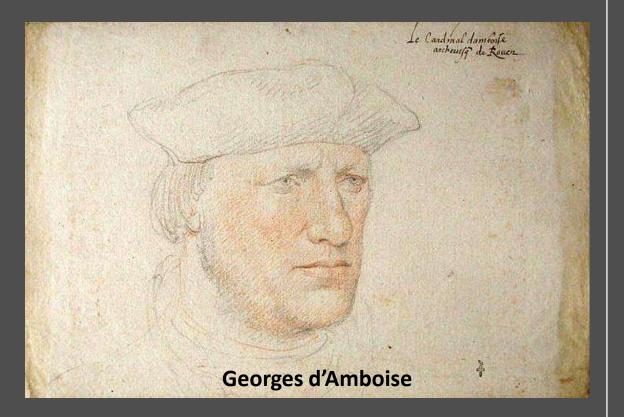


The kings of France: far from being alone in building and transforming the châteaux of the Val de Loire



Local nobility/high-ranking Court officials





From Charles VII (1422-1461)to Henri III (1574-1589), the Valois kings resided in the Val de Loire

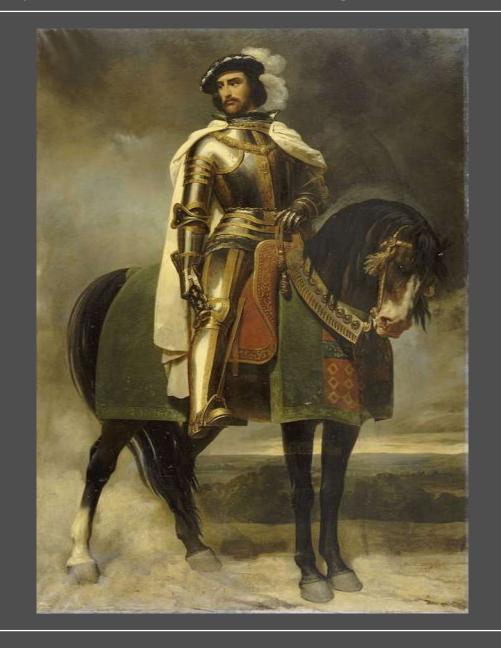
A boon for the great **trade families & local nobility**



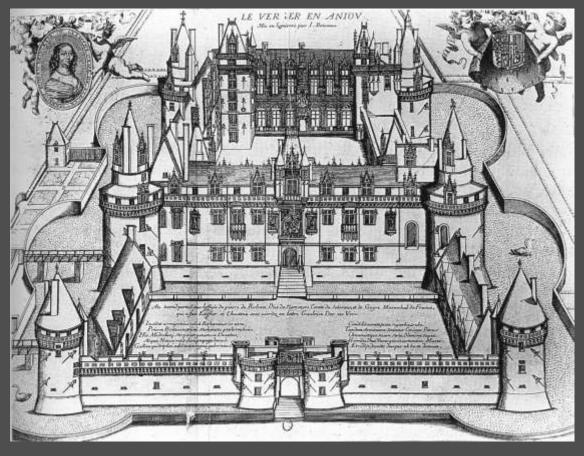
Jean Bourré: Secretary & officer of finances – Louis XI's confidant



Many Court officers from other regions of France chose to move to the Val de Loire (proximity to the king)



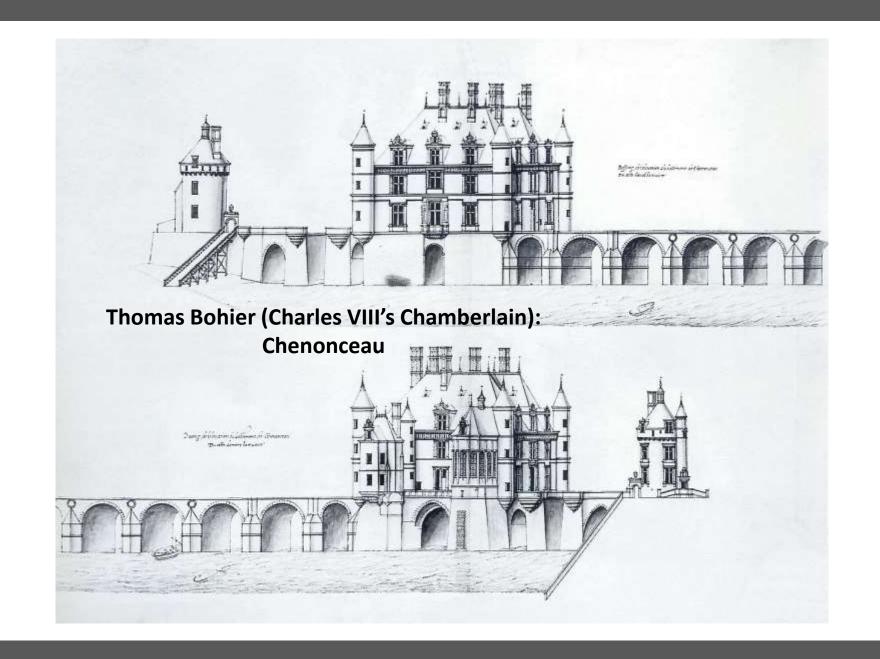
Pierre de Rohan (from Britany) – High-ranking officer under Louis XI & Charles VIII



