

Cite Calendar

SUMMER

JUNE 8 – SUNDAY, 3 P.M.

RDA Annual Members Meeting:

RDA's new board members and officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting in Galveston at the Open Gates Advanced Teaching and Telecommunications Center (1891, McKim, Mead & White; restoration and addition by The Mathes Group, 1996). Historian Ellen Beasley will speak on her recent book, *The Alleys and Back Buildings of Galveston*.

JUNE 16 THROUGH JULY 25

GHCA Summer Program:

Architecture for High School Students. On July 25, at the conclusion of this program the students' work will be exhibited in the architecture building, University of Houston. 713.743.2000.

JULY 8 – TUESDAY, 6 P.M.

Quilts, Inc. Exhibition:
Tactile Architecture 1997.

Deadline for entries to the 12th annual juried exhibition. Quilt designs must have an architectural motif expressing the artist's understanding of the exhibit's theme. *The exhibition will be held in Houston in October 1997. There is a \$25 entry fee.* 713.781.6864, ext. 123.

JULY 31 – THURSDAY

DHA: Downtown Home Tour

Loft apartments and luxury downtown living spaces will be open to the public. During the tour, *Live Downtown Essay Contest* entry information will be distributed. By submitting an essay of fewer than 500 words titled "Why I would like to live downtown," Houstonians will have the opportunity to win a \$1,000 shopping spree from Foley's and a rent-free, one-year lease in The Rice. Currently being renovated into upscale loft-style apartments, the historic Rice Hotel will reopen in December as The Rice. The winner of the essay contest will be announced in October. 713.658.8938.

FALL

The Houston Talks

RDA, the Rice University School of Architecture, and the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture at the University

of Houston will continue this collaborative program featuring international architects who will give public lectures as well as spend time with the architecture students of both schools. *Dates and speakers to be announced.* 713.527.4876.

OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 22

RDA Lecture Series:

1900 to 2000: American Cities in the 20th Century.

As the millennium approaches, this series will look at four American cities as they have matured over the last 100 years. To broadly represent the city in America, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Miami have been selected. The lectures will examine the dynamic changes that have occurred in American urbanism, and the affects these changes have had on the architecture and physical nature of cities. Of particular interest is how different eras of the American city overlay one another, and how each new generation of city building can revitalize or diminish what came before. *Brown Auditorium, MFAH.* 713.527.4876.

NOVEMBER 14 – FRIDAY, 7:30 P.M.

RDA Gala:
Silver Jubilee.

RDA will celebrate its 25th anniversary with dinner, dancing, and a silent auction at the Petroleum Club. 713.527.4876.

SPRING 1998

FEBRUARY 25 THROUGH MARCH 25

RDA Lecture Series:

Architecture in Furniture and Fashion. Furniture and fashion have been give little critical attention within architectural culture. This series will explore shared crafts such as draftsmanship and design. *Speakers and dates to be announced.* *Brown Auditorium, MFAH.* 713.527.4876.

RDA Exhibition:

CITE: Photographic Retrospective Paul Hester's images of Houston from 1982-1997 commissioned by *Cite* magazine (both published and unpublished) will be exhibited. *Location and dates to be announced.* 713.527.4876.

Please call 713.529.2483 to be included in our fall CiteCalendar, September 1997.

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Letters

SPRAWL, GROWTH, CITIES, PLANNING

Houston and the metropolitan centers of California have a common legacy and some common problems today: They have grown precipitously over the last 45 years; expanded without acknowledging true costs of services; intruded on productive farm lands and sensitive natural habitats; leap-frogged areas perceived as bad investments for development; and emphasized the automobile as the primary mode of transportation. Although Houston has driven these avenues with similar negative results that California cities are experiencing, these last few years, under Mayor Bob Lanier's firm hand, Houston has begun to refocus on making its inner city competitive with suburban and exurban areas of the region. Lanier's administration has identified some of the key directions the city needs to take, and, recently, reinforcement that Lanier's ideas are cogent has appeared.

