

Dean's Roundup

Friday, 9 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}'**e**-**al**, -**t**^{oh}'-)]
n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear all,

This Thursday is our Faculty's Research Retreat where I've been asked by architecture colleagues to say something about research methodology, an issue that often presents problems for design-oriented researchers when bidding for academic research funds. I thought I would throw out a few prior thoughts to warm up the discussion.

Here's my starter. You may choose to disagree with the following propositions. They are non-scientific observations and only a trigger for discussion.

- Scientific academics become famous for their ability to develop generalizable insights and replicable solutions. Architectural design academics become famous for their ability to create specific insights and unique solutions.
- Scientific academics tend to want their methods copied. Architectural academics tend to want to keep their methods secret.
- Scientific academics see their responsibility as adding to an ever-evolving stock of codified knowledge, built on past efforts and pursuing ever finer-grained distinctions of understanding. Architectural academics see their responsibility as using existing knowledge to create new 3D configurational, functional and artistic solutions (or if you prefer, new works of livable art).
- When asked what body of knowledge a teacher and researcher first draws from and then contributes to, a scientist will cite a list of studies and identify a gap that she or he is trying to fill. A designer architect may find it difficult to identify with the question and will cite a non-exhaustive and non-systematic list of precedent designs within a class of building or a genre of design, for example, and will contribute to this stock of knowledge by producing more case studies for future designers to use as precedents.

I am happy for these provocative propositions to be demolished, embellished or added to.

So what can we start to say, *a priori*, about research methods in architecture? One thing is reasonably clear in my view: architectural designers make less use of codified knowledge than almost any other discipline I can think of. Consider medicine or law, the other two great vocational subjects parents queue up to get their children into. Both have a strong

tradition of theory. Jurisprudence is the theory of law and has a centuries-old history. There are academic journals for all major branches of law, including probably ten top ranked journals focusing on jurisprudence alone. Interestingly, in the more *practice*-focused law journals, there is not a strong tradition of academic citations and in this sense, there is a similarity to architecture: as they codify knowledge, authors of practice-focused law journal papers tend to cite legal cases, rulings and precedents, with relatively thin attention paid to who said what in previous academic commentary. That said, the innovations that do arise in the academic study of law are, indeed, codified and subject to rigorous academic scrutiny, philosophically, empirically and practically.

Let me give a brief example. When I was once doing some research on the influence of transactions costs on the spatial pattern of cities in a national urban system, I came across a paper by a Korean lawyer at Yale. He had been chasing a very practical question: how long do common-law rulings tend to last as dominant precedents in court decisions and is there any regularity. Fascinatingly, he found that the size-distribution of what are termed 'common-law cascades' tends to follow a specific kind of power-law function such that the first longest running legal precedent lasts almost exactly twice as long as the second longest, three times as long as the third etc. This is the same mathematical size distribution that is often found in respect to the size of cities in a country. Why? That's what the paper was about.

Where do academic architects tend to take the puzzling, problematic or just down right intriguing questions arising from their designing?

One idea arising from these initial thoughts that I would like to discuss on Thursday is the proposition that there are two kinds of research in vocational academic fields. There is (A) the research required to solve complex one-off practical problems (designing a complex building, designing a complex heart operation, designing a complex legal prosecution case – like the one currently in theater in South Africa); and there is (B) the research that builds formalized, codified, reliable and verifiable knowledge. The second kind either arises as a by-product from one-off problem solving (by generalization and/or further study) or is specifically undertaken as an academic research program. The 'design as research' or 'research as design' that we talk about these days and is codified as an idea in our Faculty paper on subject is, I think, mistakenly too focused on (A).

The link to methodology is simple. Knowledge-type (A) is transitory and for a specific purpose. Where you require rigorously tested knowledge for a complex design, you source knowledge of type B (in architectural design, for example, relating to energy, structural and economic matters – usually this is knowledge relating to building performance). Other knowledge collected in (A) does not have to be guided by rigorous methods. The rule in this kind of knowledge collection is that of sufficiency, efficacy and cost-effectiveness. It is the kind of information sourcing carried out by professionals in all fields. It is the kind of knowledge found in consultancy reports rather than academic journals.

