

Dean's Roundup

Friday, August 2nd, 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*

Dear colleagues,

It is good to be back at work in the Faculty office this morning, even if jet lag did force me into a 5am start. I have had cause to investigate two UNESCO heritage sites over the last week, one established, the other proposed: separated by a few miles of Aegean sea and by the Greece-Turkey national border. I found myself wondering if anyone has studied the impact of UNESCO heritage designation on land values. Measuring value in a surrogate market is one of three basic methods of giving a monetary valuation to what economists call public goods (resources co-consumed by many people simultaneously) – the other two methods being stated preference ("how much would you pay for...") and using travel expenditure as an indication of how much people value a visited resource. As well as being of intrinsic academic interest, a study of UNESCO heritage honey-pot values through land value comparisons would help inform the design of novel policy and financial instruments to put the management plans of designated sites on a sustainable financial footing. Does anyone know of any such studies? This would make a good joint project between ACP and REC. There are also interesting theoretical questions to be explored, such as what type of value is being measured? If the land market is restricted to domestic buyers as it is in some countries where UNESCO heritage sites exist, then house price premiums in the designated area may correspond more to use value than existence or reservation value (peoples' value of the heritage resource irrespective of how frequently they actually visit it). In a country with a land/housing market very open to global demand, the house premiums may capture a greater degree of existence/reservation value. In the extreme, you have wealthy Americans and Russians purchasing property in Venice and Patmos, purely as an investment and never using or visiting it. Arguably, the price they pay is a measure of pure existence value. Not so in the other extreme, for example a country like Turkey, which until a few years ago had an extremely underdeveloped mortgage industry such that property prices around heritage sites didn't even reflect the existence value of Turkish nationals. So we have a relationship between the state of development of national mortgage market and the state of development of house prices as an index of public goods valuation. Anyone interested in following this up?

Next week I'll be writing up a plan for the proposed new GIS Lab and hope to send something round for comment by the end of August.

Congratulations to those mentioned below. Keep up the good work.

A research 'thought for the day': Impact Factors (IF) of journals are important because they indicate how widely and rapidly your work is read and used by others. However, the size of IF follows the size of the research field, with IFs in some of the most popular journals in economics and medicine, for example, rising to 6+. Architecture journal IFs are very low because the research culture in this highly applied and normative field is still relatively underdeveloped. They are low in construction management and property also because of a relatively young research culture in those (equally applied but less normative) fields. In urban studies and planning, you find the highest IFs in the Built Environment, but 2 is very high and I only know or two or three journals hovering around 3. A good strategy, therefore, for disseminating your work more widely is to team up with scholars working in another field. You would not, perhaps, want to load your publishing portfolio too much towards these boundary intellectual projects but my advise to younger colleagues is that it is a smart move to do some of this type of work. Aim high – team up with someone who touches on your specialism and who is publishing in the top journals in their field (there are sociology journals with IFs >2). Also environmental psychology, history, political science etc. You might be surprised how eager well-established scholars in other fields are to apply their ideas in your field.

Chris

Department of Architecture

1. Mr. Adam Bobbette

- published an essay "A Forensics of the Future: Fire Insurance Underwriting, Contingency, and Early 20th Century Materiality" at the Journal of Architectural Education, Vol 67: 2.
- co-authored an essay with Meredith Miller and Etienne Turpin on "Architecture, Adaptive Capacities, and the Futures of Hypercomplexity" in Kerb: Journal of Landscape Architecture #21, (Melbourne: RMIT University, 2013). The essay has been accepted for publication.
- co-edited a book and co-authored an introductory chapter with Etienne Turpin, Meredith Miller and editors at the *Jakarta: Architecture + Adaptation*. The book has been accepted for publication with the Jakarta: Universitas Indonesia Press.
- authored a book chapter "Episodes from a History of Scalelessness: William Jerome Harrison and Early Geological Photography" for "Architecture and the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Design, Deep Time, Science and Philosophy" (Open Humanities Press: Forthcoming, fall 2013). The chapter has been accepted for inclusion.

2. Dr. B S Jia

- appointed as a member of the Review Panel for The 25th International Union of Architects World Congress, UIA 2014 Durban. The UIA (International Union of Architects) is a non-governmental organization accredited by the United Nations, it represents professional associations of architects in 124 countries and approximately 1.3 million architects worldwide. It organizes the World Congress every three years.

3. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- inaugurated the *Volunteer Mentors for the Cultural Heritage Ambassador Programme (CHAP)*, jointly organized by the HKU Architectural Conservation Programmes (ACP), HKU General Education Unit and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group on July 20th, 2013.
- Joint-organizer of a summer programme for 30 to 35 students from HKU and other universities or secondary schools to promote the conservation and revitalisation of the graded historic building, the Former Fanling Magistrate, on July 20th, 2013.
- conducted a workshop and a guided tour (together with Dr. Cole Roskam) for 18 students of Gifted Education from various secondary schools as part of the knowledge-exchange activities for the DOCOMOMO Exhibition "Mapping Modern Architecture in Hong Kong" on July 24th, 2013. This activity was co-organized by the Gifted Education Section of the Education Bureau, HKSAR Government.