Château du Verger de Seiches-sur-le-Loir

Jean de Daillon – Louis XI's Chamberlain & governor of the Dauphiné

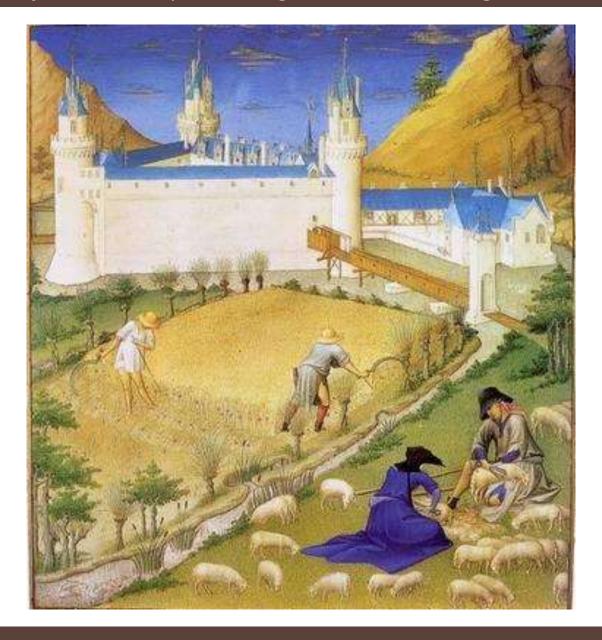




Château de Talcy (Bernard Salviati – Tradesman & banker)



General prosperity – The development of agriculture & trade: higher revenues to landowners



The many spectacular châteaux of the Val de Loire: no equivalent in France



In the service of the king: considerable revenues & royal gifts = prestigious architectural projects



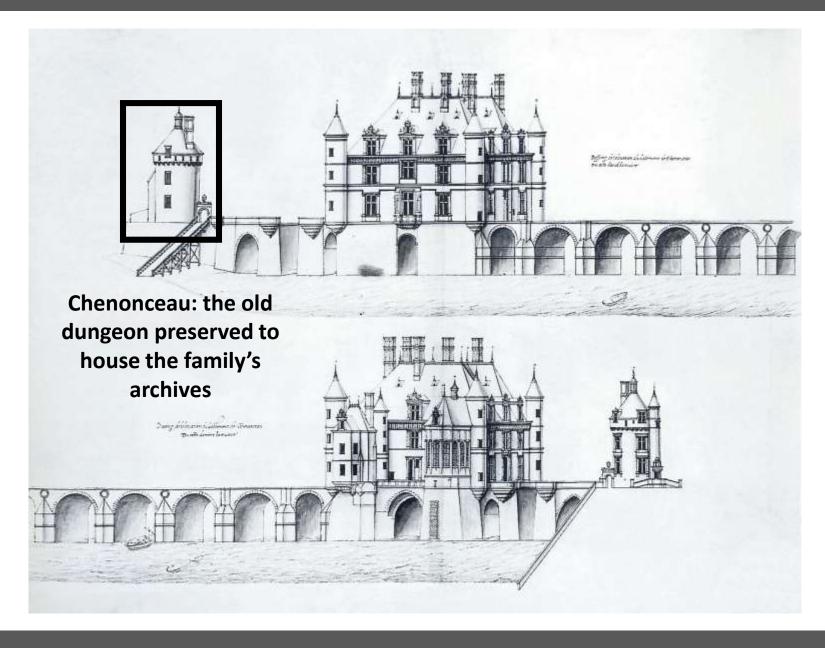
Building a château: a symbol of political power/social prestige







