

Memphis Regional Design Center

March 2009 Newsletter

MRDC's first newsletter

Greetings!

I am pleased to present you with the MRDC's first newsletter, bringing you updates on our programs as well as news about design-related events in the Memphis Region.

Since this is a community organization very dependent on input from all concerned design-enthusiastic neighbors in the region, I would like to urge you to share this with as many friends and coworkers as possible, and encourage them to visit our website at www.mrdcinfo.org to subscribe to our email newsletter, and support the Center.

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Urban Design 101

MRDC's Urban Design 101 has been created to introduce local leaders to emerging design concepts that are guiding our nation's most exciting neighborhood stabilization, downtown development, waterfront revitalization, new town planning, public spaces, historic revitalization, and mass transit projects.

... *cont'd on page 2* [UD101]



Kasia Zycinska, University of Memphis, Architectural Design 5 Studio

South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative

South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative (SMRC) is MRDC's first signature project. It was initiated in the Fall of 2008 as a joint venture with Andrew's AME Church, The Works, Community Development Council, Self-Tucker Architects, The University of Memphis, and Memphis Regional Design Center, supported, in part, by the Hyde Family Foundations.

The SMRC was established to help the community create a comprehensive community revitalization plan through a highly participatory "bottom-up, bottom-

sideways" planning process and to successfully implement it. The goal is to enhance the overall quality of life for those living, working, worshipping, studying and doing business in the SMRC service area bounded by Trigg Avenue on the North, Interstate 240 on the East, Person Avenue on the South, and Lauderdale Street on the West.

On the 28th of February, approximately thirty institutional leaders representing ... *cont'd on page 2* [SMRC]

Meet the ED/CDO



Charles "Chooch" Pickard, AIA joined the MRDC in February of 2009 as the new Executive Director/Chief Design Officer. He is actively involved in the community wearing many hats. He is currently the Vice-President of AIA Memphis Chapter, and is also serving on the Board of Memphis Heritage.

Chooch is an alumnus of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he received his B.S. in Architectural studies, and his M.Arch. Since 1995, when he first moved to Memphis, Chooch worked for a number of firms such as Architecture Incorporated, the Center City Commission, and TRO (formerly JMGR) before starting his own firm, CM Design. Renovating historic buildings is one of his passions. He is credited with recently renovating the Lincoln American Tower, and Lowenstein Building.

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www.mrdcinfo.org

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Urban Design 101 will examine the transformative impact that innovative physical planning and design of the "public realm" are having upon the quality and success of urban life. The course will introduce a cross section of our region's civic leaders - representing a mix of public, private and non-profit organizations - to the basic concepts, vocabulary, and techniques of urban design as reflected in a variety of contemporary place-making initiatives in Memphis and

across the country.

Classes are scheduled every Thursday evenings from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, beginning March 26th through May 14th at the Center City Commission Bldg, 114 S. Main Street where the MRDC has its office. For more information, please contact Chooch Pickard at 901.491.3354 or cpickard@mrdcinfo.org; or Krishna Kasi at 901.575.0564 or kasikri@hotmail.com

UD 101 IS SPONSORED BY THE MEMPHIS REGIONAL DESIGN CENTER IN COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS MEMPHIS, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS MEMPHIS REGION, THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, URBAN LAND INSTITUTE MEMPHIS REGION, AND URBANART COMMISSION, AND IS FUNDED IN PART BY SUPPORT FROM HYDE FAMILY FOUNDATIONS, THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, AND A STATE GRANT MADE POSSIBLE BY SENATOR BEVERLY MARRERO.

[SMRC] cont'd from page 1...

local civic associations, faith-based groups, local businesses, human services providers, youth and senior organizations, and the City of Memphis braved the elements to meet at St. Andrews' Family Life Development Center to discuss process of undertaking a comprehensive revitalization plan.

Community opinion will be sought in addition to sharing already gathered information with local residents and leaders at **the South Memphis Neighborhood Summit**

scheduled to take place at the **St. Andrew's "Fellowteria"** at **867 South Parkway East** on **Saturday, April 4, 2009** starting at **10 am**. The overall purpose of this meeting is to 1) produce an overall vision statement that will guide the future economic, social, and physical development of South Memphis, and, 2) identify specific improvement projects designed to enhance the overall quality of urban life for local residents in such areas as: public safety, education, business services, municipal service delivery, human services, playgrounds, parks and open spaces, and transporta-

tion.

For more information regarding the South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative, interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to call Vickie Peters at: 901-678-2161 or email Professor Katherine Lambert Pennington, Assistant Professor in Anthropology at almbtrtpn@memphis.edu or Professor Kenneth M. Reardon, Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning at kreardon@memphis.edu.

Community News

The Riverfront Development Corporation (RDC), in conjunction with the City of Memphis, is inviting the public to provide ideas and guidance for a comprehensive land use study of Mud Island with a focus on Mud Island River Park.

The study will evolve over the next nine months and will focus on gathering public input at meetings that will take place in various parts of the

city and from an online survey available at <http://www.memphisriverfront.com/projects/mud-island-land-use-study>

Round One Public Meetings All meetings 5:45-7:15 pm

Monday 3/23 Downtown
MIRP Harbor Landing
101 Island Drive

Tuesday, 3/24 North Memphis
Raleigh United Methodist

Church
3295 Powers Road

Tuesday, 3/31 South Memphis
Whitehaven Community Center
Gymnasium
4318 Graceland Drive

Thursday, 4/2 East Memphis
Memphis Botanic Gardens
750 Cherry Road

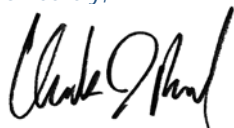
Visit RDC website for more information at <http://www.memphisriverfront.com/>

**Memphis
Regional
Design
Center**

Memphis Regional Design Center (MRDC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed with a mission to increase vitality and economic stability by promoting excellence in urban design and planning. More information about the MRDC is available for you to view at www.mrdcinfo.org

I hope you enjoyed the newsletter, and I look forward for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,



Charles "Chooch" Pickard, Executive Director/ Chief Design Officer