
PRESS CONFERENCE

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FOREWORD

BY JEAN-JACQUES AILLAGON

FOR THE THIRD TIME, since my appointment as President of *the Public Establishment of the Museum and National Estate of Versailles* on 6 June 2007, I have the pleasure of meeting the press to present the results of the Establishment's activity last year and, above all, to present the projects that will mark the year to come. In 2008, this press conference was held in the château de Versailles, in the Marengo room. In 2009, we chose the Maison Européenne de la Photographie to underline the innovation made by introducing photographic exhibition into the programme of Versailles. In 2010, we have picked the Observatoire de Paris to put the emphasis on the exhibition *Science and curiosities at the Court of Versailles* which will be held from 26 October 2010 to 27 February 2011 in the rooms that hosted until the 7th of february the exhibition *Louis XIV, the man and the king*.

THE PRESS PACK PREPARED FOR THIS OCCASION puts the emphasis on how the Establishment intends to carry out the remits entrusted to it: the conservation, enrichment and presentation of an outstanding heritage; the study of this heritage and of everything relating to its history and the circumstances of its existence; the dissemination of all the knowledge gleaned from these studies; receiving and informing the different kinds of visitors; and, lastly, the construction of a singular cultural programme that showcases the historical, artistic, literary and musical heritage for which the Château was the setting, as well as offering a stimulating environment for contemporary artistic expressions. Its adaptability in carrying out all these remits has enabled the château de Versailles to occupy a prominent and singular place in the cultural landscape of our country, often showing a noted capacity for innovation that is impressive in such an «old house». For example, its commitment in favour of the development of its cultural offering which it makes accessible through its portal (www.chateauversailles.fr) earned it in 2009 the first prize of the «Trophées de la Communication» in the category «best website of the national institutions».

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE REMITS IS EMBODIED IN NUMEROUS PROJECTS: the restoration and enhancement of the heritage in the framework of the development plan adopted in 2003; the improvement of the reception facilities for visitors, so that now the Château and Trianon receive over five million visitors per year and over fifteen million in the Estate; cultural mediation and the diversification of targeted visitors; the highlighting and enrichment of the heritage notably through the project of making a clearer distinction in the organisation of the museum between the royal residence and the history galleries inherited from Louis-Philippe's Museum of the History of France; the widening of the cultural offering which henceforth covers a vast span from history to contemporary creation and takes in painting, sculpture, architecture, theatre, music, literature, photography and the sciences, thus adopting a truly «multidisciplinary» perspective, to borrow a favourite concept of the Pompidou Centre.

EXTENDED IN THE COURSE OF 2009 TO INCLUDE, the Place d'Armes (4 hectares) and the Estate of Marly (53 hectares), the Estate of Versailles henceforth covers 787 hectares. It is responsible for about 190,000 sq m of rooms and 60,000 works. It employs 834 permanent staff along with numerous occasional staff (154), not counting the employees of the concessionary companies or establishments or those working for the service-provider companies which contribute to the smooth running of the Establishment. As you can see, this amounts to about 1,500 people contributing all year round to the life of «Versailles city», which is much larger than Vatican City...

THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CHARGE OF THIS VAST ENSEMBLE is subject to a singular funding rule because, unlike the other national establishments, it does not receive operating subsidies from the State (with the exception, since 2009, of the compensation paid by the Ministry of Culture and Communication for the free admission of visitors aged 18-25 and teachers). However, the State does contribute to the existence of the Establishment through an investment subsidy for major works (€25.8m in 2009) and by paying the salaries of 607 permanent staff (2009 payroll: €20m). Of its overall budget (operations and works) of €110.9m (2009), the Establishment thus covers €55.1m from the proceeds of its own activity (ticket sales, concessions, rentals, financial products and sponsoring) and its working capital, which represents a self-financing rate of around 50%! This unusual economic model explains the very special attention that the Establishment pays to sponsoring and the equitable development of its ticket proceeds. The new rates that came into force on 1 January 2010 will enable us to meet the combined objectives of simplification, globalisation and productivity, without undermining the objective of democratising access to culture. In fact, we estimate that 40% of visitors to Versailles benefit today from free admission. Moreover, the same ticket allows the public to visit the Château and the exhibitions, which means that the visitor to the Château can see the exhibitions without paying extra and the visitor to an exhibition can enter the Château in the same conditions. On the free admission days, the exhibitions are accessible on the same conditions as the museum. Lastly, the audioguide is henceforth a service made universally available to visitors, whether their ticket is paid for or free.

THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUSEUM AND NATIONAL ESTATE OF VERSAILLES WAS SET UP IN 1995. The time has now come to adapt its statutes to take into account the reality of its statutory functioning over these 15 years. That is why I have proposed to the government that new statutes be drawn up to define more clearly the arbitration remit of the President, the scientific and cultural remit of the Managing Director who will become the «Director of the National Museum of the châteaux de Versailles and Trianon», and the administrative remit of the General Administrator. To ensure the stability of the Establishment, I have proposed that the length of the first term of office of the President be extended to 5 years, the following terms to last 3 years. When the new decree is promulgated, the Establishment will become *the Public Establishment of the Château, Museum and National Estate of Versailles*.

Jean-Jacques Aillagon

Former minister,

President of the Public Establishment of the Museum and National Estate of Versailles

PART I

**THE WORKS:
VERSAILLES, AN IMMENSE
CONSTRUCTION SITE**

Part I – The works: Versailles, an immense construction site

THE 1ST PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

ON 30 OCTOBER 2003, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN VERSAILLES, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, then Minister for Culture and Communication, and Christine Albanel, then President of *the Public Establishment of the Museum and National Estate of Versailles*, announced the launch of «Grand Versailles», a long-awaited development and works project. Lasting over 17 years and costing €500 million, it is the biggest construction project that the former royal estate has known since the reign of Louis-Philippe.

GRAND VERSAILLES

17 years of work

Budget: € 500 million

1st phase: 2004 - 2010 / 2013

2nd phase: 2010 - 2019

THREE PRIORITY OBJECTIVES:

- **the restoration** of the historical monument and its decoration.
- **the safety upgrade** of the entire site by improving the safety facilities for both visitors and buildings, by upgrading the technical facilities and by reinforcing the protection of the Château against the risks of break-ins and vandalism.
- **the improvement of the reception of visitors** with an enlarged and more legible visit offering and a simplification of the admission arrangements.

2004-2010 / 2013: COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE

THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT PLAN was to last from 2003 to 2010. New choices, both operational and budgetary, put back the term of this phase to 2013. Its cost was revised at €159 million, with the Establishment providing about a quarter of this budget.

ALL THE WORK PLANNED FOR THIS PHASE has now been initiated with the exception of the refurbishment of the Pavillon Dufour, currently housing offices, which can start only after the completion of the refurbishment of the Grand Commun which will ultimately house all the departments of the Establishment (offices, reserve collections of works of art, cloakrooms, library, etc).

THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF VERSAILLES having chosen, in agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Communication, to complete the work in the Grand Commun beyond the 1st phase currently under way, the moving of the departments currently housed in the Aile Dufour will be postponed until the final conclusion of the work in the Grand Commun. It is this choice which explains the postponement of the end of the 1st phase from 2010 to 2013.

AS THE PROGRAMME FOR THE CREATION OF AN ENTRANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS through the Pavillon Dufour is now completely stabilised, the studies will be able to start after the appointment of an interior architect who will collaborate with the Senior Architect of Historical Monuments, Frédéric Didier, in charge of the restoration of the historical monument..

REMINDER OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE 1ST PHASE

- An 'ordinary' programme covering the work on the building and gardens, for one quarter of this budget.
- An 'exceptional' programme covering all the other work, for three quarters of the budget.

Breakdown of the exceptional programme:

- **45%: safety upgrade and modernisation of the amenity systems** (Opera Royal, creation of the primary systems of the Château, creation of the central energy facility under the Grand Commun, overall safety upgrade work, creation and fitting out of the reserve collections, etc.).
- **25%: improvement of the reception facilities** (Dufour and Gabriel pavilions, Ministers wings, reception in the Maison du Suisse of the Petit Trianon, etc.).
- **15%: improvement of the working conditions of the staff** (first refurbishment phase of the Grand Commun)
- **15%: reconstruction and restoration** (Grand Commun, Grille Royale, etc.)

THE ONGOING WORK

• Château: restoration of the roof of the central section

October 2008 - April 2010 (end of the conditional phase 1)

Budget: 11 M€

Historical Monuments architects: Frédéric Didier

VMH: Yves Le Douarin

THE CENTRAL SECTION OF THE CHÂTEAU WAS BUILT AT THE REQUEST OF THE KING LOUIS XIV by the architect Louis Le Vau between 1668 and 1670 and altered in the 18th century by Jules-Hardouin Mansart. While the central section, still representative of the hunting lodge of Louis XIII, has come down to us with very few modifications, the inner courtyards have been continually transformed, and testify to the constant needs for extensions and the numerous restorations undertaken up to the present time.

THE WORK, INITIALLY PLANNED TO LAST THREE YEARS, CONSISTS OF:

- A definitive phase, over 18 months, already completed around the Cour de Marbre.
- A first conditional phase, (ongoing), involving the roofing of the Escalier de la Reine. For the sloping sides on the Cour de Marbre and the Cour Royale, the lower slopes are being covered with new slates nailed on battens, the upper slopes receiving cast lead sheets. All the lead ornaments of the curbs, palms, campanas, sunflowers, lambrequins, finials, etc. are being restored to their original state based on the existing model of the North wing. They will be covered with gold leaf as in the 17th and 18th centuries. The dormer and bull's-eye windows with their lead ornaments are being restored and gilded. The balustrades, the lead protections of the cornices, the allegorical statuary and the stone flame finial pots, now very fragile, are being restored with the original elements remaining in place. Two trophies and a statue (Abundance), too badly damaged, will be replaced by stone copies.
- A second conditional phase was restudied to take into account the insertion of the equipment rooms necessary for the safety upgrade of the amenity systems of the Château. The corresponding works will begin in autumn 2010.

The restoration of the gilding of the ornaments of the roof of the central section benefits from the sponsorship of the Monnoyeur company.

• Château - Safety and security upgrade, renovation of the technical systems

February 2008 – end of 2012

Budget: €27.3m

Contracting authority: EMOC (public establishment contracting authority for cultural works)

Historical Monuments architects: Frédéric Didier

VMH: Yves Le Douarin

Consulting firm: SETEC

THE PROGRAMME OF WORKS COVERS THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

Urgent safety and security upgrade of the Château (Central Section, North Wing and South Wing):

- Complete overhaul of the fire safety system, generalisation of the smoke detection and alarm system, sectioning of the attics with fire-stop partitions, upgrade of the fire protection equipment (dry risers, fire hoses), treatment of the emergency exits leading outdoors, smoke control of the evacuation stairways, upgrade of the site security system (video surveillance, volumetric detection, entrance control), upgrade of the electricity control boxes and installation of differential protection system.
- The works concerning the electricity-heating-ventilation-air-conditioning and the plumbing / fire protection are now completed. The fire safety and security works were launched at the end of 2009 and are due to be completed by mid-2011.

Creation of the infrastructure of the future technical systems - Phase 1:

- Creation of the principal artery of the technical gallery between the Grand Commun and the Pavillon d'Orléans, and between the Vieille Aile and the Pavillon Gabriel. The works includes all the issues of the technical base up to the ground floor (creation only of the engineering of this artery). This technical gallery is flanked for part of the way by a gallery for the circulation of the personnel of the Château de Versailles. To ensure the technical-financial optimisation of the works, this operation will also contribute to the improvement of the reception of visitors planned for the Pavillon Gabriel: complete refurbishment of the ground floor of the Pavillon Gabriel (rest rooms, access for persons with reduced mobility).
- The realisation of the primary infrastructure is in two phases in order to take into account the constraints of the site (anticipated completion of the section of the technical gallery under the Cour Royale between the Vieille Aile and the Pavillon Gabriel, owing to the simultaneous repaving and the Grille Royale). The section of the technical gallery under the Cour Royale is completed, as well as the improved accessibility for persons with reduced mobility in the Pavillon Gabriel. The section between the Grand Commun and the Pavillon d'Orléans is ongoing, due to be completed in early 2011. The work on the rest rooms in the Pavillon Gabriel should be completed by June 2010.

Part of this programme benefits from the sponsorship in skills by Nexans (free supply of cables).

• Grand Commun - General restoration and refurbishment - Phase 1

December 2007 - July 2010

Budget: €12m (restoration of which €3m of the relaunch plan)

€17.4m (interior refurbishment)

Contracting authority: EMOC

Architects: Frédéric Didier, ACMH and Bernard Desmoulin, architect

Consulting firm: BETCI

GRAND COMMUN

Listed Historical Monument
in 1929

Quadrilateral 82 m / 76 m
2,350 sq m of offices,
2,200 sq m of other activities
500 sq m of reserve
collections

THE GRAND COMMUN, situated on the east side of the Château, was built between 1682 and 1686 by the chief architect to the King, Jules Hardouin-Mansart, to house the services of the court and the staff quarters of the King's officers. In 1832 it became the Dominique Larrey military hospital, a function it kept until 1986. Reincorporated into the National Estate of Versailles, it will house all the administrative departments of the Public Establishment of Versailles.

A large-scale **restoration of the courtyard and building** as well as the indoor areas began in December 2007 on the western half of the building and will be completed next July. The other half will be done in the coming years (2010 - 2013).

PARALLEL TO THIS RESTORATION, the complete **interior refurbishment** of the building, treated in a contemporary style, is being led by the architect Bernard Desmoulin, *Equerre d'Argent 2009*, and winner of the competition organised for this operation.

Part of this programme benefits from the sponsorship in skills by Nexans (free supply of cables).

• Grand Commun - Creation of a central energy facility and storage facilities for reserve collections of works of art

December 2007 - February 2010

Budget: €12.32m

Contracting authority: EMOC

Historical Monuments architects: Frédéric Didier

Consulting firm: Jacobs Serete

THE CREATION OF THE CENTRAL ENERGY FACILITY constitutes the nerve centre of the renovation programme for the technical facilities of the Château de Versailles. This central facility, perfectly integrated into the Grand Commun and installed under its inner courtyard, will soon be providing for the Château all the water and power necessary for the functioning and comfort of the museum (hot water for the heating and rest rooms, cold water for cooling the exhibition and reception areas, electricity for both the normal and emergency lighting system, etc.).

