Dear All,

In the previous Dean’s Roundup I mentioned the praise that Chicago-base Ronald Coase Institute Director Professor Lee Benham poured on our own Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research (RCCPRR). At the end of the Centre’s inaugural symposium he told me privately that our expertise and research remit is unique in the world of ‘Law and Economics’ scholars and of huge interest internationally at the highest level. We have appointed Professor Benham as a member of the International Advisory Board for the RCCPRR.

A week after this comment, Prof John Gallacher of Oxford University Medical School offered a similar commendation: ‘The centre for Healthy High Density Cities (H\textsuperscript{HD}C) is already leading the world in the study of ‘first-cause’ built environment (BE) impacts on individual health using sophisticated objective BE measures and large population health cohort studies’. When our GIS methodology is linked to newly published genetic bio-marker data in a few months time, Professor Gallacher assured us, we will be the first and only team of BE-health researchers to run large-cohort studies that model built environment, social environment and genetic ‘first cause’ associations with obesity, mental health and heart disease. We have two gene-BE studies planned. Professor Gallacher has been appointed Honorary Professor in our Faculty and international advisor to H\textsuperscript{HD}C on urban public health issues.

This week I have taken steps to set up a third potentially world-leading research grouping – one built across two HK universities. This will draw into partnership HKUrbanLab’s new Centre for Sustainable High Density Cities (S\textsuperscript{HD}C) with CUHKs Environmental + Sustainable Design Unit, with a view to pooling strengths and projecting Hong Kong as a power-house for this kind of research and teaching. I expect funding to support this from HKU’s Provost. Professor Phil Jones, one of the leading international building and environmental physicists believes that we have a world niche in the study of high-density, high-rise and multi-scale environmental modeling of the built environment. Professor Jones has been appointed Visiting Professor in our Faculty to help build this research centre on the foundation of the good work done by Stephen Lau, who will be part of the new centre.

The three new-refreshed centres mentioned above are where they are because of strong research track records of colleagues (new and old) in the Faculty and in collaborating groups. As well as building big-hitting research centres, it is exciting to be able to make space for newer clusters. Some were introduced at the Faculty’s recent research retreat. Expect to hear from them.
A word about accommodation for new and old research groups. SHDC will have new space on the ground floor of Knowles Building. HD will use the Smart City lab (a state of art combined GIS-BIM facility) on the 7th floor of Knowles, as will the data analysis work conducted by RCCPRR. I am making available new space in Knowles Building for emerging research groups like Rural Urban Framework, which undertake research-led design and are seeking to combine this with wider non-design research agenda such as materials, environment and social science. There will be a clear set of rules about building up a design unit on university premises, which I shall present at the next Faculty Board. I welcome proposals for other design+ groups (+ other research domains) who may want to move in-house in this way with a view to developing a potentially world-leading niche. I would hope that our computational design and fabrication group would be one of these.

Congratulations on the achievements listed below.

Chris
1. This year’s HKIA (Hong Kong Institute of Architects) Annual Awards prize presentation ceremony was held on 28 May 2015, and the following ACP alumni and students were honoured:

(For the project *The Revitalisation Scheme: Conversion of Former Lai Chi Kok Hospital into Jao Tsung-I Academy* under the category of “Special Architectural Award – Heritage and Adaptive Reuse”)

**Curry Tse** (2006 ACP graduate; ACP part-time teaching staff) – architectural conservationist

**Terence Lo** (2012 ACP graduate) – project manager for the HKSAR Government

**Plato Tso** (current year-2 ACP student) – project manager for the architectural consultant

(For the project *Ko Shan Theatre New Wing* under the category of “Jury’s Special Mention – Special Architectural Award – Urban Design”)

**K. T. Chau** (current year-1 ACP student) – government architectural project team leader
2. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- Appointed an Assessment Panel Member for the CIOB(HK) Construction Manager of the Year Awards (CMYA) 2014, organized by the Chartered Institute of Building (Hong Kong); appointed on 13 March 2015, assessment report completed on 13 April 2015, final judging on 23 May 2015.

3. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- was invited by Sha Tin Government Secondary School to deliver a lecture on “Heritage of Wanchai” for school teachers, held at HKU, 4 June 2015. (Attended by 55 school teachers)

- was invited by Renaissance College to deliver a lecture on “Tangible and Intangible Heritage and Cultural Identity” for students and teachers, held at Renaissance College, 1 June 2015. (Attended by about 80 students and teachers)

- is appointed an Assessment Panel Member for the CIOB(HK) Construction Manager of the Year Awards (CMYA) 2014 (for the “Heritage Conservation” category), organized by the Chartered Institute of Building (Hong Kong); appointed on 13 March 2015, assessment report completed on 13 April 2015, final judging on 23 May 2015.
1. Professor John Gallacher
   Professor of Cognitive Health, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford
   Honorary Professor, Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong

   was invited to give a lecture jointly organized by the Faculty of Architecture and the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine on Monday, 18 May 2015, titled “Chronic disease and the built environment: the new public health challenge”
Division of Landscape Architecture

1. Dr. Jiang Bin

- Had his work presented on The Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) Annual Conference (EDRA46LosAngles, May 27-30, 2015) in Los Angeles, USA.

Title: Do Preferred Landscapes Reduce Stress?

Bin Jiang, jiangbin@hku.hk, (The University of Hong Kong); Pongsakorn Suppakitpaisarn, psuppak@gmail.com, (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); William Sullivan, wcsulliv@illinois.edu, (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Abstract: Humans may prefer landscapes that promote health (Kaplan, 1998). We know that humans feel less stressful in green environments (Jiang, 2014; Hartig et al., 2014; Hartig, 2003; Simons, 1991). We also know that humans like green environment (Nassauer, 1995; Lovell & Sullivan, 2006; Gobster, Nassauer, Daniel, & Fry, 2007), but the connection between landscape preference and stress reduction has not been fully established. If such a link were established, landscape architects, planners, and land managers would have a useful, fast tool for understanding the impact of urban designs on a city’s inhabitants. In this study, we explore the extent to which preference for a landscape predicts the capacity of people to recover from a stressful experience. The study involves a preference questionnaire and a lab experiment. First, participants completed a preference questionnaire showing neighborhood street scenes in the U.S. Midwest. Then the same participants experienced a stressful event and then watched one of ten 3-D videos of neighborhood street scenes with varying levels of tree cover. We measured changes in participants’ stress levels through three response pathways: Hormonal (salivary cortisol), physiological (skin conductance) and psychological (self-reported stress). The study has been conducted with consent, and there is no lasting psychological effect to the participants. We examined the extent to which preference predicted stress reduction in 160 participants through linear regressions. When both genders were analyzed together, there were associations between preference and stress reduction including average stress recovery \[ F(1, 158)=5.419, R^2= .03, p< .05 \] and psychological pathway (VAS) \[ F(1, 158)=6.559, R^2= .04, p< .05 \]. Separate analysis for men and women showed a clear gender difference. For men, we found a significant positive association between preference and physical response \[ F (1, 78) = 4.833, R^2= .10, p< .05 \] but no association for hormonal or psychological responses. For women, we found a significant positive association between preference and psychological responses \[ F (1, 78) = 4.823, R^2= .05, p< .05 \] but no association for physiological or hormonal responses. These findings are consistent with other results showing that men and women recover from stressful events in different ways and along different timelines. They also suggest that more highly preferred settings are associated with greater recoveries from stress, but through different pathways for men and women.
2. Ms Vincci Mak (Division of Landscape Architecture)

- was invited by the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to write about her “Shaping the Landscape” Land Art Project (CCHU9023). The article (in Chinese), titled 《從藝術看環境 --- 透過大地藝術探索人與大自然的關係》, is published on the RTHK – ETV Online Website: http://utalks.etvonline.hk/article113.php.

3. Dr. Chinmoy Sarkar is lead author on the following paper, accepted this week (s.t. minor changes):

- Chinmoy Sarkar¹, Chris Webster¹, Matthew Pryor¹, Dorothy Tang¹, Scott Melbourne¹, Zhang Xiaohu¹, Liu Jianzheng¹. (2016) Exploring associations between urban green, street design and walking: Results from the Greater London boroughs. Landscape and Urban Planning, (Forthcoming, accepted s.t. minor changes May 2015).

