The Tulane City Center houses the School of Architecture’s urban research and outreach programs. Programs of the City Center vary over time but share a focus on improving cities through fostering global urban research, the development of flexible and innovative urban strategies, and the provision of environmentally and culturally informed principles to guide the design and revitalization of the contemporary metropolis.

As the principal venue for outreach projects at the Tulane School of Architecture, the Tulane City Center, along with our primary collaborator the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, enjoys a broad range of partnerships with numerous off-campus community-based organizations. Each of these partnerships provides opportunities for faculty and students to engage real issues in the community and participate in the life of our city. Projects range in scale from small mobile neighborhood communication devices to urban scale neighborhood planning processes. The Tulane City Center works in both private and public spaces and always recognizes the importance of thinking beyond the scale of the individual project.
# Index of Projects

*Updated Spring 2010*

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Located in the heart of New Orleans, the Carrollton-Hollygrove Neighborhood is in desperate need of extensive re-development in the post-Katrina era. One urgent issue is the development of infrastructure and resources that support a healthy food system and benefit the community through the availability of fresh foods, beautiful neighborhoods, and the promotion of a vibrant local economy. To implement some of these important incentives, the Carrollton-Hollygrove Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) and the New Orleans Food and Farm Network (FFN) have partnered with the Tulane City Center to create the Hollygrove Growers Market & Farm (HGM&F), a storefront retail center in Hollygrove offering locally-grown, affordable fresh produce as well as ‘green jobs’ certification programs in urban agriculture.

A major component of the CHCDC’s revitalization and recovery work involves promoting sustainable living and healthy lifestyles through support of local growers and accessibility of fresh regional and local produce for neighborhood residents. The community food center will be a centerpiece for FFN’s food security recovery planning. Combined with the training farm, the HGM&F will contribute greatly to the revitalization of Hollygrove, serve as an important step in making the neighborhood sustainable, and act as a catalyst for future city-wide innovation.
Tulane students have built the Hollygrove Growers Pavilion as a way to jump start the development of the entire Hollygrove Green Growers and Urban Farm master plan. Led by faculty members and staff, the team designed and built a structure that provides a shaded space for teaching while also serving as an example of environmentally conscious architecture. The pavilion collects rainwater for use in the training gardens, incorporates recycled content building materials, and minimizes construction waste.

Located in the heart of New Orleans, the Carrollton-Hollygrove Neighborhood is in desperate need of extensive re-development in the post-Katrina era. One urgent issue is the development of infrastructure and resources that support a healthy food system and benefit the community through the availability of fresh foods, beautiful neighborhoods and the promotion of a vibrant local economy. To implement some of these important incentives, the Carrollton-Hollygrove Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) and the New Orleans Food and Farm Network (FFN) have partnered with the Tulane City Center to create the Hollygrove Growers Market & Farm (HGM&F), a storefront retail center in Hollygrove offering locally-grown, affordable fresh produce as well as ‘green jobs’ certification programs in urban agriculture.
The Shade Units project operates in conjunction with the Hollygrove Market and larger Hollygrove Farm site. It is conceived as an exterior extension of the sustainable marketplace currently operating out of the existing building. Carefully placed mobile modular units create a multi-functional seating area that is further defined by expandable shading screens and movable bench and table components and is designed to serve as a work and storage space, outdoor classroom and casual gathering facility. The utilization of recycled and recyclable materials, an economy of means, and maximum spatial flexibility formulate an agenda that follows the general demand for sustainable living and a closely connected neighborhood community.

This project is one of a series of projects with the Hollygrove Market and Farm whose goal is to increase accessibility of fresh produce to under-served neighborhoods and to promote sustainability through support of locally-grown produce. Accessibility to fresh produce means it is both available and affordable. Sustainability refers to the economic, social, and environmental benefits that occur: shorter transport distances for produce, increased support and incentives for local producers, and the formation of a secure source of produce.

Special thanks to Dash Lumber for their support.
This proposal seeks to make a neighborhood amenity out of a divisive infrastructural corridor. Located in a low lying district of New Orleans between Carrollton Avenue and the Jefferson Parish line, the district was crossed by major urban infrastructure long before any residential building occurred there. The Hollygrove Greenline initiative seeks to show how a 50 foot wide swath of land above an underground canal could create a series of places for neighborhood activities and for urban farming. The project layers green infrastructure strategies over conventional engineering practices in a way that seeks to support neighborhood enhancement and economic development.

