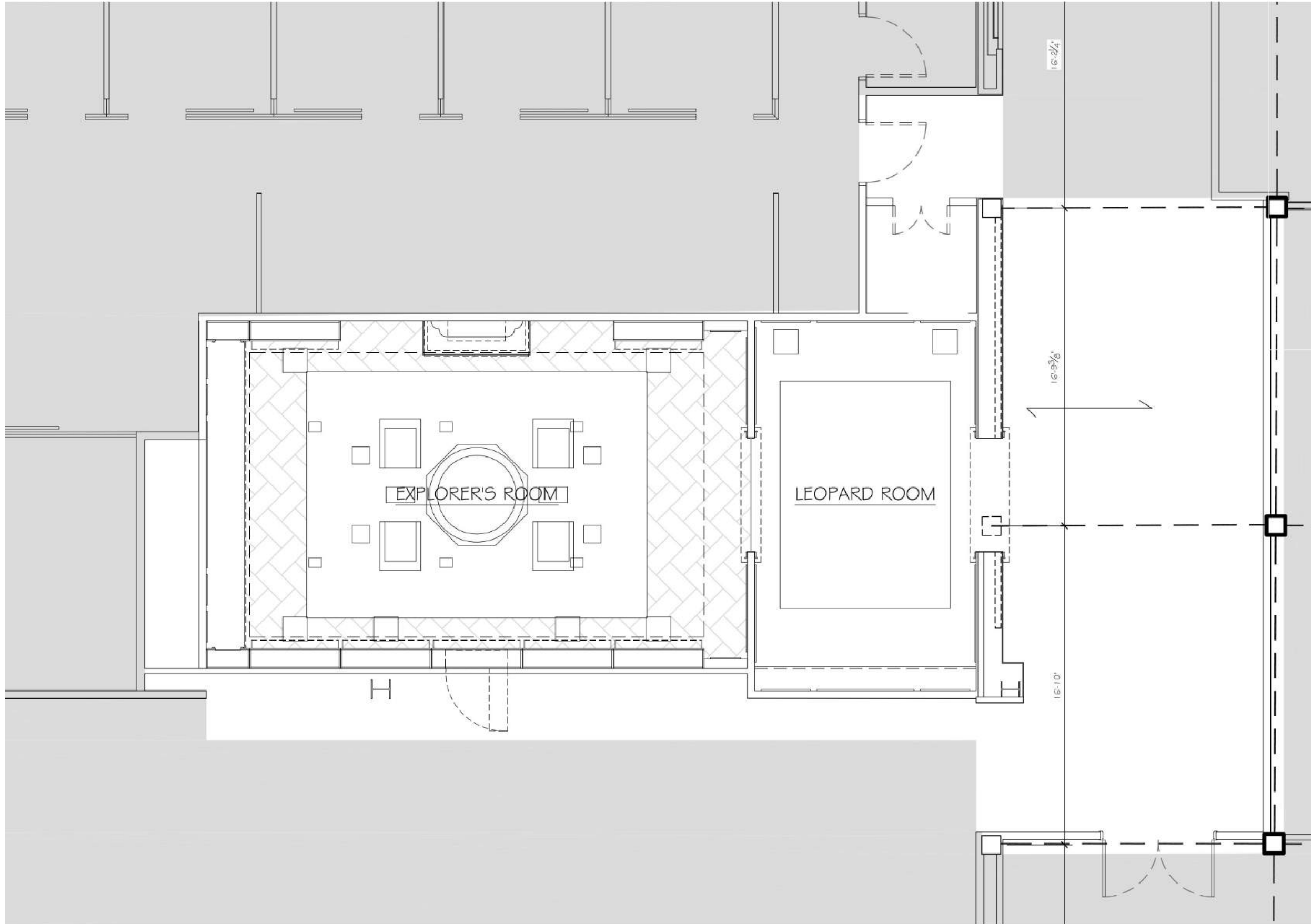
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Ondaatje's Opus
Existing Floor Plan

Henrietta Southam Design
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Proposed Floor Plan

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Ondaatje's Opus
Explorer's Room

Henrietta Southam Design
165 Crichton St.
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Designed By: HS
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Ondaatje's Opus
Leopard Room

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Ondaatje's Opus

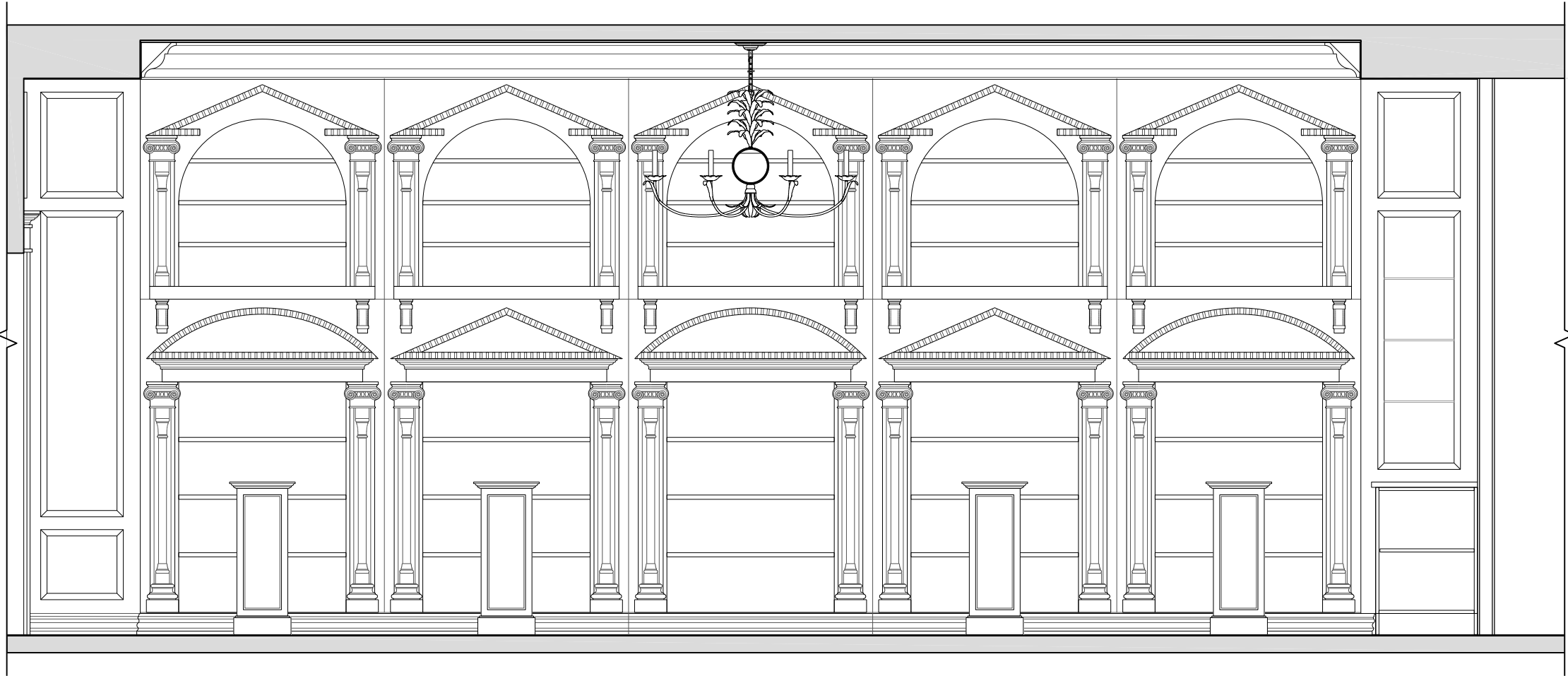
Explorer's Room
Library Elevation
(hidden door)

