

CITINGS

>> NEWS FROM RICEDESIGNALLIANCE.ORG

WEBSITE 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 archives.



FROM LEFT: Interior from 2012 house tour, wall design, and public art by Greg Lynn.

> HOUSTON INITIATIVES

RDA is holding its 13th annual grants program for students and faculty of the Rice School of Architecture, the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, the College of Architecture at Prairie View A&M, and the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University. RDA makes separate awards of up to \$5,000 to student and faculty winners. The announcement of winners is set for April 23.

> ANYTHING THAT FLOATS

Anything That Floats challenges participants to build a device to float a short distance along Buffalo Bayou with discarded building materials provided the day-of by rdAGENTS. The second annual competition will be held April 28, 2012. Teams arrive in the morning, build between 11:30 and 1:30, and then float. Breakfast will be provided by RDA. The challenge takes place at Sesquicentennial Park along Buffalo Bayou. The entry fee for RDA members is \$20 and \$25 for non-members.

> HOUSE TOUR

The 36th annual RDA architecture tour was held Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, 2012. The tour, Living with Art, showcased eight houses in Houston that exhibit impressive art collections. The houses on the tour demonstrated how art can reshape architecture, most intriguingly in houses that were not originally designed with art exhibition in mind.

> BRAZIL TOUR

Modern architecture in Brazil made a first timid appearance in the city of São Paulo, yet it was in the city of Rio de Janeiro that a particular, and internationally recognized, brand of architecture was forged. Rice University faculty Fares el-Dahdah, who grew up in Brasilia, and architecture historian Stephen Fox will be our guides. The tour dates are June 12-19, 2012.

> SALLY WALSH LECTURE

The Sally Walsh Lecture will feature Greg Lynn on Tuesday April 3, at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. His studio, Greg Lynn FORM, works within and among multiple fields, partnering with companies such as BMW, Boeing, Disney, and Imaginary Forces. His work has been exhibited and placed in permanent collections in major museums, including the Canadian Centre for Architecture, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and New York's Museum of Modern Art. Lynn was named one of *Time Magazine's* 100 most innovative people in the world for the 21st century in 2001, won the Golden Lion at the 11th International Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2008, and most recently received a fellowship from United States Artists in 2010.

> MIKE SIMONIAN SAYS GET OVER PRACTICALITY

In the earnest tone with which he delivered his entire talk, Mike Simonian suggested on Wednesday evening, January 18, that in a given body of work, "if everything is perfect, then

there's a certain ugliness to all that beauty." This from the designer who made the Xbox console beautiful? You'd be hard pressed to find a blunder among the offerings coming out of Mike & Maaike, the San Francisco-based industrial design studio led by Simonian and his partner, Maaike Evers. By looking for one, though, you'd also miss the point.

Simonian and Evers, with the support of an international cadre of young interns, push their projects through a concept-driven, rigorous process and produce compelling works. A sort of completed perfection, though, doesn't come across as the primary objective. The designs pose questions without declaring answers. They stir up trouble, find intrigue in uncertainty and sometimes fly in the face of staid conventions.

See Michael Viviano's post on OffCite.org to read more.