

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CONTACT:**

Katie Plocheck  
Katie.Plocheck@rice.edu  
(713) 348- 5668

### **RDA Announces 2011 Hometown Tours to Dallas and Helsinki**

November 20, 2010 (Houston, TX) The Rice Design Alliance is pleased to announce its 2011 Hometown tour destinations to Dallas, Texas and Helsinki, Finland.

From April 7 to April 10, 2011, RDA tourgoers will travel to Dallas Architecture and Art Fair for a beautiful spring weekend of art and architecture. The Mansion on Turtle Creek will be RDA's home base as tourgoers see Dallas's amazing arts district that includes buildings by architects Foster + Partners, REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas; I. M. Pei & Partners, and Renzo Piano; art collectors' home tours and receptions; homes by O'Neil Ford, Edward Durell Stone, and Dan Shipley, among others; and a visit to the new Cowboys Football Stadium, which contains an amazing collection of public art. Architectural historian Stephen Fox along with local architects and museum curators will be your tour guides. A visit to the Dallas Art Fair will be included where over 60 prominent national and international art dealers and galleries will be exhibiting paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, and photographs by modern and contemporary artists. The cost is \$1275 pp dbl; \$330 single supplement; \$975 tour only (no hotel).

Registration is open for Dallas and a completed reservation card, a signed responsibility statement, and a deposit are required to confirm your reservation.

On June 7-14, 2011, tour attendees will travel abroad to Helsinki, Finland – the World Design Capital for 2012. Helsinki was founded in 1550, and the “Daughter of the Baltic” has been the Finnish capital since 1812 when the tsars of Russia rebuilt it along the lines of a miniature St. Petersburg. Today, Helsinki pulls off the trick of being something of an international metropolis while still retaining a small-town feel.

The city's architecture is typified by Nordic minimalism and refinement through the works of Alvar Aalto. Modernism, functionalism, and the largest concentration of Art Nouveau buildings in Northern Europe make Helsinki a major city of architecture. The city centre, especially around Senate Square, forms a unique and cohesive example of Neoclassical architecture. Uspenski Cathedral, the largest Orthodox church in Western Europe, represents Helsinki's Byzantine-Russian architectural heritage. The Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma by American architect Steven Holl and the Sanomatalo building in the city center and the High Tech Center in the Ruoholahti district represent the latest architectural trends. We will also visit works by Finnish contemporary luminaries such as Kristian Gullichsen, Juha Leiviska, and Heikkinen and Komonen, as well as key works by renowned masters Eliel Saarinen, Lars Sonck, Erik Bryggman and Raili and Reima Pietila. We will also travel to Turku, the European Cultural Capital for 2011

(<http://travel.nytimes.com/2010/10/10/travel/10Turku.html?hpw>); the medieval town of Rauma, a Unesco world-heritage site; Pori; and Tampere. A visit to Villa Mairea, Aalto's masterpiece, is another one of the trip's many highlights. Rice professor of architecture Carlos Jimenez and architectural historian Stephen Fox will lead the tour.

The cost is \$3,550 pp dbl; \$700 single supplement. Registration is open for Helsinki and a completed reservation card, a signed responsibility statement, and a deposit are required to confirm your reservation.

Space on both trips is limited and reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have questions about either trip, please email RDA Tour Director Lynn Kelly at [lynn\\_kelly\\_tx@yahoo.com](mailto:lynn_kelly_tx@yahoo.com) for more information.

RDA introduced its Hometown Tour program with a visit to Savannah in 2000. Subsequent tours have taken RDA members coast-to-coast and around the world. Domestic destinations have included Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, the Texas-Tamaulipas Border, Chicago, Miami, Boston, Seattle, Phoenix, Charleston, San Francisco, Marfa, and New York City; international destinations have included Mexico City, Paris, Buenos Aires, Berlin, Madrid, and Barcelona.