

Dean's Roundup (Friday, 31 October, 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'ē-tŏr'ē-əl, -tŏr'-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear all,

I have been travelling recently: *Places* journal board meeting at Pratt, NY two weekends ago and reviewing a proposal for an urban big data lab for an Australian university last week. Both are forward-looking and visionary and worth saying something about.

Places started out as an in-house Berkeley-MIT architecture journal but has recently broken from its former web publishing platform to go it alone as a much expanded cooperative venture between about 15 universities (and growing). After consulting design colleagues in FoA I have bought into this network because of its ambition to become the publication of choice for, on the one hand, established academic authors wanting to write for a broader popular audience, and on the other, journalists, government officers and politicians and the informed public wanting to read focused and authoritative but accessible urban scholarship. What this means for us is first, we are linked to from *Places* home-page: <https://placesjournal.org/> This gives us additional exposure as we promote HKUrban Lab as a globally significant step forward in Built Environmental education and research. It will have payback in recruitment of staff and students and various kinds of collaboration. More importantly, the journal's new mission is inspired in my view, and because of the quality of the network and the management and editorial staff on the ground, it is highly likely to succeed in creating the 'Science' or 'Economist' journal of urbanism. We need to be contributing to this ambitious project in two ways: (a) publishing articles that help set a high benchmark and (b) helping the largely architectural writing culture of the journal adapt to something that is genuinely more multi-disciplinary.

Action point: take a look at published *Places* articles in your niche and start working on something that is of at least of the same standard and takes the debate somewhere new while thinking of the widest possible audience for your message. If the idea is good, the two principal *Places* editors are willing to give considerable editorial advice in shaping a good article into a high-impact popular style. Dorothy Tang has a recent article in the journal on her fascinating study of former mining land in South Africa. Talk to her about the experience.

I was in Sydney with Luc Anselin from Arizona State University and Sarah Williams from MIT, giving talks on urban big data and advising on a new Australian research centre in this field. I came away with a number of thoughts. First, the urban informatics lab we are building on Knowles f/7 together with its sister lab on Shanghai Study Centre f/4, are well placed to ride the new wave of urbanism scholarship that is about to take our disciplines by storm.

Urban big data is part of the wave but that is just data. Data only matters if it is useful. Much of the current hype about urban big data comes from people who know about data but who are looking for a cause. So we have IBM's Smart Cities program in some ways running ahead of both users (urban governments) and theory (urban social, environmental and engineering scientists and urban planning and design scholars). We have computational architects using big data as art. Sarah Williams currently has a wonderful exhibition at MOMA – check it out next time you are in NY (I know we have a good presence in NY because when I was there the other weekend, I spotted David Erdman exiting the same plane in front of me; Steve Rowlinson took me to Eataly for oysters; and one other FoA colleague came into town the day I left).

As I have said on many occasions, the challenge to our disciplines is to adapt to new demands from bigger society, from other disciplines, from data providers and potential data users and from governments who have little respect for established professional and disciplinary silos, etiquettes and cultures. The UK Government has established a future foresight initiative that is compiling a knowledge-base of what we know about cities:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/future-of-cities>

The steering committee comprises a government minister, an architect-turned spatial analysis modeler (Tim Stoner of Space Syntax Ltd); a professor of design Rachel Cooper from Lancaster; an economic geographer (Ron Martin, quantitative spatial economist from Cambridge geography with strong links with Cambridge Land Economy); a political anthropologist (Steve Rayner from Oxford anthropology); a mathematical geographer and urban planner (Sir Alan Wilson, ex VC of Leeds and now at UCL CASA); a civil engineer (Chris Rogers from Birmingham); and an Arup urban planner (Corrine Swaine). The agenda for a new form of urbanism scholarship and research is being driven by big data and its suppliers and by potential users among engineers, environmental scientists, city designers and managers, public health medics, ministries of culture, planning, economy, transport and environment and so on. This is one of the drivers behind my own multi- and inter- disciplinary drive in the FoA. We need to adapt to prosper and the current challenges are particularly well-suited to a strong multi-professionally oriented built environment faculty in the most iconic high density city in the world.