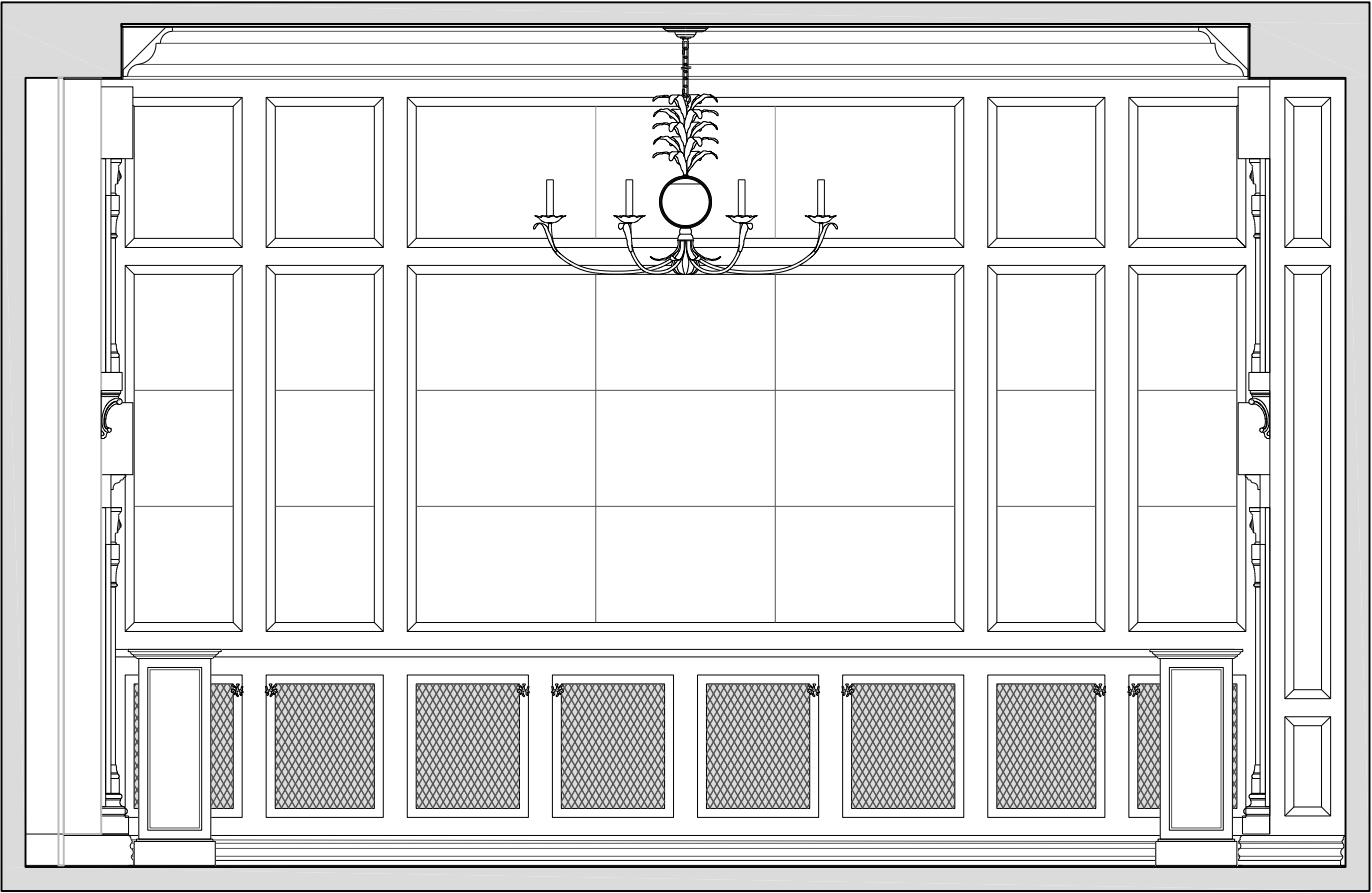
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Explorer's Room
Hemingway Bar Elevation

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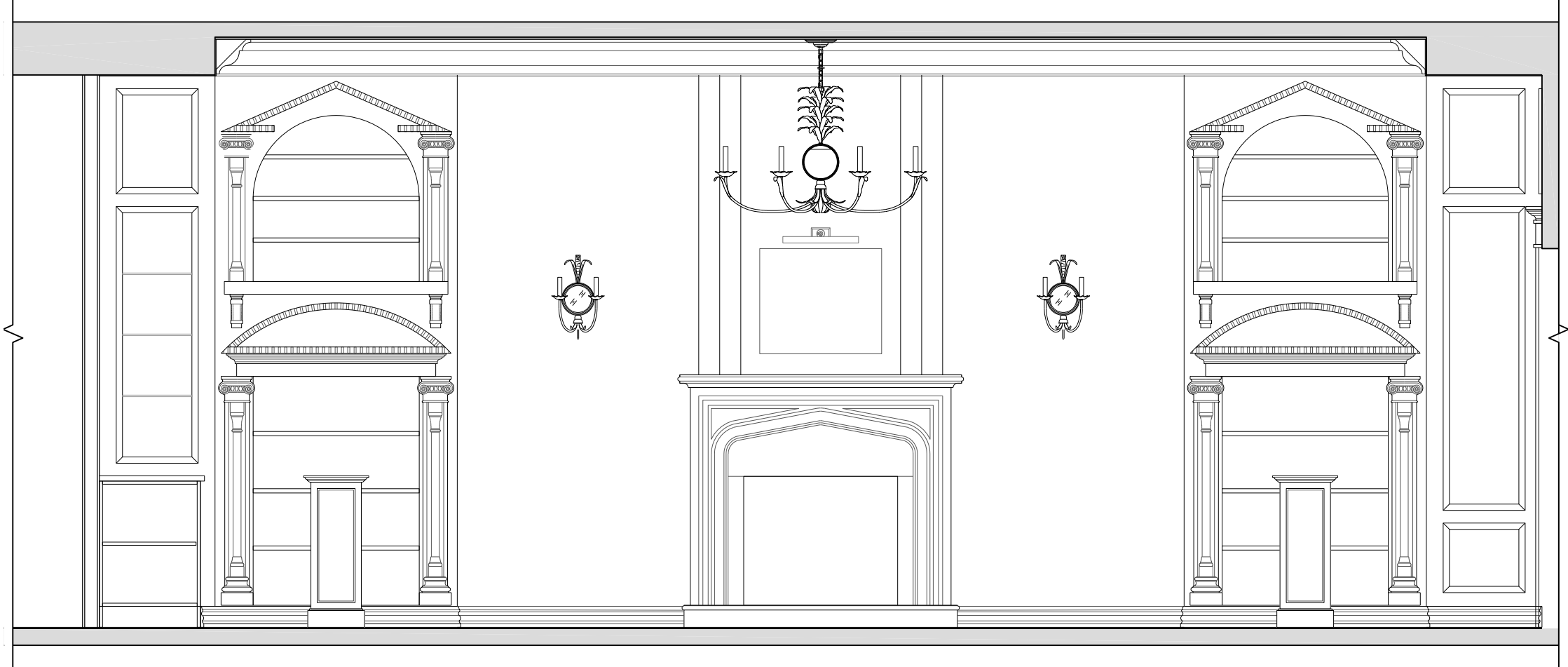
Explorer's Room
Library Elevation
(fireplace)

