

Rice Design Alliance Events

Fall Lecture Series

American Dreams

RDA will explore the idea of the utopian community as it has evolved in the United States over the past century, with topics ranging from the 19th-century company town to the virtual city of tomorrow. *Wednesdays, September 25 through October 16.*

September 25

THE DISAPPEARING CITY: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S UTOPIA AND OUR REALITY Robert Fishman, professor of history at Rutgers University, author of *Urban Utopias in the Twentieth Century: Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Le Corbusier.*

October 2

ARCHITECTS AND WORKERS: DESIGNING THE COMPANY TOWN Margaret Crawford, chair of the history and theory of architecture program at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, author of *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns.*

October 9

AN AIRPLANE IN EVERY GARAGE: HOUSING AND THE WAR YEARS Donald Albrecht, curator for architecture and design exhibitions, contributor and editor of *World War II and the American Dream: How Wartime Building Changed a Nation.*

October 16

BRAVE NEW WORLDS: MODERN AMERICA AND THE UTOPIA OF CONSUMPTION Bruce C. Webb, dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Houston and co-editor of *Urban Forms: Suburban Dreams and Constancy and Change in Architecture.*

All lectures will be held in the Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, at 8 p.m. Series tickets are available in advance at the RDA office. RDA and MFAH members \$20, students \$10, nonmembers \$30. If available, single tickets will be sold at the door: RDA and MFAH members \$7, students \$3, nonmembers \$10. For further information, please call 713.527.4876.

Cinemarchitecture VI

A film series, in collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, held in conjunction with *American Dreams*. The films to be featured are:

BAUHAUS IN AMERICA. Directed by Judith Pearlman (U.S., 1994, 86 minutes). The story of the U.S. Bauhaus and its influence in the sweep of history from the height of the Great Depression to the dawn of the millennium.

*Friday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.**

*Saturday, September 14, 11 a.m.**

Friday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 10, 1 p.m.

**Judith Pearlman will introduce these screenings and answer questions afterwards.*

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW. Directed by Tom Johnson and Lance Bird (U.S., 1985, 83 minutes). An engaging documentary appraisal of the legendary New York World's Fair of 1939 and the more than 40 million people who glimpsed the future there.

Friday, September 27, 7:30 p.m.

THINGS TO COME. Directed by William Cameron Menzies (U.S., 1936, 92 minutes). Raymond Massey and Ralph Richardson star in this elaborate science fiction film, a stunning visualization of H. G. Wells's depiction of the future with spacious sets (created by Vincent Korda with Moholy-Nagy), fabulous costumes, and vibrant music.

Friday, September 27, 9:30 p.m.

BUCKMINSTER FULLER: THINKING OUT LOUD. Directed by Karen Goodman and Kirk Simon (U.S., 1995, 96 minutes). An affectionate and admiring portrait of the visionary inventor and philosopher who is considered a genius by some and a crackpot by others.

Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.

All films in the Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Evening admission: RDA, AIA, MFAH members, students, and seniors (55+) \$4; nonmembers \$5. Matinees: RDA, AIA, MFAH members, students, and seniors (55+) \$3. Double features (both films): RDA, AIA, MFAH members, students, and seniors (55+) \$5, nonmembers \$6. For information, please call 713.639.7515.

Lecture Series

The Houston Talks

Fall 1996 and Spring 1997

The Rice Design Alliance, the Rice University School of Architecture, and the University of Houston College of Architecture will for the first time collaborate on a series of three lectures this fall

and spring, 1997. The speakers will also spend time informally with architecture students at both Rice and UH. Speakers will be:

October 23

Spanish architect Enric Miralles, Barcelona.

February 3, 1997

David Chipperfield, David Chipperfield Architects, London.

February 13, 1997

Architect Will Bruder, New River, Arizona.

Looking Ahead to Spring . . .

Spring 1997 Lecture Series

Northern Lights: New Canadian Architects

RDA will invite four Canadian architects to present and discuss their work.

Speakers include John Patkau (March 5) and Peter Cardew (March 12), both of Vancouver.