A question of legitimacy: to build new but preserve elements of the old



Political rivalries = ambitious architectural projects

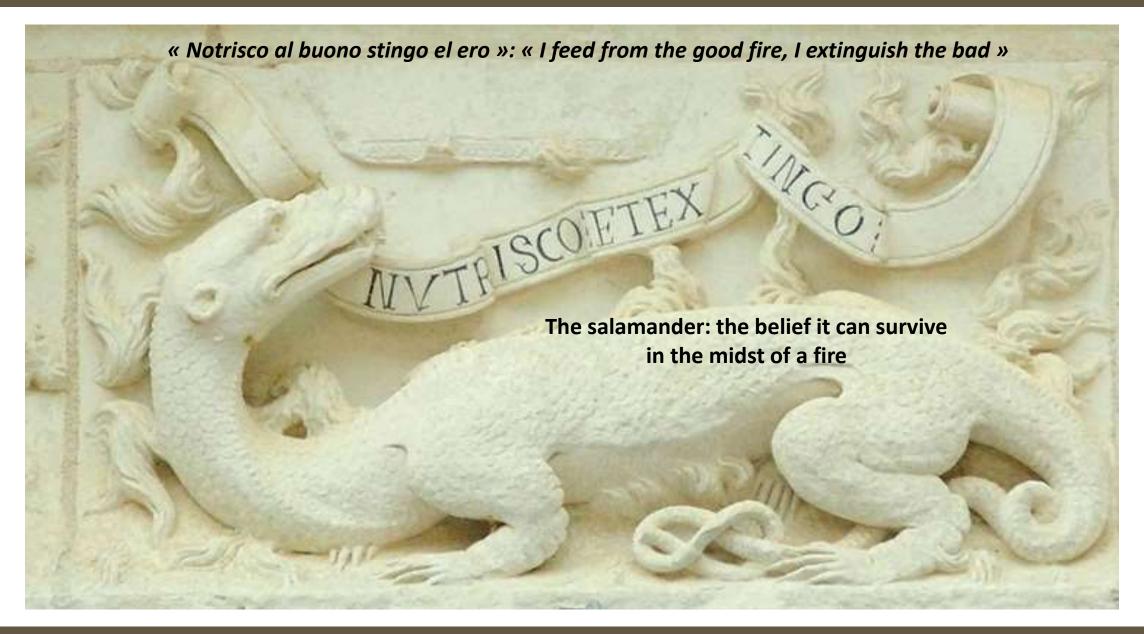


Azay-le-Rideau: built by Gilles Berthelot (Francis I's treasurer) and his wife





The **salamander**: Francis I's emblem – Everywhere at Azay-le-Rideau











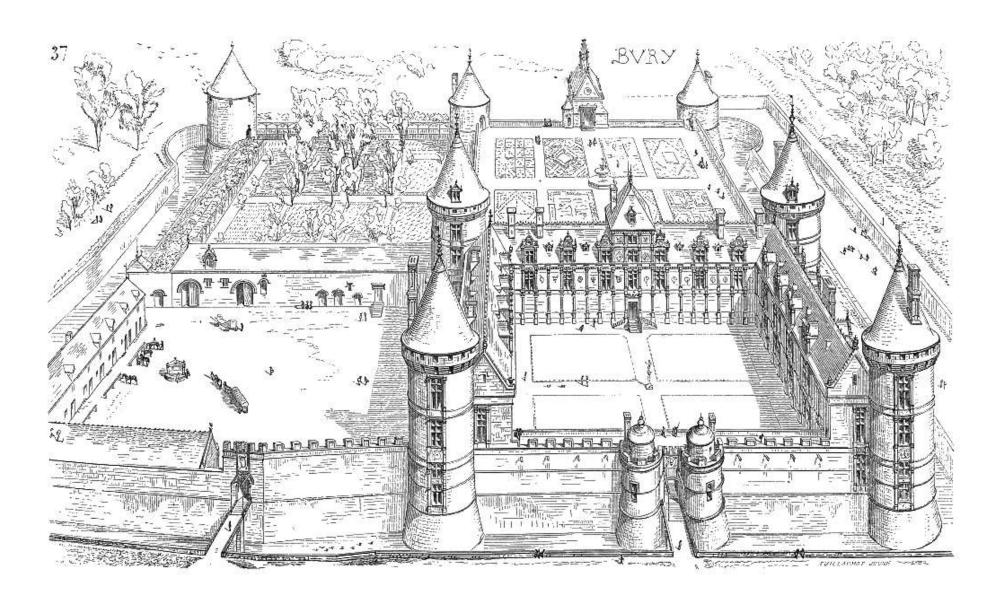
Château de Valençay: the art of imitating the king



