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New Orleans New Elegance



Synopsis

Award-winning photographer Kerri McCaffety looks at the city's most innovative and iconic interiors in a quest to define the essence of the unique New Orleans style. Sumptuous fabrics, elegant architectural details, intricate collections, bold abstract art, and fresh, contemporary lines are all captured in her stunning photographs. What makes New Orleans different from everywhere else? The answer is its history: three centuries of complex cultural influences—French, Spanish, and African—converging in a unique climate and a strategic location at the mouth of the Mississippi River. It's an alluring but elusive mélange of sophisticated and primitive, elegant and raw in a sultry, seductive atmosphere of faded glory. But as New Orleans recovers from the devastation wrought by Katrina, there is an infusion of contemporary energy, manifest in all dimensions—political, social, cultural, culinary, artistic. Interior design is moving toward a fresh elegance while still embracing the extravagance of the past. The grandeur of the Greek revival architecture and the drama of the live oaks are tempered by a fresh, more relaxed elegance that respects classical proportions and details but introduces a more contemporary vocabulary in furnishings and accessories. More than forty houses and apartments are featured from all parts of the city—the French Quarter, the Warehouse District, the Garden District, and the multiple neighborhoods that comprise Uptown. Social commentator and Vogue contributor Julia Reed's introductory essay surveys the traditions of the city, placing its style in a cultural and historic context. Commentary from interior designers, scholars, and antiques dealers creates a rich tapestry of perspectives and opinions on a perennially fascinating place.

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Customer Reviews

Though I may have left following Katrina my heart still lives there. I purchased this book in an attempt to make my new home feel like my old one in New Orleans. And though I've never thought about it much, this book provides a great introduction of New Orleans interiors, the hows and whys people do things that make each and every home ever so unique and special.

Loved this book. I've collected every design, architectural, non fiction and fiction book on New Orleans. This is a book about renewal - gorgeous homes with really good taste. Apres le deluge!! Post Katrina book for a new generation of people living and loving New Orleans. Some of the pieces featured are so dramatic (the cover, for example) and others have used and reused beloved pieces. It inspired me to lighten up, drive over to New Orleans and purchase a dramatic, unique to NOLA's style chandelier, and dream a room around it. Heartfelt appreciation to the author, the photographer, and excellent editing. NOT your Grandmother's New Orleans, but she'd love seeing goodies rediscovered.

Beautiful book! But it's made in China! Anyone who appreciates the rich history of New Orleans should own this book. But why it wasn't printed in the good ole USA? I was born & raised in New Orleans, but moved away 5 yrs ago for a better progressive future. This book makes me miss NOLA that much more.

The book is beautifully produced, but somewhat repetitious in the style of design. All the decorators talk about combining antiques with modern pieces, which is not new anywhere. There are many references to courtyards and for a place with such a warm climate they must play an important part in the lives of the denizens of the Big Easy. However, courtyards are, at best, only glimpsed. If there is to be another edition, let us see what is clearly such an important part of life in this lovely city. Best wishes, James Ridewood

New Orleans is a cauldron of dozens of ingredients, all blending together for an interesting soup of standout characters and experiences. This book beautifully illustrates the private residences of a few of that vibrant city's tastemakers; their interiors do not disappoint. For those expecting rooms full of hideous dark Victorian furniture and heavy ruffled curtains and paintings of curmudgeon

ancestors, look elsewhere. These homes are filled with furnishings and artworks worthy of this colorful American city, with its strong European, Caribbean, African, religious and Creole (whatever that means) influences. Your coffee table will be forever grateful for this taste of spices and herbs and voodoo!

Purchased this book for a friend after we visited New Orleans. It will be a nice memory of the trip and a great coffee table book filled with beautiful design ideas.

I saw this book at my daughter's house in New Orleans and LOVED it. I live in Hawaii and the decor here is totally different but there were so many nice ideas that I decided to buy the book for myself too. It's got great photos, and lots of great ideas and it's just a lovely tabletop book to own. Highly recommend it!

I have several of Kerri McCaffety's books, and this one is as lovely as the others. I am glad to have it in my library. The rooms featured are modern with a nod to the past. Nice combination. Nice book!

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