

Dean's Roundup (Friday, 19 September, 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** (ky^{oo}r^ə-tôr'^ē-əl, -tôr'-)] *n.* nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear all,

A mercifully short note from your Dean today, who is laid up with a mild fever.

For anyone interested in improving their writing, may I introduce you to 'Steven Pinker' (nom de plume), who has this delightful article in the Wall Street Journal:

http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-cause-of-bad-writing-1411660188?mod=trending_now_4

The problem besetting us all, he opines, and that threatening the very foundations of civilization, is what economists have dubbed 'the Curse of Knowledge' – the inability to grasp that others can't see what we can see so effortlessly.

His call is not so much to dumb down on language, but to be kind to your readers; honest with yourself as a writer (teacher and researcher); and humble.

I am currently in the process of advising colleagues on GRF applications. Many simple improvements could be made in those that I have read if the author were to place his or herself in the position of the reader and understand that few if any of the referees judging the application will be expert on the particular subject. The object in most writing projects is not to impress but to explain. In retrospect, I think it took me many years personally to understand this in my own teaching and research. As I have noted before when discussing the question of jargon versus technical terms (a related but not identical theme), in our Faculty mix, the Curse of Knowledge is a risk at both ends of the arts-science spectrum. Overly navel-focused scientific papers or lectures do it and so do over-flowery architectural commentaries in studio crits. I was in a design jury once where most of the jury dismissed an entry that I found initially compelling. I spent longer than most at the poster unraveling the mystery and then called the others back and explained what I thought it all meant. On the basis of my simplification of the convoluted self-commentary the other jurors decided that they loved it and gave it a top award. Sometimes mystification works in architecture and helps promote a work of art. Sometimes a tightly technical paper can work in urban science and win a prize-paper award for its elegant theory. Other times, mystification obscures both beauty and scientific knowledge and inhibits learning and social advancement.

Thanks to those mentioned below for their ongoing contributions to knowledge!

Chris

Department of Architecture

1. Dr. Cole Roskam

- Delivered a paper, "Building Knowledge: China and/in Ghana, 1957-1992," at *China's Influence on Ghana's Culture and Economy*, a roundtable event organized by Adventurers in the Diaspora (AiD), in Accra, Ghana on May 29.
- Delivered a paper, "China's Architectural Exchange with Africa," at *Urban Studies and the China Experience*, a conference organized by the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HKIHSS), the Harvard-Yenching Institute, and the Shanghai History Research Center at East China Normal University. The event was held at HKU from August 18-24.
- Published an article, "Situating Chinese Architecture within 'A Century of Progress': The Chinese Pavilion, The Bendix Golden Temple, and the 1933 Chicago World's Fair," in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 73, no. 3 (September 2014), 347-371. An electronic, multimedia version of the article can be accessed [here](#).
- His PhD student, Sylvia Man Ha Chan, has published a review of the recent M+ architectural exhibition in *Singapore Architect* (issue 281).

2. Tom Verebes

- Published an article titled, "***Distinctive Urbanism and the Problem of Tunnel Vision***", featuring OCEAN CN's invited competition entry for the *Umekita Second Development Area Design Competition*, Osaka, Japan, in a book titled, "***Paradigms in Computing: Making, Machines, and Models for Design Agency***" (Dr. David Jason Gerber, Mariana Ibanez, Eds.), New York: Evolo. Included are essays and projects, from; Alisa Andrasek of [biothing](#), Rachel Armstrong, Philip Beesley, Tom Bessai, Shajay Bhooshan, Brad Cantrel, Matias Del Campo, Pablo Eiroa, Marc Fornes, David Jason Gerber, Maria Paz Gutierrez, Alvin Huang of [SDA | Synthesis Design + Architecture](#), Jason Kelly Johnson of [Future Cities Lab](#), Simon Kim of [IK Studio](#), Neil Leach, Greg Lynn of [Greg Lynn YACHT](#), Elena and Anna Maria Manferdini of [Atelier Manferdini](#), Alex McDowell, Phillippe Morel, Nick Puckett, Casey Reas of [Processing](#), Alex Robinson, Jenny Sabin of [Jenny Sabin Studio LLC](#), Jose Sanchez of [Plethora Project](#), Patrik Schumacher, Kyle Steinfeld, Satoru Sugihara of [ATLV](#), Orkan Telhan, Kathy Velikov and Geoffrey Thun, Tom Verebes, Leire Asensio Villoria and David Mah, Jenny Wu of [Oyler Wu Collaborative](#), Eric Howeler and Meejin Yoon, and [Zaha Hadid Architects](#).
- Served as **External Examiner in the Masters in Urban Design Programme at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UCL)**, on 22 September 2014, in the second year of a three year appointment as External Examiner. Other Examiners in the post-professional B-Pro included Evan Douglis, Bart Lootsma, Matias Del Campo, Christian Girard, Lola Sheppard.
- Was invited as an **External Invited Critic** for a three day event, 5-7 September 2014, for the **Final Review of Masters Thesis projects, at Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)**, alongside other critics, including: Jeffrey Kipnis, Michael Sorkin, Michael Speaks, Hitoshi Abe, Bob Somol, Aaron Betsky, Winka Dubbeldam, Jenny Sabin, Benjamion Bratton, Thomas Daniell, and many others.

