



Gulf Coast Community Design Studio

Mississippi State University College of Architecture Art + Design

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Research for Floodproof Buildings To Be Presented March 14th

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BILOXI, MS - Next Monday the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) will host a public presentation of research related to commercial floodproof construction. The research was funded through a grant from the Southeast Region Research Initiative (SERRI).

“As a part of the research, we designed and built six mock-up walls to demonstrate some construction techniques suitable for commercial buildings,” said project leader Sam Carlsen, an intern architect with the GCCDS. “We investigated some traditional commercial building types, like metal studs and brick, but also some more unusual systems like Insulated Concrete Formwork and Structural Insulated Panels.”

The mock-up walls are located inside of a large testing pool, which will be filled with water to simulate a flood event. The GCCDS will then monitor the walls’ resistance to flooding, and also any longer-term effects from the flooding, through a system of moisture sensors.

The public is welcome to visit the testing site prior to the simulated flood in order for the GCCDS to explain the mock-up walls, testing procedures, and background research for this project.

“We welcome anyone interested in learning how floodproof construction can add resiliency to communities along the Gulf Coast,” Carlsen said. These building techniques can potentially help business and land owners and developers to build near or at grade in areas newly added to the FEMA Special Hazard Flood Zones, and can decrease the cost of insuring equipment and facilities. According to Carlsen, communities all along the Gulf Coast can benefit from this added flexibility in planning and added strength in construction and commerce.

The presentation will be held in open house format from 4 to 6 PM on Monday, March 14th, 2011. The site is in Biloxi at the corner of Dr Gilbert Mason Drive and Hill Street.

For further information about this project, please visit the project log at www.gccds.org/research/floodproofconstruction/blog

The Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) is a professional service and outreach program of Mississippi State University’s College of Architecture, Art + Design. The GCCDS was established in Biloxi, Mississippi in response to Hurricane Katrina to provide architectural design services, landscape and planning assistance, educational opportunities and research to organizations and communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

For further information about the GCCDS, please visit their website at <http://www.gccds.org/>

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