

Dean's Roundup: 25 November 2016

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,

Another very full Roundup this time. There is a huge amount of research activity growing in the various parts of HKUrbanLab as well as exciting discussions and developments involving interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship. In a well-attended panel discussion this week, with trigger talks given by Nasrine and Louie, and a panel comprising a politician and urban designer, practicing architect, academic architect, developer and a planner-economist, we discussed the role of design in creating public open spaces. Significantly, Juan Du commented in discussion that her favourite public space in HK at the moment is the industrial (port) site in Kennedy Town that has been captured by the public during the evening hours. The space is not designed. The public has asserted *de facto* use rights and make highly creative and adaptive temporary re-use of industrial artifacts such pallets.

What does this say about the designer's role in creating quality spaces for outdoor social interaction and individual enjoyment? Two extremes come to mind in my personal response to this conundrum.

At one extreme is the K-Town example. Under certain circumstances, public space can be completely self-organising. A question for philosophical consideration, empirical investigation through social science and through experimental design-based research, is what are the conditions under which such spaces can successfully emerge? A case study of K-Town's quay would be valuable; even more so if linked with other case studies internationally. If a large enough range of such spaces can be identified, it may be possible to generalize answers that can inform urban designers in measuring their interventions more accurately. As a matter of interest, does anyone know of published research that provides answers to the question (what factors account for successful extreme self-organised open spaces)?

At another extreme is the highly designed space (minimalistic or high programming detail), which is so compelling that users adapt their behavior and expectations. In the first extreme case, the multiple preferences of multiple users and user-types shape the space, with or without props. In the second extreme case, the designed space (the designer) shapes the preferences. So popular preferences shape the space or the space shapes popular preferences. In my model, these are extremes since there are obvious degrees between them; for example, nearer to the first extreme is the designer

who undertakes rich, deep, broad, thorough and honest investigations into the target, anticipated or possible users of the space. Towards the other extreme, a designer may make concessions to her strong design idea to better accommodate local demand. But to develop the model, possibly towards some kind of theoretical proposition or empirical research question or program, I am more interested in the second extreme case. What are the conditions necessary for a successful designed public space with an extreme design statement (or an extremely prescriptive emphasis)? I suspect the answer includes a) a highly gifted designer, b) finance c) quality of materials d) quality of craftsmanship, and other such factors.

This line of theorizing leads to several intriguing propositions. For example: only highly accessible open spaces should be designed (since only highly accessible spaces can justify high budgets for high quality designers and materials etc). And: available budget should be spent on high quality shape and empty ground materials to provide high quality space that can be self-organised. Or: open spaces should never be designed by 'standards, regulations and templates' since these give the worse of all worlds (mediocre or bad design, poor materials, lack of flexibility etc). The most unattractive open spaces I have ever experienced are of this kind, including the pocket and neighbourhood parks in post-war London and other socialist cities; and the disingenuously 'creative' public open spaces in the extreme socialist cities of 1970s and 80s Burma, Zimbabwe, China, Russia, Turkey, Algeria and Eastern Europe. Does anyone else remember those giant metal or plastic tea-cups and tea-pots arranged variously as park seats or childrens' roundabouts? I came across them in Algiers, Rangoon and Wuhan in the mid 80s. Or the giant dinosaurs in Turkish parks of the same period? Not to mention the artless fake rock faces and steps and over-configured planting and hard-landscaping schemes – all of which are now reappearing in the Chinese countryside (as rural land development rights start to liberalise). I took a photo of a giant wildly-coloured fiberglass fish in the centre of a public space in Chengdu village in 2015. And I mean *really* giant; with the rest of the design equally and suitably fishy.

What's the difference between the naïve fishy imagination of rural villagers in Chengdu, neo-classical designers of early 20th century European urban squares, and neo-neo-classical designers of the grand entry squares of the gated estates in Beijing's 'Orange County'? That's another philosophical and empirical research question.

Responses on a postcard please – or more appropriately: at FoA's next urban design symposium. See you there.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements listed below.

Chris

Teaching and other Achievements

FoA Departments and Divisions

Department of Architecture (DARCH)

1. Donn Holohan
 - His "*Wind and Rain Bridge*" project won the best intuitional/Public space at the A&D Perspective Global Awards on 9 November 2016.
2. Cherene Hui Cheuk Wan (MArch, Class of 2016)
 - Received a Certificate of Excellence at the A&D Perspective Global Awards for her design project entitled "Water Mass, Water Cavity"
3. Jimmy Li Chung Yan (BAAS, Class of 2016)
 - Received a Certificate of Excellence at the A&D Perspective Global Awards for his project entitled "Habitat Morphology"
4. Anthony Lin Lap (MArch, Class of 2016)
 - Received the Best of Category award of the A&D Perspective Global Awards for his thesis project entitled "from NIMBY do PIIMPY: Project Dandora"
5. Eugene Tse Yat Chi (BAAS, Class of 2016)
 - Received a Certificate for Excellence in the Product Design Category of the A&D Perspective Global Awards for her project entitled "Wooden Bed"
6. Michelle Wun Hiu Shuen (MArch, Class of 2016)
 - Received a Certificate for Excellence of the A&D Perspective Global Awards for her project entitled "Weaving Social Corridors"

7. Dr. Beisi Jai

- Was an invited keynote speaker and organizing committee member of 2016 Beijing International Forum of Open Building Development and Practice, organized by the China Institute of Building Standard Design and Research (CBS), Beijing, China, 20 to 21 October 2016.

