

Dean's Roundup
Friday, 30 May, 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^{ee}-t^{oh}'^{ee}-al, -t^{oh}'-)]
n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial

Dear all,

I had a busy and fruitful visit to the UK last week, agreeing on an MoU between FoA and the Centre for Diet and Activity Research, University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine; agreeing on a protocol for a series of research studies by HKU Division of Landscape Architecture on walkability and green space configuration in London; and hosting Stephen Lau and his wife Ella at my Cardiff home prior to a meeting with Professor Phil Jones, former Head of the Welsh School of Architecture, about strengthening architectural science at HKU.

At various meetings recently, the last one being with the HKU Convocation Standing Committee, I have been asked the question: 'in what research areas is the Faculty of Architecture first in its class world-wide (or can reasonably be hoped to be soon)?' Bearing in mind that such a question needs to be answered with verifiable information, I can only, at the moment, answer with reference to research I am closest to. So I can say with a degree of confidence that DUPAD's early satellite-based GIS analysis of urbanization in the PRD was among the first to alert the world to the speed of China's urban-rural land conversion process and that subsequent research in Anthony's group remains world-class in its field. I can say that, with data sources currently being invested in and studies starting to be published by the new FoA/FoM Healthy Cities collaboration, we are already now known as a world center for the study of built environment and health. I can say with confidence that we are the only Faculty of Architecture to have anything like the Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research within its fold and that we have a world-class set of researchers on property rights, land development and urbanization, as demonstrated by publications, citations, conference activity etc.

Last autumn we had a round of talks in the Faculty aiming to focus research agenda and identify existing and potential strengths in all departments/divisions. I purposefully left this unwritten up because it was just a start and I know that discussions are ongoing. As a next step, I would like to be able to identify a fuller set of research themes that I can claim either to be currently world-leading or on their way to becoming so. Since each part of the Faculty is at a different stage of development in respect to research culture, it is not appropriate to expect each department/division to be able to identify such research. But I think that it is reasonable to ask each division/department to identify at least one research focus it wants to back, with a view to becoming known in that field at least as a regional, if not international center of excellence. I raise the challenge in a public forum because I think that there needs to be widespread and searching discussion about the matter.

A word about architectural research in respect to this challenge. It should be relatively easy to spot candidate specialisms in History and Theory, for example, 20th century Chinese architecture; or the study of spontaneous urban order. Personally, I would not necessarily look

for specialisms within design-based 'research', at least as a primary focus. I would prefer to take a different approach here; one that seeks to sustain a critical mass of award-winning designers, most of whom are taking their ideas through to buildings and all of whom are publishing their designs and underlying formal ideas in academic as well as professional media. I'm guessing that a cluster of say six such people would put us clearly on the world map of leading academic architectural design centers.

There may also be hybrid design+science/arts clusters, for example, a computational design research group that achieves world-class recognition for its algorithms as well as using these in awardable, publishable and buildable designs. To be recognized as something other than part of a design group, this would have to hold its own in the academic quantitative design field, publishing in the top journals. Without such publications, computational techniques remain just one of many design techniques in support of award-winning designs and underlying design theory and narrative. The same might be said of a group focusing on building science and performance as a core motivation and strength in its designing; or designers who draw on some uniquely insightful academic study and interpretation of history. If these special interests are not published (and read) as unique contributions to architectural theory, then they remain tools developed by others rather than research foci *per se*.

Ideally, all our designers are producing new ideas that they can publish from, with as wide an audience as possible, not just architects and certainly not just architects with the same specialism. That's the goal. It may take a while for us to get there as a faculty, but I am sure that we can. It would be nice if one or two of these design+ foci emerge as truly world class over the next 5 years – as an adjunct to the primary goal of sustaining a critical mass of top academic designers and teachers.