The study began with research and documentation of the area’s historical, physical and social contexts. This analysis has stimulated the development of some initial proposals for the corridor. The band of vacant land that constitutes the Greenline cuts diagonally across the city grid of the neighborhood, and several different types of open space are created. Preliminary design strategies have focused on the development of these spaces as essential neighborhood infrastructure in the form of public park space, water management systems, and community gardens and urban farms. Through continued engagement with neighborhood stakeholders, the Greenline Project aims to transform these otherwise derelict lots into active and healthy community spaces.
The Tulane City Center partnered with Catholic Charities to develop a programmatic strategy for Madonna Manor building located at the Hope Haven Campus. The project integrates three community based programs (Jefferson Parish Care Center, Café Hope and Hope Haven Farm) in one cohesive plan to revitalize and reactivate the Campus.

Jefferson Care Center will provide temporary shelter for homeless people and programs to reintegrate families in the community. Café Hope will be a fully operational restaurant and will run as a social entrepreneurship business model that will offer job skills for at risk youth. Hope Haven Farm will develop a sustainable Biodiversity farming model for the Café and will promote initiatives to produce local products. The Farm and Café will act as a collaborative platform for the community to help revitalize the iconic Westbank architectural landmark. The Tulane City Center is involved in the schematic design of Café Hope and is working with all of the project’s collaborators to devise a site strategy and strategic goals for the project’s realization.
Backstreet Cultural Museum

1116 Saint Claude Avenue
(St. Claude Avenue near Ursulines Street)

Project Team:
Jonathan Tate, advising professor
Dan Etheridge
Allison Popper
Kristian Mizes
Whitney Huver
Adriana Camacho

Partnering Organizations:
Tulane City Center, Backstreet Cultural Museum

Located in the historic Faubourg Treme neighborhood, the Backstreet Cultural Museum preserves and perpetuates New Orleans’ African American parading traditions through collections, exhibitions and publications, public programs, and performances. These cultural traditions include Mardi Gras Indians, Skull and Bone gangs, Baby Dolls, jazz funerals, social aid and pleasure clubs, and other related rituals.

Housed in an altered residence and former funeral home dating from the 1930s, the Museum requires significant renovation and modernization to support its growing collection and alleviate the general disrepair of its facilities. The proposed modifications realign the museum entry sequence; expand and update its main gallery; add accessible restrooms; and provide environmental improvements such as a central mechanical system, weatherization and building insulation.

To assist a growing local need, the proposal also includes a community space. With the construction of this facility, general improvements will be made to the exterior of the entire building and a new courtyard entrance will connect the street to the community space.
Streetcar Shelter

South Carrollton Avenue at South Claiborne Avenue

Project Team:  
**John Klingman**, advising professor  
Garrett Jacobs

with assistance from:  
New Orleans City Councilmember  
Midura  
The New Orleans Regional Transportation Authority  
Regional Planning Commission  
Federal Transit Administration  
Kara Renne of New Orleans Regional Planning Commission  
John Schackai of Carrollton Design Review Committee  
The New Orleans Historic Districts Landmarks Commission

This project is a pedestrian shelter for the RTA at the beginning of the St. Charles Streetcar line, Carrollton Avenue at Claiborne. The concept is to create a simple form that complements the historic streetcars and provides amenity to passengers as they are waiting at this location. The design evokes the traditional concept of shelter with its pitched roof, while the triangular shapes provide a dynamic emphasis.

The shelter is the length of a streetcar, and a lower pitched roof extension overlaps the streetcar top, providing rain protection for those boarding or disembarking. The upper surface unobtrusively houses photovoltaic panels that provide nighttime LED lighting for the shelter. The Y-shaped steel columns relate to the catenary supports along the streetcar route.

Forms and materials are chosen for durability and low-maintenance requirements. The primary construction is of powder-coat finished steel that resists deterioration and vandalism. The roof is of metal with two colored translucent panels that complete the roof enclosure. The intention is to create a long-lived structure with some iconic character that also defers to and complements the historic Perley Thomas streetcars themselves.
Like much of New Orleans, City Park — one of the nation’s largest and oldest urban parks — must undergo extensive redevelopment after Hurricane Katrina. To embrace new cultures and sub-cultures, City Park has allotted a generous portion of open space to a new skating facility for use by both skateboarders and roller skaters alike.

