Roundup: *Ceiling function, the mathematical operation of rounding a number up to the next higher integer.*

Roundup: *a term in American English referring to the process of gathering animals into an area, known as a "Muster" in Australia.*

Rounding up: *when a helmsman cannot control a boat and it heads into the wind*

Roundup: *the plan for an invasion of northern France by Allied forces during World War II   (WikipediA)*

*Dean's Roundup: part blog, part bulletin; part honour roll, part curatorial [***cu·ra·to·ri·al*** (ky○○r'ə-tôr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) *n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]*

Dear All,

Great to see some of the results of a busy summer in this week's honour roll (below); plus a good representation at the DADA exhibition in Beijing; ongoing high level activities in the faculty's community-focused work; and evidence of ongoing contributions to international scholarly debates.

I want to pick up on a discussion I had with landscape and planning colleagues some weeks ago: on landscape and boundaries. Someone was talking about using landscape elements as ecological and functional boundaries in a master plan. This is common at a city scale with greenbelts; at a neighbourhood scale with the use of neighbourhood parks and strips separating residential from employment and transportation land use; at a block/estate level, with green areas separating towers; and at a plot level, with private gardens separating individual houses. Even within buildings, greenery is used to separate functions - bamboo screens seem to be popular in Chinese restaurants, office buildings and airports (I have just installed three small trees in my apartment as a natural screen). Landscape is used normatively to create, emphasise, soften, and ambiguate (excuse the verbisation) boundaries.

It is interesting to note that landscape does this naturally also. Having its own agency as a landscape element, vegetation imposes itself on man-made environments and for legal reasons, this often tends to emphasise boundaries.

So the agricultural landscape of most countries, particularly pre-mechanisation landscape is networked with self-sown linear landscape features in the form of hedgerows. Hedgerows grow for two reasons. They evolve naturally on residual land between two ownership or sub-ownership parcels. And they are cultivated to achieve enclosure (to keep owned animals in and other people and their animals out). (I recommend a read of Professor Ronald Coase's 'Problem of Social Cost' paper if you haven't already – available on plenty of websites). Even with the latter type of hedgerow, these landscape elements tend to grow by negative intervention – not cutting rather than planting. In England, it is generally reckoned that you can tell the age of a hedgerow by the number of established species within it – typically 50 years per specie. Boundary-related landscapes in Europe are typically many hundreds of years old. In England, many date back to the agricultural enclosure movement that started in the 15th century as innovations in the pre-industrial woolen industry led to thriving exports and massively increased the value of farmland, leading to its enclosure to secure the private use of the feudal landowner and the exclusion of peasants.

So linear landscape features naturally tend to follow legal boundaries. In the city and in the countryside, they grow where there are ambiguous property rights (inter-property boundaries, river edges, road medians, unmanaged open land etc); they grow in residual spaces where other land uses find it difficult to

become established; they grow in places of physical inaccessible – on steep slopes as in Hong Kong- and in places of legal inaccessibility (property 'landlocked' by other property with no or limited access).

With landscape, therefore, we have the planned and the spontaneous story. I am no expert, but I imagine that planned landscapes might work better if they respect the natural laws of spontaneous landscapes. That might mean that linear landscape features are more resilient than polygonal landscape features – as well as being, perhaps, more ecologically acceptable. Polygonal landscape features, unless they are on residual or inaccessible land, have to be managed and continually invested in to compete with other land uses (unless they are left as wilderness areas, but I suspect that such urban wilderness spaces only work if they are indeed remote and inaccessible).

It would be fascinating to have a student undertake a land-economics study of planned and spontaneous landscape features (or to have landscape and land economy colleagues work on a GRF grant proposal on this). A detailed map of a city's micro land values (if that could ever be achieved) might correspond well to the city's map of spontaneous green features. The normal laws of land economics apply. If the cost of bringing land into some alternative use is higher than the value of the land use thus created, the land will remain in its residual vegetated state. Like agricultural land beyond a city's natural market boundary remaining in agriculture with no recourse to green belts or other growth boundary tools.

Question: what has to happen for this dynamic to extend from linear spaces, residual land and inter-property boundaries to non-residual land and polygonal spaces? In cities like Detroit and in Eastern Europe's more peripheral cities from the central planning era, agricultural land values have for the first time in modern civilization (other than in war years) surpassed urban land values and agriculture is moving back into the city – and new forms of urban landscape with it, including the urban equivalent to hedgerows.

