



## Stengel Promenade



On the trails of the baroque-architect



Dear visitors to Saarbrücken, you are interested in the sights of our city? The symbols, the Castle of Saarbrücken and the Ludwig's Church, come from the Baroque period.



Today we can still speak about a stroke of luck that, in the 18th century, a historical coincidence let Prince Wilhelm Heinrich von Nassau-Usingen, who had a soft spot for architectural finesse, became the head of the Land of Saarbrücken and appointed the talented architect Friedrich Joachim Stengel as his master builder.

Extensive plans for the city were developed and shaped the city more and more with impressive individual buildings, generous ensembles and gorgeous squares. The final result was an impressive baroque residence which may have caused more than one sovereign to envy their cousin at the Saar. Goethe, the most prominent visitor, who came to the city during Stengel's lifetime called the city small and hilly but also embellished by the late prince.

This brochure will accompany you on your **tour on the Stengel Promenade** to the stations of this great architect. Admirers of Baroque will also find the former residential cities Blieskastel, Ottweiler and Zweibrücken of interest.

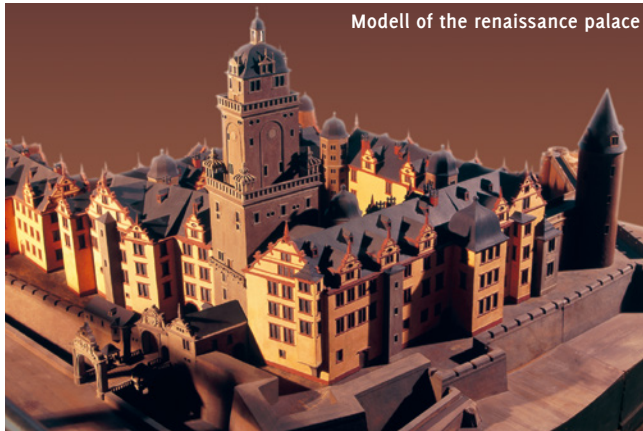
We wish you a pleasant stay and many interesting discoveries in our region.

Peter Gillo, Director of the Regionalverband



### Prisons below baroque guard houses (1)

When Stengel first visited Saarbrücken in 1735 he was greeted by an ageing Renaissance Palace built in the 17th century. The defence development that surrounded the residential building was partly taken over from medieval times and consisted of the usual moats, towers and walls and a bridge across the moat. The bastion in the south-east and the south-west, the two-story casemates, dungeons and several bunkers dated back to the years 1563 – 1569.



Modell of the renaissance palace

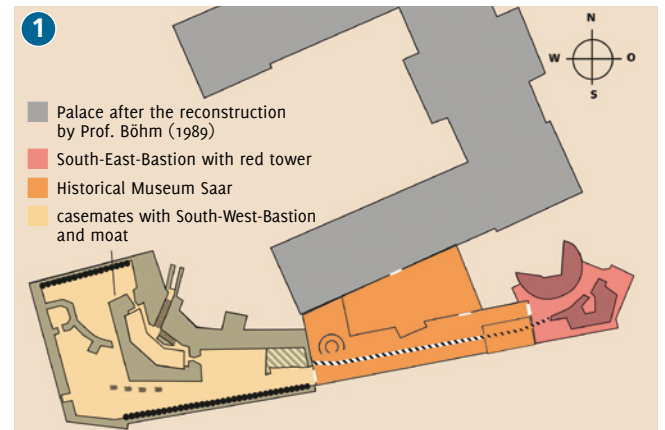
In January 1739 Stengel directed a request to Prince Wilhelm Heinrich consisting of 6 items *regarding the construction of a new palace in Saarbrücken*. Amongst other issues he desired to know whether 2. *the moat could be filled as far as necessary for the outer ward*, whether 3. *the two guard houses mentioned should be added prisons underneath*. Two days later Wilhelm Heinrich wrote the following words underneath: *we have found the presented plan entirely acceptable*.