To foster awareness and raise funds for this new facility, the Tulane City Center has been selected to provide imaging and ideas for the new proposal. TCC has teamed up with City Park and the New Orleans skateboarding and roller derby communities to create the most versatile and authentic facility. The desire for a leading skatepark in New Orleans has existed within the skating community for many years both pre-Katrina and post-Katrina. This new skating facility has the potential to be one of the premiere parks in the nation, attracting multi-generational users and tourists to the city and the park, as well as facilitating City Park's participation in the growing multi-billion dollar national skateboarding industry. By addressing the local skating community’s needs and desires as well as gleaning inspiration from parks nationwide, the City Park skate facility has the potential to be competitive with some of the most successful skateparks and plazas across the nation.
Situated along the Tchefuncta River outside Covington, on Lake Pontchartrain’s North Shore, Teaching Responsible Earth Education (TREE) is an organization that provides curriculum-based environmental education to students in Orleans and adjoining Parishes. Under the instruction of executive director Sue Brown and others, upwards of 50 students in grades five and seven spend four to five days at TREE’s 22.5 acre training ground. Students learn to make decisions about how to preserve the diversity of the natural world and live more lightly on our planet.

Built in the early 1900s, the facilities at TREE have not been upgraded and therefore lack adequate services to accommodate the growing number of students entering the program. The scheme proposed by the Tulane team adds a new 12-shower bathhouse, completely renovates the septic system and includes water saving plumbing fixtures throughout. Specifically, a large cleansing pond will take the place of the existing field lines, providing for the students another teaching tool about natural processes. The bathhouse, a stand alone building with a simple form, evokes similar qualities of the existing structures, transformed to express raised floor plates required in this flood plane as well as the roof’s role in channeling rainwater for use in a didactic water garden.
Circle Food Store has been serving the Seventh Ward and downtown community for over a century. The grocery, damaged during the storm, has not been able to secure the funds, political support, and momentum to stage a post-Katrina comeback. The Seventh Ward and much of downtown New Orleans lacks a supermarket, leaving residents to buy groceries at convenience stores or they must travel several miles by car to the nearest grocery. This often leads to poor food choices resulting in long term health problems for neighborhood residents. The owner of the store, Dwayne Boudreaux, and several other social activists are working to bring back Circle Food Stores - a project that incorporates local jobs, provides food access to underserved communities, health education and support for local growers.

The Tulane City Center is working with Mr. Boudreaux on a visioning document to help map out and make a case for the rebirth of the historic grocery. A team of architecture and business students are involved in schematic design, structural analysis, pricing, and a business plan for the store. Students are also working with the Food and Farm Network and the Seventh Ward Neighborhood Center to address issues of food justice and education in the Seventh Ward Community.
The Alison Montana AMIACT

Dumaine Street at North Claiborne Avenue

Project Team:
Irene Keil, advising professor
Greg Barton
Dan Kautz
Michael Keller

Consultant:
Rachel Breunlin, Neighborhood Story Project

Partnering Organizations:
Tulane City Center, Alison Montana Institute of African American Art, Culture and Tradition

The Alison Montana Institute of African American Art, Culture and Tradition (AMIACT) seeks to present, document, preserve and celebrate the unique cultural heritage and street performance traditions of people of color, native to the City of New Orleans, such as the activities of Black Mardi Gras Indians, marching and “stepping” clubs, social aid and pleasure clubs, as well as neighborhood brass bands.

The future site of the AMIACT at Dumaine and North Claiborne Avenue is located in the historic Treme, one of the oldest African American neighborhoods in the country. This location has often been considered a highly charged place of international significance as a point of origin for countless genres of music, the birthplace of uniquely New Orleans artists and cultural expressions, and the heart of Carnival in the African American community. It is the corner where Uptown and Downtown Mardi Gras Indian tribes meet.

The museum is named after the legendary Chief of Chiefs: the late Alison “Tootie” Montana. The Tulane City Center is partnering with the AMIACT to assist with research and to support fund-raising activities with the preparation of a brochure that, in addition to site and program studies, will show the history of the various cultural groups represented by the museum.
Through the Tulane City Center, architecture students have completed a design|build project in the Seventh Ward neighborhood as part of a Fall 2009 studio. Working in collaboration with the Neighborhood Story Project, the studio designed an interview space as well as storage and office pieces. The design strategy involves many small components that are easy to fabricate, transport, and combine to form several storage walls. These walls, backed with a translucent plastic to allow in light, act to partition a more intimate interview space. The goal of the design is to highlight and facilitate the work of the Neighborhood Story Project by creating a multifunctional wall to showcase their publications while creating a space for conversations that are collected for future publications.

