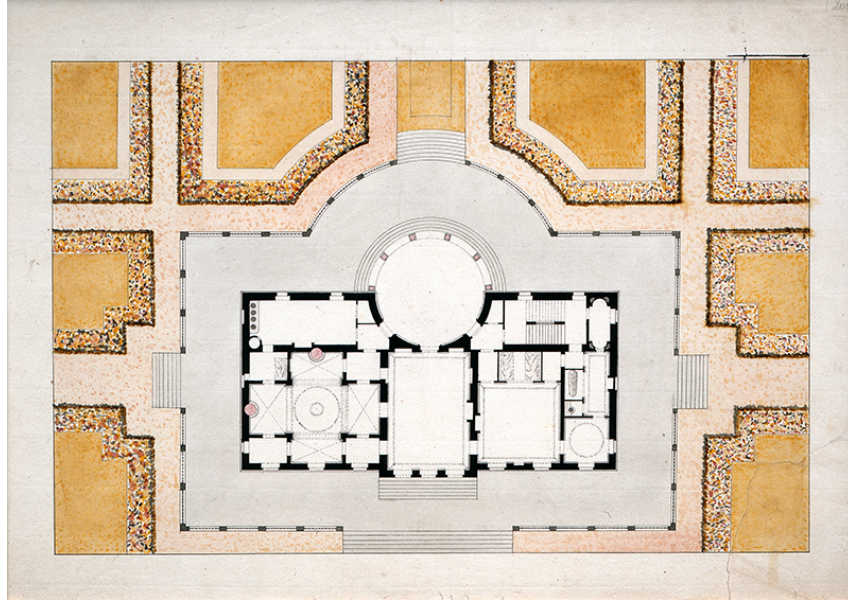


FRANÇOIS LEONARD SEHEULT



François Leonard Seheult, *Plan of Building and Grounds*, c. 1800, pencil, ink and watercolor, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

François Leonard Seheult (1771-1840) was a French architect and designer active in the 18th and 19th centuries in France and Italy. Known for his landscape architecture, Seheult's design features the symmetrical, geometric parterres established within the Italianate tradition. Taking after his architect father Robert Seheult, Seheult studied architecture in Nantes before studying at the Royal Academy of Architecture in Paris from 1786 to 1790. In Paris, he studied with the royal architect Antoine-François Peyre. Following a study trip to Italy from 1791-1793, Seheult returned to Nantes with drawings from Italian town and country homes, depicting fragments of architecture, garden and landscape design. *Plan of Villa and Parterres* is an architectural study in pencil, ink and watercolor for an estate with the gardens in its immediate surroundings. The terraced parterres, box hedges and symmetrical path structures refer to the Italianate and neoclassical design popular in Europe at the time.

Given the architectural composition of the main structure, it is possible that *Plan of Villa and Parterres* was created for the *Gentilhomme de la Meslerie*, a château in Saint-Julien-de-Concelles, Loire-Atlantique, France. Seheult was commissioned as architect for this château, which features a circular living room that opens as a semicircle onto the rear terrace.

Caroline Webb, 2019