

Dean's Roundup (Friday, 22 August, 2014)

Roundup: *Ceiling function*, the mathematical operation of rounding a number up to the next higher integer.

Roundup: a term in American English referring to the process of gathering animals into an area, known as a "Muster" in Australia.

Rounding up: when a helmsman cannot control a boat and it heads into the wind

Roundup: the plan for an invasion of northern France by Allied forces during World War II (Wikipedia)

Dean's Roundup: part blog, part bulletin; part honour roll, part curatorial [cu'ra-to'ri-al (kyŏr'ē-tŏr'ē-əl, -tŏr'-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear all,

Mid August is a good point for a catch-up on some of the strategic projects that I and others have been working on during the summer period. I promised that I would start to look at teaching in my second academic year in HKU having focused on research in the first. With our success in the 2014 GRF competition (13 awards compared to 4 the year before) and the various strategic research projects underway and big grants won, I feel confident that we can now start to make strategic developments on all fronts.

In no particular order:

1. Designs are being drawn up for the proposed FoA **Architectural Gallery** on the Ground Floor of the Knowles Building. Two plans are being created: one for the former JUPAS-Post-room rectangle (380 square meters) that has been promised us; the other will extend to the rooms on the other side of the walkway, the associated storage space on the south side of the car park level G and the inclined ground level of the outdoor atrium between Knowles and KK Leung building, which Matthew and Weijen want for external architectural and landscape display space (on a system of platforms). We will need additional donor support, which I am confident we will find. This will give additional opportunities to accommodate program growth under discussion (see below).
2. Our award winning **Shanghai Study Centre** Phase II plan (well, it should have won an award given how difficult it was to find a business plan that stacks up) is waiting in the wings while we negotiate an extension of lease with the Shanghai Post Office. If the rent goes up significantly, the plan will rest on HKU subsidizing, as its price for having such a great program in such a unique building in such an iconic location. I have done all I can to ensure the continued life of this important part of FoA's student experience. Now it's up to real estate economics and the strategic vision of HKU Senior Management Team. For the next year (and hopefully if all goes well for the years following), Anderson Lee takes over as Director of the SSC and will move to Shanghai, returning once a month to keep close to what's happening here.
3. **Knowles Building** plans are in an advance stage of completion. We are almost at a stage of signing them off for the Estates Office to implement. It is likely that works will start in January 2015 and be carried out in various stages during that calendar year. I have been promised the entire second floor eventually, but it will remain an important

space for the university in managing its decanting logistics following the opening of the Centennial Campus - for probably the next two years. We may also expect to have some of floor 9 in the future. For the next 2-3 years I need everyone to be exceptionally gentlemanly, being thankful for any gains in quantity and quality of space and not begrudging colleagues with urgent needs who seem to have a better deal. I assure you that I will do all I can to accommodate your current needs and more, as opportunities arise.

4. I would like to have a meeting early in the autumn to take forward Weijen's idea for a 3 year MArch program (conversion course into professional architectural practice).
5. I would also like to open discussion in the autumn about diversifying and deepening the faculty's **Urban Design** teaching and research program. This would be aimed at building on the excellent work done by DUPAD in developing the current MUD degree program. One idea emerging is to have an urban design 'add-on' to MArch and MLA (either a double-degree package or a 2 year program). These might be served by a multi-disciplinary Urban Design first year core.
6. FoA and the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA), part of the Bartlett School, UCL, have reached an agreement to offer a **double-degree (MSc/PhD) in Smart Cities**. The first year is an MSc or MRes at UCL and students performing above a threshold and meeting any other admissions requirements will have automatic entry to a self-funded PhD program in HKU. The idea is to open a supply of self-funded PhD students with a high level of quantitative skills in urban 'big-data' and coming to us with a viable research project including data, at the outset of year one of the PhD. This will maximize the chance of doing publishable research in years one and two, well before graduating at the end of three years and thus increase chances of getting good academic jobs.
7. The Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California, is very eager to explore a joint degree program with us ('joint accreditation' as opposed to the double degree package in the UCL agreement). This will be an **executive masters degree in Urban Development and Real Estate** (MUDRE?), giving senior urban managers high-level expertise at the boundaries of urban planning, real estate management, urban economics and public policy. The preferred course structure at this stage is to deliver the teaching via 4x two week blocks: 2 in HK and 2 in Los Angeles, with individual and group work and assessments carried out mainly via USC's online learning platform in between these periods. This is designed to accommodate part time study by senior executives. I have had an enthusiastic welcome of the idea by a senior manager of one of HK's largest land and development companies. Relatedly, FoA is invited to contribute the urban stream of a similarly structured new **executive masters degree in International Public Policy**, jointly offered by Price School of Public Policy USC and HKU Faculty of Social Sciences.
8. Using money from the University Research Committee and Faculty of Medicine, I have now appointed two researchers working on our **Healthy Cities project**: Dr. Zhang Xiao Hu, one of DUPAD's PhD students has been appointed as a PDF for two years and is working on a methodology and prototype for a HK-wide 3D interior and exterior pedestrian network database. Once the methodology is tested, we aim to roll it out to the entire territory in partnership with agencies such as the Lands Department, MRT, Housing Authority and Green Building Council. Dr. Chinmoy Sarkar will be appointed as a non-tenure Research Assistant Professor to give technical leadership to the FoM-FoA's Healthy Cities project. Prior to the iLab being constructed, both will be hosted in the Division of Landscape Architecture, where they are working with Landscape

colleagues on the London greenery and walkability research project. Huang Jianxiang is leading our part of the Healthy Cities program with me. We shall be applying for a large medical research grant this autumn to support the work at the same time as I am talking to donors. It is a very fundable area and I hope we can grow the agenda to include other urban health – built environment research issues such as thermal comfort (currently work being done in REC (Steve Rowlinson), DUPAD (Huang JianXiang) and Arch (Stephen Lau) – and no doubt others too).