- Organised, moderated and presented in a Symposium titled, **URBAN FORMATION**, as part of the events organized within the 8th annual AA Shanghai Summer School, hosted at the Shanghai Study Centre, on 23 July 2014. Participants in two sessions included Eva CASTRO, Juan DU, David ERDMAN, David GERBER, Alvin HUANG, Hina JAMELLE & Ali RAHIM, Neil LEACH, Neville MARS, Matias DEL CAMPO & Sandra MANNINGER, Yusuke OBUCHI, Tom VEREBES, Philip YUAN Feng, SU Yunsheng.
- Delivered a public lecture on 12 August 2014, titled, "Sustained Design Research on the City" at the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- Invited to be an International Juror on a competition jury for the " MH17 Memorial Competition", for a memorial to be located in Kattenberg, The Netherlands

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr Wilson Lu

- Attended the Logistic and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) Logistics Summit 2014 organised by Hong Kong LSCM R&D Centre, on 18 September 2014 (Thursday).
- Organised and attended the workshop “RFID-Enabled BIM Platform for Prefabrication Housing Production in Hong Kong” on the LSCM Logistic Summit 2014.
- Published a book chapter “Lu, W.S., Yang, H., and Langston, C. (2014). Internationalization of the construction industry. In Best, R. and Meikle, J. (eds.) *Measuring Construction: Prices, Output and Productivity*. Routledge (in press).

2. Dr. Kelvin Wong

- A paper “Housing Prices and New Housing Supply Under Different Institutional Arrangements” by Mr. William Cheung, Dr. Kelvin Wong, and Dr. LH Li is competitively selected for presentation at the **Ronald Coase Institute**’s Workshop on Institutional Analysis in Philippines on December 7-13, 2014. William is a PhD student of Dr. Kelvin Wong & Prof. KW Chau. During the workshop, he will present the paper and receive intensive mentoring by established institutional scholars.

3. Six BSc(Surveying) students, who had taken part in the internship scheme this summer, have won the Eddie Lee Memorial Education Foundation (ELMEF) - Summer Internship Training Scholarships 2014.



(Awardees, LAM Cheuk-ming, left; SOO Hon-pan Ben, 3rd left; AU Hoi-ting Ally, 5th left; WONG Ka-long Kelvin, 5th right; KONG Wai-shan, 4th right; WU Chun-ho Beyond, 3rd right)

- Two students, joining the Year 1 studies of the BSc(Surveying) Programme, have achieved the second-stage award of the ELMEF and HKIS BSD Scholarship for Secondary Students 2013.



(Awardees, WU Cheuk Lam, 2nd right; and CHAN Ka Wing, 4th right, with Dr Daniel Ho at the Award Presentation Ceremony)

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger Chan

- gave a keynote presentation “Regional Planning and Cooperation” at the *Pan Pearl Delta Region Regional and Urban Planning Institutes Directors’ Forum* held in Chengdu, China on 18 September 2014.
- was interviewed by SCMP on “Hong Kong Expires for 2047” from a regional integration and planning perspective on 22 September 2014.

2. Dean Chris Webster

- Served as a Juror of the Jury Panel of the Existing Buildings Category for the Green Building Award 2014 on 13 and 14 September, 2014
- Appointed as a member of the Green Building Faculty in the Social Sustainability and Community Aspects (CA) for a term of two years from 2014 to 2016.
- Served as a Juror for the HKIUD Urban Design Awards 2014:



- Appointed as an Honorary Membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design (HKIUD):

