Lower 9th Ward

This section of New Orleans was devastated by the collapsed floodwalls in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, creating floodwaters that tore houses off their foundations, threw houses on top of cars, erased blocks of homes and left the entire community homeless.

Global Green Holy Cross Project

Brad Pitt and Global Green USA joined forces to host a Sustainable Design Competition for this property in the Lower 9th Ward. Through a combination of energy efficiency, renewable energy (Solar PV) and green materials, this home is a showcase for the sustainable rebuilding of New Orleans. When completed the project site will include 5 single-family homes, an 18-unit apartment complex and a community center/Sustainable Design and Climate Action Institute. Intended for low-income residents, this community will nearly eliminate utility bills for the resident.

EERE Features: High performance envelope, cross-ventilation, ground source heat pump, gas tankless hot water, solar PV, green roof.

More info: http://www.globalgreen.org/neworleans/holycross/

Sharp Solar Installations

Sharp Solar Energy Solutions Group donated 10 solar PV systems (1.5 kW each) to residents in the Lower 9th Ward. The systems were installed in March 2007 by Sharp’s authorized contractors to benefit the community and promote the use of solar electricity. The Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources provided detailed energy audits to the homeowners to aid them in lowering their energy use and stretching the performance of the donated solar systems.

Make It Right

When Brad Pitt visited the Lower 9th Ward for the first time after the storm, he was shocked by what he saw: the remnants of people's lives strewn across the streets and an entire neighborhood torn apart and turned upside down. Inspired by the courage and hope of the residents he met, Pitt resolved to do whatever he could to help them rebuild. Just as importantly, he wanted to help recreate and nurture the unique culture and spirit of the Lower 9th Ward, which symbolizes the soul of New Orleans.

The Mission of Make It Right is to be a catalyst for redevelopment of the Lower 9th Ward, by building a neighborhood comprised of safe and healthy homes that are inspired by Cradle to Cradle thinking, with an emphasis on a high quality of design, while preserving the spirit of the community's culture. The goal is to accomplish this quickly, so that residents can begin returning to their homes as soon as possible.

EERE Features: High performance envelope, cross-ventilation, ground source heat pump, gas tankless hot water, solar PV.

More info: http://www.makeitrightnola.org/

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Upper 9th Ward/Gentilly
These diverse areas of New Orleans suffered substantial flooding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but not quite as violent as the torrent in the Lower 9th Ward. Many of the older homes have been renovated, but the newer homes (1950-70’s) built on slabs are more prone to being demolished.

Musicians’ Village
Conceived by New Orleanians Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis, the Musicians’ Village will consist of 70 single-family, Habitat-constructed homes and 10 rental units for the older “music masters” of New Orleans. Its centerpiece will be the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, dedicated to the music education and development of homeowners and others who will live nearby. The project is being financed and built by the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity (NOAHH) and volunteers from around the country. The Florida Solar Energy Center has worked with NOAHH to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

EEERE Features: High performance windows/doors, above-code insulation, efficient heat pumps, tight envelope.

Project Home Again
Project Home Again has nearly completed construction of 20 homes on a vacant piece of land in Gentilly, not far from City Park. Families that receive one of the new homes must donate their flooded, uninhabitable house to the charity. Through the land swap, Project Home Again aims to help roughly 100 displaced households. Recipients must prove they can afford utility bills and insurance for the houses, but they cannot earn more than 80 percent of the city's median income -- a cap that amounts to $47,850 for a family of four. The project was established and financed by the Riggio Foundation, the philanthropic entity of Barnes and Noble founder and chairman Leonard Riggio. Riggio and his wife, Louise, felt compelled to help Gentilly residents while watching chaos unfold on national television in the wake of Katrina, he said.

These homes cost effectively meet the Department of Energy’s Builder’s Challenge saving the homeowner’s up to $1000/year on their utility bills.
EEERE Features: High performance envelope, cross-ventilation, stand-alone dehumidifier, efficient heat pump, solar hot water option.
More info: http://www.projecthomeagain.net/

Langston Hughes Elementary
This 85,000 sq.ft. PreK-8 school will be the first new school built in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina with an expected opening in Fall '09. As part of an agreement between the US Department of Energy and the Louisiana Department of Education, this and other new schools in New Orleans will achieve at least 30% energy savings as compared to the local energy code (ASHRAE 90.1-2004). Through a combination of daylighting, controls and efficient HVAC, Langston Hughes will have 37% lower energy use and is expected to achieve a LEED Silver rating.