UtahStateUniversity

2026 INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN FIRST-YEAR REVIEW

The Design Project: Create a Mid-Century Modern-themed Tunnel Book

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL VISUAL COLLAGE

Create a Tunnel Book inspired by the Mid-Century Modern movement. Use depth, layering, and composition to communicate the movement's distinctive architectural and design language.

01 / PROJECT OVERVIEW

A Tunnel Book is a three-dimensional paper construction composed of illustrated or cut-paper layers arranged in sequence. Viewed from the front, the layers combine to create perspective, spatial depth, and a unified architectural composition. Design the placement, spacing, and visual hierarchy of every layer as part of one coherent spatial composition.

02 / ANATOMY OF A TUNNEL BOOK

FRONT & BACK PLATES: The front plate frames the viewing opening; the back plate supports the construction and establishes the final scene.

BELLOWS / ACCORDION FOLDS: Folded side structures connect the plates, allow expansion and collapse, and maintain spacing between panels.

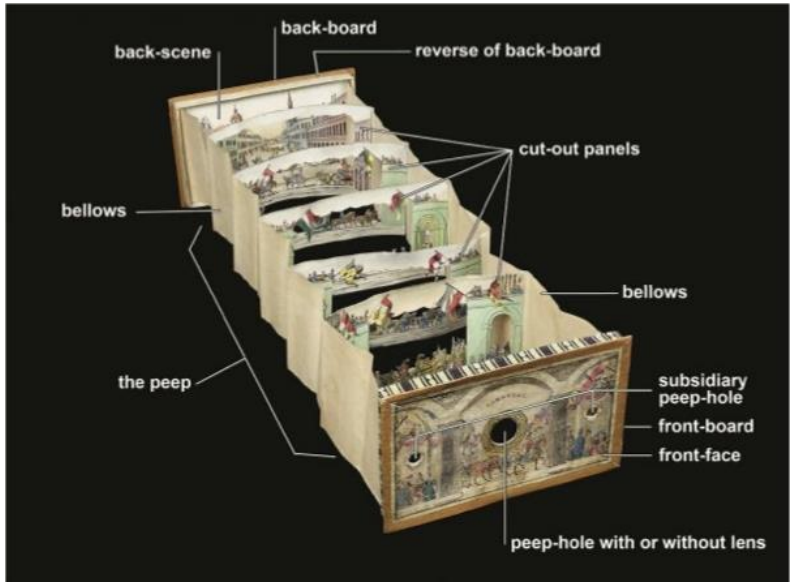
CUT-OUT PANELS: printed interior layers use openings and silhouettes to reveal successive planes and create depth.

03 / YOUR ROLE AS THE DESIGNER

Develop an individual visual interpretation of Mid-Century Modern design using research images from multiple sources. Combine architectural and design references into a cohesive collage rather than reproducing one building, object, or designer. You can include printed text, but no hand lettering. Your font should represent the movement.

- Architects and designers
- Buildings and residential homes
- Furniture and decorative objects
- Art, fashion, and visual media

The final composition must remain grounded in the movement and demonstrate an understanding of its design principles.



04/ VISUAL RESEARCH & IMAGE SELECTION

Translate your research into visual storytelling through composition, layering, sequence, and spatial relationships. Choose high-resolution, clearly composed images that support your concept and can be adapted to cut-paper layers.
You may crop, simplify, edit, or reinterpret imagery to create a unified three-dimensional experience. Avoid pixelation, unrelated elements, and imagery that distracts from the Mid-Century Modern focus.

05 / PROFESSIONAL DESIGN EXPECTATIONS

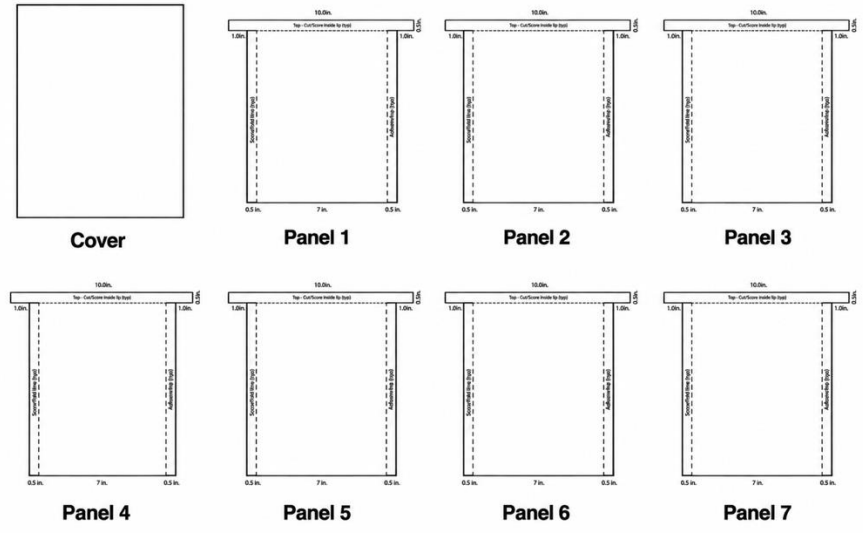
This is an architectural design exercise—not a craft or scrapbook project.
Demonstrate the visual sophistication, precision, and professional judgment expected of an emerging interior architecture and design student.
Purposeful use of every layer, opening, color, material, and construction detail
Strong architectural storytelling and spatial depth, precise fabrication, refined craftsmanship, and coherent composition

Portfolio-quality photographic presentation
Avoid excessive decoration, scrapbook-style storytelling, and embellishments that compete with the architectural subject. The finished work should be refined, visually compelling, and suitable for a university-level design portfolio.

06 / FINAL SUBMISSION

Use the provided templates to plan and construct your Tunnel Book.