The Neighborhood Story Project is a documentary book-making non profit organization in New Orleans. Through writing, interviews, and photography, neighborhood writers create portraits of their places, then edit the stories. With the neighborhoods they create inclusive and honest publications. Writers of these books range from local high school students to social aid and pleasure clubs.

This project is supported by a grant distributed by Transforma Projects/National Performance Network, thanks to the generous support from the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts. Special thanks to Dash Lumber for their support.

Storypod

2202 Lapeyrouse Street
(Lapeyrouse Street at North Miro Street)

Project Team:
Emilie Taylor, advising professor
Danielle Abelow, Ryan Anderson
Ben Flatau, Matt Fox
Jennifer Gaugler, Meghan Hartney
Whitney Huver, Garrett Jacobs
Ana Jimenez, Jason Liu
Lauren Martino, Frederica Merkel
Marian Prado, Sarah Rinehart
Karla Valdivia

Neighborhood Story Project
Rachel Breunlin, Abram Himelstein
Lea Downing, Lindsey Darnell

www.neighborhoodstoryproject.org
the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation and the Tulane School of Medicine are working with the Tulane City Center to build a neighborhood-based Community Health Center for the medically under-served community of New Orleans East. The project entails the design and renovation of an existing former post office building within the neighborhood to be utilized as a comprehensive primary care center for the area's largely Vietnamese-American community. The current facility lacks the space to accommodate a community that is gradually returning to the neighborhood and continues to grow, especially with the influx of the Latino workforce. The first phase of the project includes the renovation of the existing building, while strategic visioning foresees a 10,000 square foot addition within three years.

The design of the project takes advantage of the unique opportunities presented by transforming the space of a former post office into a sustainably designed, patient focused health clinic. Vietnamese patterns and landscape are used to add cultural specificity to the project while staying inclusive to all community members.
Project Sprout

Project Sprout is a unique strategy for urban revitalization based on the premise that failure reveals opportunity. Shifts in New Orleans’ demographics and economic prospects, coupled with catastrophic flooding from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, left many of the city’s neighborhoods devastated by blight and environmental contamination. Through a productive stabilization strategy that unlocks the potential of blighted land, Sprout will transform marginal properties from public health threats into nodes of community redevelopment. Through the planting of bio-energy gardens that include plants such as sunflowers, Project Sprout will:

- Remediate soil
- Yield a crop for bio-fuel production
- Provide green-collar job training
- Create hope in communities that suffer from the companion problems of blight and illegal dumping.

As a deliberately transitional strategy, Sprout helps to reposition underutilized land for redevelopment, urban farming, or community recreation space. Project Sprout is a phased pilot project that was begun in the spring of 2009. Several sites are now active.

Pilot Project:
Jackson Street at Johnson Street

Project Team:
Will Bradshaw, advising professor
New Orleans Food and Farm Network
New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
Limitless Vistas, Inc.

Partnering Organizations:
Tulane City Center, Green Coast Enterprises, Growth Through Energy & Community Health (GTECH)

www.projectsproutnola.com
Location of Recent Tulane City Center Projects

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Covenant Farms is launching an urban farming initiative in downtown New Orleans. By using abandoned and under-used land in the city’s post-Katrina landscape, Covenant Farms is working to resurrect the Victory Garden concept as part of a recovery model. The Tulane City Center, and the New Orleans Food and Farm Network have partnered with Covenant House to devise a strategy for turning some of the city’s 30,000 blighted lots into greenspace that can also help to bridge the gap between food and table in one of the city’s many ‘food deserts’.

At Covenant House, young people between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one receive shelter, education, job training, counseling, clothing, childcare, medical attention and an opportunity to repair their lives. Covenant Farms will introduce students to urban farming through the work of hands-on gardening and a paired curriculum focused on food justice. Using several donated lots in downtown New Orleans, students will clear, plant, cultivate and harvest edibles. They will apply the landscaping techniques and will help to supply local produce for the Covenant Café. At the same time, the gardening expertise learned at Covenant Farms can be considered part of life skills that lead to self-sufficiency for each individual.
The Tulane City Center and Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation (MQVN) have developed a strategy for implementing a 28 acre urban farm and farmers market in the Village de L’Est neighborhood. Tulane City Center’s partners in the projects are the Louisiana State University School of Landscape Architecture, Spackman Mossop + Michaels, and the University of Montana’s Environmental Studies program.

