



The Cannibal Lot

Mama Lizzie's House

Re:Purpose Savannah

Savannah, 2020

Circular Architecture

Collective Construction

Summary

Re:Purpose Savannah is a women+ led 501(c)3 nonprofit establishing a sustainable future through the deconstruction, salvage, and reuse of historic buildings. Mama Lizzie is the late mother of client Mary. The first known development of Coffee Bluff is the establishment of two plantations. After the emancipation of enslaved people in the South, Coffee Bluff was settled by freed folk departing the plantations of nearby islands. This home embodies the legacy of the many Black families that settled that area.

Early 1980s, a large oak tree fell & caused severe damage. When Mary succeeded in gaining sole ownership of the property, Mary engaged services for structural removal. Mary is currently designing a new home to be built on the property, inspired by the memory of her parents, incorporating many beautiful materials from Mama Lizzie's house into her new home. She plans to leave the home to her daughter and granddaughter.

Lessons

- Re:Purpose Savannah's role in the story of Mama Lizzie's was to provide a needed service: the removal of the house. Mary was drawn to their process because of the pain of releasing the house to the past. Many experience emotional hardship seeing the homes of their loved ones brutally demolished and vanished from the landscape. They gently deconstructed and reclaimed the beautiful materials inside, preserving many elements that will find a new life in Mary's future home. Every piece of Mama Lizzie's house that was unfit for reuse was recycled.
 - Reclaimed: 15 tons / Recycled: 19 tons / Landfill: 0 tons

