

Stanford Get-To-Know (GTK) Center

Enok Choe



**Image not in scale—the GTK Center is significantly smaller than how it is portrayed in this image. It should have the height of the Old Union building, but this image well-portrays its spherical design.*

I. Manifesto

Designed for all Stanford residents and visitors, the telos of Stanford’s GTK center is to completely break the social barrier formed by implicit social norms and awkwardness, of being unable to casually start a conversation with previously unacquainted people. The inner devil that asks “would this come out as weird or creepy?” prevents individuals from sparking up conversations with people they have not talked to before, even if they wish to get to know them with perfectly good intentions. According to students in West Lag, for instance, many have a difficult time starting a conversation even with upperclassmen on the same hall because of the aforementioned “inner devil” in addition to the “timing being too late.” The GTK center aims to transform such distanced nature of everyday encounters with others. The policies and guidelines for entering GTK Center—which will be specified in the blueprint, will allow previously unacquainted individuals to casually talk to one another in this space.

Ultimately, however, the hope is that the development of a completely open-minded culture *within* the GTK center will be able to trickle down to the culture *outside* the center. The practices of GTK will positively impact how the students, faculty, and the visitors on campus treat one another. Moreover, they will become more comfortable in being able to start a conversation with previously-unacquainted individuals even without necessarily being inside GTK.

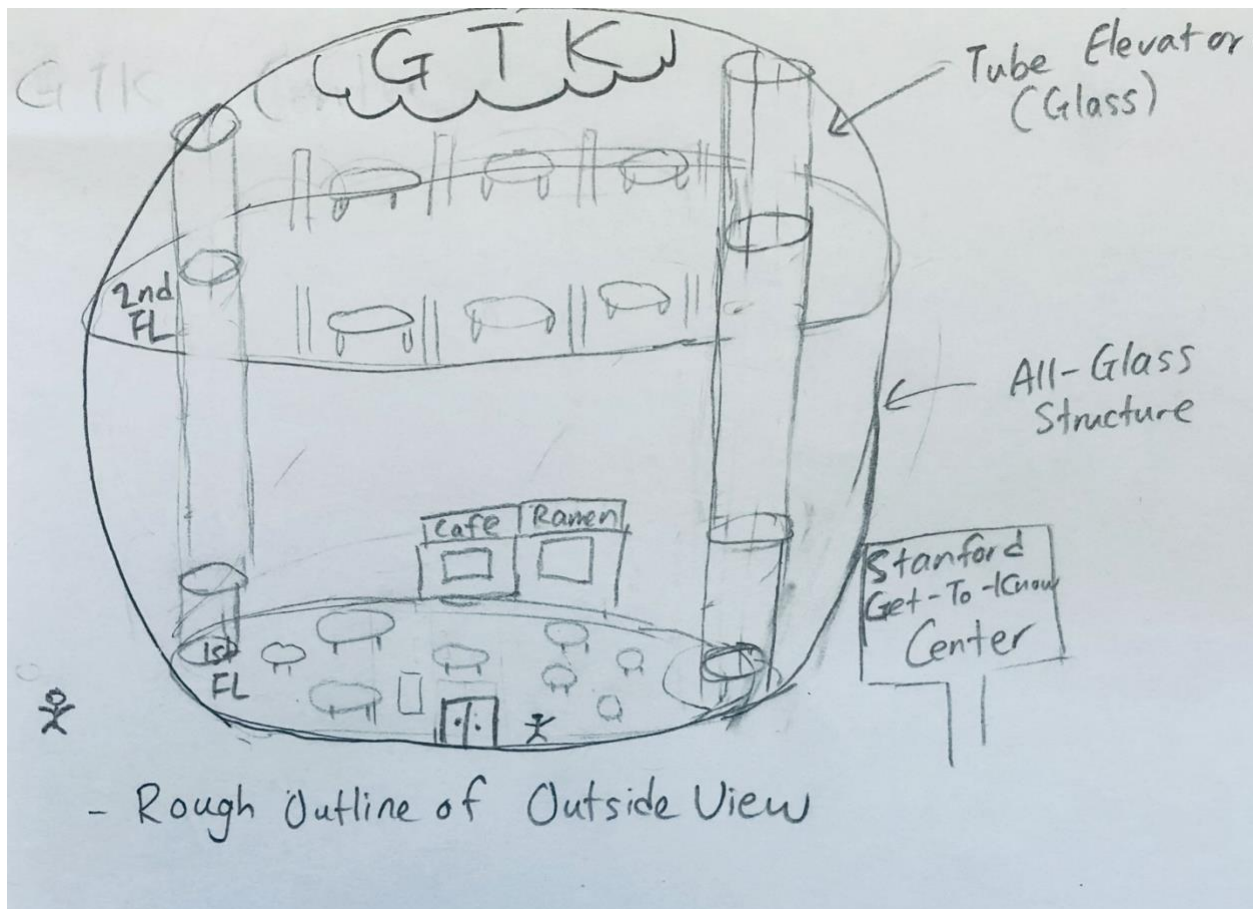
II. Blueprint

The details of GTK Center's design will focus on making it an eudemonistic environment for all visitors, as outlined below.