The Vietnamese-American community in New Orleans East has maintained an extensive network of community gardens since their migration to the area from Vietnam in the 1970’s. These gardens produced food that was not readily available in the region and were used by the growers to feed their families. The gardens were destroyed by the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina, and this proposal constitutes a vision to re-establish these practices in a more formalized and developed setting.

In the initial proposal, the farm is designed to be sustainable both culturally and environmentally. Agricultural production is organic, energy is used efficiently, water is managed on site, and waste is recycled. The market is envisioned as a place that serves the local community and draws people from other neighborhoods of New Orleans and visitors from other cities.
Greenbuild 1, designed and built by a studio of thesis students, is a prototype focused on modular construction and the prefabrication process with an emphasis on eco-friendly building materials and methods. Working as individuals, in small groups, and as an entire studio team, students spent weeks designing an affordable, eco-friendly, modular 1200 square foot home. The modules’ roofs are initially built flat to brace the modules in transport and are hinged into position once on site to provide clerestory lighting. Additionally, the three modules can be reconfigured to fit different site conditions and provide varied outdoor porch spaces. The design involves green building techniques and modularity that can be adapted to different sites and neighborhoods with ease of construction at an affordable rate.

The studio’s strongest emphasis is on environmentally friendly approaches to building, and how those specific conditions impact the larger environment over time. The aim of this research is to develop an appropriate climatic and cultural prototype that could be produced and developed by the prefabrication industry for New Orleans.

**Awarded:** Honorable Mention, Champions of Sustainability in Community Award, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
The Tulane City Center and New Orleans City Park have developed an Eco Pavilion to showcase environmentally sensitive building strategies and technologies. Under the guidance of Coleman Coker, the TCC team built the pavilion for the Fall Home and Garden Show in 2008. City Park’s Botanical Gardens use the Green Pavilion to provide the public with a full scale educational model of how sustainable technologies can be employed.

The pavilion includes a rainwater catching roof, indigenous plants, salvaged materials, and rainwater filtration systems. The intention of this approachable and informative exhibition is to make these alternative building methods accessible to the public with the hope that individuals might choose to rebuild their homes and gardens in a more sustainable way. The Eco Pavilion is one project in a larger ongoing partnership between City Park and the Tulane City Center.
How High?: Thoughts about Elevating Your Home is a publication of the Tulane City Center, intended to be used as a reference guide for elevating homes in the New Orleans/Gulf Coast region. The booklet includes primary design issues associated with raising homes for both existing and new structures. This publication is a result of a lack of information in the region about flood preventative measures for home owners. It includes a general discussion of issues and utilizes case studies from the region to illustrate best practices for elevated living. Issues addressed include the effects of elevating a home on access, usable space under the house, and the effects of a raised home on a city block and a larger neighborhood context.

The booklet was produced with the support and technical assistance of the Louisiana State University Ag Center and the Center for Hazard Assessment, Response and Technology at the University of New Orleans.

Project Team:  
Dan Etheridge  
Ali Popper  
Scott Bernhard  
Emilie Taylor

Partering Organizations:  
Tulane City Center, LSU Ag Center, Center for Hazard Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART)
Cornerstones is an effort to document and advocate for overlooked and threatened landmarks of New Orleans. Through a citywide survey of residents, Cornerstones is the first ground-up approach to identify New Orleans’ important historical and cultural sites and will broaden ideas about the types of spaces that are important to the city and why they are significant.

Through a partnership with the Neighborhood Story Project, the Tulane City Center has developed a publication, “Cornerstones: Celebrating the Everyday Monuments and Gathering Places of New Orleans Neighborhoods” that features seven local landmarks. Through interviews, site maps, architectural drawings, and photos, the Cornerstones project illustrates the range of ways neighborhood places are important to New Orleans. A survey form is distributed as part of all book release events, so residents can nominate places that are significant to their community.