And a word about groups, since I have mentioned them above. It is pretty well universally recognized that academic researchers now need to work in groups. This is partly because it generally makes it easier to get big funding; partly because of synergies and economies of scale and scope; partly because co-authoring among collaborative colleagues multiplies output; partly because a group is more visible to the international research community than a single person; and partly because it is better for research students (and research student funding). No one is going to object to a highly prolific lone-researcher, ploughing his or her own furrow. But in practice, it is better for that person and for the department, faculty and university if he or she is joined by others; particularly by younger colleagues who can grow into the shoes of the master.

I suspect that this applies, to a degree, to successful academic designers: while they may not specialize in a sub-field of knowledge in the same way that a researcher and research group does, it is likely that a leading designer is likely to want to build a team around him or her, which approaches design in a similar way; in the extreme, creating an identifiable school. So as well as asking what world-beating research groups we are growing in the Faculty, perhaps we should also ask what internationally-recognised schools of design are emerging.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements summarized below.

Chris

Architectural Conservation Programme

1. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- In the past week, ACP Director Dr. Hoyin Lee was interviewed by two TV stations (iCable TV News and Now TV News), two radio stations (China National Radio and MyRadio.HK) and six newspapers (Apple Daily, Sing Pao, Sing Tao Daily, Ming Pao Daily, Wen Wei Po and World Journal) on heritage conservation issues relating to the archaeological discovery at the Sacred Hill site of the Mass Transit Railway's Shatin-Central Link rail project.

Department of Architecture

1. Mr. David Erdman

- was a guest critic for reviews at Columbia University GSAPP on 1 May 2014
- was a guest critic for reviews at Yale University School of Architecture on 5 May 2014

2. Dr. B.S. Jia

- published an article, details as follows:

"Master Class - Building Flexibility: Architectural Education on Open Building (2)",
Architectural Worlds (No 156), 2014:1 Vol. 29, Shenzhen, China. p. 32-37 (ISSN1000-8373)

3. Mr. Eric Schuldenfrei

- was awarded a grant for his book on the films of Charles and Ray Eames from the Graham Foundation. Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

<http://grahamfoundation.org/grantees/5175-the-films-of-charles-and-ray-eames>

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. Wilson Lu

- presented a conference paper “**Lu, W.S.**, Ye, K.H., Flanagan, R., and Jewell, C.A. (2014). Why do they acquire each other? Nexus between International Contracting and Construction Professional Service Businesses, pp 2116-2125. In Castro-Lacouture *et al.* (ed.), *Proceedings of the 2014 Construction Research Congress*, 19-21 May 2014, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
- met with Commissioner of Department of Design and Construction of New York City (NYC), who reports directly to the mayor of NYC in responsible for “building the NY city”, on 22nd May 2014.



- visited Department of Architecture Engineering, meeting with its HoD, Undergraduate Program Officer, and Director and other members in the Immersive Construction (ICon) Lab at the Pennsylvania State University, on 23rd May 2014.
- visited Department of Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University on 24th May 2014.
- Mr. Cong Liang (A PhD student jointly supervised by Dr. Lu and Prof. Rowlinson)
- presented a conference paper “**Lu, W.S.**, **Liang, C.**, Fung, A., and **Rowlinson, S.** (2014). Demystifying the time-effort distribution curves in construction projects: a BIM and non-BIM comparison, pp 329-338. In Castro-Lacouture *et al.* (ed.), *Proceedings of the 2014 Construction Research Congress*, 19-21 May 2014, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger Chan

- was invited to attend the Salzburg Global Seminar on "Mind the Gap! Innovating for Regional Cohesion and Smart Growth". He gave a presentation and lead a discussion session on regional diversities and cohesion on 20 May 2014. Johannes Hahn, Commissioner, DG Regio, European Commission gave a keynote on "Cities as Catalysts". The Seminar was attended by 60 fellows who holds leadership positions in national and regional government, media, academia, civil society organizations across all global regions.
- attended the Shanghai Forum and gave a presentation at the sub-forum on "The social transformation in the process of urbanization" with a paper entitled "Urban Fortunes, Urban Boundaries and Visions for a Just City" on 26 May 2014. Sharing the podium was Professor Jorgen Randers of the BI Norwegian Business School, co-author on the seminal work "The Limits to Growth" (1972).