This is the second of a series of 5 planned papers on the DLA-DUPAD London study of greenery and walking behavior.
4. Scott Jennings Melbourne

- Represented HKUrbanLab at the international conference titled "Ecotourism in Protected Areas: Strengthening Livelihoods, Conservation, and Adaptation" held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar 19-21 May 2015. The conference was organized by ICIMOD and jointly hosted by Myanmar’s Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry together with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. A press release from the event may be found here: [http://www.icimod.org/?q=18327](http://www.icimod.org/?q=18327)

- Delivered the public lecture “Landscape Architecture and Its Offering to a Changing Myanmar” at Yangon Technological University on 22 May 2015.
1. Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research

Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research Inaugural Symposium and the Seminar on a Coasean Approach to Property Rights Research were held last Friday on 8 May 2015. Speakers at the symposium include representatives from all four research organizations named after Coase:

- Professor Lee Benham (Ronald Coase Institute, USA)
- Dr Richard Sandor (Coase-Sandor Institute for Law & Economics, University of Chicago)
- Dr Ning Wang (The Ronald Coase Center for the Study of the Economy, Zhejiang University)
- Professor Chris Webster (Ronald Coase Centre Property Rights Research, HKU)

Both the events were well attended with participants from HKU and other local universities as well as practitioners.
The Ronald Coase Workshop on Institutional Analysis was hosted by the RCCPRR on 11-15 May 2015. The workshop is organized by the Ronald Coase Institute. This was the first time the Workshop being held in Hong Kong. The Ronald Coase Workshop is a highly regarded international events. The Workshop aims to nurture young academics who are interested in new institutional economics. Participants, being selected on a highly competitive basis, went through a vigorous critique and coaching process by renowned academics from all over the world. Being selected as a Coase Workshop participant is already a huge honor.
1. Dr. Isabelle Chan

   - was nominated and appointed as one of the Review Panel members of the 2015 International Robert W. Campbell Award, National Safety Council and the Campbell Institute, USA. Established in 2004 and supported by a network of 15 Global Partners across five continents, the international Robert W. Campbell Award recognizes organizations that achieve excellence through the integration of environmental, health and safety management in business operations.

2. Miss Chen Xi (A PhD student with Dr Wilson Lu)


3. Dr. Daniel C W Ho

   - was invited by the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) to deliver a paper “Performance of Property Management Companies in High-rise Flats: A Pilot Study” at the Property and Facility Management Division Conference 2015 cum 10th Anniversary held on 15 May 2015. The conference was officiated by the Hon. Prof. Anthony Cheung, Secretary for Transport and Housing, HKSAR Government, who delivered a keynote speech. The one-day event was attended by over 170 delegates and the media.
4. Dr. Wilson Lu

Dr. Wilson Lu and Miss Meng Ye (A PhD student jointly supervised by Dr. Wilson Lu and Prof. K.W. Chau)


Abstract

There is increasing sophistication in corporate social responsibility (CSR) disclosures by international construction companies (ICCs). Nevertheless, a systematic analysis of the trends and prospects is yet to appear. This study fills that knowledge gap by providing an understanding of the idiosyncrasies of CSR disclosure and by offering suggestions for future reporting exercises. By examining the top fifty ICCs' CSR/sustainability reports using content analysis, it found that the more negative impacts a company may have, the more remedial strategies it will disclose in a CSR report. ICCs from economically more developed countries maintain a high level of CSR disclosure, while their counterparts from developing countries have caught up in this CSR cause. As a way to improve the consistency and integrity of disclosed information, ICCs are increasingly adopting CSR reporting guidance frameworks and using third-party assurances. CSR disclosures present a high degree of uniformity while they also show nuanced and intriguing diversity. This research helps understand comprehensively the trends of CSR disclosure in international construction. It will help ICCs extrapolate their future CSR reporting exercises.

- is invited by the Secretariat of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Japan to attend the Sixth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific" which will be co-organized under the theme of “3R as an Economic Industry ~ Next Generation 3R Solutions for a Resource Efficient Society and Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific” by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) and the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) of the Government of Maldives, Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOE-Japan) and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) from 17 to 19 August 2015 in Male, Maldives.

5. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- presented a speech to the Lighthouse Club Annual Conference on Risk Management at HKCEC: “Risk taking propensity: Culture in Conflict with the Law”

- the following members of the Faculty and research students attended a 2-day Seminar (on 28 and 29 May) at the International HQ of RIB, Partners in the Faculty 5D BIM Lab, where research, collaboration and the new MSc course in Digital Urban Development were discussed:

  Professor Steve Rowlinson
  Dr. Daniel Ho
  Dr. Isabelle Chan
  Dr. Cynthia Ho
  Dr. Wilson Lu
  Mr. Tim Yeung
1. Dr. BHATTA, Kishan Datta (ADB MUP scholar(2006-2008) and PhD Graduate in 2014 from DUPAD)

- Dr. Bhatta and team would like to express their sincere thanks to the Faculty, the Dean, Dr. Roger Chan, and all the DUPAD family for their kind support to the quake-victims. He is happy to deliver the support from Dr. Kaizhi, Dr. Hugo, RPG students and staffs of DUPAD to the most affected and needy people in Nepal. Since monsoon is approaching, they are planning to deliver tents, foods and medicines and above all hope of betterment to the victims.

