



THE CHATEAU DE BAGATELLE

A royal residence in the heart of Paris



FONDATION
MANSART

The Chateau de Bagatelle Foundation is under the aegis of the Mansart Foundation

THE "FOLIE D'ARTOIS"



PARVA SED APTA



The Bagatelle gardens, by *Jean Démosthène Dugourc*, 1779. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

In 1775, the Count d'Artois, brother of King Louis XVI and future King Charles X, purchased the estate of Bagatelle in the Bois de Boulogne. Two years later he made a bet with his sister-in-law, Queen Marie-Antoinette, that he could build a château there during the few weeks when the court resided at the Chateau de Fontainebleau.

Much to the Count d'Artois' satisfaction, the Chateau de Bagatelle, designed as a neo-Palladian country seat by architect François-Joseph Bélanger, was built in only sixty-four days!

In spite of the domain's name and the Latin motto which was engraved on the Domaine's facade, "Parva sed apta" (small but adequate), Bagatelle was not a mere "trifle".

The building required more than 900 workmen to complete and the decoration was commissioned from prestigious craftsmen. Hubert Robert painted six landscapes for one of the two ground-floor boudoirs. The Count's bedchamber was particularly extravagant, designed to look like a military tent in reference to his position as Grand Master of the Artillery.



Left page: **The Count d'Artois in front of Bagatelle**
by *Jean-Démosthène Dugourc*.
(Fondation Mansart)

Left: **The bathing room**
by *Hubert Robert*, 1779.

(Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

Above: **Project for the bedchamber of the Count d'Artois**
by *François-Joseph Bélanger*, 1777.
(BnF, Paris)

THE ENGLISH GARDEN AT BAGATELLE

In 1778, the Scottish botanist and gardener Thomas Blaikie received a commission for an English garden for Bagatelle. He designed the park and livened it up with artificial ponds, rivers and waterfalls. This bucolic setting was embellished with picturesque bridges and pavilions, and ornamented with sculptures evocative of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome.

At a time in France when English aesthetics were appreciated, Bagatelle soon became one of the most fashionable pleasure gardens and pavilions in Paris, and was admired by many visitors at the end of the eighteenth century. In 1852, the baroness d'Oberkirch recalled:

"In the morning, I had gone with the Countess du Nord to see Bagatelle, a charming little residence in the Bois de Boulogne, belonging to the Count d'Artois, who received us with respect and his usual grace. We were entertained with a concert in which every musician in Paris participated. The Grand-Duchess was delighted. The meal was worthy of Epicurus."



