

## Dean's Roundup

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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

Dear All,

In the spirit of Mid-Autumn Festival, I shall not presume on your time this week. So will simply wish you all a Happy holiday weekend.

Next week... a chance for the Faculty to make an input into the design of a new town of 30,000 focused on elderly people (Linyi, Shandong province). This is the second such project I have come across in the Mainland, the other one being a town of about twice that size in Wuhan I encountered when working on a UNESCAP Pro-Poor Public Private Partnership (5P) project (6). I am regarding them both and the genre of urban solution they represent as a 21<sup>st</sup> century version of the 19<sup>th</sup> century British and American philanthropist towns (Port Sunlight, Bourneville etc). In both the Chinese cases there is a wealthy benefactor-developer/land-owner with a philanthropic vision. Bi Bu Ting in Wuhan is like a Communist theme park in which Chairman Mao (Mr. Mao is Chairman of the Private company that developed and now runs the private city) has tried to recreate his own romantic vision of communism circa 1952 – using market mechanisms. Like Mr. Mao, Mr. Duan (a former Village Leader from Linyi), wishes to create an ideal community in which the elderly are respected in a way that Confucius would have been proud of (Shandong is the birthplace of Confucius). Duan's motivation also comes from his own faith sensibilities – he and his fellow villagers are Christian and he plans to build Linyi's biggest church in the town, which he is currently calling 'Holy Paradise'. As well as giving free housing and monthly living allowance to the >65s in his own village (possibly 500 people), he plans to offer a free home for people >100 from surrounding villages. This may all sound bizarre and idiosyncratic but so, no doubt, did the urban experiments of the wealthy 19<sup>th</sup> philanthropists. The latter's legacy lives on and 150 years later, we send our students to visit these sites and study the designs, visions, economics and motivations of their founding fathers...

Sorry, I have presumed upon some of your holiday time. Have a good celebration with your friends and families. Congratulations to those mentioned below for their contributions to the Faculty.

Chris

## Department of Architecture

### I. Tom Verebes

- served as External Examiner for the MArch (Urban Design) programme at the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London (UCL) in London, examining 91 MArch(UD) graduates in the first External Examination of a three-year appointment at UCL.

## Division of Landscape Architecture

### I. Mr. Adam Bobbette

- co-authored an essay with Chris Lee - "Cyclone City" in the book Heteropolis, ed. Marie-Pier Boucher, Jean-Maxime Dufresne, Gema Melgar, Jean-François Prost (Montreal: Adaptive Actions) forthcoming fall 2013.
- authored an essay "Hong Kong by Accident" which has been accepted to the Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia II: Cities, Towns, and the Places of Nature conference and monograph by the Hong Kong Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and convenors Anne Rademacher (NYU) and K. Sivaramakrishnan (Yale).
- has been invited to present a recent research on the history of geological photography at the Center for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths, University of London, for "Who Does the Earth Think It Is, Now?" the launch of the book Architecture in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Design, Deep Time, Science and Philosophy (Ann Arbor: MPublishing/Open Humanities Press, 2013)

### 2. Mr. Adam Bobbette and Seth Denizen

- a recent project "Death & Debt Cemetery" has been included in "The Floating Eternity Project" curated by Qinyi Lim at Para Site, Hong Kong from September 14<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

## Department of Real Estate and Construction

### I. Sr. Wong Bay

- attended a Board meeting of the Antiquities Advisory Board(AAB) on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- attended the Sustainable Building 2013 Hong Kong Regional Conference - "Urban Density & Sustainability" on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, organized by the Construction Industry Council(CIC) and Hong Kong Green Building Council(HKGBC)
- attended the Preliminary BEAM Plus Platinum Night Conference Dinner organized by CIC and HKGBC on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- attended the Heritage Working Group of CIC on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- attended a Consultation meeting with stakeholders of the AAB on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- attended the AGM of the Children's Education Fund of CIC on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### 2. Goh Cheng Siew (a RPG student, supervised by Professor Steve Rowlinson)

- has been awarded the Hong Kong Mediation and Arbitration Centre Professional Awards 2012-2013.

## Department of Urban Planning and Design

### 1. Professor Anthony Yeh

- has been elected as the Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences in the U.K.
- was invited to give a talk on "Changing City-Regions in China: The Pearl River Delta" in the Symposium on the *Future of the City in Global City-Regions* in Hong Kong organized by the Graduate School of Design of Harvard University on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### 2. Professor Webster

- gave the following talk and joined a Linyi Municipal Government Forum on city planning for the elderly: Webster CJ (2013) Evidence and theory for the physical and institutional design of elderly neighbourhoods. Invited lecture given at the International summit meeting forum of cultural town, healthy aging and urban complex development, held in Linyi, Shandong Province, China, September 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.