

# BigCitéBeat

## ARTY-FACTS

☛ Texas homecoming: Port Arthur native **Robert Rauschenberg** descended upon Houston this September in full force, with three exhibitions covering his earliest and most recent work. At the **Menil Collection**, **Walter Hopps** assembled rarely seen work from the 1950s by Rauschenberg including photographs, monoprints on exposed blueprint paper, collages, and early combine paintings. Recent prints made by Rauschenberg taken from the early collage assemblages of that period are exhibited at the **Hiram Butler Gallery**. To complete the Rauschenberg ensemble, his current work, *Night Shade Paintings* – tarnished images on aluminum – can be seen at the **Texas Gallery**.



*Tailgate*, Rachel Hecker, 1991, UH Computing Center Building.

☛ The central campus of the **University of Houston** unveils two commissioned pieces this fall as part of an ongoing program for art in public places. At the Computing Center Building, Houston artist **Rachel Hecker** has installed a six-panel relief painting on birch board titled *Tailgate*, and for the new Science Center Building, New Yorker **Matt Mullican** is preparing cut-granite slabs with sandblasted images to be positioned on the building's outdoor plaza. Hecker explores the colliding worlds of nature and technology; Mullican describes the cosmology of the city, humankind, and the universe through signagelike symbols.

☛ Remade **Market Square Park** downtown, a collaborative project of five artists

working together to evoke the past through chronology, documentation, and preservation, is nearing completion. Californians **Doug Hollis** and **Richard Turner** designed the diagonal walkways crossing at a plaza and paved with scavenged materials, giving the appearance of an archaeological remnant. Houston photographer **Paul Hester** is documenting the history of downtown and Market Square with 80 vintage photographic images baked onto enamel tiles for the garden retaining walls along the diagonal pathways. Curved benches designed by Austin native **Malou Flato** are tiled



Walkways take shape at downtown's Market Square Park.

and Texas A&M – **Constasy and Change in Architecture**, edited by UH professor **Bruce Webb** and A&M

professor **Malcolm Quantrill**; and from Barcelona (published by Editorial Gustavo Gili), a folio of drawings and buildings (Paul Hester, photographer) by Houston designer **Carlos Jiménez**.

☛ *Cite* magazine received a Citation of Honor from the **Texas Society of Architects** at its annual meeting in Corpus Christi.

## GOING TO EXTREMES

☛ **SICSA** (the University of Houston's Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture) and UH's **Cullen College of Engineering** in mid-November hosted the first International Design for Extreme Environments Assembly. Cochairs **Larry Bell**, SICSA director, and **Olga Zakharova** from the USSR's Center for Extreme Environments in Architecture convened the conference to initiate a new association called **IDEEA** (International Design for Extreme Environments).

## ReCite

To the Editor:

Regarding Mr. Peters's article on our Children's Museum (*Cite*, Spring 1991): there is a difference between Potemkin and us: he fooled Catherine – or tried to; we don't try to fool the perceiver – nor do we use our aesthetic to cover up social injustice.

I reply in the cause of critical justice.

Robert Venturi  
Philadelphia, PA  
27 June 1991

\$800,000 project have been privately raised, with major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Houston Parks Board as well as substantial donations from leading area foundations (Brown, Wortham, Menil, Fondren, and Hamman), individuals and organizations.

## BOOK MARKS

☛ New books on Houston or about Houstonians: *Houston's Forgotten Heritage* (Rice University Press) by local historians **Barrie Scardino**, **Katherine Howe**, **Dorothy Knox Houghton**, and **Sadie Blackburn**; from **CASA** (Center for the Advancement of Studies in Architecture), a joint project of the Colleges of Architecture at the University of Houston

# Winter-Spring Architectural Events

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, RICE UNIVERSITY**  
713 527-4870

21, 22 January, 9, 10 March 1992

Craig Francis Cullinan Lectures. Rem Koolhaas, "The Contemporary City," at Innova, 20 Greenway Plaza, 9th floor, 7:30 p.m.

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, HOUSTON CHAPTER AND THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON**  
713 639-7375

12 January – 12 April 1992  
"The Main Street Exhibition," drawings, photographs, and architectural models resulting from intensive work by community architects, designers, students, professionals, and civic leaders to present practical and visionary solutions to the pervasive problems of Houston's Main Street.



Misión San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, San Antonio, 1768-70.

**RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE**  
713 524-6297

19 January – 23 February 1992  
Cinemarchitecture IV: The Common Place. A film series cosponsored with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Sunday evenings, 7 p.m., Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Spring Lecture Series "Hispanic Traditions in American Architecture."  
4 March – Lonn Taylor, "New Mexico."  
11 March – John Ferguson, "New

Orleans."

18 March – Jim Steeley, "Texas."

25 March – Karen Weitze, "California."

1 April – Stephanos Polyzoides, "Neo-Spanish and Mediterranean Traditions."

15 April – Thomas S. Hines, "Contemporary Influences." All lectures held in Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, at 8 p.m.

25-26 April 1992  
RDA Architectural Tour: 1920s Spanish-style Houses in Houston.



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