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Stunning 2 story contemporary home. This designer's home is very open and bright and features a unique mural in interior/exterior den as well as hot tub. \$249,000.

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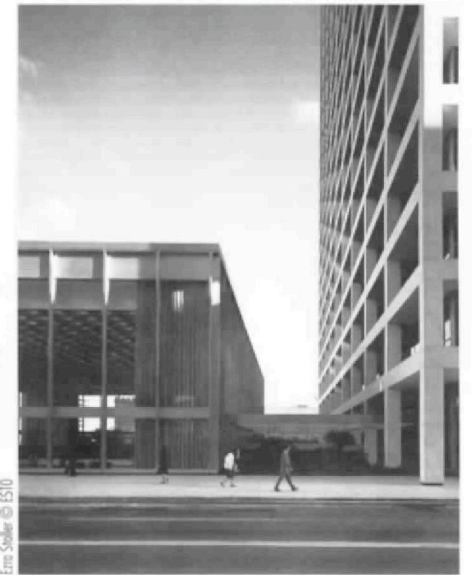
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LETTERS



courtesy Dallas Museum of Art



Eric Stoller © E510

TAMAYO MURAL LIVES

I was most pleased to read Vincent Hauser's article, "Design Industry and Architecture: Houston at Mid-Century," in the winter issue of *Cite* [40]. As a native Houstonian who is especially interested in mid-century architecture and design, I am pleased by *Cite's* efforts to make its readers more aware of the rapid loss of buildings and interiors of that vintage from our urban landscape.

I write simply to comment on Rufino Tamayo's great masterpiece, *América*, which Hauser notes as once having graced the upper lobby of the Bank of the Southwest. Two years ago the Dallas Museum of Art discovered the work in storage in Fort Worth and subsequently arranged for it once again to hang in a grand entry space. If you motor up I-45 and visit us you can view the canvas much as you did in its original setting, high on a wall in the atrium of the museum's Hamon Building [above], designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes in 1993. While preserving *América* within its original setting would have been a better solution, the Dallas Museum of Art is pleased to place this important 1950s Mexican painting once again before the public.

Charles L. Venable, Ph.D.
Deputy Director and Chief Curator
Dallas Museum of Art

KEEP THE FLAME ALIVE

While I have consistently enjoyed and appreciated *Cite*, the winter issue [*Cite* 40] is quite exceptional. The unbridled optimism represented by modern Houston is tangibly expressed in the articles you collected, and the concerns couldn't be more timely. I very much appreciated Bill Stern's introduction, and I am deeply saddened that images like the very beautiful Stoller photograph [above] that flanks it might be the only lasting legacy of the extraordinary First City National Bank Building. The built environment is the most complex form of cultural history, and I believe the flame lit by the values nested in the modern movement must be kept alive.

Kevin Alter
Associate Director, Center for American
Architecture and Design
School of Architecture, University of
Texas at Austin



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Another One Bites The Dust

On Friday, April 10, after a month-long asbestos removal, demolition began on the banking hall of the First City National Bank at 1001 Main Street. [see *Cite* 40]

This is the second grand building designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill to be demolished in the past year. The Great Southern Life Insurance Company Building (1965) on Buffalo Speedway was demolished for an apartment complex in 1997.

The First City tower will remain standing, and the banking hall site will be used for a new parking garage. First City's banking hall was the location of the Rice Design Alliance gala, "Sheetrock Around the Clock," on November 11, 1994.

*photographs by
Louis H., Skidmore, Jr.*



Cite

The Architecture and Design
Review of Houston

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The Rice Design Alliance

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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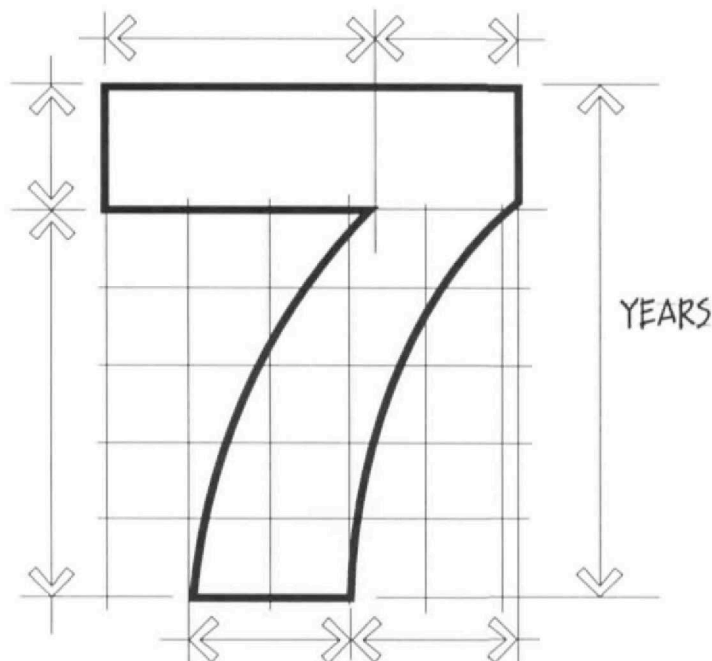
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CALENDAR

ANTONIO GAUDI

Saturday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday,
April 5, 7:00 p.m.
Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts,
Houston. 713.527.4876.