9. In the 2014-15 session we shall be making plans to build up **architectural science** in the Faculty. This includes a new hire (Chad McKee) focusing on environmental performance of buildings and spaces; new developments in respect to Stephen Lau's networks in the Mainland and greater China; and the appointment for three years as Visiting Professor of one of the leading international researchers on low carbon cities – Professor Phil Jones, former head of the Welsh School of Architecture at Cardiff University and a physicist by background.
10. I have been conducting an informal and low-key review of the Faculty's community-focused professional work and am more or less ready to propose a way forward that addresses the challenges currently facing this agenda. The proposal is likely to include the renaming of this part of the faculty's work ('**Design Research Lab**/Unit or similar); the allocation of physical space in Knowles and Shanghai to anyone holding a research grant to do this kind of work; and the clearer branding and demarcation of the Community Project Workshop and Rural Urban Framework.
11. **Web site redesign** is well underway and with it a new visual identity design for the Faculty. Expect the new image and Website by the end of October.
12. **HKUrban Lab** will become the FoA's trading name as soon as the Website goes live. New stationary, name cards etc are being designed. I am planning for a public launch sometime in the first half of 2015.

I think that had better be all for now...

Congratulations to those mentioned below. Especially to Anthony Yeh and Weifeng Li for winning two highly prized National Science Foundation of China research awards. Along with Wilson Lu's current BIM research grants and the projects mentioned above, these will be housed in the new iLab.

Chris

Department of Architecture

1. Dr. B S Jia

- participated at the UIA XXV World Congress of Architecture 2014 Durban from August 3 to 7, 2014, as:
 - 1) Program Partner and Guest Editor
 - 2) organized the three-day sessions “CIBW104 Open Building Implementation”
 - 3) session Chairs in the morning Aug.4, and afternoon Aug.6 “CIBW104 Open Building Implementation”
 - 4) curator of Exhibition 1 “CIBW104 Open Building Implementation”
 - 5) session keynote and Chair “Architectural Interactive with people in time”, morning August 6 2014
 - 6) curator and exhibitor of Exhibition 2 “Architectural Interactive with people in time” (the student work in M Arch I studio was exhibited together with design work of Baumschlager Eberle Hong Kong Ltd.)
 - 7) paper presentation with Ph.D student Wang Qing “Is Open Building or Low-carbon Building Long Lasting?”
 - 8) paper presentation with Ph.D student “Defining Forms of Collaborative Living in Modern China”

2. Ms. Tris Kee

- has received funding from the Sixth Government Matching Grant Scheme to conduct a research workshop with 18 students this summer, researching vernacular architectural typology for a design built-project in Cambodia. Research findings and study models were exhibited at the HKU Visitors' Center Exhibition Gallery from 9-23 August 2014.
- was invited by the HK Art Development Council to conduct an architectural lecture on 16 Aug 2014.



Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. S W Poon

- was invited by Antiquities and Monuments Office to deliver a public lecture on "The quarrying industry and infrastructure development in Hong Kong (1841-1940)" on 9 August 2014.

2. Sr. Bay Wong

Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC)

- participated in the Directors' Strategic Planning Forum of the HKGBC on 5 July 2014
- attended a Public Consultation Forum on the Policy Review on Conservation of Built Heritage on 16 July 2014
- attended a Directors meeting of the HKGBC on 23 July 2014
- upon invitation, was admitted to be a Member of the Hong Kong Housing Society on 24 July 2014
- participated in a Closed Door Thematic Discussion in Heritage and Conservation matters on 27 July 2014 Hong Kong Housing Society
- participated in the Policy and Research Committee Meeting of the HKGBC on 29 July 2014
- participated in the BEAM Plus Existing Buildings Steering Committee Meeting on 30 July 2014
- attended a Members Briefing Meeting of the HKHS on 7 August 2014
- attended a Public Education Committee Meeting of the HKGBC on 19 August 2014
Antiquities Advisory Board

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger Chan

- was returned as Vice-President, Supervisory Board, Macao Urban Planning Institute at the AGM held on 10 August 2014.

2. Prof. Anthony Yeh

- has been awarded a research grant of RMB 1,000,000 by the National Science Foundation China (NSFC) General Program for the research project on "A Study of Urban Living and Employment Compactness Based on Multi-source Spatio-temporal

Data". Dr. Weifeng Li and Dr. Zhixin Qi are the Co-Is.

3. Dr. Weifeng Li

- has been awarded a research grant of RMB 950,000 by the National Science Foundation China (NSFC) General Program for the research project on "Remote Sensing Monitoring of PM2.5 concentrations and Analysis of the Built Environment Impacts in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Area". This is a joint project with Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School.

4. Dean Webster

- The Dean and his PDF in Cardiff Medical School, Chinmoy Sarkar, have been shortlisted for the Royal Town Planning Institute's Award for Excellence in Planning Research on the basis of their WHealthy Cities Research project, funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council and the UK Biobank. The announcement will be made by the RTPI CEO at an awards dinner at the UK Planning Research Conference in Oxford, Sept 10th.