Almost any block has a new delight

New Orleanians, take a look around you at the quiet, unpublicized work going on by a multitude of homeowners to restore their property and bring out the unusual features that make architecture in the city so interesting.

Lace-iron balconies are a standard shot for tourist brochures, but the ornate, almost gingerbread wooden balconies and overhangs are just as delicate and traditional in some parts of the city, especially the Uptown area.

With the advent of new pastel outside paint and well-placed lighting, homeowners are able to highlight the unusual decorations of their houses that couldn't be duplicated without tremendous expense. The hand-carved doors, stained-glass windows, fluted balustrades reflect another era when carpenters and masons took great pains to make their work distinctive and lasting.

Though the photos on this page show a rather similar construction that was popular 75 to 100 years ago, one can find homes of almost any imaginable style in the older parts of the city—Gothic, steamboat, Victorian, Grecian, Spanish, even Byzantine.

It's a modest heritage, one that goes almost unnoticed, but is built to last, to be a cultural taproot of human aspirations. As such it remains popular and still influences people, even when building modern homes.