8. Dr. Eric Schuldenfrei

- Gave a lecture entitled “Cinematic Expository Systems” at Arquiteturas, Lisbon, Portugal

9. Professor Nasrine Seraji

- Was an invited keynote lecturer and moderator for Ville Haute-Ville Basse – Le Paysage Comme Fondement du Projet de Territoire, France / City of Pau, 13 to 14 October 2016
- Was an invited jury member and lecturer for the 2A Asia Architecture Award Ceremony hosted by Vienna – Academy of Fine Arts, 15 to 18 October 2016. lecture entitled “Architects’/Architecture’s Role in 21st Century Asia/Europe”
- Attended building site visit and conducted presentation of urban projects

10. Thomas Tsang

- Gave a presentation entitled “Unbuilt: Un-accumulated Archives of the Miniatures” at the RMIT Practice Research Symposium Asia 2017, organized by RMIT University School of Architecture and Design, in Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam, 7 to 11 October 2016.
- Was an invited speaker for the guest lecture entitled “Unbuilding” of The Guest Lecture Series 2016-17 for the Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore, 17 to 18 October 2016.

Department of Real Estate and Construction (DREC)

1. Professor K W Chau

- Delivered the 30th Qiushi Academic Lecture entitled “The Policy Implications of Real Option Value Embedded in Housing” at the Renmin University of China on 2 November 2016.



- Delivered a seminar on “A New Institutional Economics Analysis of the Choice of Construction Procurement Methods” at the Tsinghua University on 1 November 2016.



- Delivered a seminar on “Rights to Keep Dogs in Condo as Congestible Club Good” at the Peking University on 2 November 2016.



2. Dr. Kumi Tashiro, Research Associate for Prof Steve Rowlinson and Dr Roine Leiringer

- Was an invited speaker for the 15th International community space study conference and gave a lecture entitled "La ciudad y los niños (The city and children)" at the University of Veracruz in Mexico on 3 November, 2016.

RED INTERNACIONAL
PARA EL ESTUDIO DE
ESPACIOS COMUNITARIOS

XV Taller Ciudad y Convivencia

Octubre 24
Noviembre 04
2016

Conferencias

Noviembre
Jueves 03

09:00 Toshio Kitahara: Ciudadanos haciendo ciudad. JAPÓN	10:00 Roberto Goycoolea: Renovación urbana. Historia y desafíos. ESPAÑA	11:00 Ravi Ramkalawan: Arquitectura y Urbanismo del Caribe. TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO
11:45 Mónica Díaz: El Cuerpo en la Ciudad: Hacia una arquitectura propia del goce de los sentidos. CHILE	12:30 Kumi Tashiro: La ciudad y los niños. JAPÓN	AUDITORIO FACULTAD DE ARQUITECTURA UNIVERSIDAD VERACRUZANA Entrada Libre

CHIBA UNIVERSITY
UNAM-CA
INSTITUTO DE ARTES PLÁSTICAS DE LA U.V.

PROYECTO: BARRIOS, IDENTIDAD Y CONVIVENCIA
PROYECTO: POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS Y TRANSFORMACIONES DEL ESPACIO PÚBLICO
INTERCAMBIO ACADÉMICO UNAM-CA ENTORNOS SUSTENTABLES
FACULTAD DE ARQUITECTURA-XALAPA, DE LA U.V.

POST URBAN LIVING INNOVATION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM, U. CHIBA
LIVING ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION PROJECT, U. CHIBA
<http://colabtrivoboc-rix.com/colabtrivoboc>

3. Sr. Bay Wong

- Was appointed to the Executive Committee and the Chairman of the Task Force on Design and Construction for a three-year term of office commencing membership year 2016/2017 by the Hong Kong Housing Society.
- Was also appointed the Construction Industry Council (CIC) as Chairman of the Hong Kong Green Building Council Limited (HKGBC) for a term of office from 4 November 2016 to 31 December 2017.

