

IMAGINE HOUSTON

As a vibrant metropolis, Houston attracts national attention as a great place to live, work and play. Quality of life continues to be the No. 1 reason why people living in Houston love it here and thousands of newcomers relocate here each year. Its special features include the following:

★ Optimism and the indomitable spirit of a global leader draw businesses eager to share in Houston's success. Twenty-five Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in the Greater Houston area and help continue the city's growing economic achievement.

★ The Texas Medical Center allows people from all walks of life access to the best health care anywhere. Forty-nine institutions comprise the world-renowned center.

★ Houston is one of only a few U.S. cities with permanent professional resident companies in opera, ballet, music and theater. The Theater District, with its five major performing arts venues, is home to these companies as well as four other internationally recognized performing arts presenters.

★ As with all world-class cities, Houston and the region comprises hundreds of distinctive neighborhoods that reflect specific personalities and character. Typical housing prices are well below the national average, giving buyers a vast selection.





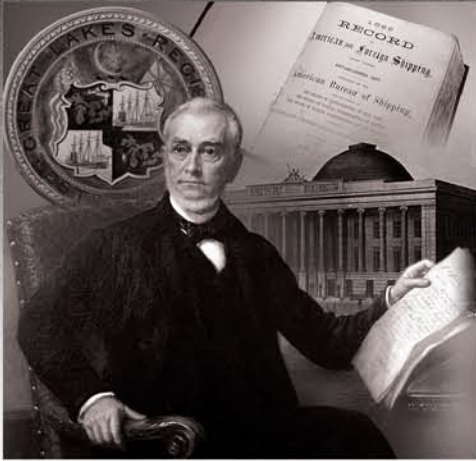


★ Practically year round, the area's residents can enjoy an outdoor lifestyle. Average temperatures allow for recreation in and around Houston and use of more than 100 miles of trails within its 18,000 acres of green space.

★ The Houston Galleria and dozens of regional shopping districts give residents and visitors ample selection in style and price.

★ From preschool to college, the Houston region is rich in education opportunities for all ages. Top-rated public schools, exclusive private schools and leading universities educate tomorrow's leaders.

★ All major professional sporting teams are represented in Houston, including baseball, basketball, football, soccer and hockey.


★ With 18 museums in a 1.5-mile radius, the Museum District provides Houstonians with maximum exposure to artistic, scientific and educational resources.



Setting the Standard for Service

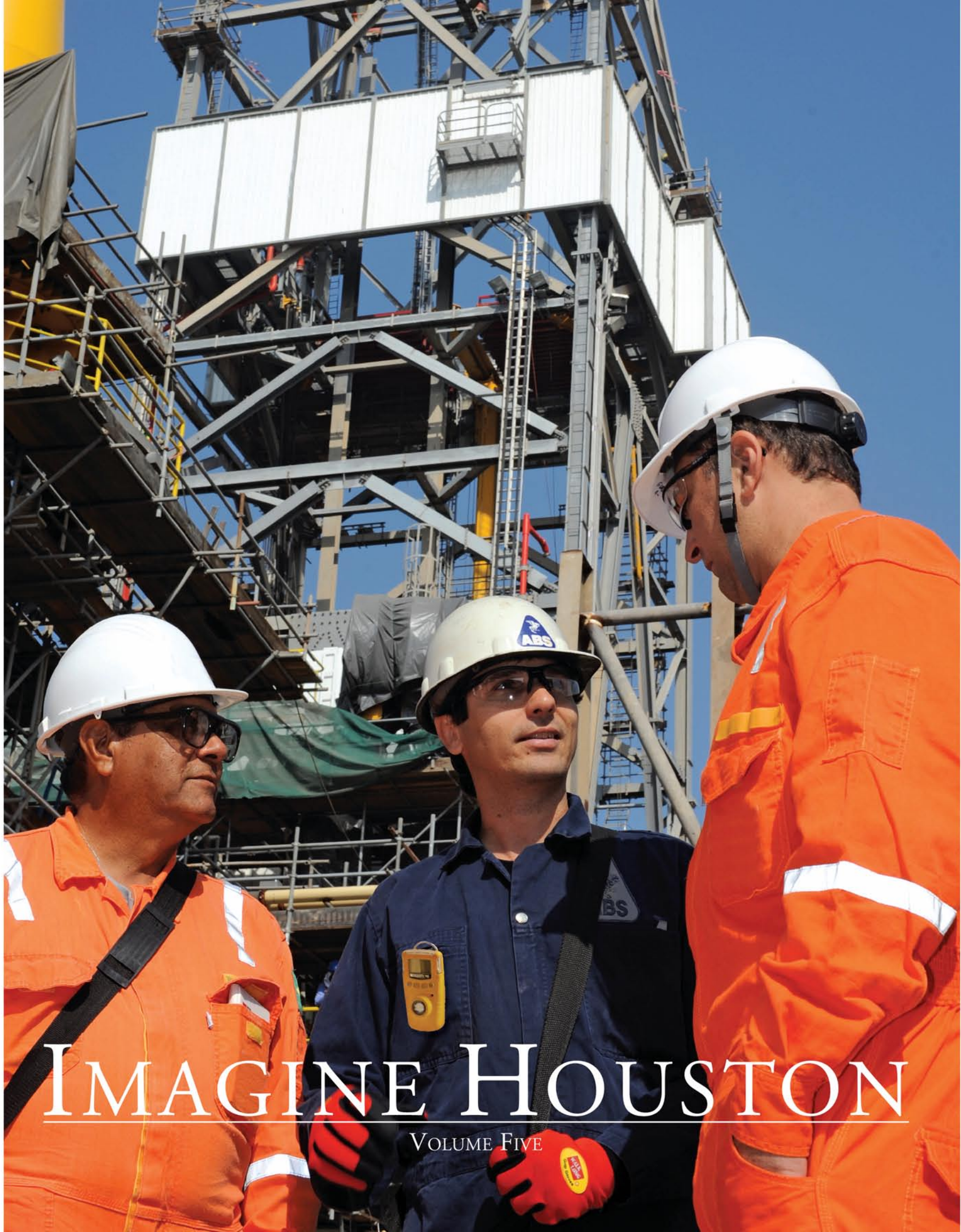
Promoting the security of life, property and the natural environment.

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Headquartered in Houston, Texas, ABS is one of the world's leading classification societies, providing services to clients in the international shipping and offshore industries in nearly 70 countries. The core competencies of the men and women of ABS are in the fields of marine survey, engineering and auditing. Underpinning its service operations is a strong commitment to technology research and development.

Recognizing that the scope of classification services continues to change and expand, ABS is evolving to maintain its role as a leader in fulfilling the role of class in this new environment. With the goal of providing innovative products and efficient services for the industry, ABS is defining the class society of the future.

Christopher J. Wiernicki
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