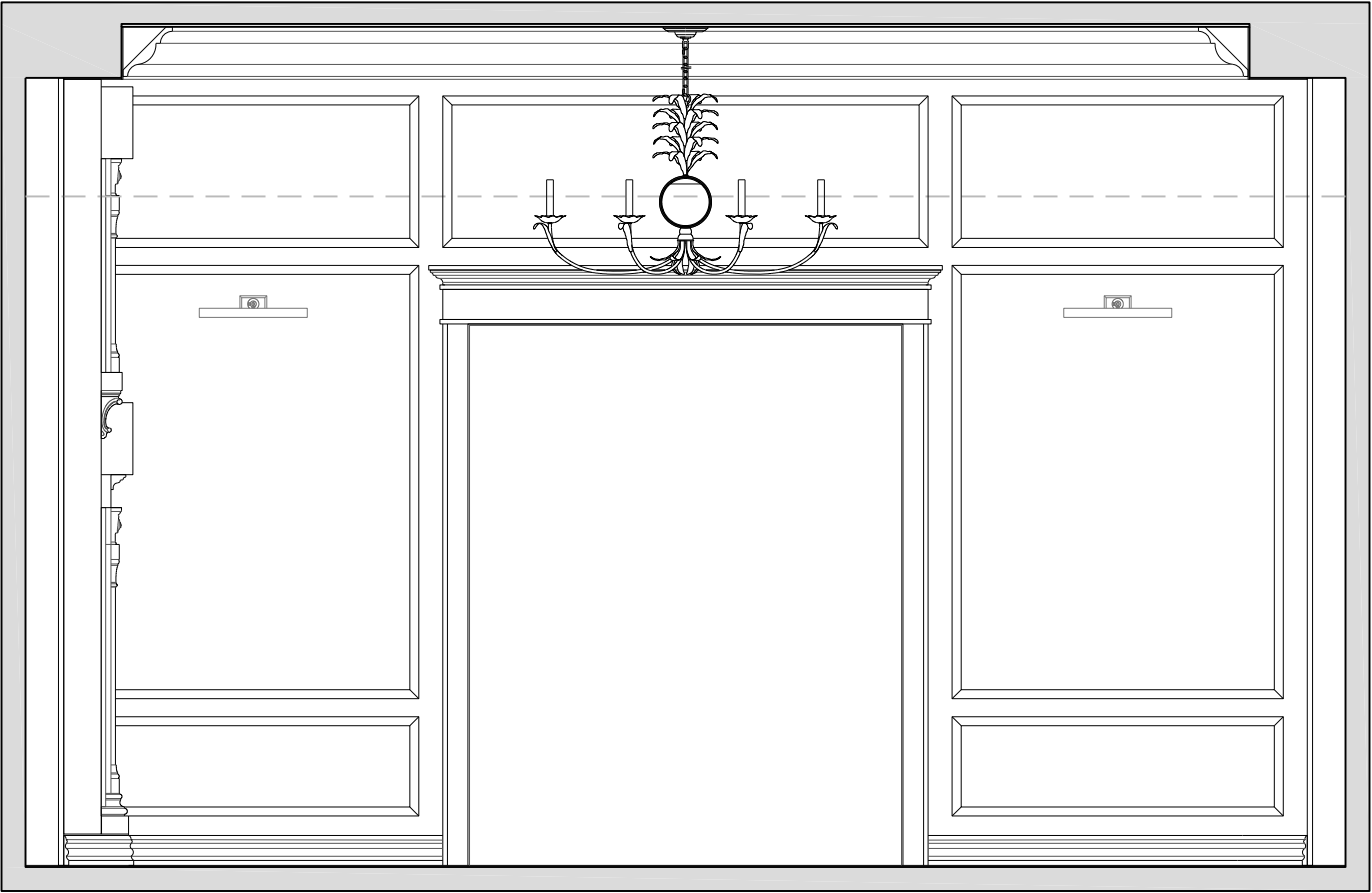
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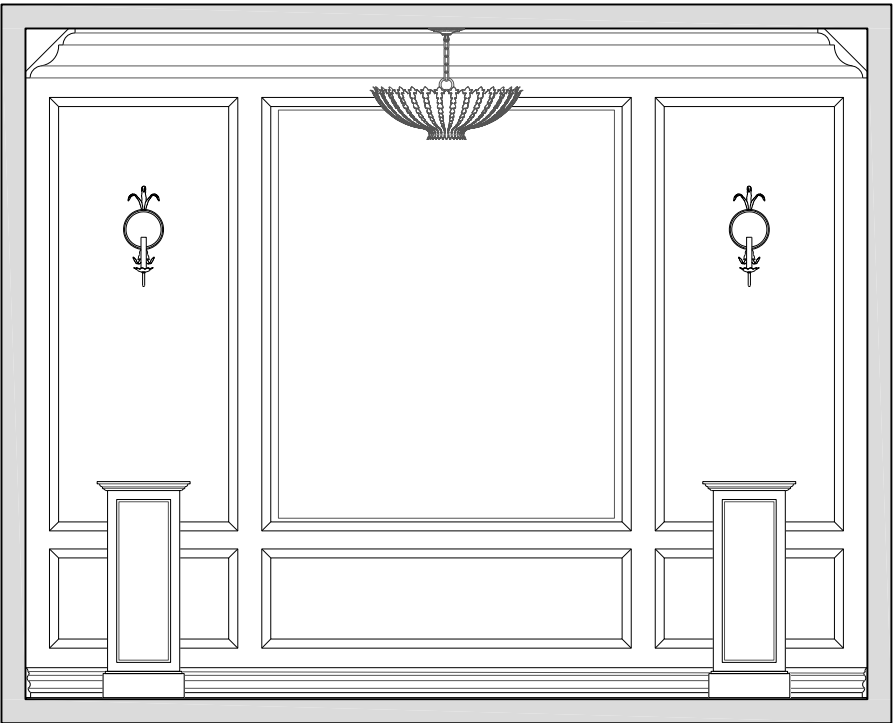
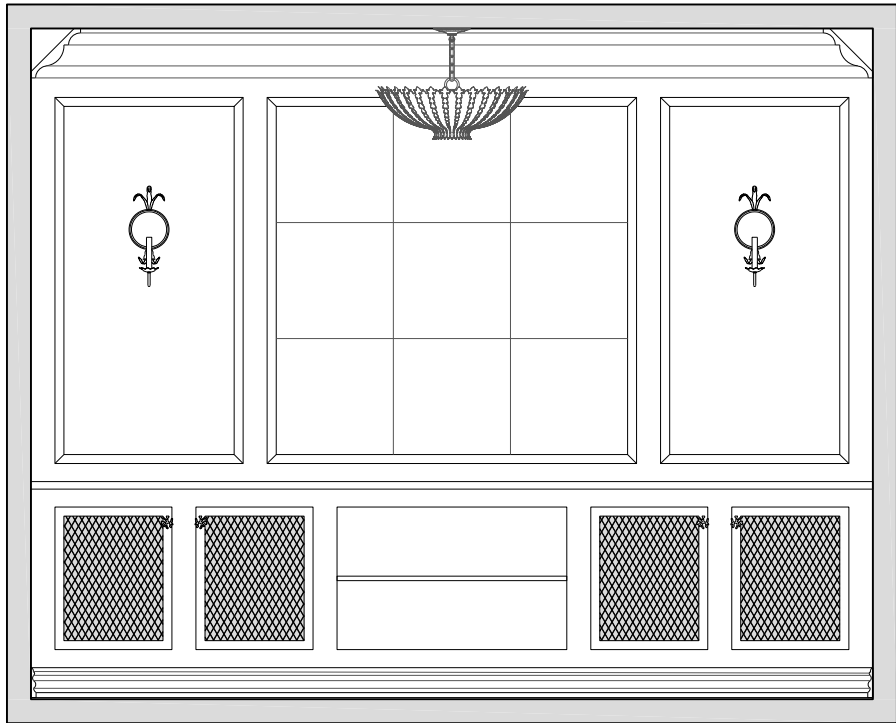
Explorer's Room
Entrance to Leopard Room
Elevation

