Louisiana Plantation Homes: A Return To Splendor

Photography by Paul Malone  
Text by Lee Malone

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Synopsis
The antebellum South is celebrated in this beautiful coffee table book featuring over 100 full-color photographs of restored plantation homes. The homes bespeak the grandeur of days gone by when plantation homes were decorated exquisitely, furnished lavishly, and surrounded by vast acreages of lush croplands. Full-page photographs are accompanied by text highlighting the history and outstanding architectural features of each home. The styles of the homes are far-ranging and include excellent examples of Victorian Gothic, Colonial, Italianate, Acadian, and Southern Classical architecture, with some homes combining two or more styles. Destrehan, Edgewood, Houmas House, Nottoway, Magnolia Mound, Oak Alley, and Shadows-on-the-Teche—all carefully preserved and open to the public—are some of the 76 plantation homes featured in the work.

Book Information
Hardcover: 160 pages
Publisher: Pelican Publishing (August 25, 2008)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1589806506
Product Dimensions: 14.2 x 1 x 10.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Customer Reviews
This book is hands-down one of the most beautiful picture books on Louisiana’s remaining plantation homes. While most are in exquisite condition, there are a very few which aren’t. The short story of each plantation home is interesting and the photographs are gorgeous! It makes one want to go out, find a plantation home, buy it and restore it! The reader will be amazed at the wealth these planters accumulated, manifested in these awesome homes. Not all of the homes are huge antebellum mansions, though. I personally found the Creole plantations wonderful examples of a simple albeit beautiful home. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves old homes, Southern architecture or photography in general.
A well done book on Louisiana’s spectacular plantations. The state is blessed with the best of these old homes and this book captures the essence of these structures quite well. All of the famous plantations are given several images and the text though not indepth is revealing. This is not quite as good as Gleasons book on the same subject, but it is close and makes a great companion book to it. If you have any interest in these singular buildings then i highly recommend this book along with Gleasons.

The book has lovely photos and briefly tells about each home. It would have been nice if there were more photos of the interior of homes. But the book has beautiful photography and is overall: GREAT!

The first thing potential readers will want to know is that this is an old publication dressed up with a new cover. The original book was published in 1986, and the latest "revised" edition is nothing of the sort. The product description states that the book has been updated to reflect the condition of these sites post Katrina, but there isn’t one mention of the word "Katrina" in the entire typeset. It’s as if the storm never happened. The text included with each entry is both out of date and most summary. There is little architectural or historical context. Also, the photographs are of 1980s film vintage, which means that although they aspire to artistic quality, they reveal the limitations of color imaging technology of that time. Many of the photographs are grainy and discolored, which is just not acceptable considering the advertised quality and contents of the book. Of course, the houses themselves are magnificent and are a national treasure. Buy this book used. Otherwise, buy something newer.

This is a great book for anyone who is interested in plantation homes. It has over 80 wonderful photographs, and tells the story of each home shown. There are even two or three victorian style homes, built in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Very interesting and informative. I would recommend this book to anyone, wether your buying it for the information or the photographs!

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