

## Dean's Roundup: May 1, including FoA Eulogies to Zaha Hadid

**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'ō-rē-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear All,

The blog spot of this Roundup is dedicated to the memory of Zaha Hadid, who sadly died on the last day of March. She was the first woman and first Muslim to receive architecture's most prestigious accolade, the Pritzker Prize. As the eulogies below show, she was well known to some of our HKU colleagues.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements listed in the remainder of this Roundup. We grow from strength to strength.

Chris

## Eulogy for Zaha Hadid (1950-2016)

### ***Eulogy from Professor Weijen Wang, Head, HKU Department of Architecture:***

Zaha came to HKU for a summer workshop in the 90's, and I took her to Taipei for a lecture visit. She still remembered details of the trip even when I met her again more than 10 years after. She mentioned inviting her back again to HKU for lecture/review and I had been thinking about when would be the best time. It is indeed sad news to learn of her death, not only was she a talented person of strong character but also with very warm personality. I consider her earlier drawings extremely inspiring, and her entry on the peak competition still one of the best representation on HK architecture and urban

spaces.

***Eulogy from Professor Nasrine Seraji, Department of Architecture:***

*Ground control to Major Tom*

Zaha knew how to announce her arrival, she always chose the "skweekiest", if there is such a word!! Taxi in London. On the third floor of an apartment we would hear her taxi stopping. And there she was 13 minutes later.

When she won one the most important (the first) competition of her glorious career to come (the peak in Hong Kong) she bought the American Gigolo video and watched it one hundred times!!! Or at least this is what she told us! Who could watch a video one hundred times??? Zaha!

Zaha was fun, she was extremely intelligent, sharp, intuitive and she knew exactly what she was capable of doing. And what others couldn't do.

She was living for architecture. She believed that it made a difference. She never gave up even in the most painful hours (when Cardiff Opera house was shelved). We talked for three hours looking at the lagoon in Venice drinking coffee after coffee...

She was too young to go and it is still a mystery to me that in a world that we send spaceships to Mars, how a bunch of doctors couldn't keep her heart beating. Every time that I hear a London taxi breaking with a skweeky sound, I'll be saying she is back.

Zaha you will never leave architects nor architecture...

From your friend

"Naz"

(As you renamed me the night of your big dinner at the AA after your exhibition and your lecture - now a lot of people call me Naz...yep you started a fashion as you always knew how)

***Eulogy from Alain Chiaradia, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Design:***

It was in the early 80s as a student, when I first heard of Zaha Hadid. Her Hong Kong Peak project was the very cutting edge in our discussions at the School of Architecture in Marseille. In the late 80s, she and I were colleagues at the Architectural Association in London. Sitting next to her at external examiners' meetings debating the year-end portfolio review, I was left with a distinct sense of her formidable voice. Even as I have moved from architecture towards urban design, Zaha and her work have never been far away through mutual friends: Alvin Boyarsky's tomb, which I hand-built, was designed by his son Nicholas, who studied and then worked with Zaha. I also saw much of her work also through the eyes and photography of H el ene Binet.

Only three weeks ago (at the time of writing) in London, we were looking closely at H el ene's photos of Hoenheim-Nord Terminus in Strasbourg, scrutinising each picture and admiring Zaha's boundless imagination and humour evident from the scale of the minutiae to that of the urban landscape.

It was her imagination in translation between drawing and built space which is, I think, design's greatest loss. Zaha played with drawing. By using it as a means of exploration, she was able to generate, from a configuration of lines and surfaces, a wealth of different interpretations of form, space and programme. H el ene's photographs of Hoenheim-Nord leave me with a striking impression of a (two dimensional) image of a (three dimensional) landscape of a (two dimensional) drawing. In one sense, all design drawings that result in a building or masterplan are generative of space. But Zaha took this mundane device to spectacularly sensual heights. In this fusing of technique and poetry in drawing, she was unique.