The Tulane City Center has developed and maintains a public database and website of nominated Cornerstones sites (www.cornerstonesproject.org/). The online registry features written narratives, interview quotes, maps, and architectural drawings, as well as noting any threats to the vitality of nominated places. Cornerstones documents and helps protect the places that make New Orleans unique.
Mapping the adjudicated properties in selected zones across New Orleans is a project initiated at the Re-Inhabiting NOLA conference hosted in November 2005 by Tulane School of Architecture, Xavier University, and the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research. The Tulane City Center received support from the Fannie Mae Foundation and hosted a summit in February 2006. In attendance were City of New Orleans agency leadership, local professionals, and experts from the National Vacant Properties Campaign. The Tulane City Center established a methodology for assisting the City of New Orleans with mapping and documenting adjudicated properties in six selected study areas across the city. These areas included portions of the Sixth and Seventh Wards, Central City, Gert Town, and the Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods.

The process entailed synthesizing information from several City agency sources. This data was then supplemented with field documentation of general property conditions, photographs of each adjudicated property, photographs of the adjacent properties, and the location of each adjudicated property on Sanborn maps.

Adjudicated Properties Research

Project Team:
**Alan Lewis**, advising professor
Dan Etheridge
Julie Kaminski
Becky Hutchinson

Documentation Team
Sam Applebaum
Claire Cahan
Jason Heinze
Emilie Taylor

Partnering Organizations:
Tulane City Center
Fannie Mae Foundation
City Center Streetfront Gallery

Magazine Street at Gravier Street

Project Team:
Scott Bernhard
Dan Etheridge
Jamie Lookabaugh
Lori Storm
Will Rosenthal
Annie Peyton

The Tulane City Center Street Front Gallery is a new space dedicated to public dialogues about the future of our city. The Gallery consists of three display windows on the ground floor of an old commercial building in New Orleans’ Central Business District (corner of Magazine and Gravier Streets). Each of the windows showcases projects engaged by the Tulane City Center in partnership with local community based organizations and other urban, landscape, and architectural design projects that engage our future in meaningful and progressive ways. The gallery is open twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, and can be viewed from the sidewalk in front of the display windows.
The Tulane City Center and the Priestley Charter School of Architecture and Construction partnership provides support for curriculum development, a lecture series for faculty enrichment, and opportunities for Priestley School and Tulane School of Architecture students to collaborate.

The inaugural series of five lectures was launched in the fall of 2008 to open discussion and present aspects of design education between the faculty of the Priestley School and faculty of the Tulane School of Architecture. As part of the continuing support of curriculum development, the Tulane City Center, along with Louisiana AIA, provided financial assistance for a fact-finding visit to Philadelphia’s Charter High School of Art and Design (CHAD) to learn firsthand from the nation’s earliest architecture-focused charter high school. In the spring of 2009, through Tulane City Center sponsorship, students at Tulane School of Architecture and Priestley had an opportunity to work together on a competition for modular classrooms as part of the partnership’s aim to foster student interaction and student exposure to the design fields. Select Priestly juniors have been invited to participate in Tulane’s summer design school, Career Explorations in Architecture.

Priestley High School Partnership

Project Team:
Marilyn Feldmeier, coordinator
Dan Etheridge
Scott Bernhard

Collaborators:
Michelle Biagas, Principal,
CEO Priestley Charter School
Jared Hueter, Dean of Design Programs

Partnering Organizations:
Tulane City Center, Priestley Charter School of Architecture and Construction, Louisiana American Institute of Architecture

www.priestleycharterschool.org
Modular Classroom Competition

Project Team: 
**Emilie Taylor**, advising professor  
Carey Clouse, advising professor  
Jared Heuter, advising professor

Tulane student team:  
Scott Burroughs, Corey Green, Colm Kennedy, Lorrie Tumlinson, Lori Storm

Priestly student team:  
Manuel, Rachel, Abdul, Rashid, Dennis

Anisa Baldwin Metzger, United States Green Building Council (USGBC)  
Tiffany DelCour, Tulane School of Public Health

Partnering Organizations:  
Tulane City Center, Priestley, Morgan Buildings, USGBC New Orleans Chapter

The Tulane City Center and the Priestley School of Architecture and Construction teamed with modular manufacturer Morgan Building Systems to design a sustainable modular classroom. The spring 2009 classroom design collaboration is part of the Open Architecture Network’s Classroom Competition. The competition required designers to work with school students to develop proposals for improved learning environments that respond to the growing demand worldwide for classroom structures.

