Ludwigslust Palace Garden

The palace garden of Ludwigslust has its origins in a baroque garden, laid out from 1730 onwards for Prince Christian Ludwig of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, near to his hunting lodge at *Klenow*. The "Große Garten" (Great Garden) stretched approximately across the area of today's lawn parterre, and east of it lay the kitchen garden. Passing two pavilions, the "Kleine Lindenallee" (Little Limetree Alley) led to the so-called Little Garden, lying between the Catholic Church and the St John's embankment.

When Duke Friedrich came to the throne in 1756, he transferred the court from Schwerin to Ludwigslust. After plans of the court master builder Johann Joachim Busch, a late baroque city ensemble with an extensive park came into being. The creative highlight is the canal with its numerous trick fountains. The cascade on the *Schlossplatz*, the "Walze" (Roll) at the "Steinerne Brücke" (Stone Bridge), the single fountain called "Der Mönch" (The Monk) and the 24 fountains called "Die Nonnen" (The Nuns) are all powered by taking advantage of the natural slope.

After the death of Duke Friedrich his nephew Friedrich Franz I took power. He commissioned Busch to make further changes to the park. Adjacent wooded areas were cleared, curved ways laid out and groups of bushes and trees planted. The park got a new character influenced by English landscape gardens. Former boggy areas, woodlands and clearings were deliberately included. The grotto, built as a ruin, and the memorial to Duke Friedrich stand as reminders of the transience of our Earthly existence and give to this part of the park a sentimental tone.

Northwest of the "Hofdamenallee" (Ladies-in-Waiting Avenue), the "Schweizerhaus" (Swiss Cottage) was erected by Busch in 1789 as a summer residence for the Duchess Louise. In an age of sensibility the court society longed for an informal, rural lifestyle.

As a last resting-place for the duchess and other members of the family, the court master builder Johann Georg Barca created the "Louisen-Mausoleum", with reference to Egyptian architecture. Joseph Ramée built the "Helenen-Paulownen-Mausoleum" from 1804 to 1808. It was originally conceived as a Russian Orthodox chapel but became a burial-place after the early death of the Tsar's daughter. Johann Christoph Heinrich von Seydewitz began the construction of the neo-gothic Catholic Church in 1804. It was finished in 1809 by Barca, who also completed the separate bell-tower in 1817.

The most important features and constructions of the park had been completed, when the residence moved back to Schwerin in 1837. In 1843, Franz Wilhelm Bengue, a landscape architect from Ludwigslust, submitted plans for a beautification of the park, which however were not realised. Benque had planned to connect the different scenes, which had emerged in the course of time, by curved ways and ponds. Only the plan of the Prussian Royal Garden Director Peter Joseph Lenné, which basically accorded to Benque's ideas, gained the approval of the grand duke in 1852 and was partly put into action. An important creative element of Lenné's plan was the picturesque alignment of waters from the "Inselteich" via the "Eichen-" and "Karauschenteich" (crucian carp pond) to the "Kirchenteich", as can still be seen today. Also the adjacent areas of groves and meadows in the west got their present form and character. Lenné cleverly integrated single baroque elements, which imprint the character of the park, such as the canal and symmetrical arranged esplanades and alleys leading into the landscape. The quality of his ideas emerges from the convincing simplicity of the design. This classicism was also expressed in some of the special gardens which have not survived,



The mausoleum was erected by the court master builder J. G. Barca as a burial-place for the duchess Louise, who died in 1808. It was renovated in 2001.

such as the "Schweizerhausgarten" or the flower garden of the Duchess in the west of the palace. A reconstruction of these gardens is planned in the long run. With the Ludwigslust Palace Park, Lenné left behind a masterpiece of his late creative period, unique in Northern Germany. In a total area of 127 hectares (305 acres), stylistic elements of the formal garden are harmoniously linked to those of the landscape garden. Important visual relationships between individual parts of the park, buildings and sculptures lent to the park its unique appearance. Since 2003 the Ludwigslust Palace Garden is maintained by the Administration of Public Stately Homes and Gardens.

In view of the parks historic character, the main tasks of the park administration are the care and the renewal of the groves and the preservation of the unique special structure of the park with its view



The Stone Bridge replaced a wooden bridge and was built about 1780 following plans of the court master builder J. J. Busch. Renovation was carried out in 2002.



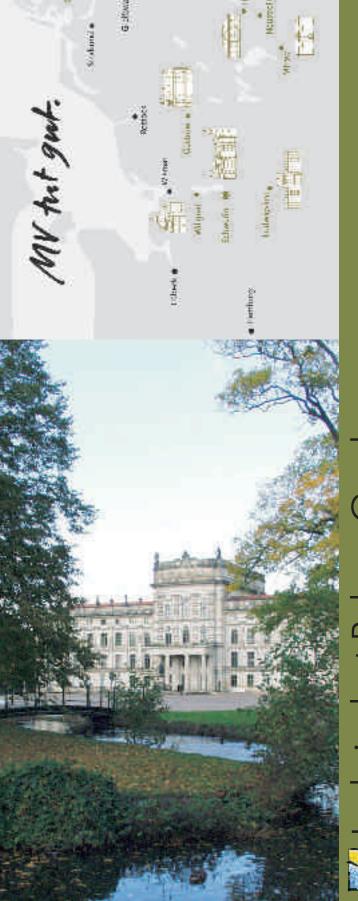
The monument to duke Friedrich was created in 1790 by the court sculptor Rudolf Kaplunger and restored in 2000.

axes and baroque elements. But also the condition and use of the buildings are of great importance for the appearance of the park. The restoration of the mausoleums, the vases at the parterre and the sculptures as well as of the canal, the "Steinerne Brücke", the water basin with its 24 fountains and several other bridges, all carried out since 1997, show the responsible approach of the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to its cultural heritage.

Verwaltung der Staatlichen Schlösser und Gärten Werderstrasse 4 19055 Schwerin info@mv-schloesser.de www.mv-schloesser.de



The canal and the 24 fountains belong to the oldest elements of the Ludwigslust Palace Garden. The canal and the trick fountains were restored between 2001 and 2003.







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