## FoA Departments and Divisions

### Faculty of Architecture

The Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) has celebrated the student award winners for their achievements at the 19th Prize Presentation Ceremony for Award Winners in External Competitions 2015, which was held on 16 April 2016.

The following students from the Faculty have received their awards in the external competitions as listed:

#### ***International Awards:***

- Awarded the *2<sup>nd</sup> Prize* at the 8<sup>th</sup> Innovation Competition in Construction Engineering and Management, organized by Tsinghua University and Gammon Construction Limited: Chen Ke, Liu Diandian, Niu Yuhan, Ye Ming, Hui Put, Chan Ka Him, Chan Shing Hin, Kuang Kaishan and To Wing Cheong
- Awarded the *Young Innovator for Local Academic* at the Hong Kong Construction Industry Council Innovation Award Competition 2015: Chen Ke, Liu Diandian, Niu Yuhan and Ye Ming
- Awarded the *2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up* at The Chartered Institute of Building Global student Challenge 2015: Fund Sai Lung, Lee Wing Yan, Leung Yuet Ting and Wong Ka Long

- Awarded the *Best Paper Award* at The Chinese Research Institute of Construction Management (CRIOCM) 2015 International Symposium on Advancement of Construction Management and Real Estate, organized by CRIOCM and Zhejiang University: Ye Ming

***Pan-Asia Pacific Awards:***

- Awarded the *1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up* at the Yale-NUS ASEAN-China Case Competition 2015, organized by the Yale-NUS Global China Connection: Cheng Ka Yan Alleen, Cheung Yeung Mei, Lam Tin Kei, Wong Cheuk Man and Yeung Wing Yee
- Awarded the *Distinction Paper Award* at the 8th International Conference on *Construction* Engineering and Management (ICCEM), organized by The Chinese Research Institute of Construction Management: Chen Ke
- Awarded the *1<sup>st</sup> Runner up* in Male Individual Kumite below 57kg at the All-China University Karatedo Championship 2015, organized by the Karatedo Branch of Federation of University Sports of China: Cheung Yui Ming

***Local Awards:***

- Awarded the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors *Outstanding Final Year Dissertation Awards 2015*:
  - Siddiqua Farzana – Dissertation / Thesis Awards for Postgraduate Students
  - Siu Chun Man – Grand Prize & Top Award (Property and Facility Management)
  - Kong Wai Shan – Top Award (General Practice)
  - Wong Ka Chun – Top Award (Planning and Development)
  - Leung Kin Yeung – Top Award (Quantity Surveying)

## Department of Architecture (DARCH)

### 1. Marta Catalan Eraso (PhD student)

- has been invited by Princeton University School of Architecture to participate in the MArch Final Review of Professor Andrés Jaque on 5 May, 2016, as one of the International Advisors.

## Department of Real Estate and Construction (DREC)

The Department of Real Estate and Construction hosted a Land Supply and Housing Policy Forum organized by LEAPS on 26 March 2016 in the Wang Gungwu Lecture Hall, HKU. The forum is also a CPD event for members of HKIA, HKIS, HKIE, HKILA, HKIP. Guest speakers included academics, government officials, practitioners and legco member. More than 200 people attended.



### 1. Sr. Bay Wong

- was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Working Group on Water Quality by the Advisory Committee of Water Supplies (ACWS) on 22 March 2016. The terms of reference of the working group is to keep under review and advise on quality and monitoring regime of drinking water supply, quality of Dongjiang water, water safety, "Quality Water Supply Systems for Buildings", plumbing matters, public education programme and promotion on water quality and water safety.
- In its standing meeting of the Industrial Standards Committee of the Hong Kong Green Building Council on 22 March 2016, Wong was appointed Member of the "ACT Shop" Task Force to pilot changes in industrial practice in support of the HKSAR's energy saving plan.

## Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. The 1st batch of BA (Urban Studies) students made their final presentation of their dissertations on 23 April 2015, Saturday. The BA (Urban Studies) has completed the first cycle of this new programme which admitted its first batch of students in September 2012.



## Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes (DACP)

### 1. Prof. Lynne DiStefano

- Appointed for a term of three years from 2016 to 2018 as a Member of the Academic Committee for the bilingual academic journal, *Heritage Architecture* 建築遺產, published by Science Press and Tongji University. [130+ pages, ISSN 2095-7289]

### 2. 10 x Year-3 BA(Conservation) students, Katie Cummer and Dr. Hoyin Lee

- Planned, organised and conducted two guided tours, "City Impression @ Central: Site Walk Central," **jointly** organized by the Hong Kong Planning Department and HKU Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes on 12 and 19 March. See: <http://www.citygallery.gov.hk/en/to-participate/central.html>. (Attended by over 60 people total for the two tours)

### 3. ACP graduates Eric Lee (2005; project leader), Fanny Ang (2008), Hanny Ng (2007), Clara Kam (2015) and Elain Kwan (2016)

- The Conservation Team of LWK & Partners, comprising entirely of ACP's MSc(Conservation) graduates, received two conservation awards from the Architectural Services Department on 7 April 2016. The first was the top **Annual Award** for the adaptive reuse of the *Former Legislative Council Building (Old Supreme Court Building)* as the new Court of Final Appeal ([http://www.lwkp.com/en/port\\_projects\\_detail?id=120](http://www.lwkp.com/en/port_projects_detail?id=120)), and the second was the **Heritage Architecture Award** for the restoration of the *Former Central Government Offices (East and Main Wings)* as offices for the Department of Justice ([http://www.lwkp.com/en/port\\_projects\\_detail?id=121](http://www.lwkp.com/en/port_projects_detail?id=121))

### 4. ACP staff Lynne DiStefano and Hoyin Lee, and ACP graduates Fanny Ang (2008 graduate), C. P. Lai (2007 graduate), Jennifer Lang (2012 graduate, current PhD candidate), Angela Ngai (2004 graduate), Paul Tso (2005 graduate), Steven Siu (2013 graduate)

- the above ACP staff and graduates co-organised with The Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists (HKICON) the *6th HKICON Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony* at The Helena May on 15 April 2016. The VIPs attended included Mrs. Carrie Lam (HKSAR Government Chief Secretary of Administration), Mr. Bernard Chan (HKSAR Government Executive Council Member), Mr. Jose Yam (HKSAR Government Commissioner for Heritage) and Mr. Douglas So (HKU Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor).

## 5. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- Interviewed by the following media organisations on the issues of heritage grading, specifically on the grading of *State Theatre* and *Ma On Shan Iron Mine Complex*, from 14 to 19 April 2016:  
  
(TV) Cable TV; DBC TV (radio) MyRadio; Radio Television Hong Kong;  
(newspaper) Apple Daily; Epoch Times; Ming Pao; Sing Pao Daily; Ta Kung Pao.
- Gave a Continuing Professional Development lecture, entitled “Chinese Renaissance Architecture: The Ideology behind the Aesthetics,” on 22 April 2016, invited by The Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists (HKICON)  
See: <http://www.hkicon.org/joomla/cpd/cpd-detail.php?id=126> (Attended by about 35 professionals)
- Gave a public lecture, entitled “The Design of Museum Architecture: Aesthetics and Ideology” (「博物館建築設計建築美學與意識形態」, in Cantonese) on 23 April 2016, invited by the Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage.  
See: [http://cache.org.hk/blog/Museum\\_design\\_Tapr16/](http://cache.org.hk/blog/Museum_design_Tapr16/). (Attended by 85 people)
- Appointed for a term of two years from 2 May 2016 to 1 May 2018 as a Member of the Advisory Committee of the Central Police Station (CPS) Revitalisation Project by Tai Kwun (trading name of the Jockey Club CPS Ltd.). As stated in the appointment letter, the CPS Revitalisation Project is to “transform Tai Kwun into an internationally-renowned cultural destination and setting a benchmark for excellence in restoration and revitalisation,” and the Advisory Committee is established to “advise the Board of Directors of Tai Kwun on the operation and management of the project” and “made up of members of accomplished and respectable leaders.”