Beyond Sprawl, a practicable report from California, focuses on new ideas for maintaining urban growth while fostering economic vitality and sustaining a measurable quality of life — a place where anyone would want to live and work. This report resulted from a joint project of the California Resources Agency (a government conservation group), the Bank of America (California's largest bank), the Greenbelt Alliance (the Bay Area's conservation and planning organization), and the Low Income Housing Fund (a nonprofit dedicated to low-income housing). It identified four primary goals:

1. To provide more certainty in determining where new development should or should not take place.
2. To make more efficient use of developed land, including a strong focus on job creation and housing in established urban areas.
3. To create a legal and procedural framework that will foster stability and send positive economic signals to investors.

4. To build a broad-based constituency of environmentalists, community organizations, businesses, farmers, and government leaders to combat sprawl.

All major metropolitan regions are at a crossroads. Sprawl, which once signaled economic and population growth, unchecked has become a force that will ultimately inhibit growth and degrade the quality of our lives. Contributing to the social, economic, and environmental costs of unregulated growth are auto-related expenses, including maintenance, fuel, commute times, and traffic congestion; underutilized resources in older parts of our cities; municipal governments' inability to provide equal services in all sectors; and loss of social stability in urban areas through the loss of job opportunities. With the rising cost of housing, decreasing supply of developable land, and increasing budgets to provide basic services, the message becomes clear: We must take stock. We must be smarter about how we grow. We must create new and more efficient growth patterns that are compact, responsive to people at all income levels, and enhance economic competition and quality of life.

Houston has a timely opportunity to address these issues. In November, we will elect a new mayor and several new council members due to term limitations. How Houston will grow, how Houston plans, and how Houston takes charge of its future are crucial issues in this forthcoming election. We must be smart enough to institutionalize the strategies necessary to assure a course of prosperity as well as be good stewards of our resources. November is not very far away, and we, the citizens of Houston, need to make our future leaders aware of our concerns about the long-term livability of Houston.

Joe Douglas Webb, AIA
Houston
May 1997

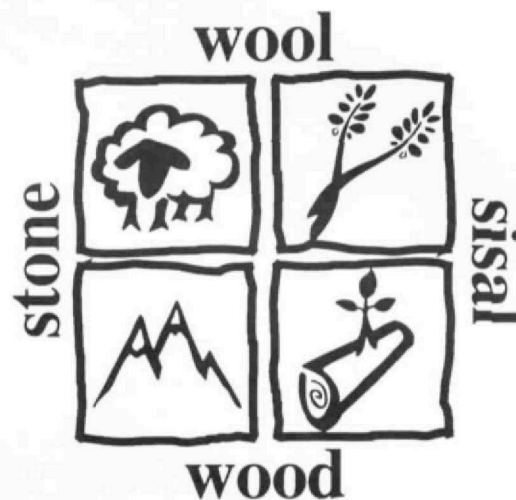
Cite 39 Texas Places: Last Call for Entries

The next issue of *Cite* will focus on places throughout the state of Texas. *Cite* editors invite your participation. Please send a photograph that conveys the feeling of a special place in Texas. The coast and borders, roads and highways, and spaces in-between are all potential subjects. Your caption should not exceed 25 words. Submissions now due by August 1, 1997. Because of space limitations, we may not be able to include all entries. Thank you for your interest!

Send to: *Cite*, 1973 West Gray, # 1, Houston, Texas 77019.

THE NATURAL SOURCE

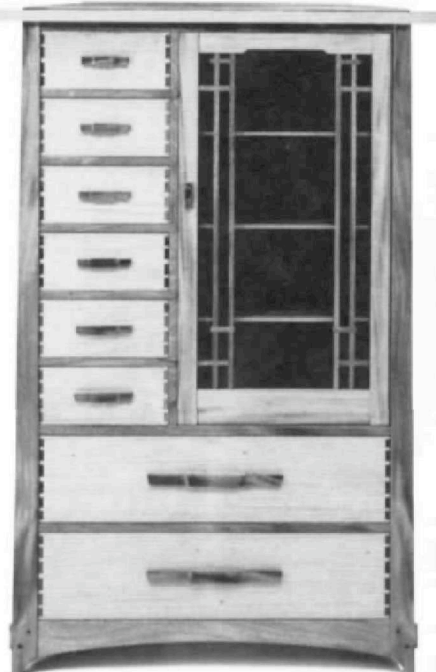
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