

Queen Mica's Scintillant Palace: Level 4

These notes concern details for the locations in the fourth subterranean Level of Queen Mica's Scintillant Palace. Information regarding the Palace as a whole, including aspects of its physical features and the overall map layout and creation mechanisms not discussed here, can be found in the notes with the Queen Mica's Scintillant Palace Level 1 map elsewhere in the Atlas.

The passages and most chambers can be assumed as roughly 10 feet, 3 metres, high, with floors and ceilings of similarly irregular character to the mapped walls, where not noted otherwise. The passages can be considered as loosely circular in cross-section, so about as high as they are wide, where that may be important. Each level is vertically separated from the next by an average of 50 ft, 15 m, from the floor of the higher level to the ceiling of the lower. The angles shown on the maps for tunnels that connect between levels are based on this assumed separation distance, and are approximate only, especially given the irregular form of all the interior surfaces. Chambers on a given level are not all at the same depth as one another. Areas with pooled water will tend to be somewhat lower - or the chamber floor may slope down towards such pools. Places with warmer air will often be higher than the average, and cooler places somewhat lower, for instance.

GMs wishing to continue the illusory nature of the Palace complex as outlined in the Level 1 discussions, where the whole is a hilltop Faerie castle with high towers, should continue to invert the general nature of the floorplan here - thus Level 4 would be high above ground-level, in places at tower-top height, with window and balcony views out over the surrounding countryside and parts of the Palace - and adapt the content of the chambers accordingly, much as was done among the Level 1 "Illusory" comments.

Features of Level 4

* **Chamber 1:** The western passage into here from 3.1 drops vertically for its first 20 ft, 6 m, out of the higher chamber, then slopes down at about 20° for the remainder of its length. A strong air current flows west to east along the passageway, an unpleasant headwind for those moving west into it. A second entry tunnel drops vertically from 3.3, with water trickling, or sometimes running, down its southern side. A debris heap forms a ramp reaching up about 6 ft, 1.8 m, from the floor directly below the tunnel's lower exit. The water runs off the southern slopes of this heap to form a fairly shallow pond by the chamber's southeastern walls.

* **Chamber 2:** A bi-lobed chamber, whose larger southern lobe is part-filled by a pool. A mass of fossilized tree roots project from the walls and ceiling by the pool and below its water level, along the marked area. These sparkle with crystalline minerals in any artificial light here. A single passage leads southeast to 4.3.

* **Chamber 3:** A descending passage from 3.7 approaches at 45° from the north, with connecting tunnels leading northwest to 4.2 and east to 4.4. The air in this chamber swirls hot and cold unpredictably.

- * **Chamber 4:** The shallow pond along its eastern wall helps keep the humidity here unpleasantly high. One tunnel leads west to 4.3, another ascends southeast to 3.4 (40°).

- * **Chamber 5:** This is the Guard Chamber. It lies directly above the Queen's Chamber, 5.1, to which it connects vertically by a chute a little off-centred to this chamber's south. A pond partly floods the northern part. Several warrior ants are always present to prevent unwanted intrusions to 5.1. A single entryway ascends at 45° to the south, to 3.6. The air here has a fishy taste.

- * **Chamber 6:** A rambling, four-armed chamber, the southeastern one of which is flooded - right to the ceiling by its descending, northeastern, end. The rest of the chamber is filled with profuse growths of honey fungus, like that in 2.17, a major source of food for the colony. A cross-breeze flows from the southern to northern chamber arms, albeit from an unidentifiable source. A single passage enters from 3.10 to the east, descending steeply at about 65°.