

>> 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 new website featuring free access to the archives.



FROM LEFT: Marfa tourgoers return from petroglyph site; UH Dean Patricia Oliver and RSA Dean Sarah Whiting in the Frederick Kiesler-designed Cave of New Being; Interior of a home on the 2010 RDA architecture tour.

> PATRICIA OLIVER NAMED UH DEAN OF ARCHITECTURE

Patricia Oliver became dean of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture at the University of Houston on January 20. She succeeds Joseph Mashburn, who in 2009 announced plans to step down from the post he has held since 1998. He will remain connected to the college in a teaching capacity.

Oliver served from 2001 to 2008 as senior vice president of educational planning and architecture at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. While there, she created the environmental design department to bridge the area between architecture and product design.

> SALLY WALSH LECTURE

The Sally Walsh lecture will be held on April 7 at 7 p.m. at the MFAH. Speakers are Spanish architects Luis Mansilla and Emilio Tuñón.

> MARFA REFRIED

In February, RDA members enjoyed a four-day tour of Marfa and the Trans-Pecos region. On the way

out of El Paso, architectural historian Stephen Fox led visits to historic mission sites. After mailing our valentine cards from the Valentine, Texas post office, and checking into the Paisano Hotel in Marfa, the group visited Tim Crowley's home, designed by Carlos Jiménez, where guests enjoyed a sunset reception. The next day began with a visit to the 10 x 10 house and the studio and home of architect Kristen Bonkemeyer, followed by the Chinati Foundation and its bright lights, aluminum boxes, and crushed cars. The morning ended with a Mediterranean feast in a renovated school bus, catered by Food Shark.

Dual residents of Houston and Marfa, Toni and Jeff Beauchamp, Casey and JoAnn Williams, Barbara Hill, and Amy and Holden Shannon welcomed the tour into their homes. Interior designer Marlys Tokerud entertained the group with a reception at her compound.

On Saturday, Professor Bob Mallouf led a tour of Fort Leaton, the largest adobe structure in Texas; Cielo

Bravo, the site of a pre-Columbian pueblo on a bluff overlooking the Rio Grande; and a narrated tour through Big Bend National Park, ending with a sunset hike and tour of Bee Cave, where petroglyphs are inscribed in a rock shelter. The day ended with a Valentine's dinner dance at the Gage Hotel in Marathon.

On the trip back to El Paso, architect Geoffrey Wright led visits to historic places, including the Tiffany Dome at the Camino Real Hotel.

> TOUR MADRID AND BARCELONA

Madrid, capital of the kingdom of Spain, and Barcelona, capital of the autonomous community of Catalunya and the second largest city in the Spanish kingdom, represent two poles of Iberian architecture. Led by Houston's most illustrious figure in the world of international architecture, Carlos Jiménez, the RDA will visit both Madrid and Barcelona to experience a new, architectural Edad de Oro and see how Spanish (and international) architects have reinvented these two extraordinary cities with ar-

chitecture that is daring, often austere, yet also fits into the urban places and landscapes where it has been built.

The dates for the tour are June 12-19, 2010, and the cost per person, not including airfare, is \$3,400.

> RDA HOME TOUR: SOUTHGATE

On Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., RDA members and their guests will have the opportunity to visit eight houses in Houston's Southgate neighborhood on RDA's 34th annual architecture tour, Southgate: An Urban Oasis.

Southgate is adjacent to Rice University and the Texas Medical Center, two Houston institutions that are expanding substantially. Southgate is undergoing considerable change, yet it has retained its close-knit community feeling. Architects and designers working in the neighborhood have been successful integrating their designs into the older fabric and staying within the neighborhood's strict restrictions.