



A PROJECT OF THE TULANE CITY CENTER / FALL 2010





HAGAR'S HOUSE // PROJECT-ISH

PROJECT COLLABORATORS

A Project of

FIRST GRACE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
HAGAR'S HOUSE

In Collaboration With

THE TULANE CITY CENTER

Sponsored by a Genrous Grant from

AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Special Thanks to

DASH LUMBER
STANDARD IRON
PIERRE STOUSE



HAGAR'S HOUSE // PROJECT-ISH

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HAGAR'S HOUSE // PROJECT-ISH

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Tulane City Center worked with Hagar's House and the First Grace Community Alliance to design and build an Outdoor Enrichment Room for the children living at Hagar's House. The space, known as Project Ish, is a playroom and educational space for children transitioning from homelessness to a stable living situation. The project involved converting the existing back deck of the shelter into an enclosed, safe, multifunctional space which is an extension of the house and is situated between the home and the community garden.

Fifteen students worked collaboratively on the design of the project with continual input from the residents and staff of Hagar's House. The compact (400s.f.) and expressive scheme includes a linear storage wall, a loft playspace, and a butterfly roof which collects rainwater to be used in the adjacent community garden. The project was designed and built in the Fall of 2010 over the course of a 13-week studio.

Project Ish is one of several projects that the Tulane City Center initiated in 2010 with the help of an anonymous donor. First Grace Community Alliance was one of many non-profit organizations in the New Orleans area who responded to our annual Request for Proposals.





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HAGAR'S HOUSE INFORMATION





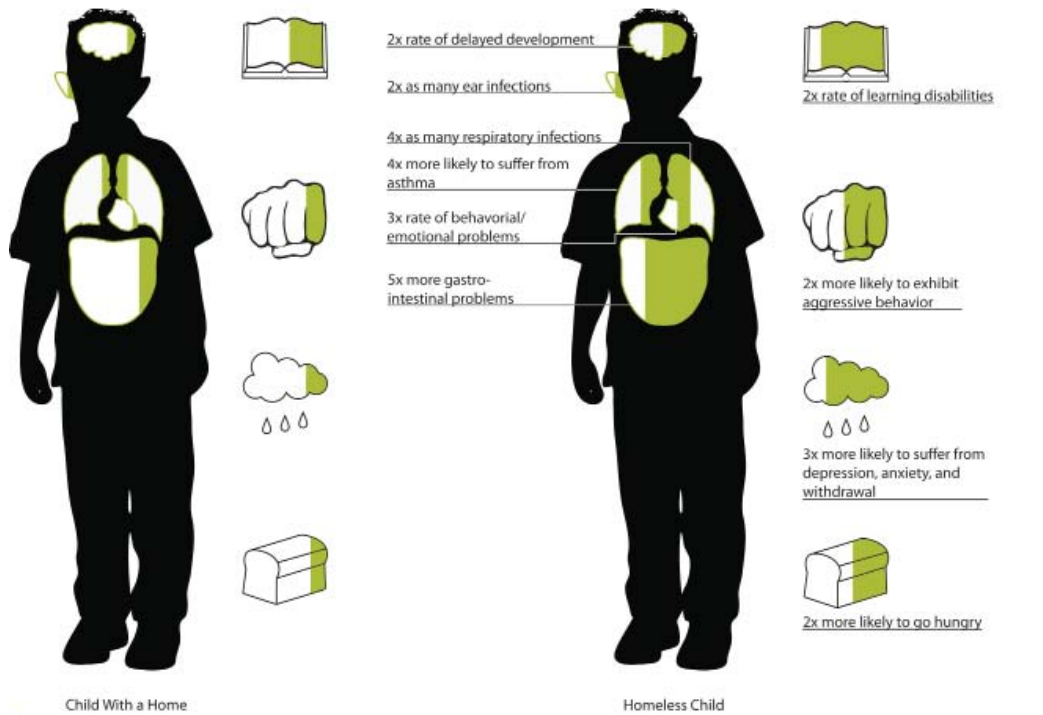
The Hagar's House story begins with the story of Hagar (Genesis 16 & 21): her struggle as a single mother, cast out by Sarah and Abraham, wandering in the wilderness, trying to find safety for herself and for her young son Ishmael... While alone in the desert - without a home, food, or water - God hears their cries, shows Hagar a well of water, and promises her son a blessed future.

