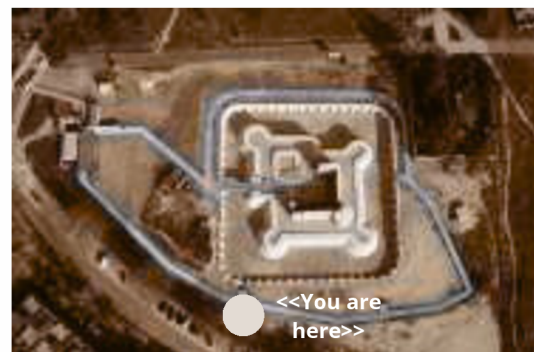


► The castle moat

2b

What are we looking at?

The southern corner of the castle

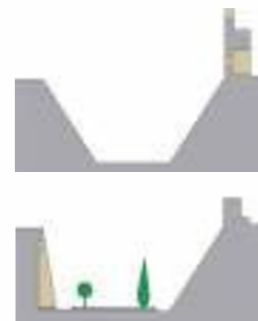


What was it like?

A castle surrounded by a large moat

The original moat

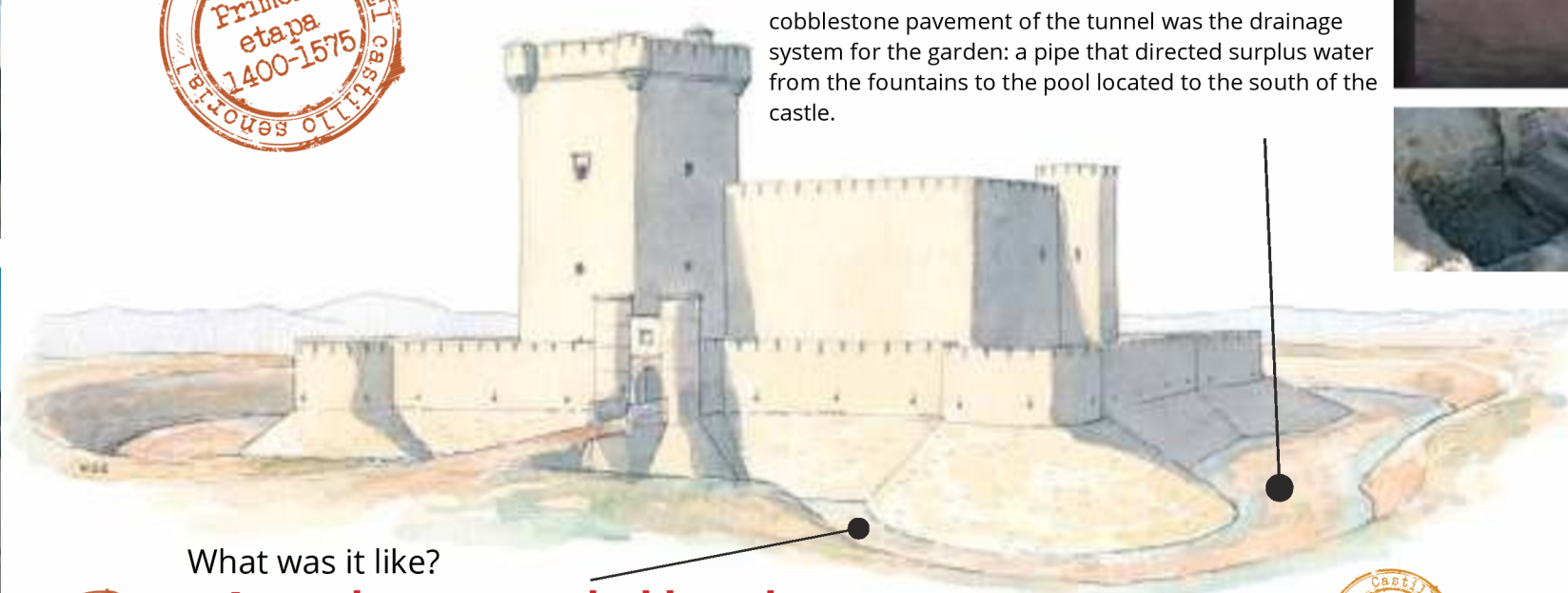
Excavations have uncovered the remains of a massive moat that once surrounded and protected the castle, hidden beneath the rubble. Its impressive dimensions—up to 12 metres wide and 6 metres deep—contrast sharply with the small size of the building. The walls, or 'escarpments,' were inclined slopes lined with stone. The moat not only increased the height of the defensive walls but also prevented attackers from escaping the defenders' projectiles.



What was it like?

The tunnel connecting with the outside of the moat

In this corner of the moat, as part of the renovation of the outer slope, a vaulted tunnel was constructed to provide access to the moat from the outside. Beneath the cobblestone pavement of the tunnel was the drainage system for the garden: a pipe that directed surplus water from the fountains to the pool located to the south of the castle.



What do we know?

Who built the Alameda Castle?

The nobles seized territorial power through concessions from the Crown

With the rise of the Trastámara dynasty, beginning with Henry II in 1369, a political process known as 'seigniorialisation' began. The nobles (or lords) formed factions that supported the kings, helping them maintain power against other claimants to the throne. In return, the monarchs granted their noble supporters legal and economic rights over Crown territories. This was the case with the villages of Barajas and La Alameda, in the district (alfoz) of Madrid.



A 14th-century manuscript depicting the execution of Peter the Cruel by his half-brother Henry II of Trastámara

The Mendozas and the construction of the castle

The beneficiaries in this instance, as in others, were the Mendoza family. It was customary at the time, for both defensive and symbolic reasons, for the new lord to build a fortified residence at the 'head' of his domain.

This is what happened in La Alameda. It is most likely that Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, Admiral of Castile and father of Íñigo López, Marquess of Santillana, ordered its construction in around 1400.



Coat of arms of the Mendoza family on the Castle of Manzanares



Other castles and manors of the Mendoza family in the current Community of Madrid: Buitrago de Lozoya and Manzanares el Real

Historical-cultural axis of the Alameda de Osuna