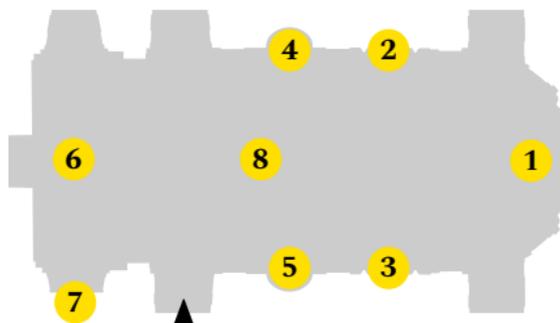


SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE CHAPEL

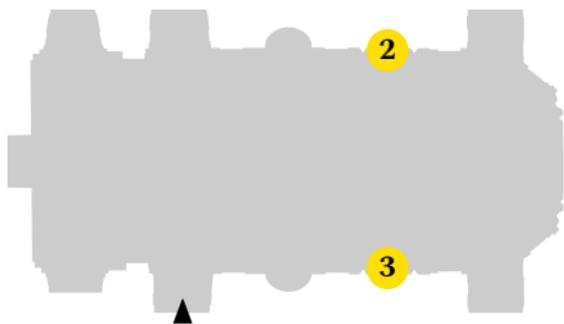
The palace chapel today still bears witness to the location, spatial structure and architectural articulation of the original palace designed by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach around 1700. Just forty or so years later, Maria Theresa commissioned leading artists of the day to give the chapel a new and sumptuous interior.





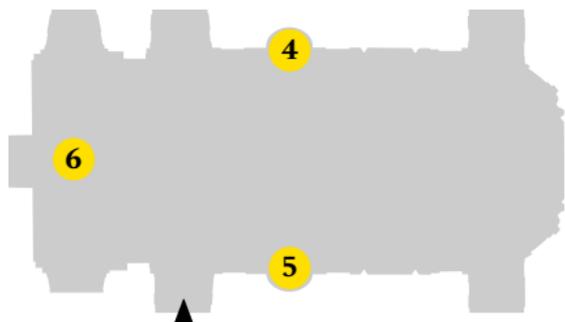
- 1 The monumental **high altar** is composed of an altar table, a painting, and a dominant gilded Trinity group. The altar table supports a massive marble tabernacle in the form of a tempietto flanked by two adoring angels.

The **altarpiece** was painted by Paul Troger in 1743/44 and represents the Marriage of Mary and Joseph. Commissioned by the Catholic monarch Maria Theresa, the subject served her as a model for her own marriage.



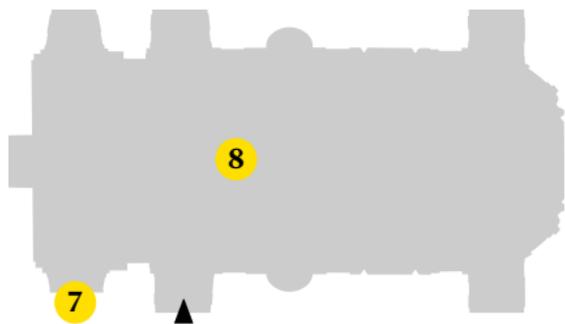
The **side altarpieces** were painted by the Venetian artist Battista Pittoni around 1735.

- 2 The painting on the north wall shows the Education of the Virgin Mary, who is being instructed by her parents, St Anne and St Joachim. The scene alludes to the thorough Catholic upbringing received by Maria Theresa.
- 3 The painting on the south wall shows St John of Nepomuk. A saint to whom Maria Theresa devoted especial veneration, the Bohemian martyr was a symbol of the re-Catholicization of Bohemia and the seal of the confessional.



The two following **side altars** with framed alcoves contain gilt statues executed by Franz Kohl around 1743.

- 4 The statue on the north side altar represents the Mother of Sorrows.
- 5 The statue on the south side represents St John the Baptist.
- 6 The Baroque **organ loft** above the entrance to the chapel was rebuilt around 1900 to make room for the new organ. Extensive restoration work was carried out on the chapel at the same time.



- 7 In the south-west corner of the chapel is a small **spiral staircase** leading to the oratories, which were accessible from the Hall of Ceremonies. The imperial family was thus able to attend divine service in the oratories without having to leave the *piano nobile* of the palace.
- 8 The **ceiling painting** was executed by Daniel Gran and shows Mary Magdalen surrounded by allegorical representations of the Christian virtues of faith, hope and charity. Gran also painted the smaller fresco of music-making putti above the organ loft.