Where an architectural researcher is trying to create knowledge type (B), my contention is that all the rigor of research methods in the science, social sciences, arts and humanities and engineering apply. This is, I think, one of the big challenges for architectural scholarship at current time. I shall explore this in more detail on Thursday drawing on illustrations arising from last weekend's excellent final studio reviews.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements mentioned below and to all those who have received funding under the HKU-China 1,000 Exchange Scheme first round (2014).

The Faculty of Architecture had the highest number of funded projects (11) out of all faculties.

Chris

Faculty of Architecture

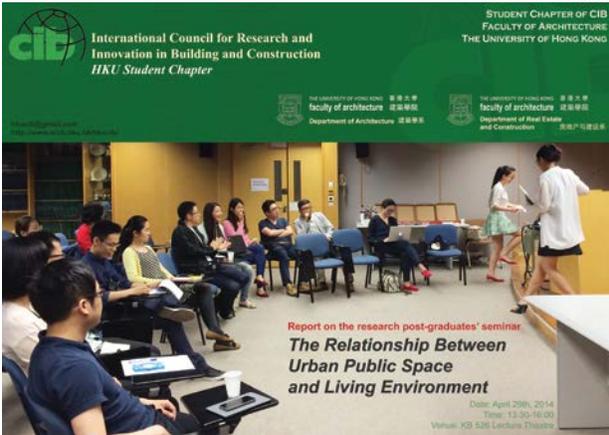
1. HKU-China 1,000 Exchange Scheme 2014 First Round Application Results

The result of first round applications was released by the Ministry of Education in March 2014, below is a list of approved projects of the Faculty of Architecture:

No.	Partner University	Project Name	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
1	Peking University	香港大學 - 北京大學城市產業空間佈局研究交流計劃	32	1
2		香港大學城市規劃及設計系研究生項目	1	0
3	Tianjin University	建築交流及聯合教學	20	0
4	Tsinghua University	香港大學城市規劃及設計系本科生赴清華大學交流學習	2	0
5		清華 - 港大民族地區村鎮發展研究	20	2
6	Fudan University	香港大學建築學院建築學文學士課程(春季)	44	4
7		香港大學建築學院建築學文學士課程(秋季)	54	5
8	Shanghai University of Finance and Economics	2014 年度香港大學房地產與建築管理系學習實踐	50	2
9	Harbin Institute of Technology	“夢圓中秋、濱港之夜”兩地建築設計研習營	15	0
10	Shenzhen University	深圳市基於手機資料的居民出行模式合作研究	1	0
11	Hunan University	2014 香港與內地暑期聯合建築設計工作營	20	4

2. HKU-CIB Student Chapter has successfully organized a research post-graduate students' Seminar on Apr 29, 2014 (Tue). Attached herewith are the report and images of the seminar which we would like to share with you.

There were more than twenty RPs from Dept. of Architecture as well as Dept. of real estate and construction participated in this seminar. We really enjoyed the experiences of exchanging knowledge and communication among students whom from different research fields. HKU-CIB Student Chapter will surely organize more similar events in the future and we welcome you all to join us. If you have any inquires or advice, please send us email by hkucib@gmail.com.



