



the interior design community

## Charleston, SC, fosters interest in design for the future

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Mention Charleston to a design-minded professional and words like *traditional*, *colonial*, *porticos*, *Rainbow Row*, *shutters* will probably come to mind. The city known for its charm and classical architecture is making sure its interest in craftsmanship and aesthetics isn't relegated to the past. The city, recently voted the "Top City in the World" in *Conde Nast Traveler's Readers Choice Awards*, is known for its intense culinary scene but design permeates the culture there.



One of the 18 homes already built at Mixson

[editorial]



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The North Charleston area, which has boomed in the past couple of years with the arrival of the new Boeing plant nearby, is home to **Mixson**, a community that intends to transform the previously not-so-desirable residential area into an urban-style community. In fact, it is just one of three new energy efficient residential developments in the historic Park Circle neighborhood, a testament to the growing popularity of the area—and expansion of Charleston itself. Private equity firm **Jamestown**, the backers of **Chelsea Market** and One Times Square in New York City, which had been initial investors since 2006, are so confident in the vision of Mixson that they assumed complete ownership in April 2010.

The sustainable development, set on 44 acres, includes 18 already completed LEED Gold residences defined by their “responsible” sizes, their within-walking distance both to adjacent homes, which fosters the neighborhood feeling, and the just-opened Mixson Market, pictured below.



The market is the first of its kind in the area, offering not just coffee and prepared foods, a craft beer and wine bar, but a curated selection of housewares and gifts, many locally sourced. It's just across the Mixson Bath and Racquet Club, which has just broken ground, designed by **Lake Flato** and decorated by **Dominick Coyne**, will include a full-service restaurant, in addition to its wellness center, bocce courts and swim facilities, with memberships available for non-residents, too.



A rendering of the Bath and Racquet Club, above left, with the orange door to the Market at right.

The largest next step will be the Flats at Mixson, with 270 multi-family units set around a central courtyard, to be decorated by Charleston-based **Cortney Bishop**.



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Bishop says of the project, "I am proud to be working on a project like Mixson with a company like Jamestown, which is really striving to create a unique living experience. Mixson is a progressive concept for Charleston, but I feel the community is really ready for it. Together, we are mixing modern design concepts with strong southern influences. Expect to see classic Charleston lanterns painted in youthful, bright colors and warm wide-plank floors juxtaposed with modern, clean white kitchens. So much thought and creativity is being poured into this project, I can't wait for the public to experience it."

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