Design Planning: Map out your composition using the provided templates. Carefully consider the placement, depth, and visual relationship of each layer.
Cover + Seven Panels: Your Tunnel Book must include a front cover and seven panels. Panel 7 serves as the back panel and the final scene of the composition.
Materials: Construct the cover and panels using the provided mat board.
Cover Design: Incorporate one or more images into the front cover. Determine the opening's size, shape, and placement to frame the architectural composition.



Each panel should be unique and not repeat

Completed Tunnel Book: Submit a fully assembled, professionally finished physical project. Do not include your name; use only your A # on the back of the book cover

Photographic Documentation:
Submit high-quality photographs of the completed Tunnel Book that clearly communicate its composition, dimensional depth, and craftsmanship.

Final Presentation Standards
The completed project should demonstrate thoughtful architectural storytelling, precise cutting and assembly, strong visual hierarchy, and professional craftsmanship. Carefully align all components, assemble them securely, and keep them free of visible construction imperfections.

IMPORTANT / Reviewers will evaluate photograph(s) of your project—not the physical book. Photograph the work carefully so the photos clearly show spatial depth, design quality, and craftsmanship.

01	**Victoria and Albert Museum**	Paper peepshows: history, Martin Engelbrecht perspective views, Thames Tunnel, Great Exhibition	OPEN
02	**Morgan Library & Museum**	Eighteenth- through twentieth-century paper peepshows, including Thames Tunnel examples	OPEN

AI Use Policy — Strictly Prohibited

AI is not permitted at any stage of the First-Year Review process.
This prohibition covers the precedent study, portfolio preparation, and all other review assignments and submissions.

- Research: No AI-assisted searching, gathering, summarizing, interpretation, or analysis.
- Graphic design: No AI-generated layouts, content organization, compositions, or design decisions.
- Portfolio: No AI assistance in creating, revising, improving, or assembling review materials.

Students may use conventional design and presentation software (such as PowerPoint, Google Slides, Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop) only without AI-powered features. Standard manual operations—cropping, resizing, adjusting image resolution, text formatting, and PDF export—are permitted.

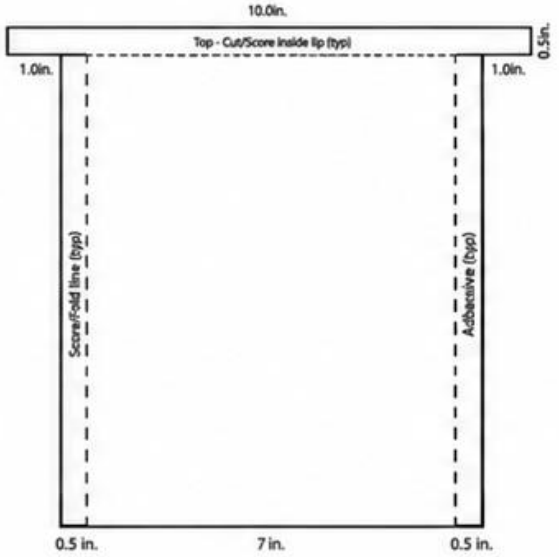
Academic Integrity Acknowledgment

Students will sign a statement confirming that they did not use AI tools or AI-generated content in any portion of the First-Year Review. Submissions may be reviewed for plagiarism and potential AI use. Suspected violations will be evaluated under applicable university academic integrity policies.

