

# SEVENTH WARD SPEAKS

## Rick Fifield

ARCHITECT

THE MARIGNY, HISTORICALLY, WAS THE INTERFACE BETWEEN the port and the residential portion of the city. It's a walking neighborhood; a neighborhood of pedestrians and bicycles. Architecturally, it's gorgeous; it has very interesting buildings. It's a delight every time you turn a corner.

When you preserve a building, you not only preserve a history, you also preserve the trades that preserve the building—traditional techniques and craftsmanship, such as millwork, iron work, plaster. And when you're buying a window, you're buying it from the shop down the street that builds windows, rather than the multinational big box store that's importing it from Singapore. In a very real sense, preservation generates local wealth.

From a green city point-of-view, recycling these old urban neighborhoods makes brilliant sense. You're preserving a pedestrian environment; you're preserving invested energy—things that can't be replaced. Our old houses represent the native forests that were harvested 100 years ago to create our city. To put them in a landfill is the last and worst thing you can do to our native forests. By preserving the urban and historic fabric, you really are creating a sustainable city. I believe that.



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For more information about the Porch call, 504-312-2701 or 713-504-6267.