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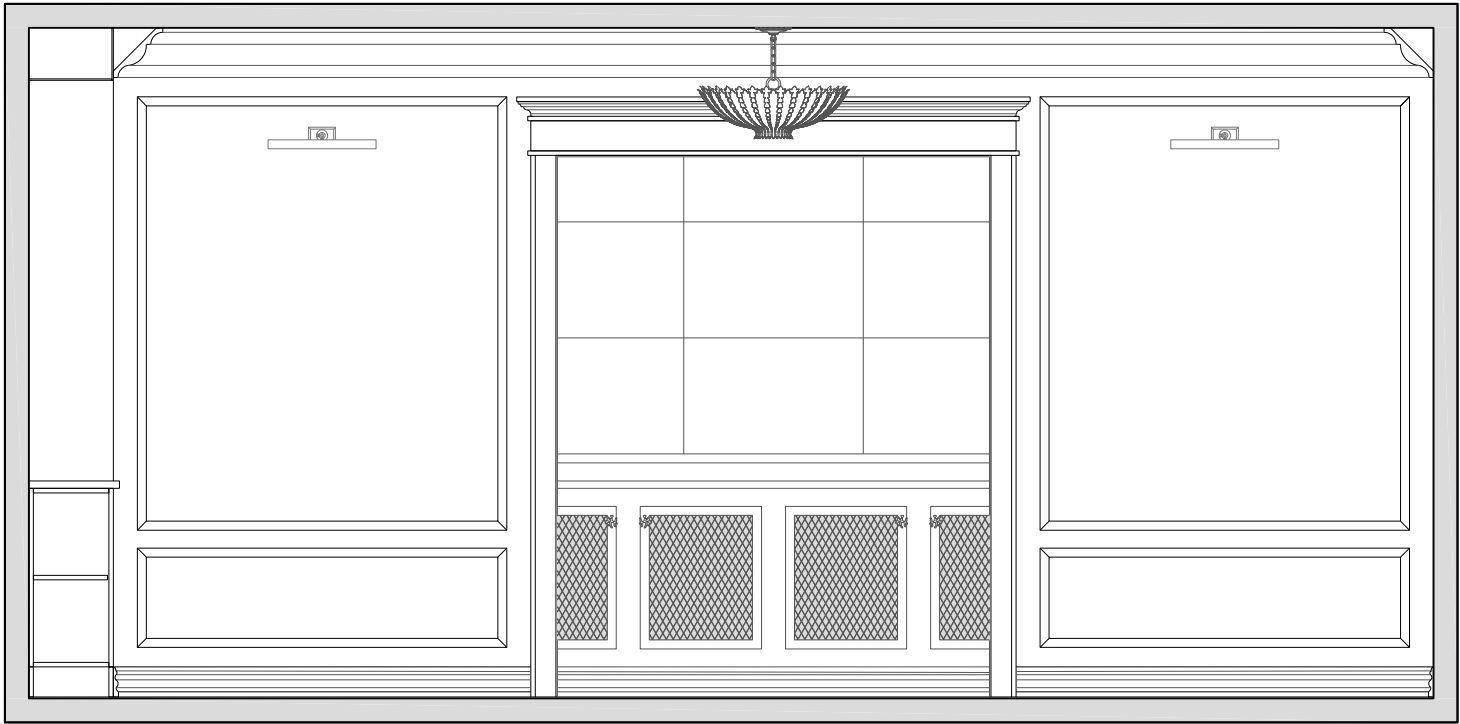
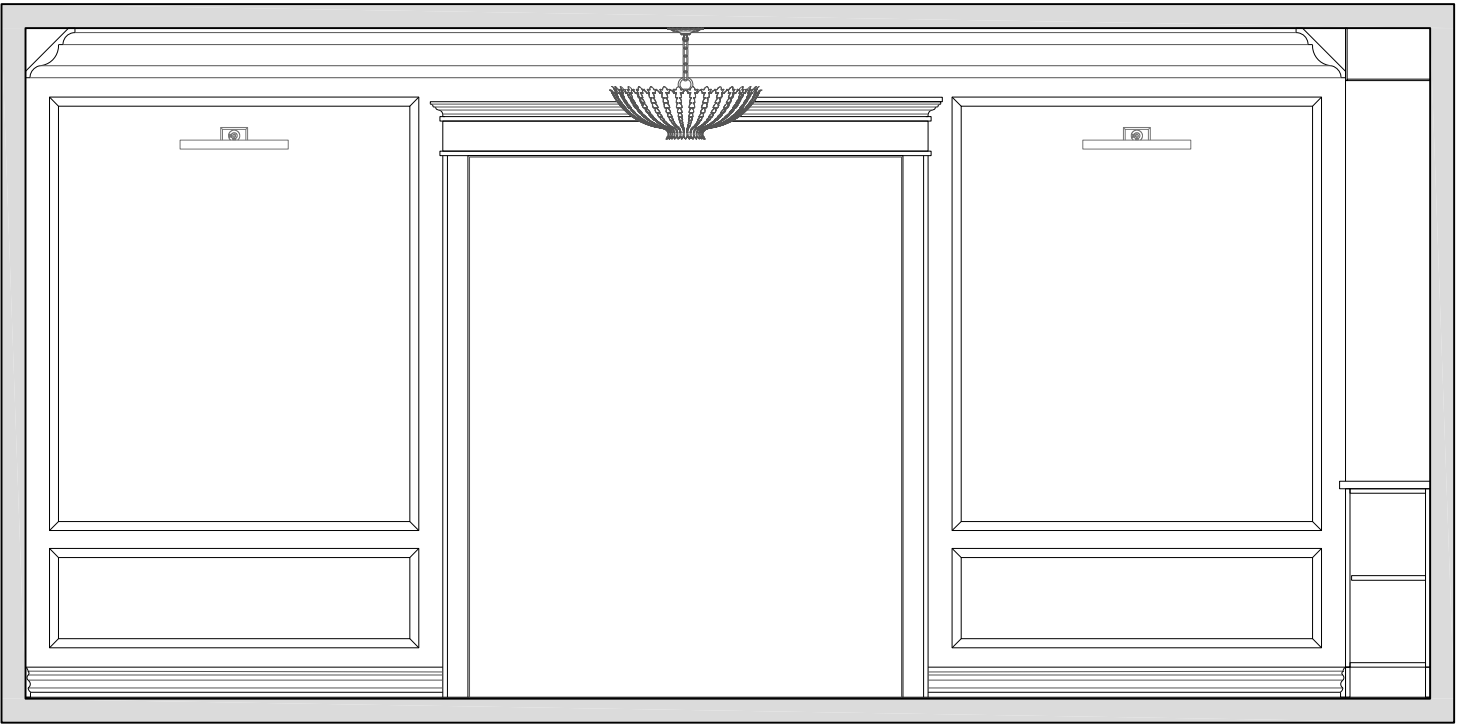
Leopard Room
East & West
Elevations

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Ondaatje's Opus

Leopard Room
North & South
Elevations

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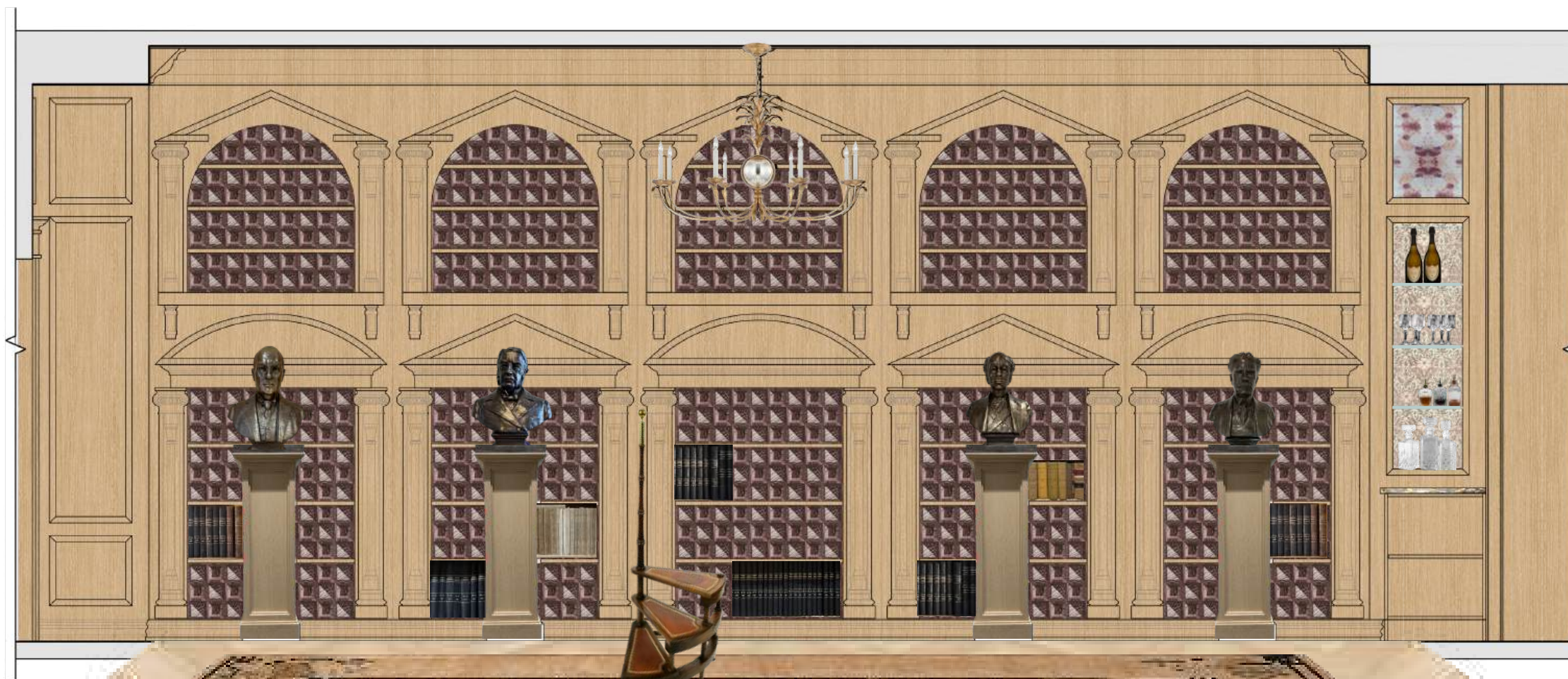
Explorer's Room
Library Elevation
(hidden door)