Antonio Gaudi's Sagrada Familia church
in Barcelona, Spain, is studied in a
unique, beautifully photographed film
delicately scored with Catalonian folk
music. Cosponsored by the Rice Design
Alliance and Museum of Fine Arts, Hous-
ton. Tickets \$4 (RDA or MFAH mem-
bers), \$5 (general public).

GORDON MATTA-CLARK FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.
Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts,
Houston. 713.527.4876.

Thursday, April 16, 3:00 p.m.
Lecture Theater, Gerald D. Hines College
of Architecture, University of Houston.
713.743.2400.

Friday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.
Herring Hall, Room 124, Rice University
713.527.4876.

Panel discussions will follow each film
and video presentation.

MODERN HOMECRAFT: THE HOUSES OF KATHARINE B. MOTT AND HARRY L. MOTT

Wednesday, April 22, 8:00 p.m.
Lecture by Stephen Fox
Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts,
Houston. 713.527.4876.

Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26
Annual RDA members-only architecture
tour. 713.527.4876.

Katharine and Harry Mott, working with
Indianapolis architects Lee Burns and
Edward James, built houses that are con-
sidered neighborhood landmarks. The
houses were designed in French or Eng-
lish versions of the picturesque manorial
style, one of the most popular suburban
styles of the 1920s. The tour will feature
the following six houses:

- 1635 South Boulevard (1928)
- 1659 South Boulevard (1928)
- 1660 South Boulevard (1929)
- 2421 Brentwood Drive (1929)
- 1419 Kirby Drive (1930)
- 3263 Del Monte Drive (1930)

RE-RAIL: FIRESIDE CHAT

Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.
James A. Baker III Institute for Public Pol-
icy, Rice University. 713.527.4876.

This program will focus on the history of
proposals for mass transit systems for
Houston and discuss the issues surround-
ing mass transit in the Houston region.
Panelists include Mayor Lee Brown and
Steven Klineberg, professor of sociology,
Rice University.

RDA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 2, 6:00 p.m.
Moore School of Music, University of
Houston. 713.527.4876.

DOCUMENTING HOUSTON: THE WORK OF PAUL HESTER

October 16 through January 3, 1999.
Menil Collection. 713.527.4876.

An exhibition of approximately 60 black-
and-white images of Houston by photog-
rapher Paul Hester. The exhibition will
showcase photographs from *Cite* and
chronicle the city's development since
1972.

CHANGING FOCUS: PHOTOGRAPHERS VIEW PLACE FALL 1998 LECTURE SERIES

Wednesdays, September 16 through
October 21
Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts,
Houston. 713.527.4876.

This series will focus on the relationship
between photography and the built envi-
ronment. Speakers include Eugenia Parry,
John Szarkowski, Julius Schulman Tim
Hursley, and Alex McLean.

RDA 1998 GALA

Saturday, November 7
713.527.4876.

HOUSTON TALKS: DEANS' LECTURE SERIES

RDA and the schools of architecture at
Rice University and the University of
Houston cosponsor this series, which fea-
tures international architects.

Wednesday, November 18
Jan Kaplickey, Future Systems, London.

CITE WINS HOUSTON PRESS CLUB AWARDS

For the second year in a row *Cite* has taken first-place honors from the annual Houston Press Club Excellence in Journalism Awards. The event, held at the Rice Memorial Center on Thursday, April 2, was attended by local journalists and TV personalities. Mayor Lee Brown was given the Newsmaker of the Year Award.

Minor Design received first place for magazine design and layout for *Cite 39 Texas Places*. Minor Design's award this year follows last year's first- and second-place awards for *Cite* design.

Drexel Turner took second place for magazine news with his piece in *Cite 38*, "Houston, We Have a Problem." Barrie Scardino won first place for magazine news for her story, "WaterWold," on Houston's Cotswold project, published in *Cite 37*.



Mitchell J. Shields.

NEW CITE MANAGING EDITOR

Beginning with the next issue, Houston journalist Mitchell J. Shields will take over as managing editor of *Cite*. Shields, who for the last four years was the managing editor of the *Houston Press*, has worked for publications in Little Rock, New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. A native of Florida, he is a graduate of the University of Georgia and was an Oakley Fellow in American Studies at the University of Southern California, an NEH Fellow in Technological Studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Rockefeller Fellow in Religious Studies for Journalists at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His articles have appeared in publications ranging from the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* in the United States to *Geo* and *Transatlantic* in Germany, *Adventure* in Holland, and *Scope* in South Africa.



Craig Minor accepts the Houston Press Club's first-place award for magazine design from Linda Sylvan.

Coming in
Cite

Cite 42: Summer in the City

Interview with Mayor Lee Brown

Mitchell J. Shields on ordinances

David Dillon on Chinati

George Greanias on the city

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