

GYMNASIO PARALIAS

Kalamata



The first palace in Greece by a German

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Neckarbischofsheim



BAROQUE

- The term Baroque refers to the historical period 1600 - 1750
- But from 1453 to 1821 Greece was under Turkish occupation, so we don't have palaces, baroque buildings, princes during that time.



We decided to present the building of the Greek Parliament, because:

- Today's Parliament of the Greeks was initially a palace
- It was built by a German, the first king of Greece, King Otto
- It has a large garden, the National Garden
- It is a symbol of democracy, which is a fundamental European value
- It is a Cultural Heritage site
- It is an element of the Greek Identity

**BUT
THERE WAS
A PALACE...**



THE MODERN GREEK STATE

Let's begin with some general information:

- In 1821 the revolution of the Greeks against the Ottoman Empire began in our city, Kalamata.
- The history of modern Greece begins in 1830 with the independence of the Greek State from the Ottoman Empire.



THE FIRST KING & QUEEN OF GREECE

- In 1832 the Greek monarchy was established and Bavarian Prince Otto ruled as King of Greece.
- As he was only 17 years old by that time, a council of three Germans took over the regency.
- From the year 1836, Otto ruled with his wife, Amalia of Oldenburg.

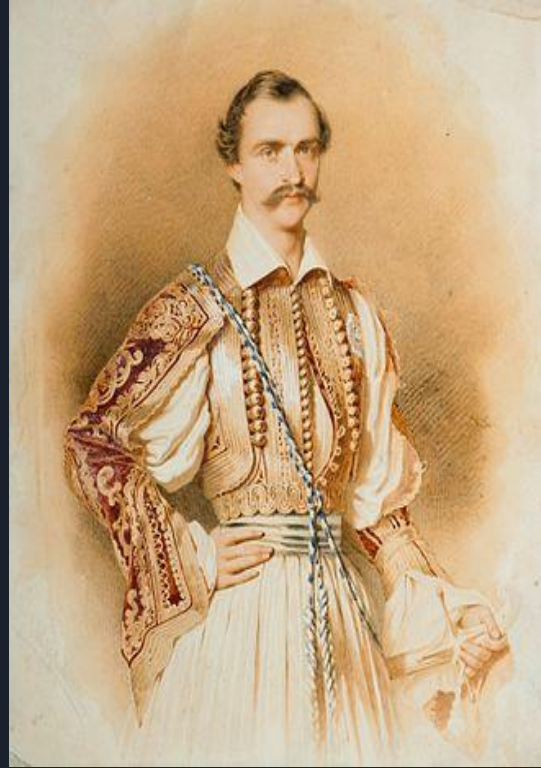


THE FIRST KING & QUEEN OF GREECE

- Otto's reign lasted for 30 years, as he was deposed in 1862.
- During his reign, the Greek State was organized, many buildings were established, like the University of Athens, the National Library of Greece and the Royal Palace.



- Amalia's attire, known as the Amalia dress, was inspired by the Greek traditional costumes and is still a national costume.
- Even after their exile, Otto and Amalia continued to speak in Greek, donate to the Greek people and wear the Greek costumes.
- Otto was buried wearing the traditional Greek uniform and his last words were: "*My beloved Greece*"



THE KING & THE NEW CAPITAL

- In 1834, King Otto decided to transfer the capital of Greece from Nafplio to Athens
- Athens was a small town of about 8,000 inhabitants at that time.
- Otto decided to build his royal palace there.