Using Priestly’s schoolyard as a site, the design team of high school and university students developed not just a classroom design but a business proposal for Morgan. The team worked with design and engineering staff at MBS to develop a proposal that fits with the requirements of their production facilities and can be incorporated into their production line at the end of the process. MBS is specifically focused on exploring ways to develop a ‘green’ classroom building utilizing the company’s existing manufacturing processes.

Partners from the United States Green Building Council, Tulane’s Freeman School of Business, and the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine collaborated with the design team on their multidisciplinary approach to creating better learning spaces.
CITYbuild Consortium of Schools

Project Team:
**Doug Harmon**, Director
Jared Hueter, Sarah Gamble, Coordinators
Dan Etheridge

participating schools:
University of Arkansas
Boston Architectural College
Georgia Institute of Technology
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Minnesota
University of Montana
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Texas at Austin
Tulane University
Washington University
Wentworth Institute of Technology

Through the planning and building processes, CITYbuild worked for social justice by partnering directly with local community groups to address their immediate and long-term sustainable needs.

The idea for CITYbuild Consortium of Schools developed in the fall of 2005 to address the unprecedented design and rebuilding needs in New Orleans. The CITYbuild Consortium was initiated in January 2006 starting with 10 schools representing the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning and policy, real estate development, historic preservation and environmental studies. The role of host and first-year supporter was assumed by the Tulane City Center at the Tulane School of Architecture.

By the end of the first year, CITYbuild involved 30 national and international design based programs, representing 60 faculty and more than 600 students, while partnering with 20 local community based organizations. The results of these partnerships included approximately 16 structures (from urban furniture to housing) built or rehabilitated and more than 200 design and project proposals.

selected publications: Domus, Architectural Record, ID, Cite, CNN, NPR, New York Times, New Yorker
exhibited in: Venice Biennale, Cooper-Hewitt, Designery, Ogden Museum
In cooperation with Mr. Ronald Lewis, Project Locus and Kansas State University Architecture students designed and constructed an enclosed, 500 square foot space for the House of Dance and Feathers. This small-scale neighborhood museum is a repository of cultural artifacts, focusing on Mardi Gras Indians, history of Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs, and the Lower Ninth Ward community. Within the structure, there are spaces for display, gathering, and working. In addition, the students redesigned and rehabilitated the Lewis Residence. The House of Dance and Feathers and Lewis Residence were completed in August 2006.

Ronald Lewis’ House of Dance and Feathers celebrates the oldest Social Aid and Pleasure Club in the Ninth Ward, the Big Nine Social Club, and Mardi Gras Indian tribes throughout New Orleans. Project Locus rebuilt the backyard museum to help reconstruct a sense of history and identity for this unique culture after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the original location. The museum, a flagship of the devastated Lower Ninth Ward, was rebuilt as a design resource for members of the community.

published in: Oz, Cite, Domus, New York Times, Design for the Other 90%
URBANbuild is a design|build studio in which teams of twelve students take on the design and construction of a prototypical home for a neighborhood in New Orleans. URBANbuild’s partner in the development of these houses is Neighborhood Housing Services. The first set of prototypical schemes was developed by the studio just six months after Hurricane Katrina devastated 60% of the city’s housing stock. Since the storm the studio has continued with one constructed house each year.

The program is an educational collaboration of individuals, organizations, and businesses committed to revitalizing New Orleans’ rich cultural and architectural heritage. Neighborhoods are strengthened by the rebuilding of homes, allied professionals and educators come together for a common cause, and students develop as designers with a deep understanding and commitment to the urban environment.

More information on the program can be found at: www.tulaneurbanbuild.com


exhibited in: Venice Biennale, Ogden Muesum, Project NOLA
prototypes 01-04

Prototype 01 _ 1930 Dumaine Street
Jared Bowers, Ned Brown, Claire Cahan, Nick Crowley, Robert Deacon, David Demsey, Mark Enlow, Jason Heinze, Tyler Hutcherson, Matt Hux, Maggie Joyce, Nicole McGlinn, Andrea Patrick, Jonathon Reyes, Carlos Sanchez, Heather Skeehan, Emilie Taylor, Steve Thesman, Ben Wasserman, Seth Welty, Daniel Zangara

