

Brothers build ideas for New Orleans

PAIR CREATE A PROJECT TO RESIST FLOODS

By **MICHÈLE VAN HAECKE**
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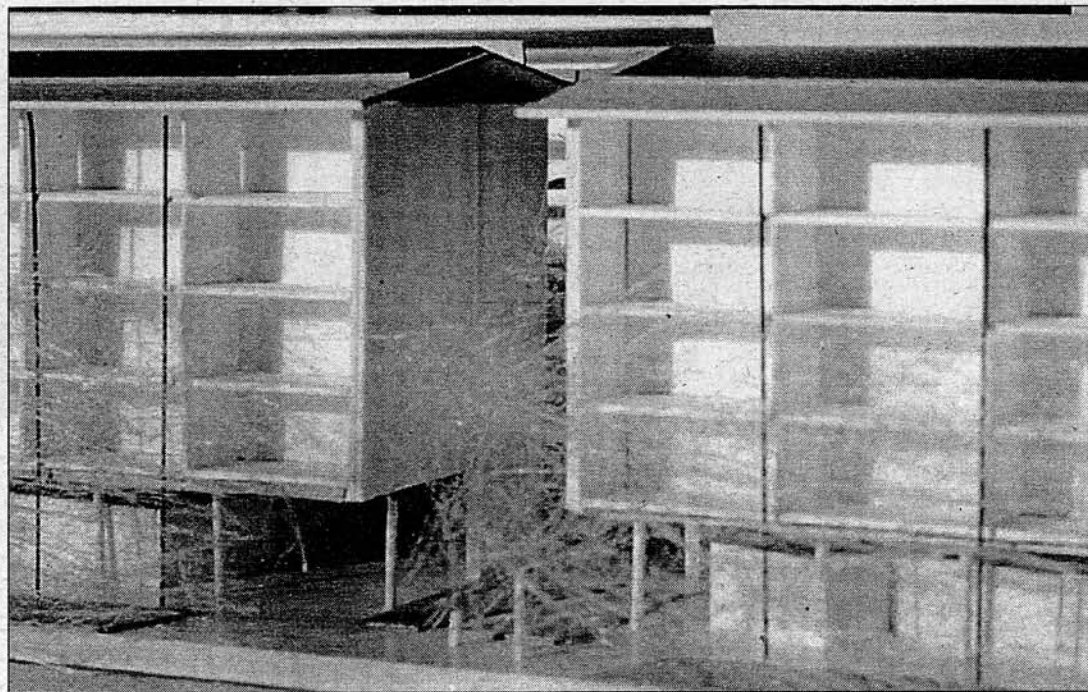
In the year since Hurricane Katrina, lots of people have thought about how they might answer the call to rebuild New Orleans. While many think, some do.

The Kane brothers are doers. Both architects, one in Vermont, the other in Prescott, teamed up to help create a pool of tangible ideas for rebuilding the city's structures and communities.

"Developers and contractors who are down there know the situation is far worse than the media say it is," said T. Barnabas Kane, principal and landscape architect with Prescott-based T. Barnabas Kane & Associates. "This is a way we can use our design expertise to help resolve a really bad situation."

Kane worked with his brother Patrick, principal and architect with Kane Architecture of East Hardwick, Vt., to design Mangrove, a 140-unit mixed-use complex built to withstand flooding on the banks of the Mississippi River.

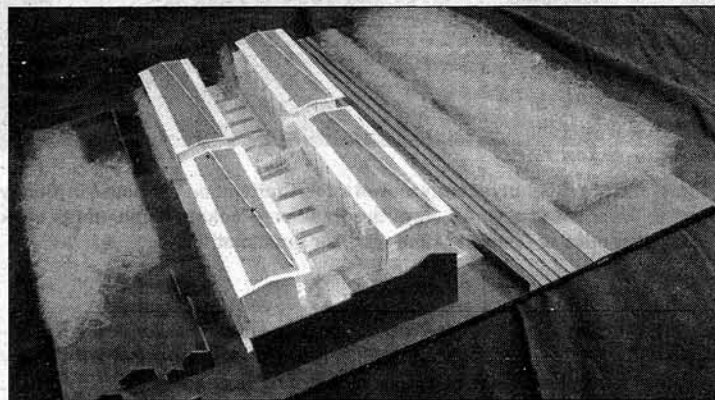
The design was the Kanes' entry in High-Density on the High Ground, a 2006 architectural competition sponsored by the Tulane School of Architecture and *Architectural Record* magazine.



T. Barnabas Kane worked with his brother Patrick to design Mangrove, a 140-unit mixed-use complex intended to withstand flooding on the banks of the Mississippi River.

The competition, which drew more than 600 entries from around the world before its May completion, was developed to generate practical, affordable solutions to the city's urgent housing crisis.

"You can design the coolest thing anyone's ever seen, but if it's not simple to build, it's not achievable," Patrick said. "This strikes a good balance between being inspired by the natural en-



vironment and being simple."

The project is made up of four raised buildings housing com-

mercial and university space,

plus 140 residential units. The site is a former industrial site selected for its elevation. Residences are designed to reflect the shotgun layout of surrounding neighborhood homes, with extra-deep porches to encourage airflow for cooling in the hot, humid climate.

Rooftop gardens and bioswales were designed to control run-off from the region's frequent downpours, while large overhangs create shade and welcome cross-breezes.

The culture of the historic riverside neighborhood also inspired the design.

"It's a huge hang-out culture," Patrick said. "It's a very simple design. There are no internal hallways, the porches are big enough that people can sleep outside."

Now that the design is done, the next step is finding someone to build it.

"Everyone's interested in what's happening with Katrina and rebuilding New Orleans," Patrick said. "We want to communicate these ideas to the right people."

The brothers have begun talking with developers and builders working to rebuild the Gulf Coast. While many were drawn to the area precisely to rebuild, they're still bogged down by basic damage-repair, the Kanes said.

The Kanes hope their design helps stir the rebuilding buzz from interest to action.

"We hope somebody uses the idea to help the community," Barnabas said. "We didn't do it for fame. We're trying to offer our expertise, to come up with a real solution."

T. Barnabas Kane & Associates