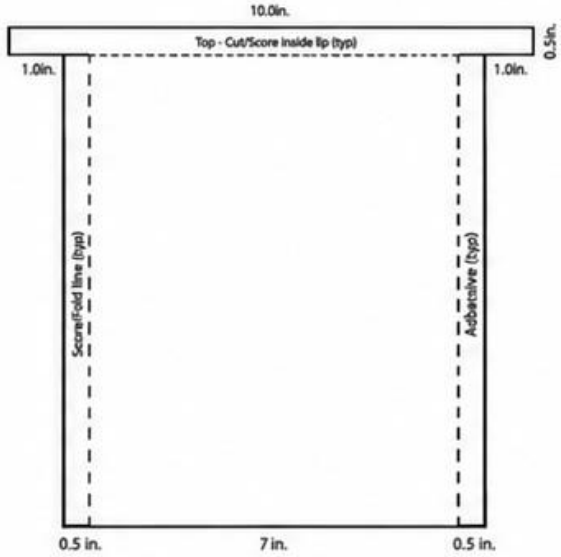


Each Student
Determines
Size and Shape
of Opening

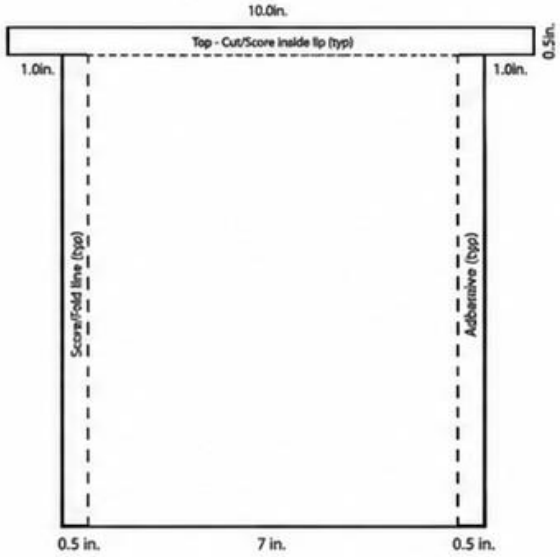
Cover



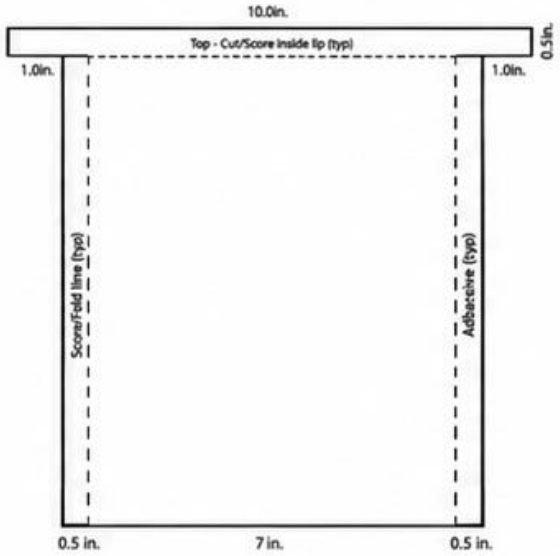
Panel 1



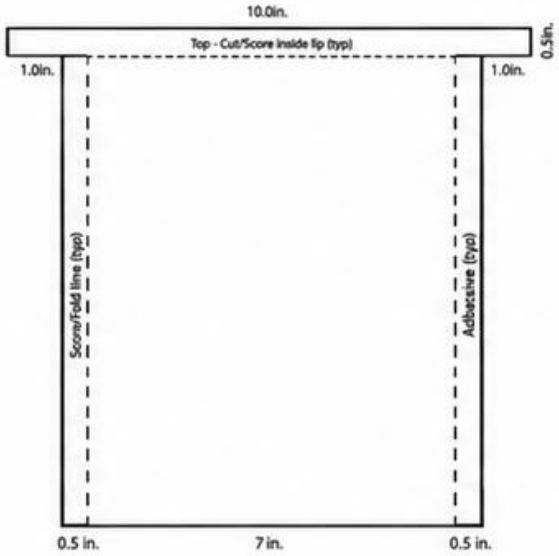