The theme for this year's Forum was "Economic Globalization and the Choice of Asia. Asia Transforms: Identifying New Dynamics". The Forum was well attended by over 700 delegates, including academics, business and opinion leaders from mainland China and aboard.

Dr. Chan was also interviewed by the media on the prospects of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, a topic related to my on-going research on evolving economic space in Shanghai.



2. Professor Anthony Yeh

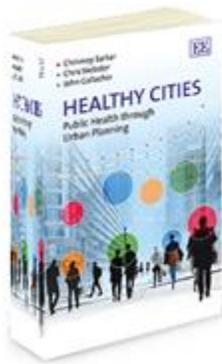
- published a paper with the following details:

Yue, Y., Lan, T., Yeh, A. and Li, Q. (2014). Zooming into individuals to understand the collective: A review of trajectory-based travel behaviour studies. *Travel Behaviour and Society*, 1(2), pp.69-78.

3. Dean Webster

- published a book with the following details:

Chinmoy Sarkar, Chris Webster and John Gallacher (2014), "*HEALTHY CITIES Public Health through Urban Planning*", Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, ISBN: 9781781955710 eISBN:9781781955727 DOI: 10.4337/9781781955727 Pages: 424



Publisher's page:

<http://www.elgaronline.com/view/9781781955710.xml>

http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry_main.lasso?id=15227

eBook version:

http://books.google.com.hk/books?id=xuBnAwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gb_s_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

- was interviewed by journalist Vanessa Collingridge for a two-part article on Mega Cities to appear in the SCMP.

Shanghai Study Centre

1. Mr. Bert de Muynck

- Taking place on the ground floor the historic Palazzo Zen "ADAPTATION architecture and change in China" is one of 21 Collateral Events that will take place alongside the other official exhibitions during the 14th International Architecture Exhibition [June 7 – 23 November 2014, Venice]. 'adaptation' presents a profession and construction culture in progress, in China. is Curated by professor Marino Folin (Venice, 1944. Venice, 1944. Between 1991 and 2006, he has been Rector of the IUAV University) & MovingCities (Monica Carrico & Bert de Muynck (assistant-professor HKU)) 'adaptation' presents a profession in progress featuring recently completed projects, some even still under construction or in research, by 11 Chinese architects through the media of photography, architectural models, sketches, design objects, reels and newly commissioned audio-visuals.

The exhibition will take place at Palazzo Zen, a cultural venue of EMGdotART Foundation, newly renovated by Chinese architectural studio O-OFFICE.

For more information and background, please visit the link here:

<http://movingcities.org/movingmemos/adaptation-la-biennale-di-venezia-architecture-2014-exhibition/>

TM Studio
宣明工作室
standardarchitecture
标准营造
META-Project
META-工作室
LIXIAODONG ATELIER
李晓东工作室
Scenic Architecture Office
山水秀建筑事务所
Atelier DESHAUS
大舍建筑
O-OFFICE
源计划工作室
Zhaoyang Architects
赵扬建筑工作室
Trace Architecture Office (TAO)
迹·建筑事务所
Atelier Chen Haoru
陈浩如工作室
LYCS Architecture
零壹城市

la Biennale di Venezia
14. Mostra Internazionale di Architettura
Eventi collaterali

ADAPTATION
architecture
and change in
China

7 JUN - 31 JUL
1 SEP - 23 NOV
2014
2:30 - 7:00 pm
[tuesday closed]

Marino Folin & MovingCities [curators]
O-OFFICE 源计划工作室 [architecture/exhibition design]
EMG 穆伦格 [supporter]

Fondazione EMGdotART
Palazzo Zen
Cannaregio 4924 (Gesuiti)
[vaporetto Fondamente Nove stop]
Venice, Italy

EMGdotART