



Chambord

Nouveaux jardins à la française

New French formal gardens



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In 2017, the château of Chambord is replanting its 18th-century French formal gardens.

Between the reign of Louis XIV and the Marshal de Saxe's visits to Chambord in the mid-18th century, the château's immediate surroundings were transformed through significant terracing, hydraulic works, and landscaping. The marshy environment that existed during Francis I's time gave way to a tamed space that echoed the building's magnificence. The French formal gardens designed in 1734 were a key feature of this transformation.

These gardens, which gradually fell into disuse after the Revolution, were finally reduced to simple lawn parterres in 1970. This marked a transition period that lasted more than 40 years.

In 2000, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication began discussions on how to treat the château's surroundings, in particular the replanting of the gardens based on what existed during the 17th and 18th centuries. Many different solutions were considered: reinterpretation of the lost gardens, a pure restoration, or an evocative contemporary design.

The National Estate of Chambord chose an authentic restoration of the only structured and completed gardens that ever existed on the property. Sixteen years of documentary research, geophysical and archaeological surveys, and landscape and architectural studies were needed to re-establish the layout of the parterres, the pathways, and the quincunxes of trees from the mid-18th century as faithfully as possible.

This large-scale project, which is an issue of cultural heritage, history, esthetics, and landscaping, was approved in principal by the President of the Republic when he visited Chambord in December 2014 and scientifically approved by the National Commission of Historic Monuments in January 2015. It was made possible thanks to the patronage of Mr. Stephen Schwarzman, an American philanthropist committed to the preservation of universal cultural heritage.



On March 20, 2017, after seven months of work, visitors will be able to (re)discover the joys of strolling and contemplation in the heart of the château's French formal gardens.

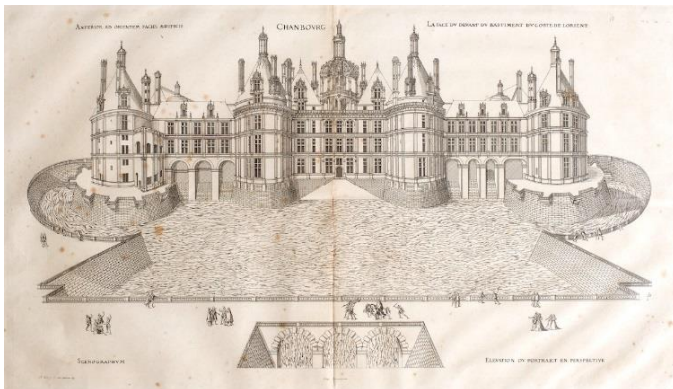
These gardens, seamlessly linking the château and forest, will restore the majesty of the monument's distinguished facade.

I - HISTORY

1 - The Château's Surroundings in the 16th Century

Francis I's primary concern when Chambord was constructed was taming the Cosson, the river that crosses the estate from east to west. The Cosson's meandering waters created a hostile, marshy environment around the château that "in no way echoed the magnificence of the château" (Jacques Androuet du Cerceau, 1576). The king considered regulating the flow of the river across the entire estate and diverting some of the water from the Loire, just a few miles away from the site, to the château. These projects, however, never came to pass. There is therefore no [known] project for creating a Renaissance garden at Chambord during the time of Francis I.

However, illustrations show the existence of a small garden enclosed with a palisade close to the monument off the Chapel wing. It was likely an erstwhile vegetable garden, belonging to the former château of the Counts of Blois or an old priory. Finally, a 17th-century diagram shows traces of a previous, larger garden on the northeast side whose design and purpose are difficult to determine.



Chambourg. Face of the Front of the Building from the Eastern Side.
Engraving by Jacques Androuet du Cerceau, 1576.
Collection of the National Estate of Chambord, CH/41/0414.

In this engraving, we see a large pool at the base of the château of Chambord's north facade, as well as a bridge over a canal. It is likely the fantasized representation of Francis I's great Loire diversion project, which was never carried out.



Marshy landscape in front of the château.

Return to the Château during a Squall
Pierre-Denis Martin, oil on canvas,
circa 1722–1724.
Collection of the National Estate of Chambord,
CH/41/0415.

2 - The Major Projects of the 17th Century

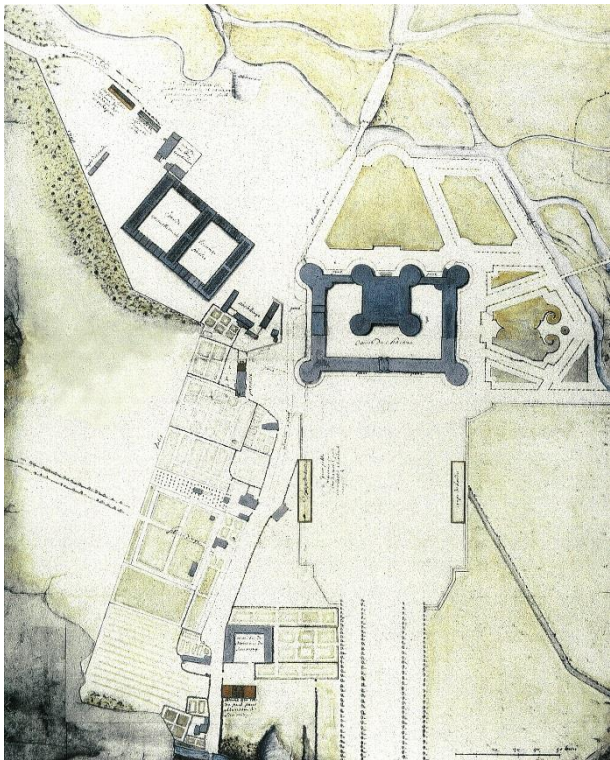
It was not until the reign of Louis XIV that major projects were undertaken to landscape the areas around the château.