Panel 2



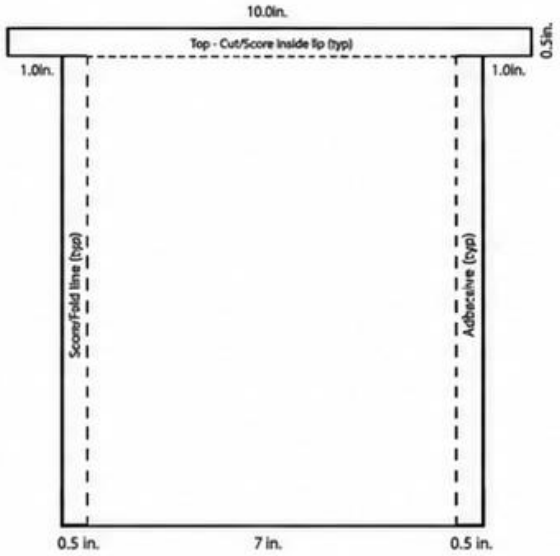
Panel 3



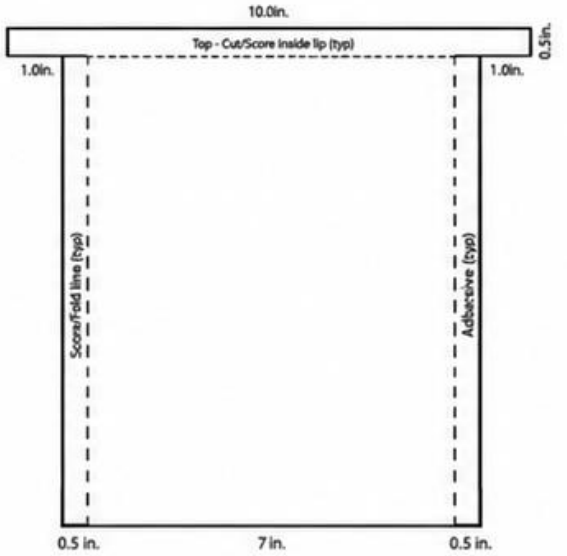
Panel 4



Panel 5



Panel 6



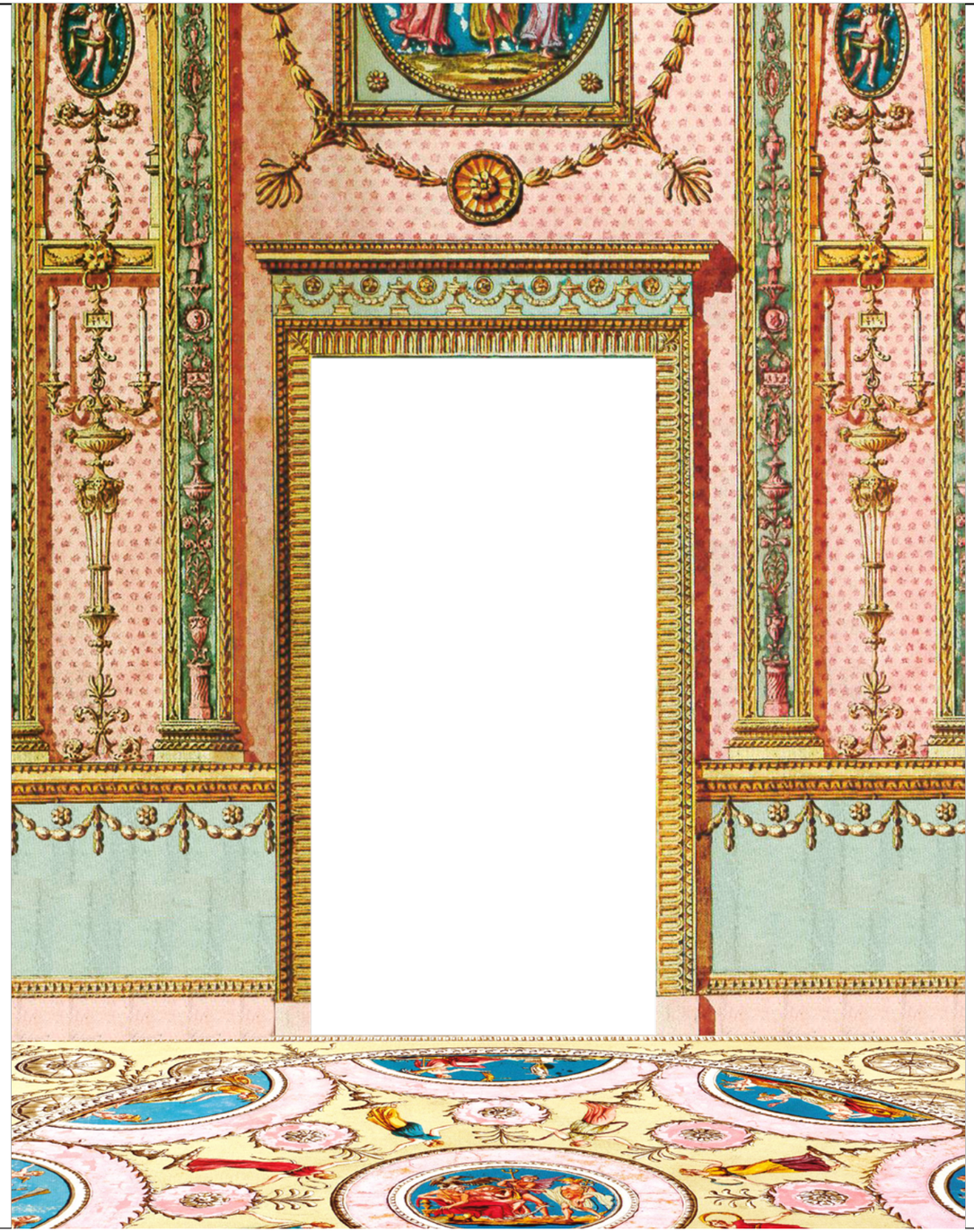
Panel 7

PANEL 1

Top - cut off once ready to glue

0.5″

