

## &gt;&gt; NEWS FROM RICEDESIGNALLIANCE.ORG

## WEB SITE THRIVES

The Rice Design Alliance website features commentary and podcasts from RDA civic forums and lectures, a calendar of RDA events and events sponsored by other area organizations, travel journals from RDA city tours, and several resources, including links to OffCite.org, the *Cite* blog, and CiteMag.org, a website featuring free access to the *Cite* archives.



FROM LEFT: Award-winning Urrutia 5 Social Housing for the elderly in Barcelona designed by Houston native Pia Wortham and her husband, Joan Callis. Work underway on Jaumé Plensa's sculpture to be installed at Buffalo Bayou Park. Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Great Deluge*, will speak in the Spring 2011 lecture series.

## &gt; RDA PARTNERS BECOMES rdAGENTS

On July 7, RDA's young professionals group, "RDA Partners," unveiled its new name, "rdAgents," with a launch party at St. Arnold's Brewery. Notified by covert invitations, young professionals turned out despite torrential rains.

"RDA Partners accomplished many amazing things," says Catherine Callaway, rdAgents Chair. "Our hope in re-branding the group is to have greater clarity, a fresh aesthetic, and ultimately an even higher level of energy to continue producing the quality events for which RDA is so well known." rdAgents provides an opportunity to enhance any young professional's level of RDA membership with the addition of exclusive invitations and discounts to rdAgents events, along with networking and design enrichment.

## &gt; SPAIN TOUR

RDA's hometown tour group went to Madrid and Barcelona this past June. Tour attendee Karen Lantz said, "As RDA hometown tour-goers throughout the past ten years, we know to expect the unexpected. Whether sipping cocktails with Julius Shulman at his home in California or traveling on a bus down a dirt road in Mexico halted by a cow's refusal to move; there is always excitement. Spain was no exception. Planes, motor coaches, taxis, and a high-speed train moved us around the country from one fabulous stop to the next."

Beginning in Madrid, the group visited the home of 2009 RDA Spotlight Award winner Antón García-Abril. Rice's own Carlos Jiménez led walking tours. Among the sites were Philip Johnson's leaning Castilla Plaza, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, and the Prado

Museum to see the works of Francisco Goya.

From Madrid, the group traveled to Barcelona via the high-speed rail line amid a landscape of wind turbines and solar panels. Once in the city, architectural historian Stephen Fox guided everyone through such well-known sites as Santa Caterina Market, the Picasso Museum, and Palau de la Musica Catalana, designed by architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner. Designed in the modern Catalan style, the hand-blown glass detailing, glazed sculptural wall tiles, and stained-glass ceiling created a fantastical treat for the senses.

At Plensa Studio, tour-goers viewed the new sculpture to be installed along Buffalo Bayou in Houston.

One of the last, but certainly not the least, architectural pilgrimages was to the iconic German Pavilion,

built for the 1929 International Exposition and designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

## &gt; NEW ORLEANS LECTURE SERIES

Since August 2005 and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has been adrift—both figuratively and literally. This series will present the ongoing recovery efforts in the Crescent City, including citywide planning and infrastructure improvements, local neighborhood reconstruction projects, and community initiatives to engage rebuilding. Leading the series, historian and author of *The Great Deluge*, Douglas Brinkley will present an overview of the historical and political conditions in New Orleans, and those key events leading up to the Katrina disaster and the aftermath.

## » SPOTLIGHT



As this year's award committee deliberated about whom to give the second annual Spotlight: The Rice Design Alliance Prize, the up-and-coming architect Sou Fujimoto rose to the top as the unanimous choice. The award, which recognizes an exceptionally gifted architect in the early phase of their professional career, carries a cash prize.

Graduating from the University of Tokyo's Department of Architecture in 1994, Fujimoto established Sou Fujimoto Architects in 2000. Fujimoto's work, which he defines as "formless form" where the architecture exists between nature and artifact, has garnered multiple awards and much praise. Many of his projects employ material layering to heighten sensory experience, perhaps most evident in the log-stacking of Wooden House.

Spotlight committee member and professor at the Rice School of Architecture Carlos Jiménez says, "Fujimoto has managed in a short time to build his own unmistakable position through works that surprise with their multifaceted simplicity. These works might be initially read as minimal, yet on closer inspection they reveal a more complex reading where program, culture, and nature produce an abundance of architecture."