Valençay: an immense rectangle surrounded by moats – Circular towers



Château de Bury: innovating design and the introduction of symmetry



Château d'Oiron



The introduction of painted galleries



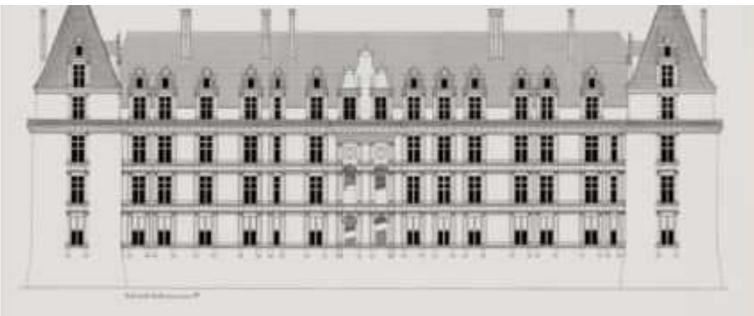


Italian-style cabinets superbly decorated – The best artists hired









The private châteaux of the Val de Loire: the potential of a reversal of fortune

Château de Bonnivet



Château de Semblançay: Jacques de Beaune accused of embezzlement

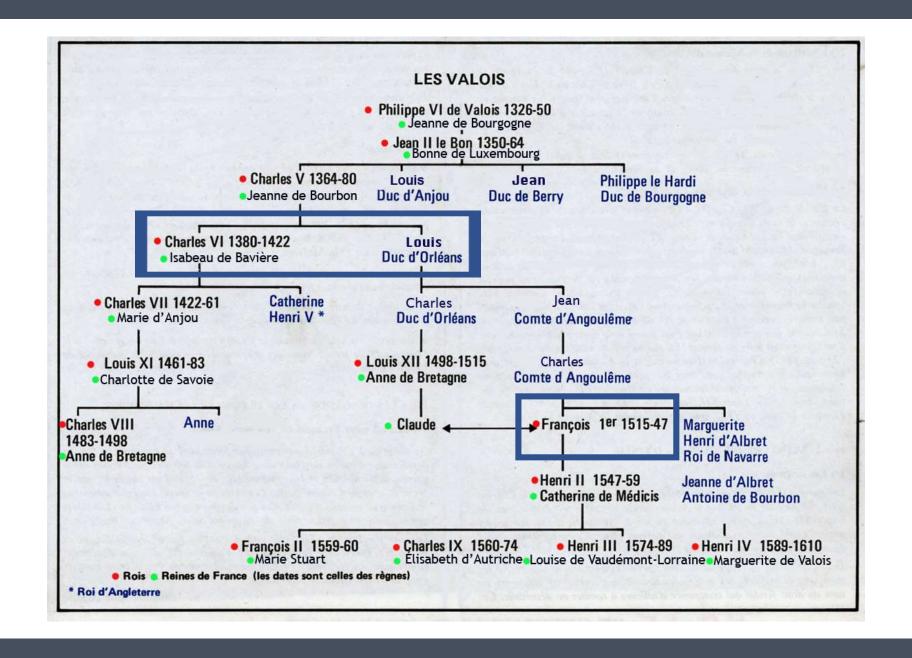


Azay-le-Rideau confiscated



Le Clos Lucé (Manoir du Cloux) sold to Charles VIII



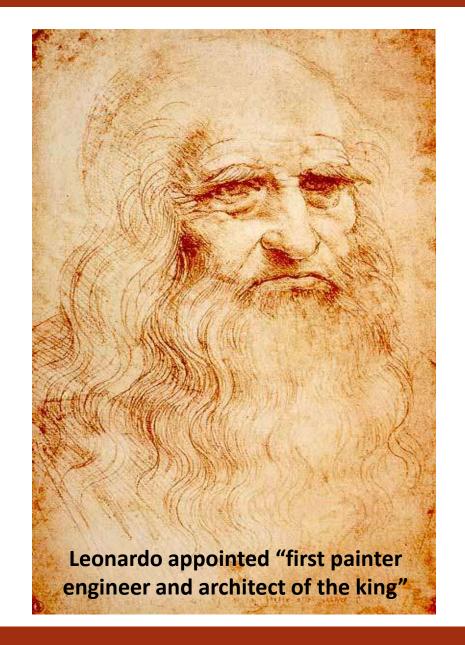


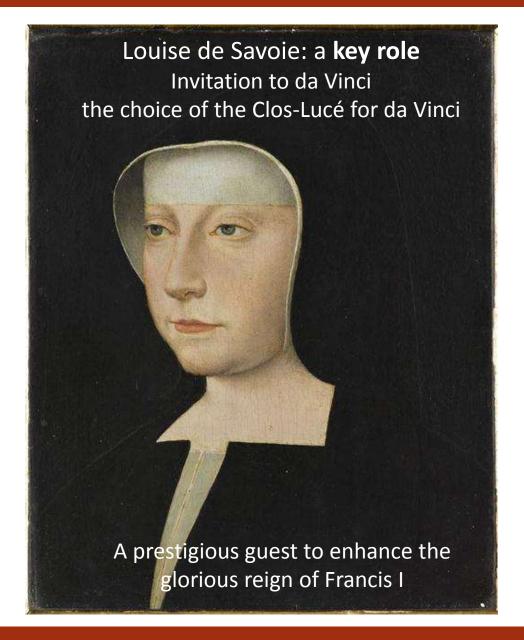


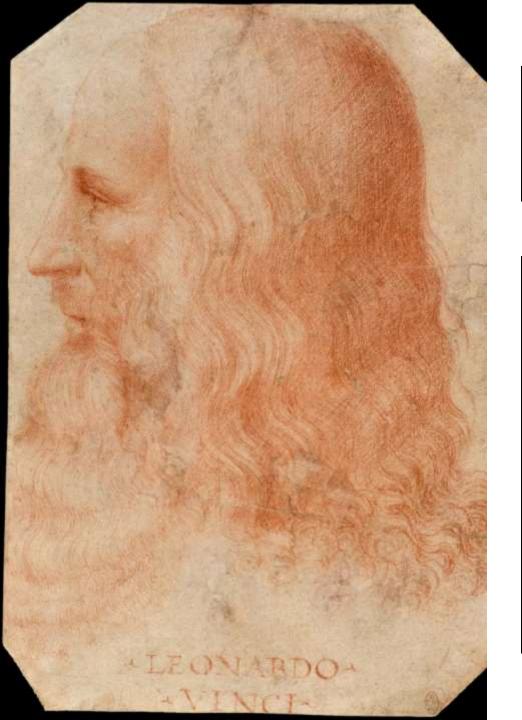