At the other end of the urban agriculture spectrum, the young, trendy and alternative across Europe and the States are digging-in as community gardening and allotments enjoy a renaissance. This has traditionally happened on residual and inaccessible land (especially land-locked islands and in the UK, for example, historical residues of ancient common land). But the intensification of demand for such land is changing the landscape of such spaces: with the dominant micro-landscape being shaped by what? – by property boundaries. Mature, well-used urban allotments look increasingly like ancient patchworks of strip-farming, with micro-landscape elements defined by differences in crops, fences and hedgerows.

In Chapter 6 of my 2003 book with Lawrence Lai (Property Rights, Planning and Markets: Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK, Northampton MA, USA), we start with a geometric illustration of urban land successively subdividing over time so that as a plot of land divides into 4, for example, the number of boundaries increases from 4 to 12. This suggests a natural relationship between the degree of densification of a city and the potential for linear landscape features (hard, soft, green of grey). Perhaps this suggests an index – ILFS or index of landscape feature saturation. It is maximized when each property boundary becomes a landscape feature. I suspect that just as the most delightful agricultural landscapes are those where each property is defined by a natural looking and architecturally pleasing landscape feature – be it hedgerow, line of trees, paddy bund, ditch or dry-stone-wall; so the most appealing urban landscapes are those in which each property is also defined an aesthetically appealing landscape feature (think of any traditional town scape worthy of heritage conservation).

I wonder too if there is a link between aesthetics and the human need for order: a pleasing landscape is one in which there is evidence of both natural spontaneous order (such as the dendritic bifurcations of a tree) and evidence of human order – well designed boundaries to property perhaps conjure up emotions of security, stability, fraternity, prosperity and peace.

Chris

Overseas Architectural Service Project (OASP)

Co-organized by the Architectural Society (AS) and a group of alumni of the Faculty, the OASP is the first of its kind as a bottom-up student-initiated building project within the Faculty. It will take the student activities by AS to new heights through realizing solid contributions to the community on one hand, while on the other hand offering experiential learning opportunities with focuses on inter-disciplinary teamwork and social commitment cultivation.

The OASP will improve the learning environment of an existing lower-secondary school located in a UNESCO World Heritage town in Nepal. Participating students will develop design and implementation solutions ahead, and deliver their designs on-site in collaboration with the local Nepalese community through a 10-day service trip in coming January.

17 students of different academic backgrounds were recruited in the OASP last summer. Since then several workshops and a number of meetings have been conducted to formulate designs. Professor W.J. Wang as well as non-HKU guest critics were invited to offer comments along the process. The team is currently working on the set of final drawings which are to be forwarded to the Nepal partner for last comments and quotations. First placement of order for the relevant materials would be expected in early November.

The team is preliminarily anticipating a project sum of HKD 100,000 to 150,000. Various fund-raising channels are being explored by the team and yet it still falls short of the required funding. Further sponsorship from within the Faculty members is sought.

1.   Joshua Bolchover

-    participated in an exhibition, "Participatory City: 100 Urban Trends" at the Guggenheim, NY, from October 11th 2013 to January 5th, 2014.

2.   Ms. Melissa Cate Christ

-    authored an essay "This Garden of the Sun: A Report on Almería's Miracle Economy" which has been published in *Scapegoat: Architecture/Landscape/Political Economy*. Issue 5, Excess, in Fall 2013.

-    presented a paper "Evidence of Action: Towards an Ecology of Objects", as part of the Best Practices Landscape Architecture session at the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS) Annual Conference, HafenCity University, Hamburg, Germany.

3.   David Erdman

-    exhibited a collection of projects for a housing complex in Repulse Bay he and his firm *davidclovers* recently completed for the Digital Architecture Design Association (DADA) Digital Infiltration Exhibition in Beijing.

-    supervised a MArch student, Elaine Choy, whose work has been selected for the Digital Infiltration Exhibition in Beijing, titled "*Design Intelligence: Advanced Computational Research*", exhibited alongside the work of 30 of the world's top schools, including Harvard GSD, MIT, Yale, Pratt, UCLA, USC, Columbia GSAP, AA, Bartlett, IaaC, DIA, ETH Zurich, TU Delft, Tsinghua University, Tongji University and RMIT.

