

Dean's Roundup

Friday, July 26th 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,

Two points to pass on in this Roundup:

1. I have been talking to a team charged with preparing an application for a tier 2 UNESCO Heritage site in a small coastal region of Southern Turkey. The first phase application was successful and there is 6 more months to work on the final stage. The application is being made on a mixed ecological-landscape-architectural heritage basis. If anyone wants to look over the documentation and offer some pro bono advice then please let me know.

2. Let me give advanced notice of the Eric Lye Memorial symposium and dinner that the Faculty is organizing for late October. The object is to expose a younger generation to the late professor Eric Lye (former chair professor and Dean of Architecture at HKU, whose legacy includes founding the Department of REC I believe) and to raise funds to replenish the Eric Lye Architectural Education fund. The afternoon symposium will take up the theme of Eric's last lecture in Mainland China (miracle-mirage) and explore the future of Chinese architectural and urban design 'beyond the master plan' (master plans in China frequently being little more than mirages promising miracles). I shall be giving a talk myself and am looking for one or two internal and one external speakers. Specific talk themes could include 'the self organizing Chinese city', 'the adaptive Chinese city', and other such takes on this issue. It might also be nice to put together a collection of articles, papers and books that colleagues in the faculty have written around this theme and to top and tail these with a commentary about architectural and urban design education. We could at least cite them in a dedicated website. If they form a rich enough narrative, it might be worth exploring an edited volume. The architectural and urban design education emphasis will be important: how should we educate the planners, designers, builders, managers and governors of Chinese cities of the future in an era that will inevitably take us beyond the design-and-build era, based as it is on the land-lease sale model of municipal financing and urban development?

It is good to see colleagues being active in talks and other engagements during the summer recess. I assume also that people are using the summer for a well deserved rest and to write and research! I look forward to being back in town for August and to having space to catch up with some of you over coffee or a meal.

Chris

Department of Architecture

1. Dr. Lynne DiStefano

- was appointed Juror for the 2013 AIA (American Institute of Architects) Hong Kong Honors & Awards Program on July 17th, 2013.

2. Ms. Tris Kee

- was invited to present a paper on The Study on Urban Renewal and Development of Industrial District of Kwun Tong at a Press Conference and was featured in a local paper Sing Tao Daily A8 on July 23rd, 2013.



3. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- was appointed by the HKSAR Government as a panel member of the Town Planning Appeal Board for a hearing of an appeal case on July 17th and 18th, 2013.
- was appointed by the HKU Vice-Chancellor as a member of the Accommodation Committee on July 18th, 2013, the membership will be effective from November 1st, 2013.

4. Mr. Tom Verebes

- is currently directing the 7th consecutive AA Shanghai Visiting School, hosted at the HKU Shanghai Study Centre, welcoming 107 students for a 9-day workshop, titled 'The Adaptive City'. HKU colleagues also participating in various ways include, Matthew Pryor, David Erdman, Yan Gao, Pascal Berger, Nathan Melenbrink, and Riyad Joucka.

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. Wilson Lu

- was consulted by HKGBC and HKBEC on July 10th, 2013 with regard to the policies to enhance the C&D waste management in Hong Kong.
- was interviewed by New York Times on July 18th, 2013 with regard to the C&D waste management in Mainland China.

2. Sr. Bay Wong

- attended the Annual Dinner of the Hong Kong Construction Sub-Contractors Association on July 12th, 2013

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger Chan

- attended the Joint AESOP/ACSP Congress held in Dublin, Ireland, from July 15th to 19th, 2013 and presented a paper entitled "Regional Development in the Pearl River delta region". Dr. Chan also attended the mobile workshop on "Architectural Heritage and Conservation – Georgian Dublin" during the Congress.

2. Mr. Liu Zhuojun (PhD student)

- attended the Joint AESOP/ACSP Congress held in Dublin, Ireland, from July 15th to 19th, 2013 and presented a poster on "Rural Institutions and Land Development in Southern China".

3. Professor Anthony Yeh

- attended the Joint AESOP/ACSP Congress held in Dublin, Ireland, from July 15th to 19th, 2013 and presented a paper on "Producer Service Linkages and City Connectivity of the Mega-City Region of the Pearl River Delta, China" (with Dr. Fiona F. Yang and Mr. Jiejing Wang)