This distribution will be provided via a technical gallery flanked by a gallery for the personnel passing under the rue de l'Indépendance Américaine (parts already completed) and under the Château, thus becoming the Château's technical backbone. Large **storage facilities for the reserve collections of works of art** have also been created as part of this operation, providing optimal storage conditions for the museum's large-format works which have hitherto been scattered around several sites of the Estate. The structural work has been completed but the commissioning of the storage facilities is linked to the completion of the link with the Château which is planned for late 2010.

Part of this programme benefits from the sponsorship in skills by Nexans (free supply of cables).

Part I – The works: Versailles, an immense construction site

THE NEW WORK UNDERTAKEN THANKS TO SPONSORSHIP

WHILE THE SPONSORSHIP SECURED IN 2009, MARKED BY THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONTEXT, did not reach the exceptional level of 2008 (€16m), it still showed great vitality in the number of more accessible projects.

158 SPONSORSHIP PROJECTS AMOUNTING TO €8.6M were undertaken between January 2009 and January 2010 compared to 80 amounting to €16m in 2008.

WORTH NOTING, THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ADOPTION OF STATUES IN THE GARDENS confirmed its success with 30 new adoptions, bringing to 108 the number of works adopted since the beginning of the campaign with over €2.5 million collected.

IN JULY 2009 THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF VERSAILLES extended this campaign to the 170 benches in the gardens. Since then, 50 benches have been adopted.

THE MAJOR OPERATIONS MADE POSSIBLE BY SPONSORSHIP:

• Château - Restoration of the ceiling of the antechamber of the Grand Couvert of the Queen

Work: until autumn 2010

Budget: €860,000 of which €300,000 for the restoration of the paintings and €560,000 for the restoration of the stucco work and for the lighting.

RESTORATION
OF THE PAINTED
DECORATION
OF THE ANTECHAMBER
TO THE QUEEN'S GRAND
COUVERT

4,900 hours of work
14 restorers
170 sq m of painting

THE RESTORATION began in April 2009. The paintings were badly damaged, with many patches of flaking paintwork but the backing of the canvasses was intact. The work consisted of stabilising the painted surface, limited in the covings and for the captives, and involving much more extensive work on the central painting, the tondi and royal devices.

This operation was carried through thanks to the sponsorship of Martell & Co.

THE RESTORATION OF THE PAINTINGS will be completed by a restoration of the gilt stucco work of the ceiling, including the trophies, the spandrels and the surrounds of the compartments, directed by Frédéric Didier, Senior Architect for Historical Monuments. The gilding will be reinforced, carefully cleaned and restored where needed, with the aim of harmonising it with the tone-on-tone gold paint recently restored.

LASTLY, APPROPRIATE LIGHTING will be installed to facilitate day-time and night-time viewing.

ALL THIS WORK was ratified by a scientific committee made up of: Olivier Bonfait, Université de Provence, Frédéric Didier, ACMH, Sylvain Laveissière, Musée du Louvre, Serge Pitiot, CRMH (Regional Curator of Historical Monuments), Pierre Rosenberg of the French Academy, Milovan Stanic, Université Paris IV and Nathalie Volle, INHA..

• Garden - Restoration of the Bains d'Apollon grove, restoration of the grotto and sculpture groups

Work lasting until April 2010

Budget: €1.6m (of which €1m comes from sponsorship)

Historical Monuments architects: Pierre-Andre Lablaude

THREE SCULPTURE GROUPS ARE CONCERNED

Apollo Attended by the Nymphs

consisting of seven elements, weighing 7 tonnes

The two groups of Horses of the Sun, with 10 elements, weigh a total of 10.5 tonnes

THE RESTORATION OF THE SCULPTURE GROUP DEPICTING *Apollo Attended by the Nymphs* by Girardon and Regnaudin and the two groups of *Horses of the Sun* by Guerin and the Marsy brothers has now been completed, and we now see it as it was under the Ancien Régime. An indoor museum exhibition project is under way, destined for the Petite Orangerie (at the southern end of the South Wing of the Château). Casts of these works were also taken in parallel and their installation in the Grotto, where the original works stood, is programmed for early March 2010.

THESE OPERATIONS ON THE SCULPTURE GROUPS (removal, restoration of the original works, execution and installation of copies) are now being accompanied by work on the grotto, in the centre of the Bains d'Apollon grove, designed to reinforce the structure, prevent water damage and restore the plant cover.

THE REOPENING OF THE BAINS D'APOLLON GROVE is programmed for the first Grandes Eaux Musicales of the 2010 season on 3 April.

This restoration is made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the Versailles Foundation.

• Petit Trianon - Restoration of the south façade, gatehouses and walls of the forecourt of the Petit Trianon

Work due for completion in April 2010

Budget: €470,000

Historical Monuments architects: Pierre-Andre Lablaude

A FIRST RESTORATION CAMPAIGN, sponsored by the Breguet company, was carried out on all the interiors of the Petit Trianon in 2007-2008. For the reopening of the Petit Trianon to the public in September 2008, the sponsor also wished to finance part of the work on the façades. This work concerns the restoration of the stonework on the wings and outdoor staircases, which had become priorities, as well as the large panels of external woodwork. The stone façades are now in a very advanced state of dilapidation. In the continuity of the work already completed, the present programme will **restore the south façade of the Petit Trianon, the gatehouses and the walls** around the southern courtyard. So the full perspective viewed from the walkway lined with poplar trees, the main access from the Château de Versailles, will be restored.

This restoration is made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the Breguet company.

• Enhancement of the Pavillon Frais of the Trianon palace

End of works June 2010

Budget: €1.25m

Historical Monuments architects: Pierre-Andre Lablaude

THE FRENCH GARDEN OF THE TRIANON PALACE was laid out in the middle of the 18th century for Louis XV and Madame de Pompadour. The architect Ange-Jacques Gabriel built here, between 1751 and 1753, about 10 years before the Petit Trianon, a small pavilion with decorated with trellis work, the Pavillon Frais. It was intended to be used as a dining room for enjoying the produce of the Trianon dairy and kitchen garden.

THE PROGRAMME CURRENTLY UNDER WAY CONCERNS THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT, in their original state, of the parterre and its two oval ponds, the decorative trellis work on the façades of the pavilion and the restoration of two blocks of trellis work at the entrance to the parterre, the first parts of the rectangular portico installed on the fringe of the composition.

This operation is made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the «American Friends of Versailles» non-profit organisation.

• Restoration of the statues in the garden

Since 2005

Budget per statue: €3,000 to €60,000

THE GARDEN CONTAINS

235 vases,
86 sculpture groups,
155 statues.

So far, the campaign
has restored
108 works,
thanks to the help of
80 sponsors, who have
contributed €2.7m

INSTALLED IN THE REIGN OF LOUIS XIV, the sculptures of the gardens of Versailles, executed by the greatest artist-sculptors of the period – Tuby, Girardon, Coysevox, Marsy – have been damaged by the ravages of time. For the past two years, many of these masterpieces have been involved in a vast restoration programme, made possible by an original sponsorship campaign. Since its launch, the campaign called «Adopt a statue of the park» has attracted the generosity of large companies, SMEs, individuals and foundations, both in France and abroad.

THE LAST SIX DONORS TO COME FORWARD:

- **Marie-France Majoie-Le Lous** is sponsoring the restoration of the statue of *Le Matin*, also called *Le Point du Jour* by Gaspard Marsy and the cast of a copy.
- **Jean-Louis Rémileux** is sponsoring the restoration of the *Vase de la Paix* by Tuby and the cast of a copy, the *Vase de la Guerre* by Antoine Coysevox and the cast of a copy, the *Vase du Soleil (1)* by Jean Drouilly and the *Vase du Soleil (2)* by Jean Degoullons.
- **The Regional Council of Nord-Pas de Calais** is sponsoring the restoration of the statue of *L'Europe* by Pierre Mazeline and the cast of a copy.
- **Charles Azerad** is sponsoring the restoration of the statue *Le Poème héroïque* by Jean Drouilly.
- **Bernard Garnier de Labareyre** is sponsoring the restoration of the bust of *Alexandre le Grand*.
- **Audition Conseil** is sponsoring the restoration of the statue of *Faustine* by Nicolas Frémery.

• Restoration of the walks of the park of Versailles

Work begins: spring 2010

THE PARK OF VERSAILLES COVERS 730 HECTARES AND HAS OVER 43 KM OF WALKS. **Colas**, world leader in the road construction and maintenance, has confirmed its commitment to provide its skills as part of a large-scale sponsorship to restore the walks of the park of Versailles. The priorities in this programme cover the most damaged walks or those most used by visitors. Thus, the esplanade around the pond with the sculpture group of Apollo's Chariot and the terraces of the Château will be restored in the first phase of work. The second phase will involve the Etoile Royale and the great forest walks (Bailly, Tuileries). The detailed programme will be announced when the works are launched in the spring.

This operation will be realised thanks to the sponsorship of Colas.

• Restoration of the Latona Fountain

Work begins in 2011

Budget: €6.5m

Historical Monuments architects: Pierre-André Lablaude

THE RESTORATION OF THE LATONA FOUNTAIN, situated along the main axis of the gardens of Versailles, will be the first major work on the fountains, masterpieces of the gardens of the Sun King. This programme is the most extensive restoration planned in the park in the five years to come.

SITUATED ALONG THE MAIN AXIS OF THE GARDENS OF VERSAILLES, the Latona Fountain illustrates the legend of the mother of Apollo and Diana protecting her children from the insults of the peasants of Lycia and imploring the vengeance of Jupiter, who then transformed the peasants into frogs, tortoises and lizards. The present pyramid-shaped composition of the fountain is the work of Jules-Hardouin Mansart (1687 - 1689). It consists of four oval-shaped tiers carved from white and red marble. Each of the three lower tiers holds a basin in which lead frogs are grouped, while the bottom basin contains figures going through this metamorphosis. On the summit of the top tier is the statue of Latona flanked by her children, Apollo and Diana, copied from the work of the brothers Gaspard and Balthazar Marsy, dominating the composition and looking out towards the Grand Canal. At the foot of the pyramid and around it are figures of tortoises and lizards. Water plays in many different ways on the four different levels of this fountain.

LATONA FOUNTAIN

Lead sculptures:

15 tortoises (around the base)

15 lizards (around the base)

38 frogs (on all the tiers)

6 peasants in the process

of being metamorphosed

(on the lower tier)

Water effects: 76

44 spouts on the pyramid

2 sprays in the pond

30 spouts around the base

Flow: around 150 l/s

THE LATONA FOUNTAIN is the key element of the hydraulic system of the park of Versailles.

The water collected in its underground galleries also supplies the other fountains of the park, notably the central spout of the Bassin d'Apollon.

OVER THE CENTURIES, THIS DECORATIVE COMPOSITION has been maintained and repaired numerous times, notably in 1850. Today, the fountain has many defects in its different components and urgent work is required on its infrastructures, the fountain mechanism and the sculptures.

A LARGE FRENCH COMPANY has carried out a study of this project and should confirm its commitment in partnership with the Public Establishment in April.

• Restoration of the old marble and stone benches of the gardens of Versailles

Since July 2009

Budget: €190,000

Historical Monuments architects: Pierre-André Lablaude

THE GARDENS OF VERSAILLES CURRENTLY CONTAIN 170 marble or stone benches scattered around the 90 hectares of the Estate which are in perfect harmony with its sculptures. Over the years, they have accumulated different superficial blemishes (clogging, biological developments, etc.), as well as deeper defects (breakages, cracks or instability), necessitating cleaning or reinforcement work. A restoration programme, directed by Pierre-André Lablaude, Senior Architect for Historical Monuments, is now under way thanks to the generosity of sponsors and local authorities that «adopt» one or more benches.

TODAY, THE FIRST SERIES OF 50 MARBLE AND STONE BENCHES is being restored; two additional programmes of 80 benches will be launched in February.

SO 130 OF THE MOST DETERIORATED BENCHES, of the 170 benches in the Garden, that will be restored by September 2010 thanks to the «Adopt a bench» campaign.

APART FROM THESE RESTORATIONS, the château de Versailles will propose the adoption of new wooden benches (based on the old models) which will be installed in the Cour d'Honneur and the Cour Royale to enable visitors to sit down.

Part I – The works: Versailles, an immense construction site

MARLY, A NEW RESPONSIBILITY

THE CHÂTEAU DE MARLY WAS BUILT BY JULES HARDOUIN-MANSART FROM 1679 ON FOR THE LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF LOUIS XIV AND HIS FAMILY. THE ESTATE THEN CONSISTED OF A CHÂTEAU SURROUNDED BY TWELVE PAVILIONS DOMINATING AXES AND PERSPECTIVES. AT MARLY, THE KING GAVE HIS FULL ATTENTION TO THE GARDENS. THE LANDSCAPE OFFERED A VARIETY OF PERSPECTIVES AND THE MARLY «MACHINE» PROVIDED THE FOUNTAINS AN ABUNDANCE OF WATER THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE IN VERSAILLES. ALTHOUGH REGARDED AS AN ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL, MARLY AND ITS GARDENS WERE PROGRESSIVELY DESTROYED IN THE 18TH CENTURY. TODAY, ONLY THE OUTLINE OF THE PARK AND THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE PAVILIONS ARE STILL VISIBLE.

THE MARLY ESTATE

Since 1 January 2009 under the responsibility of the Public Establishment of Versailles

Total area:
98 ha

Area of the National Estate of Marly, listed as a Historical Monument:
53 ha

Forest land managed by the Office National des Forêts:
44 ha

CONCERNED TO PRESERVE the unity and coherence of all the park, in its historical, cultural, environmental and tourist aspects, the Public Establishment of the Museum and the National Estate of Versailles and ONF have signed an agreement. The Public Establishment will ensure the everyday management of the estate and its surveillance.

THE MARLY ESTATE also suffered during the great storm of 1999 when 1,500 trees were felled. The Public Establishment of the Museum and the National Estate of Versailles (Gardens of Trianon department) immediately drew up a «**management plan**» for the estate's regeneration and the restoration of certain traces thanks to the planting of 2,500 trees.

