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For New Orleans Neighborhoods, a Slow and Uneven Return

By JOE WARD

Many of the once-vibrant neighborhoods of New Orleans are still silent a year after Hurricane Katrina. Scores of residents who returned found mold to be as brutal as the rising waters, and for tens of thousands of homes, rebirth is possible only after a thorough gutting or complete demolition. A tour through three neighborhoods reveals the slow and disparate nature of rebuilding these areas one house at a time. JOE WARD

Lakeview
When the 17th Street Canal levee was breached, nearly eight feet of water filled Lakeview's homes. Street after street is lined with vacant houses and the few residents who have returned wonder if their neighbors will follow them.

The Army Corps of Engineers has reclaimed the area west of Ballaire Drive and has torn down the homes.

Broadmoor
This area, full of Spanish and mission revival homes, was a 12-acre lake in the 1800's and has a history of flooding problems. After Katrina, homes were flooded with about seven feet of water. People are back in the area, but most inhabit the FEMA trailers that clutter the streets.

New Orleans East
This area on the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain is dense with sturdy brick homes. As is the case across the city, residents with flood insurance are the ones who have started to return.

(Joe Ward and Erin Aigner/The New York Times)

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