Louise de Savoie – Her **lifetime ambition**: to make her son (Francis I) the greatest king in Europe

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519): the reputation of a talented painter, architect & engineer







Why did Leonardo agree to come to France?

Leonardo and the French kings: a long lasting relationship

First Italian campaign (1494-1497): Charles VIII allied to the Duke of Milan

Leonardo in Milan: first contact with Charles VIII

1507: Louis XII commissioned Leonardo









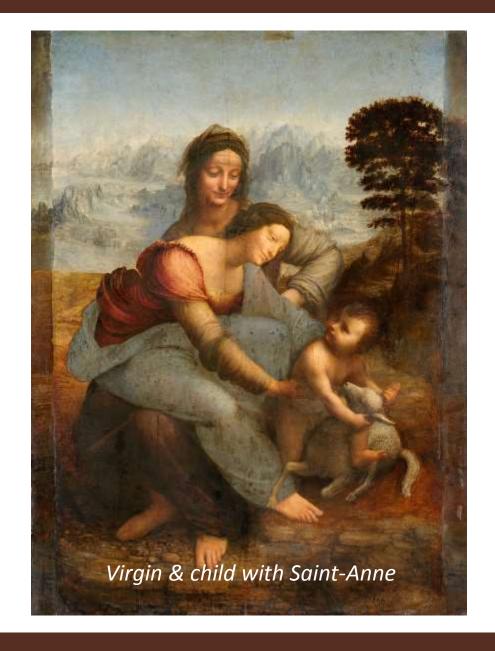
1515: Francis I victorious at Marignan – Leonardo invited to go to France (14 March 1516)



A comfortable & studious life at the Clos-Lucé – Annual royal pension of 2 000 livres (\$180,000)