4. Experiential Learning Trip to Shanghai

- A group of 36 undergraduates were guided for a Real Estate and Construction Experiential Learning Trip to Shanghai from 15 Oct to 22 Oct 2016. The trip was sponsored by the HKU-China 1000 Exchange Programme. A well thought-out plan was developed. The first two days were for Building Information Modelling (BIM) training with our German technology collaborator RIB in the HKU-RIB 5D iTWO Lab at Shanghai Study Center. Later, the host Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE) organized a series of pertinent talks in the university including real estate development laws in China and China Renminbi Internationalization. Site visits to Shanghai Free-Trade Zone, Shanghai Stock Exchange, Hong Kong real estate and surveying firms in Shanghai, Oriental Pearl Tower, and other culture activities such as Yuyuan Garden and Zhaji. According to the students' reflection reports, this trip was highly received. Students were glad that they have the opportunities to travel with fellow classmates and to learn together outside Hong Kong. It was a fruitful experience and they enjoyed the tour very much. They hope to visit Shanghai again in the future.
- The Department send a strong team including Prof. Steve Rowlinson, Dr LH Li, Dr Wilson Lu, and Dr Greg Chan to assure the learning objectives to be achieved successfully. This trip would be impossible without the substantial preparation works by Ms. Esther Lam in the Department and Mr. Sunyi at SUFE.

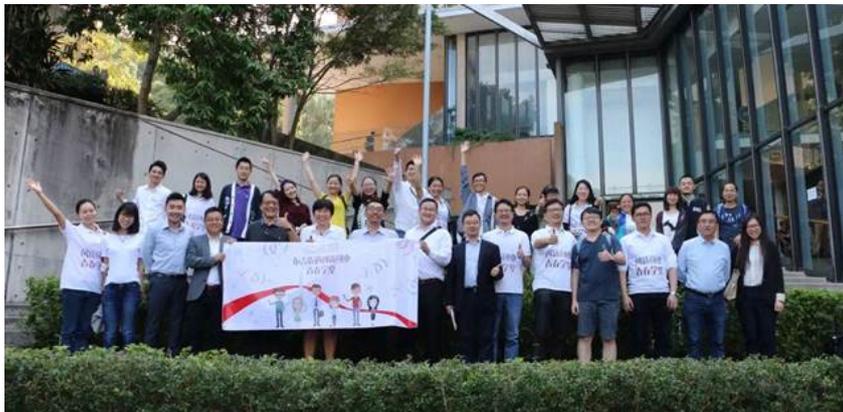


5. Dr. Wilson Lu

- Invited Dr Edmundo Werna, Head of Unit for Forestry, Agriculture, Construction & Tourism, Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Office, United Nations, to give a talk “The Future of Work and the Future of the Built Environment: towards a synergetic approach” on 14 Nov 2016.



- Received a delegation of Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Shenzhen 19 November, 2016. This is a half-day forum exchanging innovation and entrepreneurship experiences in Hong Kong and Shenzhen.



- Invited Prof. Edward J. Jaselskis, E. I. Clancy Distinguished Professor in Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University to give a talk “Metrics that Matter: Improving Project Progress and Performance Assessment” on 21 Nov 2016. During his visit to us, Prof. Jaselskis was introduced with the research in the iLab and discussed the research collaboration.



6. Post-doctoral fellow Dr Linzi Zheng and a group of research postgraduate students Mr. Ke Chen, Ms. Yuhan Niu, Ms. Meng Ye, Mr. Diandian Liu and Ms. Jing Wang were invited to join the iTWO International Conference organized by RIB on 16-17, November, 2016, Guangzhou, China. RIB is a German technology company which entered a long-term research collaboration with the Faculty. It set up the HKU-RIB 5D iTWO BIM lab in the Shanghai Study Center. The featured topics on this conference included “Digitalize and Industrialize NOW!”, “BIM in the Era of Connection”, and “Transformation of the Building Industry”.

Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD)

1. Silver Award of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners granted to the Department of Urban Planning and Design

- The study on “Industrial Land Use Changes in response to Economic Restructuring in Hong Kong” undertaken by Professor Jimmy Leung, Dr. Kenneth Tang and Dr. Catherine Bai of the Department of Urban Planning and Design has been granted a Silver Award by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners on 17 November 2016.

The Study pointed out that due to their affordability, accessibility and flexibility, industrial premises were still important to the manufacturing and logistics industries, cultural and creative industries as well as start-ups and entrepreneurs. Preserving industrial buildings would be preserving the perfect nurturing ground for a new generation of talent, a more equitable society, a more diversified and resilient economy, and overall a more competitive Hong Kong for years to come. Twelve policy measures to refine the revitalization policy of old industrial buildings; to optimize the efficient operation of the industrial estates; to facilitate the operation of co-working spaces; and to launch new initiatives on industrial site planning and reservation were recommended.

The project lasted for 15 months was supported by the Public Policy Funding Scheme managed by the Central Policy Unit of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



- DUPAD jointly organized a Seminar on Strategic Planning and City Building in Hong Kong and The United Kingdom with the Hong Kong Institute of Planners and the Planning Department of HKSAR Government at the City Gallery on 19 November 2016. Presentations were given by Prof. Roger Bristow of the University of Manchester, Dr. Kam Shing Leung of ARUP Shanghai, and Director K.K. Ling of the Planning Department. Panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Eunice Mak, President of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners. The Seminar was attended by more than 130 participants.



