



# The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities

*Richard Lyman Bushman*

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# The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities

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## **The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities** Richard Lyman Bushman

This lively and authoritative volume makes clear that the quest for taste and manners in America has been essential to the serious pursuit of a democratic culture. Spanning the material world from mansions and silverware to etiquette books, city planning, and sentimental novels, Richard L. Bushman shows how a set of values originating in aristocratic court culture gradually permeated almost every stratum of American society and served to prevent the hardening of class consciousness. A work of immense and richly nuanced learning, *The Refinement of America* newly illuminates every facet of both our artifacts and our values.

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