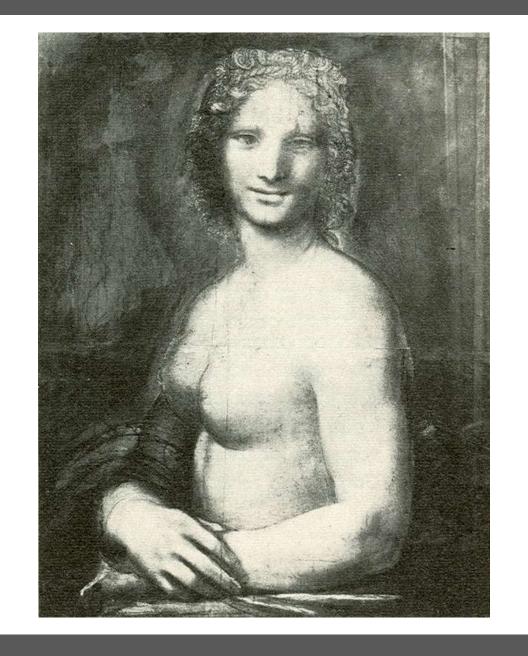




No new masterpieces produced at Amboise

Previous work brought from Italy reworked





Francis I next to da Vinci receiving a painting by Raphael at Fontainebleau (by Lemonnier, 1814)



The death of Leonardo da Vinci in the arms of Francis I – A moving scene that never happened



A great friendship between Leonardo and Francis I?



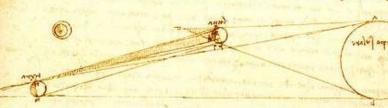


A secret tunnel between the Clos-Lucé and Amboise?

What did Leonardo work on at Amboise?

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Codexes: collection of scientific writings

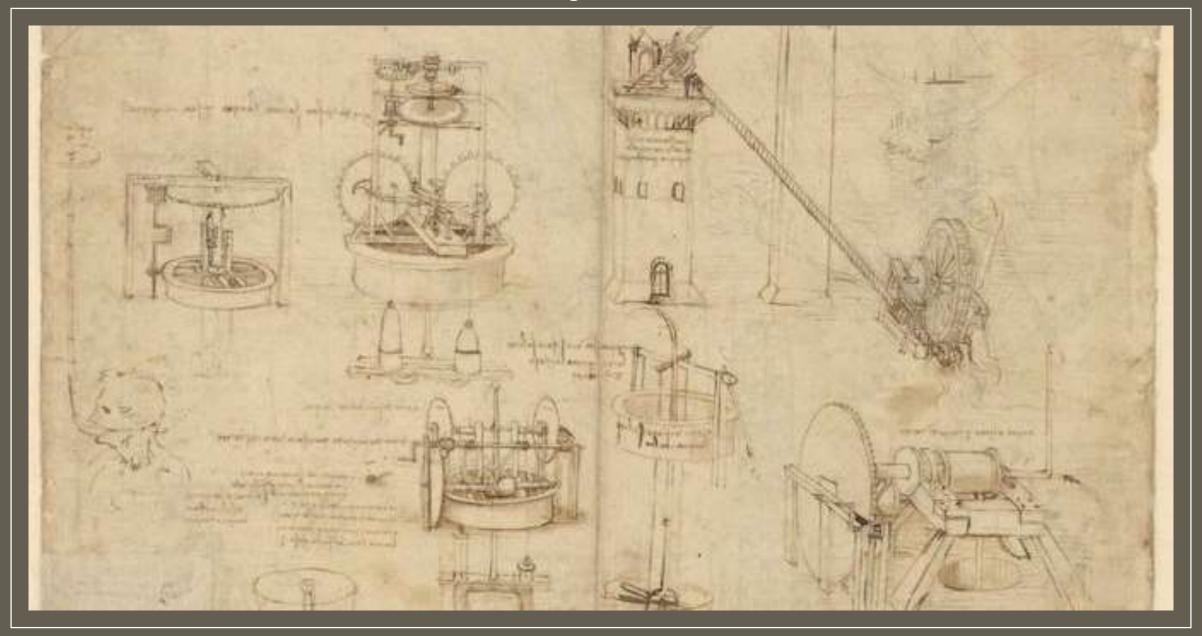
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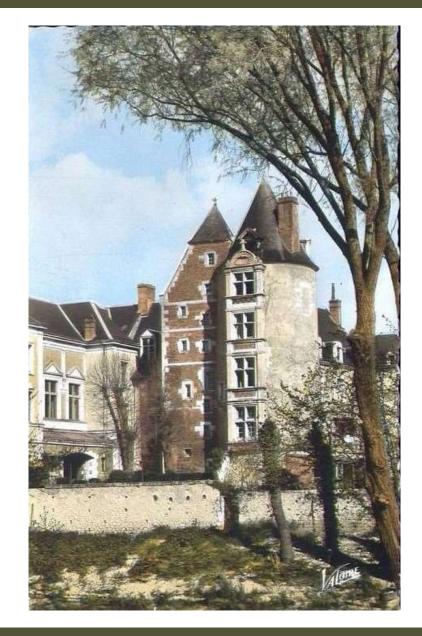
When Leonardo imagined how to divert a river