The Sun King ordered the planting of French formal gardens in front of the building's grand facade. Two projects were proposed to the king by Jules Hardouin-Mansart and his agency. One presented a half-

hexagon-shaped area on the northeast side of the château and stables planted with three triangular gardens and bordered by the canalized Cosson river on one side. The château was surrounded by wide moats. In front, the parterre continued with two flowerbeds and the Cosson river canalized into the shape of a half moon. The second project, though quite similar, presented a less geometric canal design. The path of the Cosson was regulated but it followed the curves of its original course. The parterres occupied the same north and east spaces but over less area (they no longer occupied the area behind the stables). Their shape also differed slightly, particularly to the north where their structure appeared trapezoidal. It was the second project that was partially implemented, as shown by the geophysical surveys carried out in 2014.

The first phase of the projects, started in around 1684, consisted of banking up the earth around the monument to raise it to a level that would flood less, or not at all. Retaining walls were then built to encircle this artificial terrace, first on the moat side of the château and then at the west and southeast ends. Finally, the canalization of the Cosson was undertaken to follow the contours of the parterre.

The current structure of the space gradually took shape. However, work was quickly halted.



Project for landscaping the château's surroundings, around 1682. showing the work
A.D. 41, 58Fⁱ 387.

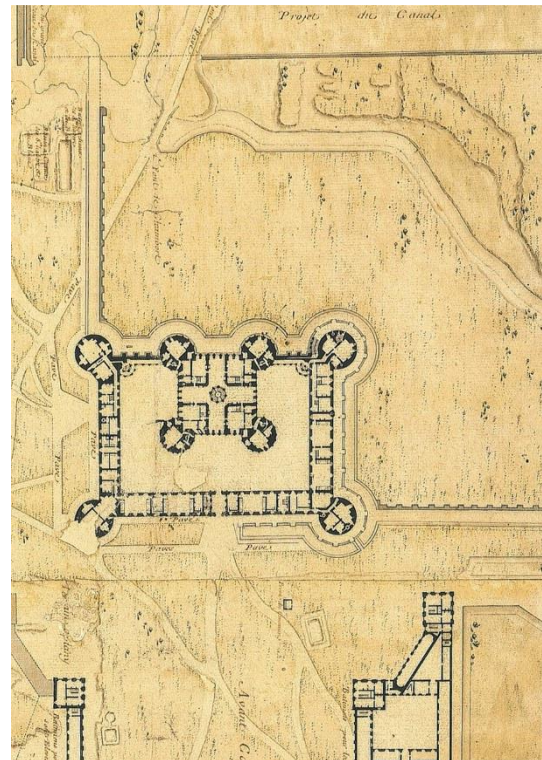


Diagram of the château's surroundings in 1693 that had already been done. BnF, GE C-4776.

3 - Completion of the Parterre in the 18th Century

Work started again whilst Stanislas Leszczynski, King of Poland, was at Chambord (1725–1733). He alerted the Bâtiments du Roi, the department responsible for building works for the royal estate, to the nuisance caused by the continued presence of the swamps surrounding the château (especially the malaria epidemics that spread through his retinue during the summertime). Starting in 1730, La Hitte, the controller of the Bâtiments du Roi assigned to Chambord, coordinated the continuation of the work initiated under the reign

of Louis XIV: the installation of bridges (including the bridge that links the parterre to the château) and dykes, the raising of the walls of the artificial terrace and the depositing of additional soil on the terrace to make it level with the walls, and the cleaning and widening of the Cosson to create a canal.

A garden “in the French style” was then planted over 6.5 hectares, according to a drawing completed in 1734. A gardener was hired to continue planting and to maintain it: Jean-Baptiste Pattard, who had been formerly employed on the terracing of the parterre.

“[...] the garden was then planted and the château, which had theretofore been sitting in a swamp, was made all the more brilliant because of it.”

Excerpt from the general holdings inventory requested for the maintenance of the château of Chambord in 1742.
Manuscript preserved in the French National Archives, O¹ 1325, pièce n°166, fol. 3r.



Other View of the Royal Château of Chambord from the Parterre, engraving by Jacques Rigaud, 1748.
Collection of the National Estate of Chambord, CH/41/0062.

Starting in 1745, the château and its estate were made available to the Marshal General of France, Maurice de Saxe, by King Louis XV. He occasionally visited Chambord between 1746 and 1748, then stayed there continuously until his death [at the château] in 1750. Improvements to the garden continued during this period thanks to the further planting of boxwood trees, chestnut trees, and hornbeam bowers, in addition to the installation of plants and trees in containers along the garden’s pathways (250 pineapple trees, 121 orange trees, 1 lemon tree, and 1 lime tree were mentioned in the 1751 inventory).

A portion of the parterre was redesigned several years later when the estate was made available to the kingdom’s stud farm. The two beds of east lawn were divided lengthwise to create four squares, with a well used to mark the center of the composition.

