

Amid landscapes of  
destruction, many  
of those displaced by  
the recent swarm of  
hurricanes are still  
picking up the  
pieces of their lives.

Photographs by  
David Burnett

# Home NoM

### New Orleans

Hadi Amini returned to his ruined house, torn apart when Katrina's storm surge breached the 17th Street Canal levee last August, and found his seven-year-old son's dress-up clothes. "I hung them there to show how quickly life can change."



More





### **New Orleans**

Houses and cars were half buried when the London Avenue Canal's floodwall gave way, unleashing water and sand. "The car is sitting in the front yard of the house next to my aunt and uncle's house," says Maureen Lillich. "They both drowned in the rushing water. I don't think the rest of the nation realizes the sorrow and struggle we continue to endure. All these months have passed, and my aunt and uncle's neighborhood still looks devastated."



### New Orleans

Herbert Gettridge and his wife raised nine children in this house, which he built with his own hands in 1953. When Hurricane Betsy flooded the Lower Ninth Ward in 1965, water approached the top of the decorative archways that Gettridge, a plasterer by trade, had shaped himself. A year ago Katrina filled the house to the ceiling, ruining Gettridge's extensive wardrobe—scores of suits, dozens of hats, closets

of accessories. But the house, built solid, suffered no structural damage, just a broken window-pane, and Gettridge, now 82, is steadily rehabilitating it. "I've been in the building trades all my life," he says. "I can still build anything I can think of."





MARK BURKE AND GERALD TOUCHET

### Holly Beach, Louisiana

"It was the poor man's Riviera," says Lecaster Leger, who owned one of the hundreds of tiny vacation houses washed away by Hurricane Rita's 15-foot storm surge last September. Because of new building regulations—larger lots, higher elevations—many people can't afford to rebuild. "It won't be poor man's anything anymore," Leger says.







## New Orleans

Six months after Katrina splintered the modest houses and wrecked the cars, the Lower Ninth Ward remained a scene of apocalypse and a reflection of lives thrown into chaos.