IN 2010, the senior architect of Historical Monuments in charge of classified sites, Mr Gabor Mester de Paradj, was also entrusted with drawing up a development plan for the restoration of the site which covers:

- the tree cover, by identifying the urgent needs
- the retaining walls
- the ponds, fountains and water supply facilities
- the restoration of the statuary in pursuance of the work initiated by SIVOM (intermunicipal body of Côteaux de Seine which has financed for several years a programme to restore the statuary (no original work remains in Marly).

Part I – The works: Versailles, an immense construction site

PERSPECTIVES OF THE 2ND PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

THE SECOND PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS DUE TO BEGIN IN 2010. THE FINAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE, THE SCHEDULE AND THE BUDGET ARE UNDER WAY. THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, IN CHARGE OF THIS PROGRAMME, WILL ANNOUNCE THE CHOICES MADE IN DUE COURSE.

THE ORIENTATIONS OF THIS PHASE WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

- **The conclusion of the modernisation of the technical infrastructures of the Château.**
- **The restoration** of the monument and its decors.
- **The restoration of the South Wing**

2010 - 2013: A PERIOD OF OVERLAPPING BETWEEN THE TWO PHASES

The three years to come will see an overlapping of the actions linked to the two phases of the development plan, as well as two additional operations:

- **Completion of the work on the Grand Commun**

Budget: €39m.

It has been decided to launch forthwith the works on the eastern side of the building.

The works are due to be completed in late 2012 to enable the grouping together of all the departments of the Public Establishment and the start of the work on the Pavillon Dufour and the old wing of the Château.

- **Restoration of the Water Tower built by Mansart** in symmetry with the Grand Commun.

Estimated budget: €13.5m.

The programme covers three areas:

- the restoration of the fountains' water supply
- the creation of reserve collection storage rooms for the architectural elements
- the creation of an air-conditioning facility supplying the air-conditioning units installed in the Grand Commun.

Discussions are under way on the execution method, either by the public contracting owner or by a public / private partnership. The current plans are for commissioning in 2013.

PART II

**THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE MUSEUM
AS A PEERLESS MONUMENT**

Part II – The redeployment of the museum as a peerless monument

THE ROYAL RESIDENCE

THE REFURNISHING AND FITTING OUT OF THE APARTMENTS

THE REFURNISHING AND FITTING OUT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY'S APARTMENTS WILL COVER THREE AREAS IN 2010:

- acceleration of the pace of the restoration and of **the presentation of numerous acquisitions made in recent years**,
- discussions undertaken by the curators with the assistance of Jacques Garcia on how to redistribute and complete the furnishing of the rooms based on a rereading of the inventories, with the idea of **offering visitors a better understanding of the functions of the rooms**,
- and lastly, close **collaboration**, already begun and promising, with **the Mobilier National** (state-owned furniture) **and the Musée du Louvre** for making exchanges.

THE ACQUISITIONS

THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES IS PURSUING ITS REFURNISHING POLICY initiated in the 1950s through numerous acquisitions. In 2009, the pace of acquisitions was maintained and numerous paintings, drawings, sculptures, pieces of furniture and objets d'art were added to the collections.

The acquisitions benefited from legal provisions on the protection of national treasures, the Heritage Fund and the generosity of numerous donors.

• The most important are:

- **The Carpet made by the Manufacture royale de la Savonnerie for the Royal Chapel of the Château de Versailles**

In 2009, the Fondation Total enabled the acquisition of a carpet made by the Manufacture royale de la Savonnerie for the Royal Chapel, a major work of the national heritage.

This carpet, the central piece of five carpets in the nave, is exceptional for its quality and its perfect state of preservation. This unique carpet, which shows no modification of its original state, did not escape the fate of the royal collections during the Revolution. It was probably given in lieu of a cash payment to one of the suppliers of the Directory and then sold by the latter. The carpet is now exhibited in the Salon d'Apollon

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Fondation Total.

- **Four chairs from the drawing room of the countess Du Barry**

These four chairs from the drawing room of the countess Du Barry, historic items classified as «National Treasures», have rejoined the collections of the Château de Versailles. They were the first chairs with a medallion-shaped back, a style that had great success in the history of French furniture. Bearing the marking of Louis Delanois, they formed party of a set of thirteen chairs, one of which was higher and intended for the King, delivered at the end of 1769.

The drawing room of the countess Du Barry also received thirteen armchairs, a large sofa and a screen, all covered in white satin framed in green satin and embroidered with silk for the summer and with velvet for the winter. In Versailles, according to the custom in the 18th century, the royal mistresses bought their own furniture. These chairs formed part of the personal furniture of the royal favourite. These four new chairs, added to the six already in the collections of the Château, will be returning to the drawing room for which they were designed.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the companies Ponthieu Rabelais, Financière de Tournon and Financière du Bac.

- Key of the grand door of the Chapelle Royale of the Château de Versailles

A magnificent key, said to have opened the grand door of the Chapelle Royale of the Château de Versailles, was bequeathed by Madame Munthe, in memory of Liliane de Rothschild, through the intermediary of the Société des Amis de Versailles. It corresponds indeed to the lock of this door, whose contours seem to have been determined by the very particular shape of the key's web. Ordinarily left open or simply closed, this door connects the lower vestibule to the nave of the Chapelle Royale and it is probable that the key was used only on rare occasions, or that its function was purely symbolic. It will be presented during the exhibition A Chapel for the King celebrating the tercentenary of the Chapelle Royale.

Legacy of Madame Munthe, via the intermediary of the Société des Amis de Versailles.

- *L'Amour tirant à l'arc* (Cupid Shooting an Arrow), a lead sculpture by Louis Lerambert, 1667 (one of the earliest statues commissioned for the park of Versailles)

In 1667, in the southern part of the gardens of Versailles, a circular basin was laid out in the centre of the Parterre des Fleurs (which was then called the Parterre de l'Amour). It was decorated with a lead fountain on the theme of Cupid. The execution was entrusted to Lerambert, who had already, between 1664 and 1666, sculpted twelve stone sloping pedestals for the enclosure of this Parterre des Fleurs, as well as a statue of a *Faun* for the Grand Rondeau. Thereafter, Lerambert was to produce six groups of lead statues for the Allée d'Eau (1669) and, in collaboration with Jacques Houzeau, the two *Sphinx portant des Amours* (Sphinxes Bearing Cupids) (1667-1668). Of all the works for Versailles executed by the artist, only these two Sphinxes have remained in Versailles. Apart from the rarity of the work, its principal interest resides undoubtedly in its origin in Versailles. The Parterre de l'Amour was entirely redesigned in 1684: *L'Amour tirant à l'arc* was then probably put into the king's storerooms and maybe sold off before 1694. Only the engraving by Lepautre, enabling it to be identified, has kept its memory. Its quite unexpected reappearance on the art market has allowed Versailles to recover the oldest lead sculpture from its gardens. Its technique is the same as that of the lead pieces in the Grove of the Labyrinth, executed in the 1670s. The sculpture of *Amour tirant à l'arc* is in a state of authenticity that is quite moving.

• Other acquisitions: :

- *Figure de Thalie*, muse of comedy, biscuit from the Manufacture royale de Sèvres, after Louis-Simon Boizot, circa 1785.
- **Lozenge-shaped tray**, porcelain from the Manufacture royale de Sèvres, probably from the first dinner service delivered to the countess Du Barry in 1769.
- **Two glass pails**, porcelain from the Manufacture royale de Sèvres, corresponding to the small service commissioned by the countess Du Barry in 1770.
- *Equestrian statuette of Louis XIV*, reduction of the statue commissioned from Etienne Le Hongre by the Etats de Bourgogne for Dijon, bronze, end of the 17th century.
- **Chest with the arms of the Comte de Provence**, prior to his marriage in 1771.
- **Commode**, by Pierre Denizot, delivered by Joubert for the apartment of the countess.
- *Plan of the Royal Opera house of Versailles*, by the office of Ange-Jacques Gabriel, circa 1769.
- *Vue de l'Orangerie et des escaliers des Cents Marches prise depuis la pièce d'eau des Suisses*, (drawing of the Orangerie) by Nicolas Martial Fouacier, watercolour, pen and brown ink and black chalk, 1773 (Martial Fouacier, architect, road works inspector and officer of Versailles and drawing master of Marie-Antoinette).
- *Anne d'Autriche, Marie-Thérèse d'Autriche et le Dauphin*, by Henri and Charles Beaubrun, oil on canvas, circa 1665-1666.
- **Two prints of the two cabinets of Louis XIV** with Gobelins hardstone marquetry by Domenico Cucci, circa 1683.

WORKS ON DEPOSIT AND EXCHANGES

THE NEW DIRECTOR BEATRIX SAULE DECIDED THAT THIS POLICY OF DEPOSITS AND EXCHANGES SHOULD BE AMPLIFIED AND SYSTEMATISED.

• The Mobilier National

SINCE 2008, THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MOBILIER NATIONAL AND THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF VERSAILLES has led to the former placing on deposit there a series of works originating in the Château. The Mobilier National placed the following works on deposit in 2009:

- **Pair of white marble, porphyry and gilt bronze vases**, by Valadier, purchased by the countess Du Barry in Rome (from of the Prefecture of the Yvelines department).
- **Large mahogany table** with lecterns from the library of Louis-Philippe in Versailles by Charles-Joseph Lemarchand. The King had a daytime office-apartment fitted out for him in the rooms of the old inner apartment of Louis XVI so that he could follow the ongoing work on the Museum of the History of France. The furniture consisted of Ancien Régime and modern mahogany pieces, notably the most practical items, such as this very large oval table with drawers underneath on which he was able to consult the plans and drawings of the architect Nepveu.
- **Two pairs of alabaster and gilt bronze girandoles**. These girandoles with branches imitating natural lilies were confiscated from émigrés during the Revolution. At Versailles, they had been placed in the Salon des Jeux (games room) of Louis XVI to replace those of a similar design placed by the King on the four corner tables made by Riesener. They were intended by the administration of the royal Garde-Meuble (furniture storage department) to preserve the room's atmosphere of luxury.

- **Pair of gilt bronze andiron** by Claude-Jean Pitoin. These andirons come from the apartment of Louis XVI at Fontainebleau and are identical to the models found in Versailles in the inner apartment of the King.

- **Five beds** from the late 18th century and the old royal Garde-Meuble. In order to restore their full splendour to the succession of rooms in the royal family's apartments, it is essential to be able to replace the beds; unfortunately, these very rich pieces of furniture have not survived. But it would be appropriate to place beds in these rooms which, though perhaps not quite as grand, would restore the volume of this central focus of a bedroom and display the decorative textile that formed its most spectacular feature.

- **Gilt bronze clock** «with architectural design» by Osmond, mechanism by Lepine, depicting two spirits crowning themselves, circa 1775; this model was used for several other clocks in the royal apartments of Versailles.

- **Mahogany games table** from the apartment of Louis XVI at Fontainebleau; after restoration, this table will be placed in the Salon des Jeux (games room) of Louis XVI which will be more extensively fitted out in 2010.

FURTHERMORE, THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF VERSAILLES AND THE MOBILIER NATIONAL HAVE FINALISED the project to deposit at the Château the large console from Marly, an exceptional piece designed by **Lepeautre for the vestibules in Marly**. This table was recently identified in the collections of the Mobilier National. It was intended for one of the vestibules of the central pavilion used by the royal family. The Château de Marly was built between 1679 and 1684, at the same time as the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles. As in the Hall of Mirrors, large tables with alabaster tops on a carved gilt wooden base adorned the vestibules. These wooden bases were probably designed by Pierre Lepautre (1652-1716), who played an important role in the design of the King's furniture and the diffusion of the royal taste in furniture, before obtaining the post of designer of the King's Buildings in 1699. Altogether, there were eight tables in Marly, two per vestibule, and it is the first of them that has been rediscovered. These large tables – over 2.60 m long – were associated with the large battlefield paintings by Adam Frans Van der Meulen which featured immense landscapes. This is the first gilt wooden piece of furniture used by Louis XIV to return to Versailles. The table will be presented in the Salon de Mercure near the clock with automata by Morand, delivered in 1708. So this state bedchamber will display two important works from the royal collections during the reign of Louis XIV.

• The Musée du Louvre

THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT IS ALSO COLLABORATING WITH THE MUSÉE DU LOUVRE for exchanges of works. The Louvre has placed on deposit the lyre-shaped Sèvres porcelain clock from the Salon des Jeux of Louis XVI, whose mechanism was made by the clockmaker Courieult. It now stands on the mantelpiece and helps to complete the refurbishing of this room. Moreover, Versailles has also received the deposit of 9 porphyry vases from the Hall of Mirrors, commissioned by Louis XIV in Rome in the 1680s: **this is a very important loan** which, after the restoration of the vases, will further complete the refurbishing of the Gallery.

THE REFURNISHING OF THE APARTMENTS

THE FIRST MANIFESTATIONS OF THIS NEW REFURNISHING POLICY CONCERN:

- **The Cabinet Doré (gilt small room) of the Queen** which, after the restoration of its decor in 2006, will thus recover its original furniture, notably the seats made by the joiner Georges Jacob. This very important ensemble, made up of four armchairs, a bergère, four chairs, two stools, a fire screen and a standing screen, was sold during the Revolution and bought by the imperial Garde-Meuble in 1810 for the Palace of Fontainebleau; it was finally identified there a few years ago. Its extraordinary carvings of flowers and ribbons along the jambs is characteristic of Marie-Antoinette's taste and of the virtuosity of the craftsmen working for Georges Jacob. The furniture will, as it was originally, be covered with green English velvet, the colour in fashion at this time, with gold trim. Moreover, the niche will recover its couch which is currently being restored, so that the room will soon have all its furniture, and notably this element which is the most comfortable of all. Lastly, in order to evoke the very numerous collections that the Queen kept in her room, some lacquer objects will be displayed on the tables.

- **The Grand Couvert (dining room) of the Queen**, for which Versailles wishes to reinforce the style of an apartment room on the eve of the Revolution by hanging the Gobelins tapestries featured in the inventories and by evoking the public meals served here.

- **The Salon des Jeux of Louis XVI** will have its games table put back to show the function of the room and the furniture will be completed with four chairs covered with crimson and gold brocade. The Mobilier National has supplied a games table and four candelabras which will enrich the furnishings of the room and improve the lighting.

A table lamp will take its place in the centre of the table of the «King's Game», a vast table 2.60 m in diameter, covered with green velvet trimmed with gold, whose presence will completely change the perception of the room.