- conducted a double-lecture “New Design in Old Buildings” and “Science + Sci-fi in Architecture: GS-01 GroundShipOne” for the HKU Summer Programme “Global and Cultural Studies” for undergraduate students from universities in Mainland China, organized by the Academic Liaison Section of the HKU Registry on July 25th, 2013.
 - conducted a public lecture “The Meaning of Museum Architecture: Design and Ideologies of Museum Buildings” (博物館建築設計的意義, in Cantonese), by invitation of the Antiquities and Monuments Office, Hong Kong SAR Government, held at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre on July 27th, 2013.
 - conducted a lecture “New Paradigm in Architectural Conservation: Innovative Design in Adaptive Reuse Projects” for 70 students of the Summer Programme *Career Discovery in Architecture* on July 29th, 2013.
4. Mr. John Lin
- published a design project “House for All Seasons” in A+U, in August 2013.
5. Professor David Lung
- gave a presentation on the topics of “Disappearing City: A new role for Surveyors” and “What roles can surveyors play in the process of environmental sustainability under the heritage conservation” at the HK RICS conference on July 27th, 2013.
6. Dr. Cole Roskam
- conducted a workshop and a guided tour (together with Dr. Hoyin Lee) for 18 students of Gifted Education from various secondary schools as part of the knowledge-exchange activities for the DOCOMOMO Exhibition “Mapping Modern Architecture in Hong Kong” on July 24th, 2013. This activity was co-organized by the Gifted Education Section of the Education Bureau, HKSAR Government.
7. Dr. W S Wong
- represented HKU at a round-table higher education meeting organized by HKIA with representatives from CU, CityU, Chu Hoi and HK Design Institute on July 27th, 2013. In the meeting, Dr. Wong has suggested the HKIA to organize student competitions on specific topics such as design, technology and to hold the crash courses in summer time to bridge the gap between academic studies and professional practices for the MArch students and graduates.

1. Dr H F Leung

- was re-elected Chairperson of Hong Kong Mediation Council of Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre on July 25th, 2013.

2. Dr. S W Poon

- was interviewed by the newspaper reporters on the history of the brick wells, built 110 years ago at Tai Tam Harbor, as part of the site investigation work for Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir Dam construction.

潛古井探大潭篤水壩歷史
原作勘探土質 屹立海中百年

特寫
有近百年歷史的港島大潭篤水壩，與附近21項水利設施均被列為法定古蹟。香港大學聯同技術潛水員，去年到大潭篤水壩一帶探察，潛入一個有百年歷史的海邊古井，窺探當年大潭篤水壩選址的秘密。研究人員驚歎當年建井用料及手工之精細，令這些古井經歷百年風吹雨打，至今屹立不倒。

實習記者 周翠怡

百年古井建於大潭港沿岸，每逢大潮漲時，井口一年有幾天會被海水覆蓋。

當年的技術無法解決水壩入水的水壩，故當局最終把大潭篤水壩後移至今大潭篤村後面，「空對大潭篤水壩就建於1960年代完工的船塢供水壩，成為香港首個建於海面的水壩」。

原有6口 兩口已毀
協助研究的香港水下考古學會主席胡名川和香港技術潛水總會主席李克強，於去年10月潛入其中一口直徑兩米、深8米的紅磚古井探察。胡名川說，井身十分狹窄，勉強只能讓兩人同時進入，不過井內水質和能见度不佳，可清楚看見魚和蟹在井內游動。他不敢抽取井底泥土作化驗，可曾被蟹咬傷。被追逃回水面，空手而回。李克強則說，古井的內壁十分完整，他們嘗試輕敲別井身，都沒有磚碎掉落。

據新華說，古井是用一般磚頭建成，單從內壁看，該井應歷百年風吹雨打，井身紅磚保存完好，可見其用料和手工十分精細。「100年前的機械投入很少，完全靠人手挖掘，能做到這樣密封不透水，是十分少見的」。

古蹟辦研納古蹟
據說，古物古蹟辦事處已邀請專家為古井做評估，研究納入古蹟的可行性。胡名川則希望政府可多關注水下文物的保育。他表示，這些古井數量多，危險性高，呼籲市民切勿到古井潛水探察。

歷時5年 1917 建成
香港首個水壩林扶水壩於1860年代竣工後，仍無法滿足市民日益龐大的食水需求。港英政府於是在1883年至1917年展開大潭計劃和大潭篤計劃，興建多個儲水量更大的水壩和改善供水系統。大潭篤水壩於1912年興建，1917年建成。而大潭篤、大潭篤水壩及附近20多項水利設施被列入大潭篤水壩、水壩房、紀念碑以及4座石壩更被列作一般歷史古蹟。

1. Dr Roger Chan

- awarded the Doris Zimmern HKU-Cambridge Hughes Hall Fellowships 2013-14.

2. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- invited to speak on "The housing policy of China and Hong Kong: a comparison" at the International Housing Conference of Shenzhen, China, organized by the Shenzhen Centre of Assessment and Development of Real Estate, on July 25th, 2013.

3. Dr Weifeng Li

- presented a lecture entitled "Sustainable Development: Environment, Resources and Society" to a delegation from Zhejiang University, arranged by China Affairs Office, in July 2013.

4. Professor Chris Webster

- published a research article "Urban built environment configuration and psychological distress in older men: results from the Caerphilly study" with the co-authors Sarkar Chinmoy and Gallacher John in the BMC Public Health Journal (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/13/695>) on July 30th, 2013.