The Amazon Rainforest and River is classified as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, and is home to thousands of species of animals and plants. An abundance of natural ecosystems thrive in this environment, and all are full of wonder and knowledge we can only begin to comprehend. How can an observatory be used to teach and educate eco-tourists about what lies within?

Observatories too commonly make the mistake of engaging in a look-and-point philosophy, which withholds the visitors from an intimate contact to their surroundings. This proposal encourages the breaking down of these barriers in an attempt to turn the tourist into the explorer.

The 'explorers' arrive at the observatory from the sky via hot air balloon. They softly land in the midst of the Amazon, onto one of many ruins scattered and hidden throughout the landscape. The ruins and the balloons immediately connect to play a scene of permanence versus ephemeral.

Immunity to Change
In the wet season the river rises to sit flush with the ruin and the enclosed pool. A flat pathway around the pool leads to the balloons. In the dry season the river falls from height, exposing a number of concrete steps. The pool, however, remains constant, as a reminder of our permanence and the mark we leave on the environment.

Observation by Sound
Why do we need our eyes to see? Without sight, we are forced to be more diligent in our pursuit for knowledge. The balloon sits atop a ruin overgrown by nature and time. The tourist is taken below where only darkness lies. It is there they can sit, wait, and listen, and learn. Their surroundings become only what they can hear in a shelter for the blind.

The Ascent
Only so much can be seen from the ground. An exploration deep into the forest will arrive at a tall, alien-like post. The only way is up. The tourists must climb the relic, and will be rewarded with a new experience. The ascent is high enough to destabilise the entire scene, but high enough to reveal and understand the forest from a different perspective.

The Seeds of Our Creation
The balloon lands at the crux of the relic like an alien spaceship. The relic branches out over a barren and open disturbance in the forest. Dead trees rise from the centre and spread outwards, where those arms stretch lay only upturned soil and rock. But what is that on the edge? The grass grows green. The trees rise. The nature breaks away from the human.

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