

Dean's Roundup

Friday, 14 March, 2014

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** (kyŏr'ə-tŏr'ē-əl, -tŏr'-) *n.* nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear all,

Three particularly notable points of celebration in this week's Roundup:

1. The first ever Swire (PhD) Scholarship awarded to the Faculty of Architecture: the scholarship holder comes from Chongqing and will be working under the supervision of Weijen on modern interpretation of wooden vernacular.
2. Joshua Bolchover and John Lin will travel to Sweden in September to receive the Ralph Erskine 100 Years Anniversary Award 2014, presented in the famous hall where Nobel Laureate's receive their glory and gold.
3. I have received 7M HKD from HKU's UDF fund to build our planned HKUrban iLab. Thanks to all those who contributed to putting the bid together.

Let me say something about the iLab. It will be constructed (in the summer) as part of the next round of Knowles building renovations, integrated with a relocated CAD Lab on the 7th floor.

I would like to have an internal competition for the design of the iLab, giving architecture colleagues, with their students, a chance to create what I would like to be one of the best equipped and most sublimely designed computational urban labs in the world. I shall be talking to Weijen about organizing this. Phase I labs of this kind were geeky caves in the basements of engineering and earth science schools. Phase II labs were slick Star-ship Enterprise control rooms with high tech leather and steel chairs facing a set of screens. Phase III are designed as more sensible work spaces, with multiple technologies scattered around various work spaces to suit project meetings, student studios, collaborative interactive design, virtual design studios, exec education and grand tech-wiz visualisations designed to impress. Let's try and invent a Phase IV.

The grant money is restricted to refurbishing existing space to create the room plus hardware and software. I am bidding elsewhere for funds for people. However, we have a number of projects that can immediately move to the iLab, with 3, possibly 4, Post Doc Fellows and several RAs and PhD students. This is how we shall start and I hope over time to have a rolling programme of funded research and PhD projects based in the iLab, with research staff on hand to offer technical support to teachers and advanced students.

I see the iLab as being a space for the following kind of research, KE and teaching in the Faculty:

- BIM (Supply-chain automation, BIMManagement, game theoretic modelling etc)
- GIS and spatial analysis (transportation modeling, river-basin planning and landscape studies, urban growth modeling etc)
- Computational architectural design (smart geometry, parametric design, vernacular genetics, fabrication etc)
- Computational Urban Design (sDNA, thermal comfort modeling etc)
- Multi-scale environmental modeling (building, cluster, urban envelope climate modeling etc)
- Computational urban economics (housing market econometrics etc)
- Ecological landscape modeling (flood analysis, green-space audits and models etc)
- Visualisation (scientific, CPW interactive collaborative planning workshops etc)

I see the iLab as being home to several large funded Faculty research projects at any one time. To start with and over the next 2 years, we have lined up:

- PRD BIM integrated supply-chain management for HHA project (REC-led, ITC-funded)
- HKUrban Lab/Healthy Cities (DUPAD-led, HKU UDF, FoM and FoA, and UK ESRC - funded)
- WalkableHK, (Landscape and DUPAD-led, under discussion: a collaborative project possibly involving Department of Lands, MTR, Hong Kong Housing Authority, HK Green Building Council, Development Bureau and industry, to develop pedestrian modeling for the whole of HK in order to optimize the city's configuration to support walking and public transport).

Congratulations and thanks to all those mentioned below for their contributions to the Faculty's research and engagement agenda.

Chris

Faculty of Architecture

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has extended its partnership agreement with The University of Hong Kong for another 5 years from academic year 2014 to 2018. As a result, all currently recognized courses as listed below will remain accredited by RICS:

1. MSc (Construction Project Management)
2. MSc (Real Estate)
3. MSc (Interdisciplinary Design and Management)
4. BSc (Surveying)
5. BA (Urban Studies)
6. BA (Conservation)

Department of Architecture

The Department will have its first Swire Scholarship student joining the PhD study in the Fall Semester of 2014/15 academic year. The student is coming from Chongqing and his supervisor shall be Professor Weijen Wang, Head of the Department of Architecture.

I. Mr. Joshua Bolchover and Mr. John Lin

- received The Ralph Erskine 100 Years Anniversary Award for Architecture 2014:

Press Release 2014-02-24

Hong Kong University architects win 2014 Ralph Erskine Award

Joshua Bolchover and John Lin, operating at Hong Kong University, have been named the winners of the 2014 Ralph Erskine Award for their innovative architecture in China's rural areas.

Through their architecture, Bolchover and Lin, demonstrate new ways to create better living conditions for people in rural China that has allowed them to stay there. The announcement marks the 100th anniversary of the prize founder Ralph Erskine, one of Sweden's most prolific architects.

