

## Dean's Roundup (Friday, 6 November 2015)

**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

Dear All,

Now that FoA has more or less organized itself into coherent HKUrbanLab groupings, I would like to pay some attention to focusing our research on truly significant questions. Free-ranging individual research agenda will always be valued where they are operating or heading towards an internationally leading standard. I think it helps, however, to identify a set of research questions that we are variously working on that help steer individual effort and signal to the world that we are doing important work. This means big-ideas, grand-challenge, cutting-edge, new technology, innovation, advanced methods, world-leading, holy-grail, seminal and other such claims. Only the claims should not be hyperbole. They should accurately describe what we are doing. We can modestly say that we are doing something for the first time if it is in fact a first. From the many ideas I have discussed with colleagues over the past two years or so, I would offer the following non-exhaustive candidates, stated as topic and questions:

1. **Rural-urban land reform in China:** what institutions can bring it about most efficiently, equitably and sustainably?
2. **Informal settlements in China:** how can they be sustainably integrated or transformed into formal housing markets, livable habitats, viable urban governance and civil society?
3. **Open space, green roofs and urban agriculture in high density cities:** what are the technological, environmental, legal, design and behavioral barriers to more sustainable configuration of high density cities and how can an understanding of these lead to innovative technical, institutional and physical designs to make HD cities greener?
4. **The limits to density:** what are the technological, legal, behavioural and human health limits to densification and what does this mean for design and policy?
5. **Parameters of a health city:** what are the scientific relationships between urban configuration and individual and public health and how can an understanding of these inform planning and design at multiple scales?
6. **Non-standard residential building morphology in high density cities:** what is the scope for architectural innovation in packed vertical habitats and what does this mean for design and for planning and building codes?
7. **The impact of China's new Silk Road on the Eurasian spatial economy and settlement system:** How will the new Silk Road infrastructure change pan-continental connectivity and transaction costs and in turn change the spatial distribution and hierarchy of settlement systems in affected

- countries – and what does this mean for pan-national and national regional-urban planning?
8. **The current history of Chinese infrastructure colonialism:** how can we understand the current spread of Chinese overseas construction in the Global South as both a supplanting of Western colonial and neo-colonial market development and an extension of 20<sup>th</sup> Chinese geo-politics?
  9. **Designing the new Chinese rural:** can we bring architecture to Chinese rural settlements and what models of design, land rights, finance and project organization are appropriate?
  10. **5D City Information Modelling:** is it technically, logistically and financially viable to model the entire land development and building life-cycle process as a virtual model in 5D (3D+time+cost) in a way that can deliver beautiful, livable and sustainable cities in record time, cost and responsiveness to user preferences?
  11. **Walkable HK:** can we develop landuse-pedestrian models that help private developers and government regulators optimize the city for walking and health?
  12. **Multi-scale urban climate and energy performance modeling:** can we link together thermal comfort, climate and energy models for indoor, urban design, urban corridor, city-envelope and city region scales in a way that usefully informs building design, urban design and regulations in practice?
  13. **Financialisation of heritage value:** what are the special dynamics of heritage valuation in a high density city and how can this knowledge be used to develop better institutions to induce more private heritage spending?
  14. **Utopia Hong:** is HK's social housing as successful a utopia as typically portrayed and how may the formula be exported?
  15. **Avoiding the mistakes of Western 20<sup>th</sup> urbanization:** why does China seem to be making the same mistakes as mid-20<sup>th</sup> western cities in urban renewal and social housing provision and can disasters be averted by new models of both?

This list is only tentative and is by no means complete. It reflects only some of the fascinating conversations I have had with colleagues and is offered to get us talking and thinking about big research questions – questions that have not yet been answered; questions that many people are asking; questions that require sophisticated application of intellect, method, analysis and philosophical thought; questions that lead to changes in the way things are done in the real world.

<>

Can I encourage you and your students to consider signing up for the Places journal monthly newsletter at <http://bit.ly/readplaces>? FoA is a sponsor of Places and it would be great to have a few more of our articles published in it. I especially encourage colleagues with mature scholarly ideas ready to be converted into public scholarship with the help of Places' journalistic editing. Please get in touch with the editor.

Congratulations on the achievements listed below.