In January 2007 considerable parts of the fortification at a depth of 14 metres were made accessible after respective excavations had been carried out. The visitor can see one of the two prison towers which Stengel had built in the moat and above which guard houses were built at the entrance to the forecourt. In the ceiling of the prison cell you can see a rectangle opening through which the prisoners were brought

down. The military fortress rooms are furnished with crude ceilings, crenels and a connecting stair. Access to the excavations can be gained via the Historical Museum Saar.



Baroque palace, oil painting



**Schloss / Palace (2)** Built according to the plans by Stengel in a baroque style between 1738 and 48 for Prince Wilhelm Heinrich von Nassau-Saarbrücken (1718 – 68); preceding demolition of the Renaissance Palace (built from 1602 to 1617); before medieval castle; northern wing burned down during the French Revolution in 1793; in 1810 rebuilt into a middle-class “estate of terraced houses” with a reduction of all stories by approx. a third; no median resalit; in 1872 addition of a reduced median construction; in 1944 fire in the front section of the northern wing (at the time headquarters of the Gestapo); after 1965 serious static problems in the entire building; after long discussions about the “reconstruction after Stengel” or “modern renovation”, a decision was made in 1981 to completely renovate the existing frame complemented by a new middle section and an extended attic floor (Prof. Gottfried Böhm/Cologne, Germany); public handing over on April 07, 1989.



**Schlossplatz / Palace Square (2)** Originally a fixed foreground of the castle with moat; backfill of the moat around 1740 (Renaissance casemates preserved underground) and construction of an inclined plane divided into a balustrade, bars, and two guard houses (today iron chains and a well are reminders); from 1938 to 1988 divided into two levels by great flights of stairs; since 1989 adapted to baroque standards; 1993 addition of 2.146 paving stones with the names of the former Jewish cemeteries in Germany on their underside (“Platz des unsichtbaren Mahnmals” / “Square of the Invisible Memorial” – Idea: Jochen Gerz).

**vhs-Zentrum / Adult Education Centre (3)** Since 1955 “Kreiskulturhaus”, built on the site of the former “orangery” (built by Stengel’s son Balthasar Wilhelm in 1786/87, burned down in 1944); Schloss-Café / Palace café and beer garden.



**Museum in der Schlosskirche / Museum in the Castle Church (4)** Formerly “Kreisständehaus” (1911); inside baroque balustrade; originally residence building broken down by Stengel for the purpose of building a carriage shed (1765).

**Altes Rathaus / Old City Hall (5)** Built by Stengel from 1748-50, burned down in 1944; around 1950 simplified reconstruction.

**Erbprinzenpalais / Palace of the Hereditary Prince (6)** (Schlossplatz 3) Renovated in a baroque style in 1758/59 by Stengel; in 1973 purchased by the county of Saarbrücken and restored from 1977-81 for administrative and residential purposes.



Reconstruction of the **Historisches Museum Saar / Historical Museum Saar (7)** Planned by Prof. Gottfried Böhm; opened in 1993 to complement the museum space in the palace vaults (since November 9, 1988). Continue through Schlossstraße in direction of the Ludwigskirche. Behind the Old City Hall the oldest part of the city begins. During the bombings of the night of October 05/06, 1944 it was almost completely destroyed. **The Nanteser Platz / Nantes Square (8)** was installed in 1977 (Nantes has been the twin city of Saarbrücken since 1965).



To your left: (Vorstadtstraße 13) On the high pedestal there is the **Alte Schmiede / Old Forge at the old "Hintergasse"**. Turn left after the Nanteser Platz (Schlossstraße) into Suppengassentreppe. There you can see the Nischenwand from 1788, a relic of old baroque garden architecture. In the front **Telemach (9)**: since 1902 fountain ornament in front of the Neues Rathaus von St. Johann / New City Hall of St. Johann; criticised as "indecent"; stored in a basement around 1930; since 1960 in the palace garden; has been here since 1976.

Continue to the Zollamtstreppe. Location of the former Lutheran and Reformed cemetery; memorial plaque at the supposed **Grab Stengels / Grave of Stengel (10)**.

