

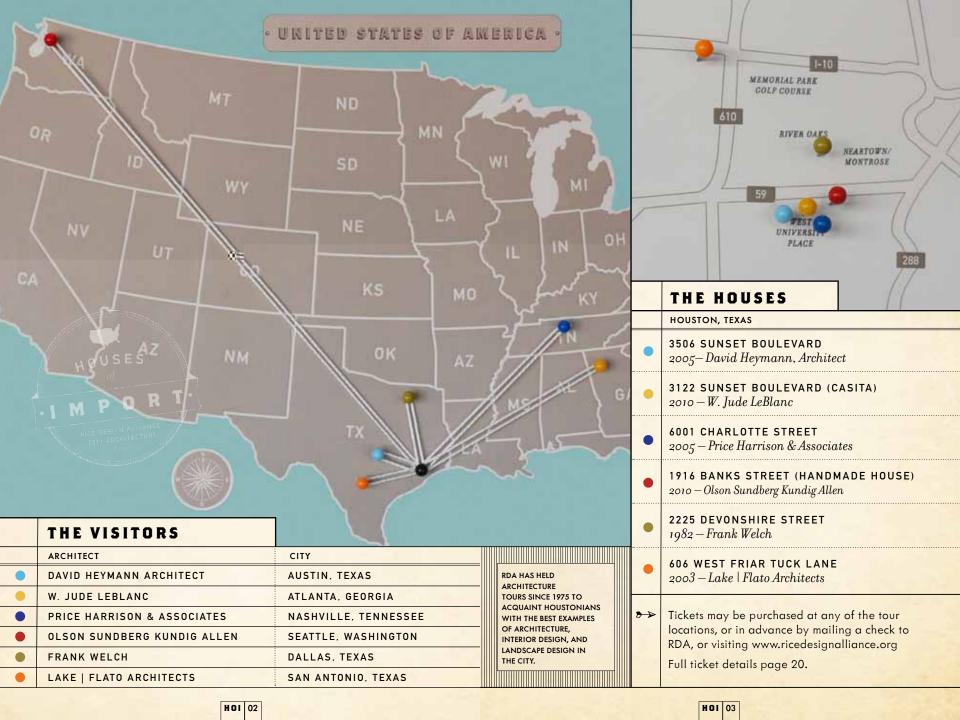
» SATURDAY & SUNDAY

» APRIL 2-3, 2011

» 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

INSPIRING HOMES BY VISITING ARCHITECTS FROM: SAN ANTONIO...... p.17

HOUSES OF IMPORT presents a unique side of Houston through the designs of non-Houstonians. RDA's tour showcases how visiting architects provide fresh insight and inspiration, adding to Houston's architectural vitality. Additionally, this tour reveals how unique characteristics of Houston - climate, history, transportation, landscape, and lack of zoning - are interpreted from an "outsider's" perspective. Ultimately, Houses of Import will demonstrate how an emerging global design practice is beginning to have a substantive impact on our local residential design market.





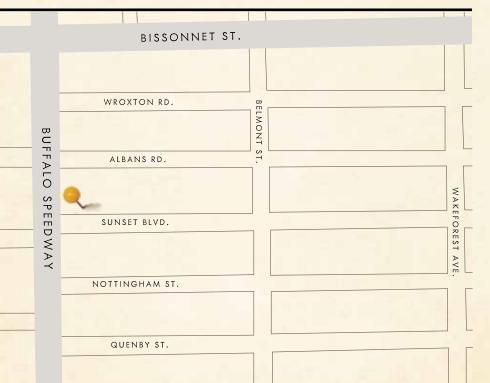




Architect David Heymann grew up in West University Place, where this house is located. He practices in Austin and is a professor of architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. Heymann's client is an ethnographer, photographer, and writer who wanted a house that could be a studio, a hospitable place for entertaining friends, and a haven for grandchildren. The two-story house is lofty. Its combined living room and kitchen, anchored by a stone fireplace, pivots outward toward the sunlight and the prevailing southeast breeze, screened from the street by an open-air terrace and dense plantings of indigenous trees and shrubs installed by horticulturist Will Fleming. Bold colors, angled window bays, a mixed palette of building materials, and a marvelous sculptural leader supplying the terrace tank reflect the owner's desire for a house that is very personal. Inside, ceiling planes are molded to create pockets of daylight. Mainland Construction Company was the general contractor.

