

PAXIONICS PRESENTS

Watermelon Cathedral

Architectural Blueprint Tutorial for Edible Fruit Sculpture

Designed as a concept-first workflow: plan the architecture, understand the parts, then build the edible structure with intention.

Paco Rosic

Cappella Magna | Watermelon Canvas | Kitchen Visual Future Engine

V02 - Architectural Blueprint Edition

Introduction from Paco Rosic

I want to take food to the next level - not just plating, but building edible architecture.

This tutorial turns the Watermelon Cathedral concept into a clear build method. Study the structure first, prepare the fruit, cut the modules in pairs, then assemble from low to high. Keep the fruit cold, dry each surface before stacking, and use the blueprint pages as your visual guide.

CORE IDEA

Food becomes architecture. The watermelon is treated like a building material: rind becomes exterior structure, pale rind becomes trim and tracery, and red flesh becomes walls, volume, and light.

BUILD METHOD

1. Prepare the tray and centerlines.
2. Cut base slabs, wall panels, arches, towers, and spires.
3. Dry-fit the pieces before stacking.
4. Assemble from base to spire.
5. Add rosettes, leaves, and final details last.

What this PDF is

- A practical guide for carving a watermelon cathedral.
- A visual blueprint pack for parts, views, sequence, materials, and build rules.
- A clean reference for cutting, assembly, and final presentation.

Build Logic - Think Like an Architect

1. Foundation / Tray

Use a long rectangular tray or stable square platter. Establish centerlines before placing any carved piece. The tray is the footprint of the building.

2. Structural Mass

Use large red watermelon flesh blocks for the main wall mass. These pieces provide visual volume and help the cathedral read from camera distance.

3. Exterior Skin

Use dark green rind as the architectural exterior: roof edges, spires, outlines, buttresses, and strong graphic contrast.

4. Pale Rind Trim

Use the white/pale rind layer for columns, tracery, window frames, beveled arch edges, and clean highlights.

5. Vertical Assembly

Build low walls first, then medium towers, then the central nave, then the main spire, then final finials and flowers.

6. Stability

Keep pieces cold and dry. Use hidden skewers or toothpicks only when needed. Do not overload the top before the lower tiers are stable.

ASSEMBLY SEQUENCE

- 10 **DECORATIVE ROSETTES**
Carved watermelon and rind flowers. Add leaves.

- 09 **FINIALS**
Small rind spires and corner accents.

- 08 **MAIN SPIRE**
Tall central spire carved from rind.

- 07 **UPPER TOWER TIERS**
Upper tower panels assembled to spine.

- 06 **CENTRAL BODY**
Core walls and buttress panels around spine.

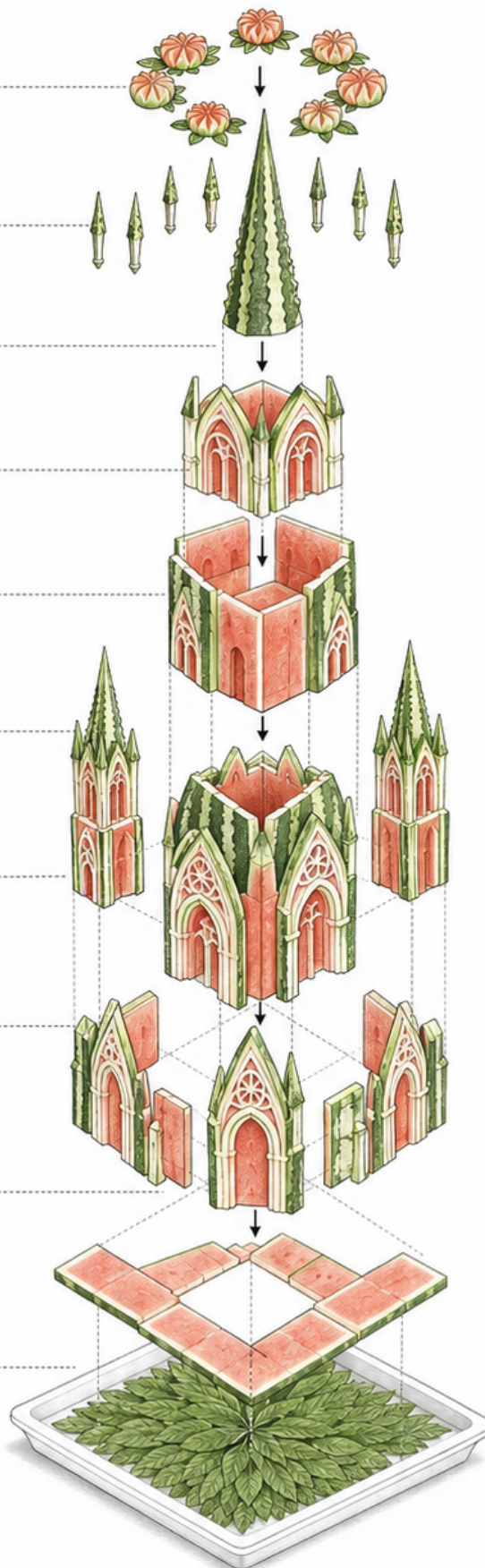
- 05 **SIDE TOWERS**
Four corner towers attach to base.

