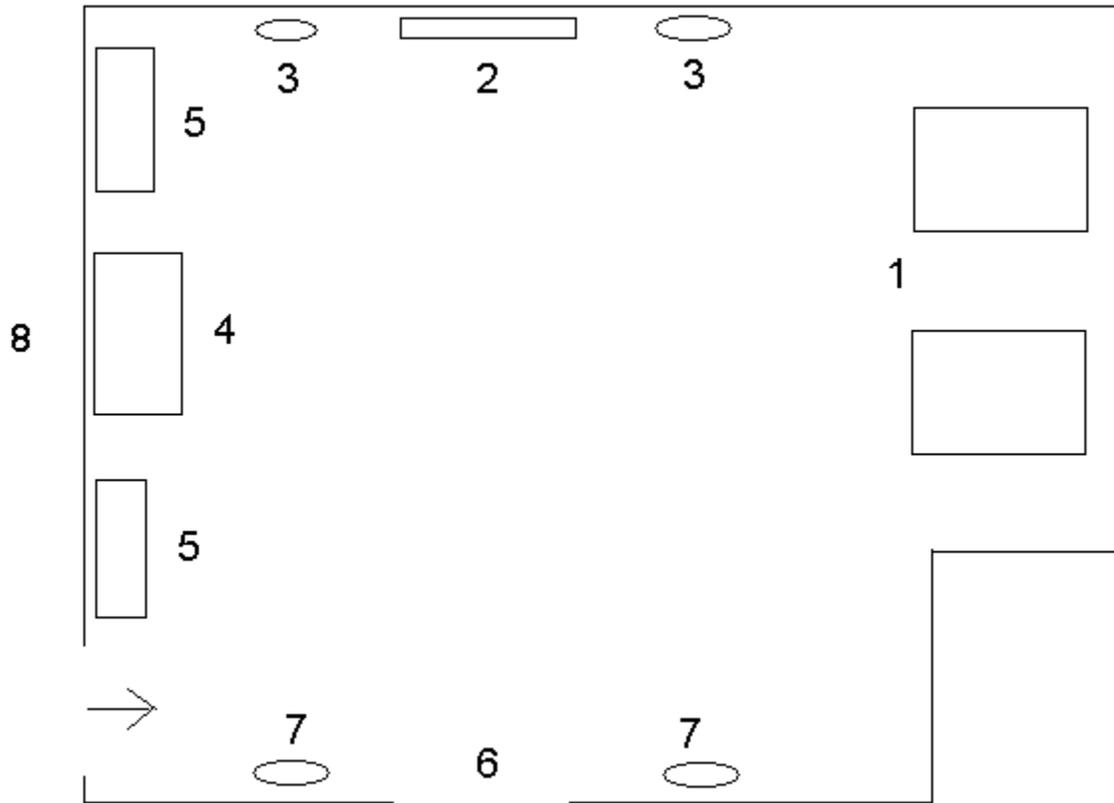


### MARIA-CHRISTINA's BEDROOM (12 E)



Archduchess Maria-Christina and her husband, Albert of Saxe-Teschen resided in this room during their visit to Freÿr in 1785.

The walls are covered with Jouy fabrics. Apart from the bucolic patterns, which you discovered in the Duke's room, multi-coloured and ancient patterns were also introduced following the discovery of Pompeii. More unusual were the Chinese curios as seen here.

- (1) The beds are in the so-called « Polish » style. They featured curtains that drop from a cupola attached to the top of the bed, instead of hanging from a baldachin fixed to the ceiling, such as you will see above the bed in the room of Louis XIV. Stanislas Leszczynski and his daughter, Mary, wife of Louis XV, made this kind of bed fashionable in France.
- (2) Above the marble Louis XVI mantelpiece stands the bust of Voltaire. It reminds us that Philip of Beaufort-Spontin, one of the two creators of the gardens, was closely involved with the Encyclopaedists. (Following the publishing of Cyclopaedia by Chambers, French philosophers started writing the Encyclopédie).

- (3) The paintings either side of the mantelpiece represent allegories of man's two kinds of work: manual, with its food from the earth (vegetables) and intellectual, with its spiritual food (books).
- (4) On the Louis XVI chest of drawers you can see, under the Louis XVI mirror, a photo of Humbert of Laubespain, Plenipotentiary Minister of Belgium to the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg after the First World War. He contributed to the founding of the Belgian-Luxemburg Union.  
His wife, Odette Lagarde, French born, who became Belgian by marrying a Belgian diplomat, was harassed by the wife of the French Ambassador, who accused her of not defending the interests of France (who had designs on Luxemburg). This led Odette to remind her that, having married a Belgian diplomat and therefore being Belgian, she had to defend the interests of Belgium. The autographed photo of the Grand Duchess Charlotte commemorates this act.  
Humbert had a dry wit. At an official dinner he asked to be served one of those delicious glasses of angel's wee: Luxembourg vintages often end with the word 'angel' (Wormeldange, Greiveldange, Erpeldange, Schewbsange).
- (5) On both sides of this chest of drawers stand display cabinets in the Louis XVI style containing porcelain china from the same period.
- (6) Before leaving the room take a look through the window at the alignment of statues on the garden wall.
- (7) On either side of the window still life paintings (poultry and game). The rest of the furniture is in the Louis XVI style.
- (8) When emerging from the room you will discover a painting of Gillis Neyts (1618-1687). Note the presence of low woodwork that was placed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to protect the ladies' wide crinoline dresses. Otherwise they would have got dirty when touching the whitewashed walls.

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