

# Dean's Roundup

Friday, 7 February, 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<sup>oo</sup>-r<sup>ee</sup>-t<sup>oh</sup>-r<sup>ee</sup>-al, -t<sup>oh</sup>-r<sup>ee</sup>-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear all,

Giving parity of respect to Gregorian and Lunar New Years, I skipped a week's Roundup. Hope you think this one was worth the wait. I am immensely proud to draw everyone's attention to our three colleagues listed in HKU's New Year's Honours list. John Lin won HKU's prestigious Research Output Prize for his, now famous, village house design. Dorothy Tang and Cole Roskam won two of the equally prestigious HKU Outstanding Teaching (individual) Awards. Competitively-won awards remain one of best measures of individual and faculty esteem. Please carry on entering competitions and winning!

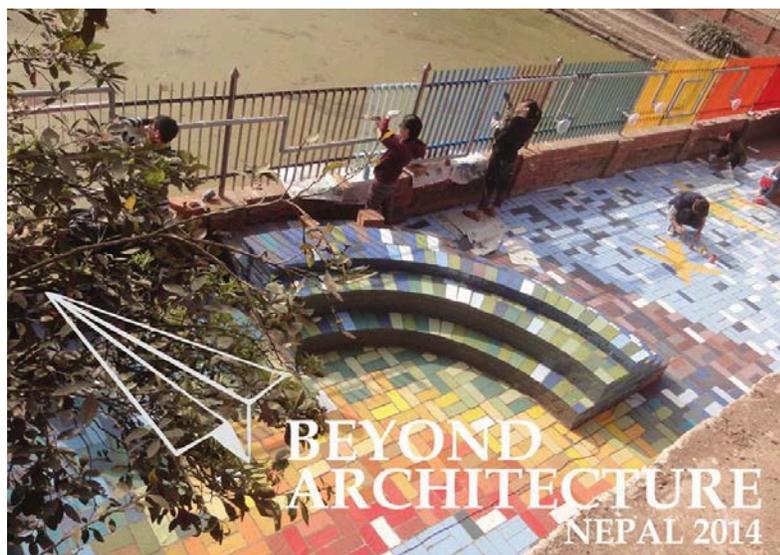
DUPAD's Shweta Sherma shows how to gain maximum exposure from an MSc dissertation by publishing hers into a book with Lambert Academic (supervisors of students with exceptional dissertations please note). And Agatha and Amy report back on 'Beyond the Wall', the HKUSU Architectural Society's ambitious Overseas Architectural Services Project to Nepal – an inspiring project, with thanks to Weijen Wang for his design advice.

To start off the Year of the Horse: a reflection on long gestation periods for research recognition. I did some work in 1994, eventually published in 1997, assessing the impact of childcare supply on female participation in the labor market. The idea was simple. Demand for childcare is pretty spatially restricted. Although it is a relatively easy industry to enter, supply and demand are spatially 'sticky': mothers can't easily move house to be nearer childcare and childcare providers can't easily find facilities near to customers because the latter live in residential areas. Anyway, the paper (published in Environment and Planning A) showed an effect: other things being equal, the density of childcare facilities impacts female labor force participation. That seemed to be quite an important finding to me. It suggested that facility siting via the planning system could help mothers back to work. But no one seemed to be interested in taking the research forward. Until 2014, twenty years after the work was done. I was pleasantly surprised to see that this long forgotten paper that I was secretly quite proud of, helped inspire a study by Mizuki Kawabata of the Faculty of Economics, Keio University, Minato-ku, Tokyo, published recently in Review of Urban and Regional Development Studies. The lesson I learned: if it's good, then get out there and promote it. There's a difference between a bad research paper/chapter/book (bad in the sense of lacking in one, two or all of: significance, rigour and originality); and a good one that sinks because the author hasn't taken it far enough. I've written plenty of both kinds.

Chris

## Architectural Society, HKU Student Union

- I. Miss GIAUW Shiau Thong, Agatha, Chairman, Architectural Society, HKUSU, Session 2013-2014 and Miss CHAN Nga Yin, Amy, Chairman, Beyond the Wall
  - we are delighted to share with you that the idea of an Overseas Architectural Services Project (project renamed as "Beyond Architecture: Nepal 2014") is being realized. The service trip in Nepal which forms the core part of the Project had just been concluded in early January in Nepal.
  - The Organizing Committee and 16 students from the Faculty of Architecture have been working along the months and an amount of around HKD 150,000 has been raised from the team to fund the Project. In the intensive ten day service trip, our students had engaged in manual works to produce a new playground, new mobile furniture as well as new paintings for the classroom interiors of the beneficiary school in Nepal. Active interactions were involved with not only the local volunteers from the school of architecture in the Nepal Khwopa Engineering College, but also the various community members in the area. During their stay, our students had visited as well the head of the Heritage Conservation Office in the UNESCO Heritage city and also attended a lecture conducted by the head of the Building Permit Section in the Municipality. Some images of the trip can be available at: <https://www.facebook.com/btw.asia>
  - We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Dean's support and advice for the Project without which the fruitful trip cannot be experienced by our participants. While an exhibition is expected some months later before the conclusion of the entire Project, the Dean's continuous support and guidance to us is of most significance to ensure the completeness of this pilot Project, and more importantly the sustainability of projects of such kind which are beneficial to both our students as well as the community.
  - In addition, we are working on the preparation of the post-service trip exhibition and sharing session in coming months. More details will be available.



## Department of Architecture

1. Ms. Juan Du
  - invited as a Jury Member for the International Consultation and Design Competition of Shenzhen Dapeng District Urban Planning organized by the Shenzhen Municipal Government and the Shenzhen Design Center, held on 23 January 2014.
2. Mr. John Lin
  - awarded the University's Research Output Prize for the 2012-13 academic year (<http://www.rss.hku.hk/honours-awards/internal-awards/rop-winners>), details of his project are as follows:  
  
Project title: Shijia Village House Prototype: "House for all Seasons"  
Project duration: from April 2009 to March 2012
3. Dr. Cole Roskam
  - awarded the University's Outstanding Teaching Award (Individual) for the year of 2013.
4. Mr. Tom Verebes
  - has been invited by Wiley Academy, the publisher of the "grade-A journal" Architectural Design AD, to serve as a Peer Reviewer for upcoming proposals for guest edited issues of AD.

## Division of Landscape Architecture

1. Ms. Dorothy Tang
  - awarded the University's Outstanding Teaching Award (Individual) for the year of 2013.

## Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Professor Steve Rowlinson
  - was invited to attend Penn State University where he visited the ICON lab (for BIM, GIS and gaming). The lab is used for teaching, research and consultancy and provides a good comparison and model for the BIMM/GIS Lab here in the Faculty. Prof Rowlinson demonstrated an example of the gaming engine being used to develop games and tools for assessment of OHS issues in construction in Hong Kong. a collaborative venture with UNSW.
  - met with Prof Chimay Anumba and Dr Moses Ling to finalise details of the Penn State Summer program to be hosted for the third year here at HKU and to discuss further collaboration in terms of research in relation to the ICON Lab.

# Department of Urban Planning and Design

## I. Shweta Sherma, PhD student

- published a book with details as follows:

Sharma Shweta (2014), *Hawkers and Hawking Space: A Study of Commercial Centers in the NDMC Area of Delhi*, Lambert Academic Publishing