## Division of Landscape Architecture

### 1. Gavin Coates

- walked a 'Wan Chai Transect' with Annemarie Evans of RTHK Radio 3's 'Hong Kong Heritage' programme, a cross-section of successive land reclamations and dramatic changes in Hong Kong's urban infrastructure, from a landscape architect's perspective.

See attached link: <http://podcast.rthk.hk/podcast/item.php?pid=164>

# HKUrbanLab research groups

## Centre for Chinese Architecture and Urban Design

### 1. Thomas Tsang

- His paper on contemporary art and architecture curating titled "Contest Miniatures" has been accepted by the Scientific Committee for presentation with Architect Zvi Hecker and Prof. David Leatherbarrow at the AR(t)CHITECTURE International Conference at The Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning of Technion Israel Institute of Technology from 19 to 21 April 2016. [http://jebe-cities.com/archart/?page\\_id=17](http://jebe-cities.com/archart/?page_id=17)
- Co-created an installation and filmic work "August residency will be dedicated to a production of a new project "Unbuilt" with artist Lars Laumann, composer Cecilia Lopez and poet Natalie Diaz has been selected to take part in the Rupert's Residency Program for exhibition in August 2016. The Rupert Residency Program is partnered and sponsored by Lithuanian Council for Culture, National Gallery of Art, Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Culture, and Pakrantė

## Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning

### 1. Dr. Roger C K Chan

- At the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, USA, 29 March - 2 April 2016:
  - Organized a session on "China's Free Trade Zones: Theory and Practice"
  - Presented a paper entitled "Spatial Organisation and Governance of the Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone"
- At the Regional Studies Association Annual Conference 2016 Graz, Austria, 3-6 April 2016. Presented the following papers:
  - "How could economic resilience interpret regional economic development? Towards a theoretical discourse" (with Mai Xin)
  - "The making of rural community (*shequ*): a new attempt of peri-urban governance in China" (with Wei Xueji)
- Published the following paper:

**Chan, R.** (2016) "Urban Development of Macao: Challenges and Opportunities", *City Profile, China City Planning Review*, Vol. 25, No.1, 2016.

**Abstract:** *This paper reviews the socio-economic development and the spatial evolution patterns of Macao. It argues that urbanization and intense land development have posed three challenges to Macao's future development pathway, namely, limited provision of resource, lack of diversification of industries, and incomplete planning legislation. The General Agreement on the Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao signed in 2003 represents a strong policy incentive that offered a comprehensive institutional framework to promote economic integration. The Agreement is conducive to achieving economic development through proposing dynamic and diversified economic activities, which will also benefit tourism. The development of Hengqin will serve as a test bed for furthering the implementation of "one country, two systems" constitutional principle, which will also improve the existing regional cooperation mechanisms. A comprehensive urban planning system should be established to avoid marginalization in regional development. Better reallocation of resources and prevention of over-competition in the market are two critical components in achieving sustainable development of Macao.*

## 2. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- Made an invited keynote presentation at the Shadow EU-Summit Managing Tomorrow's Cities organized by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and the Amsterdam Municipal Government on "In search of socio-spatial sustainability: the case of high-density & high-rise Hong Kong", and joined a dialogue session on urban development strategies to provide inputs to students' submission to the EU Summit via the Amsterdam Municipality government.

## 3. Dr. Shenjing He

- Dr. Shenjing He co-organized three sessions on "Rural migrants in transition China: marginality, agency and justice" at the Urban Affairs Association 2016 Annual conference, San Diego, California, US, 16-19 March. The proposal to publish a special issue on the theme has been accepted by Journal of Urban Affairs.
- was appointed external member of the Pearl River Delta Social Research Center, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

#### 4. Dr. Xingjian Liu

- Published the following papers:

**Liu, X.** and Wang, M. (2016) "How polycentric is urban China and why? A case study of 318 cities", *Landscape and Urban Planning, Elsevier*, 151, pp. 10-20.

