CLAIMS

1. A coffee and/or tea preparation station comprising:

a robotic arm arrangement;

a control unit to operate the robotic arm arrangement to prepare coffee and/or tea steeped from its base, wherein the control unit is configured to:

actuate the robotic arm arrangement to perform a motion sequence that effects iterative transfer of content between a mixing canister and a filtering canister,

wherein the mixing canister initially contains the base, and

wherein the filtering canister comprises a filter to separate the base received from the mixing canister during the transfer, so that the filtering canister contains filtered coffee and/or tea and the base trapped by the filter.

2. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 1, wherein the robotic arm arrangement tilts the mixing canister towards the filtering canister during the transfer from the mixing canister into the filtering canister, and tilts the filtering canister towards the mixing canister during the transfer from the filtering canister into the mixing canister.

3. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 2, wherein during the transfer from the mixing canister into the filtering canister, the motion sequence that the control unit configures the robotic arm arrangement to perform comprises tilting the mixing canister such that its spout is placed adjacent to an opening of the filtering canister.

4. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 3, wherein the motion sequence further comprises subsequently shifting the mixing canister such that its spout is further away from the opening of the filtering canister.

5. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the preceding claims, wherein during the transfer between the mixing canister and the filtering canister, the motion sequence that the control unit configures the robotic arm arrangement to perform comprises swirling the mixing canister.

6. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the control unit is configured to reiterate the transfer and end with the filtering canister containing the filtered coffee and/or tea.

7. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising

an ingredient station to dispense the base and liquid to steep the base, wherein the control unit is further configured to:

actuate the robotic arm arrangement to position the mixing canister, when empty, at the ingredient station to collect the dispensed base and the dispensed liquid.

8. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 7, wherein the control unit is further configured to cause the dispensed base and the dispensed liquid in the mixing canister to be stirred.

9. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 8, wherein the control unit is further configured to actuate the robotic arm arrangement to stir the dispensed base and the dispensed liquid using a stirrer.

10. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 8, further comprising

a vibrator to perform the stirring, on which the mixing canister is placed by the robotic arm arrangement under direction by the control unit, after collection of the dispensed base and the dispensed liquid.

11. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the control unit is further configured to actuate the robotic arm arrangement to replace the filter of the filtering canister.

12. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 11, wherein the robotic arm arrangement introduces the filter before the filtering canister receives the content from the mixing canister and removes the filter after the coffee and/or tea is made.

13. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 11 or 12, further comprising:

a filter rack from which the robotic arm arrangement obtains the filter, under direction by the control unit.

14. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising

a beverage storage into which the robotic arm arrangement empties the filtered coffee and/or tea from the filtering canister, under direction by the control unit.

15. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 14, further comprising:

a condiment station to dispense condiments, wherein the control unit is further configured to actuate the robotic arm arrangement to position a cup at the condiment station to collect the dispensed condiments.

16. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 15, wherein the control unit is further configured to actuate the robotic arm arrangement to position the cup at the beverage storage to collect the filtered coffee and/or tea.

17. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 15 or 16, further comprising:

a user interface configured to receive input for a mix for the condiments and communicate the mix to the condiment station.

18. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the claims 15 to 17, wherein the condiment station is configured to receive a mix for the condiments from a remote computing device.

19. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the claims 15 to 18, further comprising:

a collection counter to which the robotic arm arrangement places the cup with the filtered coffee and/or tea and the dispensed condiments, under direction by the control unit.

20. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 19, wherein the collection counter comprises one or more collection zones, wherein the control unit is configured to:

actuate the robotic arm arrangement to place the container at an assigned collection zone.

21. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of claim 20, wherein the collection counter further comprises at least one sensor to monitor availability of the one or more collection zones, from which the assigned collection zone is selected.

22. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising:

a washing station to which the robotic arm arrangement returns the filtering canister and the mixing canister after the coffee and/or tea is made, wherein the washing station is configured to rinse the returned filtering canister and mixing canister.

23. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the robotic arm arrangement comprises one robotic arm; the robotic arm interchanging between engaging the mixing canister and the filtering canister when effecting the transfer.

24. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the claims 1 to 22, wherein the robotic arm arrangement comprises:

a first robotic arm; and

a second robotic arm, wherein the first robotic arm engages the mixing canister while the second robotic arm engages the filtering canister when effecting the transfer.

25. The coffee and/or tea preparation station of any one of the claims 15 to 22, wherein the robotic arm arrangement comprises

a first robotic arm responsible for preparing the filtered coffee and/or tea, the first robotic arm interchanging between engaging the mixing canister and the filtering canister when effecting the transfer; and

a second robotic arm responsible for engaging the cup into which the filtered coffee and/or tea is collected.