Rice Design Alliance

Events

Lecture Series

Northern Lights:
New Canadian Architects
For its Spring 1997 lecture series, RDA has invited five Canadian architects to present and discuss their work.

February 26 through March 26.

Phyllis Lambert, director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal.
“Mies van der Rohe and the CCA – A Personal Perspective.”

March 5
John Patkau, Vancouver, British Columbia

March 12
Peter Cardew, Vancouver, British Columbia

March 19
Brigitte Shim, Toronto, Ontario

March 26
Brian MacKay-Lyons, Halifax, Nova Scotia

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 $25, students $12, nonmembers $40. 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.

The Houston Talks

The Rice Design Alliance, the Rice University School of Architecture, and the University of Houston College of Architecture are for the first time collaborating on a lecture series that continues in the spring. The lectures are free and open to the public. Speakers will not only give a public lecture but also spend time informally with students at both schools. In addition to Enric Miralles who lectured on October 23, speakers are:

February 3
David Chipperfield, London.
Lecture at 8 p.m. in the Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center, Rice University.

February 13
Lecture at 8 p.m. in the Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston.

Exhibitions and Events

Houston Works
The Rice Design Alliance will be calling for entries for a spring exhibition at the Lawndale Art and Performance Center. RDA plans to exhibit a variety of work by Houston designers, including furniture, interior and landscape design, and architecture. April 3 through May 17.

Rancheros Deluxe
RDA's annual members-only architecture tour will feature the best Houston examples of the American ranch-style house, which had its heyday just after World War II and is newly eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. April 26 and 27.

To the Editor

Thank you for sending the issues of Cite: The Architecture and Design Review of Houston. Copies were made available to our faculty and students and sent to the Technical Reference Center. Cite is a first-class publication with a broad range of articles, and the layout is well thought out. I especially enjoyed the articles by Stephen Fox, Richard Ingersoll, and Michael Benedikt. All three have presented lectures to our college and were well received. We look forward to the next issue of Cite.

Julius M. Gebou, AIA
Head of Department, Department of Architecture, Texas A & M University

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The copies of your fall issue of Cite arrived today, and I am still trembling from excitement. The layout and design is simply fantastic. I am especially pleased with the spread on Texas Southern University. Alvia Wardlaw did a wonderful job in capturing the essence of TSU. I know the entire university family would join me in saying thank you for including Texas Southern University, I have shared copies with our 36 student organizations, the Office of the President, our Board of Regents, and the University Archives in the Robert J. Terry Library.

Again, we thank you for having the vision, thought, and insight to include Texas Southern University. We wish you continued success with a wonderful publication.

Eva K. Pickens
Director of Communication and University Relations, Texas Southern University

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The extraordinary sculptor Carroll Simms happens to be male, and thus should have been referred to by the pronoun “he” in the article about the TSU campus in Cite 35.

Since the campus was nominally the focus of the article, and the central plaza was recently dedicated to him, Simms’s works deserved more than the passing notice they received.

His works at TSU, UH, in the Music Hall, and other locations demonstrate that his true peers are Jacques Lipchitz, Jacob Epstein, and Henry Moore.

We want to encourage everyone with an interest in sculpture to visit the Carroll Simms Plaza at Texas Southern.

Bill Howe and Jeannette Dixon, Houston
From the Editor

FOLLOWING THE MONEY

The issue behind this issue is capital — money — the force that makes built projects happen. As political and social changes occur in this millennial decade, CITE thought it was time to look at projects around us, how they are funded, and in what ways they influence our community. With the help of four new writers to our pages, CITE 36 examines publicly and privately funded initiatives:

- Richard Longstreth and Drexel Turner reflect on West Gray and River Oaks Shopping Center, while David Kaplan explores the Rice University Village. In both cases private dollars have been plowed back in to make older retail developments economically viable.
- Vincent Hauser writes about federal dollars put to work to preserve our architectural heritage.
- Jeffrey Ochsner examines the expenditure of Metro tax dollars that hope to transform the downtown streetscape and challenge the pre-eminence of a formidable, well-financed private tunnel system down under.
- And, in an introspective arc, George Greanias considers the framework of the city’s infrastructure, the proper role of public tax dollars in influencing the development of the private sector, and how we should frame the dialogue about public-private partnerships that shape a city.

No one person, corporation, board, administration, or referendum has autonomous power to make decisions about how money is spent that effects our public environment. Awareness and discussion might raise the level of community involvement — so that what is built around us is an accurate reflection of the public will.