Eligible honorees for the Spotlight Prize must be within their first 15 years of professional practice. An RDA committee of architects and academics convenes annually to consider local, national, and international architects who demonstrate design excellence and promise a great design future. Fujimoto formally accepted the RDA prize and presented his lecture on September 7.

## CALENDAR

### FALL LECTURES

#### RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE:

##### MATERIAL WORLD

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Brown Auditorium  
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.  
[ricedesignalliance.org](http://ricedesignalliance.org)

The public and RDA members are invited to hear the following speakers during the series:

BLAINE BROWNELL

**October 6**

Transstudio  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
[transstudio.com](http://transstudio.com)

GAIL PETER BORDEN

**October 13**

Borden Partnership  
Los Angeles  
[bordenpartnership.com](http://bordenpartnership.com)

DAVID GRESHAM

**October 20**

Material ConneXion  
New York  
[materialconnexion.com](http://materialconnexion.com)

JOHN FERNANDEZ

**October 27**

Associate Professor  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
[architecture.mit.edu](http://architecture.mit.edu)

#### RICE UNIVERSITY:

Rice School of Architecture  
Atrium, 5:30 p.m.

DAVID JOSELIT

**October 7 2010**

Art Historian, Yale

MICHAEL MALTZAN

**October 14 2010**

Architect, Los Angeles

ALEJANDRO ZAERA-POLO

**October 28**

Architect, London

NEIL LEVINE

**November 11**

Art Historian, Harvard

MARC SIMMONS

**November 15**

Partner, Front, New York

#### UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON:

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture  
Auditorium, Room 150

EMILIO SAID, GALLERY EXHIBIT

**October 7 - November 20**

6:30-7:30 p.m.

DAN WOOD & AMALE ANDRAOS

**October 15**

6-7:30 p.m.

WORK Architecture Company

GEORGE BEYLERIAN

**October 21**

5-7 p.m.

Material ConneXion

MALCOLM HOLZMAN

**October 26**

3-4 p.m.

Holzman Moss Bottino

MARVIN MALECHA

**November 2**

11:30-1 p.m.

California State Polytechnic  
University, Pomona

JEAN FRANCOIS LEJEUNE

**November 9**

3-4 p.m.

University of Florida

MARTEN CLAESSION

**November 16**

6-7:30 p.m.

Claeccion, Koivisto, Rune

#### AIA HOUSTON

Architecture Center Houston (ArCH)  
315 Capitol, Suite 120

AUTHOR PRESENTATION,

RECEPTION

**October 21**

*Bracket: Architecture, Environment,  
Digital Culture*

6-8 p.m.

DON'T MISS!

**2010 RDA GALA**  
HONORING ART STOREY  
**NOV 13 2010**

CALL 713.348.4876  
FOR INFO

### RDA ADOPTS CITE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

In order to avoid conflicts of interest in the selection of *Cite* articles and authors, the editorial committee and the RDA board adopted a set of procedures and guidelines.

For more information, visit the *Cite* website: [citemag.org/about](http://citemag.org/about).

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### COUNTERCULTURE

I have just finished reading *Cite* 82 cover to cover, and am amazed at the breadth of coverage and understanding of Houston's counter-cultural movement of the '60s and '70s—in fact I had forgotten a large portion of it!

One thing that I kept thinking of, however, was that the general unrest at the heart of that movement also fueled a real game-change in Houston politics, executed "counter" to a countercultural movement. Citizens for Good Schools was formed in the late 1960s, stimulated by the general

outrage concerning the HISD school board and its segregationist, white supremacist, conservative majority. With the political smarts of a lot of locals, including many native recent law school graduates, the group, loosely organized at first, elected George Oser in 1967—the first successful progressive candidate since Gertrude Barnstone represented a lonely, liberal point of



view. Two years later, CGS elected its entire slate of candidates to claim the majority, in a sweep that included Eugenie Kamrath and Eleanor Tinsley in their first forays into politics. What immediately followed for the school district was the selection of visionary General Superintendents, and the acceptance of the magnet school concept, as a path to integration of one of the nation's

largest systems.

Citizens for Good Schools was a political incubator for many of us—and a great example of what can happen in a city if enough people care, are energized, and are committed to work within the system to make our city a better place to live. For me, this movement was very much a counterpart of the other, counter-cultural movement that helped make Houston the diverse, creative stew of a city that it is today.

**Barry Moore**