

# INSIDE/OUTSIDE

In-between & Imaginary  
Spaces in Art

MAP DISCOVER



Space is the area between all the forms of an artwork.

It is also the secret ingredient that makes art look like you could reach out and touch it, or step inside it.

This is because space is the element used to create depth in two-dimensional artworks.

**THINK.**

**How has the artist created a sense of depth, a feeling of being inside a room, in this artwork?**



In this pack, we explore **in-between and imaginary spaces** through artworks from the MAP collection.

Let's start by observing this photo for sometime.

**Where is the girl seated: indoors or outdoors? What are the things you see around her that can help you decide?**

To learn more about the use of space in visual arts, download our other resource packs from the Discover MAP series.





**LOOK CLOSELY.  
Here is the complete work.**





## **RECALL & REFLECT.**

This photograph by **Jyoti Bhatt** features his daughter.

**How do you think the image was made?**

**Are there two spaces side by side, is it one space, is it modified or collaged in some way?**

Go back and take another look. Does your answer stay the same?

## VOCABULARY ALERT!

The bottom sill or frame which marks the space between the inside and outside has a name. It's known as the **threshold**.

That word is also used to describe a point or place of beginning or ending.

For example, 'standing at the threshold of adventure', or 'having a low threshold for pain'.



Here is another artwork showing the in-between threshold space.

**Are we outdoors,  
looking inside a house?  
Or are we inside a  
house, looking out?**

Which component of the building do you think this is?

Why has this artist painted a simple architectural component as an artwork? Is he trying to say something?





In art, the idea of the in-between space symbolises other concepts too, such as change or longing.

Here is a work by an American artist, **Edward Hooper**, who made a lot of such paintings that show people indoors but looking out.

**What is the mood in this painting?**

Image: Uploaded by Pmeimon on Wikimedia Commons, distributed under a CC-BY 2.0 license.



Image: Uploaded by Gandalfsgallery on Wikimedia Commons, distributed under a CC-BY 2.0 license.

Here is another. Can you guess anything about the way the people in these paintings feel?

**How does the painting make you feel? Is there a mood it creates?**

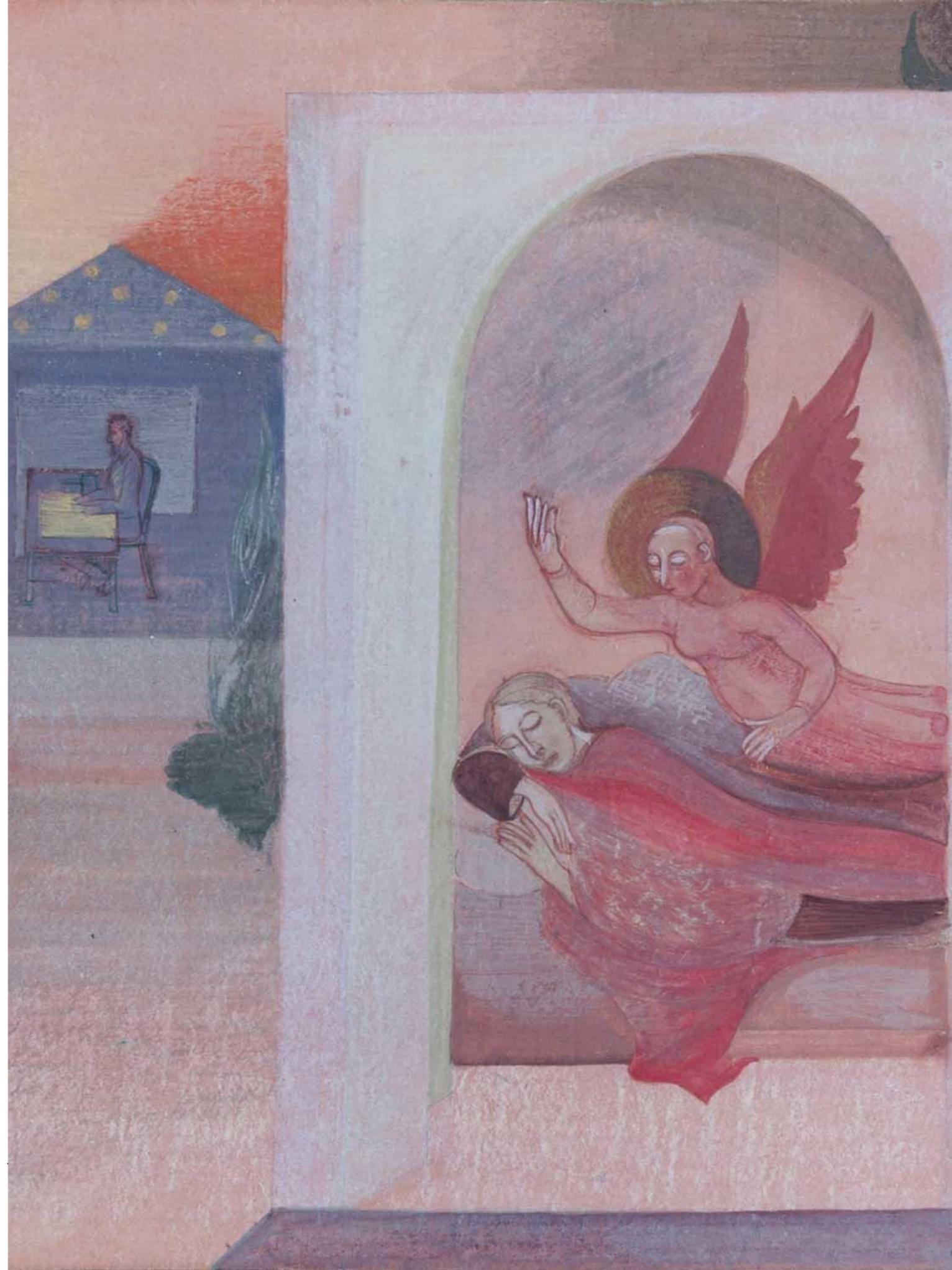
Do you think the artist is trying to say something?

