



T. BARNABAS KANE & ASSOCIATES, PC  
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**PRESS RELEASE  
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### **Architect Brothers Team Up to Help Rebuild New Orleans**

*Arizona and Vermont Firms Collaborate on International Design Competition*

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (May 1, 2006) -- T. Barnabas Kane, principal of Arizona-based sustainable landscape architecture firm T. Barnabas Kane & Assoc., has partnered with Vermont architect Patrick Kane in an effort to generate housing plans for part of New Orleans devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The pair, who are brothers, joined more than 600 architectural professionals from around the world who submitted entries in High-Density on the High Ground, one of two design competitions sponsored by a partnership between the Tulane School of Architecture and Architectural Record magazine. The contest challenges entrants to design a 140-unit housing community including commercial and retail space on a site along the Mississippi River. The site was chosen for its mixed-industrial zoning and above-sea-level elevation, which will protect residents from the flooding that wiped out most of adjacent residential areas in 2005.

In addition to making the design extreme high density, entrants were instructed to consider New Orleans' climate, geography and culture; sustainability; and use of pre-fab or modular systems. While it welcomed hypothetical and visionary proposals, the competition encouraged designs that are practical, affordable solutions to the city's urgent housing crisis.

The Kanes decided to enter after learning that the competition was launched to generate housing proposals to keep the historic neighborhoods alive. "We wanted to participate in an effort that would ensure the city doesn't die," said Barnabas Kane. "People may not be able to move back to their homes, but at least they can move back to their neighborhoods with the confidence that they're safe from flooding on high ground."

The Kane and Kane design, titled "Mangrove," was inspired by the canopied, shading evergreens

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indigenous to the area. Like the trees, the design incorporates trunk-like buttresses and deep overhangs, and mimics the dense groves that cling to waterways.

The design is inexpensive, easy to construct, sustainable and addresses the Mississippi Delta's natural and cultural forces in these ways:

- Building raised off the ground to protect it from flooding and to cover parking areas;
- Apartments run the width of the four structures with traditional front porches and private terraces, allowing for natural air flow and reducing air conditioning loads;
- Solar panels on roofs provide hot water;
- A central courtyard planted with native trees is designed for community activities;
- Earth-covered roofs with deep overhangs reduce runoff from torrential rains and protect porches and balconies;
- Modular concrete construction is cost effective and quick to build, and the thermal mass of the material reduces the need for air conditioning;
- An adjacent industrial area on the banks of the Mississippi will be reforested with native mangrove trees to restore the river flows.

“The design is doing two things at once; it accommodates the regional lifestyle without completely destroying the historic neighborhood,” said Barnabas Kane, a frequent lecturer on historic architecture and former head of the city of Prescott's Preservation Commission.

Winners will be announced and select designs displayed as part of a special exhibition at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art at the University of New Orleans in May. In June, winning designs will be published in Architectural Record and appear at the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects. Select entries will also appear on McGraw-Hill Construction Web sites.

*T. Barnabas Kane & Assoc. P.C. is a Prescott-based firm with more than 20 years experience creating sustainable landscapes. Specializing in ecological site planning and design, the firm's designers integrate architectural principles and environmental sensitivity to create habitat that unifies people, structures and environment. For more about the firm and its design philosophy, visit [tbkandscapearchitecture.com](http://tbkandscapearchitecture.com).*

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