



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES



Versailles, 28 June 2010

PRESS RELEASE

RESTORATION OF THE EXTERIOR DECOR OF THE PAVILLON FRAIS OF THE PETIT TRIANON THANKS TO THE SPONSORSHIP OF "THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF VERSAILLES"

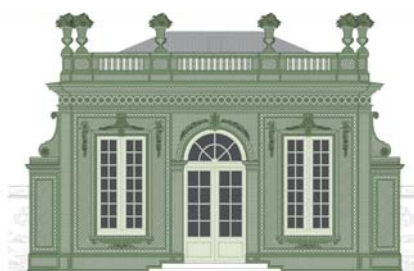
PRESS CONTACTS

Château de Versailles

Hélène Dalifard
01 30 83 77 01
Aurélié Gevrey
01 30 83 77 03
Violaine Solari
01 30 83 77 14
presse@chateauversailles.fr

American Friends of Versailles

Jonathan Marder
00 1 646 638 2479
mobile 00 1 917 685 8596
Jon.marder@GSMltd.net



THE PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUSEUM AND NATIONAL ESTATE OF VERSAILLES AND "THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF VERSAILLES" INAUGURATE THE RESTORED EXTERIOR DECOR OF THE PAVILLON FRAIS OF THE PETIT TRIANON.

AFTER THE RESTORATION OF THE GROVE OF THE THREE FOUNTAINS, INAUGURATED IN 2004, THE CHARITABLE CORPORATION "THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF VERSAILLES", WHOSE PRESIDENT IS CATHARINE HAMILTON, with the help of the Société des Amis de Versailles, wished to continue its sponsorship in favour of the gardens of Versailles by enabling the restoration of the exterior decor of the Pavillon Frais of Trianon.

Client

Établissement public du musée et du domaine national de Versailles

Senior Architect of Historical Monuments

Pierre-André Lablaude

Inspector of Historical Monuments

Jean-Pierre Lescot

Safety Coordinator

Coord'IF

Cost of works

930 000 € HT

Duration of works

octobre 2009 à juin 2010

LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE FRENCH GARDEN OF TRIANON, the Pavillon Frais, or Salon Frais, a masterpiece combining architecture and gardens, interior decors and botany, was built by Ange-Jacques Gabriel between 1751 and 1753 for Louis XV and Madame de Pompadour. It was used as a dining room where the products of the dairy and the kitchen garden of Trianon were served. It was prolonged on each side by two arched trellis galleries forming a sort of cloister of greenery punctuated with trees trimmed into topiary spheres. It was framed by two small oval pools lined with boxtrees with palmette topiary designs. Having become very dilapidated by the end of the 18th century, the Pavillon Frais and its trellis porticos were demolished in 1810, followed by its parterres and oval pools in 1813. The Pavillon was rebuilt in 1984, but the work only covered the stone building and its façades were decorated with simple trellis panels.

THIS RESTORATION WAS UNDERTAKEN AFTER DETAILED STUDIES WERE CARRIED OUT, involving documentary research and technical surveys which enabled the construction programme to be drawn up for the reconstruction of the different elements of the architecture, interior decoration, fountains and garden. Archaeological investigations made on the site confirmed the reliability and accuracy of the archive documents identified as corresponding to the project of Ange-Jacques Gabriel and enabled the project designers to identify point by point, detail by detail, the objective reality of its different components.

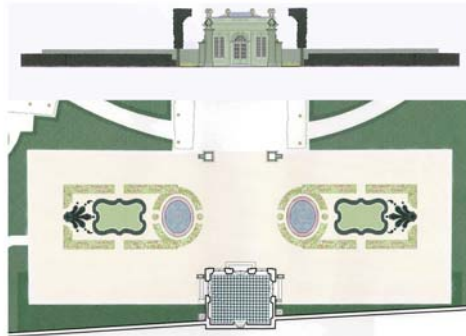
PRESS CONTACTS

Château de Versailles

Hélène Dalifard
01 30 83 77 01
Aurélie Gevrey
01 30 83 77 03
Violaine Solari
01 30 83 77 14
presse@chateauversailles.fr

American Friends of Versailles

Jonathan Marder
00 1 646 638 2479
mobile 00 1 917 685 8596
Jon.marder@GSMltd.net



DIRECTED BY PIERRE-ANDRÉ LABLAUDE, SENIOR ARCHITECT OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS, this first phase involved restoring according to the original plan the parterre and its two oval pools, as well as the decorative trelliswork of the façades of the Pavillon with their first six crowning vases. This work must now be prolonged by restoring the trellis gallery around the parterre, as well as the interior decoration of the Pavillon.

THIS NEW ACTION OF «THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF VERSAILLES» in favour of the château de Versailles demonstrates the special interest of Americans in Versailles, and the close links they have woven with it since the 18th century.

ABOUT "THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF VERSAILLES"

"THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF VERSAILLES" is a charitable corporation that was founded on 30 June 1998 to promote and improve cultural relations between the United States and France, and particularly Versailles.

A SISTER ORGANISATION OF THE SOCIÉTÉ DES AMIS DE VERSAILLES, its mission statement is to encourage Americans to support the Palace of Versailles, not only via specific restoration projects for the Château and the gardens, but also in the form of cultural exchanges between the two countries in the fields of education, garden architecture and music.