Architectural Conservation Programmes

1. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- appointed Chairman of the Working Party on Student Residences at Mui Fong Street, Hospital Road and Wong Chuk Hang, by Dr. Steven Cannon, HKU Executive Vice-President (Administration and Finance) / Chairman of the HKU Accommodation Committee.
- Supporting Organizer for the exhibition *Anecdotes from the Peak: a Walk through the Rich Heritage and Natural Beauty of the Peak*, organized by Wheelock Properties, Wharf and Nanfung Group, and supported by the Royal Geographical Society and HKU Architectural Conservation Programmes, held at the Wheelock Gallery, Queensway Plaza, from 30 April to 1 June 2014. Website: http://www.anecdotesfromthepeak.com/about_the_exhibition_en.html
- invited to give a public lecture, "Integrating Old and New: Innovative Design for Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings," for the event *Tectonics in Adaptive Reused Heritage – Learning from Gaudi's Sagrada Familia*, organized by Basilica de la Sagrada Familia, European Union Academic Programme Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists, HKU Community Project Workshop, HKU Architectural Conservation Programmes, and Times Square, held at HKU Faculty of Architecture, 27 April 2014. See: <http://www.spanish-chamber.com.hk/pages/viewfull.asp?CodArt=1268>.
- invited to give a public lecture, "Museum Architecture and Society," for the event *Distinguished Public Lecture Series: Four PhDs on Community and Arts/History/Heritage*, organized by Arts in Heritage Research (AHR) and co-organized by ACP, The Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists (HKICON) and The Fringe Club, held at Fringe Dairy, The Fringe Club, 26 April. See: <http://ahr.org.hk/en/my-product/distinguished-public-lecture-series-four-phds-on-community-and-arts-history-heritage/>.

Department of Architecture

1. Mr. David Erdman

- served as the External Examiner for the Master of Architecture program at the Chinese University School of Architecture

2. Mr. Yan Gao

- has been awarded by Perspective Magazine as one of the 40 Under 40 Design Stars. Every year, Perspective selects 40 creative stars under the age of 40 from the fields of art, architecture, interior design, graphic design and new media, product design, and fashion and accessories, whom are believed to shape the design world in the decades to come. The past awardees include Bjarke Ingels and Sou Fujimoto in 2010, and Ma Yan Song in 2013.

<http://www.perspectiveglobal.com/40-under-40>

透视雜誌
perspective

21 March, 2014

Dear Gao Yan,

Congratulations from Perspective! It is our honour to inform you that you have been selected as our 40 under 40 winner in recognition of your excellence and outstanding contribution. The 40 selected designers will be profiled in May issue of Perspective magazine together with images of their designs.

To announce and celebrate the achievements of the 40 creative personalities, we will host a gala event and we look forward to see you there. Our marketing team will be in touch with you in April for the details of the ceremony.

In the meantime, I will need to ask you to keep this result confidential as it will only be announced in May issue of Perspective magazine and during the gala ceremony.

I look forward to seeing you at the gala event!

If you have any queries, please contact our marketing manager, Kathy Po, on +852 2115 5341 or email kathy.po@perspectiveglobal.com.

Best wishes,



Suzanne Miao
Perspective
Editorial director



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深圳“万人家”保障房设计竞赛-综合类第一名

A Thousand Families - Shenzhen Social House International Competition - the First Prize

这个保障房竞赛的概念建立在“一”、“万”、“家”三个关键词上。通过深圳城市发展的现状和保障房建设现状，提出“万人”、“家”社区的发展策略，可以理解为，通过保障房建设来改善城市生活，提升城市的生活品质。

“万人”社区设计将大规模高密度住宅置于深圳快速发展的城市背景下，通过高密度住宅和公共空间的有机结合，提升城市的生活品质。通过“万人”、“家”社区的发展策略，可以理解为，通过保障房建设来改善城市生活，提升城市的生活品质。

这个设计竞赛的主题是“万人家”，旨在探讨高密度住宅和公共空间的有机结合。通过“万人”、“家”社区的发展策略，可以理解为，通过保障房建设来改善城市生活，提升城市的生活品质。



The core concept of our 10,000 Residents community design is that on the basis of the 1,000 and 100 Families models, a surrounding system is constructed, based on the community level of planning and design, to optimize neighborhood structure that is able to adapt to emerging scenarios, e.g. permeability of the properties and the increasing, by applying comprehensive techniques, in the other is initial flexibility for unit reconfiguration.

The primary challenge of 10,000 Residents community design is how to maximize the density of the limited space with multi-module and distribution. It is mainly achieved in two aspects: one is the diversity of public community space, and the other is initial flexibility for unit reconfiguration.