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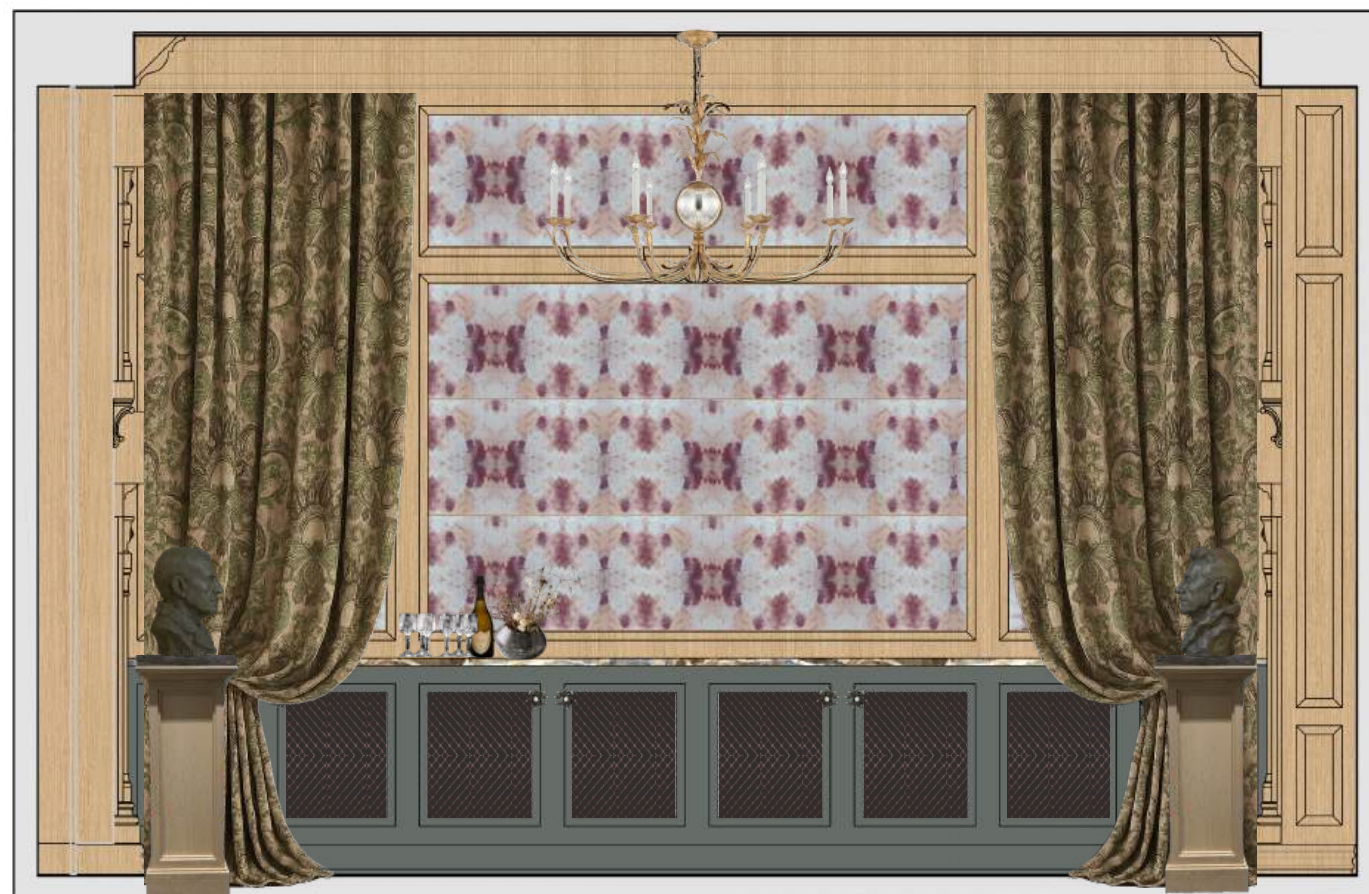
Explorer's Room
Hemingway Bar Elevation

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Explorer's Room
Library Elevation
(fireplace)

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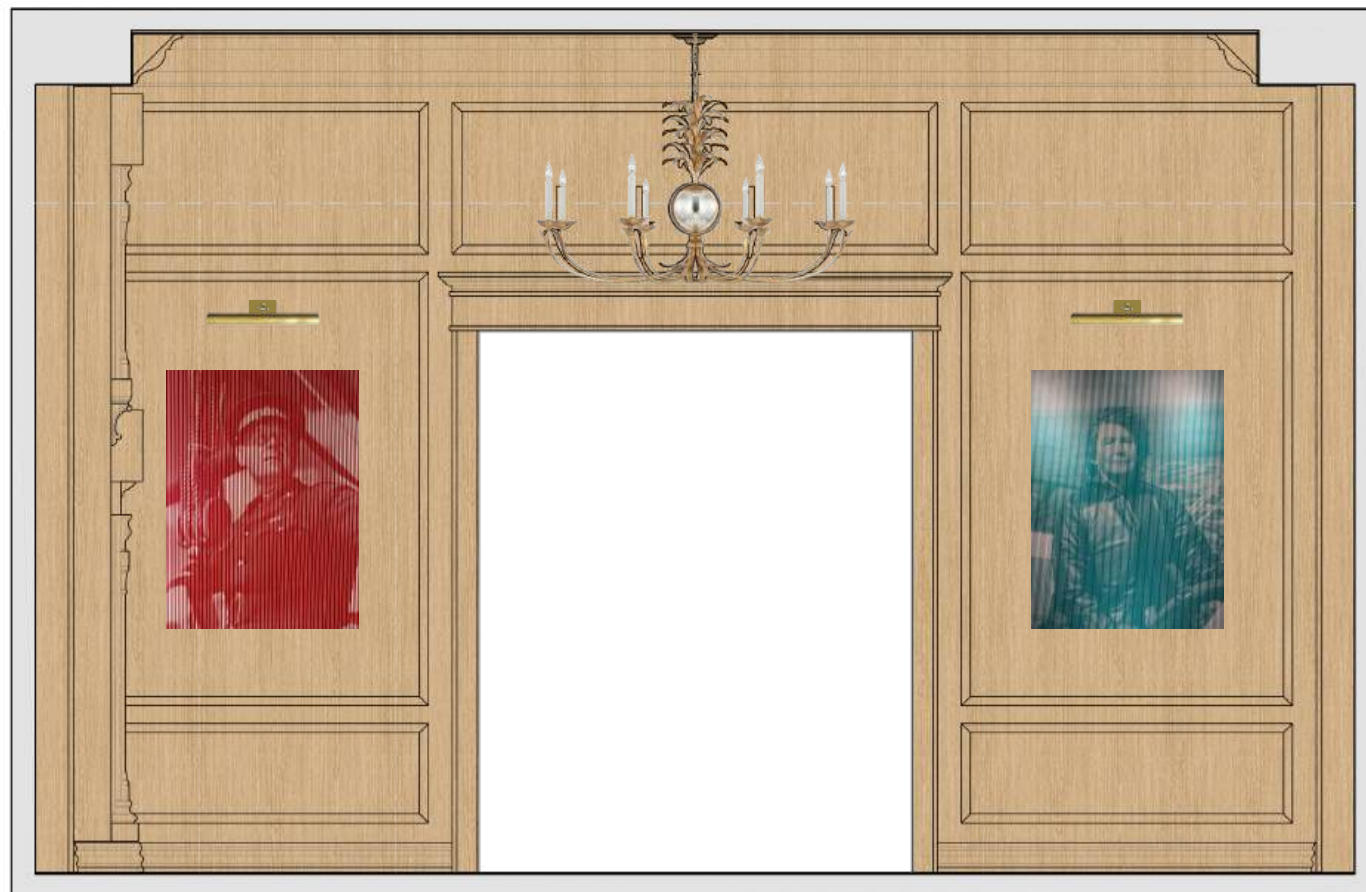
Explorer's Room
Entrance to Leopard Room