- 04 **FRONT & REAR FAÇADES**
Main entry and rear gable panels (Gothic arches).

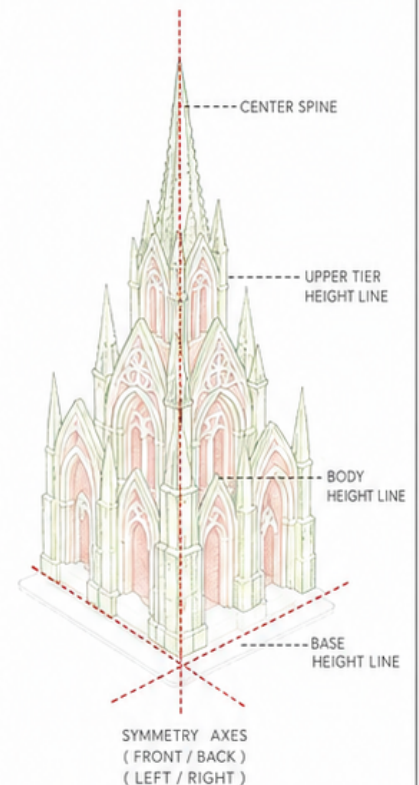
- 03 **LOWER WALL PANELS**
Perimeter wall sections with buttresses.

- 02 **BASE LAYOUT**
Internal footprint pieces locate the wall panels.

- 01 **TRAY & BASE PREP**
Square tray with leaf bed. Establish centerlines.



CENTRAL SPIRE & SYMMETRY GUIDE



NOTES

- All panels align to the central spine.
- Use thick rind edges for structural strength and clean lines.
- Keep fruit cold and work with sharp, precise tools.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

- Watermelon Rind (Green)
- Watermelon Rind (White)
- Watermelon Flesh (Red)
- Mint or Basil Leaves
- Paring Knife
- V-Channel Tool
- Melon Baller
- Sculpting Picks