Guidelines:

As mentioned in the manifesto, the “guidelines” of communicating within the center will be laid out for the visitors near the entrance of the center. This will allow them to have a clear perspective on the objective of this healthily countercultural center. The patrollers will be present to check when one leaves if one has any suggestions, comments, or complaints to these guidelines—to make changes to the center accordingly to maximize the eudemonistic experience of every visitor as well as the GTK's vision.

1. **On the first floor, everyone can assume they know each other already even if they don't. In other words, one should be able to politely request any conversation with anybody at any given time, as long as the receptors are compliant or aren't occupied. Get to know new people!**
2. **If you wish to have a conversation solely with a specific group of people, wish not to be interrupted, or if none of the criteria above apply to you, please move to the second floor. The second floor is a great socializing space as well!**
3. **The center is alcohol, drug, smoking, or unauthorized-substance-of-any-kind free. The patrollers reserve the right to immediately seize them if seen and ban your future attendances.**
4. **Stanford ID is required to enter—if there are visitors, they must accompany the holder of a student ID for safety precautions.**



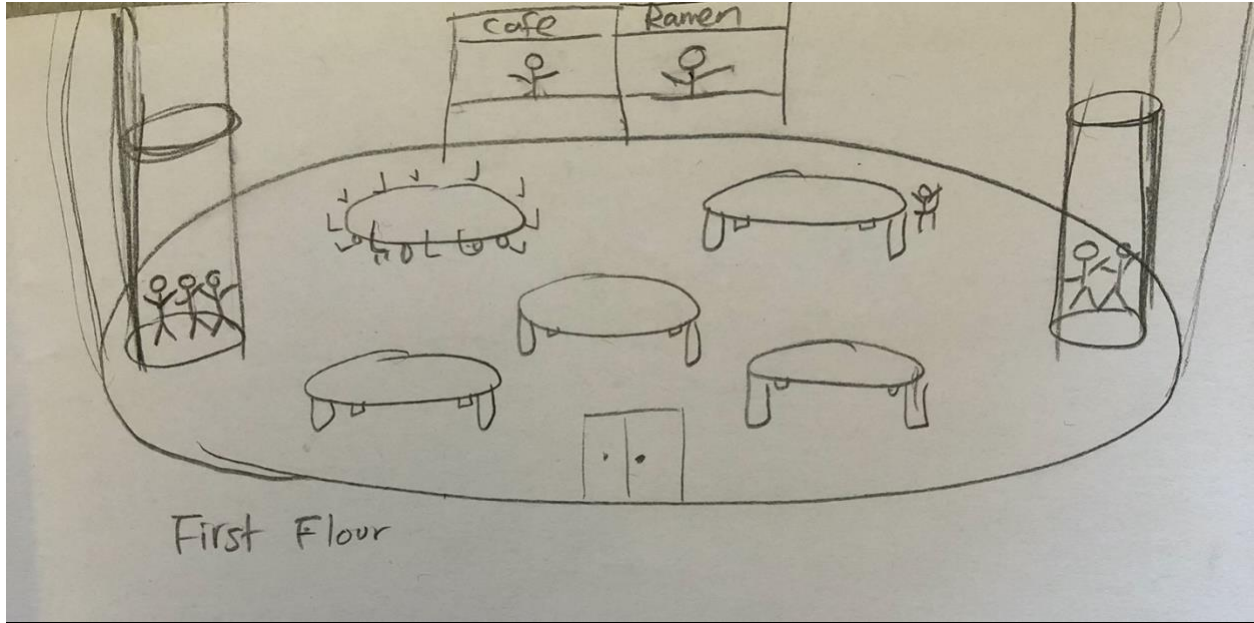
Overall Design:

The center will be conspicuously positioned near Meyer Green, allowing easy access from both East and West Campus residents. The outline of the entire center will entirely be made up of giant spherical glass with large solar panels on top, which will power the entirety of the structure. This will allow ample sunlight and a 360-degree-view around Meyer Green, and create a creative contrast to the commonly-shaped rectangular buildings. Also, the transparency of the building symbolizes “complete openness.” The two tube elevators on the far right and left inside the center is also made up of glass, and could fit around 20 people each.



