Inside the “Flag Building”

The Church of Scientology has not released details of its new “Flag Building” in Clearwater. But much information is available from church publications and records from the Clearwater’s Planning and Development Services department. Based on those sources, here is a floor-by-floor look at the building:

**Basement**
Regular and executive dining rooms for church staff, with total seating for nearly 1,000. All told, the basement is roughly the size of a Publix supermarket.

**First Floor**
A three-story atrium (seen below) featuring an arched ceiling, two grand staircases, a café, sculptures depicting Scientology’s eight “dynamics” and a representation of the emotional “Tone Scale” created by church founder L. Ron Hubbard. The floor also contains a chapel, a multimedia exhibit about Scientology and a museum commemorating the church’s uniformed workforce, the Sea Organization.

**Second Floor**
A reception area, course rooms, a Scientology bookstore and offices for the church’s Treasury and Central Files departments.

**Third Floor**
Three film rooms plus several large course rooms. On the west side, an enclosed foot bridge over Fort Harrison Avenue connects the building with the Fort Harrison Hotel. The floor also houses offices for the Religious Technology Center, the church’s top ecclesiastical entity.

**Fourth Floor**
About 100 rooms of varying sizes, most of them for one-on-one Scientology counseling known as auditing. (See sample room below.) A long terrace on the west side overlooks Fort Harrison Avenue. The floor also contains offices, course rooms and lounge areas for “Cornerstone” contributors – those who donated at least $35,000 to the building.

**Fifth Floor**
One of the building’s central missions – to deliver a Scientology process called “Super Power” – will occur here. Hubbard devised the process in the 1970s, describing it as a series of actions or “rundowns” that “puts the person into fantastic shape unleashing the super power of the thetan,” or spirit. He also said it would enhance Scientologists’ abilities and thus “create the New World.”
A “perceptics” area takes up the middle of the floor. A 2007 church publication said parishioners will “progress through the drilling stations of the Perceptic Rundown” and receive auditing to remove disabilities that block perception. The process is said to restore a person’s “native ability” as a spiritual being. The equipment used (including the devices seen at right) expands on technology developed by NASA, the church has said.
The floor contains tables shaped like circles, L’s and crosses. Construction documents include names for the rooms, including “sight and depth,” “balance platform,” “immersion theatre,” “compass direction,” “sound, pitch, tone, volume, rhythm, sound direction.” Nearly 100 auditing rooms surround the perceptics area. Some are for VIPs. The floor also has a lounge with a domed ceiling for “Key Contributors” – those who donated at least $100,000 to the building.

**Sixth Floor**
Home of the “Cause Resurgence Rundown,” another Scientology process said to boost the control a person has over his life. Former members say it involves running in a circle until one feels enlightened by a “cognition.”
The sixth-floor indoor running track has a rubberized surface that banks inward and can accommodate up to 450 people. The track room is darkened with black walls and ceiling. Runners circle an illuminated column. About 110 auditing rooms surround the track.
This floor also hosts a Scientology process called the Purification Rundown, where parishioners engage in a vitamin and exercise regimen to sweat out toxins said to be harmful to a person’s body and psyche. The floor has two exercise rooms, two red cedar saunas, a cool off area and showers.

**Seventh Floor**
Features a rooftop terrace, well-appointed lounge areas for celebrities and other VIPs, plus two assembly areas, each with capacity for 180 people.