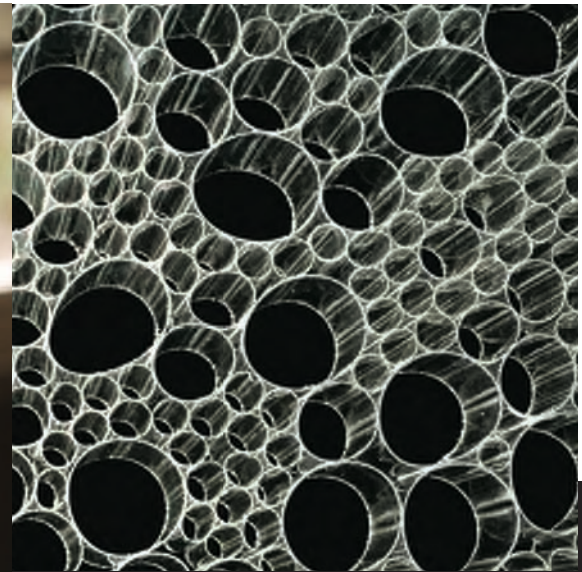


## &gt;&gt; NEWS FROM RICEDESIGNALLIANCE.ORG

## 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: Art Storey Park serves as a model for multiple uses of flood control basins; RDA's Fall 2010 lecture series will focus on innovative and cutting-edge materials.

#### > LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD: RDA FALL LECTURE SERIES

The annual fall lecture series will take place September 29 through October 20 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The series, titled “A Material World,” will focus on innovative and cutting-edge uses and practices of materials in the built environment. The speakers will address various topics, ranging from what “green” buildings and materials really consist of and how they fare throughout their lifecycles, to how different materials are chosen for a particular project and how materials function both aesthetically and practically.

The tactile and aesthetic qualities of materials have always been integral to construction and architectural experience, but emergent materials and their associated technologies are rapidly altering the way designers work and the way end-users engage buildings. This

series seeks to address the expanding world of materials and their incorporation into our built environment. All lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Brown Auditorium in the Caroline Wiess Law Building of the MFAH. Pre-lecture receptions, graciously sponsored by Brochsteins, Harvey Builders, SpawMaxwell, WHR Architects with E&C Engineers and Consultants, Inc., will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the museum lobby. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is located at 1001 Bissonnet (enter via the Main Street door).

#### > 2010 INITIATIVES FOR HOUSTON GRANTS WINNERS

This year's winners of the eleventh annual Initiatives for Houston grant program encompass a wide range of focus, from enhancing Houston's cultural identity to improving the city's infrastructure.

Proposal titles include “Enhancing Infrastructure: Highways and

Energy” submitted by Prairie View A&M visiting professor Ross Weinert; “Urban Aeries” submitted by Rice University architecture graduate student Melissa McDonnell; “Make Houston Colorful?” by Robert Hadley, an architecture graduate student at the University of Houston and Samuel Jacobson, an undergraduate architecture student at Rice University; and “Scavenge” a proposal submitted by Jorge Galvan, an undergraduate student in Industrial Design at the University of Houston.

Galvan's project was awarded \$2,500 to document Houston neighborhoods' trash output, and create neighborhood identities based on the kinds of trash a particular neighborhood produces. Like archaeologists, Galvan wants to trace local neighborhood histories via their discarded materials, documenting the process, and ultimately creating neighborhood

emblems created from the trash to serve as a material identity. Galvan will choose up to seven distinct neighborhoods based on the socioeconomic and demographic makeup of each area chosen, and hold an exhibit of his found materials to conclude the project.

#### > CHARRETTE

Led by RDA Partners, RDA's 2010 design charrette competition will be held at the Rice School of Architecture on August 7. A charrette is a period of intense design. In past years, teams have included students, professionals, and creative people from outside the architecture profession. While the exact goals must remain a mystery until the day of the competition, this year's charrette will focus on Willow Waterhole. More details to follow soon at [ricedesignalliance.org](http://ricedesignalliance.org).

## RDGA GALA TO HONOR ART STOREY

The 24th annual Rice Design Alliance gala will be held at the Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar, on November 13. RDA will honor Art Storey, PE, Executive Director of the Harris County Public Infrastructure Department and past director of the Houston Flood Control District. Storey has played a lead role in changing the treatment of Houston's bayous. Under his leadership, Flood Control and partnering groups established trail systems around several bayous, planted thousands of trees, and removed the bayous' concrete linings, providing surrounding communities with more green space. In addition to honoring Storey's work, the gala will include dinner, dancing, and a silent auction for attendees.