THE HISTORY OF THE PALACE

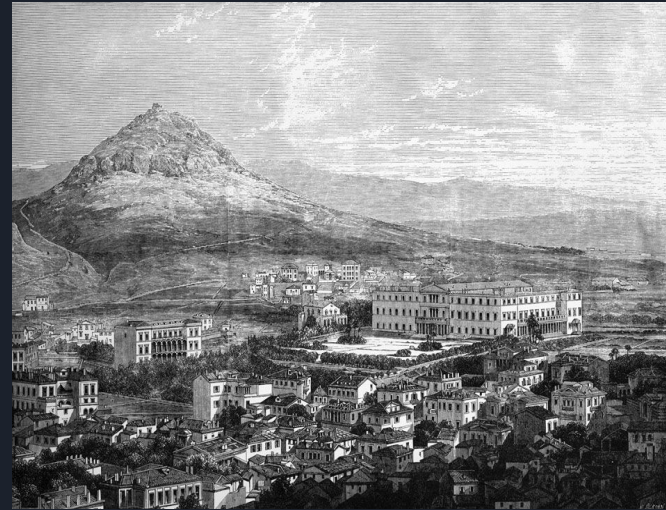
- The palace of King Otto was built between 1836 - 1847 .
- The construction site proposed by the German architect of the palace, Friedrich von Gärtner, was at a central location of the new capital with the view of the Acropolis.
- There was another proposal by Karl Friedrich Schinkel for the palace to be built on the Acropolis, but it was rejected by Ludwig I, father of Otto!
- German, Italian and Greek craftsmen collaborated for the construction.





THE HISTORY OF THE PALACE

- The palace building had 3 floors and covered a surface of around 7200 m².
- The palace was the first massive building in modern Athens, simple and imposing, with a completely different architecture from that of the other buildings. Compared to the small houses around it, it looked really giant.
- It is a simple palace without rich decoration compared to other ones all around Europe.
- The palace building was twice in danger of fire, while in 1930 many modifications and innovations were made.



THE ROYAL GARDEN

- It was Queen Amalia, who wanted a Royal Garden and gave instructions on how it should be formed in order to look aesthetically beautiful.
- Friedrich von Gärtner, the architect who built the palace, only indicated where the Royal Garden should be made. He was not the Garden's architect.
- The design of the Royal Garden seems to have been made by the Bavarian garden architect Eduard von Riedel in 1848.
- The model for the Garden was the English Garden of Munich.



Queen Amalia in the Royal Garden

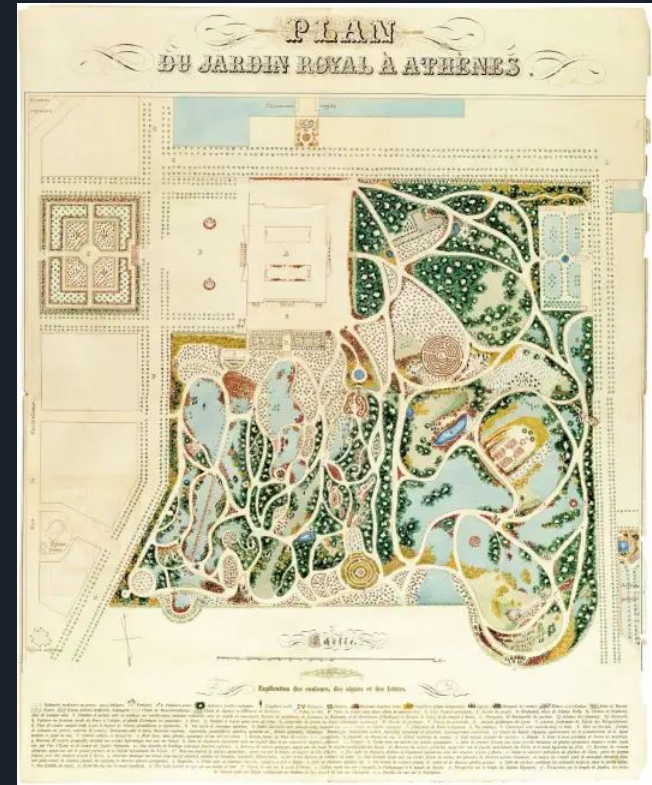
THE ROYAL GARDEN

- The Royal Garden covers an area of 120 acres and has a diameter of 500 m. It was created exactly next to the Palace.
- The Garden was designed in a natural style according to the principles of the English landscape garden of the 18th century.



