

Dean's Roundup

Friday, July 12th 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,

Greetings from an unusually warm United Kingdom. I am enjoying the enclosed urban garden in my Victorian Cardiff house, where the blossoming cycle (jasmine, honeysuckle and old fashioned rambling roses) is about 2 months delayed (like the country's agricultural harvest) by poor weather during the early growing season. Agriculture is coming to British cities in a way that it hasn't since the 'dig for victory' movement of WW2. In my own inner city neighbourhood, a community garden has replaced the unused lawn in a small pocket park and the primary schools now all have vegetable gardens. To achieve this, these spaces have had to be enclosed – the pocket park is now secured with a padlocked gate and is the preserve of what I have called in several of my papers 'a small public' rather than the public at large. The value of land has been increased by the urban farming and to preserve that value from dissipation through vandalism and other 'over-use' there must be exclusion. Like it or not, enclosure prevents over-use of scarce open access resources – preventing a tragedy of the urban commons. No enclosure no investment. A challenge for the city. You may not agree with this prognosis or its underlying assumptions but I think that we could have some productive multi-disciplinary conversations on the theme of enclosure as part of the Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights contribution to the Faculty. Indeed, I have had several over the past few months with some of you. There are many ways to come at this conundrum – one of the most fundamental for scholars of urbanism. For example, there is a relationship between the fractal dimension of urban landscape patches (the degree to which they 'fill space') and the degree of legal enclosure in a city. It may be that a certain fractal dimension of a city's green spaces or of a city as a whole is the most efficient in terms of sustainable greenery because of this relationship. Perhaps we could have a lunchtime workshop later in the year where we can explore common interests in 'urban enclosure, urban commons and urban anti-commons'. The urban commons is a problem of too few property rights leading to inefficient use of space due to over-use. The urban anti-commons problem is a problem of too many property rights leading to inefficient use of space through under-use. I dare say there are parallels in the allocation of space within a building at the architectural scale.

Work goes on during the summer as the following shows. Congratulations to colleagues for these achievements.

Chris

Department of Architecture

1. Dr K P Cheng

- invited to speak at the 2013 International Forum on Underground Space and Modern Urban Center on topic of "The synergistic and harmonious integration of underground space with prime and sustainable features aboveground 加强地下空间与地上自然景物和人造美景的相互和谐连接方案的讨论" from 18th to 19th July in Shanghai, China. <http://ifuschina.com/index.asp>;

Presentation slides : <http://icee.hku.hk/activities/HKU100exhibition/doc/20110316g-GR02/KPC.pdf>

- published an article on a Bimonthly Journal "The Pearl-Gold Dream of South China. Bauhinia Tribune 珍珠黄金梦岭南. 紫荆論壇" Volume 10 in July 2013. Page 76-84.

2. Mr. David Erdman

- supervised a MArch thesis project which has been selected by the Department for inclusion in a major exhibition titled "Design Intelligence: Advanced Computational Research" to be held at 798 Art District in Beijing in late September 2013, alongside the work of 30 of the world's top schools including Harvard GSD, MIT, Yale, Pratt, UCLA, USC, Columbia GSAP, AA, Bartlett, IaaC, DIA, ETH Zurich, TU Delft, Tsinghua University, Tongji University and RMIT.

3. Mr. Christian Lange

- supervised a MArch thesis project which has been selected by the Department for inclusion in a major exhibition titled "Design Intelligence: Advanced Computational Research" to be held at 798 Art District in Beijing in late September 2013, alongside the work of 30 of the world's top schools including Harvard GSD, MIT, Yale, Pratt, UCLA, USC, Columbia GSAP, AA, Bartlett, IaaC, DIA, ETH Zurich, TU Delft, Tsinghua University, Tongji University and RMIT.

4. Mr. Scott Melbourne

- traveled to Eastern Tibet to kickoff a master planning effort he is guiding for the new campus of a highly remote school campus, located a ten-hour drive south of Yushu, Qinghai Province at elevation 4100 meters. (31°55'35"N 95°55'28"E)



5. Ms. Eunice Seng

- delivered paper "The Podium, the Tower and the "People": The private development of a public complex, c.1965-1970" at OPEN: The Thirtieth Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand, 2013, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia from 2nd to 5th July, 2013

6. Mr. Ivan Valin

- has been selected to serve as a session chair in the upcoming *EDRA45: Building with Change* conference with the proposed theme: "At the Margins: Negotiating Environmental Dynamics in Cities". The position will be held jointly with Natalia Echeverri (DUPAD). The conference, presented by the Environmental Design Research Association, will take place in New Orleans from May 28th to 31st, 2014. (www.edra.org)

7. Tom Verebes

- supervised a MArch thesis project which has been selected by the Department for inclusion in a major exhibition titled "Design Intelligence: Advanced Computational Research" to be held at 798 Art District in Beijing in late September 2013, alongside the work of 30 of the world's top schools including Harvard GSD, MIT, Yale, Pratt, UCLA, USC, Columbia GSAP, AA, Bartlett, IaaC, DIA, ETH Zurich, TU Delft, Tsinghua University, Tongji University and RMIT.
- has been appointed as External Examiner for the MArch (Urban Design) programme, at The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UCL), in London.

