

## **The French Empire Style and Its Influence in the American South**

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Madeleine Deschamps is an art historian specializing in the French decorative arts. She has a doctorate in art history from the Sorbonne and has taught at the Sorbonne, the École du Louvre, the Smithsonian Institution, and the master of arts program offered by the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum and Parsons The New School for Design. For eight years she was curator of the American Center in Paris and was later an editor with Éditions Flammarion. She was a designer with Peter Marino Architect for eight years and is now a designer with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in New York. Deschamps has written and contributed to books on the decorative arts and on American art, both in France and in the United States. She published *La peinture américaine: Les mythes et la matière* (Denoël, 1981) and contributed to *L'Art de Vivre: Decorative Arts and Design in France, 1789–1989* (Cooper-Hewitt, 1989). She is also the author of *Empire* (Abbeville Press, 1994 and 2004), which was awarded the Grand Prix de la Fondation Napoléon. Deschamps has lectured at numerous institutions in the United States and abroad, including the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Norton Museum of Art in Palm Beach, the Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris, and the National Heritage Center in Warsaw, Poland.