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-A Royal Gardener Was Not Often Found With A Rake In His Hands. André Le Nôtre Was An Expert In Botany, In Architecture, Painting, As Well Being An Art Collector
The French Garden

André Le Nôtre
(1673-1700)
The French Garden

- He had already worked for the King on many other sites. Versailles, however, with its narrow hillock and marsh land, was a particularly unpromising one.
The French Garden

– As Construction Of The Chateau Proceeded Apace, Le Nôtre Managed To Perfect The Model Of Formal—Or French-Style—Gardens
The French Garden

The French Garden

– The Story Of Apollo Illustrates The Solar Myth And Governs The Subjects Of Statues And Fountains Along The Main Axis Of The Gardens
The French Garden

– The Large Basin At The Western End Is Adorned With Apollo's Chariot—The Sun God Can Be Seen Emerging From The Waves At Dawn, Beginning His Daily Path
The French Garden

- Nearer to the Chateau is Apollo's Mother, Latona, who dominates the Central Fountain.
The French Garden

- The Cycle Terminated In The Grotto Of Thetis, Where The North Wing Is Now
The French Garden

– It showed the God being tended by Nymphs in the evening, as depicted in François Girardon's Masterpiece of Sculpture (now in The Baths of Apollo)
The French Garden

– The Grounds Were Laid Out Geometrically Around A Main Axis, Secondary Axes, Radiating Pathways, And Circular (Or Semi-Circular) Pools Known As Basins. Everything Was Symmetrical, If Staggered On Several Levels
The French Garden

– Trees Were Rigorously Pruned To Create A Veritable Architecture Of Vegetation.
The French Garden

- Closer To The Chateau Were Flowerbeds, Or Parterres, Which Would Not Mask Its Architectural Features And Could Be Enjoyed From The Upper Floor.
The French Garden

- The South Flowerbed, Or Parterre Du Midi, Was Composed Of Low Boxwood Hedges Bedecked With Flowers, While The Parterre Du Nord Was All Boxwood And Lawn.
The French Garden

– In Between, Two Ornamental Pools Of The Parterre d'Eau Were Ringed With Sculptures Of Reclining Statues Representing The Rivers Of France.
The French Garden

- During The Ancient Régime, The Chateau Grounds Were Eight Times Larger Than Today
The French Garden

– What is now called Le Grand Parc was formerly the Lesser Park; The Original Grand Park was used for riding to hounds, while the smaller was used for shooting, which was done on foot.
The French Garden

- The Walls Separating The Two Parks—Now The Outer Walls Of The Grounds—Had Ditches Called 'Wolf Plunges' Which Prevented Wolves From Entering While Extending The Vistas.
The French Garden

– As in Venice the grounds surround the Grand Canal, an ornamental body of water covering 105 acres and measuring more than four miles around its edges.
The French Garden

- The Main Axis Extends The Vista Infinitely Westward Between A Rank Of Tall Italian Poplars Whose Proud Silhouettes Can Just Be Seen Beyond The Water
The French Garden

- At The Head Of The Canal, Buildings Called Little Venice Evoke Gondoliers With Their Gondolas, Yachts And Galleys Used For Outings, Concerts, And Nautical Festivities
The Grand Canal

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- The Perpendicular Branch Of The Canal, Meanwhile, Linked The Menagerie (No Longer Extant) To The Trianon.
The French Garden

- Flanking The Grand Canal Are Forest Plots Planted With Local Trees (Oak, Ash, Beech, Cherry) Yet Cut By Broad Pathways.
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These Alleys, Lined With Single Or Double Rows Of Trees (Formerly Elm, Now Linden And Beech), Are Dubbed With Evocative Names Such As 'Ha Ha Alley' And 'Peacock Alley'.
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– In the early days of Versailles, fountain guards were ordered to whistle when Louis XIV approached, so that the fountains could be fully turned on.
The French Garden