Chris

# Centre for Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP)

## 1. Urban Futures Workshop Grant

A joint application to the Newcastle University's Global Excellence Fund 2015/16 to establish a "Foresight Future of Cities International Research Network" comprising Newcastle University, the University of New South Wales, the University of Hong Kong, and the University of Groningen has been successful.

This proposal is funded by the Newcastle University with a match funding from the UK Government Office for Science Foresight Office.

Each partner University will hold a three-day workshop in the year of 2016 or 2017 and the first workshop will be hosted by Newcastle University in late February 2016. The objectives of these workshops are to:

- Review the opportunities and challenges in establishing local *Future of the City* exercises that involve a range of stakeholders and civil society
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of different methodologies for a local version of this exercise and suggest how that can be combined
- Develop a framework for establishing a sustainable city futures process that is embedded in the practices of partners, particularly universities, municipal governments and business.

**Professor Bo-sin Tang and Dean Webster** will lead the HK contribution to this network.

## 2. Prof. Anthony Yeh (DUPAD)

- was invited to give a keynote speech on "Smart Technologies and Smart Cities" in the *6th International Conference on 21st Century Urban Development* organized by Urban Planning Society of China and Huazhong University of Science and Technology from 30 to 31 October 2015 at Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. He was also invited to chair the afternoon session on 30 October and attended the Round Table Discussion on *Master Plan of Wuhan – Strategic Review and Vision* organized by Wuhan Planning Institute on 31 October.



## Healthy HD Cities

Two new projects have been initiated this week:

An analysis of Built Environment associations with respiratory disease for 350,000 Britons (partnership between HKU Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Architecture, led by **Michael Ni, FoM and Chinmoy Sarkar and Dean Webster, FoA**).

An analysis of Built Environment associations with dental and oral health for 350,000 Britons (partnership between HKU Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Architecture, led by **Chinmoy Sarkar, Dean Webster and partners in FoD**)

## Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research

### **Large donation secured for research into property rights in Chinese urbanisation**

The President has approved the transfer of a donated endowment fund and income stream valued at over 10M HKD to the RCCPRR. This will help set up projects under grand research questions (1) and (2) in my introductory section.

### **Istanbul and Ankara reconfigured (Dean Webster, Xiaohu Zhang)**

The Dean's project in partnership with Gazi University, Ankara has completed data creation and a team from DUPAD will be travelling for a 3-day workshop in Turkey in December to plan a series of studies into the changing spatial configuration of the cities over the past 15 years. One study, for example, will analysis the emergence of natural market sub centres and the shift of these and of the Central Business District as a result of Ankara, a highly planned city, being subject to 15 years of liberal economic policies. We expect to detect greater adjustments in spatial economic configuration Ankara than in Istanbul due to the relative amounts of design behind the initial configuration of the two cities.

## Urban Ecologies and Design lab

**Juan Du and Dean Webster** are collaborators with UCL Bartlett School in a UK Economic and Social Research Council research grant (600,000 HKD) to conduct workshops in London and Guangdong on incremental urban renewal policy in the developing world. Workshops will bring together academics, national government officers, UN and World Bank Officials to reflect upon current challenges and new policy approaches. The HK-UCL team will be presenting ideas about combined innovations in design, organization, property rights and governance, based on 10 years of social science and design work in China's chengzhongcun (villages in the city).

## Department of Architecture (DoA)

### 1. Ms. Tris Kee

- Co-published a paper entitled “The Practice of Universal Design – the Case of Hong Kong” with J.Kwan and S.Ho, in the Architecture in the Commonwealth CAA Golden Jubilee Commemorative Book, published by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), page 104-107, ISBN 978-9966-092-40-3,
- was invited by Dean John P Burns to be a speaker for the Forum on Community Innovation and Mobilisation for NGO Strategists and Practitioners, organized by the Faculty of Social Science, HKU.