HOI 04







The Texas-born Atlanta architect W. Jude LeBlanc, associate professor of architecture at Georgia Tech University, designed a backyard "casita" for a childhood friend in West University Place that contains a two-car garage, a spacious second-story living room, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a third-level sleeping loft. LeBlanc fit the house's spatial pieces together with dexterity, using sectional variation and interior windows to create intricate volumetric overlaps. The living room is high ceilinged, spacious, and tranquil. Window openings at the corners perceptually expand its size. A louver-screened outdoor shower balcony and the clever use of mirrors to induce the illusion of spatial extension are imaginative elements. Houston architectural craftsman Alberto Bonomi fabricated and installed specially designed stone and metal components, along with being the general contractor on the project. LeBlanc used white-painted wood shingles and clapboards and black-painted steel louvers to imbue the Sunset casita with a Gulf coastal flavor.

HOI 06







Price Harrison is a Nashville architect. He designed this two-story house in the Preston Place section of West University Place for a former classmate, which occupies a narrow lot. In plan and elevation, it is divided by a central partition that splits the house in two. Living spaces, the stair, and a two-car garage are organized to either side of this partition, which projects forward of the street front of the house. Price uses projecting wall planes and the canopy above the front door to frame the street front spatially. By varying the sill and head heights of openings, he induces a tense play between movement and stasis, flatness and depth, that animates the house front. Inside, meticulous proportions and luminous surfaces reflect natural light, expanding one's sense of the limits of the compact house, making it seem open and spatially expansive. Price responds boldly to Houston's abundant daylight, making it his primary material for constructing big space in a not-so-big house. Anthony E. Frederick was associate architect; John D. Daber from J+L Engineers was the structural engineer; Timothy Adcock with Thompson & Hanson did the landscaping; and Kurt Lobpries with Builders West, Inc. was the general contractor.

HOI 08



In Nashville there is a trend to regulate "architectural style" in some older neighborhoods. I believe that the proper function of any codes system is to insure public safety and foster an orderly urban environment. Architects should be free to design buildings without aesthetic constraints.

-PRICE HARRISON



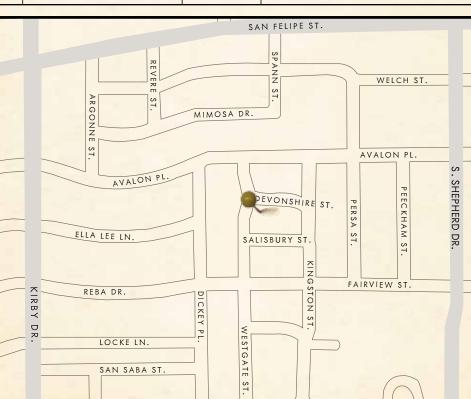




>> Seattle architect Rick Sundberg designed the Handmade House for Houston developer (and Seattle native) Carol Isaak Barden. A freestanding house in the Boulevard Oaks neighborhood, it possesses a Pacific Northwest ambiance evident in the cool green stucco exterior and mellow interiors, where floor, wall, and roof planes of Brazilian ipê wood complement polished-concrete floors and light-toned walls. The architects inserted vertical window slots and second-story skylights to provide unexpected infusions of daylight. Ground-floor social spaces wrap around a generous rear courtyard and the garage roof is an expansive elevated terrace. Carol Barden calls this the Handmade House because it contains installations by Houston artisans Jill Brown, Brian Conner, Steven Dvorak, Sandy Kay, Charles Masterson, and Roger Waller. Mainland Construction Company was the general contractor and Richard Holley the interior designer.

HOI 13



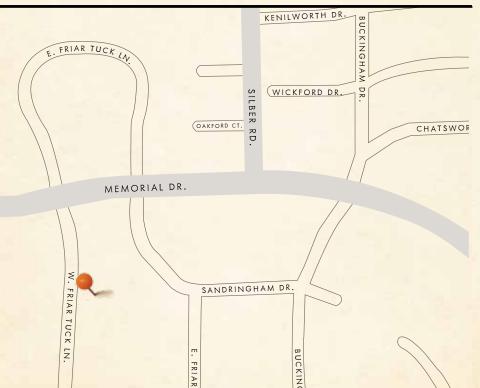




Frank Welch of Dallas is Texas' best-known residential architect. He has worked throughout the state during more than fifty years of practice. In the 1950s, while employed by the partnership of O'Neil Ford and Richard S. Colley, Welch lived in Houston. He has designed numerous houses in Houston, including one shown on RDA's 2006 tour. This two-story house was built by the interior designer and art collector Sue Rowan Pittman. Welch fit the house to a corner site in the Glendower Court neighborhood with a series of stepped wall planes clad in St. Joe brick. From outside, the house appears tightly closed. From inside, it is very open. Floors paved with ruddy flagstone complement simply finished walls meant for the display of art. Large rectangular windows open into walled courtyards, suffusing the house with daylight. Sectional variations ensure a dramatic sequence of spaces, culminating in a double-height living room with a vista to the elevated library beyond. The interiors were completed by J. Randall Powers, Interior Decoration.

