

TIM CISNEROS | CISNEROS DESIGN STUDIO

website cisnerosdesignstudio.com **education background** ba environmental design, texas a&m '80, master architecture rice university '82
personal affiliations aia, american institute of architects, texas society of architects **speciality** custom commercial and residential **recent projects** renovation of plaza hotel in montrose. renovation of nabisco building across from minute maid park **current projects** resort home in telluride, co; 25,000sf wedding facility in dallas, tx; 97-acre texas-oriented theme park near houston; resort home in tiki island



sandra gunn | tim cisneros

I MET THIS MONTH'S ARCHICCHAT SUBJECT ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO WHEN HE UNDERTOOK A PROJECT TO REDESIGN AN OLD FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WAREHOUSE CLOSE TO ALLEN'S LANDING INTO A LOFT PROJECT NOW KNOWN AS SAN JACINTO LOFTS. WE PROCEEDED TO WORK ON SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS TOGETHER; HE REPURPOSED A DRY CLEANING FACILITY INTO THE WEST WEBSTER LOFTS; A PRINTING COMPANY ON DOWLING AND POLK INTO WHAT WAS TO BE CALLED EAST SIDE LOFTS; AND WE HAMMERED OUT THE PLAN TO TURN THE NABISCO BAKERY INTO A SIX-STORY RESIDENTIAL HOUSING CURRENTLY NEARING COMPLETION. FROM A FABULOUS INDIAN RESTAURANT TO A MOUNTAIN HOME IN TELLURIDE DESIGNED AROUND A BARN THE CLIENT FOUND ON THE NEW YORK/CANADIAN BORDER THAT DATES FROM THE EARLY 1700'S TO RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES, IT SHOWS ME THAT ONE OF TIM'S STRONGEST TALENTS IS HIS ABILITY TO WRAP HIS ARMS AROUND A MYRIAD OF PROJECTS, THE DIVERSE CLIENTELE AND WITH THE PERSONALITY AND SKILL SET TO DO IT WELL. READERS, PLEASE MEET SAN ANTONIO NATIVE AND WOODLAND HEIGHT'S RESIDENT, MR. TIM CISNEROS.

WHAT DROVE YOU TO ARCHITECTURE? Traveling as a youth.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT IT? The unpredictability of what happens when you mix a site, a client and an architect.

SO, THINKING BACK TO THAT DRAWING YOUR MOTHER HAD UP ON THE REFRIGERATOR WHEN YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...WHAT WAS IT?

A cityscape of Gloucester, Massachusetts, full of buildings and whaling ships in the harbor. At some point, it was upgraded with a frame and still hangs in the master bedroom.

HOW DID YOU COME TO LIVE/WORK IN HOUSTON AND WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO MAKE THIS YOUR HOME?

Came to Rice, took a stab at romance and it happened. And in a city with hardly a boundary or limit.

HOUSTON IS A VERY UNIQUE CITY. NO ZONING, ONLY A RECENT SENSE OF URBANISM, LACKING TRUE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND PLENTY OF "COOKIE CUTTER" CONSTRUCTION. HOW DO YOU DESIGN AROUND THIS?

You do the best on what you can impact and hope enough other architects are doing the same.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOME....

1910 Woodland Heights cottage....with about six renovations and expansions over 24 years.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ARCHITECT AND WHY?

Frank Lloyd Wright, for his clear, independent vision and the will to "pull it off."

WHAT STRUCTURE DO YOU WISH YOU HAD DESIGNED AND WHY?

Fallingwater, because it's abstract, but domestic in material and emotion.

ITCHING TO WORK ON.... Next project.

BEST PLACE IN HOUSTON TO HANG OUT.... Terrace in my backyard.

HOW CAN CHILDREN BE ENCOURAGED TO APPRECIATE ARCHITECTURE?

Get them building things! As they learn to build, they start to comprehend the next steps in architecture.

WHAT CAN THE NEXT MAYOR FOCUS ON TO HELP HOUSTON BE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

Trees, trees, tress. Also, it would be great to de-channelize the bayous.

TELL US, WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, LINCOLN LOGS OR LEGO'S?

Lincoln Logs, you could make more with twigs if you ran out with twigs.

IF YOU HAD TO LIVE OFF THE LAND, WHERE WOULD YOU LIVE?

Within a mile of any coast. Seafood every day!

WHEN I AM GONE, ... I want people to look at my 3 kids and think of me.