**Abstract:** *Despite much insightful work on polycentric urban development in China, there is a lack of systematic comparison at the intra-city level. Therefore, this paper explores polycentric urban development in 318 cities of China using detailed gridded population data. Our analysis examines the spatial structure of urbanized area within individual cities and identifies population centers within cities that are at the prefectural level and above. Our empirical results suggest that over 90% of Chinese cities have four or fewer 'centers', and approximately 40% only have one 'dominating' center. Regression models reveal that higher degrees of polycentricity are associated with cities in fragmented landscapes. Conditioning on topographic characteristics and total land area, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is associated positively with high polycentricity in Eastern China. Furthermore, our analysis suggests that the development of multiple (sub) centers in a number of cities (e.g., Shanghai and Tianjin) is relatively consistent with their master plans.*

**Liu, X.**, Dai, L, and Derudder, Ben (2016) "Spatial Inequality in the Southeast Asian Intercity Transport Network", *Geographical Review*, pp.1-19, 2016. DOI: 10.1111/j.1931-0846.2016.12181.x

**Abstract:**

*Spatial inequality in transport access is both the driver and outcome of rising economic inequality in Southeast Asia. Unlike many regional disparity studies that focus on national economic indicators, this paper takes an urban network approach to assess the spatial inequality in Southeast Asian intercity transport network. We analyze urban connectivity in intercity road, rail, and air networks for a total of 47 Southeast Asian cities. Spatial inequality at the city and network level is revealed via centrality measures and community detection, respectively. Gini coefficients for individual centrality rankings point to a hierarchical degree distribution, a rather even distribution of closeness centrality, and a highly concentrated distribution of betweenness centrality. Four network communities are identified, reflecting the influences of entrenched uneven development, fragmented geography, and economic and political policies. Keywords: Southeast Asia, network connectivity, transportation network, spatial inequality.*

# Sustainable HD Cities

## 1. Tianjin University conference

Prof. Phil Jones, Dr. Jianxiang Huang, and Dr. Shan Shan Hou of the Sustainable High Density Cities Lab visited the School of Architecture at Tianjin University. Prof. Phil Jones gave a presentation entitled 'Towards a Zero Carbon Built Environment: New Build and Retrofit'; Dr. Jianxiang Huang gave a presentation entitled 'Sustainable High Density Places'. The visit strengthened the ties between HKU and Tianjin University. The two sides planned to pursue collaborative research projects and funding application in future.



Fig. 1. Visit to Tianjin University, School of Architecture

## 2. Low-Carbon Economy Workshop

A delegate of staff and students from the Sustainable High Density Cities Lab attended the workshop entitled "Policy to Practice Approach in the Achievement of a Low Carbon Economy in China" held at Tsinghua University in Beijing on March 28, 2016. The workshop is part of the 12th Building Energy Academic Week of Tsinghua University to be held from March 25-29, 2016. During the workshop, Prof. Phil Jones gave a talk entitled "Set the scene: from policy to practice in zero carbon transition in built environment", Mr. Chad Mckee spoke on "Lessons from existing buildings: Inhabitant-centered design strategies for low-carbon retrofits". Dr. Jianxiang Huang gave a talk entitled "Urban Microclimate and Building Energy". Ms. Mengdi Guo and Ms. Yiyang Yang joined the workshop discussion.