THE RESTORATION OF THE DECORATIVE WORK

• The restoration of the major decorative work stands out as a priority:

- **The completion of the work on the Grand Couvert of the Queen** in autumn 2010.

The restoration of the paintings of the ceiling is finished, the work on the stucco has begun.

- **The restoration of the Salle des Gardes (guardroom) of the Queen.** This operation is a general restoration, involving the painted decor, the architecture (gilt stucco and gilt lead) and the lighting.

- **The restoration of the Salons** (Mercury, Abundance, Venus, Mars, etc.) of the Grand Apartment of the Queen and of the King which will be financed in the framework of the second phase of the development plan.

Part II – The redeployment of the museum as a peerless monument

THE HISTORY GALLERIES

THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES IS THE ROYAL RESIDENCE, WITH ITS APARTMENTS, GARDENS AND THE TWO CHÂTEAUX DE TRIANON, BUT ALSO THE HISTORY GALLERIES OF THE MUSEUM FOUNDED BY KING LOUIS-PHILIPPE, WHICH ARE NOW SPLIT UP IN A CONFUSING WAY BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH WINGS OF THE PALACE.

IN VERSAILLES, we call them the «History Galleries of Versailles», the name used Louis-Philippe, who distinguished between the royal apartments (gradually restored) and the galleries that presented the collection of iconographic paintings of the museum assembled under the July Monarchy.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT VERSAILLES wishes to assume this part of its cultural heritage identity by progressively making the history galleries accessible in a more visitor-friendly way. This enhanced presentation of the collections fits into the process of rehabilitating the North and South wings (Aile du Nord, Aile du Midi) which involves extensive work.

THE HISTORY GALLERIES

6,000 paintings,
portraits and historical scenes
1,500 sculptures
12,181 sq m dedicated
to the History Galleries

History collections
on-line at:
www.museumhistoiredefrance.fr

PROGRAMME FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE COLLECTIONS IN THE NORD AND SOUTH WINGS

IN 2009, THE MUSEUM HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH A COMMITTEE OF HISTORIANS ON THE HISTORY GALLERIES WHICH LED TO A MASTER PLAN FOR THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE COLLECTIONS, BOTH IN THE NORTH WING AND THE SOUTH WING WHERE CERTAIN AREAS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF VERSAILLES BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES IN 2005.

• In the North Wing

- **The history of the Château and its usages**, proposed as a prologue to the visit.
- **The Louis XIV rooms**: also forming an introduction to the visit of the Château.
- **A gallery devoted to «The Legend of History»** in relation with the Crusades and Africa rooms, to enable the visitors to understand the meaning of the Museum of the History of France founded by Louis-Philippe, a museum of the «recomposed memory» based on emblematic figures: Clovis, Charlemagne, Saint Louis, Jeanne d'Arc, François I, the last Valois rulers, Henri IV.

• In the South Wing

THE CHOICE OF THE 19TH CENTURY – or more precisely the period from the Directory to the Treaty of 1919 – imposed itself owing to the presence of areas that could not be used:

- **the line of rooms of the Napoleonic epic** (with recessed works), at garden level.
- **the Gallery of Battles leading to the 1830 room**, on the first floor
- **the room of the Congress of Parliament**, in the centre of the building.
- **the apartment of the Investiture** of the President of the Republic.

SO THE EXERCISE CONSISTS OF DISTRIBUTING THE WORKS in coherence with these historic locations. Apart from some rooms with wood panelling, the new spaces handed over to the Public Establishment are neutral, and their volumes are sufficient for a presentation of the collections of the 19th century, by far the richest and without equivalent.

The works will be shared out among:

- **the Napoleon Rooms** (on two levels): the Directory and the Consulate (15 rooms), the First Empire (13 rooms);
- **France of the 19th century** (1815-1919) (on two levels): the Restoration, the July Monarchy, the 1848 Revolution and the Second Republic (17 rooms), the Second Empire and the Third Republic (11 rooms of which 4 in the Investiture Apartment, with an opening on the Congress Room).

• In the Central section

- **The works illustrating the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI** will remain in place in the royal apartments where they are exhibited.
- **For the Revolution, the two major pieces of the collection** (*Le Serment du Jeu de Paume* [Oath of the Tennis Court] and *Marat assassiné* [the Death of Marat]) will be brought together in the Coronation room.

THE GALLERY OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHÂTEAU

THE FIRST PART OF THIS PROJECT consists of creating a line of rooms at garden level in the North Wing forming a **gallery dedicated to the history of the Château**, which will form an introduction to the visit.

THESE ELEVEN ROOMS, which will exhibit paintings and sculptures, as well as scale models and audiovisual and multimedia presentations, will develop the history of Versailles from the creation of Louis XIII up to the great restorations of our time. The stages in the construction of the Château and the layout of the gardens and the building of the Trianon palaces under Louis XIV and Louis XV, the life of the court and the discovery of intimacy in the 18th century, the departure of the royal family in 1789, the projects of Napoleon, the creation of the History Galleries of Louis-Philippe, and the occupation by the Assemblies in the 1870s will be evoked, as well as the renaissance of the monument and the birth of the myth of Versailles since the end of the 19th century. These rooms form an introduction to the visit of the Château. They will enable visitors to better grasp the connection between the residence and the museum.

A RESTRICTED INVITATION TO TENDER, to choose the principal contractor of the work for laying out the Gallery of the History of the Château de Versailles was launched in January 2010. The chosen candidates are:

- Canal architecture
 - Frenak et Jullien architectes
 - D.B.A. Sarl
 - Projectiles
 - Marianne Klapish
-

Part II – The redeployment of the museum as a peerless monument

A MONUMENT OPEN TO CREATIVITY

COMMITTEE

EPV

J-J Aillagon, *President*,
 P. Arizzoli-Clementel,
Managing Director, D. Sancho,
Heritage and Gardens
Director, V. Ciampini, *Works*
Manager, J. Cottin, *Chief*
Gardener, G. Mabile, *Senior*
Curator, A. Maral, *Curator*
for Sculptures, and J-P Bady,
Chairman of the Inventory
Committee for works of art on
deposit, M. Baridon †, *Emeritus*
Professor of the Université de
Bourgogne, V. Droguet, *Senior*
Curator, *Musée de*
Fontainebleau, E. Ducamp,
art historian, A. Goetz, *senior*
lecturer at the Sorbonne,
 N. Huron, *art historian*,
 P-A Lablaude, *Senior Architect*
of Historical Monuments,
 M. Mosser, *historian*
of architecture and gardens,
 D. Rykner, *Publication*
Manager, N. Tardivier,
representatives of the President
of the Louvre and D. Wirth,
President of Parcs et Jardins
de France.

FOR THE NORTHERN GROVES, THE CHOICE OF CREATIVITY

EVERY RESTORATION INVOLVES DELICATE AUTHENTICITY ISSUES that often divide specialists and heat up their debates: restore the site to one of its states under the Ancien Régime, opt for a later state, create something entirely new, etc. Many choices are possible when a historical garden like that of Versailles is involved. To debate these options, Jean-Jacques Aillagon brought together a committee of specialists in 2009. The conclusion of the work of this committee was a recommendation not to attempt to systematically restore a site to its Ancien Régime state when the surviving descriptions are too insignificant, and furthermore, not to systematically dismiss as of no interest the preservation of sections laid out in a 19th or even 20th century style. This led to the emergence of the idea that the garden of the Château could feature the harmonious coexistence of restored 17th and 18th century layouts, 19th century sections upgraded according to the current degree of deterioration of the vegetation, and contemporary designs that respect the general pattern that identifies each of the groves.

JEAN-JACQUES AILLAGON THEN PROPOSED that one of the groves of the Northern part of the garden, the Bosquet du Théâtre d'Eau (Water theatre grove), whose inner rooms are completely bare, be the subject of an invitation to tender from designers for the creation of a contemporary landscape design. For the implementation of this project, the Establishment is being advised by Guy Tortosa, inspector at the Mission Permanente d'Inspection, de Conseil et d'Evaluation de la Création Artistique of the Visual Arts Commission of the Ministry of Culture and Communication. As for the Bosquet l'Etoile (Sun grove), it will be restored according to the project drawn up by Pierre-André Lablaude ACMH, approved by the Historical Monuments administration.

A WORK FOR THE GABRIEL STAIRCASE

JEAN-JACQUES AILLAGON when he became President, spoke about his interest in securing a work of contemporary art for the Gabriel staircase. He entrusted Martin Bethenod, a member of the Visual Arts Commission of the Ministry of Culture and Communication from 2002 to 2004, and, since 2004, General Curator of the Foire Internationale de l'Art Contemporain (FIAC), with a mission to reflect on this issue and make proposals. This mission will submit its conclusions by the summer of 2010.

PHILIPPE COGNÉE

French painter born in 1957.
 Scholarship at the Villa
 Médicis in Rome in 1990,
 nominated for the Prix
 Marcel Duchamp in 2004.

A WORK FOR THE GRAND COMMUN

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE REGULATION REQUIRING A 1% ALLOCATION TO ART IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PHILIPPE COGNÉE WAS COMMISSIONED IN 2009 to produce a painted work that will be presented on the walls of two rooms of the first floor of the Grand Commun.

PART III

THE VISITORS

Part III – The visitors

IMPROVING THE RECEPTION FACILITIES

THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES KEEPS ATTRACTING MORE VISITORS (OVER 5 MILLION THIS YEAR) AND REGARDS THE QUALITY OF ITS RECEPTION FACILITIES AS A KEY PRIORITY.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE AILE DES MINISTRES SUD AND AILE DES MINISTRES NORD

• Aile des Ministres Nord

October 2009 - March 2010
 Historical Monuments architects: Frédéric Didier
 Architect: Frédéric Druot
 Design: Leonardo Sonnoli
 Budget: €1.9m
 Consulting firm: Alternet

THE AILE DES MINISTRES NORD, the wing around the forecourt of the Château de Versailles, consists of two pavilions built by the architect Le Vau in 1670 and a central section linking them built by Jules Hardouin-Mansart from 1678 on. Reincorporated into the Estate of Versailles in 2005, after being assigned to the parliamentary Assemblies since 1870, most of the areas involved are on the ground floor. They will house the reception facilities for guided visits and school visits.

BEGUN IN OCTOBER 2009, the refurbishment work is designed to provide comfortable reception facilities for these types of visitors, in compliance with the accessibility and fire safety standards, while guaranteeing the preservation and enhancement of the interiors imbued with history (panelled ministerial apartments of the 18th century). The Château de Versailles will thus provide school groups with appropriate reception facilities: cloakrooms, rest rooms, water fountains, and rooms for the preparation of the visit by the teachers and group leaders.

• Aile des Ministres Sud

October 2009 - June 2010
 Budget: €2.7m
 Historical Monuments architects: Frédéric Didier
 Architect: Frédéric Druot
 Consulting firm: Alternet

SIMILAR TO THE WORK ON THE AILE DES MINISTRES NORD, the project for the Aile des Ministres Sud concerns the courtyard-level floor and the mezzanine of the ground floor of the central section, likewise handed back by the parliamentary Assemblies in 2005. It will contain reception facilities and services for individual visitors.

SPECIAL ATTENTION will be paid to highlighting the architectural heritage of these historical interiors which have preserved part of the decorative features provided for the ministers who succeeded each other here during the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as the refurbishments of the late 19th century. Other works will be undertaken in parallel on the other levels to upgrade their fire safety aspects and their accessibility to all visitors.

LEONARDO SONNOLI

Italian graphic artist, Graduate of the Higher Institute of Industrial Arts of Urbino, and co-founder of CODEsign. His approach to typography is minimalist and experimental. Faithful to Mies van der Rohe, architecture is a key element of his work.

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE OPERATING THE VISITOR RECEPTION FACILITIES installed provisionally since 2006 in these areas (ticket counters, information desk, reception of guided visits), the work will take place in two phases: the western side of the central section will be completed in March 2010, and the eastern side in June of the same year.

WHEN THE WORK IS COMPLETED, the individual visitors will be provided with reception facilities covering 600 sq m, offering:

- six manual ticket counters and eight automatic ticket dispensers
- a cultural information desk
- waiting areas
- rest rooms, a family room with nappy-change amenities

AN ITALIAN GRAPHIC ARTIST, LEONARDO SONOLLI, HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED to work in this wing as well as the Ministres Nord wing to cover all the walls with iconographic and semiotic illustrations designed to draw the visitors into the world of Versailles and its history. The courtyard-level floor of the Aile des Ministres Sud is also allocated to the Réunion des Musées Nationaux which will open a large duty-free bookshop here in 2010.

FRÉDÉRIC DRUOT ARCHITECTE DPLG

notably realised between 1996 and 2001 works for the Centre Pompidou, then from 2001 to 2006 the Bons Enfants building project for the Ministry of Culture and Communication, the headquarters of TV5 Monde in Paris, exceptional installations for the opening of the Musée du Quai Branly, etc...

PURSUIT OF THE 'REST ROOMS' PROGRAMME

INSUFFICIENTLY EQUIPPED GIVEN ITS VISITOR LEVELS, THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF VERSAILLES LAUNCHED A PROGRAMME IN 2008 TO FIT OUT NEW REST ROOMS.

TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW FACILITIES FIT INTO THEIR SETTING HARMONIOUSLY as well as to provide a level of quality worthy of the Château de Versailles, specifications were drawn up by the architect Frédéric Druot. They are intended to harmonise the different rest room areas (types of flooring, ceiling, toilet equipment and fittings, lighting and accessories), all meeting different criteria such as user-friendliness, durability, hygiene, maintenance and cleaning facility, as well as resistance to vandalism. In 2010 the Château will provide 71 WCs and 19 urinals, compared to 24 WCs and 7 urinals in 2007. An appropriate number of rest rooms will of course be provided in the different sections for the disabled, as well as nappy-change amenities. The first phase of the rest rooms in the Gabriel has begun; the second phase (future women's rest rooms) will begin in June.

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A SPONSORSHIP THROUGH SKILLS, IDEAL STANDARD, a company specialising in the manufacture of ceramic rest rooms, baths, rest room plumbing and furniture, has freely provided the ceramic rest room equipment required for this programme.

THE COUR DES BOUCHES IN THE GRAND TRIANON

IN 2010, THE WING OF THE GRAND TRIANON, called Trianon-sous-Bois, occupied by the Office of the President of the Republic, and the sections used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will be reassigned to the Public Establishment of Versailles.