9″ Side - fold BEHIND layer



Side - fold BEHIND layer 9″

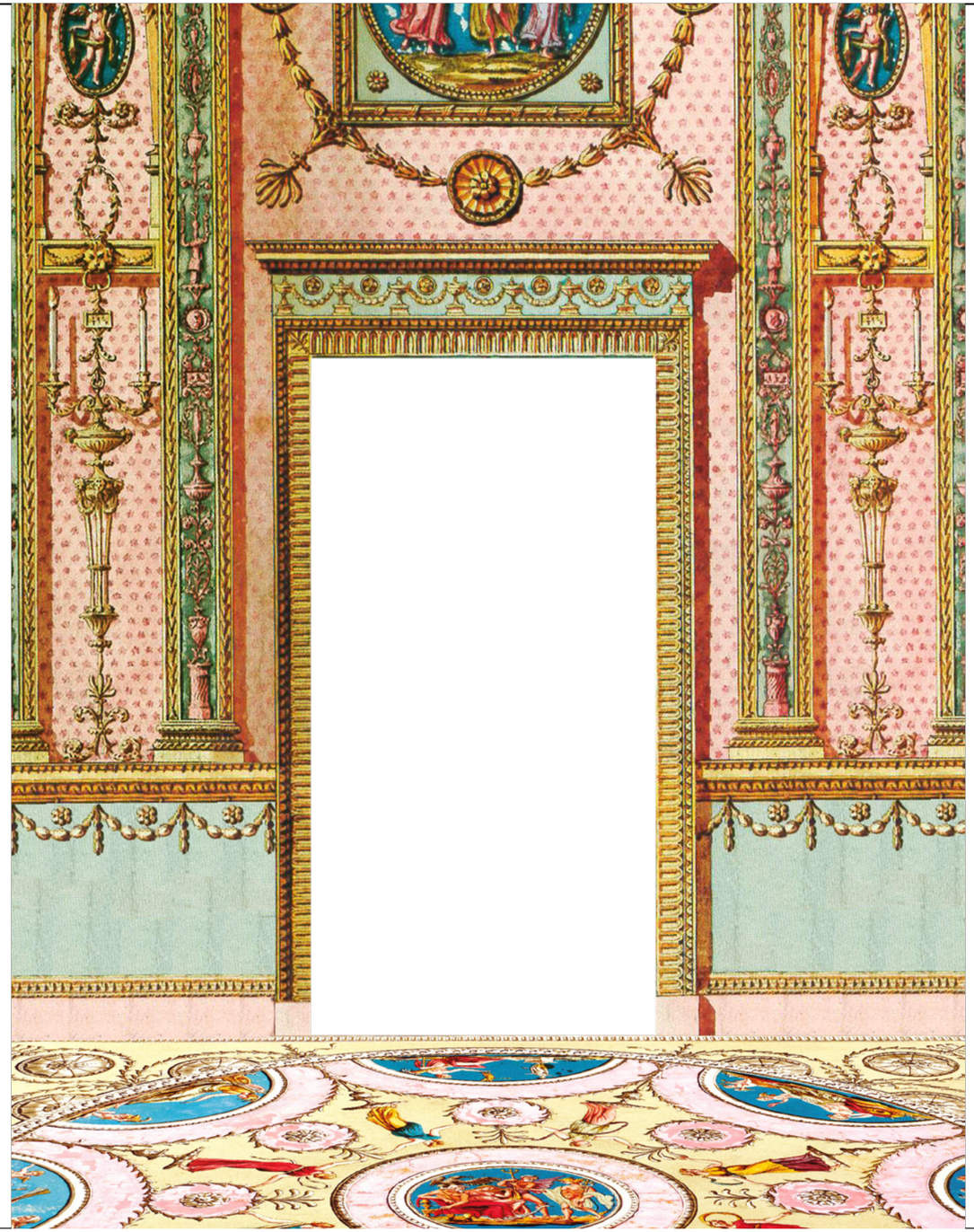
.5″ 7″ .5″

PANEL 2

Top - cut off once ready to glue

0.5″

9″ Side - fold BEHIND layer



Side - fold BEHIND layer 9″

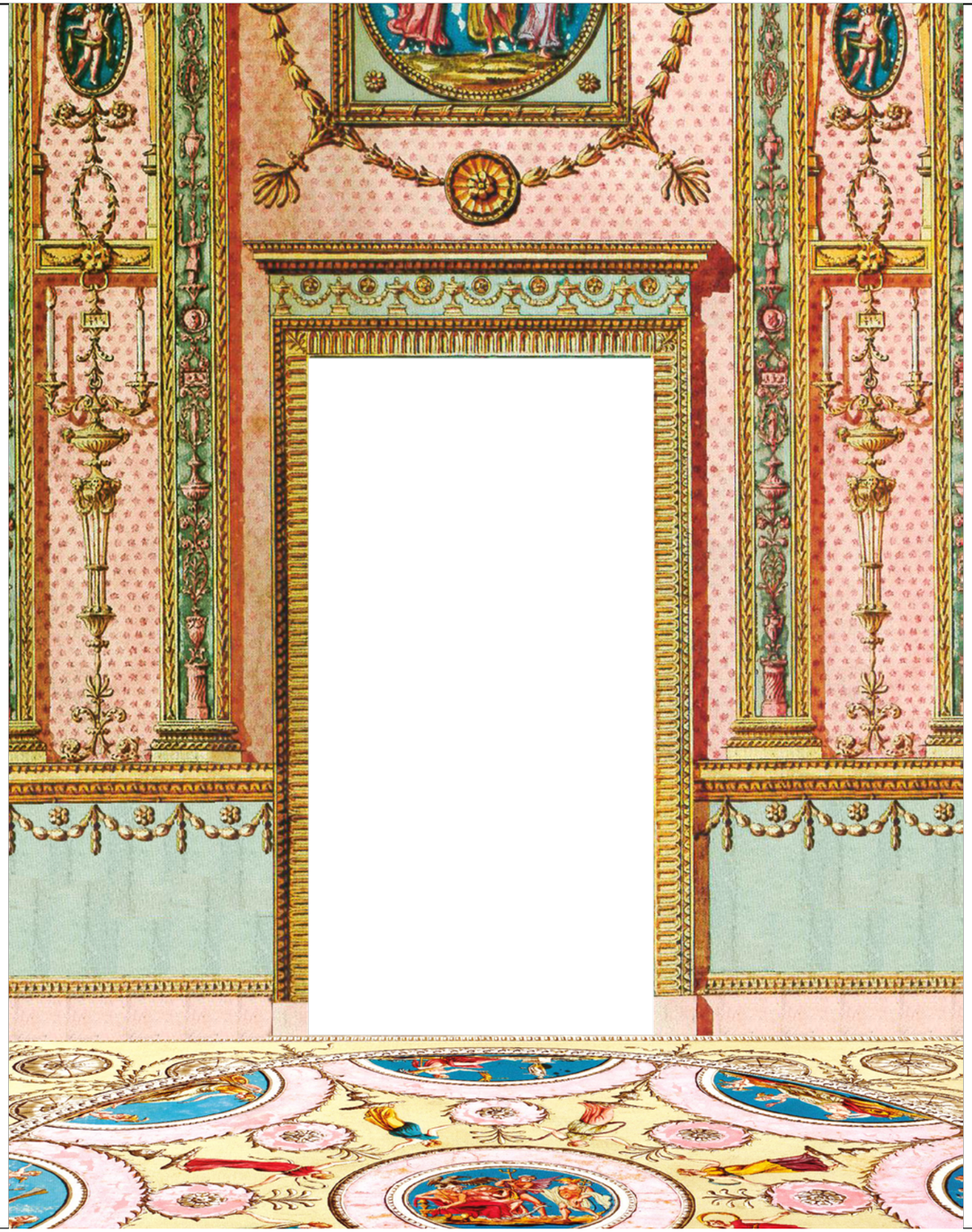
