

S.I.ber SPACE

1998
RICE
DESIGN
ALLIANCE
GALA
Honors S.I. MORRIS

On Saturday, November 7, 830 guests were welcomed to the Rice Design Alliance's 12th annual fundraising gala by event co-chairs Laura and Tom Bellows and Erminie and Dave Chapman, along with RDA president Marilyn Archer. This year's event, which broke records both in the number of people attending and in the amount of money raised, honored Seth Irwin — better known as S.I. — Morris, a man who for the last six decades has been involved in the design of many of Houston's best known and most notable buildings, among them the Astrodome and the Wortham Theater Center.

In keeping with Morris' history of looking toward the future, gala environment chair Roger Soto transformed the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center into what was designated S.I.-ber-Space. The colorful setting for the RDA gala was inspired by multi-colored Hoberman transforming spheres, which were used as centerpieces for the dining tables. Bright satin cloths in red, orange, green, purple, yellow, and blue covered those tables, and equally bright banners using the S.I.-ber-Space logo were hung from the ceiling.

Prior to sitting down to dinner, the crowd of architects, design professionals, urban dwellers, and Morris family friends bid hotly on 140 items featured in an auction organized by designer Vicki McIntosh and her auction committee. Some of the more popular items up for bid were a replica of the playhouse at the Children's Museum donated by CE Ward Constructors, a two-week stay in a 19th-century French farmhouse donated by Grace Pierce and Lise Liddell, a stay in Frank Lloyd Wright's Seth Peterson cottage on Wisconsin's Mirror Lake compliments of Mayer, Brown & Platt, and a dinner of wild game prepared by Charlotte Rothwell.

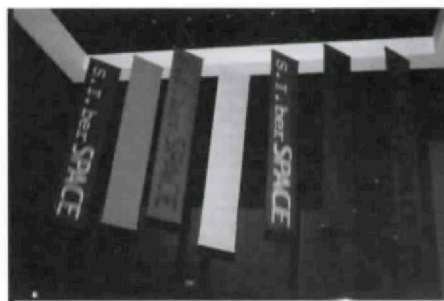
Richard Brown's Swing Orchestra provided music throughout the evening. Following a memorable meal prepared by the Stone Kitchen, S.I. Morris was presented the RDA Award for Design Excellence, a "Magnolia" Steuben glass bowl donated by Neiman Marcus. When the award was announced, Morris was given a standing ovation. Cheering him on were

his wife Susie; daughters Maria Morris Hambourg and Laura Morris Walls with husbands Witt and Robert; sons Peter, David, and John with wives Fan, Anne, and Susannah; granddaughters Sara, Lizzie, and Ali; and many family friends.

A consummate businessman, S.I. Morris was a major factor in the building of not only the Astrodome (1965) and the Wortham Center (1987), but also the Houston Country Club (1957), the First City National Bank Building (1961), the U.S. Post Office (1962), the Electric Tower (1968), the Houston Post Building (1970), the Tin Houses (1974), the Houston Public Library (1975), the Texaco Office Building (1977), the First Baptist Church (1976), the Glassell School of Art (1978), One Riverway (1978), Three Riverway (1980), and the Inn on the Park (1981). Morris also was instrumental in accomplishing the construction of the last work designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Brown Pavilion.

The Rice Design Alliance Award for Design Excellence is one of many awards given Morris over the years, among them Fellow designation by the American Institute of Architects (1962); the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Rice University (1981); the Gold Medal Award from the Association of Rice University alumni (1991); the Llewellen Pitts Award from the Texas Society of Architects (1992); and the Master Builder Award from the Association of General Contractors (1992). (For more about S.I. Morris, see the story on page 30).

The gala's underwriting co-chairs Guy Jackson and Jeff Ryan and their committee exceeded all expectations with 1998's event. More than \$300,000 was raised to help support the Rice Design Alliance's educational programs and the publication of the RDA journal *Cite*. The RDA board of directors would like to thank all of the gala committee chairs and volunteers as well as the RDA staff for making the gala so successful. We would also like to recognize our generous underwriters, contributors, and auction donors for their generous contributions. ■



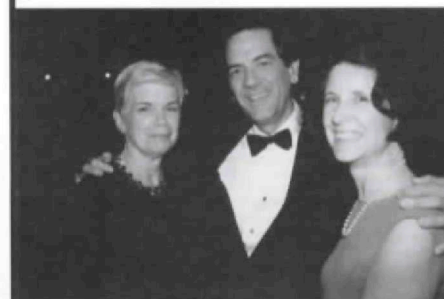
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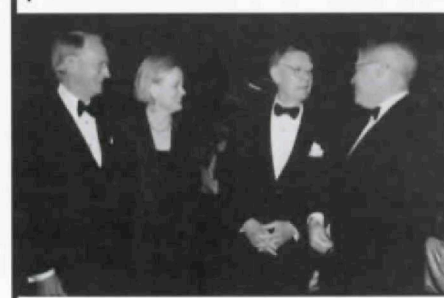
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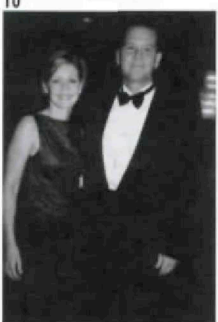
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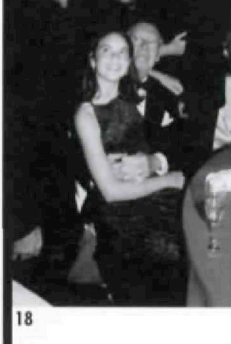
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1. Banners with S.Iber-Space logo.
2. Susie Morris with granddaughters Ali, Lizzie, and Sarah Morris.
3. Eleni and Roger Soto and Charlie and Karen Baughn.
4. RDA board member Susan Keeton with Peter and Fan Morris.
5. Gala co-chair Dave Chapman, RDA president Marilyn Archer, honoree S.I. Morris, and gala co-chair Tom Bellows.
6. Evan Hopkins, Gerry Fehn, and Loretta Fulvio.
7. Patty and Richard Everatt.
8. Cameron Armstrong and Terrell James.
9. Ann Schwepps Ashmun and Laura Morris Walls.

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11. Kimberly and James Burnett, RDA secretary.
12. Nonya and Jonathan Grenader.
13. Claire Jackson and gala underwriting co-chair Jeff Ryan.
14. Phoebe and Bobby Tudor.
15. Yvonne and Scott Ziegler.
16. Ann and Charlie Kifer.
17. Susie and S.I. Morris.
18. S.I. Morris with granddaughter Lizzie Morris.

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