THIS WILL ENABLE the Public Establishment of Versailles to dedicate the ground floor around the Cour des Bouches courtyard to the improvement of the visitor reception facilities (control, cloakroom, ticket counters, rest rooms, shop, tea room, etc.).

Part III – The visitors

THE GENERAL CULTURAL MEDIATION TOOLS

THE AUDIOGUIDES

ON 1 APRIL a new universal audioguide service will be launched. The 45 minutes of commentaries in 10 languages (French, English, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and Korean) for the tour of the Grands Appartements will be revamped. By the end of the year, 3 hours of commentaries on all the visit circuits will be added. Three principal offers will be available: one for individuals, one for families and the third for disabled visitors. A further option will also be available for the visit in the peak season to the châteaux de Trianon and the Estate of Marie-Antoinette (the theatre, dairy, music pavilion, grotto, hamlet, etc.).

THE INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

IN 2009, A TOTAL OF 3,455,950 BROCHURES and leaflets were distributed to visitors, 67% in foreign languages. The direction-finding map of the Château and Estate is now available in 8 languages: French, English, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Mandarin Chinese. In the coming months, versions in Portuguese and Arabic will also be available to visitors.

NEW MEDIA

THE PORTAL, A NEW WAY OF VISITING THE CHÂTEAU

WWW.CHATEAUVERSAILLES.FR

IN JUNE 2009, THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES offered netsurfers an entirely revamped website. It was awarded the **First Prize at the Trophées de la Communication 2009** (category: «best website of the national institutions»).

VISITOR NUMBERS ARE GROWING REGULARLY, and the website recorded a total of 5,5 million visits in 2009. The average time spent on the website and the average number of pages consulted was multiplied by 5, encouraging indicators that the contents proposed correspond to what netsurfers are looking for.

• Event-led websites.

IN 2009 SEVERAL SPECIFIC WEBSITES dedicated to major events in Versailles (Courtly Pomp, Veilhan Versailles, Louis XIV, the man and the king) were put on-line to provide appropriate content and information for net surfers. For each of these events, the château de Versailles designed the most appropriate access to the contents.

For example :

- www.veilhan-versailles.com. **A blog on the preparation of the exhibition *Veilhan Versailles*** was entrusted to a young author who followed up the work of the artist throughout 2009 and shared anecdotes and photographs of the creation of the works and the setting up of the exhibition with the net surfers, as well as answering their questions.

- www.louisxiv-versailles.com. **For the first time, a virtual visit of all the exhibition *Louis XIV, the man and the king* was proposed.** Based on a 3D map and 36° images of the rooms of the exhibition, the net surfers could deepen their knowledge by clicking on the most important works. They were offered access to high definition images, video presentations of works by the curators, and images of restorations and of the installation of the exhibition. A clickable video, a technology used principally for on-line advertising, showed details of the masterpiece *Apollo Attended by the Nymphs*, presented by Jean-Jacques Aillagon. Associated with numerous viral contents posted on social networks, this complete virtual visit was made by nearly 400,000 on-line visitors.

• Educational tools

IN 2010, the emphasis will be put in priority on making innovative educational tools available on-line. The first phase proposes the creation of **participative educational workshops directly accessible in classes**. By setting up this service, Versailles wishes to offer schoolchildren a new form of participative distance learning involving direct exchanges with the Château. It draws on state-of-the-art technologies for collaborative on-line work.

THUS, THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE PUPILS AND THE GUIDE physically present in the Château is an important innovation that opens up new ways of experiencing and entering history in the school environment. The actual use of it will be a source of innovation: how will the guide make best use of this interactivity and the video exchanges that he will be controlling? How to establish a fruitful remote dialogue with the pupils in the class?

• Social networks

COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ON-LINE CULTURAL OFFERING, the château de Versailles wishes to ensure its widest possible dissemination and not to restrict it to the consultation of its website. The Facebook and YouTube pages are regularly supplied with content, and **the château de Versailles engages in dialogue with the forums** and the groups of fans of Versailles widely represented on the Web. In the same spirit, the Château has contacted several influential bloggers, these «Madame de Sévigné of our time», to enable them to discover the news and behind-the-scenes reality of Versailles.

• Photo competition on Flickr

TO MARK THE EXHIBITION «VERSAILLES PHOTOGRAPHED 1850-2010», the château de Versailles is highlighting the photographs taken by visitors, amateur photographers or lovers of the Château, by setting up a permanent exhibition space for creative photography. In this perspective, **a specific section has been set up on Flickr, dedicated to the community of on-line sharers of photos.**

Moreover, taking its inspiration from 19th century photography competitions, of which some images are presented in the exhibition, the public and net surfers are invited to take part in a photography competition entitled «Reflections of Versailles» from 26 January to 25 April 2010.

• Downloading of videos with iTunesU

A PARTNERSHIP WITH ITUNES UNIVERSITY also offers more than 200 audio and video files in eight languages in the form of podcasts to be downloaded freely. 250,000 downloads of videos presenting exhibitions, works, shows or major restoration projects are made every month.

THE MOBILE PHONE, NEW TOOLS FOR A BETTER INFORMED VISIT

• Mobile website

AFTER SETTING UP THE NEW WEBSITE WWW.CHATEAUVERSAILLES.FR, the château de Versailles launched in February its mobile website that offers its visitors all the information on the Château through their mobile phone. The creation of this website accessible on mobile phones complements and enriches the information available for enhancing their visit. It is designed for the specific needs of mobile consultation, notably the search for precise information and to suit the browsing modes of mobile terminals. Its attractive, intuitive and simplified user-friendliness enables rapid access to all the practical information on the Château, its calendar of events, as well as the cultural contents for preparing a visit or getting more details on the spot. It is accessible via its own URL – <http://mobile.chateauversailles.fr> - or by automatic detection by the mobile terminal.

• Versailleslab: a laboratory for experimenting with mobile technologies.

IN 2009, ORANGE AND THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES SIGNED AN AMBITIOUS PARTNERSHIP to set up a laboratory to carry out experiments on mobile technologies as backups for a visit: Versailleslab. The first phase of this partnership, an application for a visit to the gardens on iPhone, was tested in October and November with 200 visitors.

THIS APPLICATION GIVES ACCESS TO NUMEROUS AUDIO AND VIDEO CONTENTS on the gardens of Versailles and includes two innovative modules : **geolocation and augmented reality.**

- The geolocation application enables the visitor to receive automatically contextualized information on where he is and to access videos without having to enter a number as on a classic audioguide.
- Augmented reality mobile functions developed by Orange Labs enable visitors to open a virtual window on the gardens. They can thus receive information superimposed on the image filmed by the mobile.

A VERY SPECIAL EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO PRODUCE VIDEO CONTENTS accessible during the visit: the specialists of the Estate of Versailles (curators, architects, gardeners, fountain operators) receive the visitors to present an aspect of history, a detail of the decor, a significant perspective or aspects of the life of the Estate not visible to ordinary visitors, etc.

This multimedia application also offers other pre- and post-visit functionalities on the Internet. By logging on to the website www.versailleslab.com, visitors can prepare their visit and discover the experimentation principle before going to the Château. Afterwards, they can retrace their visit on the Internet, recover the photos they took during the visit and share them with their friends. After a large-scale test in the autumn of 2009, the application is currently being optimised before going on-line in spring 2010.

DIGITISATION OF THE COLLECTIONS, 3D

VERSAILLES HAS BEEN INVOLVED FOR SEVERAL in a vast campaign for the computerisation and digitisation of its collections. All its collections throughout the Estate are estimated to contain 60,000 works.

THE ON-LINE PRESENTATION TO SCIENTISTS and to the general public of all its collections is a priority for the Establishment. **60% of the collections are already digitised**, including remarkable series such as the prints of the Cabinet d'Arts Graphiques, the engravings of the albums of Louis-Philippe, and selections of images of the Life of the Court.

APART FROM THIS EFFORT FOR THE DIGITISATION and on-line accessibility of the collections, the Château de Versailles is also working on their presentation to the different types of net surfers and on the innovative uses that can be proposed. Scientific databases are proposed on-line in coproduction with the Réunion des Musées Nationaux :

- Versailles, its outdoor sculptures (<http://www.sculpturesversailles.fr>).
- The Hall of Mirrors – an iconographic catalogue (<http://www.galleriedesglaces-versailles.fr>)

A LARGE SELECTION OF WORKS from the history galleries of the château de Versailles is proposed to the public on the dedicated website: www.museehistoiredefrance.fr. The works are put into perspective by the curators of the Establishment.

LASTLY, THE VERY NATURE OF THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES invites the digitisation of its heritage from the architectural angle and the extensive use of technologies for 3D acquisition and modelling.

SO IN 2010 WE WILL BE PURSUING THIS DIGITISATION POLICY for the first floor and staircase of the Petit Trianon, and making the database of its furniture available on-line. The Research and Technologies department of the Ministry of Culture, which is providing backup for this 3D modelling project, is also enabling the Château to move on to the next phase of this project by proposing the reconstruction of the decoration and furnishings of these spaces during the 19th century.

PUBLICATIONS

SINCE 2009, A SUSTAINED PUBLICATION POLICY HAS COMPLETED AND ENRICHED THE CULTURAL OFFERING FOR VISITORS.

BOOKS

- *L'Opéra royal de Versailles*, Philippe Beaussant – Photos: Philippe Chancel, édition Xavier Barral, December 2009
- *Regard sur Versailles*, Francis Hammond (photos), Flammarion, October 2010
- *Rose Bertin, ministre des modes de Marie-Antoinette*, Michèle Saponi, collection «Les Métiers de Versailles», Perrin, October 2010
- *La Martinière, chirurgien de Louis XV*, François Iselin, collection «Les Métiers de Versailles», Perrin, October 2010
- *L'histoire de France par les collections du musée de Versailles*, Guillaume Picon, album, Larousse, October 2010

The exhibition catalogues:

- *Versailles photographié 1850-2010*, Karine McGrath, Art Lys, January 2010
- *Sciences et curiosités à la cour de Versailles*, Béatrix Saule, Catherine Arminjon, RMN, October 2010

GUIDES

- *Versailles «l'encyclopédie du voyage»*, new edition, Gallimard, February 2010
 - *Guide des jardins de Versailles*, guide de visite, Alain Baraton, Art Lys, March 2010
 - *Versailles pratique, aide à la visite*, L'indispensable, April 2010
 - *Visiter Versailles*, new revised and corrected edition, Béatrix Saule, visit guide, Art Lys, April 2010
 - *Le château de Versailles en aquarelles*, Valérie Bajou, Officina Libraria, June 2010
 - *Napoléon, Trésors du Château de Versailles*, David Chanteranne, Ouest France, June 2010
 - *Objective Versailles* (English version), Brunhilde Jouannic, Liliana Tinoco, guided visit, Actes Sud Junior, October 2010
 - *L'Opéra royal*, JP. Gousset, R. Masson, photographies, P. Tourneboeuf, Art Lys, Sept 2010
 - *Les chefs-d'œuvre de Versailles*, R. Masson, EPV-Art Lys
-

Part III – The visitors

TARGETED CULTURAL MEDIATION

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ALL YEAR LONG, guided visits on varied themes are organised for individual visitors, linked to the exhibitions, the restorations and the new acquisitions. In 2009, they were chosen by 200,000 individual visitors and 2,500 groups (by reservation).

THE THEMES RELATING TO THE CUSTOMS OF THE COURT, daily life in the Château, the outstanding historical figures and artistic techniques were the most popular guided visits. Visitors are also invited to rediscover the rich collections of the Museum of the History of France of Louis-Philippe on guided visits to the history galleries.

THE GUIDED VISITS TO THE RESTORED OPÉRA ROYAL have been a great success since September 2009, and more will be programmed in 2010. This year, to mark the tercentenary of the birth of Louis XV, a cycle of guided visits will enable visitors to become better acquainted with this king, a lover of art and science.

SPECIFIC VISITORS

DISABLED VISITORS

APART FROM THE NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES organised by the Specific Visitors Department (15,000 persons received in 2009), 2010 will feature :

- The final results of the **accessibility diagnosis of the site** for disabled persons, aimed at the progressive compliance of the Château with the standards, in the framework of the development plan.
 - The progressive availability of **new audioguide tools**, from 1 April, with technologies adapted to the needs of visitors with sensorial and visual disabilities (better user-friendliness of specific devices with a larger screen and backlit keyboard, etc.).
 - The new development of the 4 promenades for persons with reduced mobility in existence since 2007 in the gardens.
-

11 JANUARY 2010

For the social outreach programmes, organised with the Fondation Total
 700 persons received
 30 associations
 32 rounds of visits on the day
 2h visit per group

VISITORS REMOTE FROM MUSEUMS, SOCIAL OUTREACH

- 1-day training sessions for the cultural centres: these group leaders of social centre beneficiaries are allowed to provide commentaries for these visitors, with appropriate mediation tools.
- Creation of new «mirror» visits with other cultural institutions (Louvre, Cité de la Musique, immigration, architecture, etc.).
- Development of specific new initiatives, like the one held on 11 January with the Fondation Total, benefiting 700 persons living remotely from museums.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

- *Je colorie Versailles*, Ouest France, February 2010
- *Je colorie Louis XIV*, Ouest France, April 2010
- *Comment parler de Versailles aux enfants*, Nicolas Milovanovic, Le Baron perché, May 2010
- *Guide des visites en famille*, EPV-Actes Sud, English edition

SYMPOSIUM PUBLICATIONS

- *Jules Hardouin-Mansart*, CRCV
 - *Cultures matérielles, cultures visuelles dans les cours européennes*, CRCV-IRHS
 - *Cultures de Cour, culture de corps*, CRCV-PUPS
 - *Les Grandes Galeries européennes XVIIe-XVIIIe siècles*, CRCV - FMSH, Karine McGrath, Art Lys, January 2010
 - *La Galerie des Glaces de Versailles*, Les Rencontres de l'Ecole du Louvre, Karine McGrath, Art Lys, January 2010
-

PART IV

THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Part IV - The Cultural Programme

EXHIBITIONS

CURATOR

Karin McGrath, *Head of the archives department of the Versailles public corporation*

VERSAILLES IN PHOTOGRAPHS 1850-2010

26 January to 25 April 2010 – Galerie de Pierre Haute, North Wing

THIS EXHIBITION, BOTH A HOMAGE OF VERSAILLES TO PHOTOGRAPHY and a homage of photography to Versailles, is a unique opportunity to display the works of photographers who have marked the history of their art. A selection of over a hundred pictures, taken from the beginning of the technique right up to modern times shows the visitors the many facets of the Estate. As you progress through the exhibition, you will see different visions of Versailles, as only a photographer can show you: Versailles majestic or Versailles unstructured and fragile in times of war, a place rich in symbolism or a venue for political events or a museum.

