This long narrow room used to be an open-air passageway that separated the botanic garden’s research areas from the rest of the greenhouses. *(sfx: hammer and nails)* When a roof was built over it in 1981, it became known as the camellia corridor. Do you see those large potted plants with the glossy oval-shaped leaves? They’re called camellias. During winter and early spring, you might even see their beautiful pink or white flowers blooming. These natives of eastern Asia belong to the same family as the tea plant. But you can’t make tea from the leaves of this kind of camellia because it’s only grown for decoration. *(sfx: ocean waves, seagulls, Chinese music)* It’s too bad the members of a British trading company didn’t know that when they traveled to China in the 1700’s looking for tea plants to bring back to England. The Chinese liked having the only supply of tea plants, so they tricked the British and gave them this type of camellia instead!

Also, you might want to check out the *many* different varieties of English ivy hanging in the pots along the glass wall. A former graduate of Smith College donated the plants, and now, every new student who comes to study at Smith is given a cutting from one of these plants so they can grow their own ivy. See how many assorted leaf shapes and colors you can find.