

TRAIN & PARTNERS' ARCHITECTS JOIN PRESERVATIONIST EFFORTS IN NEW ORLEANS

Charlottesville, Virginia (November 6, 2006) – Three Train & Partners' architects recently lent their skills to the on-going preservation efforts in New Orleans, LA. Principal Architect Kirk Train and his wife, Cathy, President, United Way – Thomas Jefferson Area, spent nearly a week with others from the architecture firm touring the storm ravaged area; returning to Charlottesville to prepare detailed assessment reports and recommendations for rebuilding.

The four days were part of an on-going aid effort sponsored by The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and The National Trust for Historic Preservation. The program, Preservationist in Residence, is assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina by offering the skills of architects, engineers, contractors, and others vitally needed in the devastated area. Other team members included preservation studio head Brian Broadus and architectural intern Frank Messina.

Matched with homeowners, the architects conducted site evaluations in some of the city's historic working class neighborhoods. Inspecting the currently vacant homes, where owners in some cases were living next door in FEMA trailers or with relatives, they found people struggling to rebuild. "These were solidly-built unique Creole cottages and double and single shotgun

houses," said Broadus. "They had been richly ornamented with decorative wood, ironwork, and terra cotta; valuable architectural details that – in some cases –

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actually prevented the owners from fleeing the storm because they feared theft [which eventually came anyway].” “It was a devastating sight,” said Train, “we were overwhelmed by the amount of work still to be done at the same time we were humbled by the tenacity and spirit displayed by residents.”

The architects will write assessments meant to give advice on repairing flood-damaged homes without destroying historic character or materials. The reports generated will offer specific recommendations to the homeowners and will hopefully give them a leg-up in applying for state rebuilding grants.

“All of the people we visited have the opportunity to stay somewhere else. But they want to return to their communities. We hope our efforts and those of other volunteers will lead to the restoration not just of individual homes, but of neighborhoods to which New Orleanians can return,” stressed Broadus.



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