WATERMELON CATHEDRAL :: EXPLODED ASSEMBLY

PAGE
03 OF 10

PROJECT:
FRUIT SCULPTURE TUTORIAL

DRAWING:
EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC

SCALE:
NTS

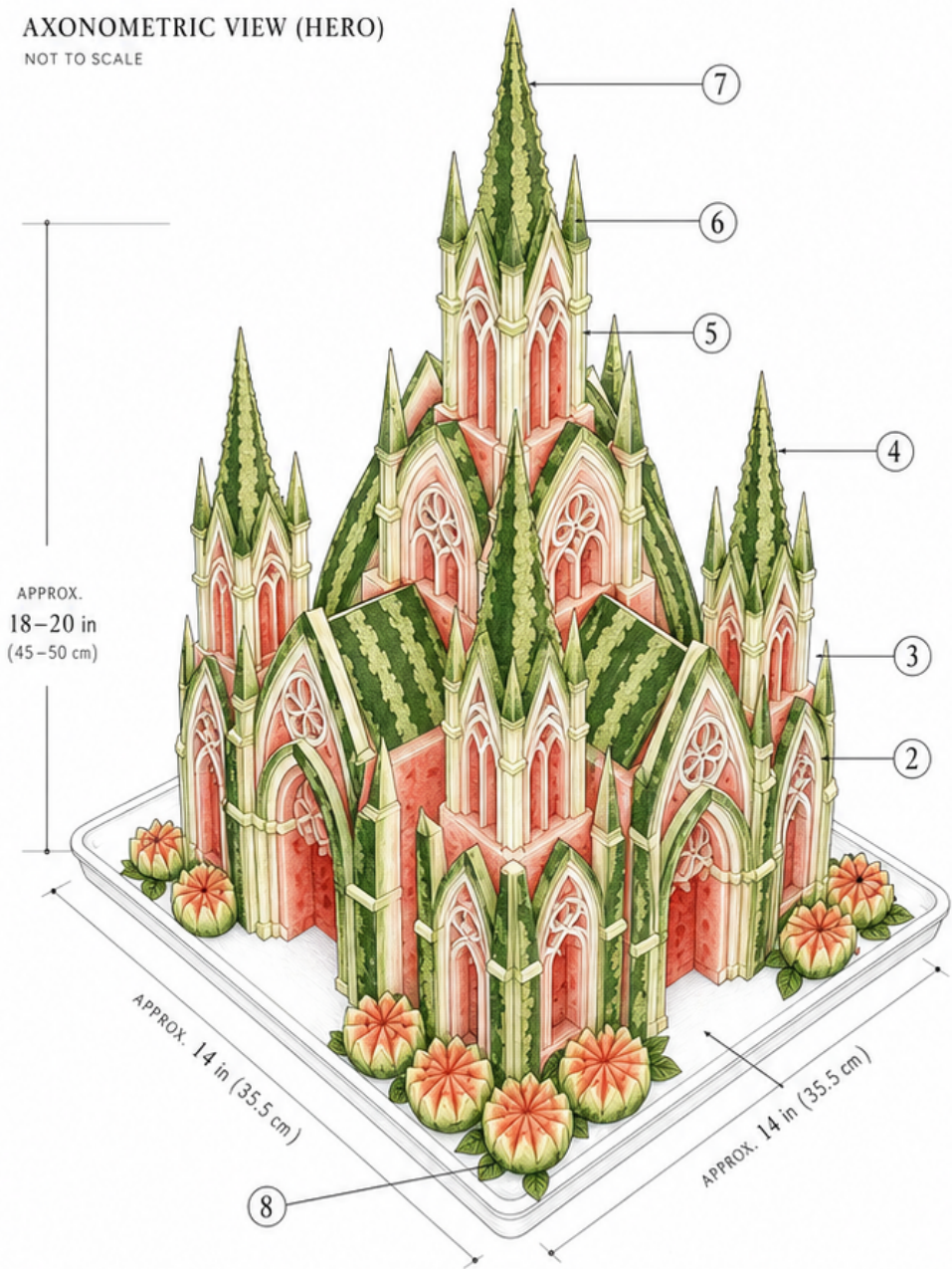
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WATERMELON CATHEDRAL :: ARCHITECTURAL OVERVIEW