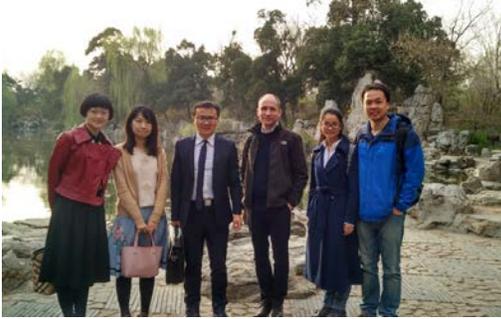


Fig. 2 Visiting Tsinghua University. From Left to Right: Ms. Mengdi Guo, Ms. Yiyang Yang, Dr. Jianxiang Huang, Mr. Chad Mckee, Dr. Weihui Yang, Mr. Weilin Cui

### 3. The HKU-Cardiff Building Physics Workshop

The HKU-Cardiff Building Physics Workshop was held at the University of Hong Kong on March 25, 2016. During the workshop, Mr. Chad Mckee presented 'High-rise residential building enclosure: adaptive strategies for the vertical climatology of Hong Kong'. Ms. Mengdi Guo presented research progress on modelling of urban acoustic environment. Ms. Yiyang Yang presented updates on the software plugin CityComfirt+, a simulation tool for outdoor thermal comfort.



Fig. 3. HKU-Cardiff Building Physics Workshop, From left to right: Ms. Xiaojun Li (Cardiff), Ms. Yiyang Yang, Ms. Mengdi Guo, Ms. Rong Peng, Ms. Fiona Xue, Prof. Phil Jones, Mr. Chad Mckee

### 4. Publication

Huang, J., Zhou, C., Zhuo, Y., Xu, L., & Jiang, Y. (2016). *Outdoor Thermal Environments and Activities in Open Space: An Experiment Study in Humid Subtropical Climates. Building and Environment.*

<http://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2016.03.029>

## **5. 2016 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition**

Sr. Bay Wong attended the 2016 MIECF Forum and Exhibition from 31 March to 2 April 2016 and delivered a talk on "Green Building Maintenance" to the Concrete Technology and Building Structure Forum organized by the Macao Association of Concrete Inspection, Maintenance and Water proofing on 1 April, 2016.

## **6. Shadow EU-Summit Managing Tomorrow's Cities**

Professor Rebecca Chiu made an invited keynote presentation at the Shadow EU-Summit Managing Tomorrow's Cities organized by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and the Amsterdam Municipal Government on "In search of socio-spatial sustainability: the case of high-density & high-rise Hong Kong", and joined a dialogue session on urban development strategies to provide inputs to students' submission to the EU Summit via the Amsterdam Municipality government.

## **Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research**

### **1. Dr. Linzi Zheng, Dr Wilson Lu and Prof. K.W. Chau**

- Accepted to present a conference paper "Zheng, L.Z., Lu, W.S., Chen, K., Chau, K.W. (2016). Moral hazard in inter-firm cooperation: A study of building information modelling Implementation. The 76<sup>th</sup> Academy of Management (AOM) Annual Meeting 2016, 5-9th August, Anaheim, California, USA". The paper has been strictly scrutinized by three reviewers before it was accepted. This is a significant strategy shift to enter mainstream management by joining AOM conferences.

### **2. Dr. Isabelle Chan**

- was invited by the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers (HKIE) to deliver a speech entitled "Fostering Innovation in Construction: An Empirical Study of 5D BIM Education" at the BS One Day Seminar 2016 – 'BIM and Sustainability Updates' held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. The seminar was attended by more than 250 participants from both the public and private sectors.

## iLab

### 1. Dr. Wilson Lu

- Gave a talk to undergraduates in the School of Construction Management and Engineering, The University of Reading, UK via video conferencing on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- Attended the 19th Prize Presentation Ceremony for Award Winners in External Competitions 2015 on 16 April 2016, organized by the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)

### 2. Mr. Liang Cong (A PhD student of Dr Wilson Lu and Prof. Steve Rowlinson), Dr. Wilson Lu, Prof. Steve Rowlinson

- Published a journal paper (Technical note) “**Liang, C., Lu, W., Rowlinson, S.,** and Zhang, X.L. (2016). Development of a multifunctional BIM maturity model. *ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*, forthcoming”