4.   Yan Gao

-    invited to serve on the paper review committee for the DADA International Conference in Beijing.

-    moderated a panel discussion on Digital Design Practice during the DADA International Conference

-    curated the China Digital Making Exhibition as one of the exhibitions within Digital Infiltration event series during the Beijing International Design Week

-    exhibited the "*Deep Blue*" summer program and KE project together with Olivier Ottavaere for the China Digital Making Exhibition at the DADA Digital Infiltration Exhibition in Beijing

-    co-author of a conference paper, "*Collaborative Mass Housing Design Practice with Smart Models*", for the DADA International Conference.

5.   Christian Lange

-    supervised a MArch student, Eric Lo, whose work has been selected for the Digital Infiltration Exhibition in Beijing, titled "*Design Intelligence: Advanced Computational Research*", exhibited alongside the work of 30 of the world's top schools, including Harvard GSD, MIT, Yale, Pratt, UCLA, USC, Columbia GSAP, AA, Bartlett, IaaC, DIA, ETH Zurich, TU Delft, Tsinghua University, Tongji University and RMIT.

6. Mr. Stephen Lau

- his outside practice project: bamboo architecture for the Mawan Village Reviitalization has been awarded "Exemplary Project" at the Seventh Green Exposition , Fuzhou, 2013 Team included Zou Yang Sheng PhD final year.
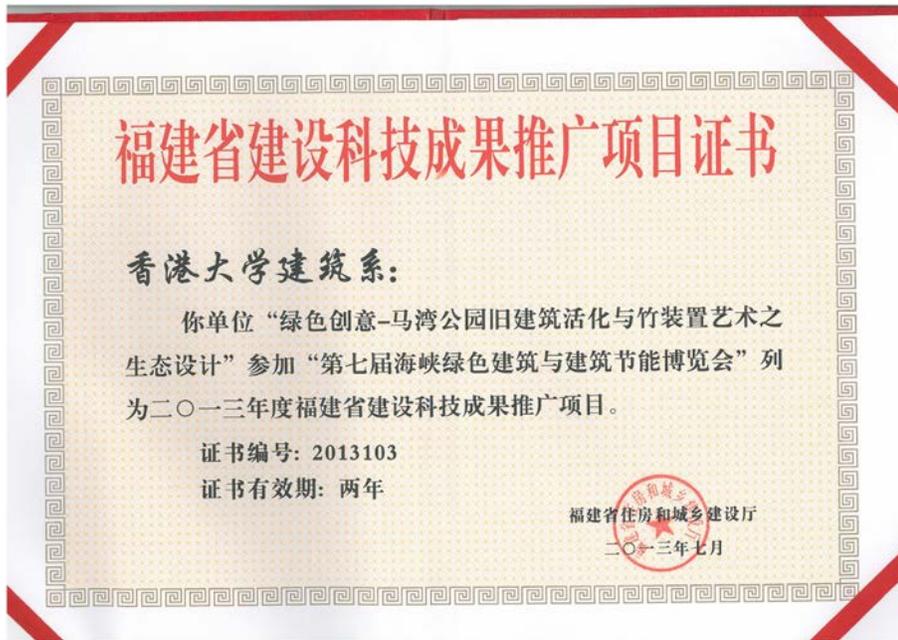
7. Mr. Anderson Lee

- the Tapered House designed by Anderson Lee and his firm Index Architecture Limited was awarded Honorable mention in the "Blue Star Cup – The 7th China Weihai International Architectural Design Competition" organized by the Architectural Society of China.

- was featured in a China's Designer and Designing Journal "設計家" September issues with two design projects: Rhenish Church in Yuen Long, Hong Kong and Tapered House in Shunde, P.R.C.

8. Mr. John Lin

    - invited speaker for the Asia Pacific Housing Forum in Manila, from October 2nd to 4th, 2013

    - participated in an exhibition, "Participatory City: 100 Urban Trends" at the Guggenheim, NY, from October 11th 2013 to January 5th, 2014.

9. Mr. Olivier Ottavaere

    - exhibited a documentation of the "*Deep Blue*' Pavilion in collaboration with Yan Gao at the DADA Digital Infiltration Exhibition in Beijing.

10. Matthew Pryor

   - conducted a lunchtime seminar entitled "Landscape Practicum : Constructing Experiential Learning" on Tuesday, October 8th, 2013, as part of the Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Centre, Fall 2013 Seminar Series.

