Cite and OffCite.org

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Cite is a local and independent publication. The publication plays a critical role in Houston and the world by publishing reviews of design and various aspects of the built environment by writers not bound to praise or promotion. Its credibility depends on writers who do not have or appear to have conflicts of interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual or organization is involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly influence the motivations for an act in the other. In order to avoid conflicts of interest in the selection of Cite articles and authors, as well as minimizing the appearance of conflict of interest, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. The decision to cover or not cover a specific topic will be made without consideration of whether the people, organizations, or topics are involved or not involved with the Rice Design Alliance or its employees, board members, or committee members. We will not decide to cover a topic because an interested party is involved with the RDA. We also will not decide not to cover a topic because an interested party is involved with the RDA.

2. It is proper to review projects, books, exhibitions, built projects, and other work by RDA Board Members, RDA supporters, Cite Editorial Committee Members, and their firms, clients, or collaborators as long as those individuals do not participate in the discussion or selection of those articles and/or corresponding authors, nor review the content of the eventual articles. Editorial Committee Members should recuse themselves from such deliberations as described by leaving the room.

3. Guest Editors shall avoid inclusion of their (or their firm’s, client’s, or collaborator’s) projects, books, exhibitions, built projects, and other work in issues they are overseeing or have a major part in.

4. Any relationships between the subject matter and the author’s and editor’s writing on that subject should be acknowledged in the publication.

5. Assignments by the editor to writers who may have shared personal or economic interests with the editor or editorial committee members will be reviewed in advance by the guest editor(s) for that publication.

6. Authors for reviews will be chosen to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts regarding the project and any firms involved.

7. Cite is a critical journal; authors may express opinions. The fact that an author, editorial committee member, or editor has an opinion, or belongs to or works with an organization that has an opinion, on a topic is not a conflict of interest.

8. This policy does not apply to the RDA News section of Cite, which is intended to specifically cover RDA-related events.

9. These and other Cite policies shall be posted in the publication’s web site; and a small note shall appear in every issue alerting readers to the existence of this web site.