Eskew+Dumez+Ripple’s design of the Make It Right house developed out of transforming local housing traditions to accommodate changes in lifestyle of the modern family. The design has two bays separated by a marriage wall, an idea similar to the New Orleans typology of the double shotgun house. Our proposal divides these two bays into the public living spaces and the private sleeping spaces. In order to maximize the efficiency of the space the house has no circulation corridors. This also allows for fluid movement between the bedrooms and living spaces creating a more open layout. While the first generation of the homes may be constructed on site, the two bay marriage wall design allows opportunities for off site construction allowing for increased construction quality and affordability, while decreasing material waste and on-site labor.

While the interior layout repositions the typical New Orleans home the use of the porch remains in our design as an essential element in the design placing an importance on how the design reacts to its community. In the front of the house there is a front porch which acts as an extension of the living space raised above flood level. The design also has a bench and sunshade at ground level which helps to establish a lower communal level of the porch similar to a stoop. At the rear of the house the interior spaces extend outside to include more raised porches allowing air circulation to occur throughout the entirety of the house. At the ground level at the rear of the house is a screened porch allowing for outdoor shaded insect proof spaces. The design focuses as much attention to its interior spaces as it does the function of its exterior spaces.

Eskew Dumez Ripple
Part of Making It Right is Making It Work. That's why with this design one of the initial priorities deals with maximizing the potential of the site's natural flows. The slope of the roof is designed to direct rainwater to the rear of the house where it is collected in a cistern located at grade below the house. By utilizing grey water for the toilets and landscape irrigation the house reduces its operating costs and reliance on city infrastructure. Future improvements to the system could address on-site water purification addressing municipal water needs in case of a flood emergency. The roof's slope works in reverse for the ventilation of air through the interior. The "attic fan," located at the top of the wall at the front of the house, pulls warm air out of the house. The rear stair, which connects to a shaded screened porch located below the house, assists this ventilation by providing cool air to circulate into the house. Both flows are intensified by giving visual importance to the sloped roof, both on the interior and exterior, the downspout, and the fan, thus allowing a stronger understanding of the processes at work. Solar power is collected and harnessed on the roof to reduce power costs and heat water. In case of a flood emergency the house has an exterior covered and shaded upper level balcony that also has an area for emergency supplies, this way no one gets stuck on their roof or attic.

Part of Making It Right is Making It Yours through personal customization. In addition to offering several plan configurations each home owner is also able to make choices concerning the exterior appearance of the design. With this design you can not only select the exterior color of the house, but also determine what type of shutter system to be placed on the front. An image of Fats Domino is transformed into holes laser cut into metal panels. Also shown is a leaf and branch pattern and a more traditional wood shutter. Choose Irma Thomas, Master P, or any pattern you like. By offering these customization options the design becomes yours.