



Permanent exhibition showing the history of the palace



Contact



Museum Ettlingen, Castle
 Opening hours:
 September – April
 Wed – Sun 11–18 h
 May – August 13–18 h

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storage area and just occasionally as a guesthouse. Famous guests were the heir to the throne in Baden with his entourage in 1786; Prince Alexander of Württemberg in 1796 and Emperor Napoleon in 1805. In 1796, a saltpetre workshop was installed and in 1808, an infantry division patrolling the castle took their quarters there. In 1814, it became a military hospital and lodging for a squadron of dragoons; in 1815, a tailor's shop for the army of Baden and lodgings and offices for military officials were set up in the castle. From 1870 to 1912, the castle was used as a training place for sergeants.

The castle – property of the town

In 1912, the castle was too small for the training of the sergeants of Prussia. The military financial administration sold it to the municipality of Ettlingen for 152 000 goldmarks. But until the end of the war and the completion of the new "Rheinlandkaserne" barracks, the army continued using it. From 1918 until the seventies, the castle provided room for emergency housing and accommodated a school for boys, the social welfare office, the employment centre, the land registry office and the "Albgau" museum. When the town found itself in serious financial difficulties and restoration expenses threatened to be very high, the town council considered several times selling the castle. At the beginning of the fifties, the town decided to convert the former chapel into a hall for concerts and

The renovated palace seen from the south-west



festivities because of its high quality. During the old town restoration which started at the end of the sixties, a general restoration of the castle was started. It was completed, for the time being, in 1982 with the restoration of the baroque rooms in the southern wing.

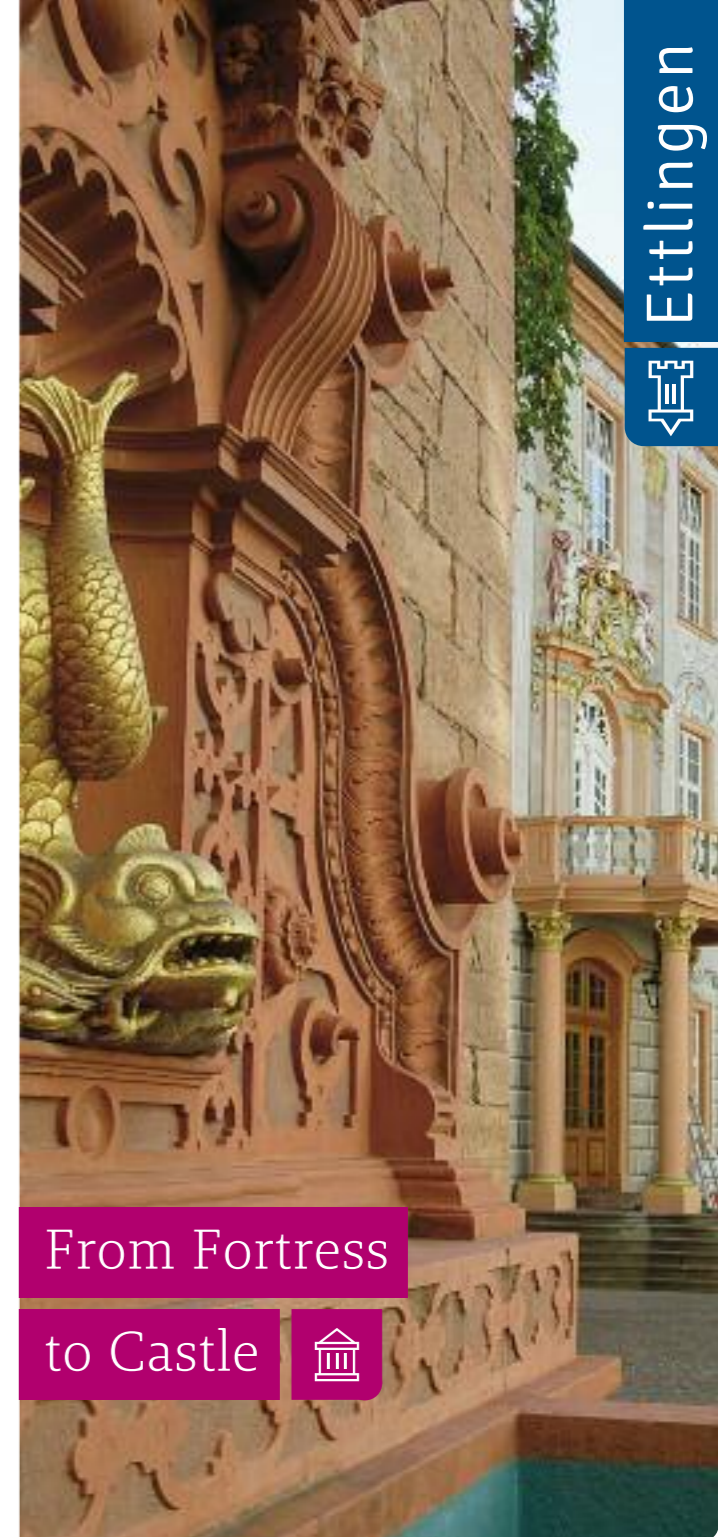
At present, the palace houses the different departments and exhibition rooms of the Ettlingen museum, a school of arts for children, the registry office, the tourist office, conference rooms, festival rooms and rooms for the administration. In summer, the courtyard becomes the stage for the Ettlingen Festival.