- MSc Urban Planning Year 2 students organized the Sham Shui Po District Community Planning Workshop at a secondary school hall near Mei Foo Sun Chuen on 19 November 2016. This workshop was part of a public engagement exercise in their Community Planning Studio course with a view to formulating a district improvement plan for the Sham Shui Po district. Over 100 participants were involved in the Workshop.



4. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- Appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya as Visiting Professor at the Department of Estate Management of the Faculty of Built Environment from 17 November 2016 to 15 November 2017. Professor Chiu will visit the Department from 15 to 22 November.

5. Dr. Roger Chan

- Was an invited adjudicator of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP) Awards 2016 selection committee.

6. Dr. Kyung-min Nam

- Presented his co-authored paper, shown below, at the 2016 North American Meetings of the Regional Science International (Nov 9-12, 2016; Minneapolis, MN, USA).

Nam, K.-M. and X. Zhang. (work in progress) Health Damage from Excess PM2.5 Pollution in China and Its Cross-provincial Distribution.

Abstract: *In this study, we estimate the cost of excess PM2.5 pollution in China and explore how it differs by province. For the analysis of PM2.5-associated health effects, we develop an integrated assessment tool by extending the China Regional Energy Model. Our preliminary results show that PM2.5 pollution is estimated to cause substantial costs to the Chinese economy, reaching 3.1-4.7% of the baseline consumption level. Cross-regional heterogeneity is also substantial. A large fraction of the costs occurred in Eastern China, such as Jiangsu, Shandong, Guangdong, and Zhejiang provinces. When the size of provincial economies is controlled for, however, the dominance of these populous provinces is less obvious, and several inland provinces, such as Chongqing, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Sichuan, and Inner Mongolia, show relatively high costs. This is mainly due to relatively high PM2.5 levels and fast labor productivity growth in these regions.*

- Published the following book chapter:

Nam, K. M. (2016) Need for Coordination between Greenhouse Gas and Pollution Abatement Regulations: China's Case and Its Implications for Korea. In Quantitative Regional Economic and Environmental Analysis for Sustainability in Korea, edited by E. Kim and B.H.S. Kim, Singapore: Springer.

Abstract: *In this chapter, I briefly introduce my previous research on the carbon co-benefits of pollution abatement in China and then discuss what key lessons Korea can learn from it. A main finding is that strong cross effects exist between air pollution and carbon mitigation in China. In particular, China could even over-achieve its official CO2 intensity targets, in terms of carbon reductions, by simply meeting the existing SO2 and NOx reduction goals. Accordingly, the CO2 intensity targets are not binding and generate unnecessary compliance costs. This result conveys several policy implications for Korea. First, local pollution abatement, given its strong cross effects, may be considered as a*

carbon mitigation strategy. However, taking full advantage of the cross effects—meeting emission reduction targets at minimal costs—requires a close coordination between air pollution and carbon regulations. Finally, clear and consistent long-term reduction goals and associated policy incentives are necessary to promote economy-wide, forward-looking technology adoption and thus to avoid the potential lock-in effect in energy supply.

Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes (DACP)

1. Ms. Katie Cummer

- Has been named recipients of The University of Hong Kong's Outstanding Teaching Award in recognition of her outstanding achievements in and commitment to teaching and supporting student learning. She will be honored at a presentation ceremony on Monday March 27, 2017.

Division of Landscape Architecture (DLA)

1. HKILA 2016 Design Awards

- The winners of the HKILA 2016 Design Awards were announced at the HKILA Annual Dinner on Friday 19th November, and it was another successful night for the Division of Landscape Architecture, with recent graduates, students and staff all taking home awards.

In the STUDENT category:

Silver Awards

Charmaine TSANG Suet Ming	"The Diary of Nightscape"
Kitty Wong Kit Man	"Slow Junk, Glenealy Road"

Merit Awards

Gap CHUNG Wai Kin	"is landscape design really GREEN?"
Kara HUANG Xiaochun	"Socio-eco Infrastructure for Rural Urbanization"
Kitty Wong Kit Man	"Vacant Space, Yangon"
Janine Chen Jielin	"Neo-hydrological Sandscape – Reclamation of Desert Oasis, Qanat Framework"

In the RESEARCH category:

Merit Awards

Vincci Mak Dorothy Tang Yin-Lun Chan	“Hong Kong Platforms: Towards a Sustainable City”
Yin-Lun Chan, et al.	“The History of the Landscape Profession of Hong Kong (1978-2015)”
Gap CHUNG Wai Kin	“Unplanned Vegetation in Hong Kong – Investigation for an Alternative Way to Green the City”
Mathew Pryor	“The Edible Roof: A Guide to Productive Rooftop Gardening”
Mathew Pryor	“Street Tree Planting in Hong Kong in the Early Colonial Period (1842-98)”

In the DESIGN categories:

Merit Awards

Gap CHUNG Wai Kin	“Unplanned” Green Block for Self-seeding Plants” (Conceptual Design)
Ng Chi Wai	“Sha Tau Kok Organic Farm Garden” (Private Client)

- Less recent graduates of the Division were also members of award winning teams in the design categories, from AECOM; Architectural Services Department; 10 Design; LWK Landscape; and Urbis Limited.