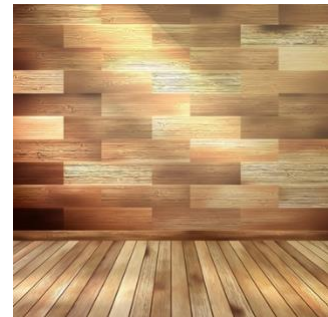
GTK Center will use a larger scale of this Tube Elevator

The first floor will be colored light brown and the second floor will be light green mixed with red. Such unique, pleasing-to-the-eyes modern design that creates an imagery of an apple tree within a transparent bubble will increase the onlookers’ and the visitors’ eudemonistic experience altogether. Furthermore, such nature-resembling and creative color schemes will psychologically incline the visitors to behave more open-mindedly.



First Floor (Brown themed):

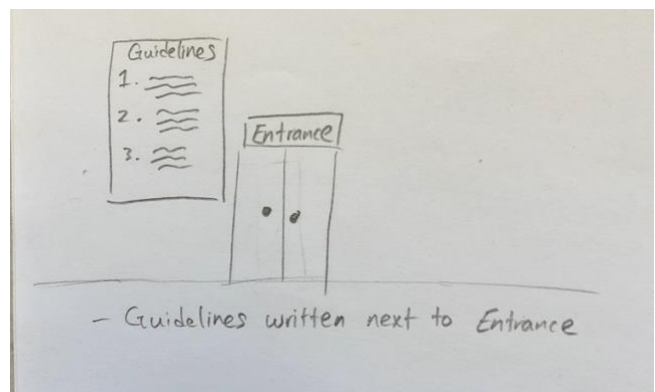
The first floor is specifically for people who wish to get to meet new people. Its floor will be colored tree-like brown (shown on the right), and it will have a central café and additional street-food stations based on student surveys, in order to draw in visitors and to create a mix of casual, homey, as well as classic feel. The spread-out matte-brown round tables (shown below) encourage visitors to look at and communicate with everyone on the table. In the most conspicuous location right next to the entrance of the building, the guidelines specified above will be placed (as shown below).

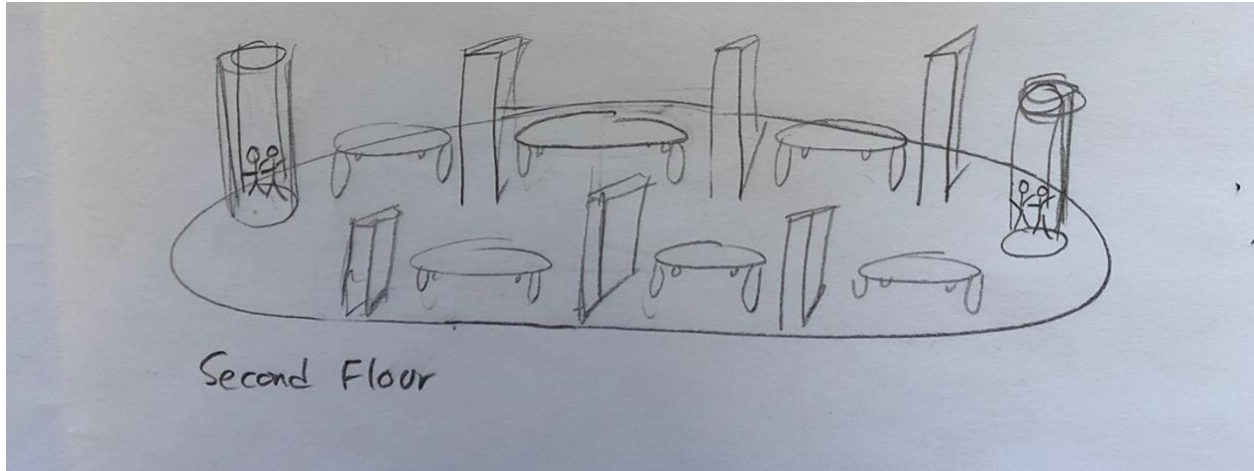


The first floor will have this color scheme



Example of a round table





Second Floor (Green and Red themed):

The second floor is designed for those who wish to either take a break from the complete social openness of the first floor, or those who simply wish to have a conversation with a specific group of people without interruption. Between the second floor light-green round tables, there are red walls in between them (creating an apple-like effect for onlookers outside the building) in order to preserve privacy.



Green Themed Floor



Example of Dividing Red walls—but thicker and non-transparent