– During The Ancient Regime, A Hat And A Sword Could Be Hired At The Front Gate In Order To Be Properly Attired To Visit The Grand Apartment. Monks Were Not Allowed In
The French Garden

Thefts Were Frequent At Versailles, Despite The Guards And Staff. Once During The King's Levee The Royal Doctor, Fagon, Had His Watch Stolen.
The French Garden

- Pineapples And Coffee Beans Were Grown In The Vegetable Garden.
The French Garden

- 2,000 Acres Of Grounds
- 12 Miles Of Roads
- 27 Miles Of Trellises
- 200,000 Trees
The French Garden

- 80 Miles Of Rows Of Trees
- The Grand Canal Is 55 Acres
- Perimeter Of The Grand Canal is 3.3 Miles
The French Garden

- 50 Fountains
- 620 Fountain Nozzles
- 21 Miles Of Water Conduits
- 3,600 Cubic Meters Per Hour: Water Consumed During Full Play Of Fountains
The French Garden

- 26 Acres Of Roof
- More Than 300,000 Square Feet Of Floors
- 2,153 Windows
- 700 Rooms
- 67 Staircase
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- 6,000 Paintings
- 1,500 Drawings And 15,000 Engravings
- 2,100 Sculptures
- 5,000 Items Of Furniture And Objets D'art
The French Garden

- 150 Varieties Of Apple And Peach Trees In The Vegetable Garden
- 210,000 Flowers Planted Every Year
- 12 Miles Of Enclosing Walls
The French Garden

– The Orangery At Versailles Is Dug Into The Slope Below The Chateau.
The French Garden

– Flanked by the Great 100-Step Staircases, it anchors the slope and remains perfectly sheltered.
The French Garden

- Because it faces due south and is double glazed, the temperature remains stable between 5° and 8° C (40° and 46° F) even in winter.
The French Garden

- Its Breadth, Height (13 Metres), And Pure Lines Make The Orangery One Of The Buildings Where Jules Hardouin-Mansart Displayed His Architectural Talents
The French Garden

- Planted in boxes are 1,080 fragile orange trees from Portugal, Spain, and Italy
The French Garden

- Also included are lemon and pomegranate trees (some of them over 200 years old), and oleander, palms (introduced early this century) and even a tomato tree.
The French Garden

– The Trees Produce Little Fruit Because They Are Decoratively Pruned Into Balls
The French Garden

– The Gardeners Wheel Them Outdoors For The Summer Months In Mid-May, Returning Them To The Orangery In Mid-October.
The French Garden

– Vegetable Garden
– Little Has Changed For Three Hundred Years AND It Continues To Supply Unusual Produce
The French Garden

- No Longer To King And Court, But To Public Visitors Curious To See A Hungarian Blue Pumpkin Or A Winter Bon-Chrétien Pear
The French Garden

– The Terraces Of This Sunken Garden Still Provide The Finest View Of Its Natural Theatre
The French Garden

- Ancient Varieties Grow Alongside The Most Up-To-Date Varieties, While Espaliered Trees In Various Shapes Line The Garden Squares And Vaulted Walls.
The French Garden

- The Chèvreloup Arboretum
- In 1699, Louis XIV purchased the Plain Of Chèvreloup to the northwest of the grounds in order to start a royal farm and extend his hunting ground.
The French Garden

– Today, These 480 Acres Are Home To 2,000 Species Of Trees From Europe, The Caucasus, China, Japan, Canada, The United States, Chile, And Elsewhere
The French Garden

– There Are Also Horticultural Varieties And Threatened Species. This Tree Museum Represents An Important Annex To The Museum Of Natural History In Paris.
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– Finding Enough Water For The Fountains At Versailles Was One Of The Sun King's Constant Concerns
The French Garden

- He Worried About It Even In Time Of War, And Considered Tapping The Waters Of The Loire River Some 200 Kilometres Away
The French Garden