CURATOR

Alexandre Maral, *curator at the Château de Versailles*

A CHAPEL FOR THE KING

(Tercentenary of the chapel of the Château de Versailles)

20 April to 18 July 2010 – Apartments of Mme de Maintenon

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROYAL CHAPEL IN VERSAILLES began in 1687 and was completed in 1710. The Chapel is undoubtedly the most accomplished, carefully planned part of the Château. Considerable financial help was granted to build it, in spite of France's participation in the war of Spanish succession at the time. **This exhibition will display many works, some of which have never before been shown, and visitors will have the great privilege of admiring a rare collection of liturgical furnishings presented by Louis XIV to the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.** These pieces of gold and silver plate and the ecclesiastical robes and altar cloths of exceptional quality bear witness to the sumptuous liturgies that took place in the Royal Chapel, while the pieces used in the Chapel itself have all but disappeared **IN THE ACCIDENTS OF HISTORY.**

ORGANISER

Laurent Le Bon, *director of the Pompidou Centre in Metz*

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Valérie Samuel – Arnaud Pain,
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MURAKAMI VERSAILLES

14 September to 12 December 2010 – Grand Apartments of the Château

THE JAPANESE VISUAL ARTIST TAKASHI MURAKAMI will be a guest of the Château de Versailles from 14 September to 12 December, for his first major retrospective in France. His works will be displayed in fifteen rooms in the Château. **Fifteen specific creations, mainly sculptures, some of which are monumental, will be displayed, along with paintings.** Born in 1962 in Tokyo, Murakami is one of the leading artists on the international scene. A press conference in the presence of the artist will take place at the beginning of June.

This exhibition is presented by the Château de Versailles with Qatar Museums Authority, in partnership with Doha Cultural Capital 2010.

CURATOR

Beatrix Saule, *General
Manager of the Château
de Versailles*,
Catherine Arminjon,
general heritage curator

SCIENCES AND CURIOSITIES AT THE COURT OF VERSAILLES

26 October 2010 to 27 February 2011 – Africa and Crimea rooms

THIS EXHIBITION WILL TRY FOR THE FIRST TIME to retrace the relations between Versailles and the sciences. Of course, scientific progress served the prestige of the sovereign, of course, scientific practice was very much the fashion in the 18th century, of course, the demonstrations before the Court were more like science-shows, but does that mean that we should scoff at the contribution of Versailles in scientific and technological progress?

SOVEREIGN POWER OVER THE SCIENCES CAME FROM VERSAILLES. The reigning authority could no more afford to ignore the importance of scientific research at that time than now. The creation of the Academy of Sciences in 1666 fixed a new agreement between the ruling authority and the scientists. The following year saw the creation of the Observatory, a scientific instrument in which the royal treasury invested huge sums of money, which was a major factor in solving the question of longitudes. This problem had strategic stakes analogous to those of the more recent research into the atom. Versailles was also a place for discussion: many scientists, including the most famous, were present at Court, especially if they were tutors to princes, health officials or engineers in the royal armies. Others came to give a demonstration before the King and Court, a supreme honour, equivalent to a Nobel Prize nowadays. This was a way to obtain subsidies to continue their work or to find outlets for their inventions. Some courtiers were also real scientists.

VERSAILLES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS TO CONTINUE ITS CONSTRUCTION. In return the estate offered resources for research: dissections of rare animals, the creation of research centres for botany, zoology and agronomics and the beginnings of veterinary medicine specialising in horses. For the royal children, new teaching methods were put into practice, using the latest tools resulting from research. The sovereigns also benefited from this personally. The instruments and scientific works in their collections, recognised as masterpieces of science, can be admired in this exhibition for their scientific and technical value.

THIS EVENT CONCLUDES A CLOSE SCIENTIFIC PARTNERSHIP IN A RESEARCH PROGRAMME. It will have the benefit of exceptional loans generously granted by the great partner institutions, that have come down from the royal foundations: the Academy of Sciences, the Paris Observatory, the Natural History museum, the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

Part IV – the Cultural programme

VERSAILLES, THE BEGINNINGS OF FRENCH DEMOCRACY

FROM THE FRENCH REVOLUTION TO THE PRESENT DAY, VERSAILLES HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARLIAMENTARY LIFE. FROM THE TENNIS COURT OATH TO THE CONGRESS OF THE 5TH REPUBLIC.

THE FIRST MEETINGS AT THE JEU DE PAUME

Democr@cy of opinion, From the Enlightenment to short-circuit democracy
18, 19 and 20 June – Salle du Jeu de Paume and amphitheatre of the Conference Hall at Versailles
(subject to confirmation)

IT WAS IN THE TENNIS COURTS (JEU DE PAUME) AT VERSAILLES on 20 June 1789, that the delegates of the Third Estate, with the addition of a few members of the clergy and nobility, made an oath not to separate until they had drawn up a constitution. The Tennis Court Oath is one of the foundations of our democracy. It is in this memorable place that Jean-Jacques Aillagon, Chairman of the museum public corporation and the Versailles estate, will inaugurate an annual series of meetings and open the Salle du Jeu de Paume for the first time for a debate and discussion on democracy today.

FOR THIS FIRST EDITION, THE APPROACH WE HAVE CHOSEN is the relationship between the new modes of communication and public speaking in a democracy. Polls, Internet, blogs, conventions, «Grenelle», direct expression from associations and public consultations, whether or not they are official institutions and media hype all change the order of political expression in a representative democracy. Do these new modes of communication enhance democracy at the beginning of the 21st century, or do they hinder it? It is a question worth debating. Political parties, voting methods, citizen representation by the elected officials and the like will not be on the agenda. These questions come under political theory and discussion, but they form the background of a situation that has been completely changed by new methods of communication which spread «short-circuits» almost everywhere.

THESE FIRST MEETINGS AT THE JEU DE PAUME were the initiative of Yves Michaud, a philosopher and organiser of the Université de Tous les Savoirs (an open university), created by Jean-Jacques Aillagon when he was chairman of the Millennium celebrations, and put together and now led by Yves Michaud.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Friday, 18 June at 11.00

- Inaugural conference on «democracy today»

Friday 18 June afternoon, 3 sessions

- The Tennis Court Oath and its posterity
- Polls and how they are used: what impact?
- Referendum and public consultations, democratic or demagogic?

Saturday 19 June, afternoon, 3 sessions

- The Conventions, «Grenelle», citizens' assemblies, the role of associations and lobbies
- Do the media reflect public opinion?
- Internet: Democracy at a time of mass self-communication

Sunday 20 June at 11.00, the anniversary of the Tennis Court Oath, final session in the «Parlement» hall at Versailles, where the National Assembly meets in conference to vote changes to the Constitution.

- Questions on democracy

PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO SPEAK:

Monique Canto-Sperber, philosopher (moral and political philosophy), director of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, **Maneul Castells**, professor, Chair of Technology, Communication and Society at the University of Southern California (Los Angeles) and Director of the Interdisciplinary Internet Institute for the Catalonia Open University (Barcelona), **Daniel Dewavrin**, former director of the UIMM 1999-2006, company manager, **Pap N'Diaye**, historian, **Luc Ferry**, philosopher, former minister, **Geneviève Fraisse**, philosopher, former member of the European parliament, **Daniel Innerarity**, professor of political philosophy, director of the Institute of Democratic Governance at the University of the Basque Country, **Laurent Joffrin**, editor of the Libération newspaper, **Jack Lang**, former minister, constitutionalist, Deputy for the Pas de Calais department, **Thierry Ménissier**, philosopher, professor of political philosophy at the University of Grenoble, **Yves Michaud**, philosopher (political philosophy), manager of the Université de tous les savoirs, **Nina Mitz**, CEO of Financial Dynamic France, **Catherine Tasca**, former minister, Senator for the Yvelines department, **Brice Teinturier**, Managing Director of the market survey company TNS Sofres.

France Culture is partnering this programme and will be broadcasting the discussions.

SPECIAL 14 JULY EVENT

14 July from 11.00 to 16.00 – the park of the Château de Versailles

FOR THE 14 JULY CELEBRATIONS, the Château de Versailles is organising the third grand meeting of the people of the Republic. This year the dress code is simple: white. There will be a picnic on the banks of the Grand Canal in the Great Park. This 14 July will be a day of Grandes Eaux Musicales in the Great Park.

Part IV – the Cultural Programme

ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSIC

TWO ORGANISERS, THE CENTRE DE MUSIQUE BAROQUE DE VERSAILLES (A PARTNER ORGANISATION), DIRECTED BY HERVÉ BURCKEL DE TELL, AND CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES SPECTACLES (A SUBSIDIARY OF THE CHÂTEAU), DIRECTED BY LAURENT BRUNNER, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MUSIC PROGRAMME IN THE CHÂTEAU. BOTH OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENT IN ALL THE AREAS OF THE ESTATE.

IN THE GARDENS

THE GRANDES EAUX DE VERSAILLES

THE GRANDES EAUX DE VERSAILLES (including the Grandes Eaux musicales, the Gardens and the Mardis Musicaux (music on Tuesdays) and the Grandes Eaux Nocturnes) were very popular in 2009. Over a million visitors came to these events to admire the formal gardens and the hundred-year-old fountains.

The Grandes Eaux musicales

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Saturdays and Sundays from 3 April to 31 October, plus Friday 2 April, Thursday 13 May, Friday 14 May and Wednesday 14 July 2010. Tuesdays from 25 May to 29 June 2010.

Discover the fountains and groves and their water jets gushing in time to the music. There are several routes for you to appreciate the many masterpieces contained in the gardens. As the inheritors of Versailles, it is up to us to perpetuate the arts in this marvellous estate by giving pride of place to the works that were created here over two centuries. The music for the Grandes Eaux Musicales is directed by Christophe Rousset, with his ensemble «Talens Lyriques», an enthusiast of baroque music. He has chosen extracts from operas by Lully, Desmarest and Rameau: overtures, chaconnes, passacaglia and dances.

The Jardins Musicaux

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Tuesdays 4, 11 and 18 May, and Friday 14 May, and from 6 July to 28 September, 9.00 to 17.00

To enjoy the gardens to the full, the groves and conservation areas in the grounds of the Château are accessible on certain Tuesdays from May to September, when you can stroll through the formal French-style gardens laid out by Le Nôtre, with musical accompaniment, among the many statues that line the paths, and wander into the shady conservation areas carefully maintained by the Versailles gardeners.

Saturdays from
19 June to 28 August,
21.00 to 23.30

The Grandes Eaux Nocturnes

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

At nightfall, the gardens of Louis XIV are transformed into a journey of sound and image. Visitors can see the ponds and groves bathed in water and in light, a festival of movement and colour. This year is no exception. Artists will take over the gardens to make them sparkle with a thousand lights and other astonishing artefacts: from the water effects in the Bassin au Miroir, to the laser beams decorating the Colonnade grove with stripes, or the spectacular crushing of the giant Enceladus. Parade Design will unfurl an imaginary pathway through the Girandole and Dauphin groves. Groupe F will cover the Tapis Vert with monumental flames and put on a firework display in front of the Grand Canal to end the evening, to the sound of masterpieces of French Baroque music performed by Reinhard Goebel and his orchestra Musica Antiqua Köln.

Saturdays from
19 June to 28 August,
50-minute
performances
at 18.45 and 19.45

Serenade

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Just before the Grandes Eaux Nocturnes, visitors can tour the King's apartments to the accompaniment of a serenade, reminiscent of the flamboyant reign of Louis XIV. Amidst the golden splendour and the reflections of the Hall of Mirrors, in the dying rays of the setting sun, visitors are invited to hear an ensemble of baroque musicians and watch the ball dancing in the style of the Grand Siècle.

THE VERSAILLES FESTIVALS – THE NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN AT NIGHT

THE NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN AT NIGHT was a great success in 2009. There were 70,000 spectators at the concert by the French singer Christophe, the recital by Roberto Alagna, the performance by Angelin Preljocaj, Snow White and the Groupe F creation, the firework display Cyrano de Bergerac and the Empires of the Sun.

24 June

Handel's «Music for the Royal Fireworks»

A Spiritual Concert – Hervé Niquet – Fireworks by Groupe F

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

The famous «Firework Music» was composed in 1749 by Handel for the festivities in honour of the Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle on the request of King George II, to accompany a huge firework display on the Thames. Handel was by then extremely popular in England, and the sumptuous music he composed was a great success. Some 80 musicians performed the masterpiece in the open air. For this unique concert at Versailles, Hervé Niquet and his troupe of «blowers» will be accompanied by the firework genius of Groupe F.

29 June

-M-

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Mr Mystery will be giving an exceptional concert at the Neptune Fountain on 29 June before 7,000 people. -M- alias Matthieu Chedid, the colourful composer of «le Roi des ombres» (King of the Shadows), the title song of his 4th work, comes from the Chedid family, who were artists from all horizons.

3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18
September

The Royal Wedding of Louis XIV

Spectacle pyrotechnique - Groupe F - Création

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Three hundred and fifty years ago, in 1660, the young Sun King abandoned his ladylove and began a journey through the French provinces to reach Pheasant Island on the Spanish border, where he was to wed the Infanta of Spain. The magnificent royal cortege comprised over a thousand people, and the journey was an opportunity for the daring young King, then aged 22, to win the admiration of his subjects. This firework choreography by Groupe F represents the royal personage entering towns, attacking ramparts and enjoying princely ceremonies.

AT THE OPERA

THE ROYAL OPERA HAS REOPENED after two years of renovation work to improve security. Throughout the year a regular programme of music will revive this majestic setting.