In November 2007, in response to the housing crisis in New Orleans, First Grace United Methodist Church opened its doors as Hagar's House, a transitional home for women and children.

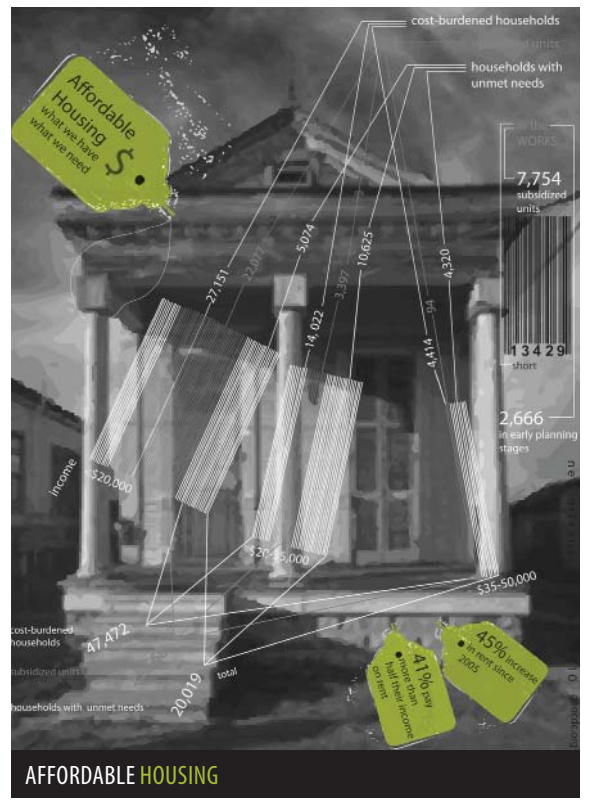
Since its opening in 2007, Hagar's House has been a place of peace and stability, a sanctuary where over 70 individuals and families have come to rest, gather themselves, and meet their goals.

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RESEARCH // INFOGRAPHICS



EFFECTS OF HOMELESSNESS ON CHILDREN



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

images taken from "SIGNS" published in PENTAGRAM PAPERS 39 // portraits by MICHAEL O'BRIEN // sign photos by RANDAL FORD



COMMON CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- Federal support for low-income housing has fallen 49% since 1980.
- **200,000** rental units are destroyed annually.
- Only **1/3** of poor renter households receive a housing subsidy.

- Nationally, **HALF** of all women & children who are homeless are fleeing domestic violence.
- **63%** of homeless women have experienced violence in their adult lives.

- **16%** of the homeless population suffers from mental illness.
- Only **9%** of mentally ill people not in hospitals or institutions receive both housing assistance and Supplementary Security Income. A 1BR rent accounts for **113%** of SSI.

- Poor and addicted individuals cannot afford adequate treatment for their disease. Because of this, they lose their jobs and ultimately their homes.

- **1 in 3** Americans is uninsured.
- Work based insurance has become more rare in recent years.
- Many Americans are **one accident** away from homelessness.

- The real value of minimum wage has decreased **24%** since 1979.
- Working **2** full time jobs at minimum wage still does not earn enough to pay for rent.

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RURAL STUDIO / CASE STUDIES



Saieh, Nico. "InfoWash / The Design Workshop" 26 Aug 2009. ArchDaily. <<http://www.archdaily.com/32754>>



It is impossible to talk about student design/build programs that directly service the community without talking about Rural Studio. Started by Dennis K. Ruth and the late Samuel Mockbee in 1993, Rural Studio has been at the forefront of the idea that architecture can serve as a tool for social activism. Mockbee once said:

The main purpose of the Rural Studio is to enable each student to step across the threshold of misconceived options and to design/build with a 'moral sense' of service to the community. It is my hope that this experience will help the student of architecture to be more sensitive to the power and promise of what they do, to be more concerned with the good effects of architecture than with 'good intentions'. The Rural studio represents an opportunity to be real in itself. The students become architects of their own education. For me, these small projects have in them the architectural essence to enchant us, to inspire us, and ultimately, to elevate our profession. But more importantly, they remind us of what it means to have an American architecture without pretense. They remind us that we can still be awed by the simple as by the complex and that if we pay attention this will offer us a glimpse into what is essential to the future of American Architecture: its honesty.

