



Queen's Chamber, *The Glory of Princes lays claim to the Children of France*, Jean-François de Troy



The Queens of Persia at the Feet of Alexander also known as *The Tent of Darius*, Charles Le Brun



*The Meal at the House of Simon*, Paolo Veronese

## THE QUEEN'S APARTMENT

The Queen's Apartment, installed at the same time as the King's State Apartment, consists of four rooms. This apartment was occupied by each queen in succession (the last being Queen Marie-Antoinette) and several dauphines, and also underwent many changes, which explains the variety of decorative styles in contrast with the unity of the King's State Apartment. This apartment, where the queen lived out her public life (all of the royal children were born in the large bedchamber), was supplemented by private rooms overlooking the courtyards, allowing a greater degree of privacy.

Ceiling of the Hercules Salon, François Le Moine

## THE CEILINGS OF THE STATE APARTMENTS

The ceilings of the King's State Apartment were painted by **Charles Le Brun** and his studio beginning at the Drawing-Room of Plenty (ceiling by **René-Antoine Houasse**). This then leads on to the Venus Drawing-Room, named after the Goddess of Love, with the ceiling again by **Houasse**, followed by the Diana Drawing-Room, named after the Goddess of Hunting (ceiling by **Gabriel Blanchard, Claude I Audran** and **Charles de La Fosse**), the Mars Drawing-Room, named after the God of War (ceiling by **Claude I Audran, Jean Jouvenet** and **René-Antoine Houasse**),

Hall of Mirrors, *The King Governs in Person*, Charles Le Brun

the "Bedchamber" or Mercury Drawing-Room, named after the Messenger of the Gods (ceiling by **Jean-Baptiste de Champaigne**), and lastly the Apollo Drawing-Room or Throne Room (ceiling by **Charles de La Fosse** and **Gabriel Blanchard**).

The Queen's Apartment includes, beginning at the State Bedchamber (ceiling by **François Boucher**), the Salon des Nobles (ceiling by **Michel II Corneille**), the Queen's Antechamber or Antechamber of the Grand Couvert (ceiling by **Claude-François Vignon** and **Antoine Paillet**), the Queen's Guardroom (ceiling by **Noël Coypel**).

Ceiling of the Nobles Salon, Michel II Corneille



MAJOR PATRON OF THE MINISTRY FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION



CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES

### Information

For further information on programmes, schedules and organization of visits, please contact :  
 telephone 01 30 83 78 00  
[www.chateauversailles.fr](http://www.chateauversailles.fr)



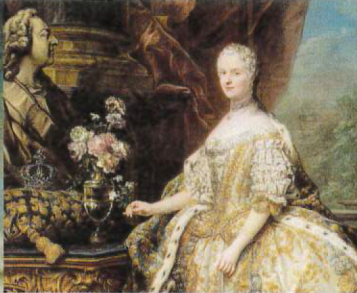
Louis XIV (1638-1715)  
Hyacinthe Rigaud



Louis XV (1710-1774)  
Hyacinthe Rigaud



Louis XVI (1754-1793)  
Antoine-François Callet



Marie Leszczyńska portrayed in full  
court dress in 1747, Carle Van Loo



Marie-Antoinette in full court dress  
Elisabeth-Louise Vigée-Lebrun

### THE KING'S STATE APARTMENT

The King's State Apartment, which was remodelled several times, received its final décor between 1671 and 1681 as a result of the work supervised by **Charles Le Brun** who designed a suite of rooms dedicated to the planets gravitating around Apollo, the god symbolising the sun (Louis XIV's emblem) in Greek and Roman mythology. It consists of a series of seven drawing-rooms overlooking the North Parterre, each room having a specific purpose, buffets, games, dancing, and billiards, during the receptions given by the King for the Court. From 1684, it was exclusively used for audiences and Court entertainment since the King lived in the rooms overlooking the Marble Courtyard.

### THE HALL OF MIRRORS - 9

The War Drawing-Room, the Hall of Mirrors (73 metres long, 10.50 metres wide and 12.30 metres high) and the Peace Drawing-Room form a magnificent series of rooms extending along the western façade of the Château looking out onto the Grand Perspective of the gardens. The project was carried out by the architect **Jules Hardouin-Mansart** and the painter **Charles Le Brun** between 1678 and 1686. The paintings on the vaulted ceiling illustrate events in the life of Louis XIV, from the time he began to reign in his right in 1661, until the Peace of Nijmegen in 1678. The King would pass through the Hall of Mirrors every day on his way to the Chapel. It was also a passageway between

the King's and Queen's apartments. Finally, the Hall of Mirrors was used for large receptions, royal weddings, and ambassadorial presentations (the throne would be set up there for the latter occasions).

### THE BULL'S EYE SALON - 10

The courtiers waited in the Bull's Eye Salon, a large antechamber also created in 1701, to be admitted to the royal bedchamber, its entrance guarded by a Swiss Guard.

