

Dean's Roundup
Friday, October 4th, 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 (ky'ō-r'ə-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-)] n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear All,

Writing from the UK, where I am marveling at the winners of the Emirates Glass Leading European Architects Forum (LEAF) 2013 competition, including London's Shard and London's Peter Hall, I am moved to give my weekly spot over to our very own winner – Hong Kong's Eunice Seng (and SKEW).

The Shard (Sellar Property Group; architect: Renzo Piano) was granted a 'Special Award' that went to the entire project – "conception, design, financing, development, realization and management". This line could be part of a strap line for our Faculty and emphasizes the integration of urban professional knowledge required to create truly great city-scale architectural and more generally urban solutions. Ditto with Peter Hall: a geographer by training and urban planner by orientation (honorary member of the Royal Town Planning Institute), it is fitting that he received a LEAF life-time award for his contribution to architecture. (It's been a busy award month for Sir Peter – he was also made a member of the Academy of Social Scientists (AcSS) in September, along with our own Professor Anthony Yeh.)

Eunice Seng and SKEWs' entry won 'Best sustainable development (environmental) of the year'. Follow the links below for details. A truly great achievement that we should all - students, academics, support staff - be proud of and showing what talent we have in HKU Faculty of Architecture.

I shall leave you with the juror's comments:

Best Sustainable Development (Environmental) SKEW Collaborative, Jiading District, Shanghai

Sustainability can be achieved by various means, and is optimally an integrative process. This project is very creative in its reuse, with great attention to the natural landscape. The site for this new exhibition center and laboratories was the former 1962 Soviet-designed low-density office cluster sitting amongst a heavily wooded compound. The design successfully minimizes the carbon footprint of new construction by retaining as much of the existing fabric, with selective demolition and reconstruction. A double skin and a new fenestration system were developed in order to rationalize and produce new envelopes suitable for the new programs and the environment

The newly configured complex's series of intimate courtyards weaves new architecture throughout mature trees and existing building structures, while new laboratories, offices and exhibition spaces are organized around courtyards and terraces on two to three levels, each with views and access to the natural environment. The strategic insertions of new forms and voids within the structural framework of the original complex, and the dialogue between the new and the old is highly effective: it enhances daylight access and natural ventilation, and deploys the landscape of mature camphor and pine trees most imaginatively.

Chris

Department of Architecture

I. Ms. Eunice Seng

- Eunice Seng and her architecture practice SKEW Collaborative was awarded the Best Sustainable Development for their Chinese Academy of Sciences IOT Center at the 2013 Emirates Glass Leading European Architects Forum (LEAF) Awards Ceremony in London, on September 27th, 2013.



More details are available at the following links:

<http://www.detail-online.com/architecture/news/leaf-awards-2013-winner-chinese-academy-of-sciences-iot-center-022002.html>

<http://www.archello.com/en/project/chinese-academy-sciences-iot-center-labs#>

The above award honors the architects designing the buildings and solutions that are setting the benchmark for the international architectural community. Since 2001, 17 different awards have been given to various projects and architects, including a number of notable projects from the region such as Steven Holl Architects' Chengdu "Sliced Porosity", Yasuhiro Yamashita's Chiba Boundary House, and WSP Architects' Hangzhou Alipay Building. This award also recognized Sir Peter Hall's contribution to architecture with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Department of Urban Planning and Design

I. Professor Anthony Yeh

- was invited to give a paper on "Making Smart Cities Smarter for an Innovative Ecological City" together with VIP guest speakers from Australia, USA, China, and Russia in the Science and Technology Sub-Forum of the 2013 Euro-Asia Economic Forum organized by the over eight ministries of the State Council of China from September 26th to 27th, 2013 in Xian, China, with over 2,000 participants.
- was invited to give a keynote speech on "Changing Urban Development and Paradigms on Urban Planning Education at the University of Hong Kong" in the 2013 Conference of the China Urban Planning Education Steering Committee which has over 120 planning schools from September 27th to 28th, 2013 at Harbin Industrial University, Harbin, China, with over 300 participants.