"John Lin and Joshua Bolchover have built a number of schools and other welfare functions in the Chinese countryside adopting a forward-looking sustainable architecture," stated the Prize Jury in the citation. "Their architectonic solutions give proof to an innovative ability to use local techniques and materials, recycling as well as a robust approach to climate adaptation for the architectural design of important new functions in the villages."

"It is a great honor to receive this award on what would have been Ralph Erskine's 100th birthday. Erskine's humanitarian approach to architecture combined with unashamedly bold form is something we aspire to in our own work," said Joshua Bolchover.

About the Ralph Erskine Prize

Established in 1988, the Ralph Erskine Award honors an individual, group or organization for outstanding innovation in architecture and urban design that benefits the less privileged in society through improved social, ecological and aesthetic conditions. The winner receives a 10,000 USD award. Over the years, architect Ralph Erskine received several of the world's principal distinctions and prizes for his architecture. He amalgamated the proceeds into a fund, the Ruth and Ralph Erskine Nordic Stipend Fund, administered by the Swedish Association of Architects.

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Swedish Association of Architects is a professional organization for architects, interior architects, landscape architects and spatial planners with 12 000 members (including 2.600 students).

Jury verdict

John Lin and Joshua Bolchover have built a number of schools and other welfare functions in the Chinese countryside adopting a forward-looking sustainable architecture. Their architectonic solutions give proof to an innovative ability to use local techniques and materials, recycling as well as a robust approach to climate adaptation for the architectural design of important new functions in the villages.

Their work is carried out through the non-profit organisation Rural Urban Framework (RUF) at The University of Hong Kong, which enables them to combine their practice with teaching. This gives their projects a connection to the theoretical and critical academic discourse about overarching societal issues. It is a complex enterprise which connects many different parts of China and which is preconditioned by cooperation with charities and authorities.

Through their architectural practice within RUF they demonstrate new paths towards bettering the living conditions in the Chinese countryside, countering the increasing urbanization and development of mega-cities.

The Ralph Erskine Award is presented in relation to the 100 Years Anniversary of Ralph Erskine's birth on February 24, 2014. Anyone around the world has been welcome to submit proposals.

For more details, please refer to the official website at <http://www.arkitekt.se/erskine>

2. Dr. Cole Roskam

- presented a paper entitled "The Hotel as Other Space in Post-Revolutionary China" at the 102nd annual College Art Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Feb. 12-15.
- published a book review on Samuel Liang's "Mapping Modernity in Shanghai" in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 73, no. 1 (March 2014): 160-161.
- his essay entitled "Recentering the City: Municipal Architecture in Shanghai, 1927-1937", in Izumi Kuroishi, ed., *Constructing the Colonized Land: Entwined Perspectives of East Asia around WWII* (London: Ashgate, 2014), 43-70.

3. Mr. Tom Verebes

- delivered an invited lecture, titled, "The Multiple Pasts, Presents & Futures of Architecture", at University of Virginia's School of Architecture, in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

Division of Landscape Architecture

I. Scott Jennings Melbourne

- gave a public lecture “Landscape in a Pressurized Region: observations from China, Myanmar (Burma), and Eastern Tibet” on 7 March 2014 at the University of Washington, Seattle in partnership with the College of Built Environments Center for Asian Urbanism.

UW//LA
+ CBE Center for Asian Urbanism

Landscape in a Pressurized Region

observations from China, Myanmar(Burma), and Eastern Tibet

Scott Melbourne

University of Hong Kong



Friday March 7, 2014
Noon to 1:00 pm
Gould 100

Winter Quarter Brown Bag (Co-Sponsored by Center for Asian Urbanism)
Department of Landscape Architecture / College of Built Environments / University of Washington

Department of Real Estate and Construction

I. Professor K W Chau

- appointed to be the Expert team and Senior Member of the China-Hong Kong Construction Project Management Research Centre.



Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger Chan

- gave a talk entitled "New Urban Space in (post) Expo Shanghai" at the Centre for Urban Policy Studies, Faculty of Humanities, The University of Manchester on 6 March 2014. The talk was followed by a lively discussion on issues related to the human scale of spatiality, the creative clusters and the recently set up Shanghai (Pilot) Free Trade Zone.
- discussed with Dr Nancy Holman, Director of Planning Studies, the London School of Economics, on her research entitled "The co-ordination problem in heritage preservation". Roger shared with Nancy about the Faculty's Yangoon project on 7 March 2014.

2. Dean Webster

- As of the first of March 2014, Dean Webster, is now a Chair Professor and is busy reading the small print to try and understand this cherished HKU tradition.