EDIBLE ARCHITECTURE SERIES :: FRUIT CARVING BLUEPRINT

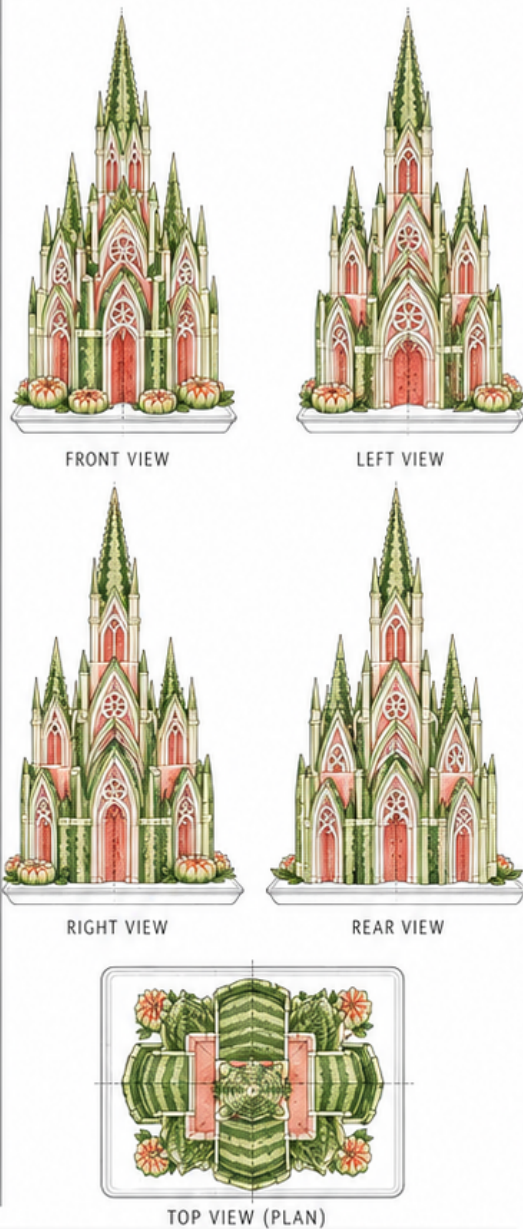
AXONOMETRIC VIEW (HERO)

NOT TO SCALE



ORTHOGRAPHIC VIEWS

NOT TO SCALE



STRUCTURAL KEY

- ① **Base Tray Footprint**
Supports the entire structure.
- ② **Outer Façade Walls**
Primary perimeter walls with gothic panels and buttresses.
- ③ **Gothic Arches**
Doors, windows, and rose window details.
- ④ **Side Towers**
Corner towers with pinnacles and vertical accents.
- ⑤ **Central Nave**
Raised core volume forming the heart of the cathedral.
- ⑥ **Main Spire**
Primary vertical element defining overall height.
- ⑦ **Top Finials**
Pinnacle tips and decorative spires.
- ⑧ **Decorative Fruit Rosettes**
Carved fruit flowers and leaves at the base.

MATERIAL LEGEND

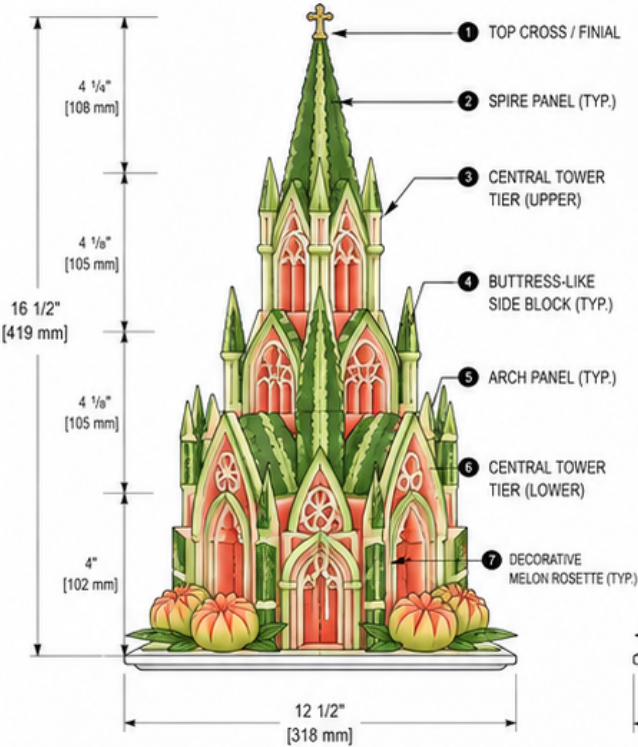
- DARK GREEN RIND**
Exterior accents
- PALE RIND**
Structural highlights and edging
- WATERMELON FLESH**
Inner panels and architectural surfaces
- DECORATIVE FRUIT**
Rosettes & leaves

DIMENSIONS (APPROXIMATE)

OVERALL HEIGHT	18 – 20 in (45 – 50 cm)
FOOTPRINT (W x D)	14 x 14 in (35.5 x 35.5 cm)
BASE TRAY SIZE	16 x 16 in (40.5 x 40.5 cm)