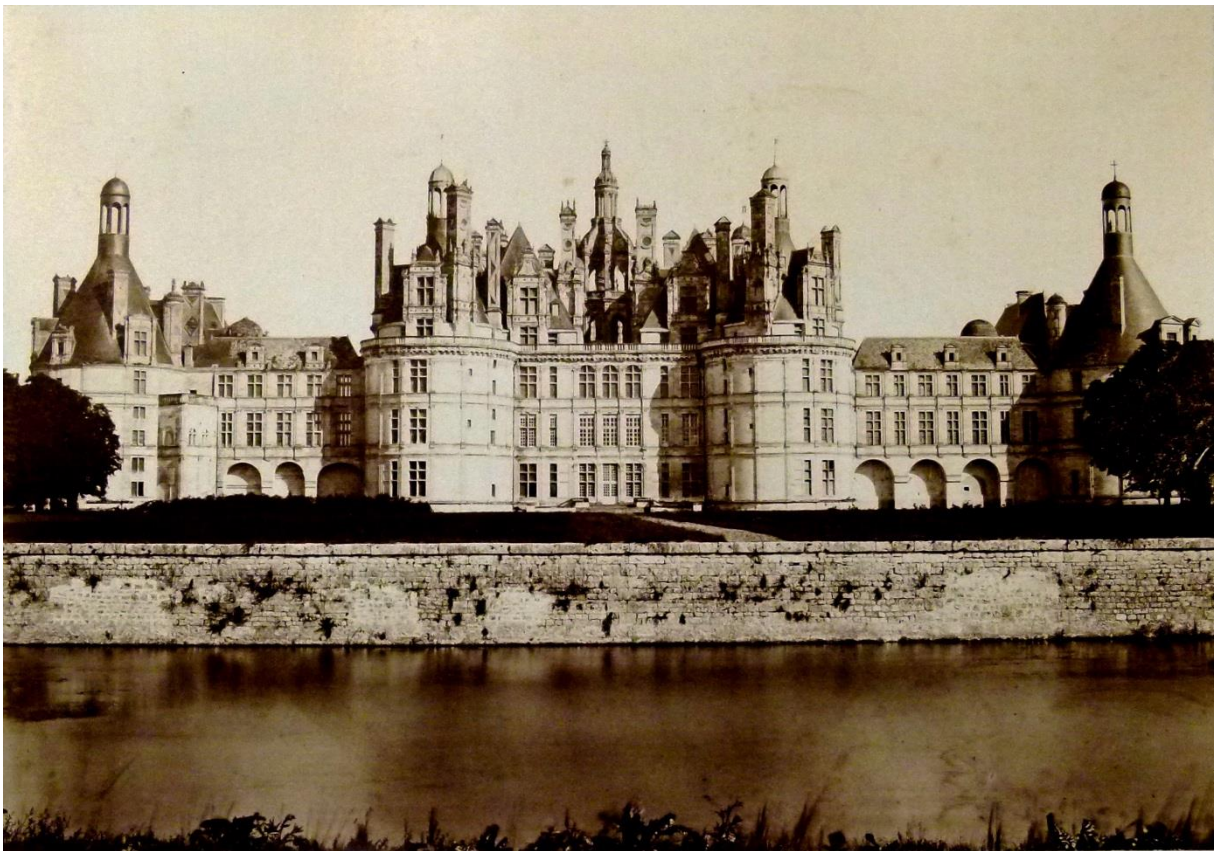
4 - The Steady Disappearance of the Garden

Once the Revolution started, the garden suffered from a lack of maintenance. In 1817, a condition report of the Chambord estate showed that the trees and shrubs were no longer “trimmed,” the pathways were overgrown with weeds, and the flowerbeds, which had once been full of flowers, were planted with fruit trees or left uncultivated. As for the château’s moats, they had dried up and been partially turned into a vegetable garden!

Between the 19th century and 1930, the Chambord estate became the property of Henry, Duke of Bordeaux, the grandson of Charles X, then his nephews, the princes of Bourbon-Parma. During this period, the garden was kept according to a simplified structure: all that remained were the beds of lawn, the sand-covered pathways, and the rows or copses of trees that required little maintenance. A complete replanting project was entrusted to the famous landscape architect Achille Duchêne but was never carried out.

Finally, the last known landscaping step: the parterre was divided into large rectangles of meadow in the 20th century. A row of tall trees remained to the west and certain pathways were marked with yew topiary, shrubs, and rose bushes in front of the château’s facade.

In 1970, all of it was taken out, keeping only the lawn. Two years later, the moats were refilled. This “transitional” landscaping lasted until the 18th-century French formal garden replanting project, which was started in 2016.



Château of Chambord. Grand facade. Photograph by Séraphin-Médéric Mieusement, 1868.
Collection of the National Estate of Chambord, CH/41/0641.

II - SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

1 - A Methodical and Scientific Investigation

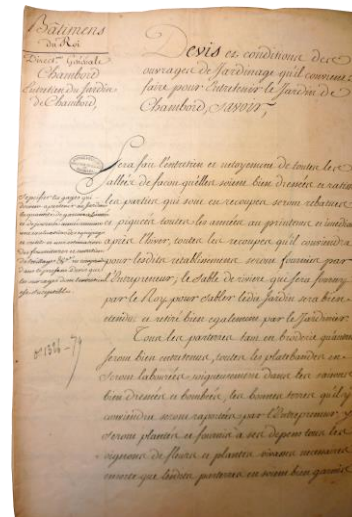
The replanting of Chambord's French formal gardens required the prior analysis of available historical resources in order to bolster the project. This investigation led to examining both archives and engravings, comparing them with terrain features uncovered by archaeological and geophysical surveys or a more systematic excavation.

