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Louisiana Book News
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Small independent **Morgana Press** of New Orleans has taken on a huge undertaking. And it's gorgeous.

Morgana has published Orleans Embrace (\$50), a 5-pound, 388-page narrative and pictorial homage to New Orleans, primarily the French Quarter, with all of the book's profits going to the Vieux Carre Property Owners, Residents and Associates Inc. and the nonprofit all-volunteer Friends of the Vieux Carre Commission.

The book is divided into three sections, with the middle a re-release of Roy F. Guste Jr.'s popular and stunning The Secret Gardens of the Vieux Carre. Before and after Guste's gorgeous expose (buy the book for this alone!) is commentary by T.J. Fisher titled Preserving New Orleans and Saving New Orleans, coupled with an exclusive showing of Louis Sahuc Photo Works.

The star of Orleans Embrace is the 378 stunning photos taken before the landscape-altering Hurricane Katrina, from side glimpses of the cathedral spires and morning fog on Jackson Square to lush courtyards where smiling stone cupids peek through fading French doors.

The book also features comments from celebrities, including Frances Ford Coppola, Nicolas Cage, Jimmy Buffett, Lenny Kravitz, Emeril Lagasse, Taylor Hackford, Helen Mirren, Patricia Clarkson, George Rodrigue and Andrei Codrescu.

The release of Orleans Embrace is scheduled for April 1, when an initial gift of \$10,000 will be given to the two organizations. However, you can find copies now at South Louisiana bookstores.

Acadiana resident Cheré Coen is an author under the pen name of Cherie Claire. She teaches Mass Market Novel Writing at UL's Potpourri. Write her at bacoen@cox.net.