

RDA NEWS

SHOCK OF THE NEW

We would like to thank David Theis for his article "Past Imperfect" (*Cite 51*), which shed light onto some of the problems of new construction in the Sixth Ward. For the past two years, our project, the Lopez/Harden residence, was caught in the middle of the war of words that Mr. Theis described as "the most scrutinized and criticized" house in Houston's recent history.

On one side, the opponents of our project loudly, and at times viciously, attacked us even before we broke ground. On the other side, during construction, admirers quietly encouraged us and welcomed our clients' addition to their neighborhood.

As designers, we welcome the scrutiny, although we do not seek it. As architects, we understand our language is not the language of words but the language of forms and materials. Our language is the language of the gable roof and shed roof, of front porch and dog run, of metal roof and Hardiplank siding.

Now that the project is nearly completed, our clients will soon settle into their new house. Hopefully, with good weather, plants will soon begin to take root in the gardens, and koi will swim in the lily pond. The best way to judge the Lopez/Harden residence will be to see it first-hand. We invite those who are curious to see the house in the Sixth Ward, the way that it was intended.

Mostly, we'd like to thank our clients, Martin Lopez and Christine Harden, for putting their trust in our firm to build their house despite the verbal attacks and controversy. Whether one judges our project to be constructive or destructive, one can fault our abilities, but not Lopez and Harden's sensitive intentions and respect for the Sixth Ward.

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Have a criticism, comment or response to something you've seen in Cite? E-mail it to citemail@ruf.rice.edu, or send it the old-fashioned way to Cite, 1973 West Gray, Suite 1, Houston, TX 77019.

RDA'S NEW OFFICES

Last summer the Rice Design Alliance expanded its offices to provide much-needed space for its cramped staff. The Rice School of Architecture provided the additional space; everything else was donated by RDA members and supporters. We would especially like to thank RDA board members Jory Alexander, who provided the architectural drawings for the expanded offices; John Miner, whose construction firm and subcontractors donated their services; Bill Donovan, who facilitated the donation of Knoll furniture systems from Enron Corp.; Barbara Amelio, who arranged the installation of the furniture by Debner + Company; and Katherine King, whose firm installed the new carpeting donated by Interface Flooring Systems. New lighting by Lighting Unlimited has also brightened RDA staff members' days.

The RDA would like to thank the following contributors for making this remodeling possible:

- Drywall/Metal Studs: Applied Finish Systems
- Painting: Bundren Painting
- Engineering: Burns, DeLatte & McCoy, Inc.
- Electrical/Data/Telecomm/AV: Capp Electric
- Doors/Hardware: Century Builders Hardware
- Furniture Installation: Debner + Company
- Office Furniture: Enron Corp.
- Carpeting: Interface Flooring Systems
- Architect: Kendall/Heaton Associates
- Lighting: Lighting Unlimited
- Carpet Installation: McCoy Inc.
- General Contractor: Miner-Dederick Constructors, Inc.
- Plumbing/HVAC: TD/Industries

NEW PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



Carrie Rushing, who most recently worked for the March of Dimes in San Francisco, has been hired as the new program administrator for the Rice Design Alliance. Rushing, who attended the

University of Texas—Austin, grew up in Southgate, near Rice. "I used to come to RDA lectures all the time before I moved to San Francisco," she says. "So when I saw this job on the web site, I was really excited."

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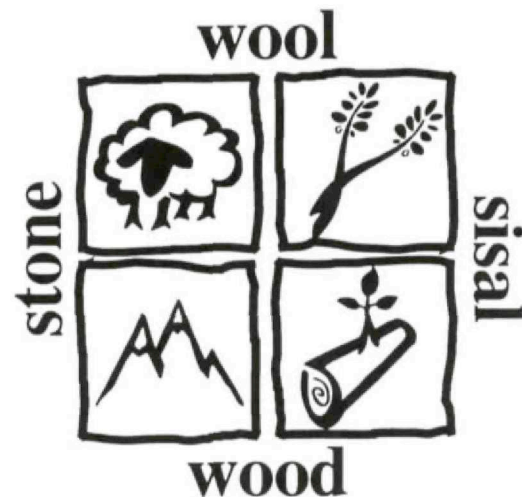
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