I think that we should probably name our new split-site HK-Shanghai informatics lab the HKUrban Science Lab. The two physical labs will be configured and decorated to make architectural designers equally as home as urban and architectural scientists. Knowles f/7 lab will have the best visualization kit in HKU, including an 8-projector 3D imaging system (running from a single graphics card, for those with experience in coding for old-style systems running on parallel CPUs). Both labs will have a software platform that allows seamless working on digital urban models from a sub-architecture scale to super-urban scale. Both will have flexible working spaces suitable for use as informatics labs and design studios. They will have art on walls, not software manuals. They will produce data as art as well as world-class scientific insights into the workings of construction industry supply chains, city-system dynamics, urban

remote sensing, walkable city optimization, multi-scale urban climate modeling and economic, environmental and aesthetic performance modeling of buildings and high density cities.

Back to my Australian visit last week: I anticipate a new network that links HKUrban Science Lab to other labs with similarly adventurous ambitions, including CASA (UCL); LISA (Cambridge); Stephen Lau's architectural science group at NUS and Tongji; Edward Ng's group at CUHK; Li Xia's GIS group at SYSU, Guangzhou; Luc Ansellin's GeoDa centre at ASU; Sarah Williams' Civic Data Design Centre at MIT; Annette Kim's new Spatial Analysis Lab at the Price School of Public Policy, USC; and others. Our own urban big data lab will have a strong focus on BIM, GIS and computational architecture and I am hugely grateful to our generous technology partner who yesterday gave me a signed contract that includes a donation worth 10M HKD over the next 6 years (proper announcement very soon). Along with a HKU UDF grant of 7M HKD, we are well placed to make a great start on this exciting new venture.

Of course, it is the ongoing work of our academics that makes this kind of investment both worthwhile and necessary. So many many thanks to those mentioned below for their contributions and achievements.

Chris

Architectural Conservation Programme

1. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- Invited as an adjudicating Panel Member for the *HKIP Awards 2014*, organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP), 18 October 2014. Instead of individual awards, this year's award adjudication celebrates the 35th anniversary of HKIP by recognizing achievements made by selected government, non-governmental and institutional organisations in shaping Hong Kong through urban planning.

2. Katie Cummer, Professor Lynne DiStefano and Dr. Hoyin Lee

- Book published: *Heritage Revealed* (Oct. 2014, 153 pages; ISBN 978-988-12272-4-9), published by the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, the book documents the history and heritage of the Former Explosive Magazine site, and tells the multi-layered story of its conservation and adaptive reuse as the home of the society's branch in Hong Kong.

Department of Architecture

1. Mr. K P Cheung

- On Tuesday, 21 Oct, presented the following papers, invited by the organizer, on:

Innovative Urban Roof Greenhouses enriched with carbon dioxide breathed out by human beings 創新的城市屋頂溫室：使用人類所產生的二氧化碳大增植物產量和綠化功率
<http://icee.hku.hk/chinachem01.pdf>

in Qingdao International Ecocity and Green Roof Conference, International Rooftop Landscaping Association & China Green Building Council. 19-22 Oct, 2014, Qingdao, China, <http://www.wgrc.cn/portal.php> 2014 中國青島世界生態城市與屋頂綠化大會.
<http://meeting.wgrc.cn/meeting/>

2. Ms. Tris Kee

- was invited by the National Taipei University of Education on 14-16 October to present a lecture and conduct studio workshops led by Prof. Annie Yung-Teen Chiu. Tris met with Vice President of Department, Professor John C. Yang, and conducted a presentation, with Prof. Yung Jaan Lee, President of Community Empowering Society, The Urban Design Center and Taipei Regeneration Office. Studio led by Prof Annie Chiu explored urban renewal schemes and community planning methodology in two heritage sites.