Head to the **MAP Activity Worksheet** to try out an art activity yourself that's all about looking in and out!

The most fun of all space-related explorations are those where artists let loose and play around with the idea of what's in and what's out.

Sometimes, they also end up creating non-real spaces that can only exist in the image and in one's imagination.

**Does this look like a real space or an imagined space to you? Why?**

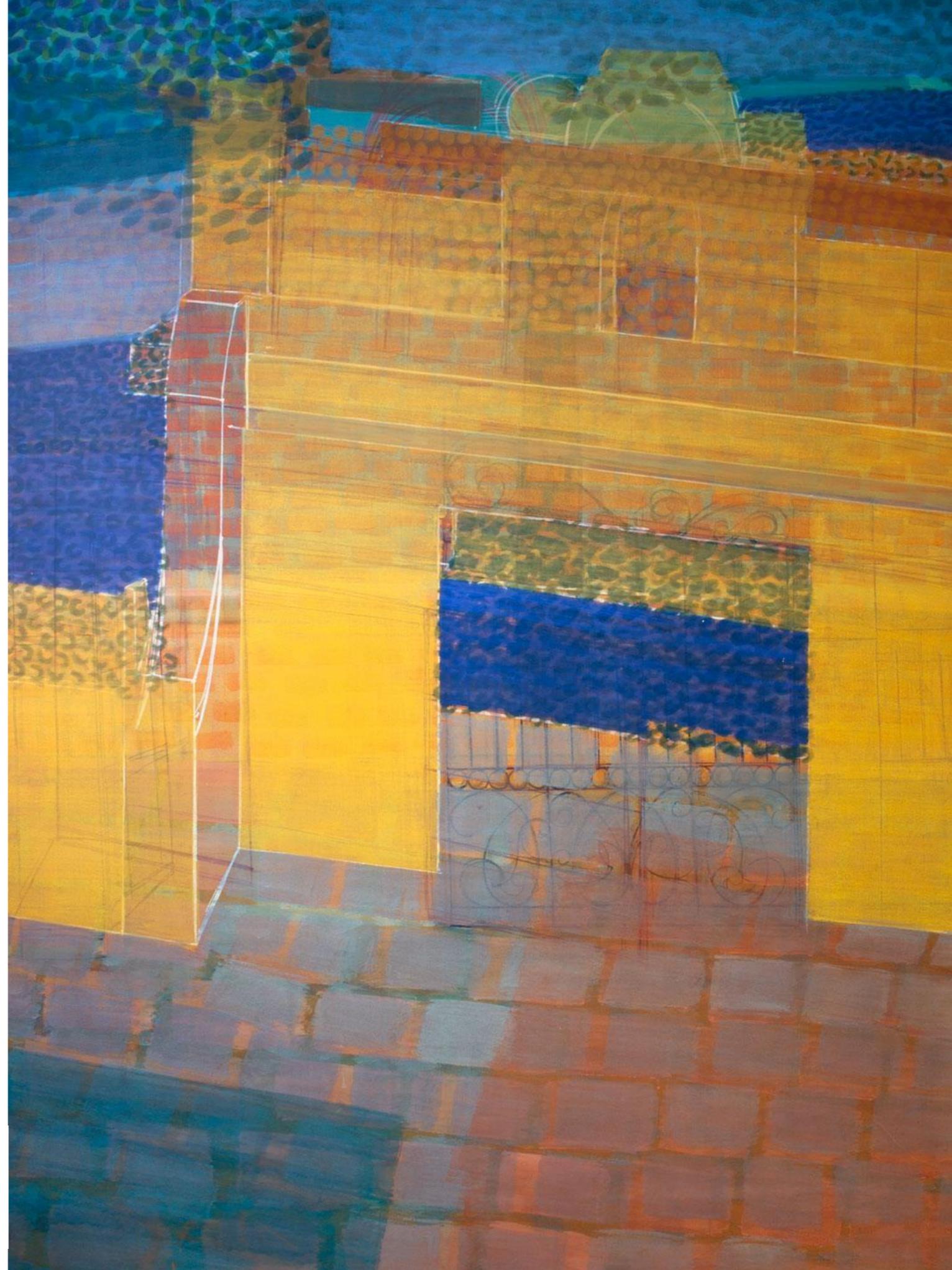


Here is another interesting depiction of space.

## REFLECT.

- Is this a real space or an imagined one?
- What do you think this structure is?
- Is this an indoor, outdoor or in-between space?
- The artist **Soumen Das** titled this painting *Path to the Spider's Nest!* Why might that be? What would you title it?

**How many colours do you spot? What are the effects the colours have on the space depicted?**





This work is from a series called *India Song* by photographer **Karen Knorr**, in which unexpected occupants are found in *havelis* (mansions) and monuments in India.

**THINK.**

What do you see here that you normally see outdoors? Do they seem different, when seen indoors?

How do you think this photograph was made?

**Can you write a short story inspired by this photograph?**



Here is another interesting take on space by one of India's most important contemporary artists, **Arpita Singh**.

Is this an indoor space or an outdoor space?

**If this were a real space, how would you explain the placement of all the items that you see?**



**Now imagine stepping inside the painting.**

What do you smell?

What do you hear?

What does the texture of the ground feel like?

What are the two men talking about?

