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A time for rebuilding

Prescott's Kane brothers submit entry for a new New Orleans

By JASON SOIFER

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PRESCOTT —T. Barnabas Kane and his brother Patrick want to help rebuild New Orleans.

The brothers' entry is one of more than 600 from architectural professionals worldwide for a design competition the Tulane School of Architecture and Architectural Record magazine is sponsoring to help rebuild the region devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The contest requires entrants to design a multi-unit housing community with commercial and retail space along the Mississippi River.

"It's not an easy thing to do especially on a small site," Barnabas said.

Barnabas, principal of T. Barnabas Kane & Associates in Prescott, and his brother Patrick designed 160 condos, roughly 5,000 square feet of office space and 192 parking spaces in less than four acres.

"That's a lot of density for a 3.5-acre site," he said.

Barnabas and Patrick, a Vermont-based architect, dubbed the development Mangrove, a name inspired by the canopied shading evergreen tree indigenous to the area.

Patrick said he and his brother entered the competition in part because New Orleans has a critical and immediate need for housing.

"We believe that creating higher density on less flood-prone land will enable the city to return lower areas to green space," he said, "which will mitigate future flooding. We also feel higher-density neighborhoods are more sustainable and better places to live."



Photo courtesy of Architecture Record/Neil Alexander

Above, the 3.5-acre site for which the Kane brothers have submitted a design plan, below, for residential and commercial space, sits on the Mississippi River.

He explained high density on high ground means multi-story and multi-unit buildings to house more people per acre and move away from the traditional one-story-style home.

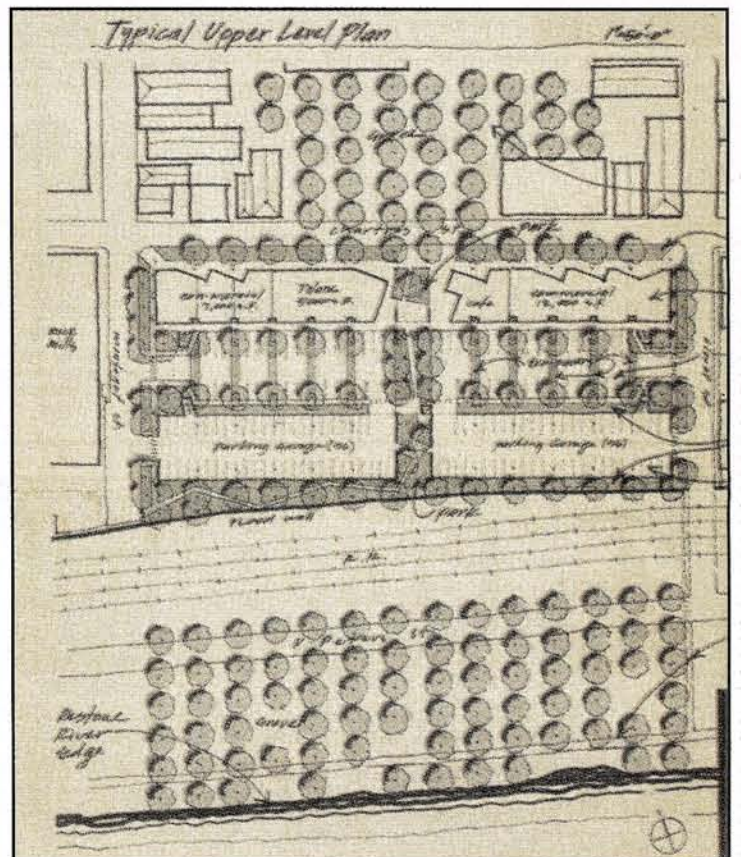
Patrick said many old neighborhoods in the area, like the French Quarter, were on natural rises and didn't flood from the levee breach.

"Redeveloping these area would reduce the impact of future flooding," he said. "Many of these neighborhoods are currently run down or underdeveloped and would benefit from more residents."

The lot is on high ground that didn't flood, according to Patrick, who said the columns lift the building off the ground, giving the units extra elevation to prevent flooding.

Solar panels on roofs and modular concrete construction are a couple of the features of their proposal, according to Barnabas.

"Everyone wants to know how they can help," Barnabas said. "It's a way for being able to offer some potential solutions for a



hurting city."

He said the June edition of Architectural Record will name the winner of the competition.

For more information, visit

www.architecturalrecord.com or tbklandscapearchitecture.com.

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