



Female Speaker: With the growth of the merchant class, and the interest in acquiring personal wealth, and luxury, huge enormous estates were built as a sign of the owners' wealth, importance, and prestige. Castles and halls became more elegant and refined. Some of the most splendid castles were built during the Renaissance in the Loire Valley of France. The massive castle fortresses of England were replaced with lighter, more delicate construction, with lots of windows. These new halls were still very large, but with humanism on the rise, they were balanced and symmetrical building--

[00:00:42] [END OF AUDIO]