A preliminary study was completed in 2003 by Patrick Ponsot, the head architect for Historic Monuments at the Ministry of Culture, to evaluate the appropriateness of replanting the 18th-century French formal garden. The aim was to take stock of the historic knowledge of the gardens, enabling visitors to explore the château in a different way. Though no outcome came of it, this study nevertheless showed that the immediate surrounding areas of the château had not always looked like a vast stretch of lawn.

2 - Historical Research (2003–2014)

Since the château of Chambord belonged to the royal estate, it was managed by the *Bâtiments du roi* from the 17th century. This department, which was tasked with building works and landscaping, left important written traces of its activities. The hiring contract for the gardener during the 18th century, the payroll of the craftspeople, and even the work directives and reports written by the king's building inspectors make up as many clues that needed to be collected and compared with other illustration-based and archaeological sources.

In addition to the manuscript archive documents, diagrams and figurative representations of the château's surroundings were also compiled. On one hand, they revealed several steps in the landscaping process between the 1680s and 1745–1750. On the other, systematically studying them allowed for tracing the outline of the garden during the mid-18th century and for guiding the archaeological surveys.



Estimates and conditions for gardening work required for maintaining Chambord's garden.
French National Archives, O¹ 1326, n^o74, fol. 1r.

3 - Archaeological and Geophysical Surface Surveys (2013–2014)

To obtain more detailed knowledge about the successive landscaping projects, an archaeological survey campaign was launched in 2013 on the north and east parterres under the direction of Simon Bryant, an archaeologist with the Institut National de Recherche Archéologique Préventive (INRAP).

The survey intended to answer several research questions:

- Changes in the course of the Cosson river,
- Remnants of the first activities on the site and landscaping projects prior to the Renaissance (e.g. gardens for growing food),
- Characterization of the successive projects in the 17th and 18th centuries (artificial terrace, canal, traffic routes, means for crossing the river, etc.),
- Pinpointing the remnants of the French formal gardens from the mid-18th century

The surveys, which were carried out by digging parallel and perpendicular trenches, allowed for evaluating the archaeological potential of these elements, the state of preservation of the remnants, and their chronology.

The surveys confirmed the presence of a (possibly medieval) “little garden” at the base of the Chapel tower and a primary French formal garden landscaping project during the reign of Louis XIV. The archaeologists also located holes for planting a quincunx of chestnut trees dating from the 18th century and double rows of trees that punctuated the parterres.

This information on the general organization of the garden was integrated into the overall replanting discussion and led to the ordering of planned archaeological digs.

4 - Planned Archaeological Digs (2016)

Ordered in accordance with scientific requirements by the Regional Cultural Affairs Office (DRAC) for the Centre and Val de Loire regions, this targeted campaign allowed for completing the elements that had been established in 2013. Led by a multidisciplinary team from the INRAP, the digs were clearly focused on the diachronic vision of the history of the surrounding landscaping. They allowed for going back in time to the earliest periods before work on the Cosson had started.

A joint campaign of deep core sampling allowed for surveying by going down to the hardest and oldest layers. The paleoenvironmental analyses are currently in progress.

Without assuming anything about the final results of the digs, some interesting elements have been updated. Remnants of 17th-century paving and a palisade retaining wall were uncovered, which matches the image-based and archival data that was gathered. The existence of an old vegetable garden and a causeway at the château has thus been confirmed. The studies, which are still in progress, will make it possible to better understand the eastern parterre system, which is by far the most complex.



Images of planned archaeological excavations carried out on in the northern and eastern parterres

III – COMPOSITION OF FRENCH FORMAL GARDENS

1 – The main “lines” of restoration

The project is exemplary of the French-style formal gardens of the mid-eighteenth century. They were laid out on an artificial platform, on which construction began in the seventeenth century, but which was only completed in the following century.

The château and gardens are organized according to a principle of quadripartition, with the building as the base element; the other three “squares” form the gardens.

The parterres, made up of lawns, flowerbeds, arrangements and quincunxes of trees or bushes, were restored to their original form and dimensions. The location of paths, aisles and side paths in the eighteenth century was also restored. Only the plant species had to be adapted to the current climate, soil and phytosanitary conditions. For example, the horse chestnut trees and box-trees formerly planted in the garden are now affected by disease; they have been replaced by similar varieties to preserve the esthetic.

NORTHERN PARTERRE

Two rectangular **lawn parterres** decorated with circular or stylized broderie, according to the original condition.

A

Inner and outer flower beds (perennials), decorated with topiaries of conical yews and spherical shrub. Dwarf Japanese spindle borders.

Original condition: “Flowers and shrubs”, yews and boxwood borders.

B

Arrangements of linden trees in single or double rows.

Original condition: horse chestnut trees

C

Fruit trees in boxes: 18 year-round lemon trees, arranged along the paths and aisles (except winter: random placement).

Original condition: 250 pineapple trees, 121 orange trees, 1 lemon tree and 1 lime tree in the inventory of 1751.

Paths and side paths in limestone.

Original condition: sandy paths

D

NORTHEASTERN PARTERRE

Quincunx square of double-flowered cherry trees, divided into four square groves. Expanses of lawn.

Original condition: horse chestnut trees, sandy ground.

E

Bowered bench (hornbeam hedge), per the original condition.

F

EASTERN PARTERRE

Two rectangular **lawn beds**, per the original condition.

