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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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www.rda.rice.edu

CALENDAR

HOUSTON TALKS:

DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES

RDA and the schools of architecture at Rice and the University of Houston cosponsor this program, which features international architects who give public lectures and spend time with students of both schools. Lecture held in the Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713.348.4876.

Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

PETER EISENMAN, an architect and educator who has created one of the most controversial and acclaimed bodies of work in contemporary American architecture, will speak. Eisenman's work is active and polemical, and his buildings, whether executed or not, are ingenious essays on the way humans and inert materials occupy and control space.

RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE

HOMETOWN TOUR: PITTSBURGH

Wednesday, April 25, through Sunday, April 29. 713.348.4876.

RDA members will 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. The five-day tour focuses on the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, with a visit to his masterpiece Fallingwater; Benno Jannsen, architect of the William Penn Hotel; and H.H. Richardson, designer of the Allegheny Courthouse.

RDA EXHIBITION: SNAPSHOT

May 4 through June 9
Lawndale Art Center
4912 Main Street
713.348.4876

In the tradition of "Best Laid Plans" and "Houston Works," the Rice Design Alliance, in conjunction with Lawndale Art Center, will present "Snapshot: Current Houston Design on View," an open-call exhibition to showcase architecture, urban planning, preservation, landscape architecture, interiors, furniture, and graphics by Houston architects and designers.

The exhibition presents an opportunity to make Houston design the focus of critical inquiry and insists that architecture and design are too important not to be exhibited for public discussion and

debate. With the exception of entry size, no restrictions have been imposed on the entries. It is hoped that in an open forum such as this exhibition the works can be shown and seen in a bright light, and that all can appreciate Houston as a working architectural and metropolitan organism.

A catalogue will accompany the exhibition and will include an image submitted by each designer or firm in the exhibit. The catalogue also will feature an essay written by Frank Welch, author of *Philip Johnson & Texas*. A preview of the exhibition will be held May 3. Tickets are \$25 with advance reservations.

RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, May 22, 6 p.m.

Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
800 Bagby

RDA members will be treated to a reception and tour of the under construction Hobby Center following a brief business meeting. For membership information, please call the Rice Design Alliance, 713.348.4876.

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, April 3, 6 p.m.

MEL CHIN, the award-winning sculptor who carved the metal-filigreed columns that flank the Wortham Theater Center, will speak. Chin's art is always engaging. Sometimes it directly engages the individual as in his "Inescapable Histories" exhibition, and sometimes it engages the environment, as in his "Revival Field" bioremediation projects. Among Chin's recent projects are the collaborative design of a 22-acre park in New York City that includes the ecological rehabilitation of the former Penn Central rail yard and "Blueprints at Addison Circle" in Addison, a small town near Dallas, which Chin created in collaboration with Michael Van Valkenburgh. Chin's artistic process deals in a concrete manner with the idea that science and technology serve simultaneously as contributors to ecological preservation and destruction.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITS

All exhibits presented in the College of Architecture Gallery, except where noted. For more information, please call 713.743.2400.

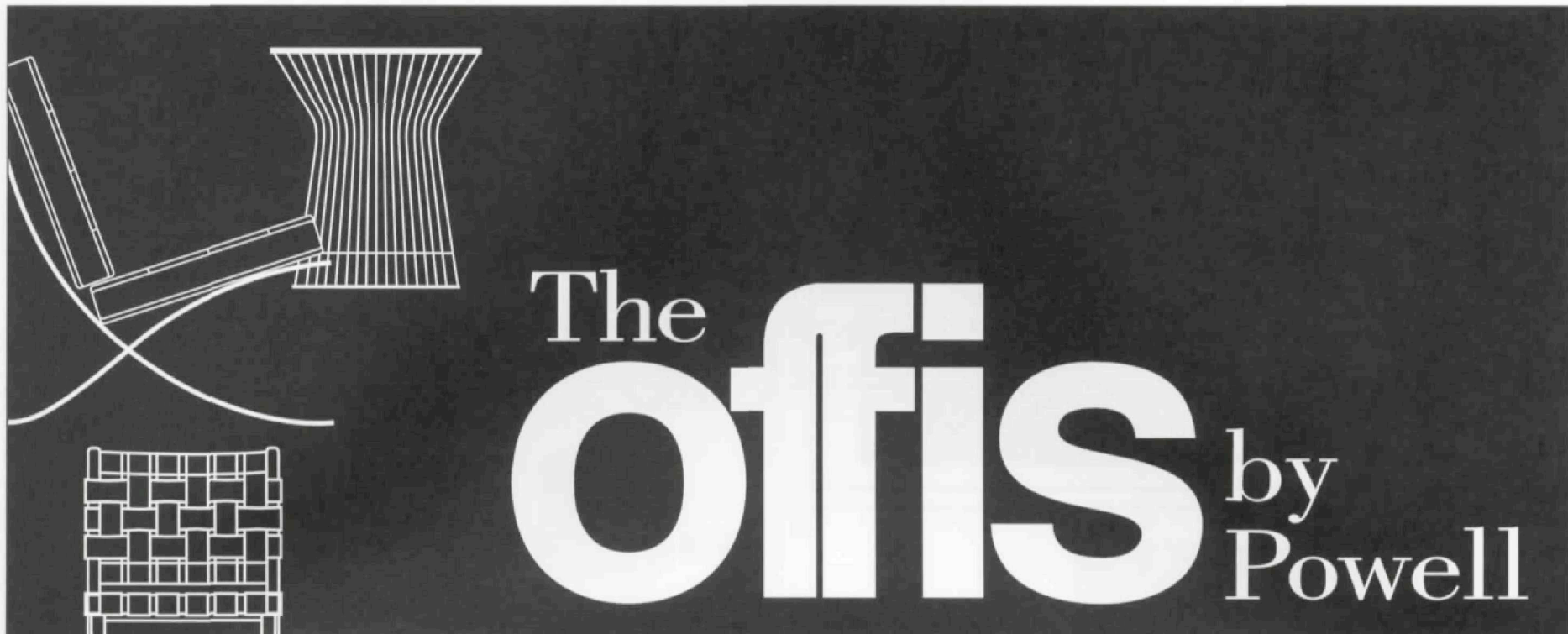
Through April 20

Ten Shades of Green, an exhibition organized by the Architectural League of New York, will be on display. The exhibition, which focuses on architectural excellence and environmental responsibility, seeks to help move those issues to the center of American discussion.