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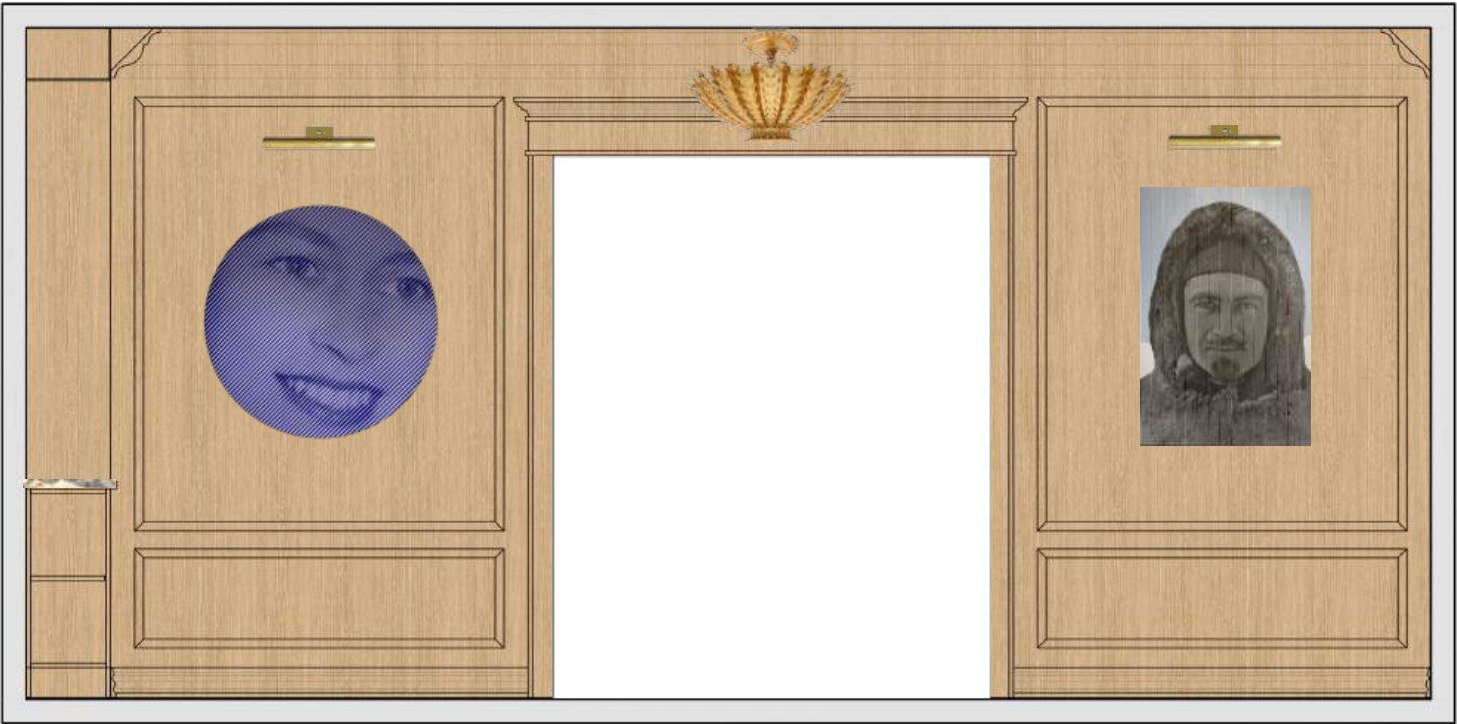
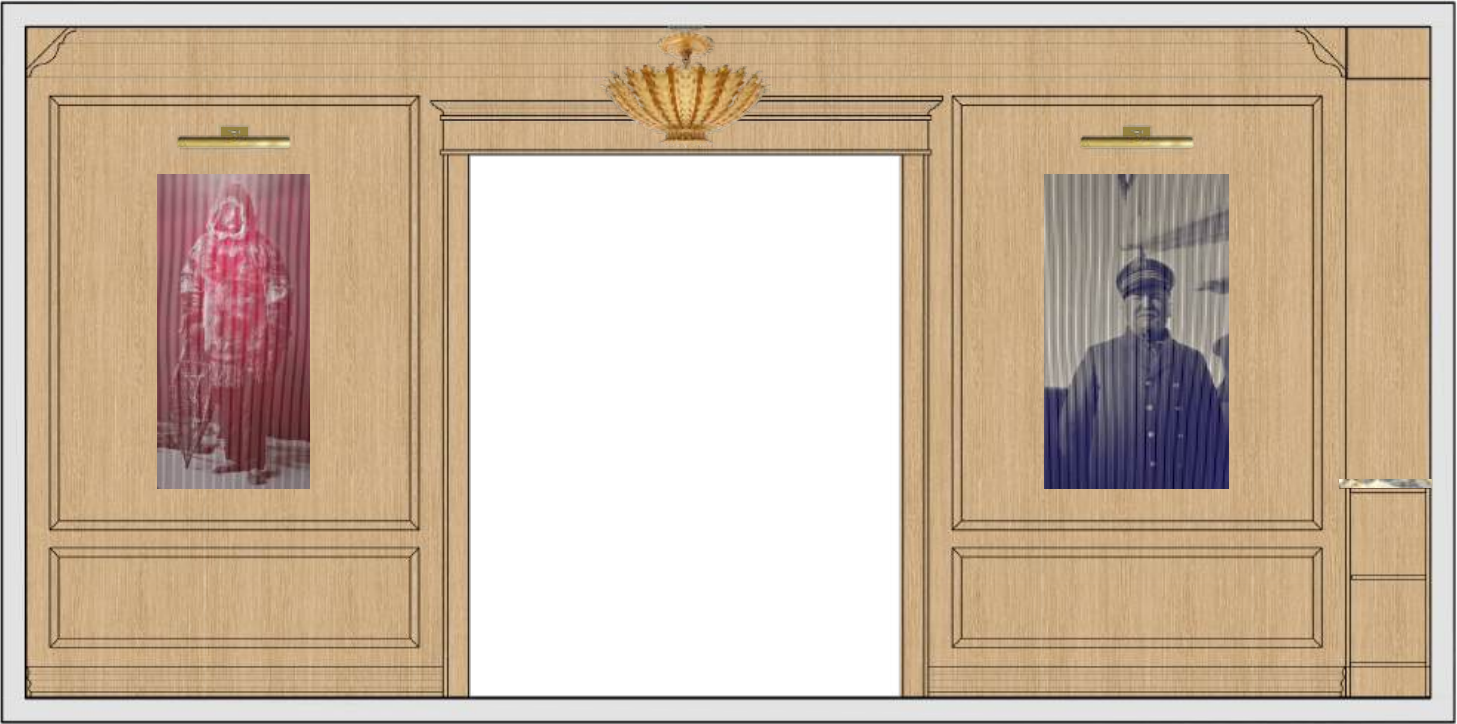
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Ondaatje's Opus
Leopard Room
East & West Elevations

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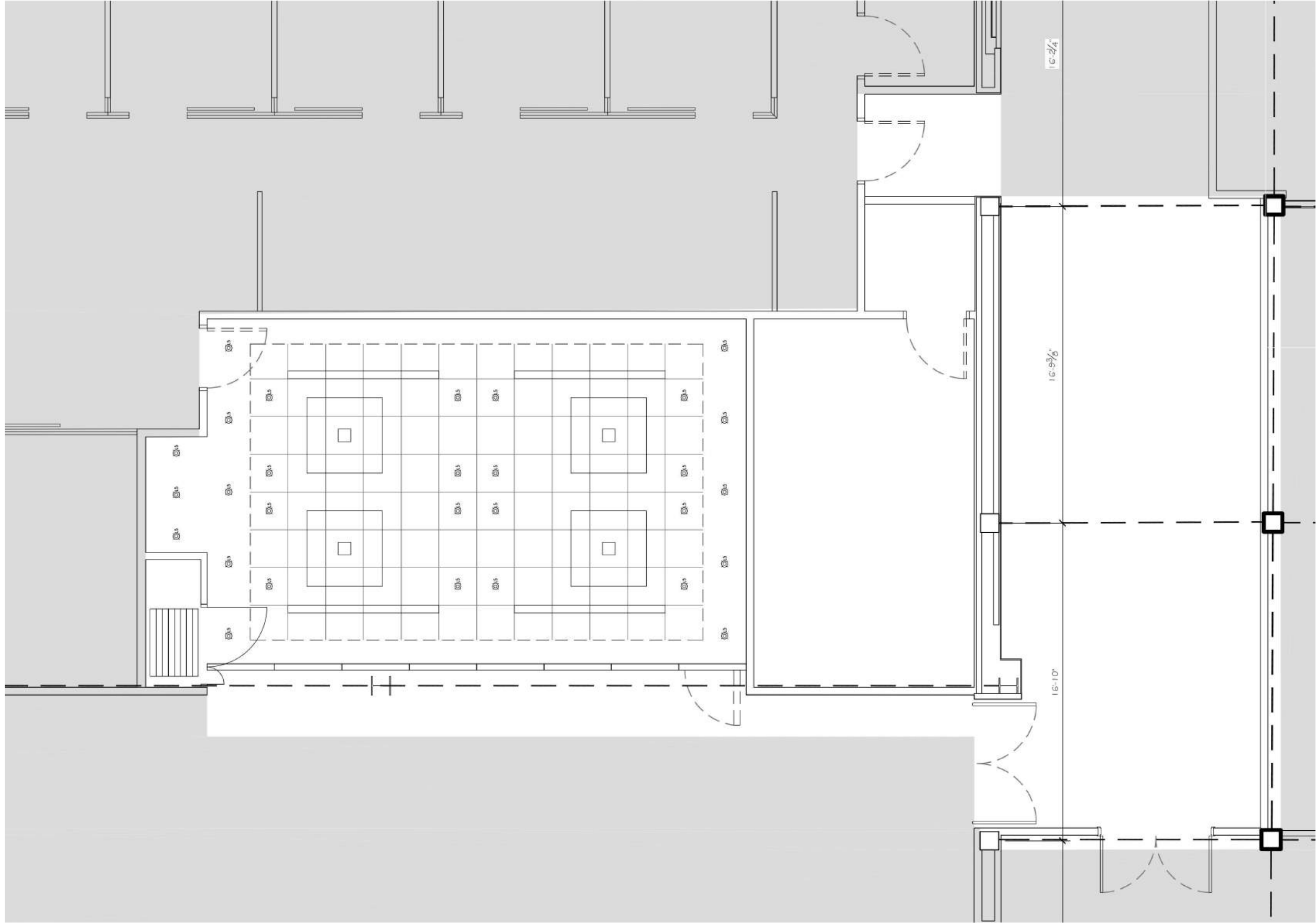
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Ondaatje’s Opus
Leopard Room
North & South Elevations

