

WEBSITE LAUNCH

After a year in development, the redesigned Rice Design Alliance (RDA) website is live and ready to welcome all who have an interest in Houston's built environment. The new site features commentary and podcasts from RDA civic forums and lectures, a calendar of RDA events and events sponsored by other area organizations, travel journals from RDA city tours, and several resources including a pdf archive of *Cite 71*, *The Hurricane Issue*, and links to *OffCite.org*, the *Cite* blog.



From left: View from Hearst Tower; Tour Group in front of Alice Tully Hall; 2009 Galveston charrette.

> RICE UNIVERSITY NAMES DEAN OF ARCHITECTURE

Sarah Whiting, a member of the Princeton University School of Architecture faculty, has been named Dean of the Rice School of Architecture. Whiting will take the helm January 1 from John Casbarian, the school's longtime associate dean who is serving as dean until December 31. Lars Lerup stepped down as dean earlier this year after 16 years and will return to Rice in 2010 as a professor. Before joining Princeton in 2005, Whiting taught at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design for six years. Prior to that, she taught at the University of Kentucky, the Illinois Institute of Technology, and the University of Florida. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Yale, a Master of Architecture at Princeton and her Ph.D. in the history, theory and criticism of art, architecture, and urban form at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

> NEW YORK - HEART OF GLASS AND STEEL

Kathryn Fosdick, Associate Director of Programs, recalls the four-day RDA tour of New York City in June.

New York- I was struck by a sense of homecoming when we arrived. I was born and spent my first five years in New York and have since felt a special connection to the place. For me, the city is like an eccentric aunt who is best taken in limited doses but, nonetheless, leaves you with vivid, brightly-colored memories. The group of roughly 30 RDA members stayed at the Desmond Tutu Center, a simple but refined Seminary/Hotel on 10th Avenue between 21st and 22nd Streets. Breakfast in the Refractory was a special treat.

Visit ricedesignalliance.org to read the full account of the New York tour.

> GALVESTON CHARRETTE

The RDA's 2009 charrette, held August 8, challenged teams of architects, designers, and engineers to design a structure along the Seawall of Galveston Island, which is still reeling from the hit by Hurricane Ike. The website shows the winning entries.

> POST HURRICANE IKE PLANNING

RDA held a three-part forum on Post-Hurricane Ike Planning. Eric Berger, the SciGuy of the *Houston Chronicle*, moderated the July 15 event, which featured scientists and engineers whom mayors and governors call when a hurricane is heading for the coast. Their message was clear. We dodged the bullet with Ike. The August 19th forum offered design solutions, including "Ike Dikes," and the final forum focused on recovery.

Find commentary on and copies of the presentations on the web.

> RDA GALA

The 23rd annual Rice Design Alliance Gala will be held at the Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar. This year RDA will honor Phoebe and Bobby Tudor and celebrate philanthropy. The evening will include dinner, a silent auction, and dancing to the music of Fried Ice Cream. Bobby is co-chair of Rice's Centennial Campaign which has a \$1 billion fundraising strategy to launch Rice into its second century. Phoebe Tudor holds a Masters degree in historic preservation from Columbia University and is chair of the Julia Ideson Library Preservation Partners. Visit ricedesignalliance.org to join 1,000 architects, design professionals, engineers, contractors, developers, and RDA members at this popular annual event.