HOI 14 HOI 15







The San Antonio architects Lake/Flato designed this house in the Memorial neighborhood of Sherwood Forest for a relative of one of their partners. It was Lake/Flato's first opportunity to engage a Houston woodland setting. They responded with a taut arrangement of three parallel, steel-framed bars of space, roofed with thin, asymmetrically gabled roof plates. Exterior wall surfaces of burnished sheet steel and intensely colored stucco play off the tones of the pine forest. The entry courtyard, screened by a horizontal wood lath wall of ipê, leads to a twostory-high space that fills the center of the house. More sheltered rooms open off this central space on both floors. Partitions of vertical grain fir wood and plywood and polished concrete floors bring the dappled light of the woodland setting inside. Thin, steel tension rods structurally tying the wide roof eaves back to the house enhance an impression of ethereal lightness, suggesting that this is a tree house on the ground. Renaissance Builders was the general contractor. McDugald Steele completed the landscaping.





TOUR ADMISSION »

\$25 GENERAL ADMISSION



\$15 FOR STUDENTS WITH ID: SENIOR CITIZENS OVER 65 YEARS OLD

* The tour is open only to RDA members and guests. RDA Memberships beginning at \$45 include one complimentary tour ticket (Household level and higher includes two complimentary tickets).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
713.348.4876 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.RICEDESIGNALLIANCE.ORG

purchased at any of the tour locations or in advance by mailing a check made payable to the Rice Design Alliance and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

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The Rice Design Alliance is an AIA/CES Registered Provider of educational programs. For this tour, attendees will earn two Learning Units. Learning Units will be reported to CES Records on the member's



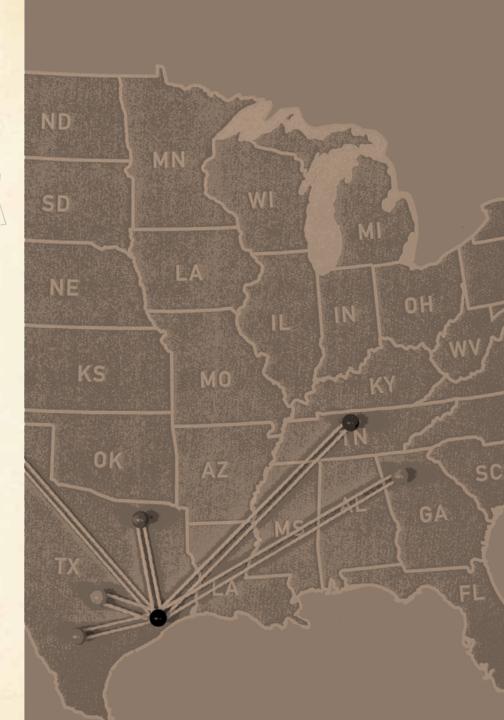


behalf. Registration at one house on the tour is required. Non-AIA members may pick up a Certificate of Completion to fulfill state MCE requirements.

The tour is made possible by support from A & E - The Graphics Complex; Avadek; W. S. Bellows Construction Corporation; Broaddus & Associates; Brookstone, LP; Builders West, Inc.; CenterPoint Energy, Inc.; JE Dunn Construction; Leslie Elkins Architecture; FKP Architects; Gilbane; D. E. Harvey Builders; Haworth; Haynes Whaley Associates, Inc.; Hoar Construction; Humphries Construction Corp.; McCoy Workplace Solutions; Morris Architects; O'Donnell/Snider Construction; Office Pavilion - Houston; The OFIS; Perkins+Will; Rosenberger Construction LP; Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc.; The Southampton Group; TDIndustries, Inc.; Tellepsen; Transwestern; Walter P Moore; Wylie Consulting Engineers; the Corporate Members of the Rice Design Alliance; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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.

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