

Florence de Dampierre French Chic: The Art of Decorating Houses

Florence de Dampierre

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Florence de Dampierre : Florence de Dampierre French Chic: The Art of Decorating Houses before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Florence de Dampierre French Chic: The Art of Decorating Houses:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Design Book By Betsy For once, the style depicted in a design book is one readily adapted to "real people" who have a budget that includes both nice antique purchases and Pottery Barn items. Her home is, of course, fabulous, but her advice is totally down to earth. The author is an expert on antiques and provides the history of dining, rugs, windows, etc.. My daughter was not interested in reading all this, but I loved it. We both loved the Chic Advice sections. While decorating my new "old" house, I've stepped a little outside my comfort zone because of this book's amazing photos and advice. Note that rugs designed by the author are readily available - just google- and at good prices. Highly recommend this if you are interested in history and like the idea of updating traditional design. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is not the book for any knowledgeable French enthusiast ! By Ralph To sum up this book for you - Its a woman who decided to photograph her

home believing she knows a thing or two about French decor and to be frank, there is very little of anything French in this book - The photos are traditional and often used again and again - The cover misleading and the interior an epic failure - If you are truly looking for French inspiration - keep looking - this is not the book for any knowledgeable French enthusiast !8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Home which Defines French Interior Design By Ralph White When a part is used as a reference to a whole, it is a synecdoche. What Florence de Dampierre has done with this book is to offer her own home as a synecdoche for a level of French interior design that is beyond the imaginations of most of us. Located in the remarkable town of Litchfield, Connecticut, and on a row of homes dating to pre-Revolutionary days, her home is a magnificent tribute to French design. Were the Comte du Rochambeau to show up by surprise, he would find the de Dampierre lodgings very satisfying indeed. Cardinal Richelieu himself would consider himself right at home (providing Rochambeau had already departed). The fact is that French design works remarkably well in the Early American home. What makes this home - and this book - so remarkable is the cost-is-no-object approach. De Dampierre has approached the restoration of her home with a museum curator's attention to detail. Every molding, every fabric, every lamp...chair...table has received the curator's blessing. Whether you walk from room to room or flip pages through the book, you are struck with the obsession to detail that has produced it all. Day job? What's that? My favorite room in this home, the conservatory, is only visible in the background in some of the photos. While it may not house any treasures of French interior design, it does provide a garden setting refuge during the long New England winters. It is a glassed-in porch, designed into to the south side of the house, and it is filled with plants and garden furniture. Perhaps de Dampierre's next book will be about French gardens. After all, she has left little to write about chic French interior design.

The French have a legendary sense of style that is synonymous with a joyous, sophisticated way of life, *joie de vivre*. Elegant and witty, French chic a clever mix of classic and contemporary sums up de Dampierre's design sensibility. Using Edith Wharton's *The Decoration of Houses* as a model, she provides advice on how to achieve this distinctive look. The fascinating French decorative history of such architectural elements as windows, fireplaces, and doors, along with basic design principles, is given to provide the origins of the essence of chic. Stunning photography of her home from the striking entrance hallway with its leopard-pattern carpeted staircase to the sensual master bedroom enlivened with charming toile wallpaper and the resplendent gardens dotted with topiaries captures the designer's personal invocations of the best of French chic and empowers the reader to duplicate the experience at home. *French Chic* is the perfect guide for creating vibrant living spaces with flair.

de Dampierre has compiled a stunning tome of elegant, witty, chic spaces, and provides advice on how to achieve this unique look will empower you to duplicate this certain *je ne sais quois* in your own home. ~Glamnest.com"...de Dampierre provides a context of French decorative history...and architectural elements to provide a blueprint to obtain the *je ne sais quois* of French chic." ~New York Living"...analyzes function and furnishings, leading readers through (de Dampierre's) house room by room with the help of lyrical photography..." ~Veranda"Filled with photographs, the text is also interspersed with sidebars offering useful pointers on the *je ne sais quois* of French design, as well as a myriad of practical suggestions." ~Connecticut Cottages Gardens"...a rare kind of volume that can be used both as a historical guide and to find expert advice on." ~New York Observer"One of the points that this book makes is that the essence of the French lifestyle can be achieved on many budget levels. It takes an understanding of history and style, some imagination and creativity! And, it doesn't happen over night. The goal is easy elegance. I'll say it again - ooh la la!" ~Surroundings.com De Dampierre fills the book with historical references, anecdotes and modern style tips. This would make a great gift for someone with a sense of fun and love of French style. ~IDFX Magazine *French Chic* is more than just a decorating primer. Although it has some of the elements of Bunny Williams very successful book, *An Affair with a House*, the reader will emerge with a deeper understanding of the history of decoration and the rationale behind many ornamental elements taken for granted in today's houses. ~The Home Observer About the Author An esteemed interior designer and antiques expert, Florence de Dampierre is the author of *Chairs: A History and The Best of Painted Furniture*. Her interior design work has been featured in *Elle Decor* and *House Beautiful*. She lectures frequently on design topics. Award-winning photographer Tim Street-Porter is the author and photographer of many architecture and design books, including *Rooms to Inspire*. He is a frequent contributor to *Metropolitan Home*, *The World of Interiors*, and *Architectural Digest*, among others.