



CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES



GRAND MÉCÈNE

DU MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE ET DE LA COMMUNICATION

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Press Release

Restoration of the Hall of Mirrors at the Château of Versailles Preliminary work starts on 1 March 2004

The preliminary phase of the restoration project in the Hall of Mirrors, being undertaken thanks to VINCI sponsorship, starts on 1 March 2004 with the replacement of the parquet flooring.

Between March and June 2004, the 700 sq. metres of parquet currently in place will be removed and replaced with new parquet flooring. The present parquet dates back to the 1950s and, given that it is walked on by some 3 million visitors each year, is now in very poor condition. In addition, it was not installed using the techniques traditionally employed when creating a parquet floor of this very specific type.

It has therefore been decided to manufacture an exact copy of the original, Versailles-type parquet, using new oak, and to give it a patina once it is installed to harmonise it with the parquet floors in the nearby State Apartments. This work will be done by the Ateliers Saint-Jacques, a firm specialised in fine woodwork and an associate company of Briatte.

The removal of the parquet flooring will provide an opportunity to completely overhaul the room's electrical circuits, which will be concealed beneath the new parquet flooring. SDEL Artec, a VINCI Group company, will be responsible for this work.

The scaffolding will start being installed early in May, and should be ready by the end of June. Restoration of the room's painted and sculpted decorative work will then start on 1 July 2004.

The Hall of Mirrors will remain open to the public throughout the restoration project, with every effort being made to welcome and inform visitors while at the same time safeguarding the restorers' working conditions.

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