morphosis



scale of the devastation measured in miles and encompassed context? enough land area to blanket Great Britain. How can we articulate a plan for re-constituting New Orleans in a

80% of New Orleans was covered in water, setting the scene way that is fundamentally transformative, yet rooted in the long for a dramatic evacuation of its occupants. In the wake of this history, culture, and soul of the city? flooding, **85% of the city's population was dispersed and 62%** of its housing stock was damaged or destroyed. Subsidence How can this plan, at both a macro scale and fine grain, respond and erosion caused by human interventions exacerbated the to the city's demographic, economic, political, social, historical and catastrophe, while the uneven distribution of devastation further *cultural conditions and needs?* highlighted a pre-existing condition of socio-economic and racial

inequality. As of July 2007, approximately 67% of the city's pre- And finally, how can we, as a society, parlay our transformation of Katrina population has returned with the **lowest percentage** one of the most catastrophic natural disasters to face this nation, of residents returning to areas, such as the Lower Ninth into an optimistic and visionary strategy that intelligently negotiates Ward, which were most adversely affected by flooding caused our relationship with the environment and serves as a model for that have yet to be adequately repaired in the Lower Ninth for the house when in flood mode. The decks and their communities facing similar challenges all over the world? by Katrina. Despite the return of much of the city's population, the future of **As designers, we have chosen to exploit our strengths**

New Orleans is uncertain. Two years after the hurricane, the city **as outsiders**—removed from local politics and conflicts still suffers from an extraordinary deficiency in infrastructure of interest—while addressing the potential weakness of and services, neither of which has been restored to pre-Katrina our naiveté by engaging local advisors in our process. This **technologies.** conditions. Despite the heightened national and international process has involved ongoing dialogues with pillars of the attention and tremendous influx of concern and consideration local architectural, political, and academic communities; from leaders in politics, planning, architecture, economics, compilation and analysis of both pre- and post-Katrina press, environmental science, and psychology focused on New Orleans reports, proposals, and data; precedent studies of historical in the wake of Katrina, the city lacks any coherent vision for disasters and comparable world cities; and finally, the proposal of rebuilding the city. our own solution as a way to **analyze and define the problem**,

Unless New Orleans is prepared to radically rethink its forward. strategy for occupation of its territory, which has proven perilous time and again in the face of its location within a high risk environmental zone, the future of New Orleans will be **threatened**. Poised at this critical moment in history, we, as a collective, need to identify the salient issues and critical factors that are keeping New Orleans, as a whole, from returning to the vibrant state for which it is so widely recognized.

Our concept is twofold:

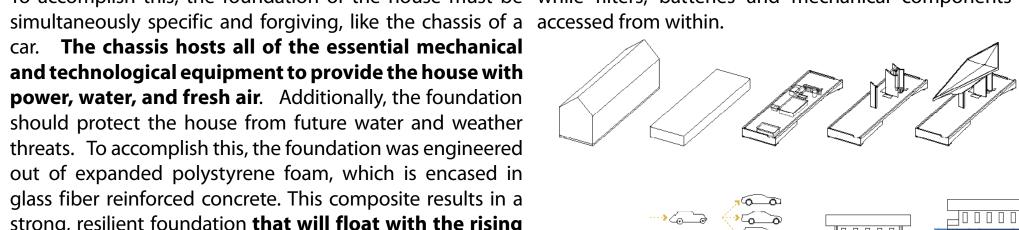
Ward and which are likely to fail again.

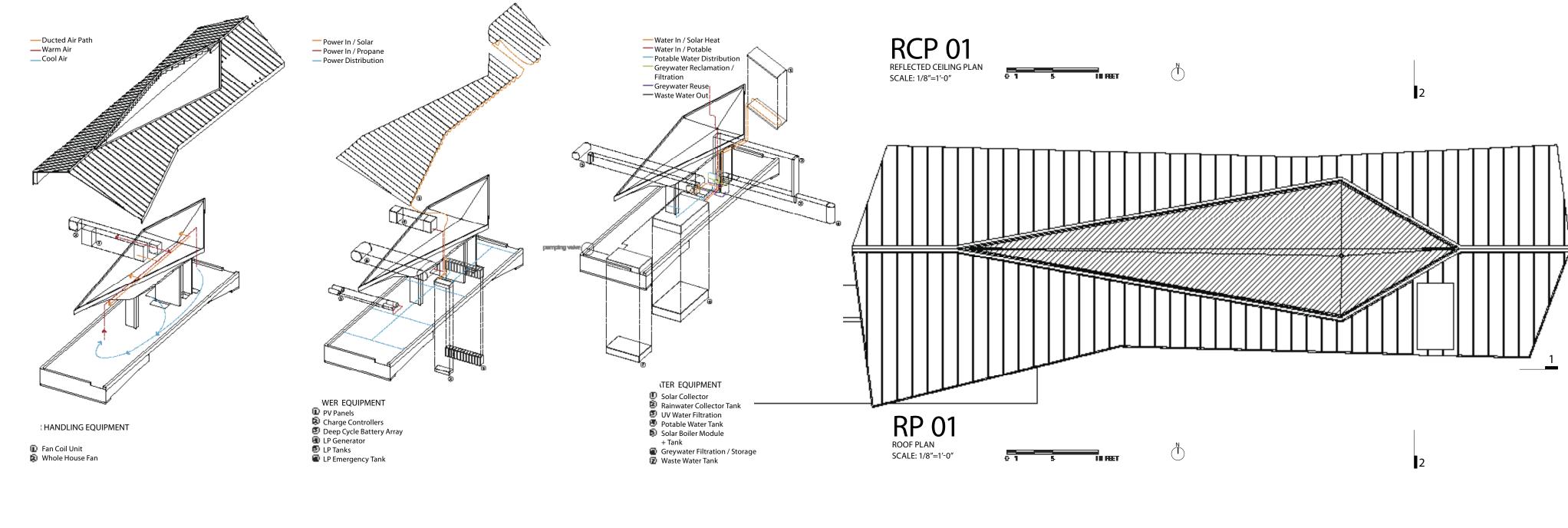
2. To create a new house that rests upon that foundation but modular wall framing, interior finish elements, prefabricated is wholly integrated with the natural environment, respectful roofing, and remaining system components arrive on site for of New Orleans vernacular, and enriched with sustainable assembly in the field. The specific design and resultant form

