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THE WORLD OF INTERIORS



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A pair of robust plaster putti surmount the stove in the so-called Pancake Kitchen, built 1735. In a corner, a gilded eagle supports tiered shelves, which are topped off by an oversized crown. Similar Danish kitchens existed at Fredensborg and Hirschholm

Affairs of State

Now home to the Danish Royal Military Academy, the Baroque Frederiksberg Palace was previously a playground for the country's often unruly 18th-century royals. From a philandering king's chinoiserie-panelled spare room to a queen's secret mirrored bathroom, it offered ample opportunity to get up to no good in the most exquisite of surroundings. Even at first blush, Roger White is impressed. Photography: James Mortimer



The iron stove in the Chinese Room is Norwegian and incorporates portraits of Frederik IV and his wife. Above it, in a Chinese lacquer frame, is a mirror on which a British officer etched his name – Galle – while watching the bombardment of Copenhagen in 1807.



Top: the Chinese Room offers views east towards the centre of Copenhagen. When the palace was built it stood in the countryside, well clear of the city walls. Above left and above right: narrow panels of trompe-l'œil Chinese porcelain alternate with ones depicting Oriental scenes in blue and white. Opposite: the large canvas inset to the left of the door is one of four in the room – all were acquired in Italy by Frederick IV when he was still crown prince. The door's grisaille chinoiserie feature motifs copied from prints by French architect Daniel Marot





This page and opposite: the 'secret' Royal Bathroom occupies a space in the basement where, before 1970, food was prepared and hoisted up to the king's private dining room. Conceived as a health-restoring facility for Christian IV, it was a site of erotic rendezvous between the king's wife, Catherine Munkelund, and his doctor, Strømme – as the gold-fringed mirror suspended from the coffered ceiling might suggest