G

Inner flower beds (herbs and rose bushes), decorated with topiaries of conical yews and spherical shrubs. Thyme borders.

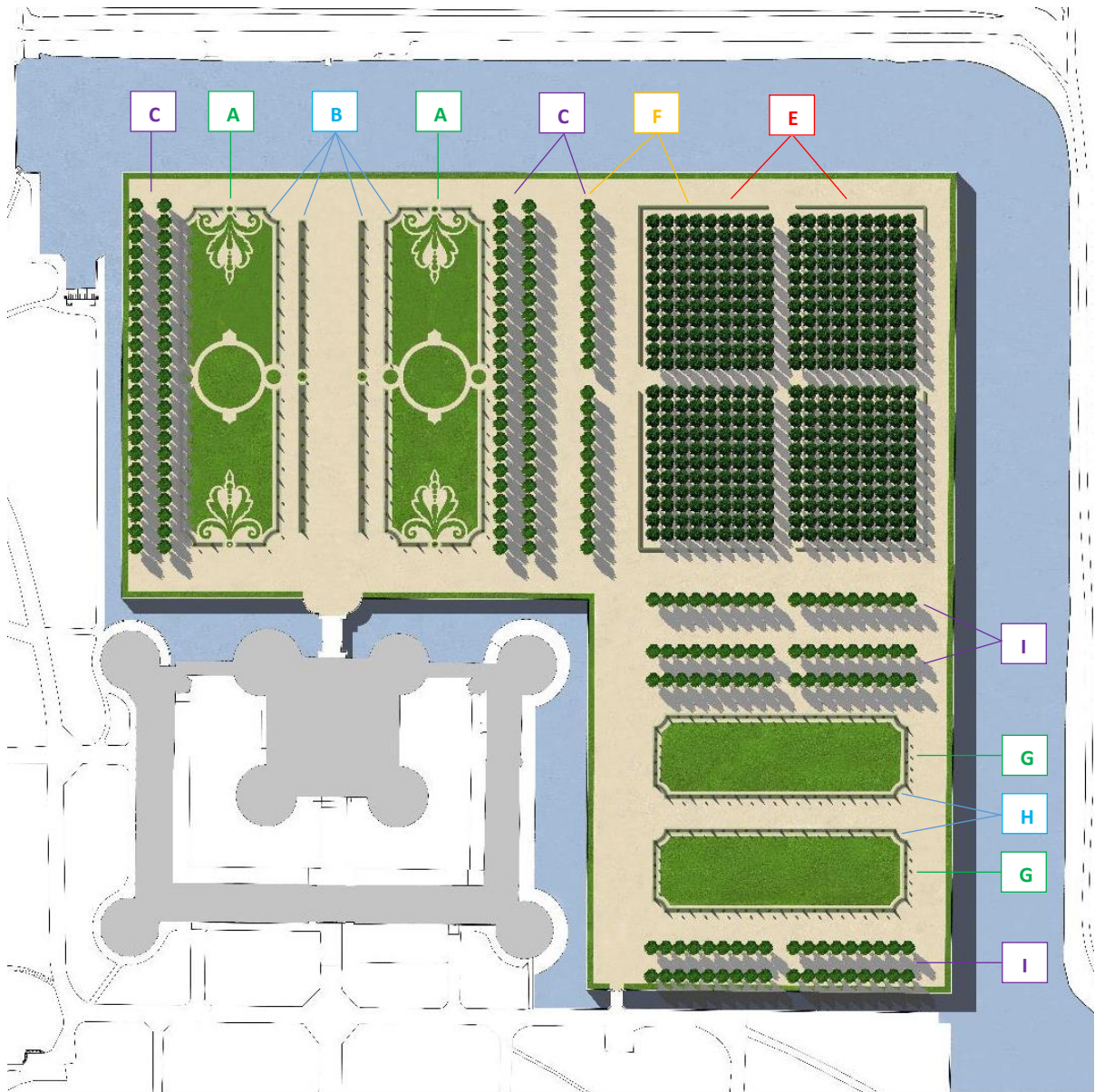
Original condition: “flowers and shrubs”, yews and boxwood borders

H

Arrangements of linden trees in single or double rows.

Original condition: horse chestnut trees

I



The French formal gardens of Chambord at a glance:

- 6.5 hectares of land
- 618 trees
- 840 shrubs
- 438 topiaries
- 15,640 border plants
- 10,928 flowering perennials
- 176 rose bushes
- 18 lemon trees in boxes
- 18,874 m² of lawn
- 7 months of work
- €3.5 million

2 – Species selected for the sake of sustainable development

For a number of years, the National Estate of Chambord has adopted a development strategy seeking to promote sustainable development, environmentally-friendly practices, and the protection of biodiversity. In light of this commitment, Chambord has taken measures to reduce water and electricity consumption and to promote recycling.

The plant species chosen for the French formal gardens were selected in order to ensure a “historical” restoration, but also with careful consideration of the environment. For example, Chambord is the first site to have planted thyme borders requiring little maintenance, rather than boxwood.

More generally, perennials have been chosen over annuals. Perennials are more resistant, have a life span of several years and require little care to thrive (no shelter during the winter, little or no phytosanitary treatments, less watering). They also encourage the presence of pollinating insects. Choosing such plants therefore saves valuable resources (water, energy) and guarantees biodiversity.

Finally, the National Estate of Chambord undertakes not to use any pesticide, fungicide or herbicide (preventive or curative) in the maintenance of its gardens.