NOTES

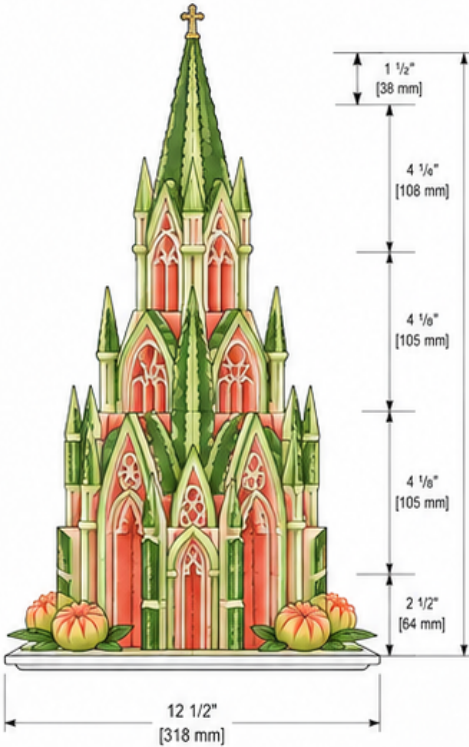
- Dimensions are approximate and will vary with watermelon size and carving style.
- Use a large, oblong watermelon with a flat, stable base.
- Keep all elements aligned to centerlines for structural balance and visual symmetry.



FRONT ELEVATION



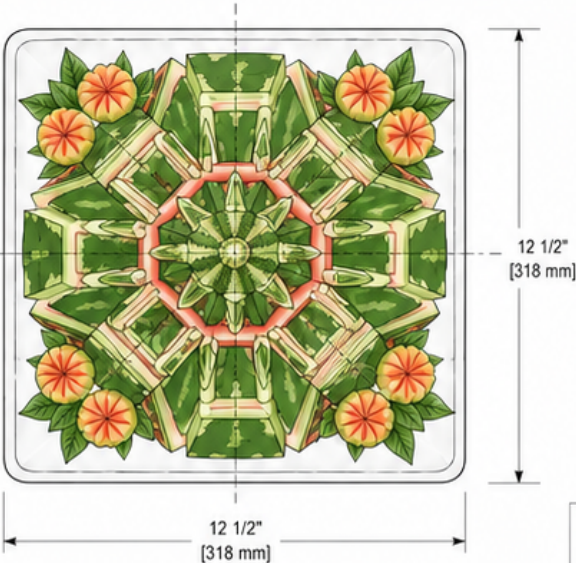
LEFT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION



RIGHT ELEVATION



TOP PLAN
(OVERALL FOOTPRINT)

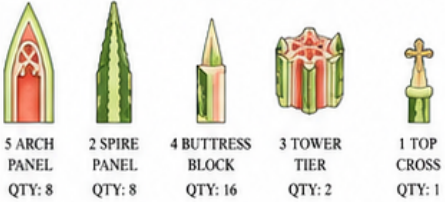
SURFACE / MATERIAL KEY

- DARK GREEN RIND (OUTER SKIN)
VISIBLE ACCENT SURFACES
- PALE RIND (WHITE LAYER)
STRUCTURAL EDGES + TRIM
- PINK FLESH (INNER CORE)
RECESSED ARCHES + ROSETTES

SYMMETRY + ALIGNMENT NOTES

- 4-WAY RADIAL SYMMETRY (N, E, S, W).
- ALL TOWER TIERS STACK ON CENTERLINE.
- ARCH PANELS ALIGN WITH CARDINAL AXES.
- SPIRES CENTERED ON EACH SIDE BLOCK.
- BUTTRESS BLOCKS FLUSH TO ARCH PANEL EDGES; MAINTAIN PLUMB VERTICALS.
- TOP CROSS / FINIAL CENTERED ON OVERALL CENTER.
- USE DOWEL SKEWERS THROUGH TIERS FOR REGISTRATION AND STABILITY.

REPEATING MODULES (BUILDING BLOCKS)



- GENERAL NOTES
- DIMENSIONS ARE OVERALL FINISHED SIZES.
 - TOLERANCE: $\pm 1/16$ " [3 mm]
 - BUILD ON A SQUARE PLATTER (MIN. 12 1/2" [318 mm]).
 - USE FIRM, STRAIGHT WATERMELONS WITH DEEP COLOR AND THICK RIND.
 - CHILL PIECES BEFORE ASSEMBLY.