– Finally, Construction Of The Extraordinary Pump At Marly (Since Demolished) Brought Water From The Seine To Versailles
The French Garden

– The Gigantic Maintenon Aqueduct (Nearly 80 Km Long), Designed To Shunt Water From The Eure River, Remained Unfinished
The French Garden

- Water Supplies Remains A Problem Even Today, Both In Terms Of Quantity And Quality.
The French Garden

- The Result Of All Those Efforts Is An Existing Network Of 120 Miles Of Channels, Trenches, And Aqueducts In The Versailles Area
The French Garden

– The System Devised By Louis XIV's Mathematicians And Engineers Remains Unique For Its Technical Ingenuity, Its Scope, And Its State Of Preservation
The French Garden

- Designed from the start as a semi-closed circuit, it contains both open-air and underground reservoirs, galleries, and pumps
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- Fountain Technicians Work To Keep It In Its Original Operating State.
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• This Era Combined An Enthusiastic Ruler With Unlimited Powers
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• Technical Skill Unknown Up Until That Time

• Many Practical Fellow-Artists To Make Individual Arts And Garden Areas Combine To Be Successful
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• The Art Of Gardens Grew To Its Utmost Height, And Became A Dominate Style In The Western World
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- This is perhaps the most important work that exhibits directly the newly awakened interest in antique art. When the foundations of mighty Roman remains were
The French Garden

• Discovered In The Thirties Of The Eighteenth Century

• The Enthusiasm Of The People Was So Great That They Demanded Restoration. The Work Was Entrusted To Maréchal, A Fortress-Builder, In 1740
The French Garden

• He proceeded to design a most imposing scheme of terraces, steps, basins, statues and gardens, mostly on the old foundations.

• It was the best kind of baroque work, and translated the spirit of Roman life into the style of the great age.
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• At One Time There Had Stood In This Place Temples, Baths, Corridors Richly Adorned With Statues, And A Theatre
• The Chief Garden Is In A Straight Line With The Main Street Of The Town, The Boulevard De La République, And Old Foundations Of Baths Were Utilized As Canals, Flowing Round The Different Terraces
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• At A Spot Where There Is Now Reposing, On A High Pedestal, A Nymph With Children, At The Top Of The Basin Of The Baths

• The True Feeling Of The Antique World, Which Restrained The Architect, Served As A Protection To This Late Work
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• From All The Pettiness And Prettiness Of The Courts In Northern France In This Period All The Countries Of Europe Directly Or Indirectly Felt The Influence Of Versailles

• This Was The Central Sun Of France, So Long As It Maintained Its Full And Original Splendor.
The French Garden

• At The Opening Of The Eighteenth Century, The Dominant Force In Landscape Design Was Andre Le Notre, Chief Garden Designer For Louis XIV At Versaille
The French Garden

• The Most Popular Garden Designs Of The Seventeenth And Early Eighteenth Century Were The French, Italian, And Dutch Formal Gardens Executed To Exhibit Bilateral Symmetry

• No One Surpassed Le Notre In His Realization Of This Rigid Style.
The French Garden

• In this garden style, the part of the garden closest to the palace or house was handled architecturally, like another room-extension of the house proper.
The French Garden

• The Garden Consisted Of A Perfectly Regular Series Of Geometrical Compartments
• Formed By Closely Clipped Shrubs And Trees And Straight Gravel Walks, Stone Paths, Terraces, And Steps
• The Compartments Were Often Parterres De Broderie (Plots Resembling Embroidery) Carpeted With Low Evergreens (Often Box), Flowers (Actually Rare Until The Nineteenth Century), Colored Earth, Brick Dust, Coal Dust, White And Yellow Sand, Etc.
The French Garden

• The Overriding Impression Of Such Gardens Is Of Man's Tyranny Over Nature--Perfectly Suitable For Louis XIV And Other European Absolute Monarchs.
The French Garden

