

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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After the Storm

UNDETERRED BY HURRICANE KATRINA, A COUPLE REBUILD,
RENEWING THEIR COMMITMENT TO NEW ORLEANS

Architecture by Peter M. Trapolin/Interior Design by Alexa Hampton
Text by Wendy Moonan/Photography by Scott Frances

Residents of New Orleans are renowned for their will to persevere. Consider the banker and his wife who moved into their new, 15,000-square-foot mansion just before Hurricane Katrina hit the city in 2005. The house was inundated, and they had to evacuate, rescuing whatever antiques

and paintings they could. Their response? Rebuild. Now that's commitment to your hometown.

The story starts in 1999. As empty nesters, the couple asked Peter M. Trapolin, the founder of the eponymous New Orleans architectural firm, to build them a French Neoclassical-style mansion in the New

Orleans suburb of Metairie.

An architecture buff, the banker told Trapolin, "I have a fascination with Palladio," referring to the 16th-century Italian architect who designed villas for the Venetian gentry—and inspired many of America's finest antebellum mansions, including the White House.

"Peter convinced me he had

Although Hurricane Katrina caused major damage to their French Neoclassical-style house near New Orleans, created by architect Peter M. Trapolin and interior designer Alexa Hampton, the owners decided to rebuild; they moved back into the house just 18 months later.