8. Dr W S Wong

- invited to deliver a talk on "The Rationality and Humanity of Architecture" to several hundreds of the students and teachers of Chinese Foundation Secondary School on the 2nd July 2013.
- arranged guided tours for 200 students and teachers from the Chinese Foundation Secondary School to visit the Degree Show on 3rd July 2013, with the help of ASA student helpers.



Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr Tas Yong Koh

- represented the HKU Centre for Construction Innovation & Technology and the BIM Lab to a discussion with the Chief Assistant Secretary for Development and the senior staff of the Development Bureau on 4th July 2013

2. Dr. Wilson Lu

- A group of his year two BSc Surveying students Hui Chak Pan, Lee Chun Hin, Leong Chun Wing, Chun Leung Tang, and Shung Huen won the 2nd prize in the 6th Innovation Competition in Construction Engineering and Management (ICCEM) jointly organized by Tsinghua University on 5th July 2013, Beijing, China. Their project is "A Ubiquitous Vibration Monitoring Black Box for Buildings (ViBox)". This is the fourth big prize that has been achieved by surveying students based on Wilson's year two studio project – "digital technologies in construction".

- lectured “corporate social responsibility in international construction” in Tsinghua Summer School for International Construction” on 6th July, 2013.
- presented a paper “Lu, W., Pan, W., and Tam, V. (2013). Construction waste management in Hong Kong’s low carbon city development: 10 years, no change?” On the Global Chinese Real Estate Congress (GCREC) 2013 Annual Conference, from 5th to 7th July, 2013, Peking University, Beijing, China.

3. Sr Bay Wong

- attended a Committee Meeting on Sub-contracting of the Construction Industry Council on 9th July 2013

4. Professor Steve Rowlinson and Dr Tas Yong Koh

- represented the HKU Centre for Construction Innovation & Technology and the BIM Lab to a discussion with the Chief Assistant Secretary for Development and the senior staff of the Development Bureau on 4th July 2013 and made a presentation on the possibility of using building information modeling (BIM) to improve construction safety. The discussion has laid the foundations for further collaboration between the HKU team and the Bureau.

Department of Urban Planning and Design

I. Dr Roger Chan

- appointed as a Member in the “Working Group on the Proposed Postgraduate Hub”, Graduate House Committee of Management, The University of Hong Kong on 2nd July, 2013.
- presented a lecture entitled “Urban Planning and Public Housing Design in Hong Kong” to a delegation from the School of Architecture and Design, Beijing Jiaotong University, headed by Professor Han LinFei, on 3rd July 2013.



2. Ms. Natalia Echeverri

- has been selected to serve as a session chair in the upcoming EDRA45: Building with Change conference with the proposed theme: “At the Margins: Negotiating Environmental Dynamics in Cities”. The position will be held jointly with Ivan Valin (Division of Landscape Architecture). The conference, presented by the Environmental Design Research Association, will take place in New Orleans from 28th to 31st May, 2014. (www.edra.org).

3. Dr. Weifeng Li
 - presented a paper entitled "Planning for Land-use and Transportation Alternatives: Understanding the Impact of Urban Sprawl on Household Non-work Travel Decisions" at the *13th International Conference on Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management (CUPUM 2013)* organized by the Faculty of Geosciences of Utrecht University in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 2nd to 5th July, 2013.
4. Dr. Zhixin Qi (Post-Doctoral Fellow)
 - attended the *13th International Conference on Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management (CUPUM 2013)* organized by the Faculty of Geosciences of Utrecht University in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 2nd to 5th July, 2013 and presented the paper on "Short-Term Monitoring of Land Cover Change to Construction Sites Using Radarsat-2 PolSAR and PolinSAR Data".
5. Mr. Ye Tao (PhD Student)
 - attended the *13th International Conference on Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management (CUPUM 2013)* organized by the Faculty of Geosciences of Utrecht University in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 2nd to 5th July, 2013 and presented a poster "Spatial Measurement of Urban Space Based on 3D Building Environment Index".
6. Prof. Anthony Yeh
 - was invited to attend the *13th International Conference on Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management (CUPUM 2013)* organized by the Faculty of Geosciences of Utrecht University in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 2nd to 5th July, 2013 and presented a Key Note Speech on "Making Intelligent and Smart Cities Smarter".
7. Mr. Xiaohu Zhang (PhD Student)
 - attended the *13th International Conference on Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management (CUPUM 2013)* organized by the Faculty of Geosciences of Utrecht University in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 2nd to 5th July, 2013 and presented a poster on "Automatic Land-Cover Change Detection Using RADARSAT-2 Images".