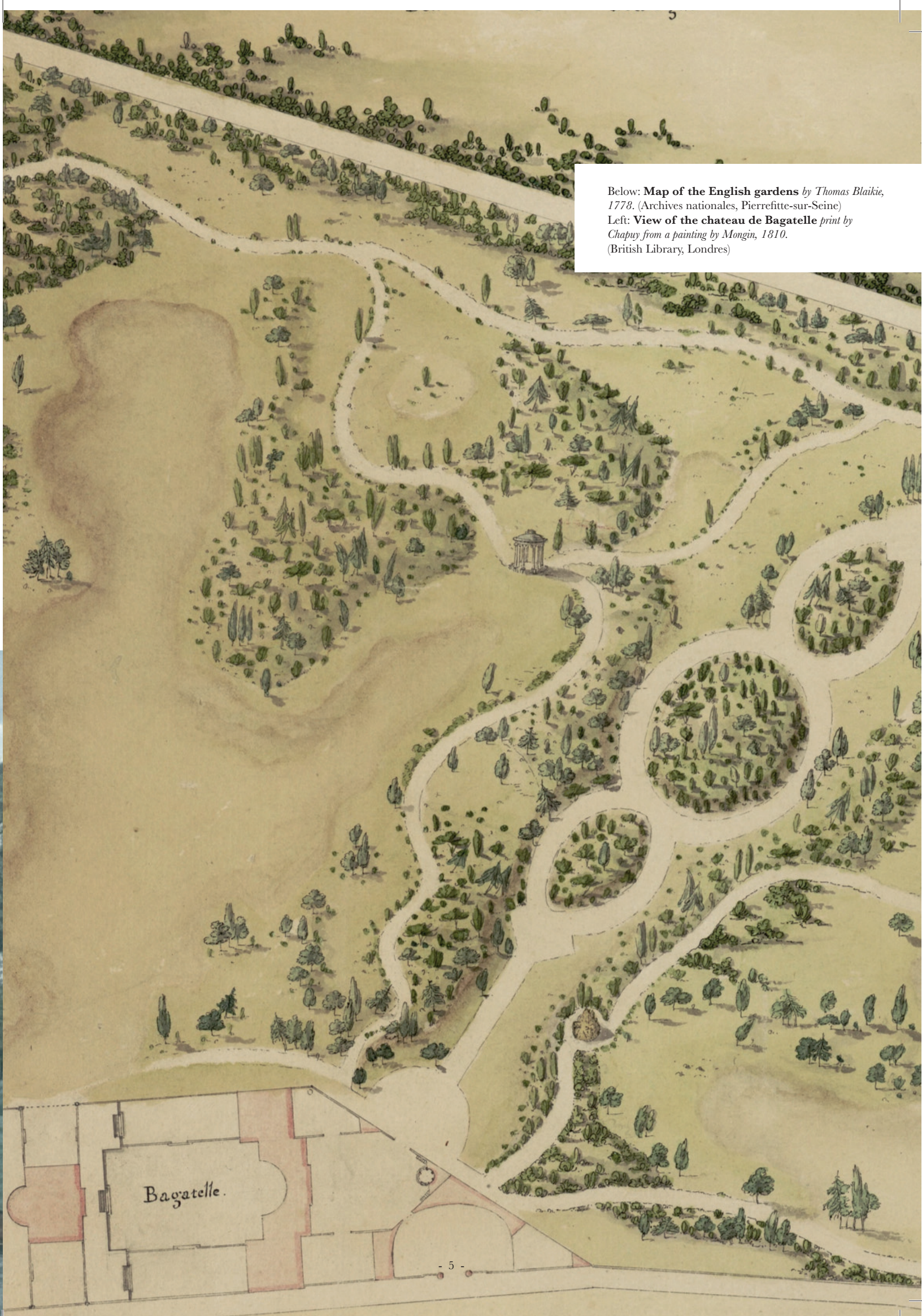
In the 1780s, Thomas Jefferson – ambassador to France and future president of the United States – regularly visited Bagatelle with his daughters and the Italian-British artist Maria Cosway.

The architect Friedrich Gilly, Royal Building Inspector to the Prussian court, was also seduced by Bagatelle. He made many drawings of the Chateau and dedicated an essay to it in 1799, writing that it was "incontestably one of the finest works of contemporary French architecture".

Thomas Jefferson by Mather Brown, 1786.
(National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington)



Below: **Map of the English gardens** by Thomas Blaikie, 1778. (Archives nationales, Pierrefitte-sur-Seine)
Left: **View of the chateau de Bagatelle** print by Chapuy from a painting by Mongin, 1810. (British Library, Londres)



THE TIME OF EMPERORS AND PRINCES



The Emperor Napoleon in his study
by Jacques-Louis David, 1812.
(National Gallery of Art, Washington)



The Duke of Berry
by François Gérard, 1820.
(Château de Versailles)



The Duke of Bordeaux
by Adeodato Malatesta, 1840.
(Palazzo dei Musei, Modena)

Spared by the Revolution, Bagatelle became a property of the State, before being bought by the Emperor Napoleon I in 1806. He later transformed it for his son the "King of Rome". During this time, Bagatelle was renamed «Holland Pavilion», as a counterpart to the "Italian Pavilion", or chateau de Saint Cloud, Napoléon's favourite residence.

After it was returned to the royal family under the Bourbon Restoration (1814-1830), Bagatelle was used as a residence by the Duke of Berry, son of King Charles X. After his assassination, his widow the Duchess of Berry often visited Bagatelle with their son Henri d'Artois, Duke of Bordeaux, depicted below overseeing the changing of the guard in front of the chateau, at the age of two.



Napoleon I and the King of Rome at Bagatelle
by Jules Girardet, 1910.
(Private collection)