During the weekend of September 18 and 19th, the design studio traveled 280 miles to Greensboro, Alabama and explored many of the Rural Studio projects. Seeing them first hand allowed students to study the details and interact with projects that represented a mystical quality. Other projects that were studied include Infowash by The Design Workshop, Hero Headquarters by Hero and Patty's House by the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio.

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TEAM DESIGN OPTIONS

Students worked together in teams to develop various schemes that would satisfy the needs expressed by Hagar's House. These needs included additional storage, enough room for the children to play and study and room for the mothers to meet and enjoy activities such as yoga. These needs became the design program that informed the direction the students would explore in their various designs.

Four groups came up with concepts for the entire building while two groups proposed ideas that focused on more in depth investigations that studied materiality and the use of components.

The team of Justin Siragusa and Cassandra Gibbs sought to reuse a pile of stop signs that had been taken down by the city. The stop signs would be divided into smaller pieces that could form individual triangular units. The units could then be combined into a large wall with multiple perforations to let in a dazzling display of colored light.

Oren Mitzner and Dan Demeules proposed a series of modules that could be used as seating, desks, storage, and decorative space. The modules would be stored under the stairs, or, in some cases by a pulley system near the ceiling.





TEAM ONE - ERIC SULLIVAN // CAMERON RINGNESS

Team One focused on the grand scheme of the porch and proposed extending the footprint of the existing porch farther into the backyard of the property. The team also wanted the exterior wall of the porch to extend to the garden to provide a barrier between the house and the parking lot and visually connect the house to the community garden. Other elements of the scheme include smaller kid "nooks" on either side of the porch, chalkboards, and a roof which is configured to drain water towards the community garden.

TEAM TWO - CRISTINA ALVARADO // VERONICA CORDOVA // SAMANTHA NOURSE

Team Two focused on skin design. The team began with the concept of the tree, and it inspired a pattern for cladding of the porch. The team also proposed a loft area for the children so that they would have a specific playspace within the porch. The rest of the room would be open and the team proposed that the cladding at the base of the room could fold down into seating.

TEAM THREE - LAURA CASACCIO // JOSHUA FREDERICK // MICHAEL VISINTAINER

Team Three proposed using a tree-like structure for the porch. The concept of the tree allows for a single vertical structural piece that supports the roof, leaving the walls structurally independent.