Barry Moore, FAIA
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VENER TO ETERNITY

RDA Honors Raymond Brochstein

The tenth annual Rice Design Alliance fundraising gala, *Veneer to Eternity*, was held on Saturday, November 9, 1996, at the newly retrofitted Houston Industries Plaza, 1111 Louisiana. A sellout RDA crowd of 700 turned out to honor Raymond Brochstein, president of Brochsteins Inc. Raymond's friends and supporters were given a chance to admire the beautiful bird's-eye-maple veneer mill-work installed by Brochsteins in the lobby spaces of Houston Industries Plaza.

Raymond Brochstein, a graduate of the Rice University School of Architecture, has carried on the fine tradition established by his father and his uncle, who founded Brochsteins Inc. in 1935. As one of the nation's leading manufacturers of architectural woodworking and custom-designed commercial furniture, Brochsteins has made an enormous contribution to the built environment by bringing impeccable craftsmanship to the interiors of corporate and professional offices, banks, retail establishments, hotels, museums, and clubs. Raymond Brochstein has worked with some of the nation's most outstanding architecture firms and has demonstrated a sensitivity to the requirements of architects and interior designers alike. His deep commitment to education is demonstrated by his support of Houston Independent School District programs as well as architecture programs at Rice University, the University of Houston, and the Rice Design Alliance. Raymond Brochstein, who this year was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, has helped make Houston a better and more beautiful place to live through both his professional work and his support of many civic and cultural efforts.

RDA president Louis Skidmore and his wife, Margaret, and gala chairman Julie Baker and her husband, Jay, greeted the guests as they entered the marble, granite, wood, glass, and stainless-steel interiors of the building, which is the new corporate home of Houston Lighting & Power and its parent company. The architect, Richard Keating of DMJM Keating, flew in from Los Angeles for the gala, as did the interior designer of the elegant executive floors, Debra Lehman-Smith, who traveled with her partners from Washington, D.C.: H&L's David Barker with his wife, Carol, David George (who also served as gala underwriting chairman) with his wife, Norma, and Hugh Rice Kelly with his wife, Molly, received accolades from gala guests.

Many of the professionals whose companies worked on the project were on hand as well, including Charlie Baughn of Hines Interests (development manager), Jory Alexander and Wayne Shull of Kendall/Heaton (document architect), Scott Ziegler of Ziegler Cooper Architects (interiors architect), and contractors George Miner of Miner-Dederick Constructors and Bobby Surles of the Tellepsen Corporation.

Introductions in a memorable veneer-clad invitation by graphics designer Deborah Brochstein, the gala's theme, *Vener to Eternity*, was interpreted by architect and designer Charley Kifer with a 12-foot-high veneer Môbius strip, built and installed by Brochsteins, that guests passed through on their way up the escalator to the second-floor lobby. There auction co-chairs, Sarah Balinski and Judy Kugle, had more than a hundred auction items on display, including a figured-maple- and stainless-steel serving cart designed for the occasion by Debra Lehman-Smith and fabricated by Brochsteins; a week in a 300-year-old stone farmhouse near Saintes, France, renovated and donated by Taft Architects; and a tour of Hakeem Olajuwon's Sugar Land home by the owner and his architect, William T. Cannady.

For dinner, catered by Truffles & Flourishes, guests made their way down to the tunnel-level court, where each table featured its own Môbius-strip centerpiece, designed by Kifer and constructed by Rice architecture students under the direction of Brochsteins craftsmen.

Following dinner, Mr. Brochstein was "roasted" by Keating, Lehman-Smith, and his longtime friend, Ben Brewer. The program concluded with the presentation by Louis Skidmore of the 1996 RDA Award for Design Excellence, a...
"Magnolia" Steuben glass bowl donated by Neiman Marcus, to honor Brooks, who responded with light-hearted comments. Proceeds of $217,000 from the gala will help support the educational programs of the Rice Design Alliance. The RDA board of directors would like to thank all of the gala committee chairs and volunteers as well as Houston Industries for making their building available and the RDA staff for their support. We would also like to recognize our generous underwriters, whose contributions will help make possible the 1997 programs and publication of Cite.

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Left to Right:
1. Louis Skidmore, Raymond Brooks, David George, and John Baker.
2. Shawn Photog, Sara Bellenshin, Jim Sanders, and Judy Kugle.
3. Louis and Margaret Skidmore, their son Christopher Skidmore with his fiancée Anne Guettler.
5. Jay and Julie Baker.
6. Guests looking over auction items.
7. Mosaic tiling centerpieces of the gala and under construction by Rice architecture students at Brochstein's Inc.