

Cite

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Review of Houston

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The Rice Design Alliance, established in 1973, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of architecture, urban design, and the built environment in the Houston region through educational programs; the publication of *Cite*, a quarterly review of architecture and design; and active programs to initiate physical improvements. Membership in the RDA is open to the general public.

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C A L E N D A R

RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE SPRING

LECTURE SERIES — GREEN SPRING

January 24 through February 21
Brown Auditorium,
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
713.348.4876

This lecture series will focus on sustainable architecture and feature built work that addresses important environmental issues. Green Spring will bring to Houston a group of innovative designers from around the world who are questioning the fundamental ways in which buildings and cities are conceived.

Wednesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.

KEN YEANG, a partner in Hamzah & Yeang, an architectural firm headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, will speak on "The Ecological Agenda: The Ecological Design of Large Buildings and Site." Yeang is the author of *The Skyscraper, Bioclimatically Considered: A Design Primer*.

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 p.m.

FRUTO VIVAS, who teaches and practices architecture in Caracas, Venezuela, will speak on "Los Arboles Para Vivir." Vivas recently completed the Venezuelan Pavilion for Expo 2000 in Hanover, Germany.

Wednesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.

THOMAS SPIEGALHALTER, professor of architecture at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, will speak on "Under the Sun, With the Wind." For the past decade, Spiegelhalter has been developing a series of low energy consumption buildings.

Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.

PLINY FISK, co-director of the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, Inc., in Austin, and ROBERT BERKEBILE, an architect with Berkebile, Nelson, Immenschun and McDowall Architects of Kansas City, will speak on "A Public Dialogue."

FIRESIDE CHAT

Wednesday, March 7
Brown Auditorium,
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
713.348.4876

To close the Green Spring lecture series, a civic forum titled "The Sky is the Limit" will be held to discuss what has become Houston's most important planning issue — the city's air quality, and the federal sanctions that unremediated pollution could trigger.

SALLY WALSH LECTURE

Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.
Brown Auditorium,
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

NEIL FRANKEL, partner in the Chicago design firm of Frankel and Coleman, will speak.

RDA EXHIBITION: SNAPSHOT

May 4 through June 9
Lawndale Art and Performance Center
4912 Main Street
723.348.4876

In the tradition of Best Laid Plans and Houston Works, RDA, in conjunction with Lawndale Art and Performance Center, will present Snapshot: Current Houston Design on View, an open-call exhibition showcasing architecture, urban planning, preservation, landscape architecture, interiors, furniture, and graphics by Houston architects and designers. A preview will be held on May 3. Call for entries and registration will be issued in January, 2001.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE LECTURE SERIES

These lectures have been coordinated with the Rice Design Alliance's Green Spring series. All lectures are held in the College of Architecture Lecture Theater. For more information, please call 713.743.2400.

Tuesday, February 6, 6 p.m.

ALISTAIR MCGREGOR, of Ove Arup & Partners, San Francisco, will speak. McGregor's recent works include the Gap Building in San Francisco.

Tuesday, February 13, 6 p.m.

DAVID HEYMANN, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, University of Texas School of Architecture, and author of *More Domestic Filler in Nature*, will speak. Heymann's recent work includes a visitor center for the Audubon Sabal Palm Sanctuary in Brownsville and a house for president-elect George W. Bush and family near Waco.

Tuesday, March 6, 6 p.m.

NOEL HARDING, a Canadian artist, will speak. Harding's recent work includes "The Elevated Wetlands" (1997-1999), Taylor Creek Park, Toronto. The project involves bioremediation of water from the Don River.

Tuesday, March 20, 6 p.m.

RICK JOY, an architect who practices in Arizona, will speak. Joy's recent works reflect careful building in environmentally sensitive areas.

RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE INITIATIVE FOR HOUSTON

Tuesday, January 16

Beginning on January 16, 2001, RDA will accept applications for the second annual grants program for students and faculty of the Rice University School of Architecture and the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture. The purpose of the program is to support projects that focus on Houston's built environment, its history, present condition, and future development. A variety of projects will be considered, including historic research, speculative studies and projects, problem solving and planning projects, and studies that document conditions of the city and its architecture.

Awards of up to \$5,000 are available for projects to be completed in one year. More than one proposal may be funded. Applications are due by March 30, 2001, and the announcement of awards will be made on May 7. Qualified applicants may call RDA at 713.348.4876 for an application.

RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE 2001 ANNUAL ARCHITECTURE TOUR

Saturday, March 31, and Sunday, April 1

This year's tour will feature houses in which the design of the house, landscape, and garden features are integral to one another, producing indoor/outdoor spatial combinations rare in Houston.

RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE HOMETOWN TOUR: PITTSBURGH

Wednesday, April 25, through
Sunday, April 29

Discover Pittsburgh's architectural legacy on tours of historic downtown landmarks and neighborhoods as well as corporate skyscrapers; the Strip District, with its ethnic diversity; and Oakland, with its beautiful college campuses and museums. Private historic homes and an array of the finest private clubs will provide the setting for four-star dinners and receptions. Participation is limited to 25 RDA members. For more information, please call the Rice Design Alliance at 713.348.4876.

LETTERS

HIGH QUALITY PRAISE

I was delighted to receive the summer 2000 issue of *Cite*. Congratulations on another outstanding issue.

I thought the photographs of Houston by Alex S. MacLean were fantastic, and I was thoroughly impressed with the superb quality of the whole issue. In fact, the printing, the content, the overall quality of the magazine are far superior to what I used to see during my time in Houston (1972-1992).

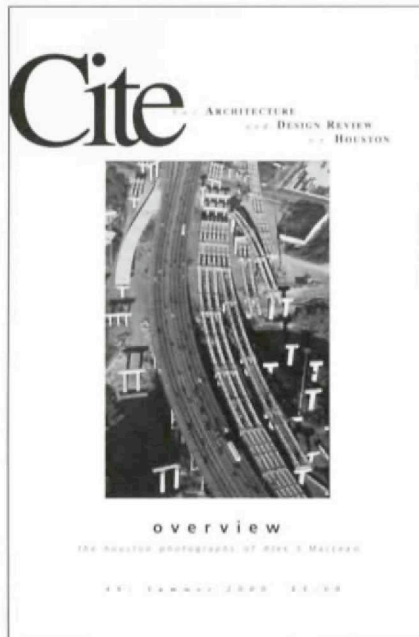
Congratulations to all at the Rice Design Alliance on the consistent high quality of *Cite*.

Antony Harbour
Managing Director, Gensler
London, England
Past President, Rice Design Alliance

ALL STRUCTURE, NO CITY
Thanks so much for the new *Cite* [Cite 48]. I really appreciate Alex S. MacLean's photos. They tell a great story of infrastructure without a city.

Richard Ingersoll
Montevardi, Italy

A MATTER OF PRIDE
Thank you for sending a copy of the summer 2000 edition of the RDA journal [Cite 48] to me. I am very proud of this city and thoroughly enjoyed seeing



it through the lens of the talented Alex S. MacLean.

Lee P. Brown
Mayor
Houston

Have a criticism, comment, or response to something you've seen in *Cite*? If so, the editors would like to hear from you. You can mail your comments to Letters to the Editor, *Cite*, 1973 West Gray, Suite 1, Houston, Texas 77019; fax them to 713-529-5881; or e-mail them to citemail@ruf.rice.edu.

RETHINKING THE DOME



IS THE ASTRODOME DOOMED? It lost its namesake tenant when the Houston Astros moved downtown to Enron Field. It lost part of its parking lot when construction began on a new football stadium. And it even lost top billing when Reliant Energy bought the naming rights not only to the Houston Texans' soon-to-be home field, but to the entire complex that sits at the foot of Main Street. So the Astrodome is no longer just the Astrodome. It is, alas, the Reliant Energy Astrodome.

What's next for Houston's most widely known landmark? Could it be relegated to hosting little more than monster truck rallies? Or is it possible that, official denials aside, it's headed

for the wrecking ball?

Rather than let the Astrodome slip into the shadow of its NFL neighbor, *Cite* would like to come up with some new uses, and possible redesigns, for the venerable facility, something that will allow it to retain its status as a Houston icon. To that end, it is asking architects, designers, and artists for ideas and drawings on what to do with the Dome. The best of these will be gathered and published in a future issue of *Cite*. For specific details on rules, deadlines, and how notions and sketches should be submitted, send a letter to *Cite* at 1973 West Gray, Suite 1, Houston, Texas 77019, or e-mail *Cite* at citemail@ruf.rice.edu.

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