3. John Lin and Joshua Bolchover

- their design and research projects in rural China such as the reconstruction programme at Jintai village in Sichuan province, rebuilding of the historic Taiping bridge in Ziyun County of Guizhou province and construction of a sustainable rural house prototype in Shaanxi province etc. were featured at the FT (Financial Times) Weekend on 11 October 2014. Dorothy is also a contributor to the featured project on the Jintai Village Reconstruction Project.

House & Home

China's rural revolution

Architecture | Chinese villages are often built in haste and out of necessity but one small practice has more sustainable approach to their design. By Nicola Davison

John Lin stands on a remote mountainside in southwest China, a brick grasped in each hand. The one in his right, the 36-year-old architect explains, is the local standard. It costs Rmb400 (R\$107) and has a scorched surface with rough-hewn, crumbly edges. In his left hand is a stone, representing obdurate earth. At Rmb150 (R\$38), this characterised brick is four times more expensive, but Lin thinks the investment worthwhile. The hollows will help cool the new houses he has designed in this summer, and insulate them in winter, and should an earthquake strike this region again, the village will stand a better chance of surviving.

Lin is a founding partner of Rural Urban Framework (RUF), a non-profit enterprise within the University of Hong Kong (HKU), which works with charities and local governments on design and research projects in rural

China. After decades of economic prosperity, the country is hell-bent on modernisation. With a focus on the development of cities, few architects in China are particularly attuned to the emerging rural economy. Nonetheless, it is a region being transformed.

Overseas, it is the Chinese Communist party's drive to move citizens into cities that is having a marked impact on the countryside. In Beijing, the premier, has called urbanisation a "major engine" for growth as the government seeks to shift the economy from a model reliant on investment and exports to one buoyed by domestic spending.

It is a social engineering experiment of grand dimensions. Thirty years ago, most Chinese people were farmers. By 2013, half the population was urban. In 2030, China's cities will house about 800 million, or 70 per cent of the population, raising profound questions over the fate of people in rural areas.

The great migrant population remains tethered to the countryside. China's household registration system - the *hukou* - acts as an internal passport, making it difficult for a person classified as rural to both access welfare benefits or to own property in the cities where jobs are available.

Accordingly, migrant workers send earnings back to relatives in the country, who invest in the biggest houses their money can buy. As a by-product, cheap tends to result in a drop in the quality of materials and craftsmanship, as well as aesthetics. RUF's sustainable design counter-point construction

reconstruction of a Tang dynasty bridge to the planning of entire villages

Children play at Qiyao village in Guanzhong province

rebuilding the affected area. It offered subsidies to citizens to build sturdier houses. A glut of construction ensued. The result has been "five stories", according to Zhu Jingping, an architect now teaching at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, who designed and built professional schools in the earthquake's aftermath. Though they meet national safety standards, haste and necessity are hallmarks of the new housing - and they, too, can suffer from rubber-stamp design.

Even though many school buildings

destroyed in the earthquake, when people needed to build anew they had little choice but to use concrete. In villages, driving through this lush and hilly part of China, it is possible to spot alongside the road the odd mud-brick house, the sort that developed over decades as the needs of people inside evolved.

Overwhelmingly though, the buildings are of the new generic type: stark cuboid structures painted white and sporting thick, red-tiled eaves to imitate the wooden structures of traditional mud-brick houses.

Lin and Joshua Bolchover, 36, a fellow architect and assistant professor at HKU, founded RUF in 2006 after an eight-hour road trip through the Pearl River Delta, a region in the south of China that borders Hong Kong. The drive was to visit an old school to explore the possibilities of renovation.