• The Masterpiece Of This Style Of Gardening Was Versailles As Laid Out For Louis XIV By Andre L Notre
The French Garden

• Versailles Became The Model For Princely Gardens Throughout Europe
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- This includes the garden laid out for William III in front of Sir Christopher Wren's New East Front of Hampton Court Palace. The principal gardener for Hampton Court
- Was Henry Wise (1653-1738)
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- This was the central sun of France, so long as it maintained its full and original splendor.
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• Eighteenth Century Garden History
The French Garden

• From The Deliberate, Meticulous Attention To Geometrical Order And Bi-Lateral Symmetry To An Equally Deliberate

• Attention To The Appearance Of Natural Disorder And Asymmetry.
The French Garden

- From Nature As The Creation Of A Supremely Rational And Logical GOD To NATURE As The Expression Of God's And Man's Loving Relationship With A Divinely-Inspired And Emotionally-Infused World.
The French Garden

- From The Newtonian Synthesis And Paradigm To The Romantic, Indeed "Gothic," Paradigm.
The French Garden

• From Alexander Pope And The Essay On Man To William Wordsworth And Beyond!
The French Garden

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The French Garden

• Indeed, From The End Of The Seventeenth Century To The Beginning Of The Nineteenth Century, That Is To Say, During

• The Period Often Referred To As The "Long" Eighteenth Century (1660-1840), The Aesthetic Of Garden Design Shifted

• Gradually From One That Stressed Restraint, Control, Limit, And Order To One That Emphasized Freedom And Openness.

• From The Geometrical Severity Of Versailles And Hampton Court In The Late Seventeenth Century...
The French Garden

• At The Opening Of The Eighteenth Century, The Dominant Force In Landscape Design Was Andre Le Notre, Chief Garden Designer For Louis XIV At Versaille
The French Garden

• The Most Popular Garden Designs Of The Seventeenth And Early Eighteenth Century Were The French, Italian, And Dutch Formal Gardens Executed To Exhibit Bilateral Symmetry

• No One Surpassed Le Notre In His Realization Of This Rigid Style.
The French Garden

• In This Garden Style, The Part Of The Garden Closest To The Palace Or House Was Handled Architecturally, Like Another Room-Extension Of The House Proper
The French Garden

• The Garden Consisted Of A Perfectly Regular Series Of Geometrical Compartments
• Formed By Closely Clipped Shrubs And Trees And Straight Gravel Walks, Stone Paths, Terraces, And Steps

• The Compartments Were Often Parterres De Broderie (Plots Resembling Embroidery) Carpeted With Low Evergreens (Often Box), Flowers (Actually Rare Until The Nineteenth Century), Colored Earth, Brick Dust, Coal Dust, White And Yellow Sand, Etc.
The French Garden

• The Overriding Impression Of Such Gardens Is Of Man's Tyranny Over Nature--Perfectly Suitable For Louis XIV And Other European Absolute Monarchs.
The French Garden

- The Masterpiece Of This Style Of Gardening Was Versaille As Laid Out For Louis XIV By Andre L Notre
The French Garden

• Versailles Became The Model For Princely Gardens Throughout Europe
The French Garden

• This Includes The Garden Laid Out For William III In Front Of Sir Christopher Wren's New East Front Of Hampton Court Palace. The Principal Gardener For Hampton Court

• Was Henry Wise (1653-1738)
The French Garden

• At the end of the seventeenth century, the English inheritor of the Le Notre tradition was Henry Wise (1653-1738), one of the principal gardeners of Hampton Court Palace. He also worked for James Brydges, the Duke of Chandos, at the elaborate and expensive gardens at Cannon, Middlesex, which Pope's contemporaries believed to be Timon's villa in the "Epistle to Burlington."
• The style of these gardens is "autocratic": palatial grandeur radiates outward from the patriarchal seat, its rigid order dominating nature and bending it to man's will.
The French Garden

- The Great Expense Of Maintaining Hampton Court's Extensive Gardens Eventually Led Queen Anne To Order Wise To Reduce The Cost Of Upkeep By Two Thirds. Thus In 1704 The Box Parterres De Broderie Were Replaced By Open Lawn, In A Step Towards The Freer Landscape Style That Would Dominate Much Of The Rest Of The Century.
The French Garden

• In Recent Years, Formal Gardens Have Been Restored At Hampton Court. Check Out This Link: Hampton Court Gardens.