Our commitments:

Sound management of flower beds

Choice of perennial and low-maintenance plant species

No phytosanitary treatments



3 - Typical species

a. Shrubs

Osmanthus x burkwoodii – Spherical shrubs

The plant used for the topiary in the flower beds of the northern and eastern parterres is the *Osmanthus*, measuring 80 cm. This hardy shrub has a formal, orderly appearance. Its flowers are small, white and fragrant. Shaped into spheres after being planted, it will be alternated with *taxus baccata*.

- Maintenance: once a year



Taxus baccata – Conical yews

The plant used for the topiary in the flower beds of the northern and eastern parterres is the *taxus baccata*, measuring between one and three meters. It is the same species that was used in the gardens of Chambord in the eighteenth century.

The yews will be conical, in accordance with the original conditions.

- Height: 1.46m when planted
- Growth: 15cm/year
- Maintenance: once a year

Euvonymus japonicus mycrophyllus – Dwarf Japanese spindle

Often used for border hedges, this plant is easy to cultivate as it is very hardy. It replaces the boxwood historically seen in the gardens of Chambord, which today is affected by many diseases.

- Height: 20cm when planted
- Growth: rapid
- Maintenance: once or twice per year



Syringa microphylla – Chinese lilac

This shrub produces abundant panicles of pink flowers, very fragrant in spring, then intermittently until fall.

- Height: 1.5m to 2.5m
- Growth: average
- Maintenance: none

Catherine Deneuve Rose

This rose was chosen in homage to the famous actress who played in the film adaptation of *Peau d'Âne* (Donkey Skin) by Jacques Demy, partly shot at the Château of Chambord in 1970.



Charles de Mills Rose

This impressive rose bush, in addition to its subtle fragrance, has the advantage of being very resistant to various diseases.

- Height: 120cm, bushy
- Flowers: large double flowers up to 12cm in diameter, purple in color with dark pink touches, sometimes bluish-violet (blooming from July to September).



***Achillea millefolium* saffron and terracotta**

This perennial plant, very resistant to drought, is particularly used for flower bed borders. It attracts insects, butterflies and some birds (melliferous plant).

- Height: 50cm
- Flowers: red-orange umbrellas (blooming from June to September)



Geranium Rozanne

This variety of geranium is particularly floriferous and very hardy. It is a long-flowering, perennial plant that requires little maintenance and spreads out to form bushy carpets.

- Height: 35 cm; Scale at maturity: 50cm
- Flower: large cup-shaped flowers, about 5cm in diameter, blue to white hearts (blooming from May to November)



b. Trees

Tilia cordata - Small-leaved linden

The species chosen for rows of trees is the *tilia cordata* linden. Originally, the horse chestnut tree was used, but as it is host to a parasite that can only be controlled by the use of pesticides, contrary to the environmental policy of the National Estate of Chambord, it could no longer be used.

- Height: from 18m to 25m.
- Flowers: yellow to cream, very fragrant (June/July)
- Longevity: up to 500 years
- Trees planted: 204



Prunus Avium Plena - Double-flowered cherry tree

The species selected for the quincunx area is the double-flowered cherry tree, also called the “bird cherry tree”.

Its spectacular white flowers in spring and the autumnal colors of its leaves in fall will offer two highlights to visitors and walkers.

- Height: from 8m to 15m.
- Flower: simple and white, blooming in April.
- Longevity: up to 100 years.
- Trees planted: 414



4 - Complete list of species

Borders and hedges

Border of <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> 'Microphyllus' (1500 ml) - NORTHERN Parterre	6,000 units
Border of <i>thymus officinalis</i> (880 ml) - EASTERN Parterre	8,800 units
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> - Quincunx Area	840 units

Perennial flower beds (Type 1) - NORTHERN Parterre

<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	3,326 units
<i>Nepeta faassenii</i>	659 units
<i>Penstemon</i> 'Blue Spring'	282 units
<i>Salvia pratensis</i> 'Twilight Serenade'	246 units
<i>Tradescantia</i> 'Zwanenburg blue'	216 units
<i>Crososmia masonorum</i>	349 units
<i>Echinacea</i> 'Hot summer'	320 units
<i>Penstemon</i> 'Andenken an Friedrich Hahn'	391 units

Perennial flower beds (Type 2) - NORTHERN Parterre

<i>Anchusa azurea</i> 'London Royalist'	87 units
<i>Echinops ritro</i> 'Veitch's Blue'	72 units
<i>Geranium</i> 'Rozanne'	1,572 units
<i>Penstemon</i> 'Russian River'	348 units
<i>Achillea</i> 'Safran'	204 units
<i>Achillea</i> 'Terracotta'	204 units
<i>Alstromeria aurea</i>	221 units
<i>Crososmia</i> 'Fire King'	116 units
<i>Crososmia aurea</i>	116 units
<i>Echinacea</i> 'Tiki Torch'	144 units
<i>Echinacea</i> 'Summer Sky'	144 units

Perennial Flower Beds (Type 3) - EASTERN Parterre

Aromatic: <i>Agastache</i> 'Blue Fortune', <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> , <i>Foeniculum purpureum</i> , <i>Origanum officinale</i> , <i>Petroselinum crispum</i> , <i>Rosmarinus officinale</i>	696 units
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	74 units
<i>Cosmos atrosanguineus</i>	107 units
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	15 units
<i>Dahlia imperialis</i>	107 units
<i>Echinops ritro</i> 'Veitch blues'	60 units
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i> 'Picos Amethyst'	132 units
<i>Ferula communis</i>	28 units
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> 'Summer Breeze'	88 units