The Ettlingen museum in the castle

In motivating exhibitions, stimulating active participation, the museum in the palace presents regional art, cultural history as well as the history of the town, showing archaeological evidence from prehistoric times to the checkered history of the palace. The striking exhibition about art in south-west Germany in the 20th century in the Städtische Galerie houses the biggest collection of works from Karl Albiker and Karl Hofer.

Tip: A large programme which includes expert guided tours in the historic centre of Ettlingen, in the palace and the museums ensures an eventful visit.

Current exhibition of collected works from Karl Albiker and Karl Hofer



From Fortress

to Castle



Historical requirements for building a fortress

In the 12th century, the market town of Ettlingen was given its town charter. This enabled the town to be secured by a system of ramparts and ditches with palisades. A stone wall – much more expensive – with a moat was probably not finished before the middle of the 13th century. The much more expensive option of a stone wall with a moat was probably not finished before the middle of the 13th century. In 1219, Ettlingen became a fiefdom of the Margrave of Baden. At that time, the area of today's castle was probably a fortified courtyard, maybe with a tower, where the governors lived and worked.

Margrave Rudolph I's government was marked by numerous new buildings and extensions to his castles to secure his estates between the middle Upper Rhine and the Neckar. By no later than this time Ettlingen's castle must have been enlarged and gained its high keep. The lower floors of this keep can still be seen from the courtyard today, the interior of which can be reached via the museum. In 1410, the castle is mentioned for the first time in the will of the Margrave Bernhard, unfortunately without a more precise description of the layout. But one can be sure that there existed not only the residential buildings, but also stables and outbuildings like kitchens, bakery etc.

It is quite certain that the area has been altered and enlarged several times throughout the centuries. Older, dilapidated buildings or those

View to the ceiling of the medieval keep



View into the ribbed vault of the arcades

which had become too small were either replaced by new buildings or enlarged by the addition of an annex. Several historical sources tell us about the purchase of land to enlarge the castle area. Alongside residential buildings and outbuildings, a small kitchen garden was laid out.

The building of a new castle in the 16th century

From a document of homage (before 1510) to the margravine Elisabeth, wife to the margrave Philipp I, one can learn that she owned a "widdum" in Ettlingen, already during her husband's lifetime. A "widdum" was the property in possession of a prince's wife which she could use after her husband's death. This was possibly already a tradition at this time. From now on, the castle was the widows'

domicile. The castle, now built and enlarged as a renaissance palace enclosed the courtyard on three sides.

In the south, there was the prince's residence with its bulky round towers, a housing and kitchen unit in the west and perhaps an enlarged wing in the north used as arsenal. On the left, in the eastern direction, several outbuildings followed up, so as stables, rooms for the coachmen, rooms for the harness and the depot for the coaches which still exists today.

New start after the big fire in 1689

On August 15th 1689, the town was destroyed and almost completely burned down by French troops during the war of the Palatine succession.

In 1727, the widowed Margravine Sibylla Augusta passed the governmental power to her son Ludwig Georg (1702–1761) and decided to reside from then on in the castle of Ettlingen. She moved into the habitable rooms in the castle and assigned the interior work of the old castle to the architect of the court in Rastatt, Johann Michael Ludwig Rohrer. He was to use the existing walls and change the building into a baroque castle. Rohrer created a building of uniform height and closed the courtyard to the east with a new wing, which included the castle chapel.

Portrait of the margravine Sybilla Augusta (1675–1733)



The entry to the residential building in the south wing was highlighted by a sweeping flight of stairs with a balcony resting on four columns crowned by the coat of arms of the alliance, rich in stucco. The opulent façade paintings as well as the paintings in the halls by Lucca Antonio Colomba and the stucco work by Riccardo Retti were completed in 1731.

But the crowning glory of these works was to be the chapel dedicated to St. Nepomuk. The painting of the chapel was assigned to the painter Cosmas Damian Asam, highly regarded at that time. This work was completed in 1733. In July 1733, as the work was being finished, the Margravine died and so began the chequered history of the castle almost leading to its ruin.

Guesthouse and barracks

After the Margravine's death, the castle was seldom used. As early as the period of the reign of the Margrave August Georg (1706–1771), the last margrave of the catholic line of Südbaden, the first structural damage to the castle appeared in the Rittersaal and in the chapel. In 1771, the whole territory of Baden-Baden passed to the protestant Margrave Karl Friedrich in Karlsruhe. Maria Viktoria, the last Margrave's widow, lived in her mother-in-law's rooms till 1775. After she had left, most of the works of art and the furnishings were taken away and the castle was mostly used as a

Ceiling painting in the palace chapel

