

Renew – Restore – Reopen Charity



CHARITY HOSPITAL

The Louisiana Legislature charged the Foundation for Historical Louisiana to conduct an independent assessment of Charity Hospital in New Orleans. FHL retained RMJM Hillier, internationally-renowned architects in preservation and healthcare design, to conduct this extensive study with two main goals: structural soundness and potential reuse.

RMJM Hillier made the following findings in a recent report on Charity Hospital:

- The building is structurally sound--with its original design being architecturally exceptional and “ahead of its time.” It is perfectly suited for renovation into a first rate, state-of-the-art medical and teaching facility.
- Renovation would be the most cost effective way to return quality healthcare to N.O. and are considerably less costly than the proposed new hospital. Reusing the Charity rich limestone shell is the most expedient way to return adequate healthcare to N. O.
- Charity can be renovated into a showcase facility in three years. The proposed new hospital would take, at very minimum, five years.
- The vacated and empty building, with interim medical services presently in place elsewhere, allows the opportunity for a faster and finally comprehensive renovation, without further disruption of medical services. This has never been the situation before.
- This approach allows for the preservation of nearby historic neighborhoods slated for demolition to make way for the proposed new hospital.
- Reusing vintage building stock is the ultimate “green” approach.
- Renovation of Charity Hospital would provide the most expedient means to “Shelter in Place” with a fully functioning Level One Trauma Center in case of a Category 5 Hurricane. The structure is ideally located, with the first floor 3 feet above flood plane, and adjacent access to I-10.
- The reuse of this iconic historic landmark would be a towering symbol of the rebirth of New Orleans.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation placed Charity Hospital and the adjacent historic neighborhood on its “11 Most Endangered List” in May 2008 bringing nationwide attention to this landmark.

**See the vivid details of Charity’s Renovation in a brief video, along with the full report at:
www.FHL.org**