



*element four:* **STAGING**

**APPLYING THE 13 ELEMENTS TO FOUNDATIONS**



## THE ALCHEMICAL FOUNDATION: STAGING

Staging is how we build the matrix supporting a thing's emergence—how we design a habitat that shapes and nurtures the evolving form. Staging relies not only on a clear sense of what's necessary for something to *begin*, but also the ability to sequentially build the spaces supporting each step of its development.

**1 ALCHEMICAL STAGES.** Anything can be a stage—an experience, event, place, or even a conversation. Some stages limit and reduce. They're so constrained that nothing new happens, no inner shift takes place. There's no provocative and compelling encounter that shakes or inspires or transforms. On these stages we take our place and perform our roles. But we leave much the same as we entered. Alchemical stages, by contrast, change us. Some are so potent they imprint and alter us for life.

**2 MATRIX VS MANIPULATION.** Staging is the way we set things in motion. The purpose is not to force results in a one-to-one linear correlation where a “move” results in a prescribed result. Rather it's to create the container or overall context for something to manifest. The most potent things cannot be forced. They must be invited, evoked, and enticed. Alchemical development needs no manipulation. But it does require the right matrix.

**3 LIFE STORY.** Alchemical gifts arise from the donor's life story as much as the organization's needs. They create meaning from the past and open new chapters of growth and discovery. The outflow of generosity accelerates the inflow of energy into the life of the donor and becomes a path of potentiation.