

Baroque architecture

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Baroque architecture

- Architectural style originating in late 16th-century Italy and lasting in some regions, notably Germany and colonial South America, until the 18th century.
It had its origins in the Counter-Reformation, when the Catholic Church launched an overtly emotional and sensory appeal to the faithful through art and architecture.
- **Complex architectural plan shapes, often based on the oval, and the dynamic opposition and interpenetration of spaces were favoured to heighten the feeling of motion and sensuality.**
- Other characteristic qualities include grandeur, **drama and contrast (especially in lighting), curvaceousness, and an often dizzying array of rich surface treatments, twisting elements, and gilded statuary.**
- **Architects unabashedly applied bright colours and illusory, vividly painted ceilings.**



Baroque Gardens

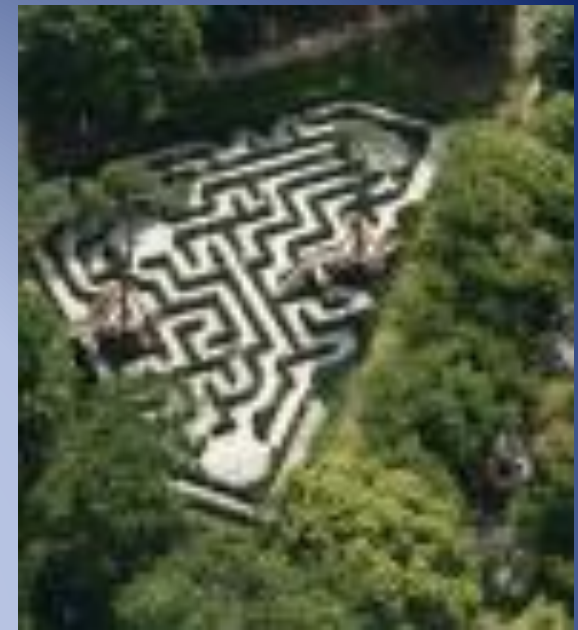
The Vrtba Baroque Garden, Karmelitská Street

This Italian style terraced garden is one the most beautiful gardens in Central Europe and is a Unesco World Heritage site.



