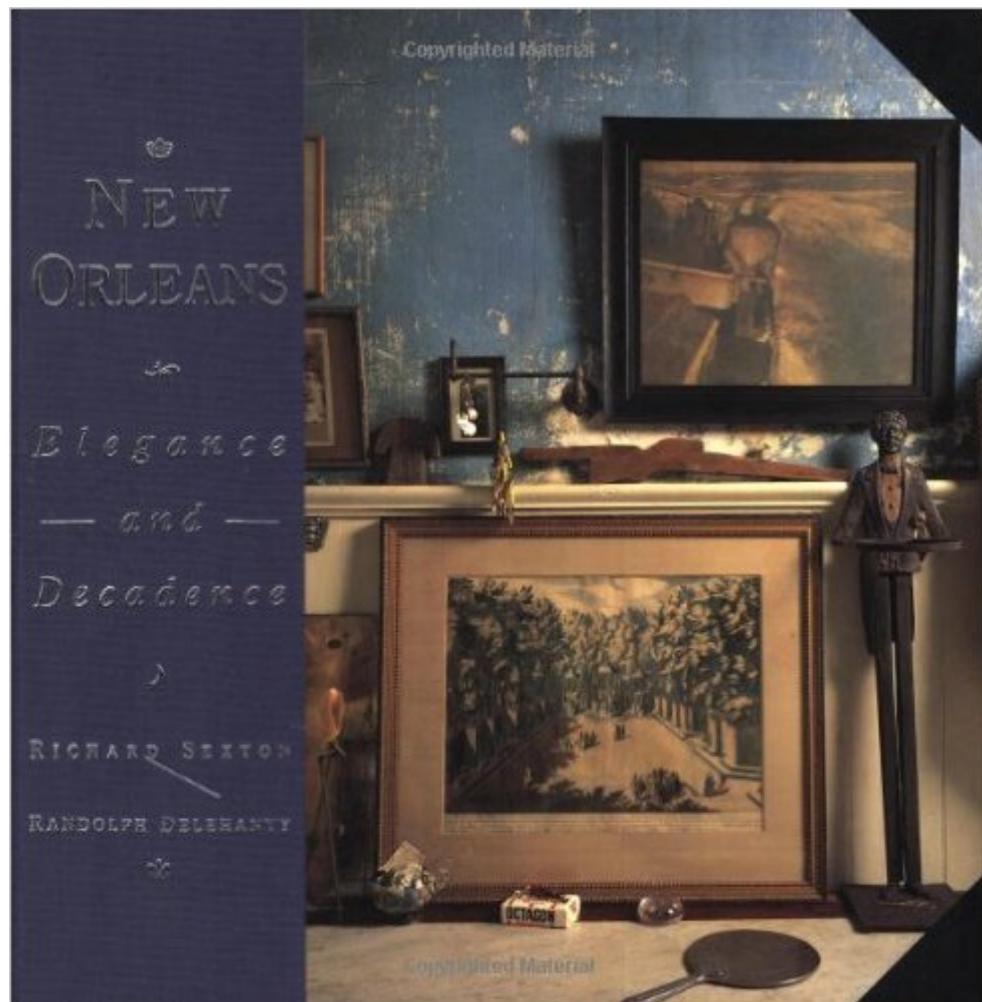


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# New Orleans: Elegance And Decadence



## Synopsis

The lush, seductive, Old World elegance of New Orleans is gloriously revealed in this photographic tribute to the "Venice of North America." Richard Sexton's photographs capture balcony-lined streets, French-style parks, Caribbean-inspired gardens, and ornate public buildings, and take us inside some of the city's most intriguing private homes. This new edition marks the tenth anniversary with a new cover and binding, and a fully revised afterword. "Rarely," wrote The New Orleans Times-Picayune, "has the city been loved both so wisely and so well." A tribute to a lifestyle of insouciance and exuberance, touched by both spirituality and worldliness, New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence illuminates both the public face and the private soul of a perennially fascinating city. More than 200 full-color photographs and an insightful text capture the stories and characters of yore.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a frequent visitor and sometimes resident of NOLA, I had never found a book that truly captured the local heart of the city and its people...until I received this book. It is a feast for the eyes with its glorious photos. Similarly, its writing--done by a New Orleanian--is refreshing and honest. Everyone I know in New Orleans owns a copy of this book. I love it. I revisit it frequently. It never bores me.