7, 9, 11 and 13 February

Mozart/Da Ponte: Don Giovanni

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Opéra Fuoco - David Stern - Yoshi Oida

6, 7, 13 and 14 March

Molière/Lully: Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Le Poème Harmonique - Vincent Dumestre - Benjamin Lazar

28 and 30 March

Mozart / Da Ponte: The Marriage of Figaro

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Soloists, choir and orchestra of the Rouen-Haute Normandie Opera

Oswald Sallaberger - Stephan Grogler

2 June

Bach: Brandenburg Concertos

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Les Musiciens du Louvre - Grenoble - Marc Minkowski

9 and 10 June

Vivaldi / Rebel: The Four Elements – The Four Seasons

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin - Cie Sasha Waltz

16 June

Era la Notte

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Monteverdi: from the Lamento d'Arianna to Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda

Anna Caterina Antonacci - Les Siècles - Juliette Deschamps

20 June

Homage to Rameau

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Alexandre Tharaud, piano

24 September

The Italians in Paris. At the beginnings of French opera

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Sandrine Piau, Karine Deshayes, Les Paladins - Jérôme Correas

25 September

Spiritual concert during the revolutions. Symphonies and sacred stories

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Magali Léger, Mathias Vidal, Alain Buet, Les Eléments - Joël Suhubiette,

Le Cercle de l'Harmonie - Jérémie Rhorer

17 October

Two lyric comedies – For the Royal Music Academy

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

La Simphonie du Marais - Hugo Reyne, *direction*

Bénédicte Tauran, Isabelle Druet, Raphaël Pichon, Romain Champion, Aimery Lefèvre

30 November, 4 and 5 December

**N New production of the ballet Don Juan by Glück
and Les Petits Riens by Mozart – The new art of dance in the Enlightenment**

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Les Siècles, the baroque dance company L'Eventail – François-Xavier Roth, musical director

Marie-Geneviève Massé, choreographer, Antoine Fontaine, set designer and creator of the painted backdrops, Olivier Bériot, costumes, Hervé Gary, lighting

19 November

A Pastiche of Mr Campra – Through his Italian music

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

La Risonanza – Fabio Bonizzoni, clavichord and conductor – Roberta Invernizzi, Cyril Auvity, Salvo Vitale

12 December

El Cancionero de Don Luis – Enthusiasms and Quarrels

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Claire Lefilliâtre, Isabelle Druet - Le Poème harmonique - Vincent Dumestre, *guitar and conductor*

17 December

**Recreation of Lully's last unpublished opera, Bellérophon
A heroic tragedy to the glory of the Sun King**

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Emiliano Gonzalez Toro, Céline Scheen, Ingrid Perruche, Jennifer Borghi, Evgueniy Alexiev, Jean Teitgen, Robert Getchell.

Chœur de chambre de Namur, Les Talens Lyriques - Christophe Rousset, *conductor*

IN THE CHATEAU, AT TRIANON

17 February – Hall of Battles

Mozart: Mass in C Minor

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Chœur de l'Orchestre de Paris - Orchestre National d'Ile de France

22 March – Hall of Mirrors

Arie di Bravura du Castrat Caffarelli

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Airs from operas extracts from Handel's *Serse e Faramondo*

Max-Emanuel Cencic - I Barocchisti - Diego Fasolis

25 September – Lower Hall

Virtuoso Sonatas – by the great violinists in the reign of Louis XV

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Leila Schayegh, Jörg Halubek

26 September – Marble Courtyard

The golden age of the Vingt-Quatre Violons du Roi Royal music from the reigns of Louis XIII and Louis XIV

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Capriccio Stravagante - Les Vingt-quatre Violons - Skip Sempé

3 October – Galerie des Cotteles

Sunday at the Trianon

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

11.00: The art of transcription – Fragments of opera for clavichord

12.30: Tastes reunited – France and Italy reconciled under the pen of Marais, Couperin and Forqueray

15.30: Italian Cantatas – Voice and cello in modern times

17.00: French Cantatas – Voice and viol in the grand tradition

4 and 4 October – Hall of Mirrors

From courtly Europe to courtly India – a history of opera-ballet

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Carolyn Sampson, *dessus*. Freiburger Barockorchester - Gottfried von der Goltz, *violin and conductor*

6 November – Hall of Battles

Scenes from tragedies – At the Queen's concerts

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Les Nouveaux Caractères - Sébastien d'Hérin, clavichord and conductor

Sophie Marin-Degor, Nicolas Cavallier

8 to 14 December

At the court of Henri IV - Commemoration of the death of the King: 1610 - 2010

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

8 December – Hall of Battles

Grand ball at Court - *A concert to dance*

Véronique Bourin, Douce Mémoire

Denis Raisin Dadre, bombard, dulcian, flutes and conductor

Compagnie Il Ballarino - Bruna Gondoni and Marco Bondoni, dancers

14 December - Hall of Battles

Courtly airs for the King's chamber - *Music for privacy*

Véronique Bourin, Serge Goubioud, Douce Mémoire - Denis Raisin Dadre

THE CHAPEL

8 September

Claudio Monteverdi: *Vespro della Beata Vergine* (1610/2010: 400 years)

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Monteverdi Choir - English Baroque Soloists – Conducted by Sir John Eliot Gardiner

21 December

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Christmas Oratorio*

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Collegium Vocale de Gand - Concerto Köln - Conducted by Marcus Creed

22 December

Georg Frederich Handel: *Messiah*

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra - Conducted by Harry Christophers

21 January (anniversary of the death of Louis XVI)

Luigi Cherubini: *Requiem to the memory of Louis XVI*

Programme by Château de Versailles Spectacles

Choeur Accentus - Orchestre de l'opéra de Rouen - Conducted by Hervé Niquet

9 October

The last sacred masterpieces – For the Chapelle de Louis XV

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Robert Getchell, Jean-François Novelli, Marc Labonnette

Les Pages et les Chantres du Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles - Olivier Schneebeli

Orchestre des Musiques Anciennes et à Venir - Dominique Serve

16 October

Little motets – Voices of piety

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Les Folies françaises - Patrick Cohën-Akenine, *violon et direction*

Benjamin Chenier, François Poly, André Henrich, François Saint-Yves.

Jean-François Lombard, Jean-François Novelli, Arnaud Marzorati

4 November 2010 to 26 May 2011 - Every Thursday during term time, at 17/30

Music on Thursday at the Royal Chapel

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Recital by the pages and chantres of the CMBV (Versailles Baroque Music Centre)

and organists of the Paris CNSMD, Conducted by Olivier Schneebeli

28 November

The new Chapel at Versailles in 1723 - Grand motets

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Chœur de chambre de Namur - Les Agrémens - Guy van Waas, *conductor*

8 to 14 December

At the court of Henri IV - Commemoration of the death of the King: 1610 - 2010

Programme by Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

11 December – Royal Chapel

Henri IV: the king of reconciliation - *Return to ecclesiastical peace*

Les Pages, les Chantres et les Symphonistes of the Versailles Baroque Music Centre

Olivier Schneebeli, *conductor*

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT SHOWS
AND CONCERTS
ON THE PROGRAMME
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Appointments to the post of organist at the Royal Chapel

Michel Chapuis, organist at the Royal Chapel, has requested a discussion about who is to succeed him. He is to be appointed honorary organist. Jean-Jacques Aillagon has suggested that the charge of organist should be given to four musicians, as it was in the Ancien Régime. Four organist-teachers of international renown have just been appointed for a period of four years:

- **Michel Bouvard**, concert performer, organ teacher at the CNSM (Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique) in Paris, organist on the Aristide Cavallé-Coll organ in the Saint Sernin basilica in Toulouse,
- **Frédéric Desenclos**, concert performer, organ teacher at the Orléans conservatoire and musical director of the Ensemble Pierre Robert,
- **François Espinasse**, concert performer, organ teacher at the CNSM in Lyon, and organist at the church of Saint Séverin in Paris,
- **Jean-Baptiste Robin**, composer, organist on the historic François-Henri Clicquot grand organ in Poitiers cathedral, organ teacher at the Versailles regional conservatoire.

On 6 June, these four great performers will be at Versailles all day on the organ in the royal Chapel.

June 2011

Venice Vivaldi Versailles

The Château de Versailles and Naïve are forming a partnership for a magnificent event at Versailles, on the occasion of the publication of the complete works of Vivaldi.

For two weeks, concerts will take place at the Château de Versailles with the great performers of Vivaldi's music. Philippe Jaroussky, Jean Christophe Spinosi, the European creation of Vivaldi's Chinese opera «Teuzzone» by Jordi Savall, and other talented artists will take over the Hall of Mirrors, the Royal Chapel, the Royal Opera and the gardens. Recordings and broadcasts will enable a huge audience to take part in these wonderful concerts.

At the same time, a nocturnal show will be presented on the Grand Canal: Vivaldi's masterpieces, decorated gondola and fireworks will be on display to an audience of 10,000 every evening.

Finally, at midnight on Saturdays, the Orangerie will be the venue for a Masked Ball on the theme of the Venice carnival for 2,000 guests.

This project is organised jointly by the Château de Versailles Spectacles and Naïve.

Part IV – Cultural programme

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES RESEARCH CENTRE ORGANISES COLLOQUIA AND STUDY DAYS.

THIS ORGANISATION AIMS AT CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND TRAINING on the places and expressions of power as represented at Versailles and in Europe, mainly in the 17th and 18th centuries. Life at Court is seen from all angles, from how power was exercised to the structure and functioning of church institutions, including customs and attitudes, the circulation of men and ideas, the development of arts and science, the design of palaces and gardens and the significance of ceremonies, festivals and entertainments.

THE CENTRE RECEIVES FRENCH AND FOREIGN RESEARCHERS who work together on research programmes approved by their scientific committee.

AMONG THE ACTIVITIES THE RESEARCH CENTRE ORGANISES AND HOSTS COLLOQUIA, STUDY DAYS AND SEMINARS, SOME OF WHICH ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Study day: *Saint-Simon politics*

6 March, Château de Versailles auditorium

Saint Simon cycle, with the Saint Simon society

Study day: *Exhibiting contemporary art in historic monuments*

7 October, Paris, Institut National du Patrimoine (National Heritage Institute)

International colloquium: *On Henri IV: figures of power, artistic exchanges*

17 – 20 November

organised with the collaboration of the University of Paris Pantheon-Sorbonne, the Paris National Institute of the History of Art, the Louvre museum and the Château de Versailles auditorium

Colloquium: *Joseph Werner and the miniaturists at the Court*

2 and 3 December, Paris and Versailles

(Scientific direction: Andreas Bayer / Collaboration: German Centre for the History of Art) Paris, German Centre for the History of Art, and Château de Versailles auditorium

APPENDICES

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES IN FIGURES

FINANCING EVENTS

**BENEFACTORS OF THE CHÂTEAU
DE VERSAILLES 2009-2010**

VERSAILLES – PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Appendices

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

LOUIS XIV TRANSFORMED AND EXTENDED THE FORMER HUNTING PAVILION OF LOUIS XIII and commissioned huge renovation works, begun in 1668. Fourteen years later he installed the seat of the Court and the Government of France. Although the residents left the château in the Revolution, it continued to be maintained. In 1793, the Convention opened the Château to the public. Louis-Philippe turned it into a museum of the History of France in 1833.

MORE THAN A HUNDRED ROOMS BEAR WITNESS TO THE SPLENDOUR OF THE FORMER ROYAL RESIDENCE, while another hundred, covering over ten thousand square metres, are historical galleries.

IN ADDITION TO THE THREE MAIN RESIDENCES, the Château, the Grand Trianon and the Petit Trianon, the Versailles estate includes the baroque gardens laid out by Le Nôtre, the gardens of the Grand Trianon and the Marie-Antoinette estate, as well as wooded parkland on either side of the Grand Canal. Many other buildings and outbuildings are also included.

LISTED ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE REGISTER, a former royal residence and a history museum, the Château is also a national palace where the Parliament sits when in Congress. It was in the Congress room, under the 3rd and 4th Republics, that the Presidents were elected. Now that the head of state is elected by universal suffrage, the National Assembly and the Senate only meet there to revise the Constitution.

BY DECREE OF 27 APRIL 1995, the Château de Versailles was granted the status of public administration, under the supervision of the Culture Ministry. This is to further essential tasks such as conservation, scientific research and developing the collections, buildings and gardens, education, training and research in history, history of art, museography, music and performing arts. This status also confers a greater autonomy in the management of the estate, enabling it to commission renovation work, improve the visits and maintain a cultural programme worthy of the place.

THE VERSAILLES PUBLIC CORPORATION intends to remain an important venue for cultural creation and events. Each year it presents exhibitions, colloquia, publications and shows in the Royal Opera, the Chapel or the gardens, involving big names in music, theatre and dance.

AS PART OF ITS CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS, THE PUBLIC CORPORATION OF THE MUSEUM AND THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF VERSAILLES IS COMMITTED TO:

- preserving, protecting and restoring on behalf of the State, and managing, developing and presenting to the public the cultural items that is part of the collections listed on the inventories of the national museum of the Châteaux of Versailles and the Trianon, and of its annexes, for which it is responsible, and the estate made up of the buildings which it owns or uses, according to the terms and conditions in article 7;
 - helping to extend the national collections through the acquisition of cultural items, on behalf of the State, either against payment or for free;
 - ensuring, in the châteaux, museum and estate for which it is responsible, and by all appropriate means, the reception of as many visitors as possible, increasing the number of visitors, furthering knowledge of the estate and the collections therein, designing and implementing educational courses and means of dissemination to ensure that culture is equally accessible to all;
 - conducting scientific studies of the collections, the architecture of the buildings and the gardens;
 - contributing to education, training and research in the fields of history, history of art, museography, music and other performing arts;
 - organising shows and especially concerts, plays or ballets in the châteaux, the museum and the estate.
-

Appendices

THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES IN FIGURES

The Château

Total area: 63,154 m² including:

- 36,671 m² for the museum, including:
 - 7 420 m² for the Royal Opera
 - 12,181 m² for the historical halls and galleries
 - 23,072 m² open to visitors (free or guided tours),
- 2,300 rooms
- 1,944 windows in the Château.
- 18,000 m² of glass surface
(windows, glass roofs and walls, mirrors)

The Petit Trianon

Total area: 1 458 m²

The Grand Trianon

Total area: 8 528 m²

The North Ministers' Wing

Total area: 5 951 m²

The South Ministers' Wing

Total area: 5 803 m²

Outbuildings in town

Total area: 56 000 m²

Outbuildings on the estate

Total area: 48 000 m²

The Versailles estate

Total area: 787 hectares including:

- 4 hectares for the Place d'Armes
- 431 hectares for the Grand Parc
- 96 hectares for the Trianon estate
- 77 hectares for the gardens and groves (Petit Parc)
- 39 hectares for the Swiss Pond
- 66 hectares for the Mortemets land
- 24 hectares for the Grand Canal
- 53 hectares for the Marly estate

Plant structures in the gardens

- 350,000 trees on the estate
- 40 km of tree-covered walks
- 32 hectares of lawns
- 43 km of paths
- 23 km of trelliswork
- 700 topiaries in 67 different shapes
- 6 000 trees regularly pruned
including 1,886 lime trees along the Grand Canal
- 300,000 flowers planted each year
by the gardeners, including 260,000 grown
in the estate greenhouses
- 1,500 trees in tubs in the Orangerie,
including 900 orange trees.

