

Queen Mica's Scintillant Palace:

South Wing

These notes concern details for the locations in the subterranean South Wing to 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 of this Level 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. Not all parts of this Level are at the same depth as one another, as indicated by the markers and angles from the horizontal in places. Beyond these aspects, areas with pooled water will tend to be somewhat lower, or the chamber floor may slope down towards such pools, while places with warmer air may be higher than the average, cooler ones somewhat lower.

GMs wishing to continue the illusory nature of the Palace complex as outlined in the main Palace 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 - although the fact there is just a single Level to the South Wing means that while it would seem to be above ground-level, with window and balcony views out over the surrounding countryside south of the Palace's hilltop site, and the neighbouring parts of the Palace, it is not especially high-up. The content of chambers should be adapted accordingly as well, much as was done among the Level 1 "Illusory" comments.

This and the three other Palace Wings are each separate complexes to the main Palace, which is central to all. This Level connects directly with the main Palace *via* the sloping tunnel labelled S1. It has no separate surface entrance.

Although most of the Wings are not used regularly by the colony, sometimes a large part of the colony's activities may be moved into one or other Wing for a time (usually a season or so). While there is often less likelihood of meeting any of the colony's inhabitants in such little-used Wings, hence why very few notes have been added on the potential uses the chambers may be put to, the South Wing does have some areas that are used more often than in the other Wings.

Note that North is offset slightly towards the upper left of this map.

Features of The South Wing

* **Tunnel S1:** Extending from Chamber 3.2 at the main Palace, this is a long, straight, northwest-southeast-aligned tunnel which slopes down at about 25° out of the Palace, levelling-out only at this label marker. The Tunnel bends to the southwest as it approaches Chamber S2 after there, and drops somewhat further as it does so.

* **Chamber S2:** A large, hexagonal Chamber, which as the "Ice House" name might suggest, is extremely cold. Its floor is below that of the three tunnels leading down into it, and there are patches of frost in many places over the floor, walls and ceiling; even some

solid ice. It is the most-used part of the South Wing, to store things needing to be kept cold, or when ice is extracted from it to be used elsewhere in the complex. Tunnels out are to the northeast (S1), east (to S3 & S4) and southwest (to S5).

* **Chamber S3:** Two chambers run-off the passage east from Chamber S2, this one and its neighbour S4. This one is small and rounded, with a very rugged floor that has numerous tiny stalagmites across it, like fixed caltrops for bipedal humanoids passing through, along with a substantial collection of complete stalagmite-stalactite columns, making for additional difficulties in negotiating it.

* **Chamber S4:** At the further end of the eastern tunnel out of S2, the passage turns southward into this modestly-sized, rounded Chamber. There are obstacles from some incipient stalagmite growths on its floor, and signs of stalactites beginning to form from the ceiling too. There is also a sweet taste to the air.

* **Chamber S5:** This elongated, almost diamond-shaped, Chamber has its floor elevated by some 20 ft, 6 m, above the areas that pass beneath and lead up to it. Tunnels from the southwestern side of S2 and the western side of Chamber S7 slope up most strongly towards this area, at about 35°, to link with its mid-eastern side and southern tip respectively, while the S6 passageway which widens into the northern part of this Chamber, has a lesser, 25° upslope. The floor of the main part of the Chamber itself also slopes up further towards its northwestern wall, so the whole floor is tilted in various directions, as well as having several debris piles scattered over it. At its southern end is a vertical chute down to the tunnel connecting with the lower passageway running between Chambers S7 and S9.

* **Passage-Chamber S6:** A very elongated area, identified by the water channel that runs downslope from east to west along its long northern wall, between pools at the top and base of the slope, in its two wider chamber parts. The narrower, tunnel-like, segment slopes up at about 25°, broadening-out at its top to connect into the northern end of Chamber S5. There is a notable updraught running north to south through this upper sub-chamber, while the lower one, at this area's west end, has a strong scent of mint. A tunnel leads northeast from this lower sub-chamber to S13, with a shorter passage linking southwest into S12.

* **Chamber S7:** A larger, irregularly diamond-shaped area which is very dry, with an extremely rough floor. Three tunnels lead away from it. One passes east round a sharp northerly bend to Chamber S8. Another begins rising at 35° soon after exiting this Chamber's western wall, curling sharply north and up to the elevated Chamber S5. The third leaves the northern tip, then turns sharply west, passing below the ceiling-exit to the vertical tunnel down from the southern part of S5, before entering the east side of Chamber S9.

* **Chamber S8:** Seeming a little like a smaller version of the diamond form Chamber S7 has, this area has a smoother floor, possibly helped by the high humidity here. It is reached by a tunnel in its southern tip that passes round a right-angle bend into the eastern side of Chamber S7.

* **Chamber S9:** Largest of all the chambers in the South Wing, this has an east-west elongated ovoid form, meaning in its middle, it is roughly as tall as it is wide, with a floor that drops away from the four near-midline accessways around its edges in an ellipsoidal curve. A strong wind blows almost due west to east through it. In its east wall, a tunnel passes under the exit from the vertical chute up to S5, before turning away into the north end of Chamber S7. From the south wall, a second tunnel curves around westwards into Chamber S10. Shorter tunnels also link west with Chamber S15, and north with Area S11.