Henrietta Southam Design
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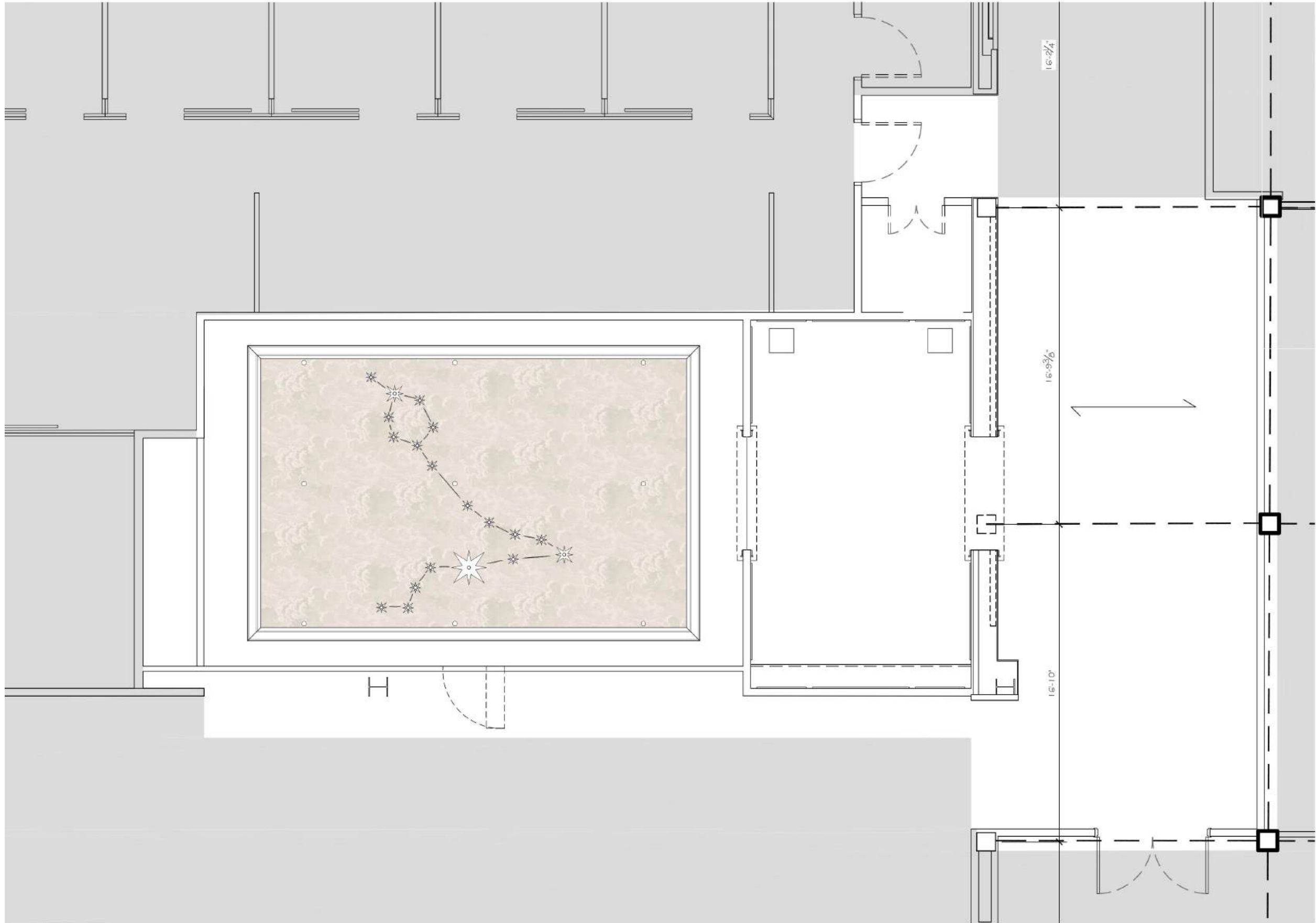
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Ondaatje’s Opus
Existing RCP

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Ondaatje’s Opus
Proposed RCP

Henrietta Southam Design
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MOULDING LEGENDS (LEOPARD ROOM):

MOUNTAIN MOULDING:

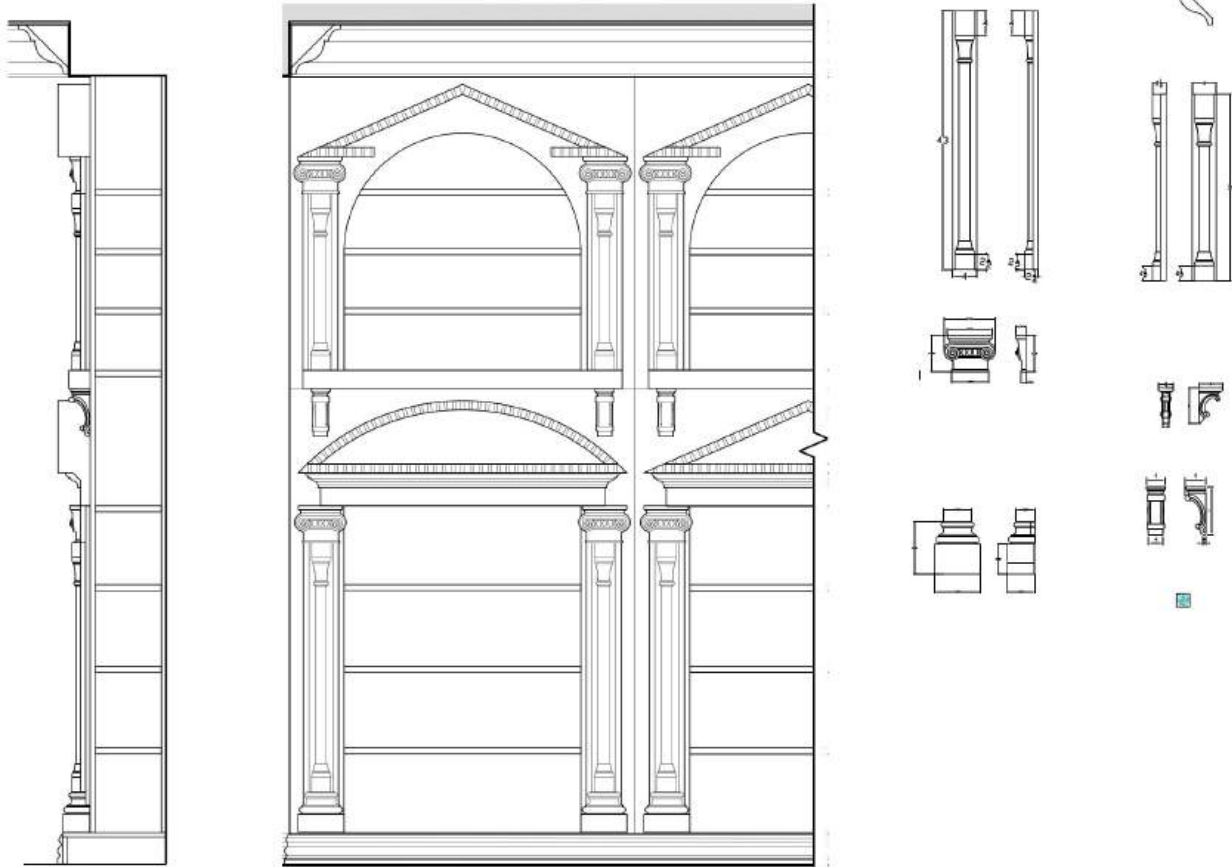
- CHAIR RAIL = CHO5 (0.75"x1.55")
- PANEL MOULD = PM8-B (0.75"x1.5")
- CROWN ABOVE DOOR OPENING = CR 1-2 (2.5"x2.5")
- CROWN CEILING = CR 56 (8.25"x8.25")
- BASEBOARD = B30-5 (5" x 0.84")