Featured in the show will be nine buildings from Europe and Australia, and a selection of U.S. houses that serve as examples of regionalist architecture and together illustrate the link between the American tradition and current work. The nine highlighted buildings are: Beyer Foundation Museum by Renzo Piano Building Workshop; Commerzbank Headquarters by Foster and Partners; Cotton Tree Pilot Housing by Clare Design; Götz Headquarters by Webler + Geissler Architekten; Hall 26 by Herzog + Partner; Minnaert Building by Neutelings Riedijk Architecten; Mont-Cenis Training Center by Jourda & Perraudin Architects, HHS Planer + Architekten; Slatford Green Millenium Project by Andrew Lee for Hackland + Dore Architects; and the University of Nottingham, Jubilee Campus by Michael Hopkins & Partners. The American houses featured include the Cotulla Ranch House by Lake/Flato Architects; Palmer House by Rick Joy Architect; Westcott-Lahar House by Fernau & Hartman Architects; and the Howard House by Brian MacKay-Lyons Architecture.

Monday, April 30, 6:30-10 p.m.

film.installation.metropolis, a site-specific media-activated temporary installation, will be on display for this one day only. Twenty-five architecture and fine arts students from the University of Houston will projection-activate installations at the Blaffer Gallery, Project Row Houses/Ana Dupree Sculpture Park, and Buffalo Bayou ArtPark near the Sabine Street Bridge. Videos and still images will be projected on temporary constructions/installations at the three sites. The installation is free and open to the public. Shuttle buses will be provided for site visits. For more information, contact Dwayne Bohuslav or Dietmar Froehlich at 713.743.2400.



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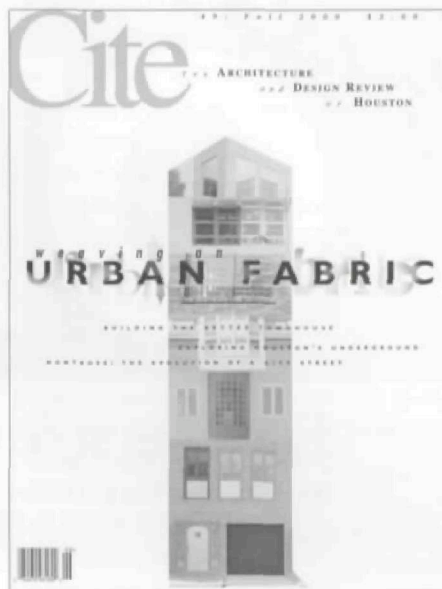


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LETTERS



The Rice Hotel, the Bayou Lofts, and the Houston Chronicle all seem to have their signs higher than 42.5 feet above the ground. One could guess that the Rice's sign is older than the ruling, but I'm not sure about the other two. Do you have any insight? Thank you, and great magazine!

Andrés F. Cueto
Ziegler Cooper Architects
Houston

Two of the buildings you mention, the Rice Hotel and the Houston Chronicle, had their signs grandfathered because they were already in place when the new sign ordinance was passed in 1993.

Though the Bayou Lofts sign was not up at the time, it received a pass because it replaced a sign that was up prior to the new ordinance, and replaced it using the same size letters and same brackets as the previous sign. Although the 1993 ordinance controls new signs in the Central Business District, requiring them to either abide by the height restriction or obtain a variance, it has no impact on previously existing signage. — The Editors

SIGN OF INTEREST

I found the article about Continental Airlines' corporate logo in the downtown skyline very interesting [Citelines, "Signs on High," by Mitchell J. Shields, Cite 49]. It was interesting not only because it covered the controversy, but also because it gave the reader a background on the issue. I wasn't myself aware of the 42.5-foot rule, and now that I know about it I really appreciate what it has done for Houston's skyline. I have, though, been more aware of the signage in the CBD, and I have noticed a few buildings that weren't mentioned as part of the approved exceptions. I wonder if you know why or how they got away with it.

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

MacKie & Kamrath Catalog Available

THE HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY and the Houston Metropolitan Research Center have released a 50-page catalog that lists the MacKie & Kamrath drawings available for viewing in the library's architectural archives. MacKie & Kamrath was one of Houston's most influential architectural firms in the 1950s and 1960s, promoting a Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced design aesthetic in such signature buildings as the Schlumberger Headquarters, San Felipe Courts (known today as the original Allen Parkway Village), Temple Emanu El synagogue, and the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute.

MacKie & Kamrath Guide to the Architectural Collection contains an introduction by former library archivist Louis J. Marchiafava and an essay on architects Fred MacKie and Karl Kamrath by former library architectural archivist Steven R. Strom. It joins two previous catalogs that listed the archives' holdings of drawings by architects Alfred C. Finn and Harvin C. Moore.

The MacKie & Kamrath Guide to the Architectural Collection is free to the public while copies last. Information on obtaining a copy is available from the Houston Public Library Archives Department, 713-247-1661. ■



Heinrich Hansen, Danish School - 1821 - 1890
Oil on Canvas 16 3/4" x 13"

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