* **Chamber S10:** A much less-regular oval-shaped chamber than S9, albeit with a similar east-west longer axis, this connects to that latter place by a curling tunnel beginning in this Chamber's eastern tip. A light breeze moves through it towards this exit, if from an unidentifiable source. Its floor has a number of rocky protuberances, seemingly of boulders too large or immobile to be extracted from here.

* **Area S11:** Not really a separate Chamber as such, since it is effectively a somewhat narrower extension of the adjoining Area S12 to its west. The walls here are more regularly polygonal, and the floor is a lot smoother, however, to the point of being remarkably slippery. A brief tunnel through its southerly wall leads into Chamber S9.

* **Area S12:** Immobile stony blocks in the floor - similar in size and nature to those in Chamber S10 - help characterize this irregular, east-west elongated, area, which seems little more than a widening of the passageway at its western end that runs into Chamber S18, past the floor hole that almost blocks it, at the top of Descending Chute S14. In places, it seems this space may have been created by its walls having been excavated around several of the largest floor obstacles. Its eastern end heads straight into the smoother-cut Area S11. There is a fishy taste to the air here. A short tunnel north passes into the lower sub-chamber of S6, while another passes southwards into Chamber S15.

* **Chamber S13:** At the far end of the tunnel north, then west, out of the lower sub-chamber of S6, is this small, irregular chamber. The floor is rough and uneven, with several phosphorescent pools in some of its hollows. These are quite shallow, and emit a soft radiance, brightening markedly when their surface is disturbed.

* **Descending Chute S14:** Three tunnels connect at this point. One runs roughly east-west between Area S12 and Chamber S18. Another passes north-south directly beneath it, ultimately between Chambers S17 and S15, with a vertical tunnel-chute connecting the two cross-ways. The vertical drop from the floor of the upper east-west passage to the ceiling of the lower north-south-aligned one is only 10 ft or so, 3 m. At the lower end of the vertical route, the tunnel's opening passes near enough the walls that no ramp is required to access it, while at the top of the Chute, it virtually blocks the floor of the passage. The lower north-south tunnel drops much more steeply south of the connection point (60°) than to its north (35°).

* **Chamber S15:** Just off the western end of large ovoid Chamber S9, this area shares a similar structure, here though of a spheroidal form, and with a number of stalagmites extending up from the floor in somewhat elongated oval forms around their bases, which lie at various angles on the curving floor. The Chamber in its middle is about as high as it is wide there, although the stalagmites make this less obvious than it might be. The

tunnel out of its northeastern side leaves near the circumference's midline, into Area S12. The other two tunnels leave here closer to the spheroid's base. The more southerly curls around eventually into Chamber S19, while that to the west turns sharply northwards out of here, and descends steeply (60°) towards the lower end of Chute S14.

* **Chamber S16:** A medium-sized, irregular chamber just beyond the northern side of Chamber S17. Its floor is smooth and level, except for a number of rounded pits. Each pit is about 7 ft deep and 6 ft wide (2.1 by 1.8 m). They could be empty storage pits, though nothing here indicates what might have been stored in them, if so.

* **Chamber S17:** Four routes meet in this small, irregular Chamber, which has numerous prismatic crystals in parts of its walls (only) that diffract any light brought here into rainbow patterns. Short tunnels lead north to S16, south to S18 and west to S21, while a longer tunnel from the east end rounds a sharp bend southwards, before descending at 35° towards the base of Chute S14.

* **Chamber S18:** Nearly rectangular in plan, this Chamber has a greasy taste in its air. Short accessways lead north to S17 and south to S19, with longer tunnels leading east past the upper end of Chute S14 to Area S12, and west from the southwest corner of this Chamber around a sharp northerly bend to S21 and S22.

* **Chamber S19:** Irregularly triangular in shape, this area has a fairly shallow water pool near its sunken centre, with a strong wind blowing through between the tunnel entrances in its northern and eastern tips. The north way leads straight into the southern end of Chamber S18, while the easterly route meanders around a couple of curves into the lower southern part of Chamber S15. A shorter tunnel south connects with Chamber S20, and another lengthy one runs west, then southwest, to Chamber S23.

* **Chamber S20:** Slithering sounds are commonly heard in this irregularly oval chamber, with its relatively even floor. A single passage north links into the southern wall of Chamber S19.

* **Chamber S21:** A small, north-south-oriented chamber at the corner-junction between passages south, then east into the southern part of Chamber S18, and east into the western tip of S17. The floor here is extremely hard going, and the air swirls hot and cold in erratic zones within it.

* **Chamber S22:** Hot air marks this irregularly square chamber, just off the northwestern side of the north-south part of the passage between Chambers S21 and S18. It is also somewhat higher than that passageway. There is a water pool across its lower northwestern floor.

* **Chamber S23:** At the end of a long tunnel out of Chamber S19, this is a small, squarish chamber that seems incomplete, judging by the debris piles still littering its floor. An indeterminate hissing noise can be heard here sometimes.