This issue of Cite focuses not on total compositions such as buildings and parks but on the process of making things.

The seed was planted when I attended a lecture at the Rice School of Architecture by the New York City firm LOT-EK. I was not only curious about their repurposing of industrial containers but also in how their work was fabricated differently than the building systems I detailed at my job. I asked numerous questions—probably to the annoyance of the architecture students. How do you cut the containers? How do you integrate mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems into them? Do you think you could pull off this kind of architecture in a place like Houston? The answer to this last question intrigued me.

LOT-EK described how excited they were to come to Houston. Many industries had abandoned New York because of soaring real estate prices, zoning practices, and business costs. Houston, on the other hand, had a wealth of fabricators and factories that could help produce their work. They were keenly interested in exploring manufacturing facilities.

I hope this issue elicits more of that kind of curiosity. What goes on in all those anonymous warehouses scattered about the city and how can we take advantage of it?

José Solís, guest editor