**The Reception Hall for Foreign Visitors**

The Reception Hall for Foreign Visitors was used as a reception hall for foreign envoys. It was built in European architectural style with large pointed arch doors and windows. A window is located on each front and back side wall below the roof to allow air to pass out of or into the building. Although the left and right side walls are severely damaged, the remaining portions suggest that the hall had doors on all four sides.

According to the account by Simon de la Loubère, a French envoy to the Kingdom of Ayutthaya, this hall was located “within the Royal Garden. Its exterior high walls were covered with shiny white plaster and had a door on each side. The hall was surrounded by a moat with small 20 fountains along its length. The flow of water jetted from the fountains was like that from a watering can.”

De la Loubèreled an embassy to Siam in 1687 and a royal banquet was hold at this Reception Hall. The banquet for a French embassy to Siam in 1685 was also hold at this hall. Père Tachard, a French Jesuit missionary part of the embassy, wrote in hisaccount of traveling in 1685that “when we left the Audience Hall, we were led to a beautiful hall in the center of a garden surrounded by fountains. Large banquet tables were setup for 50 people. All dishes were brought out on silver salvers. There were meat and curry dishes as well as grape vines. What we liked the most, however, was fruit preserves and Asian puddings from China and Japan…”

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