

# Big Cité Beat

From zydeco to Pico, **Party Houston** has been working late into the night to revive and diversify the local economy by transforming Houston into the party capital of the earth. Spreading the Texas fiesta spirit abroad Party Houston's uncrowned king, **George O. Jackson, Jr.**, went to Lyons in October at the behest of **Jean-Michel Jarre** to photograph Jarre's Lyonnaise light and music show, attended by none other than **Pope John Paul II**. Meanwhile, homeside, Party Houston *apparatchik* Cameron Armstrong will urge Mayor Kathy Whitmire to proclaim an official **Bottoming-Out Day** and kickoff Houston's economic recovery with some real low-down partying.

The **Art League of Houston** concluded an informal architectural competition, held in August, by awarding the commission for its permanent studio, gallery, classroom, and office building to **W.O. Neuhaus Associates**. Neuhaus's design will be built in 1987 on the Art League's site at Montrose and Bomar. Other invited participants were **Ray Bailey Architects**, **Barry Moore Architects** and **Team HOU**, **Gensler and Associates**, and **McKittrick Richardson Wallace**.

Coming Down; Going Up: The **Hovas-Donovan Shops**, in the 3500 block of Main, one of the last survivors of South Main Street's short-lived but ebullient escapade as Houston's Miracle Mile of the 1930s and '40s, was demolished in August. Built in 1929 by S.N. Hovas (grandfather of Baroness Enrico di Portanova), it was designed

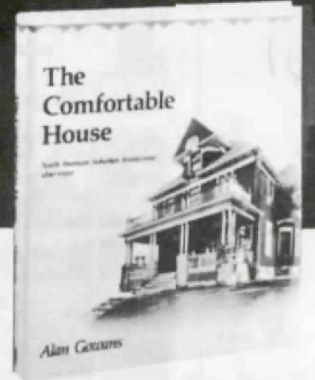


Hovas - Donovan Shops

by **William D. Bordeaux**, architect of the neighboring **Isabella Court**. The future of the **Blue Ribbon Rice Company elevators** at Studemont and Memorial is uncertain, following current owner American Rice, Inc.'s move to Freeport. ARI has yet to decide on the fate of the nearly 40-acre site. Rumor has it that the **Texas Medical Center, Inc.** will unload the **Shamrock Hotel** site on **Texas A&M University**, leaving A&M to decide whether to retain or destroy the legendary hotel, which was shuttered in June. Now open: the third increment of the **Galleria** (Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum and Richard Fitzgerald & Partners) and containing **Macy's** (Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum) culminating a development program that stretches back 20 years. Also the 53-story **Heritage Plaza**, the "last" - for the time being - skyscraper in downtown (M. Nasr and Partners). Both are Pomo to the max.

Photographer **Richard Payne** has taken up residence in Paris for the winter and spring on a grant from The American Center. Van Nostrand Reinhold has published **Construction Economics and Building Design, A Historical Approach**, written by Houston architect **R. Gregory Turner**. The **Greater Houston Preservation Alliance** received a 1986 Merit Award from the American Planning Association, Texas Chapter, for its **Sixth Ward/Sabine Historic District Revitalization Study** (Cite, Fall 1986, p.7), which it followed up by coordinating the rehab of eleven houses in the district, a project organized by the **Private Sector Initiatives Home Repair Program** with council member **Ben T. Reyes**.

"A superb popular review of American houses in the post-Victorian era."  
—Kirkus Reviews



Between 1890 and 1930, more houses were built in the United States than in all its previous history. **The Comfortable House** is the first book to make sense of this bewildering array of suburban homes. Alan Gowans describes the sites and the builders. He classifies each style—bungalow, foursquare, temple-house, Georgian, Cape, Tudor, or Queen Anne—notes its vintage, documents its source and its connections to American culture.

"A feast for the starving. In scope and authority, there is nothing like **The Comfortable House** in print today."

—Peirce Lewis,  
The Pennsylvania State University  
304 pp. 212 illus. \$35.00

MasterCard and Visa accepted.  
Call (617) 253-2884.

**The MIT Press**  
28 Carleton Street  
Cambridge, MA 02142

ENVIRONMENTAL  
MAGIC  
FOR HOME  
AND OFFICE

## EVANS-MONICAL

2750 KIRBY DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098  
713/528-2075  
OPEN 10-6, MON.-SAT.

Lovett  
McLean

West University  
Residential Property

3301 Edloe  
Houston, Texas 77027  
713 960 1148