

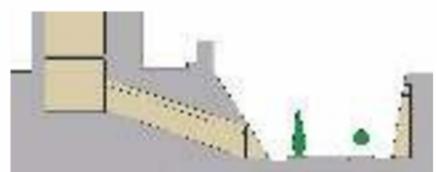
What are we looking at?
The north-east side of the castle



What was it like?
The passageway between the interior of the castle and the garden



During the renovation, a vaulted underground passageway was constructed on this side of the castle to provide a convenient connection between the castle interior and the moat garden. This passageway ran beneath the list and the curtain wall, ending in an open doorway in the escarpment. The floor was covered with a brick pavement that has survived in good condition.



What was it like?
The moat garden



During the mid-16th-century renovation, the moat was transformed from a defensive resource into a luxuriant garden, aligning with the Renaissance ideal of a country palace as a source of sensory pleasure.



The layout of the garden

Excavations have revealed the existence of 'parterres' defined by alignments of bricks laid on edge. There were also beds where trees and shrubs grew. Between the parterres were walkways along which the lord of the castle and his court could stroll to enjoy the garden.



Species

During the archaeological study of the castle, samples of pollen and seeds were collected and analysed. We now know that pine and olive trees grew near the castle, and the garden was planted with cypress, ash and walnut trees, as well as ornamental and aromatic plants such as roses, lilies and tulips. In the fountains and ponds, water lilies and other aquatic plants thrived.

Interestingly, the garden also served as a kitchen garden, where cabbages, legumes, carrots and other vegetables were grown. In the 16th century, a well-designed garden had to combine the beauty of the landscape with the fertility of a vegetable garden



The pipes were made of ceramic pieces called 'atanores,' designed to fit together seamlessly



North corner fountain

The pool and the rest of the estate

The garden extended outside the moat. The rest of the estate was occupied by farmland and a pool located to the south of the castle, now beneath the houses of the neighbourhood. This pool featured an island and was a place where one could fish or take a ride in a pleasure boat known as the 'galeón' (galleon).



Virtual reconstruction of the pool and its remains in 1953, before the construction of the neighbourhood