.5″ 7″ .5″

PANEL 3

Top - cut off once ready to glue

0.5″

9″ Side - fold BEHIND layer



Side - fold BEHIND layer 9″

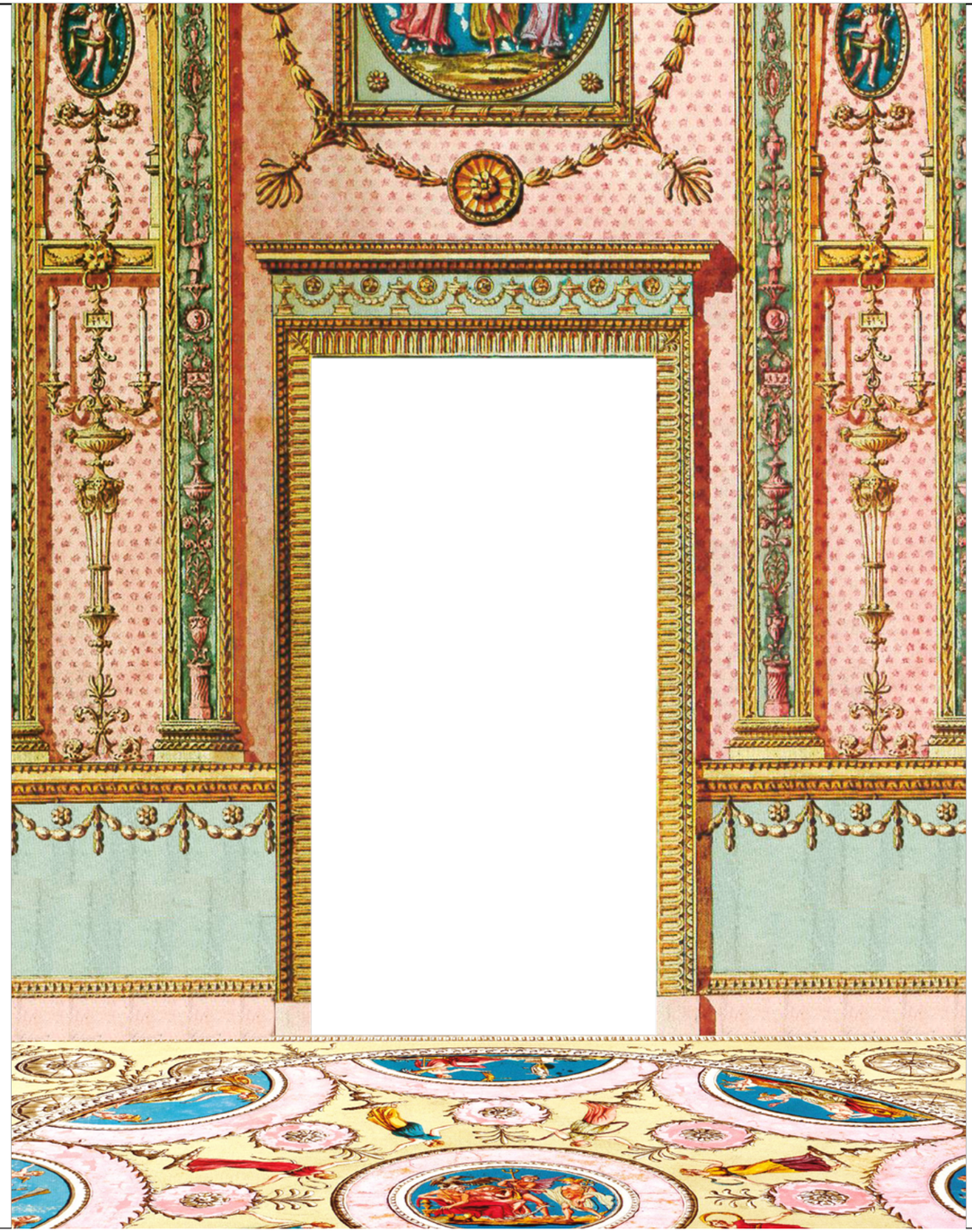
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PANEL 4