Prototype 02 _ 2856 Dryades Street
Emily Brudenell, Vincent Cangiamilla, Victoria Hernandez, Greg Hayslett, Emily Levings, Kristyn Cosgrove, Jordan Gargas, Tyler Hutcherson, Charles Lucia, Trevor Meeks, David Merlin, Craig Parker, Matt Shaver, Kristine Shull, Diana Steig, Francisco Tirado, Sam Vasquez, Ben Wasserman, Jesse Zryb

Prototype 03 _ 1900 Seventh Street
Christina Alvarado-Suarez, Adriana Camacho, Ian Daniels, Amarit Dulyapaibul, Nik Haak, Chris Halbrooks, Naomi Homison, Cassandra Howard, Kimberly Lewis, Caroline Lossack, Alex Mangimelli Nicole Magnellia, Eric McClam, Scott Mucci, Casey Roccanova, Amanda Rosen, Carter Scott, Steve Smith, Lori Storm, Sam Vasquez, Ben Wasserman, Jesse Zryb

Prototype 04 _ 2036 Seventh Street
Robert Baddour, Amanda Brendle, Ben Flatau, Monica Breziner, Nicholas Cecchi, Katie Champagne, Nick Chan, Chad Cramer, Susan Danielson, Shannon Farrell, Matt Fox, Kevin Garfield, Lauren Goetz, Evan Gracey, Corey Green, Chris Halbrooks, Meaghan Hartney, Matthew Hostetler, Colm Kennedy, Joseph Keppel, Peter Kilgust, Nicolas Mallet, Lauren Martino, Suzanne Mon, Emily Orgeron, JP Pacelli, Marian Prado, Marie Richard, Gregor Schuller, Kevin Tully, Karla Valdivia, Colin VanWingen, Bliss Young, Sam Vasquez, Ben Wasserman, Jesse Zryb
Though many renovated and newly constructed single-family homes are needed in New Orleans, the need for affordable, sustainable, multi-family housing is even more pressing in the post-Katrina city. Multi-family housing has the capacity to develop shared infrastructure and amenities and engage neighborhoods at a more comprehensive scale. This increased project scope can promote more efficient land-use with higher density while creating valuable public space and vibrant urban environments.

Four groups of Tulane School of Architecture faculty (three design groups and one sustainable real-estate developer) have teamed to develop proposals for multi-family housing in three sample neighborhoods in New Orleans. All proposals will work at the scale of two city blocks, with special attention given to the varied elevations of the three neighborhoods. High-ground sites will demonstrate the highest densities while lower elevation sites will investigate new building strategies for flood prone areas. Teams will explore multi-family housing ranging from two units (like the ubiquitous shotgun doubles of the city) to four, eight and twenty units in the same building envelope. All project teams will concentrate on the complex relationship between “affordability” and “sustainability” — seeking innovative models for rebuilding a greener city in our hot-humid climate and rich cultural landscape.
As an outreach organization devoted to creative investigation of complex urban issues we are committed to a wide range of relationships and are eager to facilitate connections between those with skills and support to offer and those who can make use of such help. The Tulane City Center has expertise in projects ranging from street furniture, through single-family house design/build, to large-scale urban and regional design. We work principally with community organizations, institutional clients and other non-profit entities. We support the needs of individuals through our collaboration with Neighborhood Housing Services and the Design Build Center.

We do not compete for work with professional architectural or design firms. Instead we demonstrate the value of good design in venues not often touched by standard models of professional practice, and in so doing, support the growth of the design sector in our communities. Functioning as a not-for-profit organization, the TCC maintains the complimentary goals of progressive design and applied research excellence, and advocacy for a better quality of life for all people.

Please contact us for information about any of the work we have completed or to discuss possible collaboration on future projects. As a grant funded center we welcome the opportunity to speak with any persons/organizations interested in supporting our work.
Who We Are and What We Do

Scott Bernhard
Director of the Tulane City Center

Dan Etheridge
Associate Director

Emilie Taylor
Senior Program Coordinator

As the primary venue for outreach projects at the Tulane School of Architecture, the Tulane City Center, along with our principal collaborator, the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, enjoys a broad range of partnerships with numerous off-campus community based and civic organizations. Each of these partnerships provides opportunities for faculty and students to engage real issues in the community and participate in the life of the city. Tulane City Center projects range in scale from single family homes to urban scale neighborhood research and planning processes, working in the realm of both private and public spaces and always recognizing the importance of thinking beyond the scale at which a given project is expressed.