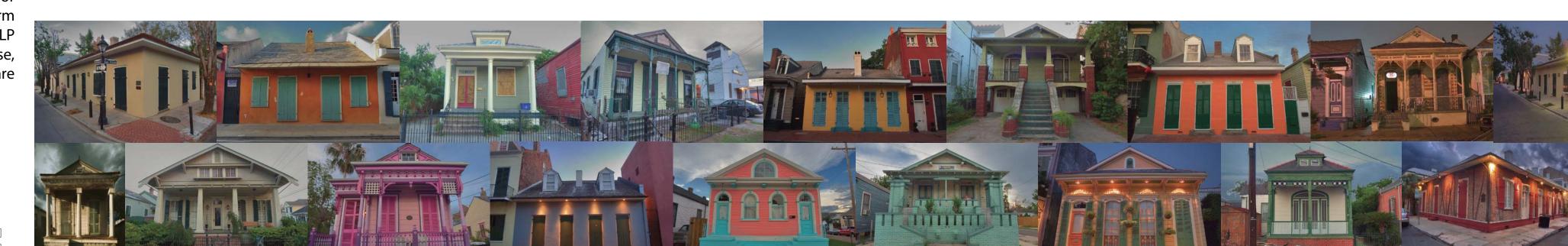
car. The chassis hosts all of the essential mechanical and technological equipment to provide the house with power, water, and fresh air. Additionally, the foundation and move the important dialogue about this city's future should protect the house from future water and weather threats. To accomplish this, the foundation was engineered out of expanded polystyrene foam, which is encased in glass fiber reinforced concrete. This composite results in a strong, resilient foundation that will float with the rising flood water.

on which the house sits. The vibrant culture of New Orleans large roof top rain collector, it is designed to take maximum and the Ninth Ward is reflected in the unique and often advantage of shop labor rates and quality control available colorful houses that the residents have always had a major through off-site fabrication. Constructed of polystyrene hand in designing for themselves. To enable the residents foam and glass fiber reinforced concrete, the pre-fabricated of the Ninth Ward to once again craft their culture, we have unit is shipped as a whole to the site with all required wall reinvented the foundation upon which they can build. anchors, rough-ins, electrical and mechanical routing preinstalled. Sized for transportation on a standard flat

bed trailer, all required system storage and internal infrastructure are installed in the shop. The unit is placed 1. To design a foundation that enables the house to function on site atop four stabilizing concrete pads located between independently of the basic infrastructure and public services a front and rear exterior deck, which act as the anchors associated grade beams are constructed on site using local labor and conventional construction techniques. Finally, the of the chassis allows for easy maintenance of all systems. LP and wastewater tanks are accessed from outside the house, To accomplish this, the foundation of the house must be while filters, batteries and mechanical components are







FLOATING HOUSE

MORPHOSIS

Morphosis was founded in 1972 in Los Angeles as an interdisciplinary and collective practice involved in experimental design and rigorous research. Today, the firm consists of a group of more than 40 professionals, who remain committed to the practice of architecture as a collaborative enterprise. Located in Chelsea, Morphosis New York represents an extension of the studio under specialized in any particular building type. With projects worldwide, the firm's work ranges in scale from residential, a single umbrella of leadership, design philosophy and operations.

Named after the Greek term, morphosis, meaning to form or be in formation, Morphosis is a dynamic and evolving practice that responds to the shifting and advancing social, cultural, political and technological conditions of modern life.

A critical practice where creative output engages contemporary society and culture through architectural design and education, Morphosis is a process driven firm that seeks new and different design challenges and has resisted becoming institutional, and civic buildings to large urban planning projects.

