

Dean's Roundup

Friday, June 28th 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,

Last Friday opened the Faculty's degree show. The guests I talked to were truly impressed and talked of architecture in HKU being on a steep upward trajectory. That deserves special recognition of and thanks to our design colleagues who put in so much extra into their teaching to achieve the kind of results that are now on display in the architecture and landscape studios. As we work together to refine our research profile, I do not want to do anything that jeopardizes this flagship core teaching culture. That's a difficult goal but I believe it's possible and that a more focused and elevated research agenda can spill-over even more successfully to world-class design teaching and learning. In fact, I want HKU to lead the way into new areas in this respect. I don't have the precise formulae for this but I am confident that we can find them together.

On Monday, Tris and I held a workshop for 20 or so students from the University of Queensland. I asked the students what the alternatives are for a densely populated land-locked city state wanting to accommodate more population (or any city come to that). Answers: upwards, outwards (land), outwards (on water), outwards (reclamation) and under. This triggered the idea of a faculty-wide international symposium examining technological, design, land and institutional solutions for 3D cities. Add *time* and you get what one of my colleagues in my UK research group (and ex AA architect) has termed 8D cities (4D over and 4D under ground). HK is currently moving into the 'under' solution in a big way for non-commercial uses. Commercial/retail/entertainment (and of course utilities) have been underground in large cities for a long time but as the number of non-utilities 'under' expansions increase in a city, so more of the pedestrian infrastructure goes *under* as well, creating a parallel layer of accessibility that not only has to be designed, optimized, costed and so on but which also has its own impact on movement, land values, land use viability and configuration of the public realm.

So: a HKU symposium on 8D Cities? Alternative titles: 'Up&Under cities' 'scaling heaven and hades' 'Babel&Burrows' 'Big Bang Cities' If anyone is interested in picking this up and running with it (with my support), let me know please. (It's probably also a good theme for a GRF grant application, a suite of papers and/or a book.)

Thanks and congratulations as ever, to all those listed below.

Best wishes – and for those drifting off for summer assignments and breaks – enjoy the drifting.

Chris

Department of Architecture

1. Mr. David Erdman

- presented the results of his Spring Studio (The Massing Complex) to the Mayor of Taipei, Deputy Mayor, Cultural Minister and others with the Head of the Department of Architecture Prof. Weijen Wang. The studio project focused on a highly coveted Site in Taipei where Erdman and his students (working jointly with partners at NCTU and the University of Kentucky) developed proposals for commercial office and retail space.
- has one unit of the four-unit "Stanley Beach House" designed with davidclovers featured in Design Section of the Sunday Post Magazine of the South China Morning Post (SCMP) in the article "Hello Sunshine".

2. Ms. Tris Kee

- has been invited as guest critic for the final studio review at the American University of Sharjah College of Architecture, Art and Design (Italy Studio) 29-30 June, 2013.
- has been invited to present a lecture at the Architecture Center of Amsterdam, ARCAM, on July 7, 2013. http://www.arcam.nl/lezingen/programma_uk.html

3. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- presented "What is Modern Architecture? A Starter" lecture and roundtable discussion for *Modernity-Modern Architecture in an International Context*, an event in connection with the *Rene Burri-UTOPIA* photographic exhibition, organized by the HKU University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG), 18 June 2013. (With UMAG Director Florian Knothe and Lynne DiStefano)
- presented three lecture and organized a field trip for "Remembering the City's History: Vancouver and Hong Kong in Comparative Context," Group Study Program of the University of British Columbia (under Prof. Henry Yu, UBC Department of History), 18 June 2013. See: <http://www.students.ubc.ca/global/learning-abroad/group-study-programs/current-programs/remembering-the-citye28099s-history-vancouver-and-hong-kong-in-comparative-context/>

4. Mr. Scott Melbourne

- was an invited speaker for the Traces: GLITS Conference 2013 at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he presented his short documentary film "Mainland Quality: Meaning and Endurance in China's Contemporary Landscape" (mainlandquality.com)

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. L H Li

- has been appointed by the Development Bureau of the HKSAR government as member of the Urban Renewal Appeal Board for three years from July 2013

2. Dr. Wilson Lu

- presented and published a conference paper "**Lu, W.S.**, Söderlund, J., Fung, A., and **Wang, H.D.** (2013). Understanding the effects of building information modeling (BIM) on project-based organisations (PBOs) using a social network approach. The IRNOP (International Research Network for Organizing by Projects) Conference 2013, 16-19th June 2013, BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo, Norway".
- published a magazine article "**Lu, W.S.** (2013). Construction Waste Management in Hong Kong: Ten years, no change? *Building Journal*, No. 5, pp.72-76, http://www.smile-net.hk/hot_topics/20130618construction_waste.pdf (accessed on 22nd June 2013).

3. Sr. Wong Bay

- was appointed by the Director of Buildings as a member of the Inspectors Registration Committee Panel and the Inspectors Registration Committee
- was appointed to serve as a member of the Selection Panel to advise Buildings Department in the selection of target buildings for the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS)
- chaired a Task Force on Adoption of Dispute Resolution Advisor System in Subcontract of Construction Industry Council (CIC) on 20 June 2013
- met with the Secretary for Transport and Housing on 21 June 2013 as a member of the Housing Policy Panel of HKIS

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger C K Chan

- was interviewed by students enrolled in the course "Remembering the City's History: Vancouver and Hong Kong in Comparative Context" of the Go Global Programme of the University of British Columbia, Canada, on June 19, 2013.



2. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- published a paper jointly with a doctoral student Ms. Seo Bo Kyong in housing studies' top journal:

Seo, B. and Chiu, R.L.H. (2013), "Social Cohesiveness of Disadvantaged Communities in Urban South Korea: The Impact of the Physical Environment", Housing Studies, Vol. 28, No. 8. (Available online: 16 June 2013; in hard copy: December 2013).

- Is invited to join and speak at the Public Engagement Community Workshop on the Tung Chung New Town Extension organized by the government's Planning Department and the Civil and Engineering Development Department on 22 June 2013

3. Dr. Mandy Lau

- presented a paper entitled "Urban renewal and adaptive neoliberalism: the case of the Urban Renewal Authority in Hong Kong" at the European Network for Housing Research (ENHR) conference in Tarragona, Spain, from June 19 - 22, 2013.
- Had a single authored paper accepted in Urban Studies, one of the top journals in its field.

4. Professor Bo-sin Tang

- acted as a Panelist in the Public Forum for Stage II Public Engagement on District Urban Renewal Plan organized by the Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum (DURF) on 22 June 2013.

- acted as a Panelist in the Public Forum for Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Plan organized by Caritas Kowloon Community Center on 23 June 2013.
5. Mr. Siyang Xu (PhD student)
 - presented a paper entitled "Achieving Sustainability beyond Buildings: Comparative Study on Sustainable Neighborhood Assessment Systems" (jointly authored with Dr. Roger C.K. Chan), at the European Network for Housing Research International Conference 2013" in Tarragona, Spain from June 19 - 22, 2013.
 6. Professor Anthony Yeh has been elected Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
 7. Dean Webster finally submitted the MS of his new book (Healthy Cities: Public Health through Urban Planning) to the publishers (Edward Elgar, Cheltenham UK and Northampton, MA, USA): he is co-author with colleague Dr. Chinmoy Sarkar, his Post doc fellow at Cardiff.