PROJECT: WATERMELON CATHEDRAL
FRUIT SCULPTURE

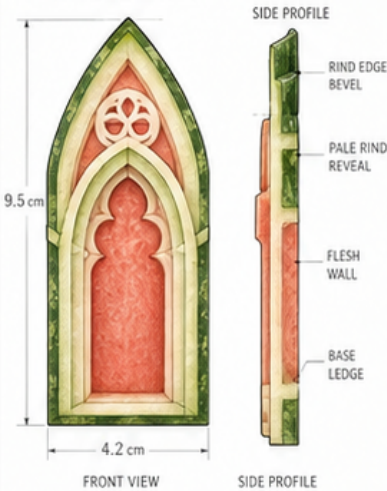
DRAWING: ELEVATIONS + PLAN - ORTHOGRAPHIC
SCALE: 1:4
UNITS: INCHES [MM]

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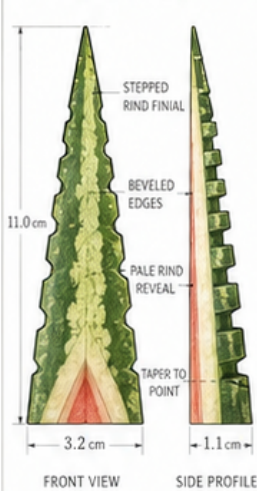


COMPONENT STUDIES (Scale reference: 1 square = 1 cm)

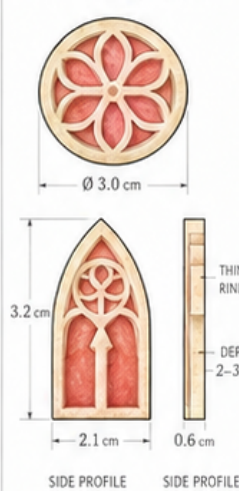
1 GOTHIC ARCH PANEL PROFILE & CUTOFF



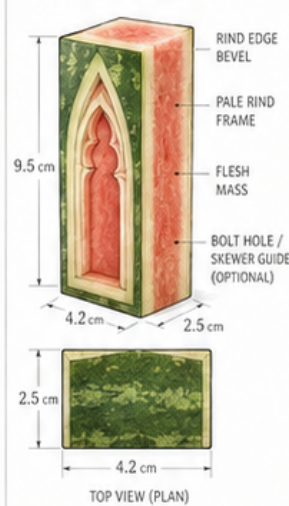
2 SPIRE TRIANGLE / STEPPED FINIAL



3 ROSE-WINDOW / TRACERY MOTIF



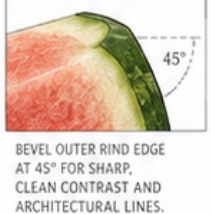
4 FAÇADE-WALL BLOCK (STRUCTURAL UNIT)



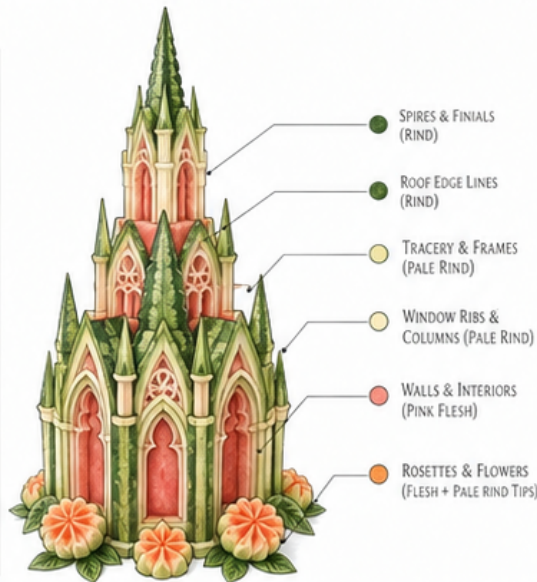
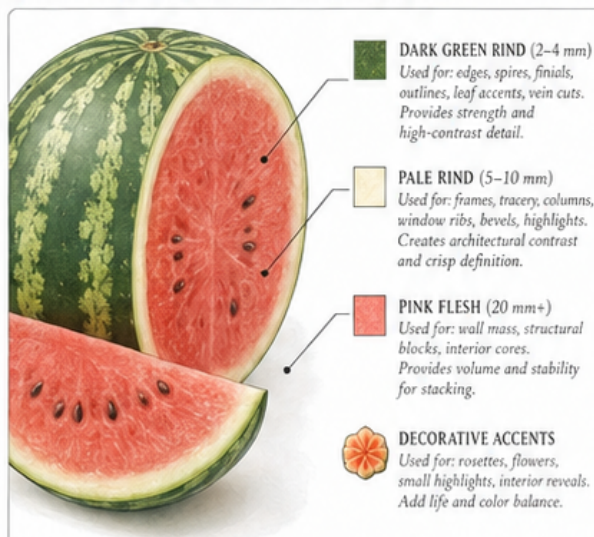
5 BASE ROSETTE / FLOWER GARNISH