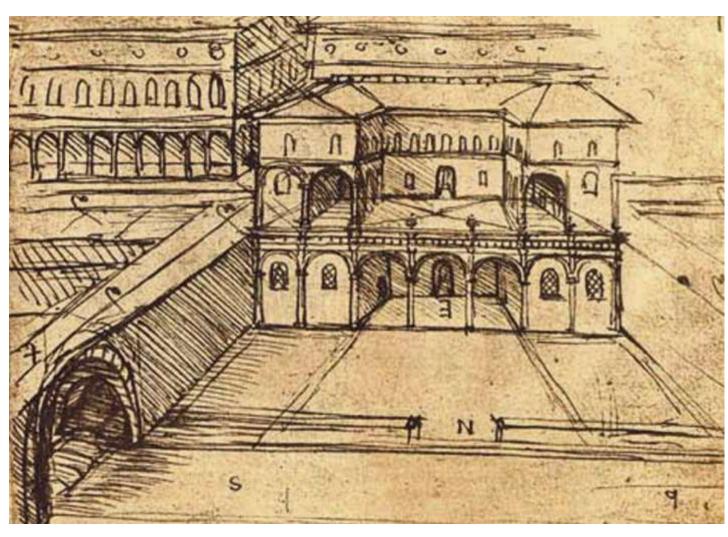


Romorantin: Leonardo's forgotten massive project



Romorantin: a new capital for France?





A new "ideal" city located next to a river (better hygiene)

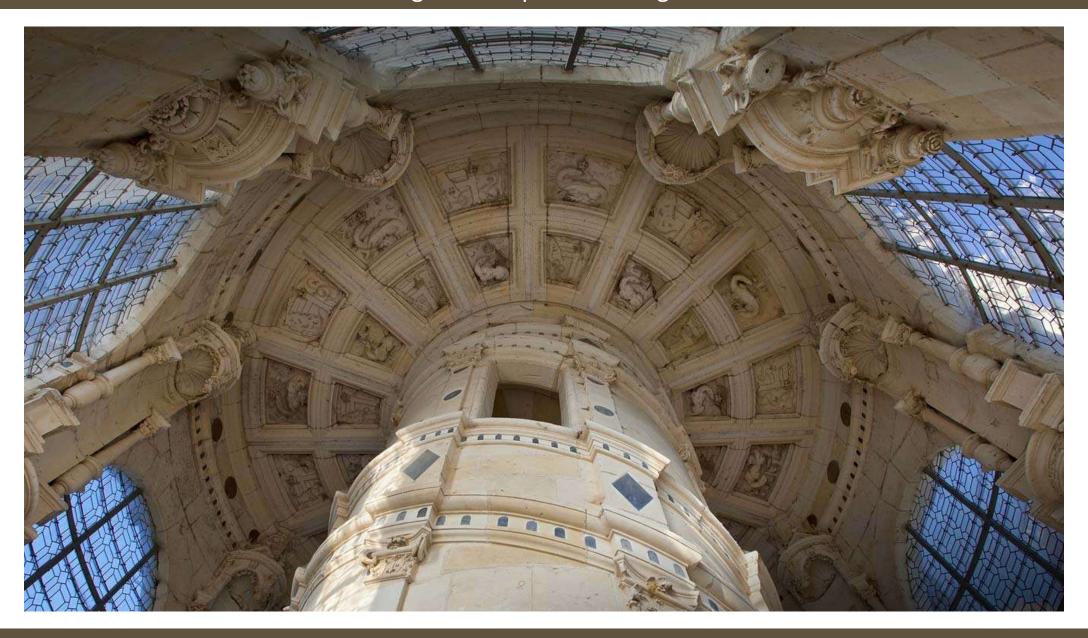
Swamps: a complex **network of canals** imagined by Leonardo (hydraulic engineer)



