

ARCHITECTS



Architect Michael Bell has not only volunteered to help build over 500 homes for the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity; he has improved the quality and design of the homes.

The owner of Bell Architecture participated in focus groups with Habitat homebuyers to

learn what could improve in the existing floor plans.

Working with partner families' needs and budgets, Bell created four new floor plans with unique amenities. The new plans have increased livability, allowing families to share more of their space with friends and grow into their homes.

A native and lifelong New Orleanian, Bell takes pride in working on specialized custom residential projects with his firm Bell Architecture.

"Our city is one-of-a-kind, and architects have a big responsibility to

respect the context in which we build," he said. "Our key to success has been staying small enough to give every project its due."

Bell's first job in the industry was at the age of 14, when he worked during the summer as a carpenter's helper. He said he always had an affinity for building.

"As with many architects, Legos came first," he said.

Bell said the key to success is listening to clients' needs before starting the creative design process. Bell Architecture uses 3D modeling to show clients what the final product will look like.

A particularly proud moment was his Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

In addition to Habitat for Humanity, Bell volunteers with St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Louisiana Children's Museum and the American Institute of Architects.

"I've been very blessed, and 'to whom much is given, much will be required,'" Bell said.

—Jenny Peterson

Michael Bell

BELL ARCHITECTURE OWNER