• Transitions From Formal To Landscape Gardens
The French Garden

• In Reaction To The Rigid Formality Of The French And Italian Gardens Of The Late Seventeenth Century, A New Style Began

• To Emerge Which Was Much Freer. Advocates Of What Eventually Became The Irregular Landscape Garden Opposed

• Symmetry, Ostentation, And What They Regarded As The Tyranny Of The French Style, Which They In Turn Associated With

• The Tyranny Of French Government. Thus The Growing Freedom Of English Garden Design Gradually Became Associated
The French Garden

• Chiswick House.
The French Garden

- Landscape Gardeners also attempted to create ideal nature or to teach nature, in the words of Switzer, "Even to exceed herself." Such idealization of nature has significant classical literary antecedents in the poetry of Horace and Virgil, which celebrates rural life and retreat from the cares of the city and public life. Also implied by this garden aesthetic is the original Garden of Eden in which man and nature are in perfect (if temporary) harmony. It is interesting (and profoundly significant) that Horace Walpole and others who advocated the new garden aesthetic also admired Milton's Paradise Lost, whose descriptions of paradise are remarkably vivid.
The French Garden

• The New Freer Style Of Gardening Is Evident At Castle Howard In Yorkshire And Blenheim Palace In Oxfordshire.

• Early In The Century Both Formal And Informal Gardens Exist Side By Side. By The Middle Of The Century The New Style Dominated.
The French Garden
The French Garden
The French Garden

• Charles Bridgeman (1680-1738) & Stowe
The French Garden

- Charles Bridgeman Succeeded Wise As The Royal Gardener. His Most Famous Achievement In Landscape Design Is The
- Famous Garden At Stowe Under Bridgeman's Direction Since 1713. This Masterpiece Of Landscape Design Was Added To
  - Later By Kent And Capability Brown.
The French Garden

• Bridgeman Stands Midway Between Le Notre And Capability Brown In Garden Style. In The 1720's Kent Took Up

• Landscape Gardening In What Is Called The Painterly Manner. His Most Notable Painterly Garden Is Rousham In Oxfordshire. Bridgeman Prepared The Main Lines Of The Garden In The 1720s, Preparing The Way For Kent's Work In The 1730s. The Painterly Manner Attempted To Evoke Something Of The Theatrical Qualities Of The Landscapes Of Poussin

The French Garden

The French Garden
The French Garden
The French Garden

• Alexander Pope & His Garden In Twickenham
The French Garden

- Pope Has Been Called The Presiding Genius Of The Gardening Revolution In The 1720s-30s. His Own Garden In
- Twickenham As Well As The Gardens Of Weathly Friends With Whom Pope Consulted Testify To His Remarkable Influence.
The French Garden

• Little Survives Of Pope's Garden. We Do Know From Drawings And Descriptions That It Perfectly Embodied The

• Landscaping Principles Espoused In "Epistle To Burlington." To Pope, Landscape Gardening Was An Act Of The

• Imagination Expressing His Inner "Romantic" Impulses.
The French Garden

- Bridgeman had introduced a garden design based on a relatively formal straight central axis with flanking areas.
- Treated irregularly, so that symmetry and balance are combined with variety. Pope adapted this principle and applied it to his small garden plot across the London Road from his villa in Twickenham. The bounds of the garden were concealed by dense thickets to create an enclosed irregular garden containing monuments with both ancient and modern associations.
- At the eastern end of the garden stood the Shell Temple, a Rococo pleasure dome; at the western and darker end of the garden stood an obelisk commemorating the death of Pope's mother. From the garden a passage ran beneath the London Road and into a grotto located in Pope's basement. At the garden end the grotto looked out over an open lawn towards the Thames and open country. When the doors of the grotto were closed, it became a camera obscura reflecting thousands of images from the sparkling shells and bits of mirror in the grotto walls, a truly remarkable and "poetic" folly of the fancy.
The French Garden

