



RDA Announces 2011 Hometown Tours

Katie Plocheck | 6:02 pm | November 9 2010



Finlandia Hall, 1971, Alvar Aalto, architect.

The Rice Design Alliance is pleased to announce its 2011 Hometown tour destinations:

Dallas Architecture and Art Fair – April 7-10, 2011

\$1275 pp dbl; \$330 single supplement; \$975 tour only (no hotel)

Please join us for a beautiful spring weekend of architecture and art as RDA teams up with the Dallas Art Fair. The Mansion on Turtle Creek will be our home base as we tour Dallas's amazing arts district that includes buildings by starchitects 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.

Helsinki, Finland – World Design Capital for 2012

June 7-14, fee to be determined.

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.

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

If you are interested in participating in the Helsinki trip, please email RDA Tour Director Lynn Kelly at lynn_kelly_tx@yahoo.com for more information. Registration will open once the fee is determined at which time a per-person deposit will be required to reserve a place on the tour. Your reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and all signed forms.

Space on both trips is limited and reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.