

Community Recovery Charrette

Gentilly Neighborhood, New Orleans, LA

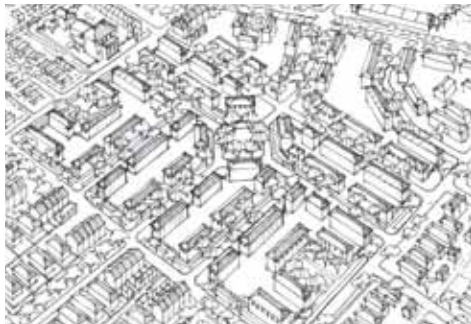
PROJECT DETAILS

Project Area:	5,000 acres
Client:	Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell & the Gentilly Civic Improvement Association
Year Designed	2006
Website:	gcia.us/unifiedplan.html

For more information, visit doverkohl.com.



A proposed commercial area incorporates the traditional urbanism and architecture of New Orleans with neighborhood greens, civic buildings, public art, and second story office and residential units.



The redesign of the failed public housing project reinstates the fabric of a dense and vibrant neighborhood, with an integrated network of streets and blocks, mixed-uses and a neighborhood center.



Tree lined streets, wide sidewalks, and homes with doors and windows that front the street help to create a safe, pedestrian-friendly environment.



Proposed Town Center

The Project

Numerous planning efforts were made by planning firms nationwide to advance the recovery of the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Among these were the Mississippi Renewal Forum – a collaborative effort by members of the Congress for the New Urbanism – and the Louisiana Recovery Authority charrettes, which looked at larger recovery strategies for the region. At the local level, New Orleans' neighborhood-based groups, partnerships, and institutions were looking for a framework in which to take direct action in spearheading the near and longer term recovery of individual districts. The first grassroots, neighborhood-based planning and recovery exercise, organized outside of any official government initiative, was the District 6 Rebuilding Charrette – prompted by Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and the Gentilly Civic Improvement Association. Dover, Kohl & Partners was one of 30 design firms from around the nation to volunteer their assistance in this public community planning process, which would become the model for all future neighborhood recovery planning.

The Process

From April 18 - 26, 2006, lead firm Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ), along with Dover-Kohl and other participating planners and architects, worked locally with the Gentilly Civic Improvement Association to discuss the future of the community. Intensive community planning activities were held throughout the week to generate general ideas for establishing neighborhood hazard mitigation, rebuilding the area, and creating guidelines for home renovations. Several larger projects were also designed at the request of the Civic Improvement Association, including a mixed-use town center on the site of a ruined strip mall, a redesign of a failed public housing project, a new higher-density neighborhood, additional green spaces, and master plans for Gentilly's local universities. To ensure that the recovery plans were aligned with the local community's vision for the District, public presentations and daily question-and-answer sessions were held for area residents, businesses, City leaders and institutions.

Status

The United New Orleans Plan (UNOP) was established in 2006 to integrate community input and a set of deliverables from the district-level and neighborhood planning processes into a Unified Recovery and Rebuilding Plan. In October 2006, DPZ was asked to follow up on the April 2006 charrette and to refine plans for the Gentilly Town Center and work on small scale projects and implementation plans for District 6. These recovery plans, along with those done for other districts as part of the UNOP initiative, are currently being incorporated into a larger and more long-term Master Plan for the City.