The French Garden
The French Garden
The French Garden

– Stourhead In Wiltshire
The French Garden

- Stourhead Was Built In The 1740s By Wealthy Banker Henry Hoare. He Began By Building Dams On Several Streams To Raise A Lake, Around Which He Then Planted Trees. He Arranged Buildings And Trees To Form A Series Of Pictures, Of Views, Along A Serpentine Walk. He Added A Grotto For Private Reflection, As Well As A Pantheon Copied By "Burlington Harry" Flitchcroft Which Appears In A Claude Painting Owned By Hoare And Now In The National Gallery.
The French Garden
The French Garden
The French Garden
– Chinese And Japanese Influences
The French Garden

- Eighteenth Century Garden Ornaments And Follies Generally Were Either Classical Or Gothic, But Gradually Throughout
- The Century Oriental Styles Began To Be Incorporated Into Landscape Design, As They Were Into Rood Decoration. In The 1740s Chinese House At Shugborough And The House Of Confucius At Kew Were Built. In The 1750s Many Pagodas, Pavilions, And Kiosks Were Built, Along With Chinese Style Bridges Such As The One Across The Thames At Hampton
The French Garden
The French Garden
The French Garden

– The Pagoda At Kew Gardens (See Also The Chinese House At Stowe)
The French Garden
The French Garden

– Lancelot "Capability" Brown (1716-1783)
The French Garden

- In the "Capable" hands of Lancelot Brown, gardens design lost nearly all of its formality and appearance of artifice.
- At Blenheim, he eliminated the great Le Notre style parterres laid out by Henry Wise and replaced it with an open expanse of lawn brought up to the walls of the house, near which he planted dark trees to frame the view of the landscape from the house. For some contemporaries such as Chamber, Brown's gardens "differ very little from common fields, so closely is common nature copied in them."
The French Garden

- Brown Created This Effect Of The Appearance Of Unrestrained Nature By Planting A Vast Stretch Of Lawn Punctuated By Small Clusters Of Trees Or Single Trees Irregularly Placed In Wavy Belts. The Land Dips Away From The House Towards A Winding Lake And Rise Beyond To A Distant Woodland, Completing The "Landscape."
The French Garden

– The Last Stage In The Development Of Eighteenth Century Gardens Is The Result Of The Powerful Influence Of Edmund Burke's Philosophical Enquiry Into The Origin Of Our Ideas Of The Beautiful And The Sublime (1757)
The French Garden

- This texts profoundly influenced the emergence of Gothic literature, Gothic Revival architecture, and landscape design, modeled on Burke's notion of the sublime or terrible in nature.
The French Garden

– Burke Divided All Aesthetic Responses Into Two Categories, The Beautiful And The Sublime.
The French Garden

– The Beautiful Includes All That Is Smooth, Regular, Delicate, And Harmonious
The French Garden

– The Sublime, All That Is Rough, Gloomy, Violent, And Gigantic
The French Garden

- Sublimity Among Objects Of Nature Includes All That Is Untamed And Uncivilized, Such As The Wilder Parts Of The Countryside, Mountains, Cataracts, Volcanoes, And Scenes That Are Savage And Primitive As Opposed To "Cultivated."
The French Garden

– Obviously Even The Wealthiest Landowner Cannot Heave Up Majestic Mountains Or Carve Out Canyons To Create Burke's Sublime Landscape, But Small Scale "Wildness" And "Roughness" Were Easily Manageable
The French Garden