"The journey revealed a landscape that was in a state of investigation and transition," they write in the introduction to *Rural Urban Framework: Transferring the Chinese Experience*. They observed collisions and paradoxes: tower blocks in open fields and tradi-

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FT Weekend

10 October/11 October 2014

The reconstruction programme at Jintai village in Sichuan province. Photograph by Paul Hill/Reuters

Projects range from the reconstruction of a Tang dynasty bridge to the planning of entire villages

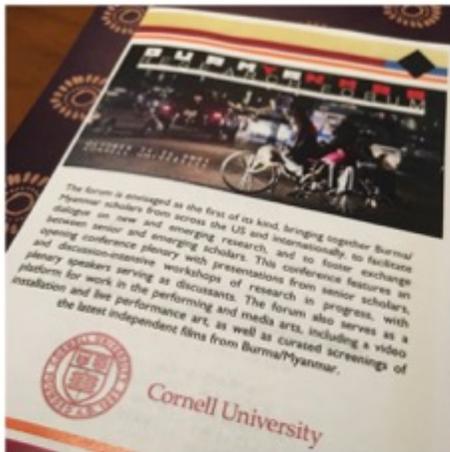
rural people. The site visit to the reconstruction of Jintai Village in Sichuan province, around 1,200 miles west of Shanghai. Sichuan province is prone to earthquakes of the most devastating variety. In 2008, nearly 90,000 people in the region died after a quake in Wenchuan County, 90 miles northwest of Chengde or 1,600 miles east of Shanghai, and few people were made homeless. In August this year, an earthquake of 6.1 magnitude struck Ludian County in neighbouring Yunnan province, killing more than 600 people and leaving 22,000 houses in the ground. And, just last week, an earthquake of around 6.0 magnitude struck the Yunnan city area of Yunnan province, killing at least one person and leaving 215 injured and over 100,000 displaced.

After the Wenchuan disaster, the

Division of Landscape Architecture

1. Scott Jennings Melbourne

- delivered a paper, "A Pedagogy of Engagement: Studio Yangon and the Role of Design Education in Dynamic Regions," at the Burma/Myanmar Research Forum organized by the Cornell University Southeast Asia Program. The paper is co-authored with Ivan Valin and Melissa Cate Christ, and the event was held at Cornell University from 24-26 October.



Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. Kelvin Wong

- Ms. Kuang Kuang DENG, a PhD student of Dr. Kelvin Wong, won a travel award to present her research at the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association's (AREUEA) Doctoral Session in Boston, Massachusetts in January 2015. This Doctoral Session is held in conjunction with the ASSA/AEA Annual Meeting, in which the most prominent economists present their research.



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October 23, 2014

Kuang Kuang Deng
Department of Real Estate and Construction
University of Hong Kong
Room 535C, Knowles Building, HKU
Pokfulam Road
Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Dear Kuang Kuang,

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to participate in the AREUEA Doctoral Session in Boston, Massachusetts being held Friday, January 2, 2015.

As a presenter, you should prepare a free-standing or table-top display (poster, battery-powered computer screens, tables and/or charts) highlighting motivation, methods and major conclusions from your research.

You must come prepared with presentation board, your own computer, and anything else you may need for your presentation display. **Please note the hotel will NOT allow you to tack or tape anything to the walls. If you have a poster board for your presentation, it must stand on a table top or easel only.** An easel will be provided to you. A few tables will also be provided around the room; but you may need to share this space. Please plan accordingly.

Your display should be set up no later than 5:00 pm. You are not permitted to set up your display during the speaker portion of the session. Several versions of your handout are desirable: One for those casually interested, one with more depth, and one with full results (e.g., your job market paper, if you have one).

At the conclusion of the panel session at approximately 6:00 pm, the reception will begin. This portion of the evening is the opportunity for you to present your research to the reception participants. It is expected that you will stand by your display to discuss your research with the attendees, from 6:00 pm to about 8:00 pm. The reception will attract an audience!