2. Ms. Dorothy Tang

- Conducted fieldwork in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the 2014-15 GRF project entitled “An Atlas of Gold: Mining, Environmental Change, and Urban Development in Johannesburg”

3. Mathew Pryor

- Received a “Highly Commended” in the Landscape Policy and Research Category (essentially second place) in the Landscape Institute, UK Annual Awards, 2016, for “The Edible Roof: A Guide to Productive Rooftop Gardening” publication.
- Was invited to speak at the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong, on Friday, October 28, 2016 on “The Tree in the Street: The Greening of the City of Victoria”

- His presentation looked at the history of street trees in the early colonial period. Planting had started as early as 1847, and trees quickly created much needed shade and shelter, which in turn attracted and organized activities within the street, and created the setting for the first public spaces. Street trees came to have broader meanings for the community, emphasizing colonial authority and social order within the emerging city.
- Was an invited speaker at seminar on Urban Agriculture in Hong Kong and Belgium, with participants from HKU and Liege University, Belgium, on Tuesday, 1st October 2016, HKU
- Mathew presented his current research on urban rooftop farming in Hong Kong and its emergence as a new form of urban agriculture, which appears to offer greater potential than ground level farming in high density cities. Preliminary estimates suggest that there might be as much as 595ha of roof deck in Hong Kong that is physically and environmentally suitable for farming, all of which is situated very close to the urban population.

4. Ivan Valin and Scott J. Melbourne

- Have been named recipients of The University of Hong Kong's Teaching Innovation Award for their team project Studio Yangon: Engaging Urban Change. They will be honored at a presentation ceremony on Monday March 27, 2017.

Research Achievements

HKUrbanLab research groups

Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP)

1. Dr. Roger Chan

- Published a co-authored paper with Yi Sun and Jie Lin entitled “Pseudo use value and output legitimacy of local growth coalitions in China: A case study of the Liede redevelopment project in Guangzhou”. Details are as follows:

Yi Sun, Jie Lin and Roger C.K. Chan (2017) Pseudo use value and output legitimacy of local growth coalitions in China: A case study of the Liede redevelopment project in Guangzhou, *Cities*, 61, pp.9-16.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2016.10.018>

Abstract: Existing research on the growth coalition of China mainly focuses on the process of urban land development and concludes that the strategic alliance of local states and market gradually emerged with the exclusion of communities in the course of development. Empirical evidence on whether or not a coalition can involve the villagers and how a coalition capacity is delivered with legitimacy is lacking. This research revisits the growth machine thesis in the redevelopment of an urban village in Guangzhou where pseudo use value is examined. Pseudo use value reflects a hybrid of the appreciation of land, which incorporates the nostalgia for the rural past and the desire for improvement. Results show that complementary expectations in the redevelopment of urban village formed an ad hoc growth coalition that incorporates the municipal government, private developers, and villagers. The generation of output legitimacy is grounded on frequent exchange of resources (i.e., land, private capital, manpower, and regulatory capacities), which also relies on empowerment and an intermediary made of the rural collective to stimulate coalition capacity. Pseudo use value makes indigenous villagers a part of the growth machine. Although the formation of local growth coalition acknowledges the role of private developers and villagers, a counterpart emerged in which the development became a political rhetoric for achieving recentralized land governance.

2. Dr. Shenjing He

- Published a co-edited volume entitled “Changing China: Migration, Communities and Governance in Cities”. Details are as follows:

Li Si-Ming, Shenjing He, Kam Wing Chan (Eds.) 2016. *Changing China: Migration, Communities and Governance in Cities*, New York and London: Routledge

Abstract: *China’s unprecedented urbanization is underpinned by not only massive rural-urban migration but also a household registration system embedded in a territorial hierarchy that produces lingering urban-rural duality. The mid-1990s onwards witnessed increasing reliance on land revenues by municipal governments, causing repeated redrawing of city boundaries to incorporate surrounding countryside. The identification of real estate as a growth anchor further fueled urban expansion. Sprawling commodity housing estates proliferate on urban-rural fringes, juxtaposed with historical villages undergoing intense densification. The traditional urban core and work-unit compounds also undergo wholesale redevelopment. Alongside large influx of migrants, major reshuffling of population has taken place inside metropolitan areas. Chinese cities today are more differentiated than ever, with new communities superimposing and superseding older ones. The rise of the urban middle class, in particular, has facilitated the formation of homeowners’ associations, and poses major challenges to hitherto state dominated local governance.*

The present volume tries to more deeply unravel and delineate the intertwining forms and processes outlined above from a variety of angles: circulatory, mobility and precariousness; urbanization, diversity and segregation; and community and local governance. Contributors include scholars of Chinese cities from mainland China, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia and the United States. This volume was previously published as a special issue of Eurasian Geography and Economics.

