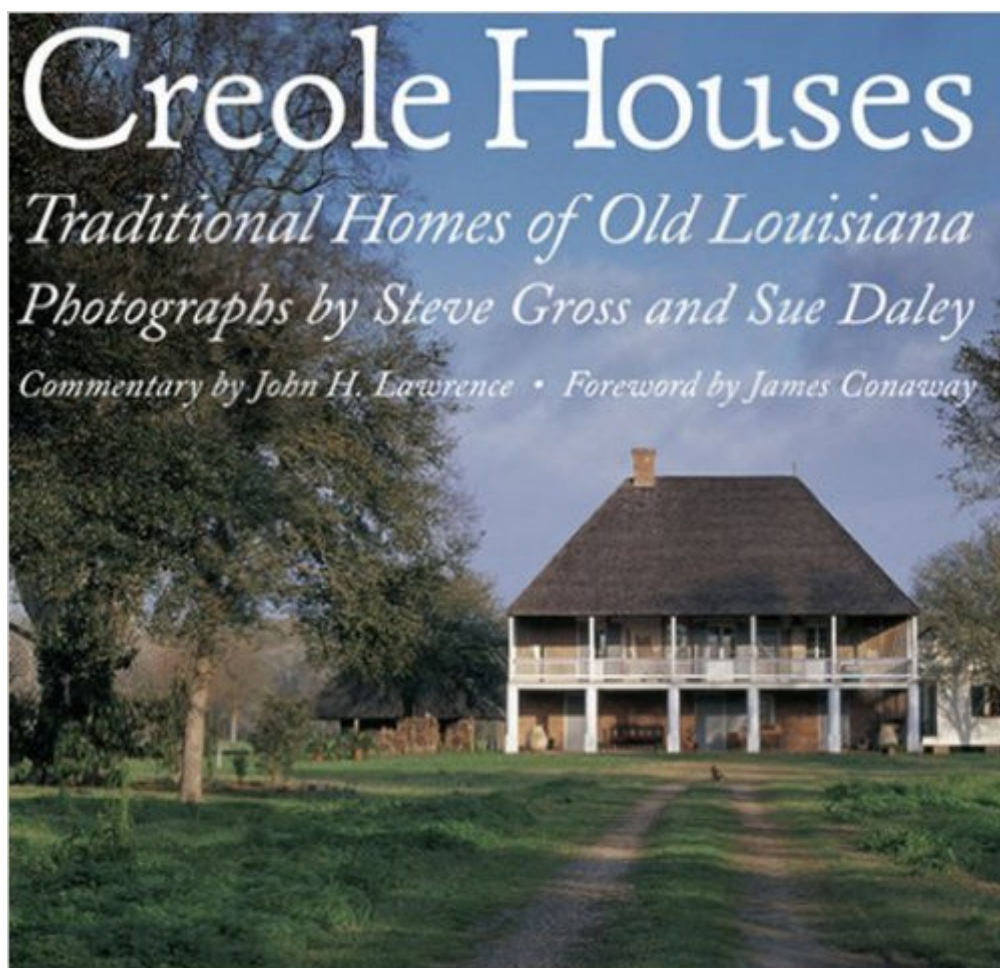


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# Creole Houses: Traditional Homes Of Old Louisiana



## Synopsis

Creole houses, found from New Orleans to northern Louisiana, are one of the nation's unique architectural treasures. A blend of French and Spanish colonial styles, with West Indian, Canadian, and other influences, these lovely houses were astutely designed to withstand their sultry, subtropical environment. Significantly, most major examples withstood the devastating hurricanes of 2005. No other book of photography evocatively examines the development of this singular American style, embracing architecture and interior decoration, which thrived from the early eighteenth through the mid-nineteenth century. *Creole Houses* offers an appreciation of Creole culture as seen through its historic homes and celebrates not only a memorable way of life, but the history, and the unique sensibility, that produced it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book brings important attention to the existence of these historic Creole homes in a part of the country that has been shattered by natural events in recent years. Fortunately, these homes are survivors: of their glorious past, of the ravages of weather, economy and time. The photographic vision of Gross and Daley is a brilliant dedication to documenting places as they are and not how we might want them to be. *OLD HOUSES*, one of their first books, set a precedent for their evocative style of artistry in what they choose to photograph from our architectural and domestic past. They continue to seek the forlorn, the forgotten, the poignant and the unusual. Their latest book, *CREOLE HOUSES*, is further revelation of their aesthetic message--of how old places and ways can be both

beautiful and resonant in our modern, complicated world. CREOLE HOUSES is both record, homage, and a visual and written poem to historic Louisiana architecture.

This book is not what you expected; it is a book on southern houses and their interiors, but not about the stuffy designer places that you usually see. The interiors are even more sophisticated and tasteful than any you have seen in such books. It is the first time you have seen the beautiful Louisiana-made chairs and armoires in their native environment. It seems like the photographers really searched hard to find just the right houses to elucidate the Creole style. It is a house style that seems like one you would want to recreate and live in today

A very nice book on a beautiful architectural style. These houses fit perfectly into the Southern Louisiana landscape, they were built for balmy humid climate of the region. I found the history of the people that built these homes very interesting, the text was informative and the images nicely produced. If you are interested in this style I highly recommend the book on Hays Town, he was a modern master of the vernacular.

I have over the years acquired a couple dozen books on old New Orleans and Low Country architecture, none has captured the true feeling of that fading glory like Creole Houses. Photos are superb, text is authoritative, end sheets are a delight, and the binding first rate. This book is a peek inside antebellum Creole country from plantation houses to servant's quarters. Let's hope these folks do more such volumes. My suggestion would be the 18th century Georgians of the Mid-Atlantic states.g

Every bit as important as the great plantations of the East Coast, the plantations of Louisiana have received a lot of attention in the published literature. There are many photographic folios of this important collection of structures. The book studies one specific style of house, one that became unique due to its particular cross section of cultures and climates. Not only is the Acadian Creole style beautiful, it is unique to this part of the world. Many lovely examples remain for us to visit today. This is a post-Katrina book, published in 2007, so the houses you see here survived the storm. Many of these houses are over 200 years old, so they've stood the tests of time and elements. The photography here is outstanding, featuring a nice mix of exterior and interior shots. The book is actually a catalog of sites, featuring about 20 of the best known landmarks from New Orleans to Natchitoches. The text is actually quite brief, framing the photography rather than

directing the narrative, and offers concise architectural and historical contexts for each of the houses. This is not an academic study, and architectural historians will not find it rigorous enough to use as a reference tool or solid secondary source. The book is intended for the informed and curious general reader and for casual browsing. For me, the most outstanding thing about the book is its precise photography of this distinct architectural style.

For a devotee of creole architecture, like me, this is an absolute must have. The book is a wonderful production in total. The photography is beautiful and the text informative. Interestingly, several of these structures have not been widely published elsewhere. Anyone interested in historic architecture should get this without question.

Having traveled in Louisiana extensively, this book helps us locate and photograph these lovely homes. We use this book as a guide book - some are private and no tours, but photos can be taken. The book has great photography and well written paragraphs about each home.

I have really enjoyed this book. It is a beautifully photographed collection of homes in the creole style, and the images are mysterious and some are a little haunting. For those interested in this architectural style, I would also recommend the book on the homes of A. Hayes Towne for a glimpse at newer creole homes. Honestly, I have not read much of the text, so I can't comment on the quality of the information shared. The photographs are compelling enough for me to recommend the book.

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