PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Plocheck
Phone: (713) 348-5668
Email: Katie.Plocheck@rice.edu

Rice Design Alliance Announces Civic Forums on Water: Challenges Facing the Houston Region

Houston, Texas (19 July 2011) - The Rice Design Alliance (RDA) will host a two-part civic forum on water supply issues in the State of Texas and the Houston region on August 24 and August 31, 2011. The State of Texas is currently experiencing one of the worst droughts in its recorded history. Compounding this problem is the fact that many of the state's aquifers have been in decline for many years. Water quality is emerging as a serious issue facing the Houston region. Will the state's water supplies be adequate to support Houston's growing population and continuing industrialization?

EVENT INFORMATION

The forums, which are free and open to the public, will take place at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Brown Auditorium in the Caroline Wiess Law Building. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, is located at 1001 Bissonnet (enter via the Main Street door). Additional parking at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is available until 7:00 p.m. for $6 in the museum garage located at the corner of Binz and Fannin Streets.

Urban Growth and Competition for Water

Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Panelists: Jason Afinowicz, Water Resources, Freese, and Nichols, Inc.,
Dr. James Lester, Vice President, Houston Advanced Research Center,
Edward G. Vaughan, Chair, Texas Water Development Board

Moderators: Eric Berger, *Houston Chronicle* Science Writer; and Thomas Colbert, Associate Professor, University of Houston, College of Architecture

Water Quality Issues and Solutions to Water Shortages

Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Panelists: Jun Chang, Civil and Environmental Engineer, Deputy Director of Public Works, City of Houston, Dr. John Jacob, TAMU/Texas Sea Grant, Director Texas Coastal Watershed Program, Dr. Hanadi S. Rifai, Professor and Director of Environmental Engineering Graduate Program, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Houston

Moderators: Mark Greenblatt, Investigative Reporter, KHOU, and Thomas Colbert

ABOUT RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE (RDA)

The Rice Design Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of architecture, urban design, and the built environment in the Houston region through educational programs, the publication of *Cite: The Architecture + Design Review of Houston*, and active programs to initiate physical improvements. Membership is open to the general public.