

The former Orangery / Karl Marien Haus

The Karl Marien House was built as a palm and orange house in 1773–74 by Christian Günther III. erected by Schwarzburg-Sondershausen (1736–1794). It served as winter quarters for exotic potted plants and in the summer months as a guest house and pleasure palace.

The nine-axis, originally unplastered, half-timbered building with an extended mansard floor, central projectile and volute gable was later plastered and the volute gable was upgraded with gold-covered cartouches, festoons and lavishly carved fruit hangings. In addition, the volute gable is crowned by two sculptures and a flagpole. The building was whitewashed in a shade of yellow. To the east and west of the palm house, two greenhouses with sun catchers were built. The “Martin House” and a stable building are located at their locations today. A wall with gates crowned with vases was erected between the buildings.

When the orangery was converted into a rescue facility for children in 1882–83, the winter garden windows were removed, a floor ceiling and the central transom windows as well as the pilasters were arranged to give the orangery its current neoclassical facade. Use-related extensions followed.

Large sculptures

The almost undamaged six large sculptures on pedestals from probably the second half of the 17th century still testify to the very rich sculptural design of the palace garden. Two figures are life-size and four are larger than life. They are attributed to the Greussian sculptor Johann Christian Klemm (1733–1795). They are made of Seeburg sandstone and were whitewashed with white lead in the Baroque era.

Three figures each symbolize three of the four elements respectively the four seasons. Their arrangement according to the line of sight and only partially according to the allegory leaves some questions unanswered.

Location Map

Large Sculptures

1. Flora:

Goddess of flowers and gardens, youth and joie de vivre.
Allegory of spring.

2. Ceres

Goddess of agriculture, Fertility and marriage, Allegory of summer

3. POMONA

Goddess of Tree Fruits,
Allegory of Autumn

4. Minerva

Goddess of wisdom, art and war
Element:Fire

5. Proserpine

Goddess of the dead, underworld and fertility - Element Water
but also Earth

6. Mercury

Patron god of hikers, merchants, shepherds and rogues,
messengers of the Gods
Element of air

Small Architectures

The three fountains on the northern ground floor with their sculptures recreate a hunting scene. In the two small round fountains

in front of the orangery building, two riders gallop with hunting horns through the water that is splashing away from the side.

In the center of the ground floor is the deer fountain with a diameter of 9 m. In the middle of the water basin, a deer was held down by dogs, from whose jets a fountain used to rise. A jet of water is sprayed towards the center from four other dogs from the edge of the pool.

Puttos with the attributes of the signs of the zodiac stood on 12 pedestals in the area of this parterre.

Only the putto "wine eater" with the scorpion has largely been preserved. Today there is still a vase and the putto "Drummer" as well as a putto torso with the inscription "fecit Biedermann" as evidence for the Greussian sculptor of the puttos Christian Johann Biedermann (before 1664 - after 1740).

All pedestals and sculptures are made of Seeberg sandstone and the fountain surrounds are made of shell limestone. It was built in the middle of the first half of the 18th century.

Small Cascade

The small cascade with its six bubbling cascade steps and a small fountain is the connecting element of the secondary axis, which runs from the castle courtyard at an almost right angle to the main axis of the garden to the west.

On both sides there are ascending paths to the higher upper parterre, which were originally flanked by head-cut hornbeams.

To the east of the cascade as far as the castle courtyard wall, there was a courtyard of honor at the time it was built, the dimensions of which are now indicated by limestone slabs laid in the ground. The current basic structure was created at the beginning of the 20th century.

The renovation of the cascade could not restore the original condition as it was remodeled several times and no documents relating to the construction period are known.

The restoration of the small architecture and sculptures in the entire palace garden primarily serves to preserve the original. Additions or copies will only be made in exceptional cases.

Lower ground floor

The northernmost garden area in front of the orangery building was laid out as a decorative ground floor with pedestals and water features along three paths. These were lined with potted plants and box hedges. The Princely Garden attracted attention through its own pineapple harvests and flowering aloe trees.

Individual hedge areas loosen up the otherwise strict geometry of the ground floor.

Since the original planting of the individual flower beds is no longer traceable today, because there are no records about it, only lawns were created during the renovation. The installation of potted plants, as they were typical of the time, can no longer be implemented due to the lack of overwintering options.

The main axis area is flanked on both sides by two new double rows of fruit trees.

In the transition to the western saffron garden there was still a copper beech that was over 200 years old, which unfortunately had to be felled a few years ago due to its damage.

The summer and winter linden trees directly in front of the former orangery were planted when the rescue facility was founded in 188

Upper ground floor

The highest ground floor is between the southern water basin and the hornbeam rondel, from which the entire garden can be experienced.

Historical documents show that the paths on the ground floor were lined with hedges, that there was a labyrinth, a mountain of snails and arcades.

In addition to the functions of water supply and fire protection for the castle complex, the pool also served to operate all the water features in the garden and had a small fountain itself. First the small cascade, then the large cascade and finally the wells on the northern ground floor were fed with the same water via partly double cast iron pipelines.

The ground floor is enclosed by a natural stone wall to the south and west. In the west there is still a historical row of linden trees with a shielding effect. The trees have been rejuvenated in recent years.

Due to the increased maintenance effort and inaccurate information on the planting, large new hedges were not planted during the reconstruction.

The pedestals were fitted with various vases and puttos without any clear proof of their location. The same applies to today's park furniture and lighting in the entire park. New architectural elements can be recognized by gray painted steel or sawn shell limestone.