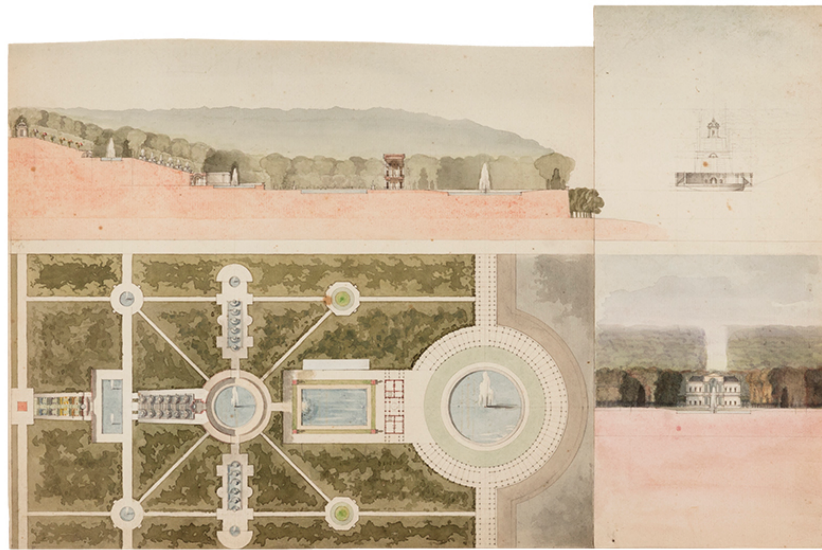


## LEON DUFOURNY



Leon Dufourny, *Plan for an Italianate Garden and Villa*, late 18th century. Watercolor on paper. Two attached sheets: 10 1/2 (11 1/4) x 17 1/4 inches.

Leon Dufourny (1754-1818) was a French scholar, architect and designer known for his neoclassical architecture and garden designs. Dufourny studied under the tutelage of the renowned neoclassical French architects Julien David Le Roy and Marie-Joseph Peyre.

From 1787-1794, the French Republic sent Dufourny to Italy to serve as Commissioner to the King of Naples, during which time Dufourny studied ancient Greek temples. Dufourny's studies in classical architecture precipitated an architectural focus and recovery of the doric order. In 1789, Dufourny designed several buildings for Palermo's *Orto Botánico*, including the central temple (*Gymnasium*) and its accompanying buildings (*Tepidarium* and *Caldarium*). His designs often include natural motifs taken from botany, archaeology and geology, a practice resonant with the zeitgeist of the Enlightenment. He frequently included exotic plants, detailed bouquets of flowers and wheat sprigs as ornamentation in his designs.

*Plan for an Italianate Garden and Villa* exemplifies the ways in which Dufourny fused garden and architectural design to construct a landscape synthesizing interiority and exteriority. This drawing was created by attaching two separate pieces of paper. It contains visible architectural underdrawing delineating Dufourny's structural plans for the fountain, grounds, and stepped parterres. Over these pencil drawings, Dufourny has articulated with watercolor washes the plans for the grounds of a large villa, featuring extensive Italianate gardens and stepped parterres.

Caroline Webb, 2019

## NOTES

[1] Bryan, 2009. p. 37.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bryan, Pamela M. "Exoticism, Neoclassicism, and Sicily." *Lexicon* (n. 8). 2009. 35-44.