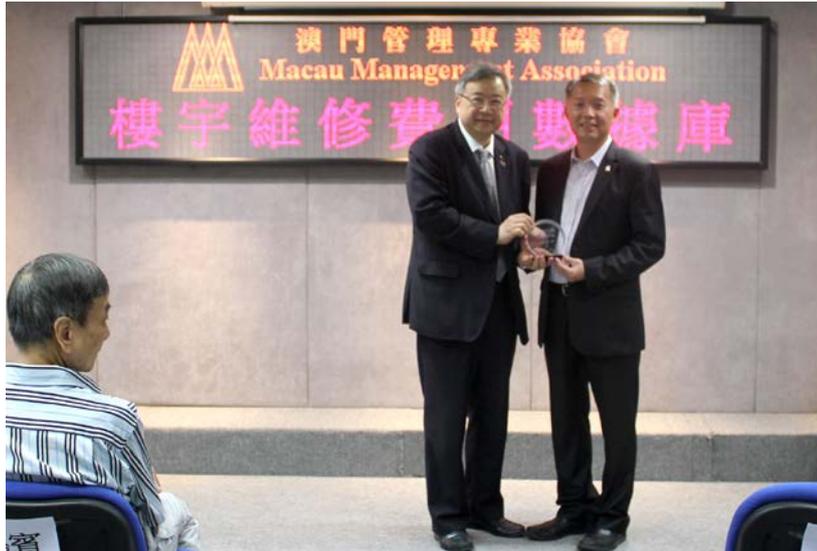
## Department of Real Estate and Construction (REC)

### 1. Dr. Isabelle Chan

- has been invited to be one of the judging panel members of the ‘Occupational Health Award 2015’. This award is jointly organized by the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the Labour Department, the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board, and the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board. It recognizes organizations that make significant efforts to implement comprehensive and effective measures for occupational health. A site visit was conducted on 3 November 2015.

### 2. Dr. Daniel Ho

- conducted a seminar on “Building Maintenance Cost Database” organized by the Macao Management Association (MMA) on 29 October 2015 in Macao. The seminar was attended by 100 delegates from the Macao SAR government, the Public Security Police Force, property management professionals, developers, etc. The seminar was reported in the local media (in Chinese):  
Macau Daily News, B07, 30-Oct-2015:  
[http://www.macaodaily.com/html/2015-10/30/content\\_1040617.htm](http://www.macaodaily.com/html/2015-10/30/content_1040617.htm)



### 3. Dr. Wilson Lu

- Awarded as one of the five candidates (from 22 submissions across faculties) for the University Outstanding Young Researcher Award.

### 4. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- Gave a keynote address at University College London on 26 October.

## Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD)

### 1. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- Elected to be the Chairman of the Country Park Committee of the Country and Marine Parks Board, 2015/16 – 2016/17.
- Delivered an invited presentation on “Hong Kong as Asia’s World City: more livable through better planning strategy?” at the Planning Department Annual Forum 2015: Champion Opportunities For Change, 3 November 2015.

### 2. Dr. Cecilia L. Chu

- Has received a grant (with Dr. Eunice Seng of DoA), The International Research & Research Training Fund (IRRTF) from the University of Melbourne, for co-organizing an International research workshop, entitled "Rethinking Modern Asia-Pacific Architectures: New Aesthetic Pedagogies," to be held at the University of Melbourne 4-5 July 2016. The workshop belongs to a larger initiative of international research collaboration, which involves scholars from University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, the National University of Singapore and The University of Hong Kong, aims to serve as a catalyst for the development of a new inter-Asian knowledge exchange network and publications on Asia’s built environments.
- Delivered a talk, entitled "Envisioning Urban Futures: Spectacle, World Heritage, and Emergent Activism in Macau," at the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HKIHSS) on 20 October 2015. The talk is part of HKIHSS’s Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar, which aims to introduce a wide range of cutting-edge research in different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

### 3. Fung Sau Yim, Maureen 馮秀炎 (MHousMan (Distinction) 2000)

- Maureen Fung was awarded the **Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service 2015** for her dedicated contributions to the development of social enterprises in Hong Kong in addition to the award of Certificate of Commendation for the outstanding contributions to community services by Home Affairs Department in 2012.
- Currently a director of Sun Hung Kai Development (China), Chairman (2014-16) and Founding Chairman of the Institute of the Shopping Centre Management and board member of RICS Asia Commercial Property Professional Group Board, Maureen has been providing her expertise and professional advice to the community over the past 20 years in both the public and professional sectors including the Economic Development Commission – Working group on Convention & Exhibition Industries Tourism, panel member of Administrative Appeal Board, advisory committee on Enhancing Self-Reliance through District Partnership Programme of Home Welfare Department and Emergency Relief Fund Committee of Social Welfare Department.
- “I am deeply honoured to receive the awards which was a strong recognition of my belief and values”, said Maureen. “I found a great sense of mission to bring forth a better community and social development. Hopefully it will also inspire more people to follow suit”.