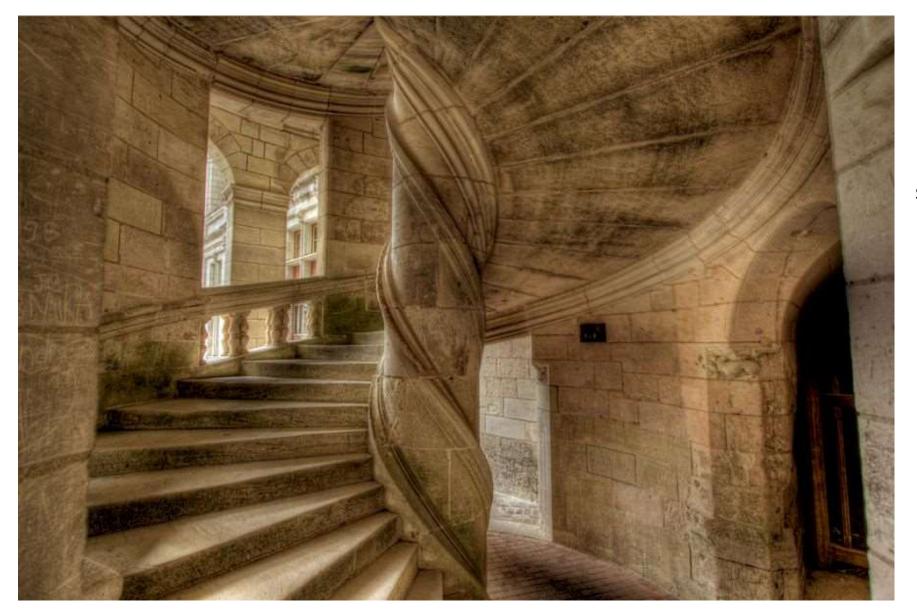
Chambord: a display of power



The ascending double spiral central grand staircase



A double helix staircase (designed by Leonardo da Vinci)

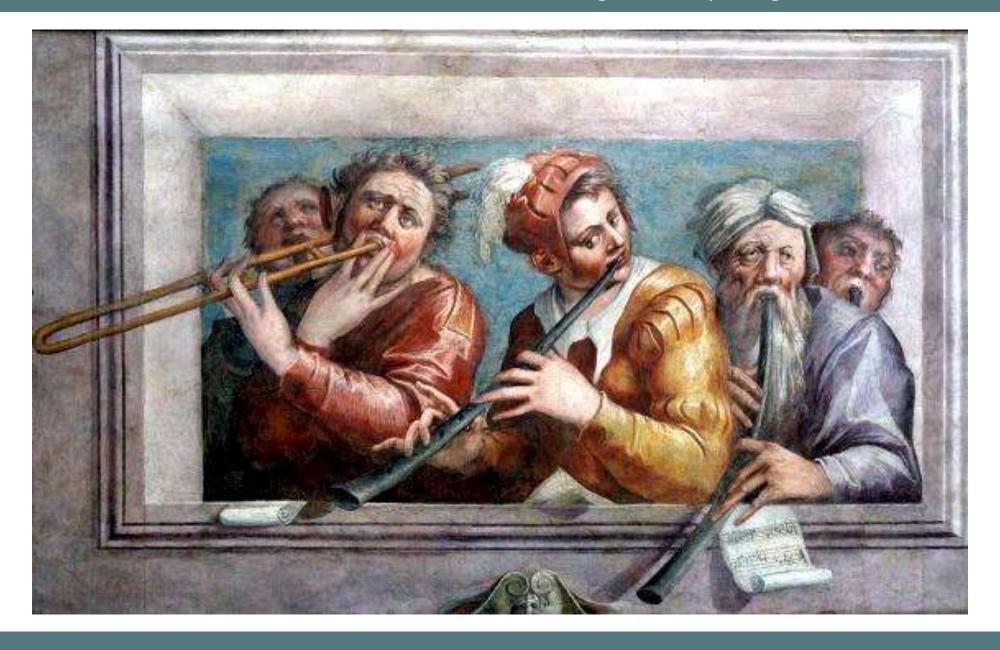


Two intertwining spiral staircases that go all the way up to the castle's terrace

Design to allow visitors to the castle to ascend and descend without obstruction

And watch the festivities

Leonardo: a master in the art of entertainment - The organizer of prestigious ceremonies at Court



A **robotic lion** presenting fleurs de lys: a technological marvel



1518: a night fairy-tale – The celestial sphere reproduced (movement of planets) with the help of 400 candelabras



1530-1540: the King and the Court back in Paris - The Val de Loire no longer at the heart of artistic creation



Fontainebleau: the other Renaissance

From Louis VII to Napoleon III: the favorite residence of the French sovereigns Multiple transformations



Fontainebleau close to Paris – Hunting grounds
Francis I: to transform Fontainebleau into one of the most important Renaissance château in France



The prestigious châteaux of the Val de Loire as models – Another display of power



Mythological figures and allegories to emphasize the king's glory – The duties of a good prince



The laws of "good government" on display – The king has the duty to fight wars and overcome disasters



The salamander



Versailles



