The Villandry garden

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Abstract: Villandry castle was finished in the year 1536 and was the last of the castles built on the shores of the river Loire in the Renaissance period. The castle was built by Jean le Breton, one of the Finance Ministers of Francois I. His greatest achievement in the architectural domain was the construction of Chambord castle, which le Breton supervised under the lead of Francois I. While he was leading the Villandry project, le Breton also built for himself a small replica of it near the Chambord castle, called Villesavin. Le Breton first was the ambassador of Italy, where he learned everything he could about the renaissance art of gardening. To build the castle Le Breton demolished an old castle the 15th century from which he kept only the tower (donjon) that can be seen behind the main yard.

Key words: garden, plants, Villandry

Villandry stayed in the propriety of Le Breton family until the year 1754, when it became the propriety of the Marquis of Castellane, the king’s ambassador that came from a noble family from Provence. He built the lateral buildings in a classic style that can be noticed from both parts of the yard. Also, the marquis was the one that redecorated the interior of the castle to correspond to the 18th century comfort standards that are closer to what we know today than the ones applied in the renaissance period.

Results and Discussions

Villandry stayed in the propriety of Le Breton family until the year 1754, when it became the propriety of the Marquis of Castellane, the king’s ambassador that came from a noble family from Provence. He built the lateral buildings in a classic style that can be noticed from both parts of the yard. Also, the marquis was the one that redecorated the interior of the castle to correspond to the 18th century comfort standards that are closer to what we know today than the ones applied in the renaissance period.

The original gardens were destroyed in the 19th century and in their place a British style garden was created that resembles the Monceau garden from Paris.

In 1906 the castle was bought by Dr. Ioachim Carvallo, born in Spain in the year 1869. He renounced at a brilliant career with Doctor Charles Richet (Nobel prize winner in 1913), to completely devote himself to Villandry castle. Thus he saved the castle that was about to be demolished and created gardens that exist up until today and that are in full harmony with the renaissance architecture of the castle. In 1924 Carvallo founded the “Demeure Historique” Association, the first association for the castles with a historic value. At the same time he was a pioneer in the opening of these historical constructions to the public.
The Villandry garden

“Tender Love”

“Passionate Love”
“Tender Love” is symbolized through the arranging of some areas in a heart shape. In the centre, they tried to replicate domino masks that were used at balls.

“Passionate Love” is also represented through hearts, but this time broken. The bushes that edge this area are informally placed, like a maze suggesting a dance.

“Changing Love” The four fans from the corners symbolize the changing nature of love. The dominant colour is yellow.

“Tragic Love” The design of the garden represents the blades of the daggers or swords that were used in the duels between rivals. The flowers that are found here are red.

Photo 4

The vegetable garden was created the first time in The Dark Ages, being cared for by the monks from the nearby monastery. Later, the pragmatic Dr. Carvallo recreated the vegetable garden during the Second World War, gathering a number of 250000 plants that today only serve a decorative purpose.

Nine gardeners supervise the care and the replacement of all plants so the colour harmony will be kept throughout the season. The best moment in the entire year to admire the garden is autumn, when the decorative cabbage reaches maturity. In the garden there are 40 different vegetables. The countless intersections from the garden remind us of its monastery origins. Also, the monks were the ones who planted regular roses to make the gardens beautiful. According to tradition the roses were planted symmetrically.

The second influence in the design of the garden came from Italy and took the shape of fountains, of bushes and flower layers.

The gardeners from the 16th century France were combining the French style with the Italian monastery style for garden design, creating areas in which they planted roses and also fresh vegetables brought from America. This type of garden was called “ornamental garden of”

Conclusions

1. Ornamental gardens can be considered an extension of the rooms from the castle and each was designed in a special way
2. Regeneration capacity of the meristems depends insignificantly of the virus that infects the meristems donor plants that were complied with high temperatures for 10 weeks
3. The meristems size is one of the most important parameter that influences the regeneration capacity; bigger meristem size determines higher regeneration percentage.

References

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