

New Orleans Under Reconstruction The Crisis of Planning A National Conference October 23-24 2009

School of Architecture
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70118

New Orleans Under Reconstruction: The Crisis of Planning

A national conference to be held at Tulane University, Oct. 23-24, 2009

The destruction of New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the levees was an experience of horror and revelation. Katrina's differential effects and the hugely disproportionate responses by and for different communities laid bare not simply a peculiar U.S. urban anatomy; they exposed a simmering crisis in the nature of planning itself.

New Orleans Under Reconstruction will examine the aftermath of Katrina and New Orleans' struggles with rebuilding as deeply symptomatic of larger issues of contemporary planning and urbanism. The conference gathers an impressive and diverse group of local and national planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, activists, and academics to present their current work and advance debate about action toward the resurgence of the city. The timing of these debates is all the more crucial as the city moves rapidly toward a mayoral race.

The focus of this event is on highlighting the progress that has been made, overcoming the obstacles that have slowed rebuilding, and advancing future visions for the city, as well as on interrogating the general role of planning today and exploring the possibility of the emergence of a reconstructed New Orleans as an exemplar. Issues concerning environmental ethics and sustainability, master planning, water management, housing equity, contemporary design and green building, cultural landscapes, citizen activism, and the right to the city will all be prominently addressed.

Since Katrina, the conference co-organizers Carol McMichael Reese, Michael Sorkin, and Anthony Fontenot have conducted Project New Orleans, which has compiled an archive of proposals for the reconstruction of the city. Many of these were shown in 2006 at the New Orleans African-American Museum in an exhibition organized by Project New Orleans. An extensive selection from the Project New Orleans archive together with the results of the conference will be published in a book by Verso, scheduled to appear in late 2010.

www.project-neworleans.org

CO-ORGANIZERS

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