Time and Place

Friday, January 2, 2015, 5:00-8:00 pm. Reception begins at 6:00 pm (you must be set up by 5:00 pm). Copley Place Boston Hotel – Room: Staffordshire. *When making your travel plans, please allow ample time for any airline delays.*

Travel Award

AREUEA is pleased to award you travel reimbursement funds of up to **\$1,000.00**. Some adjustments in your request may have been made to provide for equity across participating students. **You must RSVP** your acceptance of the travel award and session attendance to Liz Laffitte, AREUEA Executive Director, by email (elaffitte@fsu.edu) no later than **Friday, November 14**.

As a Doctoral Session Presenter, you will receive a complimentary AREUEA three-year student membership. Thank you for your interest in AREUEA. I look forward to meeting you in January.

Sincerely,

Yuming Fu
Doctoral Session Chair

PS: Travel Funds Reimbursement Information

Please keep **original** receipts for reimbursement purposes. Reimbursements can only be made if an **original** receipt is submitted. AREUEA will reimburse for airfare, car rental, or vehicle mileage, hotel, meals (**for you only**), taxi, and student registration. **No** reimbursement is allowed for copy/presentation expenses, telephone calls, internet access, etc. Please use the enclosed Expense Reimbursement Form and return the itemized expense record including your **original** receipts to Liz Laffitte (return mailing information is on the form) to receive your reimbursement. Be sure to include in your correspondence your complete mailing address and contact information.

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Kyung-min Nam

- published a paper with following details:

Nam, K.-M., Waugh, C.J., Paltsey, S., Reilly, J.M. and Karplus, V.J. (2014), "Synergy between pollution and carbon emissions control: Comparing China and the United States", *Energy Economics*, 46, pp. 186-201

2. Dr. Roger Chan

- invited as a panel member of Adjudicators for "Celebrating 35 years of Hong Kong Planning Achievements" Special Awards organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, 18 October 2014.

3. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- Invited discussant for the Public Policy Forum - For Whom the Land Toils, delivered by Mr. Patrick Lau Lai-chiu, Former Director of Lands, organized by the Faculty of Social Science, The University of Hong Kong, 9 October 2014.
- Spoke as Expert Panel Member at the Public Forum on the Recommended Outline Development Plan for Tung Chung New Town Extension, Stage 3 Public Engagement Exercise, 11 October 2014.
- Gave an invited presentation on "Heritage preservation and sustainable development" at the *Forum of Environmental Protection and Rural Development: Balances and Synergies*, organized by Heung Yi Kuk, in celebration of its 60th Anniversary on the New Territories Day, 24 October 2014.
- Interviewed by Ming Pao on 22 October 2014 for a Special Feature on the housing quality of Hong Kong in comparison with other Asian cities.

4. Dr. Mandy Lau

- published a paper with following details:

Lau, M. (2014), "Sectoral integration and meta-governance: lessons beyond the 'spatial planning' agenda in England", *Town Planning Review*, 85 (5/2014), pp. 617-637

5. Professor Anthony Yeh and his PhD students, Messrs. Tian Lan and Xingang Zhou

- presented the following papers in the *Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications* that was organized by IGU (International Geographical Union) Commission on Geographical Information Science, Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems, and ISPRS (International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) Technical Commission II and IV in Toronto, Canada, from 6-8 October 2014 :
 - “Discovering Functional Regions from Mobile Phone Positioning Data and POIs” (Xingang Zhou, J. Liu, Anthony G.O. Yeh, Y. Yue, and W. Li) in Session TS02 GeoWeb and Crowd Sourcing
 - “A Hierarchical Polygonization Method for Generating and Updating Lane-based Road Network Information for Navigation from Road Markings” (Anthony G.O. Yeh, Teng Zhong and Yang Yue) in Session TS04 Networks and Network Analysis
 - “A Geo-Fencing Tour Information System for Self-Guided Exploration of Urban Heritage” (Tian Lan, Xiaohu Zhang, Zhixin Qi, and Anthony G.O. Yeh) in Poster Session.