Wednesdays, February 26 through March 19.

April 1997: Annual RDA Members-Only Architecture Tour

Rancheros Deluxe

The ranch-style house, which had its heyday just after World War II, is newly eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The annual RDA tour will look at Houston's best examples of this house type.

April 1997: An Exhibition of the Work of Houston Architects and Designers

The Rice Design Alliance will be calling for entries for an exhibition at Lawndale Art and Performance Center of work by Houston designers, including furniture, interior and landscape design, and architecture.

Veneer to Eternity: 1996 RDA Gala to Honor Raymond Brochstein

Reserve Saturday, November 9, for the annual RDA gala, this year to be held in the newly retrofitted Houston Industries Plaza, 1111 Louisiana. The building was chosen specifically because its lobby features beautiful bird's-eye-maple veneer millwork crafted by Brochsteins Inc., whose president, Raymond Brochstein, will be presented the 1996 RDA Award for Design Excellence at the gala.

Raymond Brochstein has demonstrated a deep commitment to making Houston a better and more beautiful place to live through his involvement and generous support of many civic, educational, and arts organizations, including the Rice Design Alliance, of which he has served as president. A graduate of the Rice University School of Architecture and a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Raymond Brochstein is president of Brochsteins Inc., the family business established in 1935. As one of the leading manufacturers of architectural woodwork and custom-designed furniture, Brochsteins has made an enormous contribution to the built environment by bringing impeccable craftsmanship to the interiors of law offices, banks, retail establishments, hotels, museums, and corporate headquarters, including Houston Industries. Working with some of the nation's most outstanding architecture firms, Brochsteins has demonstrated a sensitivity to the requirements of architects and interior designers alike.

Gala proceeds will support the 1996-97 programs of the Rice Design Alliance, including the publication of *Cite: The Architecture and Design Review of Houston.*

veneer to eternity is being chaired by Julie Baker, with assistance from David T. George, underwriting; Sarah Balinskas and Judy Kugle, auction; Charley Kifer, environment; and Annette Schatte, invitations.

Tables for ten and tickets are available in the following categories: \$10,000 Underwriter; \$5,000 Benefactor; \$2,500 Patron; \$1,000 Sponsor (four tickets); \$250 Friend (one ticket). A limited number of tickets are available for \$125 each. For further information, please contact the Rice Design Alliance at 713.527.4876.

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

111 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605-1000 TEL: (312) 427-0900 FAX: (312) 427-0940

Managing Editors

CITE
The Architecture and Design Review of Houston
Rice Design Alliance (M55)
6100 South Main Street
Houston, Texas 77005-1892

22 July 1996

Dear Editors:

I have recently received the Spring issue of CITE, and would like to extend to you my thanks and congratulations. I was particularly impressed by the content and balance of the articles, and the fine graphic design. The publication is a joy to read.

Sincerely,

Martha Thorne
Associate Curator of Architecture

Editorial

Cite's first editorial committee [in 1982] had varying ideas and approaches, but it was united in the belief that the city of Houston was unique, full of potential, and more than a little audacious. . . . The discussions were marked by an optimistic desire that the publication would reach those who cared about Houston and thus would make a difference in the continued building and rebuilding of the city. . . . The themes [of Cite articles] have been diverse and not necessarily connected, expressing the interests of the editors and writers at a particular moment. . . . [We] hope that Cite will always be a place of youthful idealism and that its vitality will never stagnate.

William F. Stern, *Cite at Five*
(Cite 18: Fall 1987)

The postmodernist idea underlying Cite was that the "reality" of Houston was a purely social construction, and that to tell the city's true story it was necessary to look beneath and behind . . . the public understanding of architecture. Such inspection, according to postmodern theory, could provide a way to rediscover and reestablish the shared, even archetypal, forms of building and landscape that had been lost in modernism's rupture with historical patterns. . . . But by clinging to its roots — to the ideas that Houston is not a thing but our ongoing fabrication, and that the city's true story lies in structures hidden by surface events — Cite is still creating a necessity for itself.

