



Llewelyn-davies sahni

architecture + planning + design

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**Llewelyn-Davies Sahni and Rice University Announce Lecture Series
*Award-Winning Designer Elizabeth Diller Headlines First “Innovative Practices
Lecture” in February***

HOUSTON, January 17, 2011 – Llewelyn-Davies Sahni (LDS), a leading architecture and urban design firm in Houston, is teaming with the Rice University School of Architecture (RSA) to present the “RSA Llewelyn-Davies Sahni Innovative Practices Lecture” – a lecture series featuring some of the industry’s leading thinkers, innovators and professionals. LDS is sponsoring the lecture series in celebration of its 30th anniversary and to provide outstanding learning opportunities for students, alumni and architecture/design professionals. The series will present one lecture per year over the next five years as part of RSA’s Spring Lecture Series. This year’s lecture on February 1, 2011 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St., Houston, will feature Elizabeth Diller, Professor of Architecture at Princeton University and a founding principal of Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R) in New York.

The 7 p.m. lecture at Brown Auditorium is free and open to the public. A reception will precede the lecture at 6 p.m. in the lobby of the MFAH Beck Building.

“We are extremely honored to participate in this program and work hand-in-hand with Dean Sarah Whiting and the Rice School of Architecture,” said Randhir Sahni, president of Llewelyn-Davies Sahni. “As a Rice University graduate, I am proud to support and work with the school to present this outstanding educational opportunity.”

“I am grateful to LDS for providing the support to enable this lecture series, which is as innovative as its topic,” said Sarah Whiting, William Ward Watkin Professor and Dean of the Rice School of Architecture. “The practice of architecture is necessarily changing in the 21st century and we are excited to be able to preview some of the new directions it will be taking. Starting with Liz Diller is starting with a bang: DS+R is one of the most innovative practices in the U.S. today.”

Diller will share her thoughts, experiences and unique perspective on innovative practices in the profession. In 2009, Diller and her partner, Ricardo Scofidio, received the MacArthur Foundation Genius Award in recognition for their commitment to integrating architecture with issues of contemporary culture. Diller and her firm are recognized worldwide for their groundbreaking ideas interweaving art and design. In 2003, the Whitney Museum of American Art held a retrospective of the studio’s work, recognizing the firm’s unorthodox but widely-praised practice.

She is also a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Along with being named among Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people of 2009, Diller and Scofidio have been honored by *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *The New Yorker*.

Rice University School of Architecture features guest speaker lectures every semester with outstanding individuals who have tremendous impact on what architecture and design professionals do and how they think. With support from Llewelyn-Davies Sahni, the spring semester lectures will include a lecture that focuses particularly on innovative practices. Learn more about the lectures at <http://arch.rice.edu/modules/indexwin.php>. To learn more about LDS, please visit <http://www.theldnet.com/>.

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About Llewelyn Davies Sahni (LDS)

Llewelyn Davies Sahni, a firm based in Houston, TX, is dedicated to being the world's leading architects, planners and designers delivering innovative buildings, master plans and strategies. LDS provides a range of international design consultancy services including architecture, planning, urban design, interior design, graphic design and health planning. With the belief that good design and planning creates significant value, LDS has met the needs and expectations of a range of clients from major corporations, developers, and healthcare institutions to education and research organizations, public/private partnerships and local, state and federal government departments. LDS is driven by a desire to provide inspiring, innovative and sustainable solutions to complex challenges.