Presentation by Professor Anthony Yeh



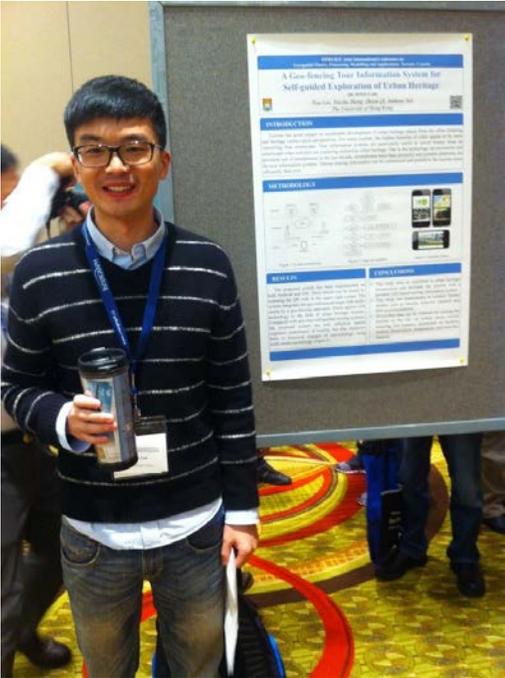
Paper Presentation by Mr. Xingang Zhou



Mr. Xingang Zhou received the ISPRS Foundation (TIF) Travel Grant by *the ISPRS Technical Commission II Symposium on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications*.



Poster Presentation by Mr. Tian Lan



6. Dean Webster

- Dean Webster has a hedonic housing market analysis paper accepted for publication in *Environment and Planning B*: Yang Xiao, Orford S and Webster C. Urban configuration, accessibility and property prices: a case study of Cardiff, Wales. Submitted to *Environment and Planning B* (accepted October 2014)
- Dean Webster's paper on house-price ripple effects in the UK was nominated for a prize paper award in *Environment and Planning B*, (but not taken further because of his former position as editor of this journal). Cooper C, Webster C, Jones C and Orford S (2013) Exploring the ripple effect in house prices using interaction and reactive domain cross correlations. *Environment and Planning B*.
- Dean Webster's paper in *Open British Medical Journal* has just been published online:

<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/10/e006530.full?keytype=ref&iijkey=5EcEFV0WmKYZ481>

BMJ Open

Title: The Communities First (ComFi) study: protocol for a prospective controlled quasi-experimental study to evaluate the impact of area-wide regeneration on mental health and social cohesion in deprived communities

Authors: James White, Giles Greene, Frank Dunstan, Sarah Rodgers, Ronan A Lyons, Ioan Humphreys, Ann John, Chris Webster, Stephen Palmer, Eva Elliott, Ceri J Phillips, David Fone

Abstract:

A prospective controlled quasi-experimental study of the association between residence in Communities First regeneration areas in Caerphilly county borough and change in mental health and social cohesion. The study population is the 4226 residents aged 18–74 years who responded to the Caerphilly Health and Social Needs Study in 2001 (before delivery) and 2008 (after delivery of Communities First). Data on the location, type and cost of Communities First interventions will be extracted from records collected by Caerphilly county borough council. The primary outcome is the change in mental health between 2001 and 2008. Secondary outcomes are changes: in common mental disorder case status (using survey and general practice data), social cohesion and mental health inequalities. Multilevel models will examine change in mental health and social cohesion between Communities First and control areas, adjusting for individual and household level confounding factors. Further models will examine the effects of (1) different types of intervention, (2) contamination across areas, (3) length of residence in a Communities First area, and (4) population migration. We will carry out a cost-consequences analysis to summarise the outcomes generated for participants, as well as service utilisation and utility gains.

- Dean Webster has been awarded a Best Paper Prize 2014 by the Urban Planning Society of China and the Jinjingchang Urban Planning Education Foundation for his paper titled “Refutation and a scientific knowledge base for urban planning” (Chinese: 辩驳和基于科学思维的城市规划) which was presented in the Shanghai Urban Planning Forum in 2013 (third position).

