



Associated Press

Houston's architecture can be exciting and intimidating.

Section G

■ **Memorial Park** — Also where Houston plays. Arboretum, herb garden, botanical hall, golf and tennis, lighted jogging trail and playing fields. Mansions on Memorial Drive rival River Oaks. Off Loop 610.

■ **Menil Collection** — Labeled "a triumph" by *Time* magazine, it houses the collection assembled by John and Dominique de Menil. 10,000 works, from prehistoric to 20th century. 1515 Sul Ross.

■ **Miller Outdoor Theater** — In Hermann Park. From opera to jazz, ballet, Shakespeare, musicals and symphonies. Unique polygon roof.

■ **Museum of Fine Arts** — Cezanne, Monet, Van Gogh — just some of the masters among 18,000 works. Nearby, the **Cullen Sculpture Garden**. 1001 Bissonnet.

■ **Museum of Natural Science and Planetarium** — One of the largest in the Southwest. World-class gem and mineral collection. 70-foot dinosaur skeleton. Ten planetarium shows weekly. In Hermann Park on the circle.

■ **NASA** — Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Visitors Center features space gear and mission modules. Tour Mission Control, see lunar rocks and a shuttle trainer. "Phantasmagoric" Space Center, designed by Walt Disney Imagineering, will be complete by 1991. 1 NASA Road, off I-45 South.

■ Nearby **Challenger Seven Memorial Park** — Bird sanctuary, nature trail, picnicking, playground. 2301 W. NASA Blvd.

■ **Port of Houston** — Free tours of the area aboard the Sam Houston Inspection Boat.

■ **River Oaks** — For sale at \$30 million, a "house" with a 1,600-square-foot kitchen. Just one palace in this ritzy neighborhood with tall trees. Tours available.

■ Nearby **Ritz-Carlton Hotel** offers visitors an intimate, elegant taste of the good life, too. 1919 Briar Oaks Lane.

■ **Rothko Chapel** — "A sacred place open to all," created by Mark Rothko. Barnett Newman's *The Broken Obelisk* sculpture outside, dedicated to Martin Luther King Jr. 3900 Yupon at Sul Ross (near the Menil Collection).

■ **Sam Houston Historical Park** — Heritage Society 13-acre landscaped site. Restored historic buildings depicting early Houston. Slide program. 1100 Bagby.

■ **San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park** — Memorial to Texas' victory over Santa Anna. Museum of Texas History, elevator to monument's observation deck. Reminiscent of Washington monument but taller.

■ **Splashtown, U.S.A.** — 30 acres of wet fun, set in wooded surroundings, 22 miles north on I-45 in Spring.

■ **Texas Medical Center** — A 355-acre complex. Accepts 150,000 patients, treats 1.5 million outpatients and trains 6,000 students annually. Tours. Assistance Center at 1155 Holcombe.

■ **Tranquility Park** — Green respite commemorates the moon landing. Features replicas of man's first "moonprint." Downtown.

■ **Tunnel System** — Go underground. Miles of tunnels connect downtown buildings. Well-lighted, lined with shops and places to dine. Maps along route tell you where you are.

■ **Wortham Theater Center** — Architecturally significant twin homes to opera and ballet. Stairs to 12,000-square-foot foyer lined by 30-ton sculptures. "Green Room" boasts Helen Hayes chandelier. Tours. 501 Texas Ave.