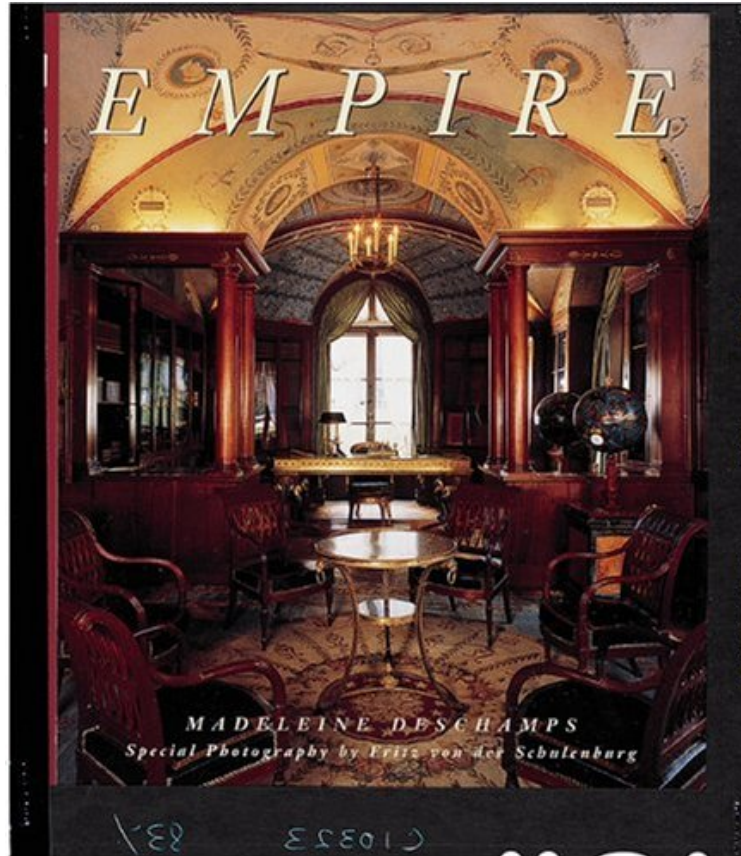


Empire

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This volume provides a significant general presentation of the French Empire style and its profound impact on Europe and America. Deschamps discusses Empire interiors, decorative arts, architecture, gardens, painting, sculpture, music, literature and lifestyle within the political and economic context.

From Library JournalDeschamps, a Parisian writer, focuses here on France and the arts of the French empire under Napoleon, with a 40-page coda on styles elsewhere in Europe and America. With his twin goals of legitimizing his

rule and fostering French industry and artistic dominance, Bonaparte was the driving force in an incredibly productive period, attracting and employing the best of a talented group of architects, painters, and decorative artists. The author opens with a quick survey of the French Revolution (1789) and transition to empire by 1804; then follow chapters on furniture, interior decoration, and entertaining. The text breaks no new ground, but the illustrations are rich and well chosen. Physically, the book's large square shape, while allowing generous plate size, is awkward to handle, and the review copy came loose from its binding. Nonetheless, this is a sumptuous survey of the Napoleonic style for general readers. Jack Perry Brown, Art Inst. of Chicago Lib. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Illustrated with a superb collection of images, including paintings, drawings, watercolors, and 150 full-color photographs of projects in England, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and the United States, author Madeleine Deschamps's gracefully written text discusses Empire interiors, decorative arts, architecture, gardens, painting, sculpture, music, literature, and lifestyle within the political and economic context that so strongly influenced the development and popularity of the style. Napoleon's political hegemony may have ended long ago, but the style he fostered has remained of enduring interest among architects and designers. Indeed, an important Empire revival has developed in recent years, making this comprehensive, compelling, and sumptuous volume indispensable to designers, architects, art historians, and anyone captivated by the extravagant and brilliant style of the Napoleonic Empire.