

>> NEWS FROM RICEDESIGNALLIANCE.ORG



FROM LEFT: Alfredo Brillembourg speaks at the MFAH; The Santa Maria de Belém is a stop on the RDA tour of Portugal.

> RESPONSES TO FALL LECTURES

OffCite published several responses to the RSA/RDA Fall 2012 lecture series, NEXT: Four Takes on the Future of Architectural Education.

The first speaker, Michael Speaks, suggested that architectural schools should deploy “design intelligence” in entrepreneurial projects that can provide students with practical experience and yield new funds for universities. In a response titled “Silent Stakeholders,” Colley Hodges asks how well partnerships with businesses serve students who pay tuition.

The second speaker in the series, Alfredo Brillembourg, drew impassioned responses from RDA members. Brillembourg made controversial arguments regarding the permanence of slums and the necessity of retrofitting them rather than removal. Alfonso E. Hernandez responded to the lecture with a post entitled “Diagramming the Slum or Slumming the Diagram?” Scott Cartwright and Jenny Lynn Weitz Amaré-Cartwright conducted an in-depth interview of Brillembourg.

More responses are coming and we want to hear from you.

> SPRING LECTURES

The spring lecture series brings together architectural practitioners and thinkers from around the globe who show a commitment to environmental and social issues. Instead of responding to issues like sustainability, however, they pursue new and often challenging projects, aesthetics, and languages that emerge from pressing problems facing our built environments. Ultimately, such practices construct a more nuanced relationship between aesthetics and the social world.

> MOTOWN ROCKS: THE ARCHITECTURE OF DETROIT AND ITS SUBURBS

In May, RDA members will make a four-day visit to the Motor City to learn about its glorious past, difficult present, and hopeful future. The tour will include both the inner city and the suburbs, including Grosse Pointe, Bloomfield Hills, and an entire day exploring and touring the Cranbrook campus. Architectural historian Stephen Fox along with local architects and designers will serve as guides. The tour dates are May 2–5, 2013. For more details, visit ricedesignalliance.org.

> LISBON TO OPORTO: AN ARC OF PORTUGUESE ARCHITECTURE

June 17–24, 2013, RDA members will embark on a seven-day visit to Portugal. The tour begins in Lisbon, Portugal’s resplendent capital by the Tagus River, and concludes in Oporto, the country’s second metropolis along another great river: the fertile and aromatic Douro. Rice Architecture Professor Carlos Jimenez, along with local architects and personalities, will serve as guides.

> 2013 ARCHITECTURE TOUR: CENTENNIAL TOUR: 10 HOUSES BY RICE ARCHITECTURE FACULTY

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of RDA and the Centennial celebrations of Rice University and the Rice School of Architecture, this annual architecture tour highlights ten significant Houston residences designed by Rice architecture faculty during the past 100 years.

> SAN ANTONIO RECAP

Architect and San Antonio tour-goer Larry Lander documents his time in San Antonio for RDA’s spring hometown tour.

Thursday, March 8, 2012 - It’s about two hundred miles from the Rice campus parking lot to San Antonio which is a long time for anyone to sit on a bus—even a really nice one like this—so we took a coffee break halfway along our route in downtown Schulenburg. If you get off I-10 and can get past the Dairy Queen, the Sonic, and the gas stations, you should wind your way to Schulenburg’s Main Street. It’s a page out of small-town Texana history and marked by the iconic Sengelmann Dance Hall.

But they weren’t quite ready for our group. It seems our contact at the kolache shop had quit her job a few days before and, in a fit of HR pique, somehow neglected to share the details of our arrival with the colleagues-she-left-behind. So when 30 or so of your closest friends show up with a timetable and a hankering for kolaches and hot coffee—well, it might not end so well ... *Read more of Lander’s account at ricedesignalliance.org.*