**Abstract:** *By showing users different stages of Building Information Modeling (BIM) development and offering a roadmap to these stages, BIM maturity models have become useful means of BIM diffusion around the world. Nevertheless, existing models fail to recognize and measure BIM maturity in different units of analysis, including individual projects, companies, or the construction industry as a whole. This research aims to develop a multifunctional BIM maturity model. A reiterative approach is adopted to identify domains, sub-domains, and their rubrics, which are organized in a hierarchical structure to form the BIM maturity model. This research is of particular values. It joins the theoretical debate on the ‘stool of BIM maturity’ including technology, process, and protocol, instead of treating BIM as a technology only. The model is also of immediate practical use. It can be used to evaluate BIM maturity in individual projects, companies with a portfolio of projects, or the industry as a whole. Moreover, the different units of BIM maturity analysis are innovatively integrated in a single, vivid presentation.*

### 3. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- Delivered a welcome speech and a talk on “Building Information Modeling, Integrated Project Development and Construction Projects” in HKU-RIB conference at HKU Shanghai Study Centre in Shanghai on 19 April 2016.

## Healthy HD Cities

1. Dr. Guibo Sun published a paper:

**Guibo Sun**, John Zacharias, BenMa, Nicolas M. Oreskovic (2016) “How do metro stations integrate with walking environments? Results from walking access within three types of built environment in Beijing”, *Cities*, Elsevier, 56, pp 91-98.

**Abstract:** *China is in a period of rapid metro system development. However, there are few empirical evaluations of the complex interactions between the local built environment and metro ridership in the Chinese context. In this study, we collected empirical data on the influence of local environmental characteristics on walking access in Beijing. Walking behaviors and built environment perceptions among commuters (N= 495) were collected at six metro stations in three distinctly different physical settings in Beijing—two in hutong, two in danwei, and two in xiaoqu. Participants recorded walking routes from the metro stations until they arrived at their destinations. Evaluations of the built environment were collected using a questionnaire after the participants arrived. Geographic information system was used to map walking routes and code built environment variables. Walking behavior outcomes were measured as walked time from metro exit to participant's destination. ANOVA compared differences between perceived and measured built environment characteristics and walking behaviors among selected neighborhoods. Multiple regression was used to test for associations between the built environment and metro station routes. We found that mean walking time from the metro station to a destination was 8 min. Recreational and office destinations had similar walking times to the metro station as residential destinations. Metro riders in xiaoqu and danwei walked longer distances to their destinations compared to metro riders in hutong. Physical obstacles to crossing streets made walking times longer. Greater connectivity, both perceived and measured, predicted shorter walking times. Local land use is not well integrated into metro station placement in Beijing. Better connectivity, pedestrian-friendly designs and higher building coverage ratio around the metro station might promote easier walking access and have the potential to capture more metro riders.*

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264275116300257>.

2. Chinmoy Sarkar and Dean Webster produced the first results from two new studies of the UKBUMP healthy cities platform (currently being written up for journal publication):

- Using a sample of approximately 180,000 UK Biobank members, we tested two alternative planning and design doctrines about healthy living and urban density. The **healthy dense cities** doctrine assumes that higher density morphology and living is associated with lower obesity because people make more frequent walking trips to services that are nearer and more dense. The **healthy suburbs doctrine** assumes that people are healthier in the suburbs because they have to walk further to more dispersed services. We found that the healthy suburbs hypothesis wins. This has never been tested before since there has never been a

database of sufficient size and accuracy allowing medically-measured individual obesity to be regressed against density in the vicinity of individual subjects' homes, controlling for all the suspect confounding influences including income, car ownership, other health conditions, age, gender, occupation, education and so on. We measured obesity in three ways: Body Mass Index (weight/height squared), waist circumference, and total body fat (kg)

- Density of takeaway food outlets, measured as a % of all food outlets within a KM distance of an individual's home, is significantly correlated with obesity (BMI), controlling for income, education, occupation, health conditions etc.