



A superb early 17th century plan of Fontainebleau

FRANCINI, Alessandro.

Portrait de la Maison Royale de Fontaine Belleau.

French, c.1614. Engraving, Sheet 560 x 470mm.

£750

An early example of a landscape gardening design, taking the form of a bird's-eye view of the royal palace of Fontainebleau, engraved by Michael Lasne after Alessandro Francini, with a 32-point key. Alessandro (d. 1648) and his older brother Tommaso (1571-1651), from Florence, were hydraulic engineers who work transformed French formal gardens with fountains and water-driven automata. Alessandro's engravings were instrumental in publicising the new styles.

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