- Visited Melbourne School of Design (Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning), The University of Melbourne, 31 Oct – 4 Nov 2016. She gave a talk entitled “Urban villages and small property right housing development in China” and talked to colleagues and PhD students from the Planning programme to exchange research ideas and to explore possible opportunities for research collaborations.
- Published a co-authored paper entitled “From an emerging market to a multifaceted urban society: Urban China studies”. Details are as follows:

Shenjing He and Junxi Qian (2016) From an emerging market to a multifaceted urban society: Urban China studies, *Urban Studies*, DOI: 10.1177/0042098016675826.

Abstract: *China is undergoing an urban revolution. In 2011 more than half of the total population resided in cities and towns for the first time in history. Over the last two decades urban China scholars have actively engaged in dialogues with urbanists from different disciplines and different urban contexts. In consequence, urban China studies have embarked on a trail of rapid diversification and proliferation, moving beyond the topics of urbanisation and*

urban expansion to address a variety of issues echoing the latest developments in the Chinese city. Overall, urban China studies are witnessing a transition from a focus on economic development and spatial changes, to diverse social groups and the multifaceted experiences of living in rapidly changing cities. This virtual special issue (VSI) summarises the progress of urban China studies since the Economic Reform was launched in the 1970s. On the one hand, it delineates a broad picture of intellectual advancement and knowledge production in the field of urban China research. On the other hand, it identifies some emerging new themes that have not been well represented but are of potentially great significance in the comprehension and theorization of Chinese urbanism. A total of 24 articles published in Urban Studies have been selected to represent, albeit in necessarily circumscribed form, the scope of urban China studies in this journal. They are distributed across four well-established themes: (1) globalisation and the making of global cities; (2) land and housing development; (3) urban poverty and socio-spatial inequality; (4) rural migrants and their urban experiences. We also highlight three emerging frontiers: (1) urban fragmentation, enclaves and public space; (2) consumption, middle class aestheticisation and urban culture; (3) the right to the city and urban activism. The editorial concludes by identifying some key gaps in the extant literature and some potentially productive future directions.

3. Professor Bo-sin Tang

- Published a co-authored article entitled “Institutional barriers to the redevelopment of urban villages in China: a transaction cost perspective”. Details are as follows:

Lai, Y. and Tang, B.S. (2016). Institutional barriers to the redevelopment of urban villages in China: a transaction cost perspective, *Land Use Policy*, 58, 482-490.

Abstract: Compared with other newly developed urban areas, urban villages in China are in greater need for redevelopment. Governed by institutions inherited from the local-state-dominated dual land ownership system, the redevelopment of these villages follows a state-led land requisition system, which confers development rights to local governments while limiting the rights of village collectives. Two other complementary arrangements include the top-down land use planning system and the state-monopolized land transfer system. Although these institutional arrangements favor land conversion in greenfield development, they cannot be easily implemented in the village redevelopment process. By reviewing the redevelopment policies and practices, this study empirically examines the redevelopment of urban villages in Shenzhen during the policy period from 2004 to 2009 and adopts the transaction cost perspective in analyzing how state-led institutional arrangements have resulted in many time-consuming transactions and hindered the redevelopment of urban villages.

- Was invited to give a presentation on Compact City and High-density Urban Development in Hong Kong: Applications and Challenges at the International Symposium on Land Resource Utilization and Management jointly organized by the Shanghai Institute of Geological Survey, Zhejiang University's Land Academy for National Development, Shanghai Planning and Land Resources

Administration Bureau and the Ministry of Land and Resources on 12 November 2016 in Shanghai.



4. Professor Anthony Yeh

- Was invited to give a keynote speech in the *Global Megacities and Regional Coordinated Development in the Civilized World Sub-Forum of the Beijing Forum 2016* organized by Peking University, Beijing Municipal Commission of Education and Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies from 4-6 November 2016 at the Diaoyutai State Guest House, Beijing, China. He gave a Keynote Speech on “From Mega-Cities to Mega-City Regions: Issues and Challenges”. The other keynote speakers are Dr. Baoxing Qiu, Former Vice-Minister of Housing and Rural Urban Construction and President of Urban Studies Association of China, Prof. Robert D. Yaro, Former President of Regional Planning Association and Professor of Practice, PennDesign, University of Pennsylvania, and Prof. Bojie Fu, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Dean of the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University. There were 4 Keynote Speeches, 1 Dialogue, and 5 Sessions, covering Megacities of the World, Governance and Finance of Megacities, Megacity Regions, Megacity Challenges, and Planning of Megacities with a total of 29 speakers (including policy makers, city officials, urban geographers, economists, planners, public finance experts, etc), covering over 10 megacities in Global North, Global South, and China.



- Made a presentation on “Testing Your Ideas - Hong Kong Regional Final of Challenge Cup National Competition” in the Workshop on Innovation & Entrepreneurship organized by the Graduate School and Graduate House on 6 October 2016 at the Wang Gungwu Lecture Hall, Graduate House.