TEAM FOUR - LAURA DIORLO // ROSS KELLEY // JUSTIN PARK

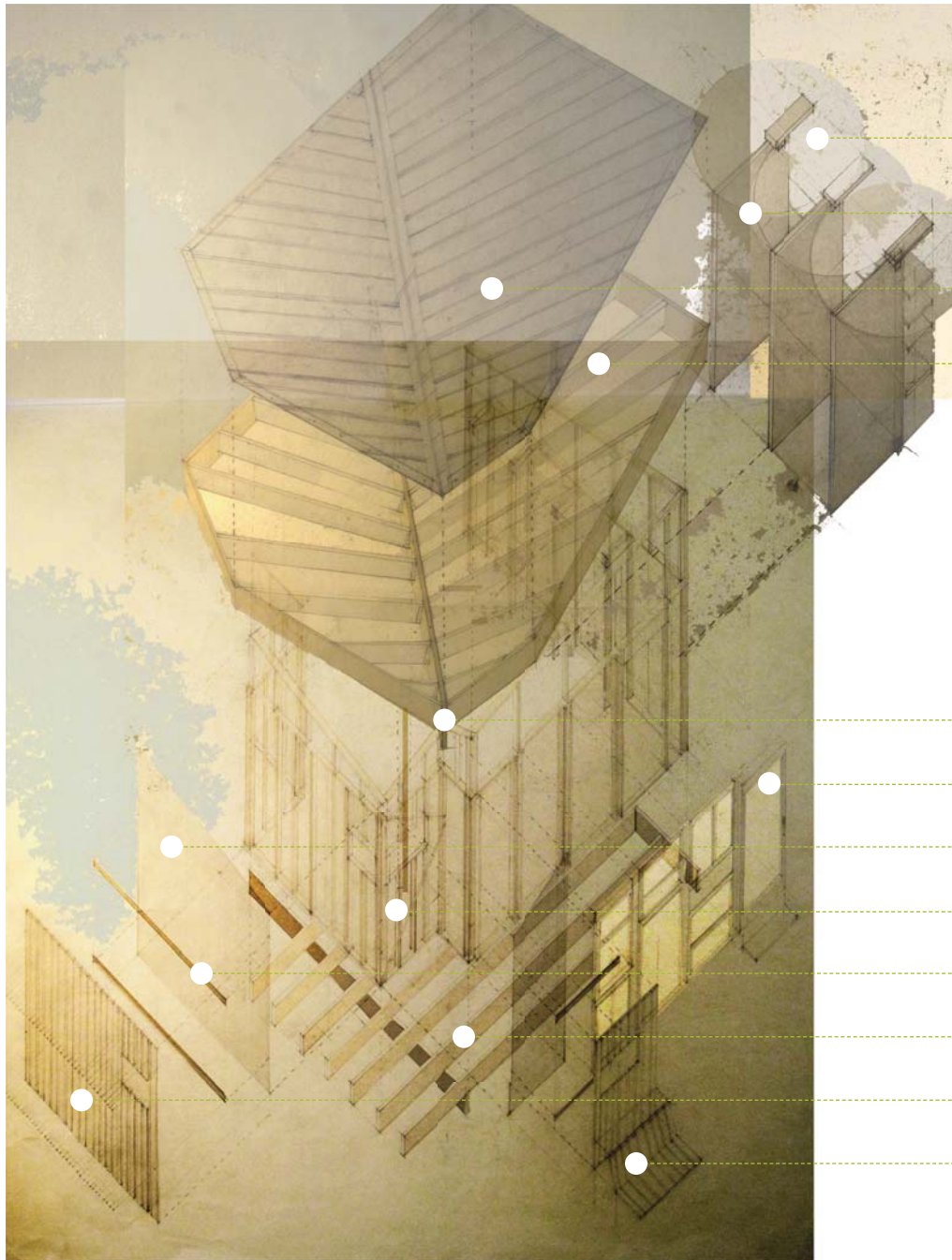
Team Four decided to focus primarily on ventilation and proposed a double layer roof system to vent hot air out of the top of the porch. The team also incorporated exterior benches into the scheme and extended the roof towards the garden.



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FINAL DESIGN





STORAGE

180° REVOLVING DOORS
(CHALKBOARD / PIN-UP SURFACE)

COPLANAR R-PANEL METAL ROOF

2X8 ROOF JOISTS

4X12 LVL BEAM

WINDOW WALL

EXTERIOR SCREEN

2X4 STICK FRAMING

ALUMINUM CLADDING SUPPORTS

FLOOR JOISTS

1X4 CEDAR CLADDING

OUTSIDE CEDAR CLAD SEATING

HAGAR'S HOUSE // PROJECT-ISH

PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES / CONSTRUCTION

While design projects are at the core of the student's education, translating an idea into built form is still uncommon in the academic arena. The Hagar's House project sought to bridge this educational disconnect by giving students the opportunity to learn through making. In addition, other defining characteristics of the studio included the introduction of social justice through design and community involvement in the design process. Throughout the construction period, students were exposed to the various trades, professionals and municipal figures integral to the building process. Students learned to work together on a collective design problem while participating in a larger discourse of design through thoughtful interventions.

