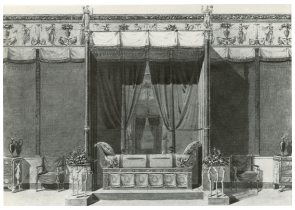
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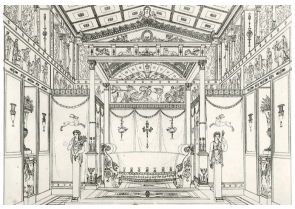
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Bedroom of emperor Napoleon I, Fontainebleau.



Empire style bedroom, watercolour by famous architect Charles Percier, Paris.



A whole repertoire of frescoes from Pompeii, roman and Etruscan ornaments illustrate the period's passion for the Antique. Project, Bibliothèque National, Paris

From 1800 to 1830.

When **Napoleon Bonaparte** took over full power (may 1804), the time was ripe for a new impulse in the decorative arts.

By reinforcing the **neo-Classical movement**, Napoleon I developed a style that idealized his leadership, his victories and the French state, using martial and imperial symbols as well as **Egyptian ornaments** - such as eagles, winged victories and ornaments borrowed from ancient Greece and Rome and the **laurelled "N" of Napoleon**. **Rare and beautiful materials** were used, ebony, mahogany, and **hard stones such as malachite, lapis lazuli and marbles**.

Percier and Fontaine, architects and ornamentalists of Napoleon, cabinet makers, especially the **Jacob brothers**, imposed an official style, to celebrate the Empire. Others such as **Molitor, Marcion, Remond**, and the bronze craftsmen **Thomire, Ravrio and Galle** also developed this style .**Vivant Denon** the engraver who followed Napoleon to Egypt and **Lenoir the archaeologist** who created the Musée des Monuments Français also promoted it.

The **4th exhibit of French Manufactured goods in Paris, in 1806** , established the importance of French production and exportations. The continental blockade reduced the use of mahogany and local woods such as walnut, maple, lime and ash were successfully used. Gnarl of elm was used in marquetry combining different hues of wood. Furniture was monumental, massive, rectangular, with straight lights, in solid wood or with veneer. The « bateau » bed (as in boat), the wardrobe with mirror on doors (invented by cabinet maker Othon Kolping), the standing mirror became common pieces of furniture. Furniture legs have lion paws or are sword shaped.

Golden yellow, green, crimson and purple are the favourite colours of the times.

The **Empire style** continued long after Napoleon's fall, until 1830.

Voir la vidéo sur YouTube

Follow this link to see all Empire Style items by Galerie Marc Maison.

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