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Rice Design Alliance

Quitman Street SCHAUM/SHIEH 2015 Number of units: 4

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Just east of the I-45 highway and north of downtown, the Near Northside mostly consists of single-family homes and a trio of public schools. METRORail's Red Line runs along Main Street and the Little White Oak Bayou threads through the neighborhood.

Given its desirability, many new homes have been built in the area, including this quartet of metal-clad townhouses, which were developed and constructed by Revolution Homes. Three of the units share walls while one is freestanding; each has three floors and a rooftop deck that overlooks downtown. They are set back from the street and share a common driveway. A blue gradient and similar roof cuts connect the structures.

The homes were designed by architect Troy Schaum of SCHAUM/SHIEH. Schaum is currently an Associate Professor at Rice Architecture and serves on the RDA's Board of Directors. While the room organization of the townhouses is largely dictated by the two-car garage, the design is enhanced with thoughtful window locations and internal openness between floors. Close collaboration ensured that items like steel railings and window details could be affordably realized.

The townhouse is a much-maligned type of housing in Houston given the typically poor quality of construction. This property demonstrates it is possible to deliver a townhouse that is both economically viable and handsome.





