Top - cut off once ready to glue

0.5″

9″ Side - fold BEHIND layer



Side - fold BEHIND layer 9″

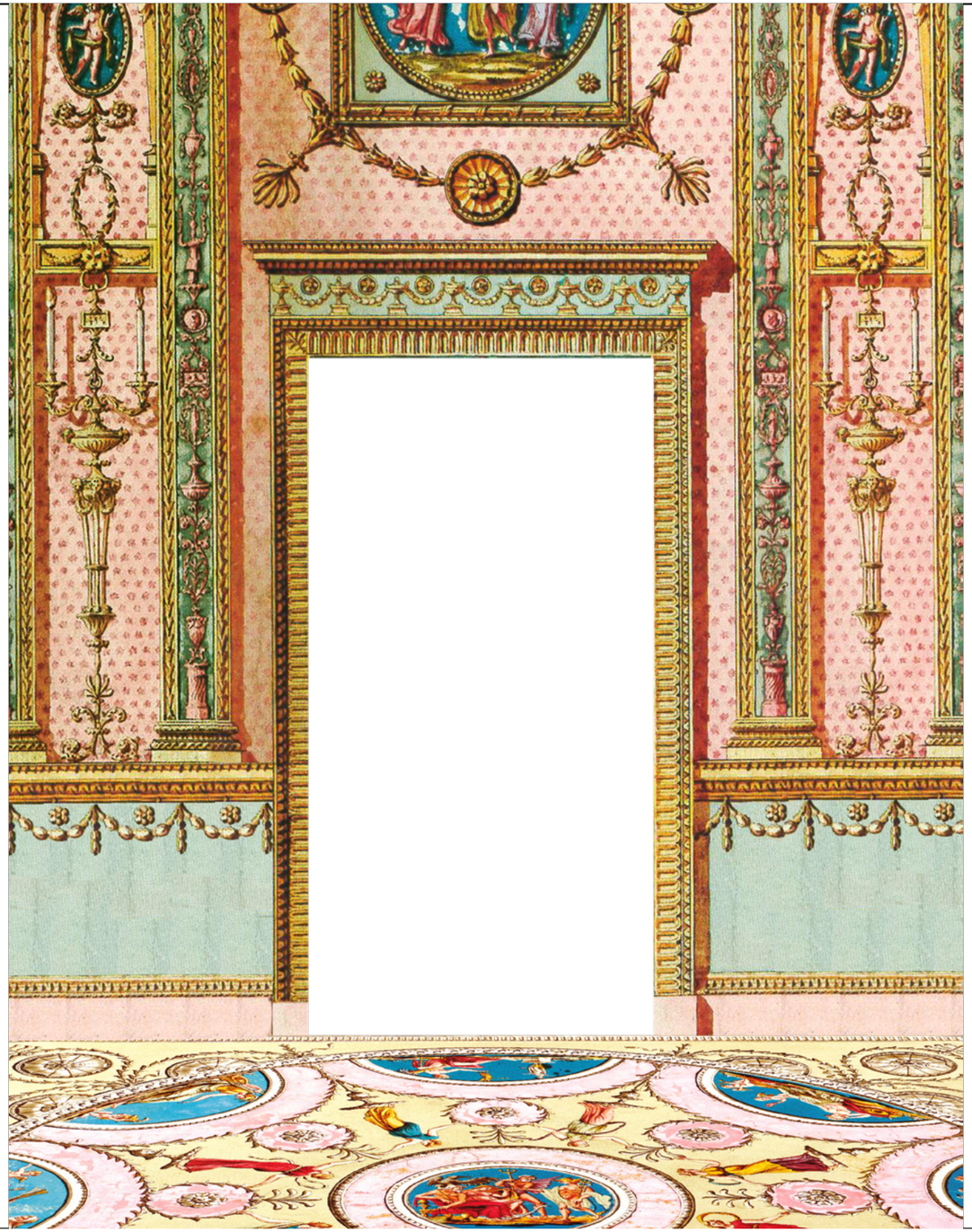
.5″ 7″ .5″

PANEL 5

Top - cut off once ready to glue

0.5″

9″ Side - fold BEHIND layer



Side - fold BEHIND layer 9″

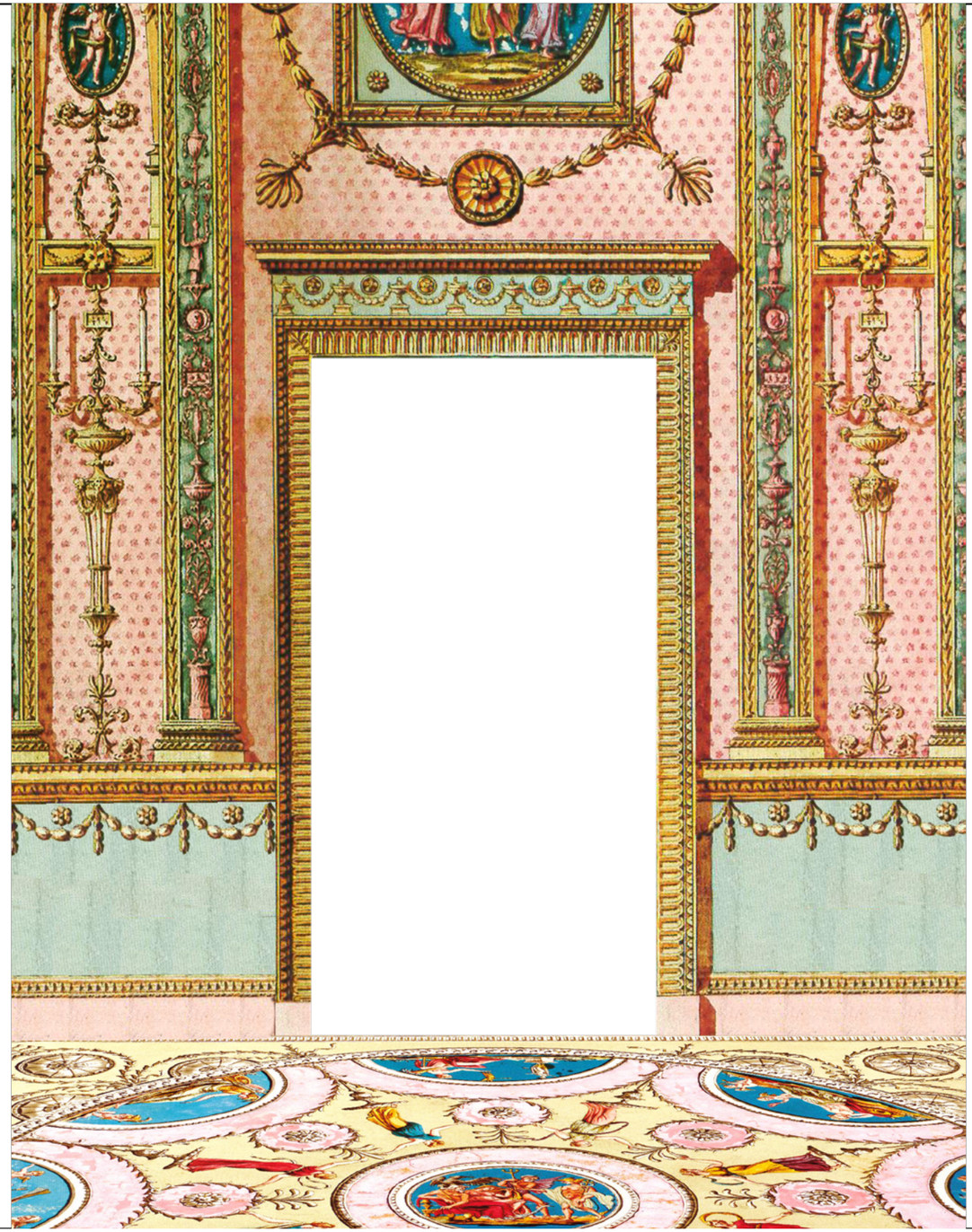
.5″ 7″ .5″

PANEL 6