   - together with 10 students from the BALS and MLA students will be conducting a series of "Upcycle:Recycle Workshops" at the HKICC School of Creativity in Kowloon Tong, starting October 2013, as part of the productive green roof initiative with Feeding Hong Kong.

11. Dr. Eric Schuldenfrei

   - delivered a lecture titled "Atlas" at the Cinematic Urban Geographies Conference at the University of Cambridge, from October 3rd to 4th, 2013.

12. Mr. Ivan Valin

   - was selected to participate as an exhibitor in the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam: IABR—2014—Urban By Nature. The project "Marginal Effects: Enmeshed Urbanism in a Watery City" presents a three-dimensional analysis of the waterfronts of Yangon, Myanmar and is being completed with co-investigator Natalia Echeverri. The exhibit will be on display in the Kunsthal from May to August, 2014.

13. Mr. Tom Verebes

   - invited to serve on the paper review committee for the DADA International Conference in Beijing.

   - participated in a panel discussion on Design Intelligence, together with Xu Weiguo, Patrik Schumacher, Elena Manferdini, Neil Leach, and others in the DADA International Conference.

   - moderated a panel discussion on Digital Educationin during the DADA International Conference

   - published an article, "*The Adaptive City: Urban Change, Resilience, and the Trajectory Towards a Distinctive Urbanism*" in Chinese, in World Architecture; and in a book to be published for the conference proceedings, by Tsinghua University Press

   - supervised a MArch student, Cai Hongkui, whose work has been selected for the Digital Infiltration Exhibition in Beijing, titled "*Design Intelligence: Advanced Computational Research*", exhibited alongside the work of 30 of the world's top schools, including Harvard GSD, MIT, Yale, Pratt, UCLA, USC, Columbia GSAP, AA, Bartlett, IaaC, DIA, ETH Zurich, TU Delft, Tsinghua University, Tongji University and RMIT.

   - "The Adaptive City" Book Launch and Discussion Series:

     Tom Verebes, *Masterplanning the Adaptive City: Computational Urbanism in the Twenty-first Century* (Routledge: 2013)

     following a "soft-launch" in Shanghai in July, this event launched "*Masterplanning the Adaptive City: Computational Urbanism in the Twenty-first Century*" at HKU. Further launches to be held in London, Toronto and New York in October-November. HKU colleagues presented their contributions, including Matthew Pryor, Christian Lange, Yan Gao and David Erdman. Juan Du moderated a panel discussion.

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. Daniel Ho

   - appointed as the Chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Hong Kong Board's Chairman.

   - served as the Representative of the Asia Region on Governing Council of the RICS for a 4-year term since July 2009 and has recently been elected to continue to serve another 4-year term until July 2017.

2. Dr. Koh Tas Yong

   - invited by the Hong Kong Construction Safety Benchmarking Group (a group of major local developers and government agencies) to give a presentation on October 4th, 2013. The topic of presentation was "The State of Health and Well-Being of our Construction Workers: The MTR Study"

3. Dr. Wilson Lu

   - published a paper "**Lu, W.S.**, Ye, K.H., Flanagan, R., and Jewell, C.A. (2013). The nexus between contracting and construction professional service businesses: empirical evidence from the international market." at the *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management, ASCE,* forthcoming.

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Professor Anthony Yeh

   - has been invited to present a paper on "Urban Planning in China - Economic Transition and Challenges" in the *Conference on Urbanization in China: Current Trends and Challenges Ahead* organized by the Center for Asian Studies of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), France's leading independent research institute on the analysis of international issues, on October 4th, 2013 in Paris, France.

2. Ms. Natalia Echeverri

   - was selected to participate as an exhibitor in the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam: IABR–2014– Urban By Nature. The project "Marginal Effects: Enmeshed Urbanism in a Watery City" presents a three-dimensional analysis of the waterfronts of Yangon, Myanmar and is being completed with co-investigator Mr. Ivan Valin. The exhibit will be on display in the Kunsthal from May to August, 2014.

Shanghai Study Centre

1. Daan Roggeveen

   - co-organized a new lecture series titled "Down to Earth" with the assistant curator Vivian Song at the HKU/SSC for the period from October 10th to December 3rd, 2013

   - led a workshop in the series "Critical Studio: City Tales" at Shibaura House, Tokyo, on October 5th, 2013