### THE KING'S CHAMBER - 11

In 1701 Louis XIV moved his bedchamber into the drawing room lying east-west in the Palace, facing the rising sun. The three glazed doors into the Hall of Mirrors at the back were blocked off so as to form an alcove for the bed, with a carved and gilded wood balustrade separating the alcove from the rest of the chamber and over the bed a stucco allegory of *France watching over the King* in his slumber by **Nicolas Coustou**. It was in this chamber, become the visible sanctuary of the monarchy, that Louis XIV lunched en petit couvert (in relative privacy) and the ceremonies of the King's rising and retiring took place every day. It was likewise in this chamber that Louis XIV died on 1 September 1715 after reigning for 72 years. The chamber's opulent décor of gold and silver brocade on a crimson ground forms a backdrop to paintings chosen by Louis XIV: *The Four Evangelists and Paying Caesar's Taxes* by **Le Valentin** and **Giovanni**

**Lanfranco** on the upper walls, *Saint John the Baptist* by **Giovanni Battista Caracciolo** above the door, *Mary Magdalene* by **Le Dominiquin** and two portraits of **Antoon Van Dyck**. On the two mantelpieces installed during the reign of Louis XV stand a bust of Louis XIV by **Antoine Coysevox** and a barometer clock and four candelabra that belonged to the Comte de Provence, Louis XVI's brother.

### THE COUNCIL STUDY - 12

Adjacent to the King's Chamber and opening onto the Hall of Mirrors is the Council Study. This did not take on its present form until 1755, under Louis XV, when it was created by combining two rooms, the King's Study where Louis XIV held his ministerial councils for financial and state matters and the Terms Study, a more intimate room to which Louis XIV retired with his family or inner circle in the evenings after supper. The study was decorated in sumptuous wood panelling featuring new decorative motifs (trophies, attributes of the army, navy and justice etc) carved by **Antoine Rousseau** from drawings by **Ange-Jacques Gabriel**; magnificent works of art commissioned by Louis XV and Louis XVI now adorn it: a rococo clock (1754), a porphyry bust of Alexander the Great and two vases depicting Mars and Minerva in Sèvres porcelain and chased bronze by **Pierre-Philippe Thomire** (1787).

The Bull's Eye Salon

The King's Chamber

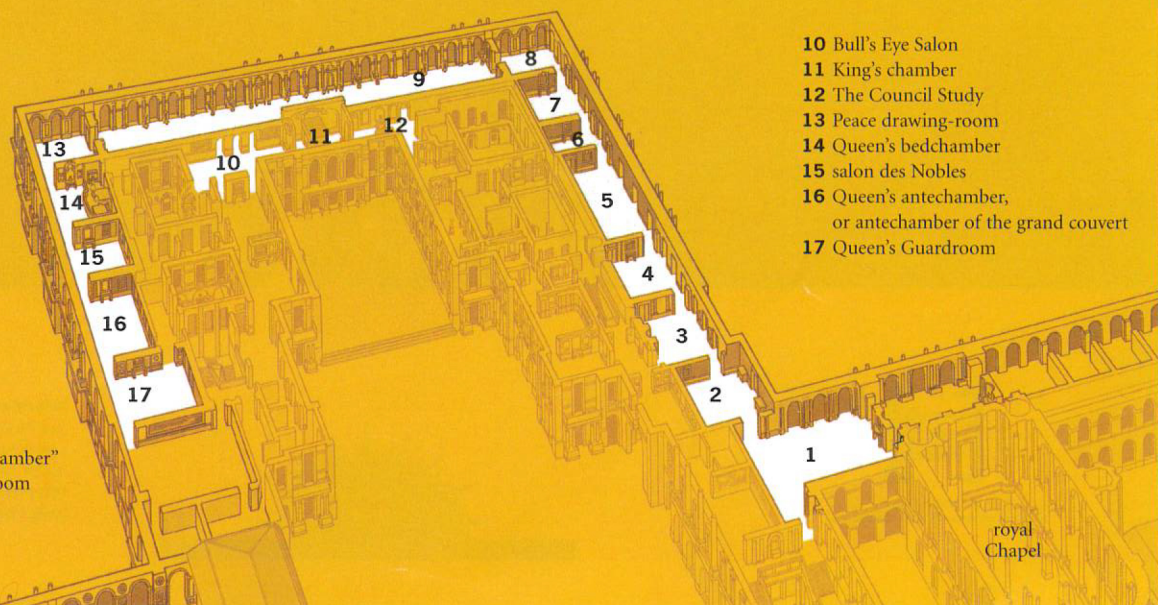
The Council Study



The tour of the State Apartments starts at the Hercules drawing-room.

### Plan of the First Floor

- 1 Hercules drawing-room
- 2 drawing-room of Plenty
- 3 Venus drawing-room
- 4 Diana drawing-room
- 5 Mars drawing-room
- 6 Mercury drawing-room, or "Bedchamber"
- 7 Apollo drawing-room, or throne room
- 8 War drawing-room
- 9 Hall of Mirrors



- 10 Bull's Eye Salon
- 11 King's chamber
- 12 The Council Study
- 13 Peace drawing-room
- 14 Queen's bedchamber
- 15 salon des Nobles
- 16 Queen's antechamber, or antechamber of the grand couvert
- 17 Queen's Guardroom

royal Chapel