WEB SITE THRIVES

The RDA website features commentary and podcasts from its 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 new website featuring free access to the magazine archives.

ANYTHING THAT FLOATS

Hosted by rdAGENTS, a young-professional group within RDA, Anything That Floats challenges participants to build a device to float a short distance along Buffalo Bayou with discarded building materials provided that day by RDA. The April 9 event will be followed by Bayou Buddies’ Bayou Bash, where participants can enjoy live music, pontoon boat rides, crawfish, and libations. Visit ricedesignalliance.org for more information.

SALLY WALSH LECTURE FEATURES PETRA BLAISSE

Petra Blaisse started her career at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam in the Department of Applied Arts. From 1987, she worked as a freelance designer and won distinction for her installations of architectural work. Gradually her focus shifted to the use of textiles, light, and finishes in interior space and, at the same time, to the design of gardens and landscapes. In 1991, she founded Inside Outside, a studio working in a multitude of creative areas, including textile, landscape, and exhibition design. Since 1999 Blaisse has invited specialists of various disciplines to work with her, and currently the team consists of about ten people of different nationalities.

Inside Outside works globally on projects of increasing technical sophistication, ambition, and scale. Throughout the years, Inside Outside has collaborated with various architects and designers, including Rem Koolhaas OMA on the Seattle Public Library. Blaisse has lectured and taught extensively in Europe, Asia, and the United States. Her work has been included in numerous design and architecture exhibits internationally. In 2000 a solo exhibition on Inside Outside’s work was organized at the Storefront for Art and Architecture in Soho, New York, for which Dutch graphic designer Irma Boom created Blaisse’s first publication, the catalogue Movements, 25%. The first monograph on the work of Petra Blaisse / Inside Outside was published February 2007 by NAi Publishers and was reprinted by The Monacelli Press (October 2009).

The lecture, sponsored by RDA, Rice School of Architecture, The Architecture Center of Houston, and AIA Houston, will be held Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Brown Auditorium.

SPOTLIGHT WINNER ANNOUNCED

This year’s third annual Spotlight Award is being given to partners Grace La and James Dallman of the firm LA DALLMAN. The award, which recognizes exceptionally gifted architects in the early phase of their professional careers, carries a cash prize. Based in Minneapolis, LA DALLMAN is responsible for such innovative projects as Pittsburgh’s Allegheny Square; the Chazen Art Museum in Madison, Wisconsin; UWM Hillel Student Center; and Great Lakes Future permanent exhibits at Milwaukee’s Discovery World, among countless others.

According to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “Grace La and James Dallman ... are considered rising stars .... They understand the hidden connections among landscape, history and design.” The RDA’s Spotlight Committee found their talent palpable during their evaluation period. Committee member and architecture professor at the University of Houston, Rafael Longoria says, “La and Dallman are great examples for architects in Houston. They have advanced a form of sustainability that goes beyond following a checklist of best practices. Their project revitalizing 1960s high-rise residential buildings is a leading example of urban recycling. It is inspirational to see the quality of work being produced by a small firm from Milwaukee.”

Dallman and La will speak September 7 at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, when they accept their award.

GALA SAVE THE DATE

Rice Design Alliance’s 2011 Gala will be held November 12. Please plan to join us.
LETTERS

CITE ENCOURAGES READERS TO SEND LETTERS, INCLUDING CRITICAL ONES, TO MANKAD@RICE.EDU.

CITE 84

Looks like the last issue’s a keeper.
Burke Evans

Absolutely my favorite issue of Cite. I poured over every word. And the cover was really cool. Tradition and making stuff together as family, it just doesn’t get better than that.
Chula Ross Sanchez

Kudos to all. One of the very best issues ever,
Gerald Moorhead, FAIA LEED AP

That was the best Cite magazine to date. Houston was captured well. Beautiful photos, excellent subjects. Great city, I miss it.
Stephanie Eugster

84 is one of the all-time great Cite issues: great theme, witty and incisive writing, stunning photography, and beautifully realized design.
Christof Spieler

The issues of Cite don’t often elicit motivation for me to offer a congratulations, but this past issue was superb in so many ways. It provided interesting information that will last longer than the hour it took me to read the issue and did so with good writing and photographs. I loved it and hoped that others will as well. If this issue signals a change in direction, I applaud the efforts and approach taken in its assembly. The local business spotlights were so informative. Thanks again for the work.
David Himel

CALENDAR

TOURS
RDA ANNUAL ARCHITECTURE TOUR
Houses of Import
Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3, 2011
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
713.348.4876

RDAAGENTS COMPETITION
ANYTHING THAT FLOATS
Saturday, April 9, 2011
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Sesquicentennial Park along Buffalo Bayou

LECTURES
SALLY WALSH LECTURE
Petra Blaiss
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
7 p.m.
The MFAH, Brown Auditorium

SPOTLIGHT
Grace La And James Daliman
Wednesday, September 7, 2011
7 p.m.
The MFAH, Brown Auditorium

GALA
RDA ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
Saturday, November 12, 2011

UNEXPECTED CITY

PUTTING YOUR HOUSTON ON THE MAP

HOUSTON’S UNEXPECTED PLACES—FROM THE WAREHOUSES SURROUNDING DOWNTOWN TO OLD-SCHOOL BARBERSHOPS TO OPEN FIELDS—GIVE THE CITY ITS SPARK. HOUSTONIANS ARE OFTEN WALKING LIBRARIES OF SUCH PLACES.

Rice Design Alliance has launched a campaign entitled Unexpected City that is asking for submissions for publication on Offcite. Send ideas to Katie.Plocheck@rice.edu. Places off the beaten path or a personal experience that provides fresh perspective on a familiar icon are welcome.

Visit Offcite.org to view the latest entries!

HOUSES OF IMPORT
SATURDAY & SUNDAY / APRIL 2-3, 2011 / 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

HOUSES OF IMPORT presents a unique side of Houston through the designs of non-Houstonians. RDA’s tour showcases how visiting architects provide fresh insight and inspiration, adding to Houston’s architectural vitality. Additionally, this tour reveals how unique characteristics of Houston – climate, history, transportation, landscape, and lack of zoning – are interpreted from an “outsider’s” perspective. Ultimately, Houses of Import will demonstrate how an emerging global design practice is beginning to have a substantive impact on our local residential design market.

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