Open-air statues

- Sculptures in the Petit Parc
(including vases, bowls, pedestals, statues,
relief work, masks, busts, candelabra, capitals
and groups), including:
 - 235 vases
 - 155 statues
 - 86 sculpted groups

The effects of the storms of 1990 and 1999

- 1,500 trees cut down in February 1990
- 10 000 trees blown down in December 1999

Ponds and fountains

- 55 fountains and more than 600 with special effects
- 35 km of hydraulic pipe systems
(90% in cast iron and 10% in lead)

The Marly Estate

- 53 hectares in total
- 8,3 km of paths
- 2 320 m² of old buildings
- 1 557 trees
- 185 topiaries
- 1 234 trees for replanting

The collections

- 60,000 works, including:
 - 7,000 paintings,
 - 6,000 old books,
 - 4,000 pieces of furniture,
 - 2,900 sculptures, including 400 outside,
 - 2,500 artefacts,
 - 800 frames, 28,000 engravings,
 - 1,330 drawings,
 - 1,200 vehicles and accessories.
- 2,374 works lent by the château de Versailles to other institutions
- 4,295 works lent to the château de Versailles by other institutions

Number of days rooms were open in 2009

- 305 open days for the tour of the Grand Apartments
- 316 open days for the Grand and the Petit Trianon

Number of visitors in 2009

- 5.4 million visitors
- Nearly 3.5m brochures and leaflets of which 67 % were in foreign languages
- 8 languages for the layout of the estate and documents to help with the visits
- 5 000 audio-guides available in 10 languages

Staff

988 people in total, including 607 civil servants, 142 contract workers and 229 temporary staff, 10 apprentices

Internet

- 400,000 visitors to the virtual exhibition Louis XIV, the man and the king (since 20 October 2009)
- 250,000 videos downloaded per month from the website of the château and on iTunes-U
- 20% of the individual passports sold in 2009 were purchased online
- 4.7bn visitors in 2009 to the site www.chateauversailles.fr
- 61.5 % of the collections have been digitalised, or 41,334 works

Maintenance

- 23,000 light bulbs per year
 - 2,500 litres of wax per year
 - 600 rolls of paper towel per month
 - 200 litres of liquid soap per month
 - 50,000 m² of surfaces regularly cleaned
 - 300 tonnes of waste per year, produced by the visitors
-

Appendices

FINANCING THE EVENTS

BY DECREE OF 27 APRIL 1995, the Château de Versailles was granted the status of public administration, under the supervision of the Culture Ministry. This status confers a greater autonomy in the management of the estate, enabling it to commission renovation work, improve the visits and maintain a cultural programme worthy of the place. Until 2009, the Public corporation of the museum and national estate of Versailles did not receive any operating grants. The Corporation's own resources (admission fees, patronage and partnerships, concessions, renting out rooms and financial products) represented half of the consolidated earnings.

EXECUTED BUDGET IN 2009 (IN €M)

OPERATING	Expenses	Income	
Payroll for EPV on own funds	14,2	Own funds	46,7
Everyday operations	30,2	Operating grants	5,6
Payroll state employees	20	Payroll state employees	20
Other	5,8	Autres recettes	3,8
Total operating expenses	70,2	Total operating income	76,1
Profits	5,9		
Self-financing capacity	7,9		

CAPITAL	Expenses	Resources	
Investment work (development plan)	29,3	Self-financing capacity	7,9
Restoration of collections	1,49	Own resources	6,5
Current investments	17,7	Investment grants	25,8
		Contra for developing collections	6,5
		Deduction on working capital	1,9
Total investment expenses	48,6	Total resources	48,6

NB: amounts of investments carried over from 2008 attached to 2009 budget: €19.8m, of which €12.8m for works.

STATEMENT OF THE INCOME FOR 2009

INCOME IN THE PUBLIC CORPORATION IN 2009 AMOUNTED TO A TOTAL OF €94.9BN. IN 2009:

- Own resources amounted to €55.1m
- Operating grants amounted to €5.6m
(compensation for free admission to 18-25-year-olds and teachers)
- Investment grants were €25.8m.

OWN RESOURCES

INCOME FROM ADMISSION FEES

THIS REPRESENTS A SUM OF €35.8M, down by about 11% from 2008. This decrease is due to the implementation on 1 April 2009 of free admission to people aged 18-25 residing for a long time in a member state of the European Union, and teachers. Online ticket sales began in January 2009 and increased throughout the year to reach an accumulated turnover of €2m. One individual visitor out of five now buys his pass via this new outlet. An initial advertising campaign «Buy one pass, come in for two» in November gave promising results and others will take place in 2010.

INCOME FROM BENEFACTORS

THIS REPRESENTED A SUM OF APPROXIMATELY €8.6M FOR 2009. The figure is down from the outstanding sum reached in 2008 (€16m) but was a considerable backup for the various areas of activity in the corporation during this year marked by a difficult economic situation. For the reopening of the Royal Opera on 21 September 2009, there was an excellent reaction from the patrons (42 of them) allowing us to attain the sum of over € 300,000.

MORE THAN €2.8M ARE SET ASIDE FOR RESTORATION WORK carried out in the Château and the Gardens. We note in particular the contribution from the Monnoyeur Group (€1m) for the restoration of the roofs in the central building, that of Martell & Co (€200,000 in 2009), and the generosity of private benefactors and companies for the restoration of statues and benches in the grounds (108 statues since the beginning of the campaign and 50 benches adopted, for a total sum of €2.7m).

OTHER RESOURCES FROM BENEFACTORS (€3.7M) HAVE BEEN DEVOTED MAINLY TO THE CORPORATION'S POLICY OF ACQUIRING WORKS, INCLUDING:

- a rug from La Savonnerie commissioned by Louis XV for the nave of the Chapel, acquired thanks to the patronage of the company Total (€2 m),
- chairs from the salon of the Comtesse du Barry (€1.2 m out of a purchase value of €1.680 m).

FINALLY IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS have continued to attract companies and have enabled us to collect nearly €1.2m.

LES CONCESSIONS

IN 2009 CONCESSIONS AMOUNTED TO NEARLY €4.2M.

The fact that this income has remained stable is linked to the profitability of the sales franchises, particularly the catering services, which have expanded considerably in the past few years, with two new outlets opening in 2008 and 2009 (*Grand Café d'Orléans* and the *Angéline* tearoom in the Petit Trianon), and the «Réunion des Musées nationaux» sales outlets.

SALES INCOME FROM RENTING OUT VENUES

THIS SECTION OF THE CHÂTEAU'S INCOME has decreased significantly, more than two thirds down from 2008. This decrease is of course due to the world economic crisis. Prospects for 2010 are looking better, in view of the pre-bookings already registered for 2010, and the Corporation is counting on better profits in this sector.

GRANTS

OPERATING GRANTS

THESE AMOUNTED TO €5.6M, INCLUDING:

- €4.9m from the Culture and Education Ministries, to compensate for the free admission policy voted at the beginning of 2009;
- €150,000 to finance maintenance and running costs in the Marly estate.

CAPITAL GRANTS

THESE AMOUNTED TO A TOTAL OF €25.8M IN 2009. THEY INCLUDE:

- The grant from the Culture Ministry to finance the works programme in the development plan: €22.8m;
 - The grant received in 2009 as part of the recovery programme: €2.4m, to finance renovation work on the Grand Commun.
A further payment of €0.6m will be granted in 2010.
 - The Corporation has also received two grants from the Seine Normandie water agency and the Conseil Général des Yvelines, to finance work to collect rainwater, totalling €384,500.
-

BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2010 (IN €M)

OPERATING	Expenses	Income	
Payroll for EPV on own funds	15	Own funds	46,4
Everyday operations	28,9	Operating grants	6,45
Payroll state employees	21	Payroll state employees	21
Other	2,8	Other	1,37
Total operating expenses	67,7	Total operating income (Payroll state employees)	75,2
Profits	7,5		
Self-financing capacity	8,93		

CAPITAL	Expenses	Resources	
Investment work (development plan)	26,9	Self-financing capacity	8,93
Restoration of collections	1,6	Own resources	1,71
Current investments	4,8	Investment grants	16,75
		Deduction on working capital	5,8
Total investment expenses	33,2	Total resources	33,2

SIMPLIFIED PRICING SYSTEM

PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID TO THE PRICING SYSTEM, which must be comprehensible and coherent for the visitors. Prices have therefore been re-examined and simplified since January 2010. The important part played by ticket sales in the overall budget has led to an online ticket sales system, managed directly by the Château de Versailles.

NEW RATES FOR 2009

Passport: €18: Château, Trianon, Marie-Antoinette's Estate, Grandes Eaux Musicales (April-October), exhibitions, audio-guide for the Château in 10 languages (3 languages for the exhibitions)

Château ticket: €15 (€13 from 15.00 bought at the Château). Includes audio-guide (same as for the passport)

Châteaux de Trianon and Marie-Antoinette's estate: €10 (€6 from 16.00 bought at the châteaux). **Yearly season ticket:** €30

Yearly season ticket: Château, Trianon, Marie-Antoinette's estate, Grandes Eaux Musicales, exhibitions, audio-guide: €50

Free admission: all year for residents of an EU state who are under 26 years of age and for all visitors on the first Sunday in January, February, March, November and December.

All year, access to the gardens is free except on days of the Grandes Eaux Musicales.

A full list of exemptions is available on www.chateauversailles.fr

Annexes

LES MÉCÈNES DE VERSAILLES 2009-2010

ENTREPRISES

ADA BTP
Al Hiso
Ariodante
Astem
Audition Conseil
Austin & White
AZ Diffusion
BETC-Euro RSCG
Boss Protection
Bucephale Finance
Butard Enescot
Capcime
Chanel
Château Fombrage
Château Margaux
Ciments Calcia
Clear Channel
Cofiroute
Colas
CP Immo
Créations Métaphores
Dammann Frères
EG Investissement
EGL Concept
Equiteam
Erco
Euro-Strat
Eurotunnel
Financière de l'Ile
Financière d'Urfé
Fleur de Mets
Four Seasons Hôtel George V
Galerie Didier Aaron
Galerie Christian Deydier
Galerie Hopkins-Custot
Generali France
GNC Media, Global Network
of Culture
Groupe Bruxelles Lambert
Historical Experience
Houlès
Ideal Standard
Juan Pablo Molyneux Studio
Kubota
KPMG
Lacour
La Française des Jeux
Lenôtre
Léon Grosse
Les Jardins du Roi Soleil
Lomarec

LVMH
Marché Biron
Martell & Co
Meljac
Moët Hennessy
Monnoyeur
Montres Breguet
Nexans
Novem Consulting
Nutrimetics
Orange
Oxileo
Philippe Villin Conseil
Prada Retail France
Raynier Marchetti
Robert Paysagiste
Saint Clair
Saint Gobain
Saur
Searl - Docteur Hervé
Sem Espaces Verts
Société Européenne
de Production
Sogefibre
Soletanche Bachy
Sotheby's
Tamron
Total
Tungstene Creation
Vincent Guerre
Vincent Rusé Conseils
Vinci
Xerox

FONDATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, COLLECTIVITÉS PUBLIQUES

American Friends of
Versailles
Club Essec Beaux Arts
Conseil Général des Yvelines
Conseil Régional Nord-
Pas de Calais
Département de la Charente
Maritime
Département de la Moselle
Département de l'Orne
Fondation Heydar Aliyev

Fondation Annenberg
Fondation EDF
Société des Amis de Versailles
Versailles Foundation
Ville de Versailles
Ville du Chesnay
World Monuments Fund

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Appendices

VERSAILLES – PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

Public corporation of the museum and national estate of Versailles

RP 834 - 78008 Versailles Cedex

OPENING HOURS

• The château

Open every day, except Mondays and some public holidays.

In summer (1 April to 31 October)

9.00 to 18.30 (last admission 18.00)

Off season (1 November to 31 March)

9.00 to 17.30 (last admission 17.00)

• The gardens

Open every day

In summer (1 April to 31 October)

8.00 to 20.00

Off season (1 November to 31 March)

8.00 to 18.00

• The châteaux de Trianon and the Marie-Antoinette estate

Open every day, Except Mondays and some public holidays

In summer (1 April to 31 October)

12.00 to 18.30 (last admission at 18.00)

Gardens evacuated from 19.00

And close at 19.30

Off season (1 November to 31 March)

12.00 to 17.30 (last admission at 17.00)

• The Marly estate

Open every day, in summer,

(1 April to 31 October) 7.30 to 19.30

off season (1 November to 31 March)

8.00 to 18.00 - Free access

ACCESS

SNCF trains Versailles-Chantiers

SNCF trains Versailles-Rive Droite

RER Versailles-Rive Gauche

Bus 171 Versailles Place d'Armes

Motorway A13, 1st exit: Versailles Château

People with disabilities can be dropped off by car or taxi near Entrance H in the Main Courtyard.

CONTACTS

Château de Versailles

Information, bookings - tel: +33 (0)1 30 83 78 00
www.chateauversailles.fr

Château de Versailles Spectacles

Information and tickets - tel: +33 (0)1 30 83 78 89
www.chateauversailles-spectacles.fr

Château de Versailles research centre

tel: +33 (0)1 30 83 76 76

centrederecherche@chateauversailles.fr

Information and registration for colloquia:

tel: +33 (0)1 30 83 75 12 - fax +33 (0)1 30 83 77 49

colloques@chateauversailles.fr

http://chateauversailles-recherche.fr/

Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles

Information - tel: +33 (0)1 39 20 78 10

Bookings - tel: +33 (0)1 39 20 78 00

www.cmbv.fr