- Increasingly, from the mid century onward, landscape designs, already freed up almost entirely by "Capability" Brown, incorporated elements of the wild and the rough
The French Garden

– Where These Elements Could Not Be Found On A Landowner's, They Were Constructed. If A Real Gothic Ruin Did Not Exist On The Property, An Imitation Ruin Would Be Constructed From Scratch.
The French Garden

– Likewise With Caves, Grottos, Rustic Bridges, And Many More Garden Ornaments That Were Often Quite Grand In Scale And Magnitude. These Made-Up Bits Of Fake Antiquity And "Natural Wildness" Came To Be Called Follies.
The French Garden

The French Garden
The French Garden
The French Garden

– German Baroque Garden Design
The French Garden

- Germany Had To Begin Almost All Over Again From The Middle Of The Seventeenth Century, After The Thirty Years’ War. The Cultivation Of The Garden Is A Peaceful Art;
- And It Was Only Exceptional Men Such As Wallenstein And Maurice Of Nassau Who Tried To Keep The Country To Its Peaceful Occupations While They Were In The Midst Of War, Weapons In Hand;
- For The Most Part The War Had Left Wasted Lands Bare Of Inhabitants, But There Was More Than This—The Tradition That Was Never Very Strong In Germany Was Completely Destroyed. It Was Just This State Of Things, However, That Drove A Generation Hungry For Peace To Seek For Teachers Whose Instruction It Could Follow With Delight. One Important Factor In Making Garden Art Flourish In Germany Was The Increased Power Of The Many Princelings, Great And Small. The Feeling Of Sovereignty Showed Itself In The Second Half Of The Seventeenth Century, When Prosperity Was Increasing, In The Creation Of Splendid Homes. For Most Of The Princes, Especially Those In The North And West, Versailles Served As A Fascinating Visible Example. Only A Few, Who Were Interested In Italy, Took Their Inspiration In These Days From The Old Forms Of Art On The Other Side Of The Alps. Le Nôtre's Was The Truly Great Name, And As Soon As His Reputation Had Once Extended Across The Rhine, It Was Considered Good Luck To Secure A Garden Artist Who Had Somehow Or Other Got His Education By Actual Study Of The Works Of Le Nôtre.
- Duke Ernst Johann Friedrich Of Hanover Reckoned Himself One Of The Fortunate Ones When He Secured Charbonnier, Who Belonged To The School Of Le Nôtre, To Lay Out His Garden At Herrenhausen. The Architect For The House Was Quirini, A Venetian, And He Gave It An Italian Look With Two Wings Of One Story, Which Jutted Forward And Showed A Flat Roof With Balustrades. At Small German Courts, We Often Find, As Late As The Middle Of The Eighteenth Century, A Partnership Of Italian Architect And French Garden Artist, For The French Style In Building Arrived Later In Germany Than The Garden Style, And Was Never Really Naturalised. The Duke Loved Magnificence, And He Rejoiced In The Stir And Bustle That A Tribe Of Foreign Artists, French And Italian, Brought To His Place. Although The Keeping Up Of The Pleasure-Grounds At Herrenhausen Cost Nearly Six Thousand Dollars In 1679, The Year Of Duke Ernst Johann's Death; And Although His Successor, Prince Ernst August, Was Very Angry About The Extravagance, It Was This Very Successor Who Extended The Garden To Double Its Size, And Gave It Pretty Much The Appearance That It Still Has (Fig. 449).
The French Garden
The French Garden