THE ROYAL GARDEN

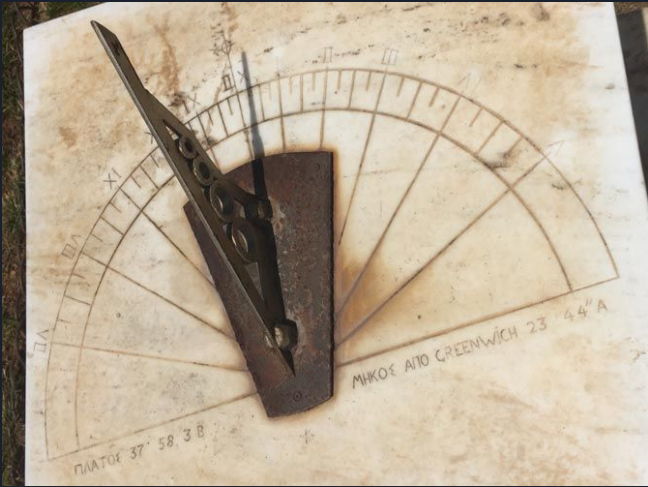
- Bridges, benches, pergolas, caves, small pavilions. The Garden seemed like a natural landscape of the Mediterranean, where everything was in fact carefully designed.
- Queen Amalia brought plants from all over the world to her Garden.



The National Garden TODAY

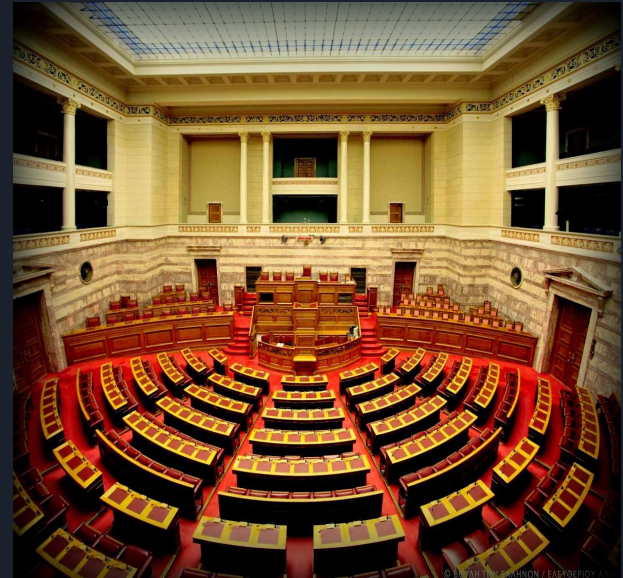
- Today, the Royal Garden is renamed to National Garden.
- There are over 7.000 trees and other plants in the Garden .
- One of the most impressive and appealing sights of the National Garden is the solar clock, which is located in the central entrance.
- The Garden is public and has a lot of visitors every year. It also includes a library for kids of over 6.000 books and a small coffee shop.





Today's Parliament of the Greeks.

- From 1935 until today, the building of Otto's palace houses the Greek Parliament.
- Since 1996, the Foundation of the Greek Parliament plans and implements activities and events, which are connected with the institutional role and the mission of the Parliament.
- There is a library in the Parliament building.
- It also houses permanent and periodic exhibitions, which anyone can visit.



PARLIAMENT & EDUCATION

- Every year, many schools visit the Parliament, our school included.
- The Parliament provides educational programs for students, concerning democracy and history



Syntagma Square

- Syntagma Square is located In front of the Parliament building.
- Syntagma means constitution in Greek.
- It is the central square of Athens.
- The Square is connected with the institution of Democracy, an element of our European Identity. It was named after the Constitution that King Otto was forced to grant to the Greek people after a revolution.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- Between the Parliament building and Syntagma Square, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located.
- It is a cenotaph, an empty tomb, dedicated to the Greek soldiers that were killed during the war.



- This tomb commemorates the struggles of Greeks for freedom and independence.

This palace became the symbol of

Democracy,

Freedom,

Independence



which are our common European Heritage

that defines our European Identity.

