

ROA GALA

HUE

Giving Back to a Vibrant Community

THE RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE'S 23RD ANNUAL GALA, held Saturday, November 14, 2009, brought 1,100 people to the second floor of the Hilton Americas-Houston. RDA President David Spaw welcomed the hushed crowd who later gave a standing ovation to the honorees, Bobby and Phoebe Tudor, when introduced by Gala Chairs David Harvey and Mikki Hebl. Phoebe is head of the campaign to expand and restore the 1926 Julia Ideson Building, Houston's first library. Bobby, the chairman and CEO of investment and banking firm Tudor, Pickering & Co., is currently co-chair of Rice University's \$1 billion Centennial Campaign.

Randall Walker, Bob Inaba, and Juliè Gauthier of Kirksey Architects designed the environment. A row of centrally located tables glowed green or purple, lit from underneath. Guests' tables were topped with red, yellow, or orange tablecloths and bright modern flowers by Rebecca Johnson. The evening included dinner and dancing to the music of Fried Ice Cream.

Guests pored over the fabulous auction assembled by Shelby Holman and Kim Kaase. Austin James and Liz Anders curated the collection of work donated by Houston artists and galleries. Andrea and Bob Crawmer and The OFIS assisted the auction team by warehousing and delivering auction items to the event.

David Andrews, fundraising chair, was in good spirits as his committee raised over \$500,000 to fund RDA programs, despite the challenging economic times. Lisa Gray wrote in the *Houston Chronicle* that the mood was "buoyant" and even interpreted the energy as a good omen for the architecture, engineering, and construction industries. Her conjecture speaks to the enormous effort of all those who made the event possible.



Honorees Bobby and Phoebe Tudor



Peter Merwin and Margaret Lawler



Joan and David Spaw



Lynn and Ty Kelly



RDA Gala auction table



Holly Khalil, Austin James, and Liz Anders



David and Barbara



Barbara Amadio and Suzy Minor



John and



Camilo Parra and Meng Yeh



Nicole Springer



Kimberly Johnson and Greg



Mikki Hept and

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