– FIG. 449. HERRENHAUSEN, HANOVER—GENERAL PLAN
The French Garden

- It is natural to think of the close relationship between the Hanoverian and French Courts, which was kept up in the liveliest way in the correspondence of the gay Princess Sophia of Hanover with her niece Lieselotte, Duchess of Orleans; and it may easily be believed that as the two ladies took such an interest in gardens, they shared some direct advice and even plans by Le Nôtre. The plans were as formal as any we know, giving the impression of an example in a school-book. There seems to be a kind of anxiety not to omit any of the rules or injunctions: first there are the fine parterres with a central fountain, behind them four almost square ponds, then a simpler parterre with two little pavilions, which have now disappeared. They formed the connection with the boskets, which were traversed by regular star-arranged paths with tall hedges of box, and which all had a basin in the centre. There was a very large round pond at the end of the middle walk, and the two side paths led to summer-houses built like temples. Avenues of limes encircled the whole garden, with canals running beside them, which formed a semicircular bay behind the round basin in the middle axis. The first half of the garden, which lies nearest to the house, shows clear traces of the earliest phase of Versailles. The grotto occurs at exactly the same point; but as complete regularity demanded a corresponding site on the opposite side, here were the so-called cascades and a wall with grotto and shells, enlivened by waterfalls and springs. Here also was the attractive orangery beside the castle, and corresponding to it on the other side a garden for flowers or vegetables.

- The only part that was not formal was the theatre on the east of the great parterre. This stands on a made terrace, varying the monotony of the otherwise level ground. The back of it is occupied by the stage, from which steps lead to the garden beside a beautiful fountain at the supporting wall. The side scenes are trapezium-shaped, meeting together at the back, and cut out like small green dressing-rooms, with statues in front of them (Fig. 450).
The French Garden
The French Garden

– FIG. 450. HERRENHAUSEN, HANOVER—GARDEN THEATRE IN ITS PRESENT STATE

– STATE
The French Garden
The French Garden

- The stage is separated from the amphitheatre for spectators by a low wide gangway, on a level with the garden, and approached by steps from the stage. This must have been a great help to the performances, as it served as a sort of orchestra. The garden was quite finished by 1700, but the theatre was so placed in the body of it that one may perhaps assume that it was adopted into the ground-plan, and it thus would be one of the earliest of the kind. The garden at Herrenhausen had no particular park of its own; from the treatment of the canal surrounding the whole place, this would
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- Indeed, from the end of the seventeenth century to the beginning of the nineteenth century, that is to say, during the period often referred to as the "Long" eighteenth century (1660-1840), the aesthetic of garden design shifted gradually from one that stressed restraint, control, limit, and order to one that emphasized freedom and openness.
- From the geometrical severity of Versailles and Hampton Court in the late seventeenth century to the well-regulated naturalness of Blenheim, Castle Howard, and Stowe, by the middle of the eighteenth century designed gardens grew almost to resemble open landscape or raw nature.
The French Garden
The French Garden

- You Can Still See The Nook Where Louis XV Made Coffee Or Chocolate For Guests In His Private Cabinets.

- Louis XV Ordered Mechanical Tables For The Dining Rooms In The Petit Trianon. They Were Designed To Rise, Completely Set And Served, From The Kitchens Below.


- The First Hot-Air Balloon Was Launched From The Forecourt Of Versailles In 1783.

- Totally Unconcerned With The Beautiful Decoration, Louis XVI Would Stick Countless Engravings Of Widely Varying Types Over The Fine Woodwork In His Private Apartment.

- A Secret Passage (Still Partly Extant) Ran From The Queen's Private Cabinets To Those Of The King. It Enabled Marie-Antoinette To Escape Revolutionary Rioters In October 1789.

- The Garden Facade Of The Central Part Of The Chateau Is Architecturally Deceptive, Because There Are No Rooms Behind The Windows On The Top Floor They Give Onto The Structural Supports For The Ceiling Of The Hall Of Mirrors.

- The Roof Of The Hall Of Mirrors Masks Decorative Elements Of The Original Terrace Of The New Chateau.

- Louis XIV's Bathtub, A Large Basin Of Languedoc Marble, Is Now Preserved At The Orangery.

- Crops Of Wheat Are Grown In The Grounds, Which Features A Working Farm. Also, A Neolithic Site Was Recently Uncovered There.
The French Garden