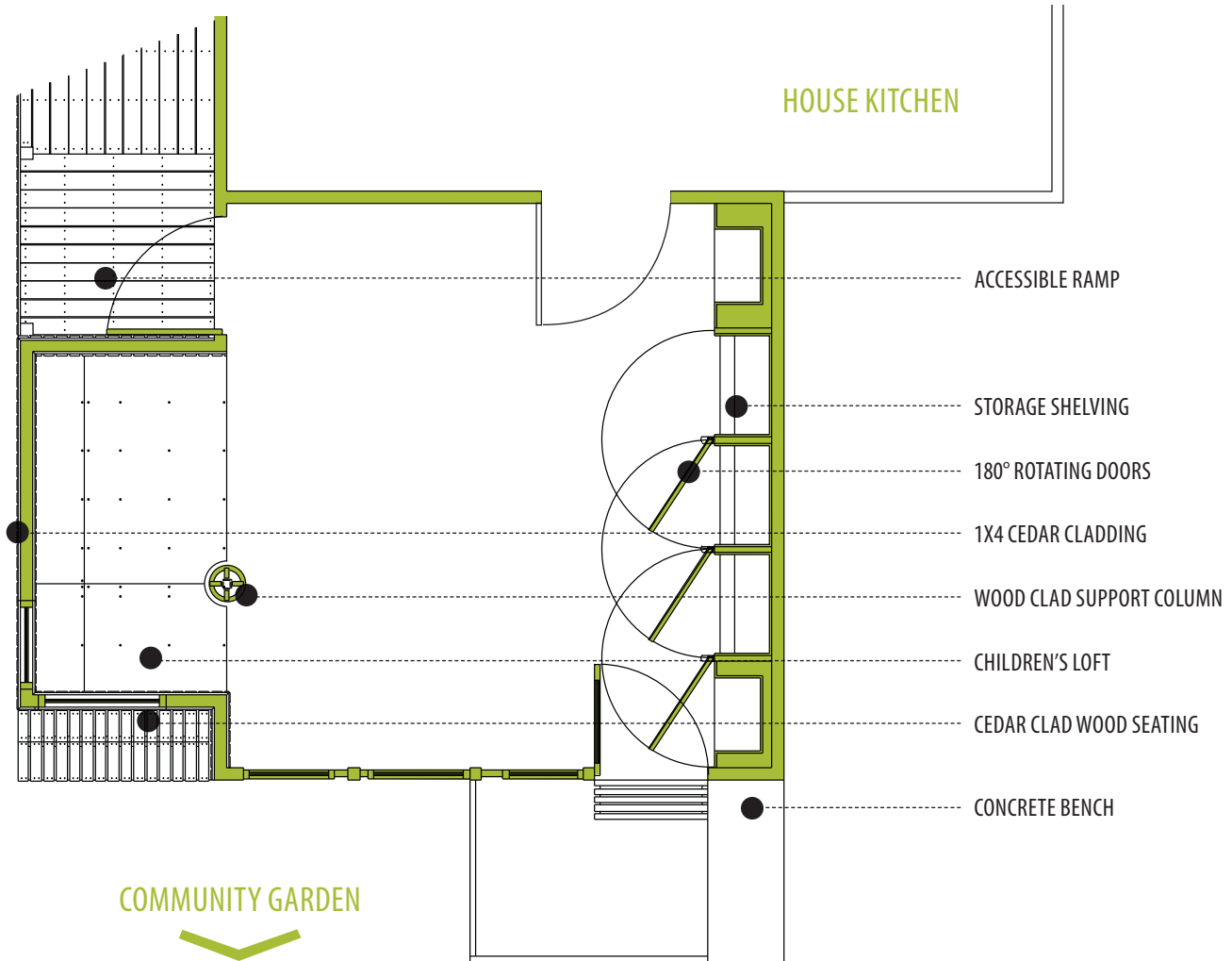
Construction began the first week of October and lasted until the start of winter break. Final touch-ups were done in the spring semester by a small group of students under the guidance of Emilie Taylor. Throughout the construction period, students tackled every task with the exception of running electricity for the lights. Learning the tools and process of construction led to a deeper connection to the project and a greater confidence in the ability to manifest ideas in the real world.

