

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We Are Living In “A Material World”

RDA Fall Lecture Series focuses on materiality and material use in architecture

HOUSTON (18 May 2010) – Rice Design Alliance (RDA) is pleased to announce that its annual fall lecture series will take place September 29 through October 20 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The series, called “**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 lifecycle 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, along with Cite Magazine’s November issue, seeks to address the ever-expanding world of materials and their incorporation into our built environment.

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

September 29 – Blaine Brownell

Transstudio, St. Paul, Minnesota

<http://transstudio.com/>

October 6 –John Fernandez

Associate Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<http://architecture.mit.edu/people.php?type=faculty&id=51>

October 13 – Victoria Ballard Bell

Architect, Raleigh, North Carolina

http://www.ballardbell.com/About_Victoria_Bell.htm

October 20 – Andrew Dent

Material ConneXion, New York

<http://www.materialconnexion.com/>

All lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Brown Auditorium in the Caroline Wiess Law Building, with a pre-lecture reception, graciously sponsored by Harvey Builders, Brochsteins, SpawMaxwell, WHR Architects with E&C Engineers and Consultants, Inc., at 6:00 p. m. in the museum lobby. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, located at 1001 Bissonnet (enter via the Main Street door.) No guaranteed seating for ticket holders after

7:00 p.m. Additional parking at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is available until 7:00 pm for \$3 in the museum garage located at the corner of Binz and Fannin Streets.

RDA will gladly make special accommodations for anyone needing assistance to attend a lecture. Contact RDA directly. A minimum of two week's notice is appreciated. Call Kathryn Fosdick, RDA Associate Director of Programs, at 713-348-5583.

TICKET INFORMATION

Series Tickets:

\$20 - RDA, MFAH members

\$15 - Senior citizens 65 and older

\$10 - Students with identification

\$35 - Others

Single Tickets (upon availability):

\$7 - RDA, MFAH members; Senior citizens 65 and older; Students with identification

\$10 - Others

For more information, please visit our website, www.ricedesignalliance.org, or call the Rice Design Alliance, (713) 348-4876. As the lecture dates draw closer, tickets may be purchased in advance by visiting www.ricedesignalliance.org.

The Rice Design Alliance is an AIA/CES Registered Provider of quality educational programs. For each lecture, attendees will earn one Learning Unit, which will be reported to CES Records on the member's behalf. Registration at the lecture is required. Non-AIA members may request a Certificate of Completion to fulfill state MCE requirements.

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. For more information please call (713) 348-4876 or visit www.ricedesignalliance.org

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