New Orleans architecture to the visitor is a gumbo of designs. There are one, two and three-story houses, balconies adorned with lacy iron grill-work, some homes have high fences. Others are supported by graceful columns distinctly Greek in flavor.

Then there are the courtyard homes that look so much like the outside. And we cannot forget the palatial plantation homes, so sedate and gracious in appearance. One sees traces of French, Spanish, and American influences. The total effect is charming and distinctive, but completely non-American.

“PARIS IN AMERICA”

New Orleans was first owned by France. The early buildings, while not an architectural heritage, served the problem by the life of the area. They were simple, small story structures combining shop and residence in one, high enough above ground to keep out dampness, low-molded, and well-insulated. These essentially simple homes, French Provincial in form, characterized, make us realize what Thackeray and Mark Twain meant when they called New Orleans “Paris in America.”

The Garden District homes, of this period were usually three stories high, were usually built in a sort of half-timbered construction started over. Perhaps the finest example of the story town homes is the Esplanade Avenue with its one-story shops below and the second and third stories above.

The patio was constructed in the form of a small court as a link between the different stories of the house. To gain entrance to the court one must pass through a wide gate, the “porte cochere” or a lobby or a hall with a broad veranda that rests on the outside. And we cannot forget the palatial front-view” of their true beauty.

Inside, these homes were lavish and luxurious. The rooms were high, and very tall windows were set in the walls of the house. To gain entrance to the court one must pass through a wide gate, the “porte cochere” or a lobby or a hall with a broad veranda that rests on the outside. And we cannot forget the palatial

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