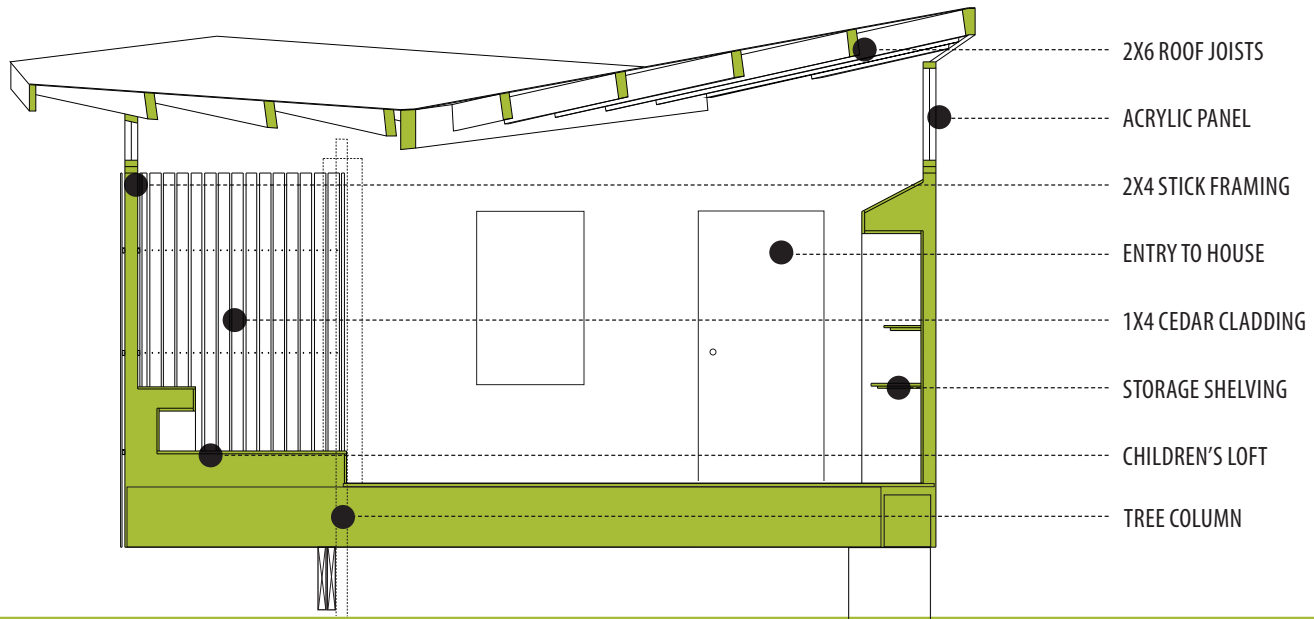




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CONSTRUCTION







DISMANTLING THE DECK : OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 4



BUILDING THE FLOOR : OCTOBER 4 - OCTOBER 28





FORMING THE WALLS : OCTOBER 4 - OCTOBER 28



COPLANAR ROOF FRAMING: OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 11







FINISHING THE ROOF : NOVEMBER 11 - NOVEMBER 17





FINISHING THE INTERIOR : NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 15







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FINISHED PROJECT













THE CHILDREN WATCH THE WORK FROM THE WINDOW SAYING, "IT'S FOR ME?"

I LIKE THE GREEN!

ALUMINUM ROOF VERY REFLECTIVE, MAKES IT BRIGHT/HOT ON THE UPSTAIRS BACK PORCH. IS A BUFFER OF SOME KIND POSSIBLE?

BEAUTIFUL.

THANK YOU.

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR MORE SPACE. THE KIDS ARE MORE GRATEFUL THAN ANYONE TO HAVE A NEW PLACE TO PLAY.

LOOKS NICE.

PRETTY, GOING UP FAST.

LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE HOT OR COLD.

PLEASE PUT STARS ON THE CEILING FOR THE KIDS.

NOW THE KIDS HAVE A PLACE TO DO HOMEWORK.

I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE WINDOWS.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

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STUDIO PARTICIPANTS



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) OREN MITZNER / EMILIE TAYLOR / JUSTIN PARK / VERONICA CORDOVA / ERIC SULLIVAN / DANIEL DEMEULES / JOSHUA FREDERICK / ROSS KELLEY (BEHIND JOSH)
/ CASSANDRA GIBBS / LAURA DIORLO / CAMERON RINGNESS / SAMANTHA NOURSE / JUSTIN SIRAGUSA
NOT PICTURED - CRISTINA ALVARADO

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OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO...

First Grace Community Alliance



Hagar's House
a sanctuary for women & children



tulane city center

First Grace Community Alliance

PASTOR SHAWN ANGLIM

FRANK ASERON

JACINTO MOCTEZUMA

Hagar's House

ANGELA DAVIS

STAFF AND RESIDENTS OF HAGAR'S HOUSE

Tulane City Center

EMILIE TAYLOR, PROFESSOR OF DESIGN/BUILD STUDIO

SCOTT BERNHARD

DAN ETHERIDGE

CAREY CLOUSE

Additional Thanks to...

HERO

WILL HOLMAN

Z SMITH

Photograph Credits

WILL CROCKER (pg 30-34)