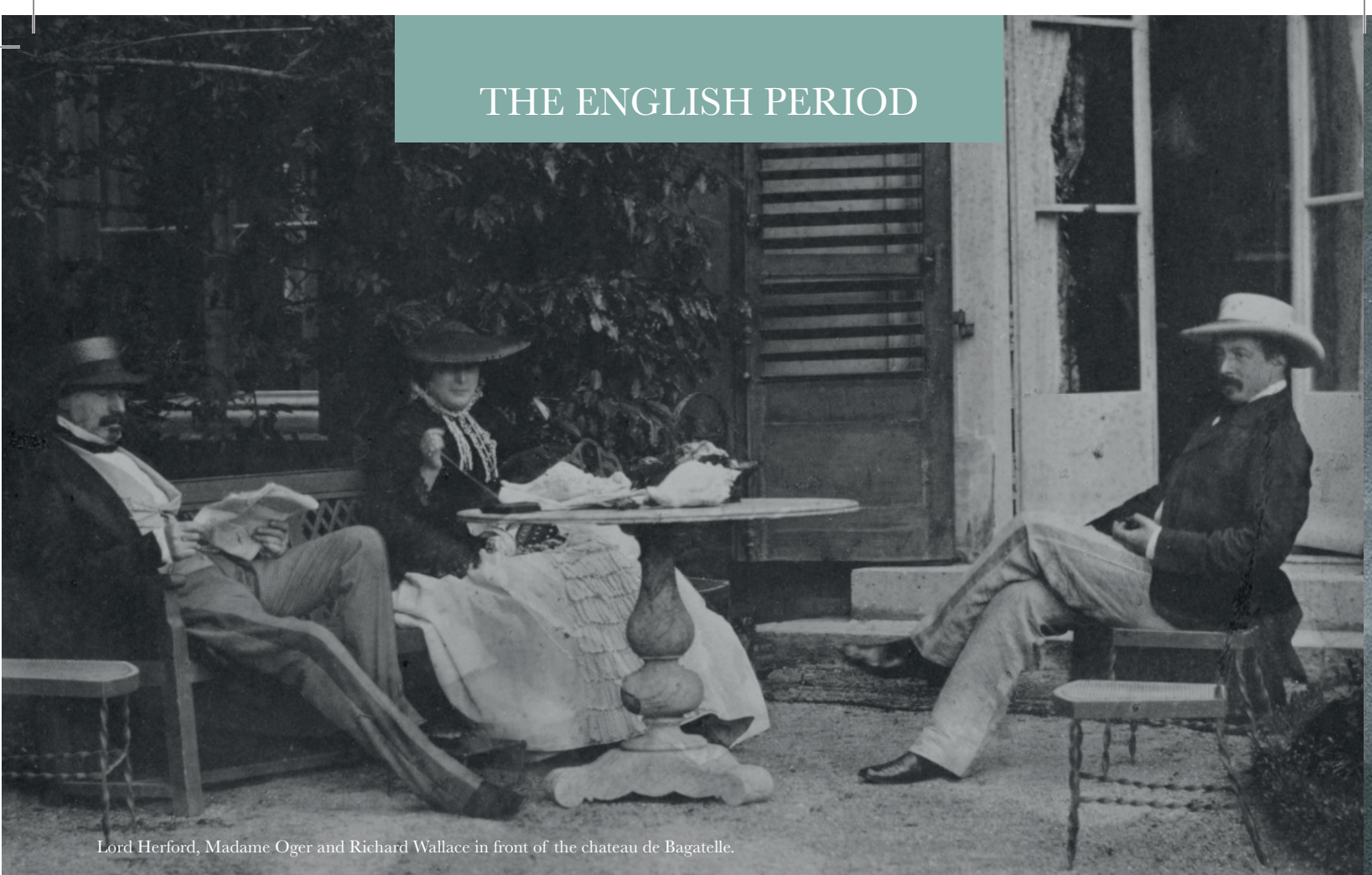


The changing of the guard by the Duke of Bordeaux
by Jean-Charles Rémond, 1826.
(Musée Carnavalet, Paris)

The Duchess of Berry at Bagatelle
by François Gérard, 1820.
(Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)



THE ENGLISH PERIOD



Lord Herford, Madame Oger and Richard Wallace in front of the chateau de Bagatelle.

Richard Seymour-Conway, 4th Marquess of Hertford, bought Bagatelle from the French State in 1835. From then on Lord Hertford regularly resided in his “Bois de Boulogne retreat”, undertaking numerous renovations and devoting his time to his art collection. Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie, close friends of Lord Hertford, regularly visited Bagatelle, where their son and heir the Prince Imperial enjoyed the riding arena. The prestige of Bagatelle grew even further when, in 1855, Lord Hertford received the visit of Queen Victoria during the Paris International Exhibition.

Upon Hertford's death, Bagatelle was inherited by his son, the art collector Sir Richard Wallace, who immediately undertook major redevelopment work, commissioning his father's architect, Léon de Sanges, to build a Trianon, named after one of the palaces at Versailles. Upon her husband's death in 1890, Lady Wallace inherited the estate, along with all of her husband's possessions. She passed away seven years later, bequeathing part of the formidable art collection to the British nation and thus establishing the now famous Wallace Collection.