The Plan of Park around the Castle Loučeň





Labyrintarium, Middle Bohemia, Loučeň



Labyrinths for all visitors



12 labyrinths – Castle Loučeň

<https://www.zamekloucen.cz/labyrinty-a-bludiste>



Tours, France



Heidelberg Hortus Palatinus

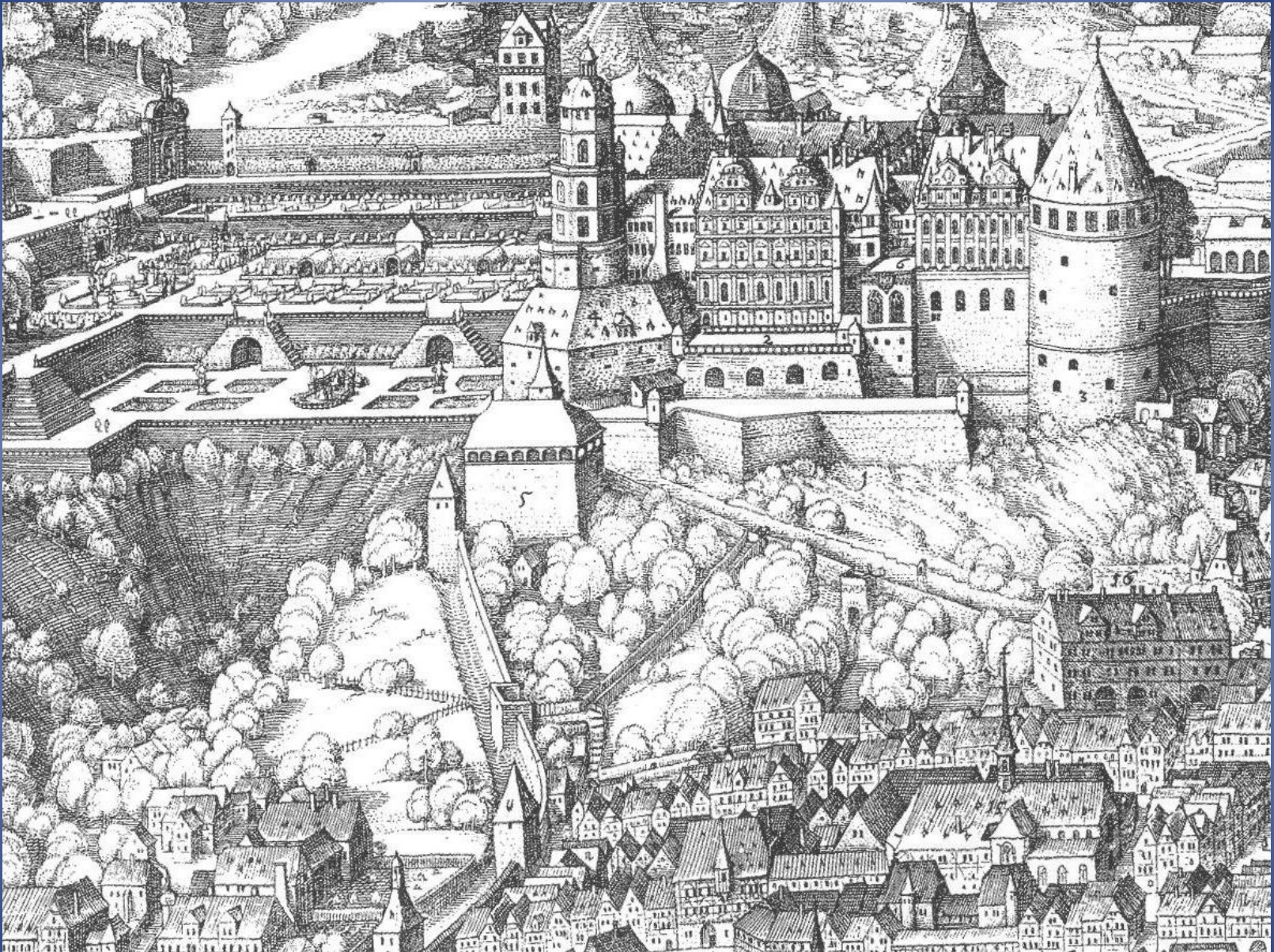


- **Frederic V** was not a very successful ruler...but that is not the only thing that there is to life. Frederick had a happy marriage and he was an ardent lover of gardens. When he spent a winter in England romancing **Elizabeth Stuart** (the daughter of King James I of the United Kingdom), Frederick, was himself courted by several visionary gardeners and engineers. In 1614, Frederick commissioned one of these men, **Salomon de Caus**, a Huguenot hydraulic engineer and architect, to design an epic garden around Heidelberg Castle as a present for his new bride. The garden which de Caus designed, **the Hortus Palatinus, or Garden of the Palatinate**, was accounted to be the finest Baroque garden in Germany. Some awe-struck contemporaries went farther and called the garden the eighth wonder of the world.
- **Frederic, the Czech Winter king**



Historic view of Heidelberg, Germany and the Hortus Palatinus

- Since the ground around Heidelberg castle was steep, the builders had to cut and level great terraces for the Hortus Palatinus. Once they had carved a huge “L” shape around the castle, no expense was spared in furnishing the gardens. Exotic plants were collected from around Europe and the world (including tropical plants such as a full grove of orange trees). Gorgeous flowers and fully grown ornamental trees were planted amidst sumptuous statues, grottos, fountains, and follies.
Great knotted parterre mazes led the wandering visitor through the sprawling grounds where costly novelties abounded. There was a huge water organ built according to the design of an ancient Roman text, clockwork cuckoos and nightingales which sang musical pieces, and an animated statue of Memnon, a Trojan warrior who was the son of the goddess of the Dawn. Among some circles it was whispered that de Caus was a mystical Rosicrucian and he had coded secret magical wisdom within the repeating octagonal motifs of the garden.
- By 1619, the Hortus Palatinus, was the foremost Renaissance or Baroque garden of northern Europe, and it was still not finished. To quote *Gardens of the Gods, Myth Magic and Meaning*,
Heidelberg was the scene of a brief idyll of enlightenment, culture, learning, and toleration.”
The young king Frederick and his pretty English bride would romantically dally in the garden he had created for her. Then everything went wrong. Frederick V went to war with Ferdinand II and lost badly, a conflict which began the Thirty Years war. **The garden was never finished.** Instead it was destroyed by Catholic artillery who then used it as a base for destroying the city. By the time that Frederick’s son was restored to lordship of the Lower Palatinate, the region was in ruins. The garden was never rebuilt—it remains a picturesque ruin to this day.



Troja

Castle Troja is of wonderful barock architecture with amusing wall and ceiling paintings.

In its well cared garden you also find a nice labyrinth. Additional the house is uses for art exhibitions.

The castle is not so far from Prague ZOO.





Troja Castle

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