Top - cut off once ready to glue

0.5″

9″ Side - fold BEHIND layer



Side - fold BEHIND layer 9″

.5″ 7″ .5″

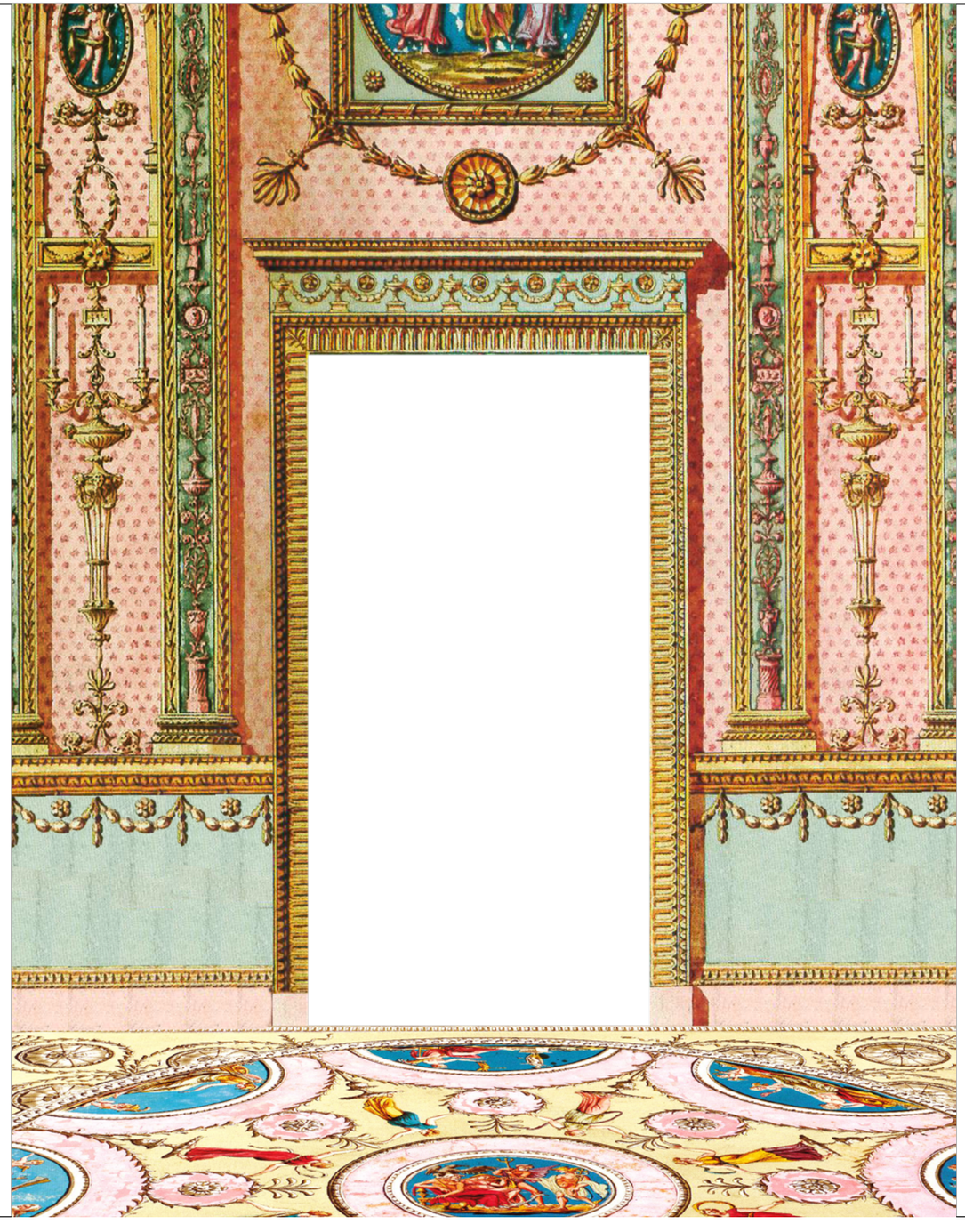
PANEL 7

Top - cut off once ready to glue

0.5″

9″

Side - fold BEHIND layer



9″

Side - fold BEHIND layer

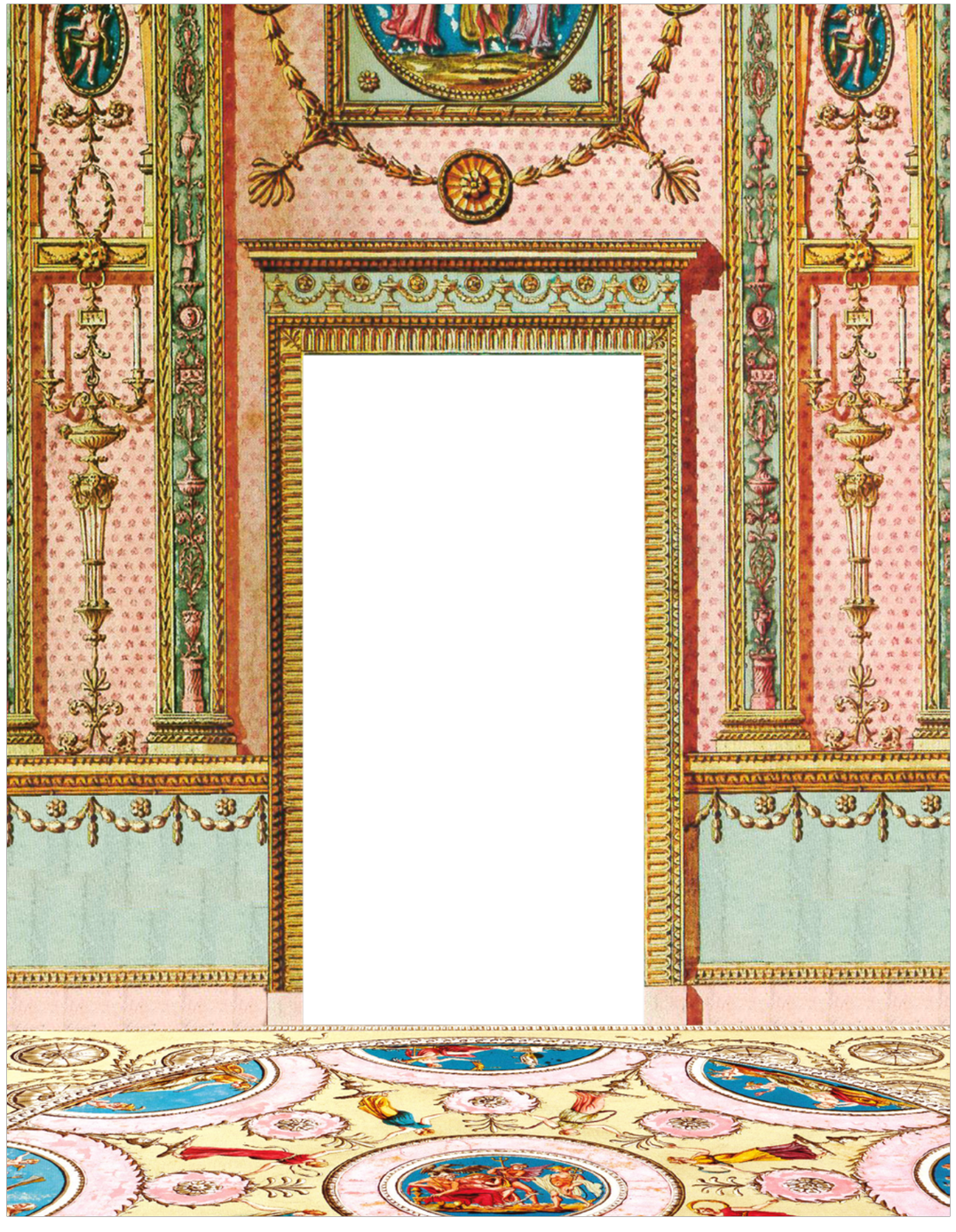
.5″

7″

.5″

BACK BOARD

9″



7″