Photographs by Charles Marville, c. 1862–72.
(Carnavalet Museum, Paris)





Sir Richard Wallace

by J. J. Thomson, 1888.

(Wallace Collection, Londres)

THE CITY OF PARIS



Bagatelle was inherited by John Murray Scott, Richard Wallace's secretary, who sold it to the City of Paris in 1905. The estate's rehabilitation was entrusted to Jean Claude Nicolas Forestier, the city's Commissioner for Gardens, who was responsible for suggesting the acquisition. He strove to develop the botanical collections whilst preserving the harmony of the original English garden.

In 1907, Forestier established the Concours International de Roses Nouvelles (International Competition for New Roses). The first of its kind, it remains one of the most important competitions for new roses and is still held each June in the garden's rosarium.

From 1988 to 2003, another prestigious event took place at Bagatelle: the annual classic car competition. Sponsored by Louis Vuitton since 1989, this competition reintroduced the Show of Elegance in France by showcasing exceptional automobiles in the garden.



The splendid setting of Bagatelle has been the scene of many royal visits and garden parties throughout the twentieth century.

In 1910, Queen Eleonore and King Ferdinand I of Bulgaria were given a tour of the rosarium by Jean Claude Nicolas Forestier.

In July 1938, President Albert Lebrun hosted a splendid garden party at Bagatelle for King George VI and the Queen Consort Elizabeth, on a visit to strengthen Anglo-French relationship at a time of doubt in Europe. On this occasion, a beautiful ballet was organized on the lake.

From 1949 to 1951, President Charles de Gaulle pronounced his annual Labour Day's speech from the lawns of Bagatelle. The event was attended by large crowds of Parisians.

In May 1974, a reception was given at Bagatelle to honour the newly-elected President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

During an official visit in June 1992, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited the rosarium and the Henry Moore exhibition set in the gardens. They were accompanied by President François Mitterrand and the Mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac.

In 1995, Prince Joachim of Denmark came to Bagatelle to inaugurate the new rose variety Flora Danica.





AN EXEMPLARY REFURBISHMENT

The Mansart Foundation is in charge of the restoration of the château de Bagatelle. Works are beginning in 2021 starting with the facades (masonry, stoneworks), roofs and woodworks.

At the end of this first phase, by 2022, the foundation will undertake the restoration of interiors and the adaptation of the château for its opening to visitors.

At the same time, the foundation will undertake the refurbishment of the «sous-terrasse» in order for it to be open to the public and be used as a temporary exhibition area. Prior to the restoration, the foundation has done extensive iconographic and historical researches, aiming to return the interiors of the ground and first floors of the chateau to the most accurate standards.



THE CHATEAU DE BAGATELLE FOUNDATION UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE MANSART FOUNDATION

Created in 1982 in order to preserve the Chateau de Maintenon, the Mansart Foundation was granted in 2005 the statute of a "Foundation recognized for its public utility" and of an "Umbrella Foundation" by decision of the Prime Minister.

The Mansart Foundation's purpose is to revive heritage of particular interest, ancient or contemporary, including architectural buildings (monuments, residences, industrial establishments), as well as natural and environmental sites such as parks, botanical gardens, and arboretums. The Mansart Foundation aims to preserve these remarkable places, as they are essential to the French heritage and shaped its «Art de Vivre» throughout many centuries. They have to be preserved for future generations.

The Chateau de Bagatelle Foundation has been created under the aegis of the Mansart Foundation in order to raise funds from generous individuals, as well as from institutions or private companies, based in France or abroad. All the collected funds will be used entirely to restore the chateau and ensure its reopening to the public.



THE MISSIONS OF THE FOUNDATION

A new home for masterworks of 18th century French art

The foundation aims to redecorate Bagatelle while exhibiting unique masterworks of French decorative arts and original 18th century paintings. Furniture and gilt bronzes will be loaned by the French «Mobilier National», and several other exceptional pieces by private art collectors. Donations will allow us to acquire additional artworks on the market. The renovation and decoration of the chateau will be monitored by the foundation's scientific committee.

Exhibitions and cultural events

The chateau will be open to the public for regular visits. A dedicated space will be dedicated to temporary exhibitions, in partnership with other institutions. A program of concerts and cultural events will encourage the public to regularly visit the chateau, making it a must-see destination for Parisians as well as other French and international visitors.

Social Mission

The Foundation is very much focused on its key social mission, which is to open its doors to less privileged visitors and enable them to see, understand and appreciate legacy buildings and art history, thereby helping them develop both their curiosity and their creativity.