On the opposite the Inn **"Zum Adler" (11)** built around 1750. Cross the Vorstadtstraße in the direction of Keplerstraße. Below the post pedestal of the „Großes Komödienhaus“ / "Great Comedy"; drafted in 1786/87 by Balthasar Wilhelm Stengel; destroyed after 1793.



**Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Saar / Academy of fine Arts (12)** (Keplerstraße 3) Built in 1763/69 as almshouse, orphanage, gaol and workhouse based on plans by Stengel; later military barracks; burned down like all other buildings on the Ludwigsplatz during the air raid on October 05/06, 1944.

**Ludwigskirche / Ludwig's Church (13)** Built as the main part of a "Royal Palace Architecture" by Stengel from 1762-75. Epitome of the protestant Predigerkirche; rich stone ornaments with motives from



the Old and New Testament; after its destruction gradual reconstruction of the square since the 1950ies; Ludwigsplatz surrounded by several palaces for royal officials at the time; Continue taking the eastern flight of stairs – see memorial plaque for Goethe – to the **Friedenskirche / Peace Church (14)** planned by Stengel; built from 1743-46 for the Protestant Reformed Church; steeple added only in 1760/61; burned down in 1944; reconstructed from 1962-67.

Continue through the **Wilhelm-Heinrich-Straße (15)** A planned municipal development built in 1746-49; original traces can be seen in the houses No. 2 and 17 (Gourmet Restaurant "Handels-hof"); at the location of house No. 9 used to be Stengel's residence until October 1944, where he died on January 10, 1787.



Continue over the Neumarkt to the Wilhelm-Heinrich-Brücke. View of the **"Alter Saarkrahen" / "Old Saar Crane" (16)** built from 1761/62 according to Stengel's plans by the "Krahen-Gesellschaft" / "Krahen Company" due because of the flourishing trade with Holland, the Alsace and Switzerland; destroyed in 1784 by Eisgang; reconstructed and destroyed again in 1865 due to a new port and railroad (since 1852); reconstruction by the Chamber of Commerce and through private donations in 1989/90. The cantilever decorated with barrel and bird is in need of renovation and has been removed for security reasons.

Pass the department store Karstadt and turn into **Bahn-hofstraße**. Stengel had already planned it as "Lower Suburb" in 1764; under construction until 1776 and continued up to the train station in the 19th century; reconstructed and strongly modified after World War II.



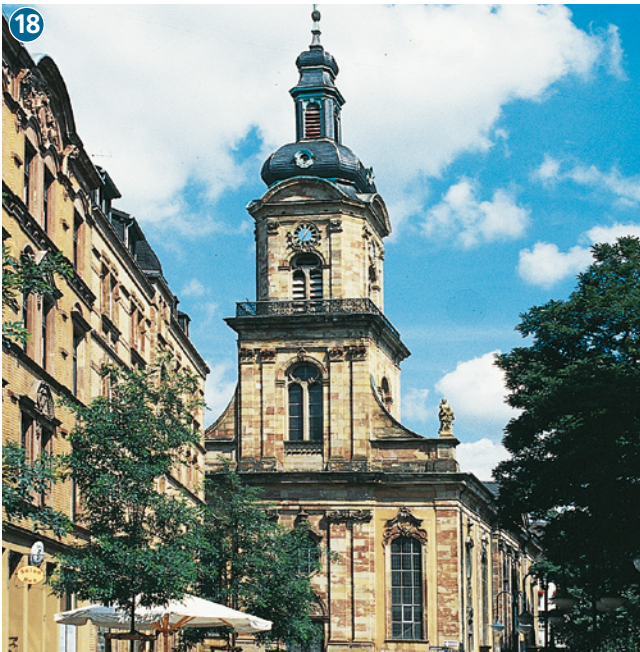


**Bahnhofstraße 26 (17)** Last remainder of the baroque expansion of the former city wall; built in 1776 as “Wirtshaus zum Stern”; outside, inside and around the court mainly original details; included into the modern extension of City Hall.