Visit [ricedesignalliance.org](http://ricedesignalliance.org) to join 1,000 architects, design professionals, engineers, contractors, developers, and RDA members at one of Houston's most anticipated events.



# Write for Cite

*Cite* is greater Houston's forum for architectural, design, and planning issues. Articles should address a broad audience and include reviews, essays, analyses, and commentaries. Article ideas and proposals are reviewed by the editorial committee and are welcome in one of three forms:

**TIPS:** Tell us your ideas.

**DETAILED ARTICLE PROPOSALS:** Include context about the subject, an explanation of why the article would be of interest to the *Cite* audience, and a writing sample.

**FULL MANUSCRIPTS:** Send manuscripts for consideration by peer-review.

**OffCite.org** is an additional venue for timely coverage and short pieces as well as an opportunity for writers to start establishing themselves as part of the pool from which the magazine draws. Send all submissions and questions to [citemail@rice.edu](mailto:citemail@rice.edu) or to the *Cite* mailing address:

**CITE MAGAZINE - MS 51  
P.O. BOX 1892  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77251-1892**

### RDA ADOPTS CITE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

In order to avoid conflicts of interest in the selection of *Cite* articles and authors, the editorial committee and the RDA board adopted a set of procedures and guidelines. For more information, visit the *Cite* website: [citemag.org/about](http://citemag.org/about)

### CORRECTIONS

The trellis of the Trahan house was never anticipated to have photovoltaics as claimed in the article "Making It Right" in *Cite* 81. The New Living advertisement on the inside back cover of *Cite* 81 was not reproduced correctly due to error on the part of the publication.

## LETTERS

### MAKING IT RIGHT?

Once I learned that the latest issue of *Cite* (81) was going to feature a review of the New Orleans Make It Right initiative, a response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, I was brimming with anticipation to enjoy another great issue of the magazine.

While the article successfully depicted the key players and complexity that made this ambitious design project a reality, I was surprised and dismayed that the BNIM Architects project—the only Houston team invited for round one—was not reviewed at all by the author, neither in words, images, nor sketches. Yet it is clear from the summary box on page 17—the only place where BNIM and Houston appear—that the project has been very well received from the outset by the community of end users, being one of the most selected schemes by the qualified families, and represents an important catalyst for increasing urban density and quality of life in the recovering 9th Ward neighborhood.

Although I am no longer with BNIM, I feel fortunate to have led the 2007 BNIM Houston team in generating a vernacular, affordable, and sustain-

able solution for 9th Ward families. The entire design process and final scheme were crafted by the BNIM team in Houston with the critical contribution of the NOLA native project designer, James Anderson, who shared his knowledge of the 9th Ward context and culture.

Is it polemic on my part to speculate that because our end product was neither "floating" nor "upside down," but a mere 21st-century reinterpretation of the affordable shotgun house, the design was not deemed to be newsworthy? No, I am certain that the author sees the value of real-world, implementable design solutions like that proposed by the BNIM team.

BNIM Architects has been actively involved in our community since the Houston office opened almost 10 years ago, including leadership and service roles within the Rice Design Alliance. Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, with over 40 years of national architectural, planning, and sustainable experience, BNIM Architects has always been on the forefront of good design for social change and should have not been so clearly omitted from the article.

**Filo Castore, AIA, LEED AP**



## CALENDAR

### LECTURES

#### RDA FALL LECTURE SERIES:

##### MATERIAL WORLD

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Wednesdays, 7pm Brown Auditorium  
[ricedesignalliance.org](http://ricedesignalliance.org)

The public and RDA members are invited to hear the following speakers during the series:

##### BLAINE BROWNELL

**September 29**

Transstudio  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
[transstudio.com](http://transstudio.com)

##### JOHN FERNANDEZ

**October 6**

Associate Professor  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
[architecture.mit.edu](http://architecture.mit.edu)

##### VICTORIA BALLARD BELL

**October 13**

Architect  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
[ballardbell.com](http://ballardbell.com)

##### ANDREW DENT

**October 20**

Material ConneXion  
New York  
[materialconnexion.com](http://materialconnexion.com)

### CHARRETTE

Topic: WILLOW WATERHOLE

**Saturday, August 7, 2010**

Rice School of Architecture

### GALA

HONORING ART STOREY

**Saturday, November 13, 2010**

Hilton Americas-Houston