- Attended the 9th Greater China GIS Conference organized by the Department of Mapping and Cadastral Survey of the Macau SAR Government that was held at the Science Museum of Macau from 20 to 21 October 2016. Prof. Yeh was invited to be the Session Chair of the Session on “Latest Development of GIS in Greater China” in the afternoon sessions of the Conference on 20 October.
- Was invited to make a presentation on “Impacts of Smart Technologies and Smart Cities on Urban Development and Planning” in the 2016 International Human Settlement Science Forum organized by Prof. WU Liangyong the Institute of Architecture and Urban Studies of Tsinghua University on 22 October 2016 as part of the 70th Anniversary Celebration Programmes of the School of Architecture.



1. Dr. Wilson Lu

- Chaired a session of 'Algorithmic Decision Making' in the "Symposium on Big Data and Data Governance" Jointly organized by The Law and Technology Centre (HKU) and Hans Bredow Institute, University of Hamburg, on 15 Oct 2016
- Dr. Wilson Lu, Chris Webster, Ke Chen, Xiaoling Zhang and Xi Chen published the following paper:

Lu, W.S., Webster, C., Chen, K., Zhang, X.L., and Chen X. (2016). Computational Building Information Modelling for construction waste management: moving from rhetoric to reality. Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews (IF=6.798). Forthcoming.

Abstract: *There is a lively debate on the application of Building Information Modelling (BIM) to construction waste management (CWM). BIM can be utilized as a less expensive, virtual, and computational environment to enable designers to ponder different design options, or contractors to evaluate different construction schemes, both with a view to minimizing construction waste generation. However, existing debate on this topic too frequently treats BIM as a cure-all silver bullet; without some major hurdles being adequately addressed, the applications of BIM will remain rhetorical. This paper aims to demystify BIM's computational application to CWM. Based on a critical literature review, a prototypical framework of a computational BIM for CWM is delineated, within which the two key prerequisites of 'information readiness' and 'computational algorithms' are highlighted. Then, the paper details the required information and how it can be organized in a standalone database or encapsulated in existing BIM for CWM. Learning from the historical development of data infrastructure in the field of BIM-based cost management, the process to develop the required information is likely to be tortuous but is unavoidable. The paper further explores computational BIM algorithms that can manipulate the information to facilitate decision-making for CWM. Finally, the operation of computational BIM is elaborated by relating it to various prevailing procurement models within which BIM applications are contextualized. Although the framework reported here has been substantially developed for experimental application, it is not to be taken as an immediately applicable solution but rather as an illustration of the kind of platform on which future development of computational BIM for CWM can proceed in a more efficient and effective fashion.*

Healthy^{HD} Cities

1. Chinmoy Sarkar and Dean Webster

- Have the following paper accepted in the Journal of Urban Health (Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine):

Healthy cities of tomorrow: The case for large scale built environment–health studies

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Public health is purchasable. Within natural limitations a community can determine its own death rate.

Herman N. Biggs, 1905

Commissioner of Health for New York State

Abstract: *Global demographic shifts in the form of increasing urbanization and ageing populations means that the attainment of healthy urban environments will remain a primary challenge for human society. This paper discusses methodological challenges inherent in the current breed of built environment–health studies; and highlights recent advances in state-of-the-art big data spatial modelling, data linkage, anonymization, and large scale prospective cohorts. Such advances, on the boundaries between city planning, urban design, public health, epidemiology and big data geo-computation hold the prospect of generating an evidence base for creating, designing, and managing the healthy cities of tomorrow. In big data era, we foresee that large scale prospective built environment–health studies enabled through multidisciplinary global collaborations can provide sufficiently robust evidence for preventive environmental interventions in the form of health-specific planning and design of neighbourhoods and cities as well as create decision supports systems for facilitating healthy cities. We discuss some of current issues and challenges and ways forward.*

Keywords: Healthy cities, built environment, big data spatial modelling, life course, UK Biobank, UKBUMP, environmental interventions, health expenditures.

Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research (RCCPRR)

1. Professor K W Chau and Professor Lawrence Lai

- Their co-authored paper with Lorne, Frank T. and Ching, Ken S.T., entitled “Informal Land Registration under Unclear Property Rights: Witnessing Contracts, Redevelopment, and Conferring Property Rights” (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837715002872>) has been recommended by the Review Panel of The Academy of Hong Kong Studies of The Education University of Hong Kong as one of the outstanding papers in Hong Kong Studies. They are invited to attend the Hong Kong Studies Annual Conference on 20 January 2017 to receive the award and to deliver a 30-minute presentation on this paper during the Conference.