<i>Gaura lindbeimeri</i> 'Flame'	91 units
<i>Helianthus atrorubens</i>	37 units
<i>Rosa</i> 'Belle Ferronière'	44 units
<i>Rosa</i> 'Catherine Deneuve'	44 units
<i>Rosa</i> 'Charles De Mills'	44 units
<i>Rosa</i> 'Nuit de Chine'	44 units
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	178 units
<i>Sanguisorba menziesii</i>	169 units
<i>Veronica longifolia</i> 'Gloria'	129 units

Trees

<i>Tilia cordata</i> - Mail	204 units
<i>Prunus Avium</i> 'plena' - Quincunx	414 units

Topiaries

<i>Taxus baccata</i> cones	228 units
<i>Osmanthus x burkewoodii</i> spheres	74 units
<i>Syringa meyeri</i> 'Pabylon' spheres	72 units
<i>Malus Tina</i> spheres	36 units
<i>Malus</i> and <i>pyrus</i> cones	28 units

Citrus trees

<i>Lemon trees</i>	18 units
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IV - THE WORK SITE

1 - Participants

The project was implemented by Jean d'Haussonville, general manager of the National Estate of Chambord (since 2010). During the course of the project, no less than one hundred people were involved.

The National Estate of Chambord, which carried out this project, was represented by Pascal Thévard, director of buildings and gardens.

The SARL [Limited Liability Company] Philippe Chauveau was the OPC (Scheduling, Management and Coordination) Coordinator. Philippe Chauveau acts as primary contractor in the department of Loir-et-Cher, the region of Orléans and Tours. It specializes in industrial construction and the restoration of factories, commercial buildings and local authorities, historic renovation and restoration, as well as in the construction of custom-designed homes.

The SPS (Health & Safety) Coordination is provided by AB Coordination, whose company boasts many experts in construction site safety and security.

Philippe Villeneuve, head architect of historic monuments, was assisted by landscapist Thierry Jourd'heuil.



Philippe Villeneuve

Philippe Villeneuve graduated from the Ecole Supérieure des Arts Modernes [College of Modern Art] in Paris in 1984 and from the Centre d'Etudes Supérieures d'Histoire et de Conservation des Monuments Anciens [Center for Higher Studies in History and Conservation of Historic Monuments] in 1995. He was appointed Head Architect of Historic Monuments in 1997.

Some examples of his achievements:

- Restoration of the abbey buildings of Saint-Amant-de-Boixe and creation of the Center of Interpretation of Romanesque Architecture
- Interior and exterior restoration of the choir stalls of the Saint-Pierre d'Angoulême Cathedral
- Restoration of the Saint-Jean entrance and the chevet of the Saint-Etienne de Limoges Cathedral
- Restoration of the pediment of the western facade of the Saint-Louis de La Rochelle Cathedral and of the facades and stained-glass windows of the choir stalls
- Restoration of the City Hall of La Rochelle before the fire of 2013

In 2011, he was chosen to serve as Head Architect of Historic Monuments of the National Estate of Chambord. His major achievements in the site involve the construction of the new Reception Hall, welcoming visitors from the parking areas to the château, the redevelopment of Place Saint Louis and the restoration of the eighteenth-century French formal gardens.



Thierry Jourd'heil

Thierry Jourd'heil is a graduate of the Ecole supérieure des Jardins et du Paysage [College of Gardens and Landscaping] (Royal Institute of Brussels, 1986). His early professional experience includes the Promenade Plantée in Paris and the former Forum des Halles.

Examples of projects:

- The Tuileries Concourse
- The Jardin du Rayol [Rayol Garden] in Vars
- The Gardens of the Women's Prison in Rennes
- The terraces of the Royal Flowers in Blois.

In 1990, he created his own agency, choosing community projects such as the renovation of town centers, parks, squares and public gardens.

Since 2010, he has assisted the Head Architects of Historical Monuments for the restoration of the gardens and public spaces of the National Estate of Chambord.



The Miscellaneous Road Network was executed by the COLAS company, including earthworks, soil preparation, roads, borders, and the joining of retaining walls. It has also been responsible for installing pipelines, power supplies and fiber optic networks.

Covering the regions of Brittany, Pays de la Loire and Centre, Colas Centre-Ouest is one of the major players in western France. Working in the region for over 90 years, the company is actively involved in the region's development and, with a network of 39 work establishments, is fully integrated into the local economic community.

Each year, Colas Centre-Ouest builds and maintains roads, highways, airfield runways, industrial/logistics platforms, carries out urban development, etc.

The company is a privileged partner and patron of the Chambord estate. It has participated in large-scale projects for the redevelopment of the waterfront promenade, the paths of the English gardens and the restoration of the eighteenth-century gardens.



The J. RICHARD company was tasked with developing the green spaces, including preparing the land, supplying and planting trees and shrubbery, and laying the lawns.

In addition, it was responsible for setting up the water supply, featuring pumping and automatic watering systems, with subcontractor Sirev.

Created almost 50 years ago, independent company J. Richard, based in Orléans, is today one of the main regional players in the landscaping industry.

J. Richard has numerous projects under its belt, including the restoration of a historic alignment of several hundred meters at the Château de Chevilly (45), the historic parks and gardens of Orléans or the castle of Gien, but also more contemporary work such as the Grand Blois development park, the tramway lines, the flower park and the plant garden in Orléans.

