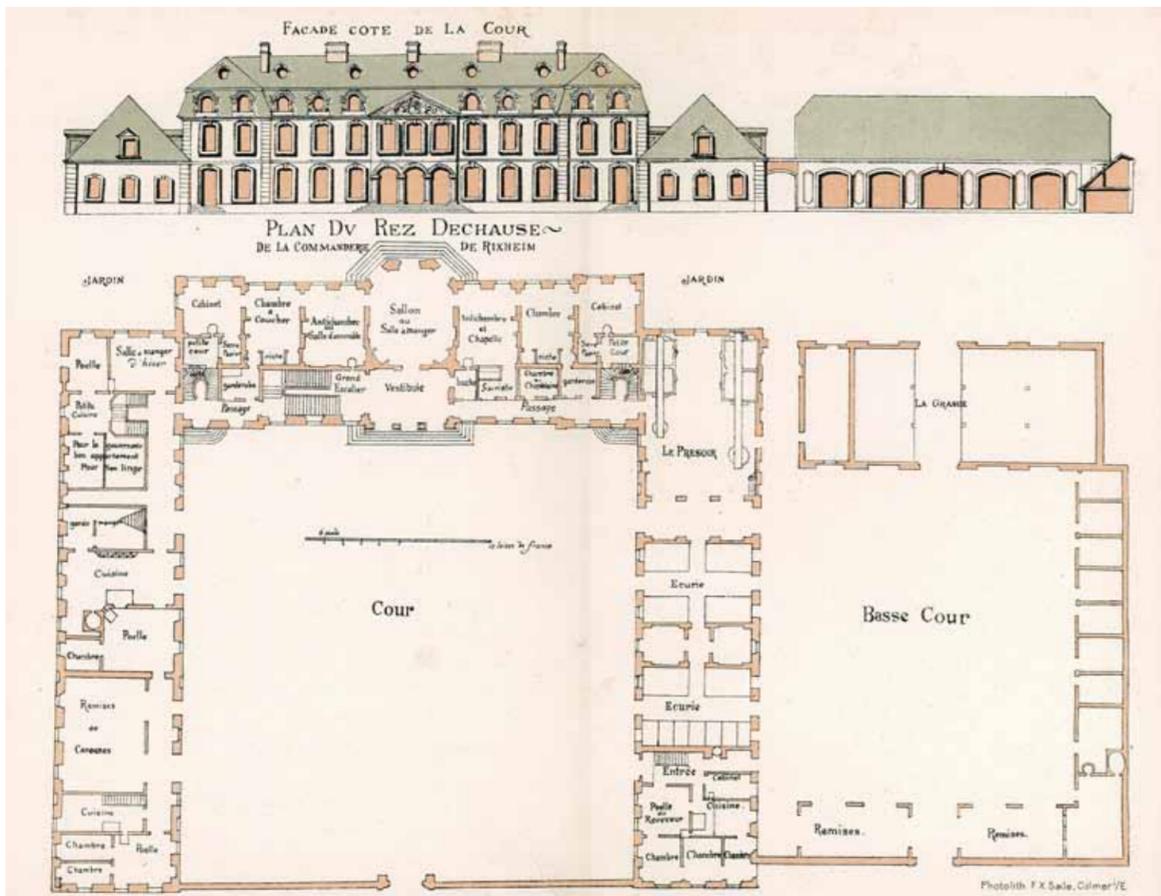


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THE COMMANDERY OF THE TEUTONIC ORDER



Established in Rixheim as early as the thirteenth century, the Teutonic Order, the third greatest of knights order born in the Holy Land during the crusades, took an important part in the history of the municipality until the French Revolution. First established in Mulhouse around 1230, the Commandery was transferred to Rixheim at the end of the sixteenth century, following the transition of this free town to the Reform.

The deterioration of the older building was such that Philippe de Montjoie-Froberg (1687-1785), commander in Rixheim from

1730 to 1745, ordered a new Commandery, built between 1733 and 1745. Jean Gaspard Baganto, architect of the Order, took the ideal of the "maison de plaisance" which was fashionable in the beginning of the eighteenth century. He got inspired by the French classical style, an art that was triumphing all over Europe at that time. The central part held the formal rooms, whereas the sides were designed for service or agricultural business. These last ones were expanded in 1820 to be used for the industry. A park of more than 2 ha completed this architectural piece unique in High-Alsace.

Confiscated as a national good in 1789, the building served consecutively as a casern, a prison, at the time of the Terror, then as military hospital from 1794 to 1797. At this time the Commandery was sold to an industrialist from Mulhouse, Hartmann Risler, which installed a wallpaper factory, taken back by Jean Zuber in 1802. His bust can be see in the courtyard, to your left. Bought in 1984 by the city, the Commandery now holds the wallpaper factory Zuber & Cie, the City Hall and the wallpaper museum.

A leaflet presenting the ride is available at the City Hall reception an in the wallpaper museum.



Philippe de Montjoie-Froberg

