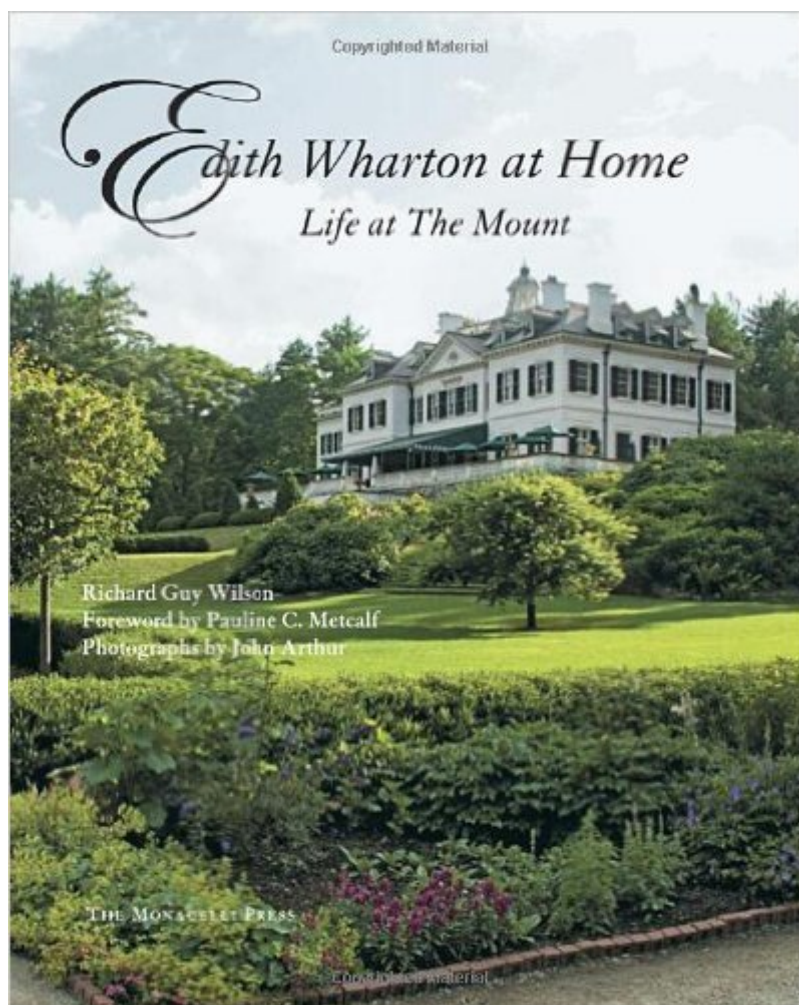


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# Edith Wharton At Home: Life At The Mount



## Synopsis

The Mount, Edith Wharton's country place in the Berkshires, is truly an autobiographical house. There Wharton wrote some of her best-known and successful novels, including *Ethan Frome* and *House of Mirth*. The house itself, completed in 1902, embodies principles set forth in Wharton's famous book *The Decoration of Houses*, and the surrounding landscape displays her deep knowledge of Italian gardens. Wandering the grounds of this historic home, one can see the influence of Wharton's inimitable spirit in its architecture and design, just as one can sense the Mount's impact on the extraordinary life of Edith Wharton herself. The Mount sits in the rolling landscape of the Berkshire Hills, with views overlooking Laurel Lake and all the way out to the mountains. At the turn of the century, Lenox and Stockbridge were thriving summer resort communities, home to Vanderbilts, Sloanes, and other prominent families of the Gilded Age. At once a leader and a recorder of this glamorous society, Edith Wharton stands at the pinnacle of turn of the twentieth-century American literature and social history. The Mount was crucial to her success, and the story of her life there is filled with gatherings of literary figures and artists. *Edith Wharton at Home* presents Wharton's life at The Mount in vivid detail with authoritative text by Richard Guy Wilson and archival images, as well as new color photography of the restoration of The Mount and its spectacular gardens. "The Mount was to give me country cares and joys, long happy rides and drives through the wooded lanes of that loveliest region, the companionship of dear friends, and the freedom from trivial obligations, which was necessary if I was to go on with my writing. The Mount was my first real home . . . its blessed influence still lives in me." —Edith Wharton, 1934

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Imagine you have been invited by Mrs. Wharton for a visit to The Mount. Impossible? Here's your ticket! Reading this and seeing the images underscores Virginia Woolf's essays on why we all need a place of respite. Granted this is a respite I could never imagine but seeing something that is so artfully composed to provide tranquility in every respect is a marvel. Look upon the gardens; feel what Thoreau and Emerson meant by man's need to escape in nature. Then pretend you are meeting Henry James and walk through the home. This book hits the mark in every respect; absolutely (spelling intentional) incredible. Richard Guy Wilson's text is revealing, rich and tight, and Arthur's images carry you inside Wharton's life giving you a palpable sense of place and time. This book is a song. Thank you gentlemen! It makes a solid argument for architectural preservation; how can we know who we are when we have no history to remember! Only wish there were more photos of the interior, like Arthur supplied for !! Another book perhaps? Merrilee Vuscovich Posner

This was an interesting book. Edith Wharton had quite a vision for her home. The pictures are fine and the contents very enjoyable. I'm glad that Edith had the time to enjoy her home. Years later, it was made available to the public to enjoy, too. Many thanks to Richard Guy Wilson for making this home come to life once again through this wonderful book.

This book is beautiful - well written and a must for any fan of Edith Wharton. Great information and pictures.

Because I was planning a trip to the Berkshires with the Art Institute of Chicago, which included a day at The Mount, I wanted this book. It did not disappoint. Excellent information and gorgeous color pictures. Heard the author speak, and met the woman that wrote the forward at yet another lecture. The book is most enjoyable .

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