Abstract: *The significance of informal land registration in property transactions and development has been discussed at length, but there are few examples of in-depth case studies of how this information accessing and collection institution relates to them and how it may create property rights. This paper examines the nature and operation of non-governmental and voluntary land transaction registration practices in Kowloon Walled City, an ideal example of a privately-planned and developed habitat under unclear property rights due to jurisdictional disputes between China and Britain and no state protection of property rights or intervention in building control existed. Based on documentary evidence interpreted from a Coasian and Hayekian stance, it advances the proposition that the contracts the Kowloon Walled City Kaifong Welfare Promotion Association (hereafter the Kaifong Association) sought to represent as a witness built up its political credibility as a representative body. Such a role not only reduced transaction costs of contract enforcement and, hence, facilitated redevelopment, but also became that of a quasi-government land registrar due to the popularity of its witnessing service, which, under specific circumstances, served as the basis for the assignment of de jure private property rights by the state.*

Rural Urban Lab (RUL)

1. Joshua Bolchover and John Lin

- Received the RIBA Award for International Excellence and the RIBA International Emerging Architect Prize for their design research project in Baojing County of China: Angdong Hospital in conjunction with Hong Kong charity Institute for Integrated Rural Development.

<https://www.architecture.com/Awards/InternationalPrize2016/InternationalPrize2016.aspx>

They are also featured at the U Vision video at <http://uvision.hku.hk/m/20557>

2. John Lin

- Led a presentation to the government bodies on an orphanage design concept for China
- Site visited at Datong, Yunnan, in collaboration with Sowers Action Hong Kong charity

Sustainable HD Cities Lab (SHDC)

1. Three GRF proposals have been submitted to the RGC in 2017-2018 Exercise:

- “Closing the Design Loop: Evaluating Building Design and Performance from Building Use Studies in Learning Environments”, by Chad McKee (PI) and Professor Stephen Lau (Co-I)
- “Urban Design & Mood: Assessing Emotional Well-Being in Hong Kong Using Geotagged Twitter Data”, by Dr. Jianxiang Huang (PI), Dr. Qingpeng Zhang of CityU and Dr. Michael Ni of HKU School of Public Health (Co-Is)
- “Urban Courtyards: Environmental Performance Evaluation and Design Strategies for Outdoor Transitional Spaces”, by Professor Weijen Wang (PI) and Chad McKee (Co-I)

2. Professor Phil Jones

- Attended the Ecological Civilization Construction and Urban Innovation Governance Forum in Tianjin Binhai New District on 21 October 2016.
- Gave a keynote speech at the Building Conservation Conference in Tianjin



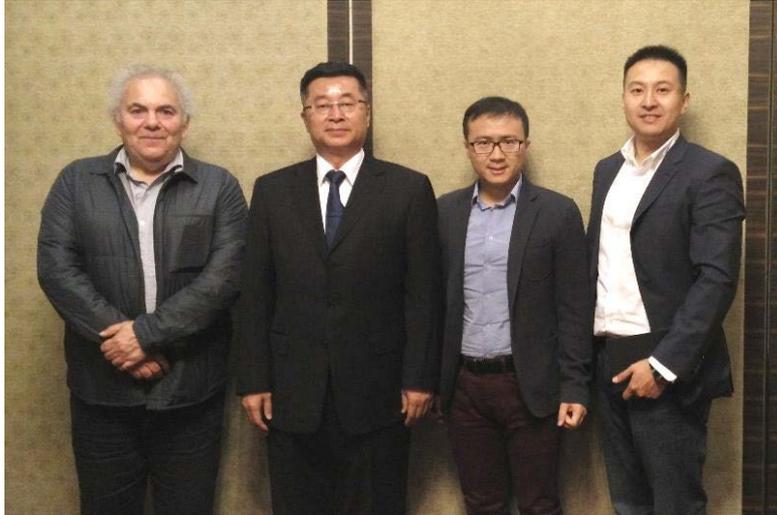
- Gave a keynote speech at the 4th International Symposium on Architectural Heritage Preservation and Sustainable Development held in Tianjin on 22 October 2016.



- Visited Chengdu Tianfu New District on 4 November 2016. Potential partnership with Greenland, a Chinese real estate developer, the Tianfu New District Government, and Harvard Center for Health and the Global Environment to develop a low-carbon building research center in Chengdu.

3. Dr. Jianxiang Huang & Professor Phil Jones

- Met with Chairman of the Shenyang Dongtai District Heating Company in Beijing on 23 October 2016 for the research project on Building Energy and District Heating in Northern China. The research project will look at modeling and improvement of building energy performance, district heating system, and human health in Continental Climate of Northern China. The next step will be field data collected in Shenyang scheduled in the middle of December, 2016.



4. HKU – Cardiff research workshop

- The research workshop was held on 3 November 2016 at the University of Hong Kong. Research progress on the Integrated Model, Acoustic Simulation, and Outdoor Thermal Comfort.



5. Dr. Jianxiang Huang

- Served as a Co-Rapporteur in the 52nd International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) Congress taking place in Durban, South Africa from 12-16 September 2016. He has also presented a paper entitled “Pleasant Urban Experiences: Re-Examining Place-Making Theories Using Social Media Data in High-Density Cities”. The paper, accepted in the conference proceeding (<http://isocarp.org/52nd-isocarp-congress/2016-congress-proceedings/>), summarized an interdisciplinary study conducted by Jianxiang Huang, Qingpeng Zhang, Lishuai Li, Yiyang Yang, Alain Chiaradia, Matthew Pryor, and Chris Webster