The proposal also extends the mission of sustainable design into social dimension, we studied the spatial relationship to the change of development competition within the neighborhood and of possible transitions of property ownership, as the result, we are not only designed the structure and units, but also possible recombination of adjacent units. In economic dimension, we encourage the special arrangement for programs should contribute to generate economic activities associated with the evolution of this neighborhood. Because a series of new based and classified commercial programs are included according to the operation of the area within the neighborhood. In terms of the ecological dimension, we incorporated local building regulations to the modeling process and to guarantee of dynamic facade design changing through time.

Team: Social House
Location: Shenzhen, China
Design Year: 2011
Site Area: 47ha
Floor Area: 2.6M
Social Floor Area: 1.4M
Team: Guo Gang, Guo Kang, Qiu Lihua
Collaboration with: E-Studio

设计团队：深圳城市建筑集团
地点：深圳
设计时间：2011年1月
基地面积：47万平米
建筑面积：2.6M
设计团队：郭刚、郭康、邱丽华
合作单位：易佰瑞

Nov 2011

断桥藏龙-龙津桥遗址竞赛第一名

BROKEN BRIDGE HIDDEN DRAGON- The First Prize, Lung Tsung Bridge Competition, HK

龙津桥遗址位于香港，是龙津桥的遗址。这个项目旨在探讨如何在遗址上进行新的建筑开发，同时保留和展示其历史文化价值。

- 保留遗址上的建筑，人工建筑“藏”于自然，让建筑与自然融为一体。
- 以建筑为载体，展示龙津桥的历史文化价值。
- 保留遗址上的建筑，人工建筑“藏”于自然，让建筑与自然融为一体。
- 以建筑为载体，展示龙津桥的历史文化价值。
- 保留遗址上的建筑，人工建筑“藏”于自然，让建筑与自然融为一体。
- 以建筑为载体，展示龙津桥的历史文化价值。



The concept of the design program was inspired by the restoration of the name of the Lung Tsung Bridge (see insert for "Hidden Dragon" concept), restoring the site's historical heritage of the site's history, the most important concept for the restoration of the site of the Lung Tsung Bridge, China and the site's history of the site's history.

- The project's theme of preservation is not a simple restoration of the site's history, but a modern building that is integrated with the site's history.
- The Lung Tsung Bridge project is not a simple restoration of the site's history, but a modern building that is integrated with the site's history.
- The project's theme of preservation is not a simple restoration of the site's history, but a modern building that is integrated with the site's history.
- The Lung Tsung Bridge project is not a simple restoration of the site's history, but a modern building that is integrated with the site's history.

Team: Historical Preservation and Urban Design
Design Year: 2012
Site Area: 3000 sqm
Team: Guo Gang, Guo Kang, Qiu Lihua, Guo Kang, Qiu Lihua, Guo Kang, Qiu Lihua

Nov 2013

童梦世界-儿童体验主题公园及植物园游客中心

KIDS DREAM - EXPERICAL THEME INDOOR PARK & TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER OF BAODING BOLTANIC GARDEN

1. 项目背景与定位
2. 项目背景与定位
3. 项目背景与定位
4. 项目背景与定位
5. 项目背景与定位
6. 项目背景与定位
7. 项目背景与定位
8. 项目背景与定位
9. 项目背景与定位
10. 项目背景与定位



Team: Architecture and Landscape Design
Design Year: 2013 - Apr 2014
Site Area: 20,000 sqm
Team: Guo Gang, Guo Kang, Qiu Lihua, Guo Kang, Qiu Lihua, Guo Kang, Qiu Lihua

Nov 2013

3. Ms. Tris Kee

- The Barcelona - Hong Kong Urban Exchange Symposium which the Faculty of Architecture, DUPAD and Department of Architecture supported was featured in the Hong Kong Green Building Council Magazine. Rocco Yim, Stephen Lau and Tris Kee were present in the 22 February 2014 Symposium at HKU Centenary Campus. The event was organized by HKIP, HKIUD and HKGBC and was attended by 500 participants.
- DUPAD students and graduates from DUPAD attended the 8 March 2014 exhibition and lecture held outside HKU Main Library.