Joel Warren Barna, *Cite at Ten*
(Cite 30: Spring-Summer 1993)

Cite encourages its readers to let us know what you think. We welcome letters to the editor responding to Cite articles or expressing opinions about architectural and design issues. Send correspondence to Editor, Cite Magazine, 1973 West Gray, Suite 1, Houston, Texas 77019 or fax us at 713.523.6108.

Cite 34 party, June 20, 1996, hosted by Mesa Grill



Left to right: RDA executive director Linda Sylvan and Cite editorial committee members Bill Stern and Jay Baker.



Cite graphic designers Craig Minor (center) and Cheryl Brzezinski-Beckett (right) of Minor Design Group with Phil Beckett (left).

Assuming the chairmanship of Cite's editorial board is a daunting prospect, especially in light of its 14-year continuing success story. From the start Cite has been a collaborative effort forged, and sometimes forced, through the professional dedication and community spirit of many individuals. Common purpose, not unanimity of opinion, has characterized this publication. Two of my mentors, from whom I take these reins, have fostered critical, professional journalism along with a self-proclaimed youthful idealism and vitality. Bill Stern and Bruce Webb have served as Cite editorial co-chairmen since 1991. Both have been involved with the magazine since its inception, and together or individually they have edited 14 of the 35 issues. During their leadership, Cite has been recognized with numerous awards, including grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Houston Endowment Inc., and the Susan Vaughan Foundation; a Citation of Honor from the Houston Chapter, American Institute of Architects; the Texas Award for Historical Preservation; the Art Directors Club of Houston Bronze Medal; inclusion in *Print* magazine's Regional Design Annual; and a nomination for the prestigious Chrysler Award for Design Excellence.

The foundation of Cite's growth and success is the flexible (some say chaotic) relationship between the Cite editorial board, guest editors who shape each issue, managing editor Barrie Scardino (now in her second issue), RDA executive director Linda Sylvan (Cite managing editor for 12 years), the RDA front office, photographer Paul Hester (who has been shooting Houston scenes for Cite for 14 years), talented guest editors and writers, and a series of outstanding graphic designers: Herman Dyal, Lorraine Wild, Alisa Bales Baur, and now Craig Minor with associate Cheryl Brzezinski-Beckett. Cite's high standards of writing and illustration, review and publication are maintained through the successful fundraising of the Rice Design Alliance's board of directors and staff, whose support of RDA publications remains unequivocal.

Whenever the Cite family has stepped back to look at its efforts, from Gordon Wittenberg (editor of the first issue in August 1982), to Bill Stern at the fifth anniversary of the publication, and Joel Barna at its tenth anniversary, the emphasis has been on a grass-roots, proletarian style, emphasizing critical commentary and ideas over glossy treatments. In retrospect, Cite regularly sought to encourage new writers, many of them local architects, teachers, and planners, who at times wrote opinionated articles, risking their own professional advancement.

To build on this success is our challenge. We seek to get the word out with new voices, more regularly, and in potentially a more manageable electronic and hardcopy format, but Cite's mission — to provide high-quality architectural and design news — will not change.

- We plan a regular release of smaller issues. Occasionally we will have thematic "block-buster" issues with our recent 60-plus-page format.
- With a regular quarterly publication schedule, our articles will investigate more late-breaking events and urban issues.
- We will solicit reader response in both letters to the editor and comments to our Web site: <http://riceinfo.rice.edu/projects/RDA>
- We will seek wider circulation of the magazine throughout Texas and the United States.
- We will continue to seek promising editors and writers new to Cite.
- We will use the power of the Internet and modern mechanics of publication to document issues of Cite on our Web site.

Cite, while expanding its geographical focus, will remain tied to the city it examines, seeking out the good and the bad, and raising public awareness about the intricate link between the quality of life and the quality of the environment. In revealing and examining conditions that underlie this most anomalous and perhaps most modern American city as well as reporting regional news, Cite serves as a continuing chronicle of how cities come to grips with the evolution of the modern world.

Rives Taylor
Chairman, Cite Editorial Committee