

...the gardens



A three-dimensional production comprising plants and sculptures.

The graceful park landscape surrounding the castle brings together elements from several centuries. Famous landscape gardeners created a well-conceived work of art featuring geometrical herbaceous borders and untouched reed belts, a baroque intersecting canal (Kreuzkanal) and water features, tree-lined paths and pergolas, terraces and steps, sculptures and grottos. Between ancient trees and fresh tulips magnificent vistas draw the visitors' eyes again and again to the castle, the lake and the town.

Schwerin Gardens

A three-dimensional staging of plants and sculptures .

The impressive garden monument was redesigned and supplemented **according to historical plans** for the 2009 Federal Horticultural Show – including the addition of a floating meadow.

The core – the grand-ducal palace garden – is regarded as **one of Germany's most beautiful and notable baroque complexes**.

Events with top-class casts make use of the perfectly designed backdrop and, in turn, enhance the diva-like image of Schwerin. The Schweriner Gartensommer, in particular, enthralls its guests with concerts and processions, with the castle festival and fireworks. Culinary highlights are also proffered by exquisite restaurants. The graceful **parkland** surrounding the castle brings together several gardens from different centuries. Famous landscape gardeners created an artistic synthesis comprising geometric herbaceous borders and untouched reed belts, a **baroque intersecting canal (Kreuzkanal) and water features, tree-lined paths and pergolas**, terraces and sculptures. Between ancient trees and fresh tulips **magnificent vistas** draw the visitors' eyes again and again to the castle, the lake and the town.

Castle garden (Burggarten)

Measuring just 1.8 hectares, the castle garden on the palatial castle island is the artistic highlight of Schwerin's sprawling park and lakescape. It surrounds the ducal palace like a colourful, voluminous skirt. It wraps itself gently and picturesquely around the bastions and foundations of the building. Plants and water features on the steps and terraces create smooth transitions from the building to the water. They gracefully overcome a difference in height of 12 metres and make the tall structure appear to well and truly flow into the lake. And this body of water thus becomes the sky-blue train of a wedding gown for the castle in the most elegant manner. The visitor is surprised to note how the architecture and nature amalgamate to become a three-dimensional painting.

The castle garden stretches over two levels. The ground level protrudes just a few centimetres out of the water. In close proximity to the banks are some exotic giant trees planted on sprawling areas of lawn. Curved paths make their way through the area in the style of an English country garden. They lead to a mysterious grotto. Further arches and paths as well as the thorny rose garden nurture the mystically romantic aura of the location.

The vegetation becomes denser towards the castle. Hedges and borders create colourful ornaments in harmony with the building. Roman terraced and villa gardens were the inspiration for this area.

Paradise is symbolised by the ensemble composed of the works of art and the plants. Each design element – from the fountain to the sculptures through to the flower beds – plays its own role in this enactment. In particular, this can be seen in impressive fashion in the courtyard of the orangery. Directly beneath the main tower the semi-circular structure is surrounded by a symmetrical carpet of pruned bushes and colourful flowers. The kaleidoscope-like garden hall is supplemented in perfect harmony by numerous potted plants, figures and tiles as well as the central shell-shaped fountain.

The orangery itself is a real feast for the eyes. Its cast-iron design was all the rage in the middle of the 19th century. In the summer the glass palace accommodates a wonderful café. In the winter its elegant rooms still house the potted Mediterranean plants. The second level of the castle garden extends over several terraces and plateaus, thereby incorporating the roofs of the orangery and grotto. Visitors stroll through porticoes and ornamental plants. They are afforded a breath-taking panoramic view of the surrounding lakes and banks. But their eyes do not only roam far into the distance. They also take in the finely enchased façade of the palatial castle – right up to the golden roofs. The hovering goddesses of victory and the battling Hercules also create a stir among the strollers.

The castle garden was designed together with the castle. The main ideas originate from Peter Joseph Lenné. The Director General of the Royal Prussian gardens was the star of his guild at that time. From 1850, his plans were implemented by the Schwerin-born court gardener Theodor Klett. Owing to the fact that the reconstruction in our days was carried out according to these very plans with meticulous precision, the castle garden is one of the few authentic horticultural works of art of historicism in Europe.

The Palace Garden (Schlossgarten)

An iron swivel bridge leads from the palace island to the mainland and directly into the palace garden. It was here that Peter Joseph Lenné came upon a baroque garden, which he then simplified a little while still retaining the basic structures in his design. In as early as the 17th century, French architects had laid out a pleasure garden with geometric quadrants. However, it was not until their famous fellow countryman Jean Legeay – who simultaneously executed the baroque garden in Ludwigslust in unsurpassed quality from 1748 – came to Schwerin that the main axis was directed towards the castle, while opening up the view as far as the horizon. His system of paths, vegetation and areas of water still dominates this part of the green spaces today. The central element is the baroque intersecting canal (Kreuzkanal). Many different aspects of the fairytale castle are reflected in it. This is a place where ducks and swans also feel at home. They are joined by twelve ancient gods and the four seasons. The sculptures created by the famous Saxony-born court sculptor Balthasar Permoser make reference to the God-given order in whose midst the builder, Grand Duke Friedrich Franz II. saw himself. After all, his bronze statue also leads from the front on horseback. However, it was his son who later commissioned this monumental equestrian statue at the top of the intersecting canal.

The wide pond is framed by areas of trees planted at regular intervals, by tree-lined paths and pergolas. In addition to newly planted specimens, ancient giant trees are to be found all around – including several swamp cypresses whose aerial roots look as if they have been sculpted. Following Lenné's plan, the Schwerin-born court gardener Theodor Klett doubled the size of the park and added the **Greenhouse Garden** with curved paths, large areas of lawn and individual groups of trees. Of course, he emphasised the views to the castle, the lake, the town, the surrounding countryside and the various fixed points in the garden. He modelled the transitional areas between the individual areas and to the surroundings in his customary manner, creating soft and flowing lines. This was the place of residence of the Grand Duchess Alexandrine, mother of Friedrich Franz II.

Hugo Berwald created the larger-than-life, white marble statue in 1907.

In addition to a hedge and kitchen garden as well as other parts, the sprawling park also comprises the **Garten am Marstall**. It is situated on the other bank and affords a wonderful view of the imposing silhouette of the castle.

The complex, which spans a total of 25 hectares, was redesigned according to historical plans for the 2009 Federal Horticultural Show, and is in excellent condition today. This is why the palace garden is regarded as an impressive historical and landmark garden of a high national rank.