I first came across this book in the french market area near the river while I was visiting New Orleans for the second time. Slightly overpriced for the tourists, I decided to wait until I arrived home

to find it cheaper at a local bookstore. It's a beautiful hardbound book with a cloth-covered spine that now sits in an easel at the top of my bookshelf. I have enjoyed it tremendously. Tons of history, and even more fabulous pictures. For any lover of "the big easy." Treat yourself to this book, and don't forget to take a look at part 1, *Vestiges of Grandeur*. The two make excellent coffee table books for anyone, and all of your guests will certainly spend hours thumbing through them.

"New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence" is a sterling photographic essay of the City that Care Forgot. Richard Sexton's exquisite photographs and Randolph Delehanty's astute historical musings combine to make a marvelous literary gumbo. Sexton and Delehanty successfully capture the essence of contemporary New Orleans. From the semi-tropical climate and the "unabashed display of ruined finery" to the French influences and African-American culture, the writer and photographer admirably show not only "how New Orleans is different from other places, but why." Sexton and Delehanty are especially to be commended for not giving us some airy, ultra-polished style book. Everything here--the streets, the shops, the rooms, the houses--seem old, and yet, forever lovely and useful. This is a distinctive book about a distinctive city.

Just returned from my fifth trip to the Crescent City and miss it already. I flipped through this book at a shop there and knew I would buy it as soon as I got home. In photographs and words, this is an evocation of New Orleans by two people who obviously love the place. Go with it and you'll be transported! New Orleans isn't perfect, but it is fascinating, unique, and exotic, which this book appreciates and shows off.

I love New Orleans and everything about it! My husband and I go there regularly, so when we bought a new house in December, I wanted to really decorate the interior of some of the rooms "New Orleans Style". When searching on , I found this book with pictures of some homes in NOLA interiors. I found this book to be very helpful as far as decorating and choosing Nawlins' colors for my house. Not to mention the fact that it gives me a "quick fix" for New Orleans when I can't be there in person!

Having just come back from my first trip to New Orleans, I promised myself to get a copy of this book! Not only has this book inspired to go back to New Orleans, but it's given the insight into the exotic and untamed world that still exists in New Orleans. It's a must book for people who enjoy great photographs and in-depth writing on the Crescent City.

This rating is not for the book but for the disappointment of not getting what I thought I ordered, and an attempt to keep others from the same disappointment. I read some of the reviews, clicked on the "look inside" and then bought this book. I thought I would get the book I looked at when I "looked inside". NO. That is not what you get. When you click on "look inside" you get to see the hardcover 2003 version. It appears to be written by a different person than the paperback 1990's version you will get if you buy this one, though the photographer is the same. Though I haven't looked deeply yet, some of the pictures appear to be different between the two, and as noted the writer appears to be different. There is a small disclaimer at the top of "look inside" that tells you you won't get the book you are looking at when you order, but I didn't notice it until now, as I am trying to figure out why I didn't get the book I thought I was getting. So, be sure to be aware which book you are ordering and don't be fooled by the "look inside" option. If you want the hardcover, be sure that is what you are ordering, or you will end up with a paperback that is about ten years older than the hard cover. Also note they are both pre Katrina. I gave it four stars because I didn't want to drag down the books overall rating when I'm not reviewing the book itself, just trying to clarify what you will get if you order and wanted to warn people who don't read all the fine print, like myself.

After a trip to New Orleans, I searched in vain for a book about the architecture of the city, which was just gorgeous. Nothing was available in the gift shops and souvenir shops, surprisingly. So I came home and bought this one from . It's a bit dated, but it has pretty much what I was looking for: beautiful photos and explanations of the history and style of this unique city. Maybe the shops should pick this one up as an item to sell. My interest was exterior architecture, which this book has, but it also includes interiors and a whole section on Mardi Gras. I would have preferred more on the exterior, but I am glad to have bought this one as a "souvenir" of my stay.

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