Cross Gerberstraße, pass Herbergsgasse, Kaltenbachstraße and Katholisch Kirchstraße to reach the **Basilica St. Johann (18)**. Preceding buildings date back to the 9th century; in 1751 destruction of the Johanniskapelle; new construction planned by Stengel from 1754-58;

steeple built in 1763; looted in 1793; several disfiguring changes were made in the 19th century; restoration after the damages from war from 1947-57; restoration based on the baroque original from 1972-75 (stucco, organ, side altars etc.)



**Türkenstraße** became the shape of today only after the destruction of three houses of the 18th century from 1890-93; crossing St. Johanner Markt/Obertorstraße with view of the former “Upper Suburb”, developed since 1793 based on the plans of Balthasar Wilhelm Stengels; worth seeing: Mainzer Str. 2 (restaurant with courtyard).

**Eckhaus / Corner house (19)** (St. Johanner Markt 49/Fassstraße) building of the 17th century; left side modelled in a baroque style; right side: top gable window with wood carvings is the last “Franconian Window” from the late Renaissance in Saarbrücken.

**Stadtgalerie (20)** (St. Johanner Markt 24) built approx. in 1760 as “Wirtshaus zum Bären”; converted into the market mall in 1905; from 1908-81 used as a museum.

Go to market place with the **Stengel-Brunnen / Stengel Fountain (21)** in the centre; built from 1759-60; location was deliberately chosen with view of the Palace and Halberg; octagonal fountain basin with alternating channellings and oval basins; originally shell-shaped; extensive renovation in 1994.



Diagonally across the market place there is the restaurant “**Zum Stiefel**” (22) dating back to 1718; traditional residence of the brewery family Bruch; frontage like other houses at the market place dating back to ancient times; houses of the 19th century were “re-baroquised” in 1938.



Pass the alley Am Stiefel and Fröschengasse to reach the Saarstraße; at the left corner **flood marks (23)**.

Turn right to the **Alte Brücke / Old Bridge (24)** built from 1546-48 on orders from the Emperor Charles V. as a substitute for the ford and the ferry, which were always threatened by floods; arcs were partly destroyed several times; since 1964 only pedestrian bridge across the Autobahn at the old riverside.

**Schlossmauer / Palace wall** set back between 1964-66 about 17 metres in the process of which the old quay wall by Stengel of 1762/63 was broken down; the wall in the direction to the church shows the head of the “Geiziger Bäcker” / “The Greedy Baker” (former waste water gargoyle beside the Old Bridge, said to be named and shamed by a Spekulant in times of hunger).

**Schlosskirche / Castle Church (25)**  
1261 Nikolaus-Kapelle; today’s construction built at the end of the 15th century; burned down in



1677; in 1743 baroque cupola by Stengel; burned down again in 1944; reconstruction from 1956-58; in 1959 new windows by Prof. Meistemann, Düsseldorf; from 1989-92 complete renovation; in 2006 renovation of Stengel’s cupola; tombstones from barons and princes from Saarbrücken dating from 1700-1768; sacral art and cultural monuments of the Saarland Museum.

After a recommendable detour into the Kirch-, Küfer- and Altneugasse – back via the Schlossberg or the stairs at the “Geiziger Bäcker” – up to the Palace gardens.

The upper terrace of the palace garden offers a splendid view of the **Quarter St. Johann (26)** on the other side of the river Saar. In front of the mountain range of the public forest of St. Johann you can see the red roofs of uncountable houses and well-known towers. In the foreground to the right you can see the semicircular construction of the state theatre (1938). On the left are the cupolas by Welsch of the Protestant and the Catholic parish churches. The impressive City Hall Tower is unmistakable, reminding of the keep of a castle. Beneath there is the **Alte Brücke / Old Bridge** on the right hand side of which used to run the ferry. Note the view through the Saarstraße to the **St. Johanner Markt-Brunnen / Fountain on St. Johanner market place**. This line is one of the visual axes with which Stengel used to connect architectural fixed points.

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