VISUAL COMFORT:

- CHANDELIER = HAMPTON MEDIUM CHANDELIER BY AERIN LAUDER (BRASS)
- WALL SCONCE = GRAMERCY MEDIUM SINGLE SCONCE BY CHAPMAN & MYERS
- PICTURE LIGHT = CABINET MAKER 18" BY CHAPMAN & MYERS (Req. Outlet box)

CABINETS:

- ARMAC MARTIN :
 - REGENCY DIAMOND GRILLE
 - 38mm ACL (ANTIQUE COPPER LACQUERED)
 - ALTERNATE ROSETTE (FLORAL STYLE)
 - 3mm COARSE MESH (BRASS)
- PULLCAST:
 - CODIUM (OC2018)
 - 2.01"
 - BRASS AND PEARL



MOULDING LEGENDS (EXPLORER'S ROOM):

MOUNTAIN MOULDING:

- CHAIR RAIL = CHO5 (0.75"x1.55")
- PANEL MOULD = PM8-B (0.75"x1.5")
- CROWN = CR 1-2 (2.5"x2.5")
- CROWN CEILING = CR 56 (8.25"x8.25")
- BASEBOARD = B30-5 (5" x 0.84")

VISUAL COMFORT:

- CHANDELIER = GRAMERCY GRANDE WIDE CHANDELIER BY CHAPMAN & MYERS
- WALL SCONCE = GRAMERCY DOUBLE SCONCE BY CHAPMAN & MYERS
- PICTURE LIGHT = CABINET MAKER 18" BY CHAPMAN & MYERS (Req. Outlet box)

CABINETS:

- ARMAC MARTIN :
 - REGENCY DIAMOND GRILLE
 - 38mm ACL (ANTIQUE COPPER LACQUERED)
 - ALTERNATE ROSETTE (FLORAL STYLE)
 - 3mm COARSE MESH (BRASS)
- PULLCAST:
 - CODIUM (OC2018)
 - 2.01"
 - BRASS AND PEARL

COUNTERTOPS:

- MARBLE = "BLUE JEANS" CALACATTA AMORE 2cm LEATHERED OR SATIN
73"x134" INTERSTONE (Block # 250301)
(TEMPLATED, FABRICATED AND INSTALLED BY VESTA MARBLE)

ART FOR EVERYDAY:

- COLUMNS = CLM-043 (LOWER)(CUT TOP FLAT TO MATCH BOTTOM @ 2 1/2" H)
- COLUMNS = CLM-031 (UPPER)(CUT TOP FLAT TO MATCH BOTTOM @ 2 1/2" H)
- CAPITALS = CPL-ED4
- BASE = BS-NCT2 (CUT DOWN FLAT BY 2")
- CORBELS = CBL-PRW2

CUSTOM:

- PEDIMENT PLINTH (OAK 5.5" HIGH) (UNDER CROWN)
- UPPER COLUMN LEDGE SUPPORT BOX (OAK 3.5" DEEP x 3" HIGH)
- PEDIMENT WRAPPED IN OAK VENEER C/W APPLIED DENTALS (1/2" WIDE x 1/2" HIGH x 1/2" SPACED PROJECTION)
- VENEER WRAPPED BULKHEAD ON FACE AND U/S OF ALL BULKHEADS.
- HINGES ?????



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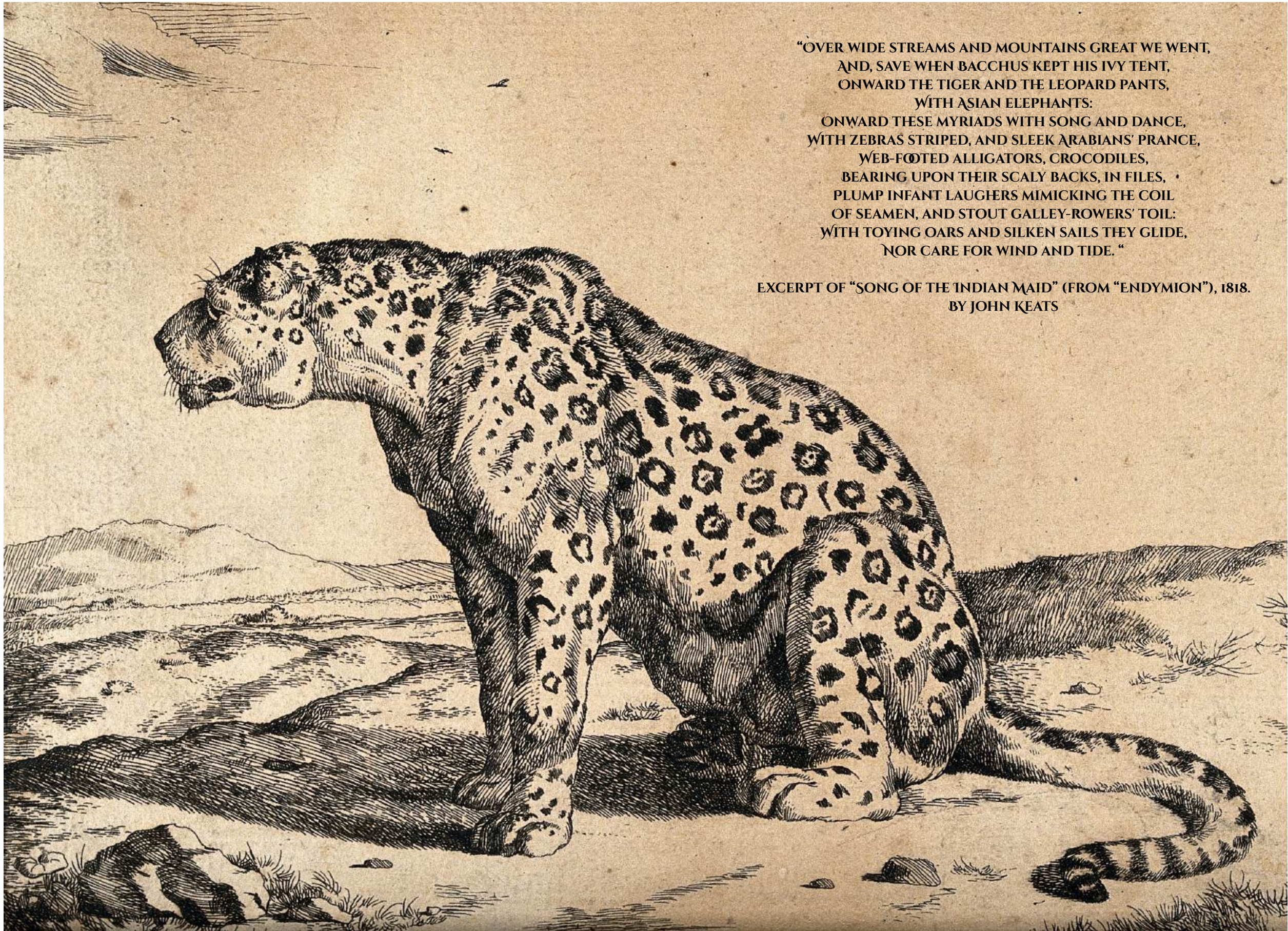
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Ondaatje's Opus
Millwork Details

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“OVER WIDE STREAMS AND MOUNTAINS GREAT WE WENT,
AND, SAVE WHEN BACCHUS KEPT HIS IVY TENT,
ONWARD THE TIGER AND THE LEOPARD PANTS,
WITH ASIAN ELEPHANTS:
ONWARD THESE MYRIADS WITH SONG AND DANCE,
WITH ZEBRAS STRIPED, AND SLEEK ARABIANS' PRANCE,
WEB-FOOTED ALLIGATORS, CROCODILES,
BEARING UPON THEIR SCALY BACKS, IN FILES,
PLUMP INFANT LAUGHERS MIMICKING THE COIL
OF SEAMEN, AND STOUT GALLEY-ROWERS' TOIL:
WITH TOYING OARS AND SILKEN SAILS THEY GLIDE,
NOR CARE FOR WIND AND TIDE. “

EXCERPT OF “SONG OF THE INDIAN MAID” (FROM “ENDYMION”), 1818.
BY JOHN KEATS



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Ondaatje’s Opus
Poem

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