4. Dr. Wong Wah Sang

- Appointed as a member of the editorial board for two journals – the International Journal “The New ARCH” and the Universal Journal of Psychology.
- His paper titled "Architecture in the Education of Senior High School Students" has been accepted for publication in The International Journal of Design Education.
- Gave a talk on “Architecture of the Pavilion” 亭的建築 in the Education Bureau on 8th March 2014.
- Gave a talk on “Introduction to Architecture and Buddhism” 淺談佛學與建築學 in the Vajrayana Buddhism Association on 26th April and 3rd May 2014.

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. Koh Tas Yong

- had visited the Faculty of Urban Construction and Environmental Engineering, the University of Chongqing (CQU) between 14 to 18 Apr 2014 as a visiting scholar. During the visit, Dr Koh had presented a research seminar to the graduate students and advised the students on research methods and recent developments in Hong Kong construction industry in the areas of construction safety and Building Information Modeling (BIM). Dr Koh's visit also marked the commencement of the research project funded by the Mainland MoE through the Faculty of Urban Construction and Environmental Engineering, CQU in the domain of environmental management system of construction firms in China.
- had a co-authored journal paper accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Project Management*. The details of the paper are: Shen, Y-Z., Tuuli, M.M., Xia, B., Koh, T.Y., and Rowlinson, S. Towards a model for forming psychological safety climate in construction project management, *International Journal of Project Management*. The paper is scheduled to appear in the January 2015 issue of the journal.

2. Dr. Wilson Lu

- published a paper "Lu, W.S. (2014). *Reliability of Engineering News-Record international construction data. Construction Management and Economics*, forthcoming".

3. Dr. Wilson Lu, Prof. K.W. Chau, and Mr. Kevin Wang (A PhD student jointly supervised by Dr. Lu and Prof. Chau)

- published a paper "**Lu, W.S., Chau, K.W., Wang, H.D. and Pan, W. (2014). A decade's debate on the nexus between corporate social and corporate financial performance: a critical review of empirical studies 2002 – 2011**". *Journal of Cleaner Production* (2012 IF: 3.398), forthcoming.

4. Prof Steve Rowlinson, Dr Koh Tas Yong, and Dr John Shen

- have participated and contributed, once again, in the MTRC Worker Health and Well-being Month May 2014 which commenced on the 2 May 2014 and will last through the month of May 2014. With the participation of a new partner this year from the School of Public Health, University of Hong Kong led by Prof Richard Fielding, this year programme promises a more detailed health check and counselling for the workers throughout the MTRC construction sites across the territory. The Department of Real Estate and Construction team (RECO), together with the student volunteers, help administer the health and drinking pattern questionnaires in the event. The aims of the event and survey are to profile the demographic, physical health, dietary and drinking patterns of the construction workers thereby raising their awareness on the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. The data gathered this year can be used to compare against the benchmark collected and analysed by the RECO team last year so that the effectiveness of the MTRC's initiatives can be assessed.



Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger Chan

- Member of the Editorial Advisory Panel *Proceedings of the ICE - Urban Design and Planning Journal*
- Appointed as member of the Central and Western District Advisory Committee, Urban Renewal Authority (2014-16)

2. Miss Xiaoxia Xu (a PhD student)

- attended “The 2014 NASA(National Aeronautics and Space Administration) LCLUC (Land-Cover/ Land-Use Change) Annual Spring Science Team meeting (Focus-Urban LCLUC)” in Rockville, Maryland, USA from 23–25 April 2014 and discussed China’s urban land use and development issues with US scholars such as Prof. Karen Seto from Yale University and Prof. Peilei Fan from Michigan State University.

3. Professor Anthony Yeh

- attended the Public Forum on the “Study on the Actoin Plan for Livable Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary” organized by the Development Bureau in the City Gallery, Central, on 26 April 2014. He was one of the panel speakers in the Public Forum in the capacity of one of the Expert Advisors of the Study.

4. Miss Yingxuan Zhang (a PhD student)

- published the following journal article:

Bai, H., Zhang, Y.X., Wang, H., Huang, Y. and Xu, H.: A Hybrid Method for Provincial Scale Energy-related Carbon Emission Allocation in China. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 2014, 48(5), pp.2541–2550 DOI: 10.1021/es404562e.