



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **REBUILDING CITIES AFTER DISASTERS LIKE KATRINA IS FOCUS OF PROGRAM**

A special presentation and panel discussion about how disasters impact urban areas will be hosted by the Municipal Art Society's Urban Center Books and the Penn Institute for Urban Research on February 27. Applying lessons learned by New Orleans and the Gulf coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, speakers will consider how cities can be made less vulnerable, their economies restarted more quickly, and how the needs of the displaced can be better met.

***Rebuilding Urban Places After Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina***, Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Eugenie Birch and Susan Wachter, professors at the University of Pennsylvania and co-editors of *Rebuilding Urban Places After Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006), will engage with their contributing writers in a discussion of multidisciplinary approaches to helping cities recover from catastrophes and preventing them from occurring.

The program will take place at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue at 51st Street. Subway: 6 to 51st Street; E, V to Fifth/53rd; B, D, F to Rockefeller Center. Programs and the receptions that follow are free and open to the public and news media, but reservations are encouraged. RSVP to [rsvp@mas.org](mailto:rsvp@mas.org) or call 212-935-2075, specifying the event's name and date. Featured books can be purchased at UCB and signed by authors. To learn more, visit [www.urbancenterbooks.org](http://www.urbancenterbooks.org).

In addition to the book's co-editors, panelists will include Jonathan Barnett, architect and designer; Barbara Faga, landscape architect and executive vice president of the design firm EDAW; Bob Giegengack, professor of earth and environmental science at the University of Pennsylvania; and Randy Mason, associate professor of architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Penn Institute for Urban Research is dedicated to fostering increased understanding of cities and developing new knowledge bases that will be vital in charting the course of local national and international urbanization. By providing an umbrella

structure for the urban-focused scholarship, research and civic engagement within Penn's 12 schools, the Penn IUR provides the synergy needed to address urban challenges in the 21st century. As a campus-wide institute, Penn IUR sponsors a number of initiatives, stimulates research, provides opportunities for collaborative instruction and engages with the world of practitioners and policymakers.

The Municipal Art Society of New York is a private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote a more livable city. Since 1893, the MAS has worked to enrich the culture, neighborhoods and physical design of New York City. It advocates for excellence in urban design and planning, contemporary architecture, historic preservation and public art.

A project of the MAS since 1980, UCB is a resource for professionals and laypersons alike, stocking books on a wide range of architecture and related subjects and organizing regular events and exhibits. Through lectures, panel discussions and exhibits in Urban Center Galleries, UCB maintains a vital role in the discussion of architecture in the city and around the world.

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