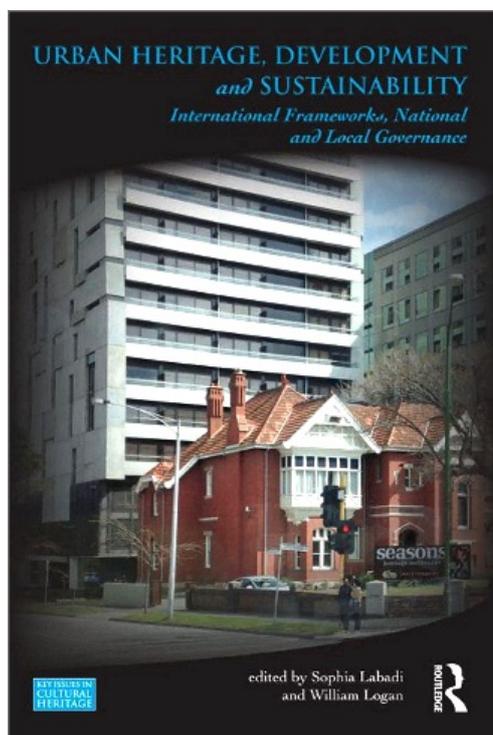
## Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes (DACP)

### 1. Dr. Hoyin Lee and Prof. Lynne DiStefano

- Book chapter published on 29 October 2015: "From Zero Sum Game to Arranged Marriage: The Struggle between Built Heritage Conservation and Urban Development in Post-colonial Hong Kong," in *Urban Heritage, Development and Sustainability: International Frameworks, National and Local Governance*, edited by Sophia Labadi and William Logan (NY: Routledge, 2015). [360 pages; ISBN 978-113-88457-5-6 (paperback); 978-113-88457-3-2 (hardback)]

Publisher's description: "... *Urban Heritage, Development and Sustainability* examines the impact of [urban development] issues on urban heritage, focusing on innovative approaches to managing developmental pressures, as well as the ways taking an ethical, inclusive and holistic approach to urban planning and heritage conservation may create a stronger basis for the sustainable growth of cities into the future. This volume is a timely analysis of current theories and practises in urban heritage, with particular reference to the conflict between, and potential reconciliation of, conservation and development goals. A global range of case studies detail a number of distinct practical approaches to heritage on international, national and local scales, with examples from Australia, Canada, China, Cuba, England, France, India, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Spain, Tunisia and Vietnam. Contributions from an international group of authors, including practitioners as well as leading academics, deliver a broad and balanced coverage of this topic. Addressing the interests of both urban planners and heritage specialists, *Urban Heritage, Development and Sustainability* is an important addition to the field which will encourage further discourse." See:

<https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138845756>.



2. Dr. Hoyin Lee and Lai Chi Pong

- Government-invited internet article published on 2 February 2015: 「香港電車的社會價值」 (“The Social Value of Trams in Hong Kong”), by invitation of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the RTHK Liberal Studies Web (香港電台「通識網」 <http://www.liberalstudies.hk/>; a teaching and learning resource website for Hong Kong Senior Secondary Education’s Liberal Studies curriculum). See: [http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/lis\\_blog.php?id=2696](http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/lis_blog.php?id=2696).

3. Nuttaphol Ma (MSc(Conservation) 2003 graduate)

- Nuttaphol Ma, a Thai national and originally a business executive, joined ACP in 2001 (and graduated in 2003). After ACP, he emigrated to the US and went on to study for an MFA degree at Claremont Graduate University, Los Angeles. After his graduation in 2009, he embarked on a professional career as an artist. Six years on, he is making a mark on the art scene. This month (November 2015), he is featured on the cover of the LA-based art magazine *Artillery*, a notable contemporary art magazine based in Los Angeles that has print circulation of 50,000.

Nuttaphol Ma on the cover of *Artillery* (see: <http://artillerymag.com/humble-materials-nuttaphol-ma/>):