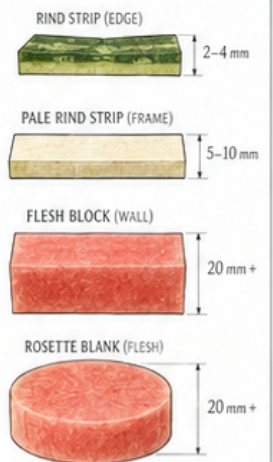
6 RIND-EDGE BEVEL DETAIL



WATERMELON ANATOMY & CUT SOURCES

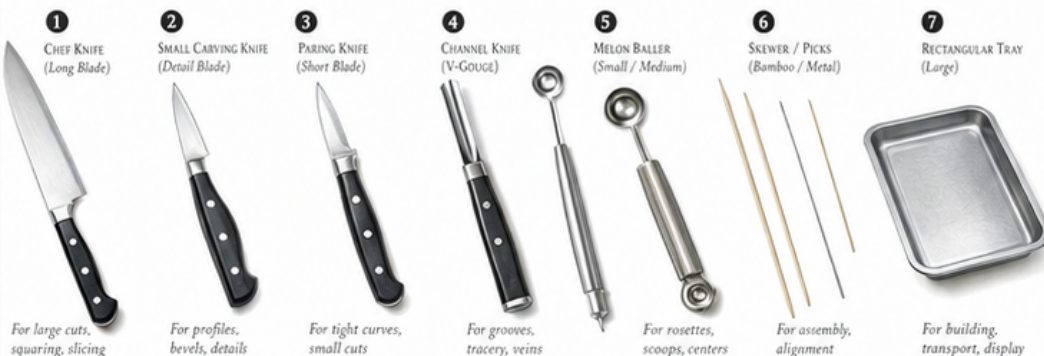


CUTTING STRIPS & BLOCKS



TOOL BOARD

Essential tools for precision and control



CRITICAL BUILD RULES

- 1 KEEP CENTERLINE STRAIGHT**
Use skewers or visual plumb line. Check alignment often.
- 2 CUT MIRRORED PAIRS**
For every arch, wall, and spire. Symmetry makes the cathedral.
- 3 DRY SURFACES BEFORE STACKING**
Pat dry with paper towel. Moisture causes slipping.
- 4 ADD TALL SPIRE LAST**
Build lower sections first. Insert and lock final spire on top.

Practical Cutting + Assembly Notes

Recommended fruit

Use one large oblong seedless watermelon for primary slabs, walls, and flesh mass. Use a second watermelon for rind panels, spires, and practice cuts if needed.

Tool stack

Chef knife for large cuts. Paring knife for arch profiles. Small carving knife for detail work. V-channel or channel knife for tracery grooves. Melon baller for rosettes. Bamboo skewers or toothpicks for hidden alignment. Paper towels to dry surfaces before stacking.

Cut order

- 01** Square the base slabs and side wall pieces first.
- 02** Cut mirrored gothic arch panels in pairs.
- 03** Cut pale rind trims and vertical ribs after the wall mass is ready.
- 04** Cut spires from firm rind sections with enough thickness to stand.
- 05** Assemble from low to high: base, walls, arches, towers, spire, finials.
- 06** Add decorative rosettes and leaf elements last.