What kind of people do you think they are?

LOOK CLOSELY.



- Do you recognise the two figures?
- Can you tell where in the world they are?
- Does it seem like a natural setting for these figures?
- If you could reimagine these characters in a new space, what would it look like?

As you can see, using spaces imaginatively can often assist in creating and reimagining stories. Try it out for yourself in our **StoriesWithArt** extra!



**LEARN MORE.**

This artwork depicts the legend of the Hindu deity Annapurna, the goddess of food and nourishment. Another form of the goddess Parvati, she is seen here giving food as alms to Lord Shiva, who appears in the form of a mendicant beggar. [Watch a video](#) to learn more about her story.



Window 9B, 1997  
Alwar Balasubramaniam  
Etching and serigraphy  
H. 69.9 cm, W. 49.5 cm  
MAC.00099



Untitled, 1960  
Nilima Sheikh  
Gouache on paper  
H: 92 cm, W: 63.5 cm  
MAC.00575



Untitled, 1983  
Abhijit  
Acrylic on canvas  
H. 36.2 cm, W. 22 cm  
MAC.02872



Path to the spider's nest, 2003  
Soumen Das  
Casein on canvas  
H. 211 cm, W. 152.2 cm  
MAC.00501



Jai (Jyoti's daughter doing her home-work), 1983/84  
Jyoti Bhatt  
Silver gelatin Print  
H. 18.1 cm, W. 12 cm  
PHY.00713



The Lovesick Prince, Aam Khas, Junha Mahal, Dungarpur Palace, 2013  
Karen Knorr  
Archival pigment print  
H: 122 cm, W: 152.5 cm  
PHY.01765



Shiva Annapurna, 1920s  
Unknown Maker(s)  
Chromolithograph cut-outs on printed backdrop  
H. 27.6 cm, W. 37.4 cm  
POP.00036



Manjit and Fil talking, 1990  
Arpita Singh  
Acrylic on canvas  
H. 122 cm, W. 122 cm  
MAC.00506



**MAP**

**Museum of Art  
& Photography**

**MAP**

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