

ENGINEUITY!

1999 RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE GALA Honors Walter P. Moore Jr.

In what has almost become an annual tradition, the Rice Design Alliance fundraising gala this year broke all previous records for attendance, underwriting contributions, and auction receipts. The 13th annual gala, held in November at the El Paso Energy building, raised more than \$320,000 to support RDA programs and *Cite* magazine in the next millennium.

The evening honored admired engineer and educator Walter P. Moore Jr., who until his death in June 1998 was chairman of the Houston-based consulting firm Walter P. Moore and Associates, Inc. Under Moore's direction the company became nationally known for its design of high-rise buildings and sports facilities, among other large projects. Moore was also professor of civil engineering and architecture, director of the Center for Building Design and Construction, director of the Center for Construction Education, and holder of the Thomas A. Bullock Endowed Chair in Leadership and Innovation at Texas A&M University.

In recognition of Moore's achievements, his wife, Mary Ann Moore, was presented the RDA Award for Design Excellence, a "Magnolia" Steuben glass bowl donated by Neiman Marcus Town and Country.

Gala co-chairs Jennifer and Burke Windham, along with RDA president Jory Alexander, gala underwriting chairman Larry Whaley, and Mary Ann Moore, welcomed 900 guests to the rehabilitated 30,000 square-foot mezzanine level of the El Paso Energy building on Saturday, November 6. The venue of the gala was formerly the Tenneco building; designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in 1963, the building set the architectural standard against which all subsequent Houston skyscrapers have been measured. According to architectural historian Stephen Fox, it has never been surpassed. When El Paso Energy took over the building, Gensler was retained to restore the executive floors and the mezzanine level, transforming the latter from a banking hall into El Paso Energy's main reception and exhibition space. El Paso Energy CFO Bob Cavnar was on hand at the gala to receive kudos for returning one of the most imposing modern spaces in downtown Houston to public accessibility after a 16-year hiatus.

Gala environment chair Randall Walker designed the evening's centerpieces, which consisted of twinkle-light-

festooned disks that held a bowl of floating flowers. Rice University architecture students constructed the centerpieces. Walker was also responsible for the large banners on which were depicted the El Paso Energy building as well as several buildings engineered by Walter P. Moore Jr., among them Miller Outdoor Theater and Rice University's Duncan Hall. Fiona McGettigan and Alan Krathaus of Core Design designed the gala invitation and program and the graphics for the event.

The crowd of architects, design professionals, and urban dwellers bid hotly on 153 items featured in an auction organized by designer Joan Miller and her committee. Some of the more popular items up for bid were a week-long stay at a private estate in San Miguel D'Allende, a week at a restored 300-year-old French farmhouse, a progressive dinner in award-winning houses in Houston's West End, and a table designed by Richard Meier and built by Brochsteins Inc.

Chef Tim Keating of the Four Seasons supervised the memorable dinner presented the guests, while Commercial Art provided the evening's entertainment.

The RDA's 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 such a success. We would also like to recognize our generous underwriters, contributors, and auction donors for their generous contributions.

1. Andrew and Gretchen McFarland.
2. El Paso CFO Bob Cavnar (left) and John Anderson.
3. Fiona McGettigan and Alan Krathaus.
4. Left to right: Jory Alexander, Mary Ann Moore, Jennifer and Burke Windham.
5. Left to right: Peter Scardino, Minnette Boesel, and Barrie Scardino.
6. Bob and Gracie Cavnar.
7. Bobby and Phoebe Tudor.
8. Raymond and Deborah Brochstein.
9. Rice students Miriam Bentley, Bri Hendley, and Nancy Grisham.
10. Mary Ann Moore.
11. Left to right: Jeff and Pat Ryan and Claire Jackson.
12. Mary Ann Moore and Bruce Fehn.
13. Pam and Carl Johnson.
14. Joan Miller and Gabriel Sarmiento.
15. Danny Samuels and Elizabeth Hamilton.
16. Cindy Toles.
17. James and Kimberly Burnett.
18. RDA president Jory Alexander with RDA vice president Larry Whaley, underwriting chair.

Photos by Phyllis Hand



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