Richard also has an R&D (Research and Development), Department, as it invests in innovation. As such, it was selected during a recent call for projects for Innovation by the Center-Val de Loire Regional Council. The company has carried out several quality procedures including ISO 9001, Qualicert, RSE (AFAQ 26000).



SIREV, subcontractor of J. Richard, designed the automatic garden sprinkler and watering system.

This company, based in St Barthélémy d'Anjou, offers solutions to optimize any investment and ensure continued management and maintenance. From pumping stations to network filtration, Sirev designs and implements the entire system.

The company provides “Rational Water Management®”.

Sirev also maintains green spaces, such as:

- the gardens of the Château de Villandry
- the Tours botanical garden
- the château and estate of Chaumont-sur-Loire
- the Normandy American Cemetery and

Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer.

2 - Schedule of Work

The work was organized as follows:

✓ **August 2016**

End of archaeological work in the northern zone and quincunx area

General preparation of the site for all zones

Work site for the quincunx area installed



✓ **September 2016**

Northern zone excavated

Stone laid for ground and pathways in the quincunx area

Ground prepared for planting trees in the quincunx area

Archaeological excavations in the eastern zone completed



✓ **October 2016**

Stone laid for pathways and flowerbeds prepared in the northern zone

Planting begins in the northern parterre

Eastern zone excavated



✓ **November 2016**

Trees planted and grounds completed in the northern zone and quincunx area

Pathways and aisles completed in the quincunx area

Sprinkler and watering networks established and stone laid for the pathways in the eastern zone



✓ **December 2016**

Pathway grounds completed

General lawn sowing, trees and other foliage planted



V - PATRONAGE – FUNDING

€3.5 million was required for the restoration of the northern and eastern parterres, divided into 3 parts:

Northern parterre: €1.5 million, tax included
Northeastern parterre: €0.9 million, tax included
Southeastern parterre: €1.1 million, tax included

The donation of Stephen Schwarzman, patron of Chambord, funds the restoration work of the French formal gardens.

Biography — Stephen A. Schwarzman, President, CEO and founder of Blackstone:

Patronage of the National Estate of Chambord:

“National treasures such as Chambord are of vital importance for cultural heritage, the history of France and the French people, as well as for the international community. As the world rapidly changes, our constant commitment to the past helps to make sense of and improve our understanding of the world today. I am proud to support this project to restore the French formal gardens of Chambord and I urge others to join me in the preservation of Chambord and other historic sites that are of great importance for future generations.”



After founding Blackstone in 1985, Mr. Schwarzman played a prominent role throughout the company's development. Blackstone is currently the largest alternative asset manager in the world. On September 30, 2016, the value of its assets under management totaled \$361 billion.

An active contributor to international civic life, Mr. Schwarzman has held leadership roles in many of the world's most prestigious organizations. Mr. Schwarzman is an Officer of the Legion of Honor. He is a member of the *Council on Foreign Relations*, the *Business Council*, the *Business Roundtable*, and the *International Business Council* of the World Economic Forum. He is co-chair of the *Partnership for New York City* and serves on the boards of *The Asia Society* and New York-Presbyterian Hospital, as well as on the Advisory Board of the School of Economics and Management of Tsinghua University in Beijing. He is an agent of The Frick Collection in New York and is Honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors of the *John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*.

At the same time, Mr. Schwarzman has been a long-standing patron in supporting education. Whether in business or philanthropy, he has always sought to tackle major problems and discover truly innovative solutions. In 2015, Schwarzman donated \$150 million to Yale University to create the *Schwarzman Center*, the first campus of its kind in the historic Yale Commons building. In 2013, to educate future leaders on China, he founded the “Schwarzman Scholars” program, an international scholarship program at Tsinghua University in Beijing. The program, which received \$450 million in funding, was strongly inspired by the Rhodes Scholarship in Great Britain and is the largest philanthropic project in China's history, most of which is funded by international donors. In 2007, Mr. Schwarzman donated \$100 million to the *New York Public Library*, of which he is a member of the Board of Directors. In 2016, *Forbes* named Schwarzman “the most powerful person in the financial world” and in 2007 he was named one of TIME's 100 most influential people.

Mr. Schwarzman holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Yale University and an MBA from *Harvard Business School*. He has served as an assistant professor at the *Yale School of Management* and is a member of the Advisory Board of *Harvard Business School*.

FREE-TO-USE VISUALS

Other aerial photographs and videos are available upon request via communication@chambord.org







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Image 7

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USEFUL INFORMATION

Château opening hours

The château is open all year round except January 1st, the last Monday of January and December 25th.

Opening hours

- April to October: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - November to March: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Last entry 30 minutes before the château closes.

Entry to the château and gardens

Full price: €13 - Discounted price: €11

Group rate (more than 20 people): €11

Free of charge (individuals): under the age of 18 and 18-25 years old from the European Union

Privilege card (benefits valid for 1 year): €40

Access to site

- P0 parking 200 meters from the château (cars, motorcycles): €6/day.

- P1 parking (minibus): €11/day - Coach: €50/day.

Free parking for groups visiting the château (proof of purchase of at least seven entrance tickets to be shown at the ticket office)

- P2 parking (cars): €4/day. (Campers and RVs): €11/24 hours.

- 10-time use parking card (light vehicles): €10 valid for 1 year.

- Free bike parking

