

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Orleans: More Afloat Than Ever**

*RDA Spring Lecture Series Focuses on Reconstruction Efforts in New Orleans*

With the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina having passed in August, the city of New Orleans remains in the hearts and on the minds of many. While images of the Crescent City once evoked heartbreak and destruction, the once-awash city now features a landscape of resilience—both through its people and its infrastructure.

Rice Design Alliance's Spring Lecture Series, ***New Orleans: 5 Years Later***, presents the ongoing recovery efforts in New Orleans, including city-wide planning and infrastructure improvements, local neighborhood reconstruction projects, and various other community efforts. Given its close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and New Orleans, Houston and its residents can learn many valuable lessons about hurricane preparedness via the built environment.

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

#### **Wednesday, January 19- Douglas Brinkley**

Professor of History and Fellow, James A. Baker Institute, Rice University

[www.bakerinstitute.org/personnel/fellows-scholars/dbrinkley](http://www.bakerinstitute.org/personnel/fellows-scholars/dbrinkley)

#### **Wednesday, January 26- Scott Bernhard**

Director, Tulane City Center; Mintz Professor of Architecture, Tulane University

[www.architecture.tulane.edu/people/scott-d-bernhard](http://www.architecture.tulane.edu/people/scott-d-bernhard)

#### **Wednesday, February 2- Ray Manning**

President and CEO, Manning Architects

[www.manningarchitects.com](http://www.manningarchitects.com)

#### **Wednesday, February 9- Alejandra Lillo**

Partner, GRAFT

[www.graftlab.org](http://www.graftlab.org)

**All lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. in 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.) 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 p.m. for \$6 in the museum garage located at the corner of Binz and Fannin Streets.

### **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

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

For more information, please visit our website, [www.ricedesignalliance.org](http://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](http://www.ricedesignalliance.org).

**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.