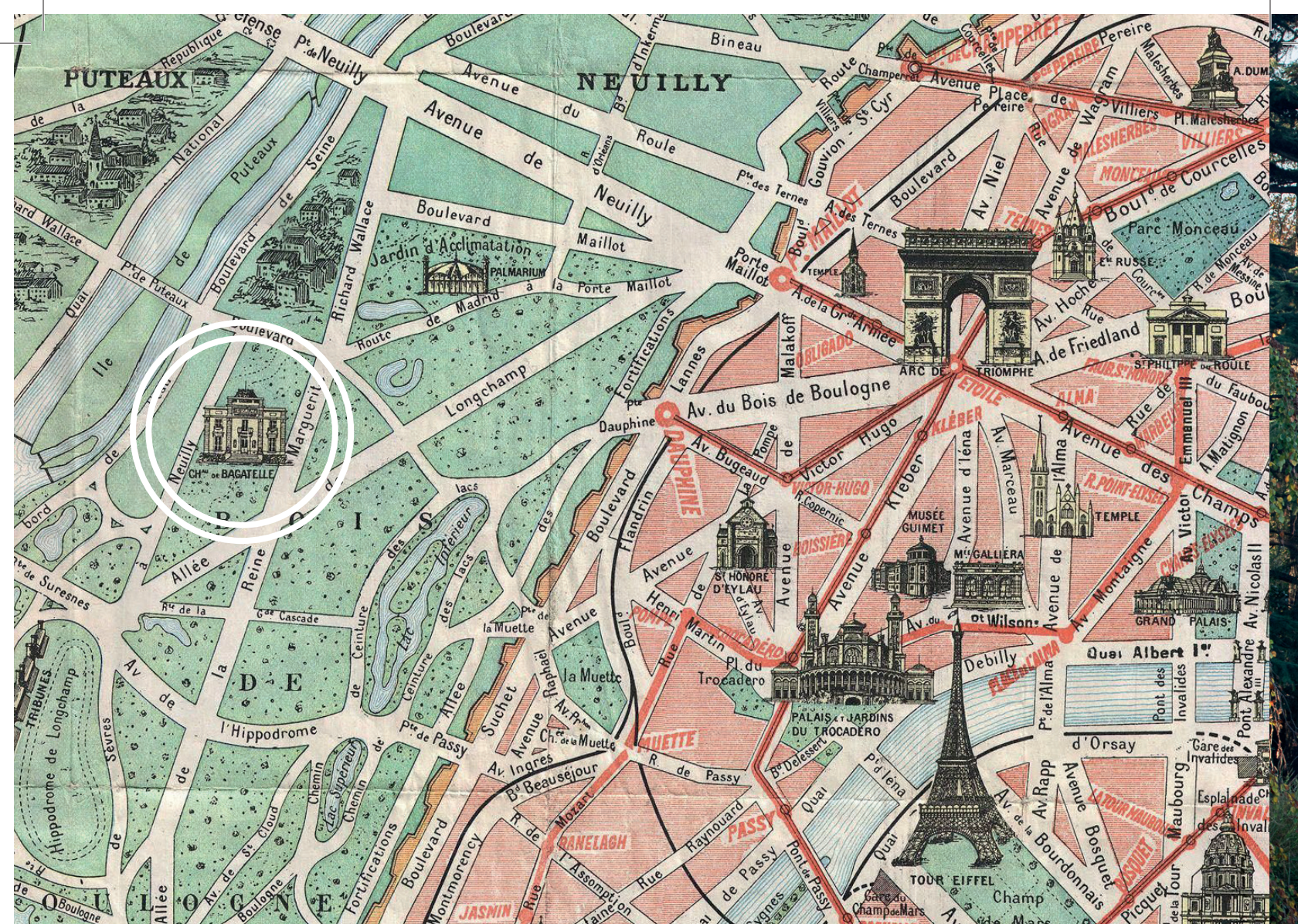
Educative Mission

The Mansart Foundation will organise educational events with the assistance of professional craftsmen and women. This will include a large selection of visits, seminars, and workshops dedicated to school children. To the extent possible, the building site will be open for visits, with special sessions dedicated to pupils of the Ecole de Chaillot, as well as other students and researchers in art history and architecture.



"Certain places bear witness to our History and our lives. Of these, we are only the custodians. It is our duty to protect them today so that future generations can benefit tomorrow. Such is the purpose and ambition of the Fondation Mansart."

Albéric de Montgolfier
President of the Fondation Mansart



LET US BRING OUR HERITAGE BACK TO LIFE,
HELP US RESTORE BAGATELLE !



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