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Jennifer Shepherd; 8. The Futile and the Dingy: Wasting and Being Wasted in "The House of Mirth" / J. Michael Duvall; IV. Interiors; 9. The Bachelor Girl and the Body Politic: The Built Environment, Self-Possession, and the Never-Married Woman in *The House of Mirth* / Linda S. Watts; 10. ""Use Unknown"": Edith Wharton, the Museum Space, and the Writer's Work / Karin Roffman; V. Technology 11. The Machine in the Home: Women and Technology in "The Fruit of the Tree" / Gary Totten12. Undine Spragg, the Mirror and the Lamp in "The Custom of the Country" / Carol Baker Sapora; Works Cited; Contributors; Index

Sommario/riassunto

In Edith Wharton's works, references to architecture, interior decoration, painting, sculpture, and fashion abound. As these essays demonstrate, art and objects are for Wharton evidence of cultural belief and reflect the values, assumptions, and customs of the burgeoning consumer culture in which she lived and about which she wrote. Furthermore, her meditations about issues of architecture, design, and decoration serve as important commentaries on her vision of the literary arts. In *The Decoration of Houses* she notes that furniture and bric-a-brac are often crowded into a room in order to com