2. Dean Webster

- was invited by the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design to give an opening remark for a sharing session titled “Urban Design Connections: Urban Diversity”, co-organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design and the University of Hong Kong on Monday, 18 May 2015.
3. Dr. Roger Chan

- has a new publication with following details:


Abstract: China has undergone economic and political restructuring in the post-socialist era under the background of globalization. At the same time, its provincial governments have mobilized various forms of booming North–South City-to-city (C2C) cooperation within their respective jurisdictions during the last ten years. This paper investigates the dynamics behind such cooperation through a case study of the Suzhou-Suqian Industrial Park in Jiangsu, with the aim of enriching and diversifying debates about the changing roles and functions of China’s provincial government and introduction of market in the North–South C2C cooperation. Several scholars argued that the roles and functions of the provincial government have weakened with China’s neoliberal shifts, whereas others insist that they have maintained a strong role in local governance. The findings of this study do not support an absolute distinction between these two sides. A diverse trend is identified when look into this argument in terms of goals and approaches. It is found that the regulation power of provincial government continues to have strong goals, but its approaches are changing from a direct to a market-oriented one. The debate about the balance between market power and government intervention under China’s context has been receiving attention as well. It is found that in discussing which driving force is more important in the local cooperation programme, the conclusion varies in different stages of the cooperation process. Results support the importance of introducing market in the North–South C2C development cooperation under China’s context. Although the booming North–South City-to-city cooperation mobilized by China’s provincial government is derived from the national slogan of reducing regional disparity, local governments are also seizing the opportunity and using the top-down scheme to solve local development bottlenecks and crises as well as to reposition the jurisdictions amidst the yardstick competition. Such cooperation prevents interprovincial industrial relocation to a certain extent; thus, it has considerable influence on China’s industrial transfer paths and its economic restructuring pattern.

- was appointed as honourary professor to the School of Real Estate and honourary fellow, City Development Research Centre of Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai for a period of three years.

- delivered a keynote lecture to the School of Real Estate and City Development Research Centre, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai on 15 May 2015 entitled “Current issues in Regional Planning, Development and Cooperation in the Pearl River Delta region.” The lecture was chaired by Vice President Professor Yan Bofei. Over 90 staff and students attended the lecture.
4. New Urban Researchers’ Seminar Series (NURSS)

- NURSS held a public seminar on 13 May 2015. Prof. ZHUANG Yu from Tongji University is invited to make a public seminar on urban design, which is entitled as “Urban Design in High Density Cities: Accessibility & Urban Spatial Performance”. Prof. ZHUANG Yu is the Chair Professor of Urban Regeneration and Design Division in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University. He also works as the Chinese director of Sino-US Eco Urban Design Joint Lab, Shanghai.

The NURSS is a self-governing academic society organized by DUPAD’s PhD students. NURSS is supported by the Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP).
5. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- Presented an invited keynote speech on “The Roles of the Government and the Market in Housing: A comparison between Mainland China and Hong Kong” at the 2015 Land and Real Estate Summit Forum, in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Department of Land & Real Estate Management, School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China (RUC), 9-10 May 2015.


6. Dr. Weifeng Li and Mr. Liu Jianzheng (PhD candidate)

- has new publication with following details:

Abstract: Ethnic disparity in economic well-being in China is drawing more and more attention from researchers. Past efforts for estimating ethnic disparities relied only on survey data in yearbooks or other statistical data obtained at the province or county level, which is usually limited by specific administrative boundaries that may not reflect ethnic differences. The details of ethnic disparities in economic well-being across all ethnic groups still remain unknown. In this study, we analyzed ethnic disparity in economic well-being in China over a 13-year period using nighttime light imagery and obtained a detailed and relatively accurate understanding of these disparities. This study presents and discusses the ranking of ethnic groups in China in terms of economic well-being and human development level, as well as their development patterns. We also make a comparison between the non-Han Chinese and the Han Chinese and find that non-Han ethnic groups as a whole have higher economic levels of well-being than do the Han Chinese. Although the human development level of the non-Han Chinese is lower than that of the Han Chinese, the human development level of non-Han Chinese is increasing all the time, and the disparity between them fell from 2001 to 2013, except in 2011. This study introduces a simple, convenient, and cost-effective way to measure ethnic disparities in economic well-being across ethnic groups and provides a detailed approximation of these disparities in China over a 13-year period, which will help inform policy makers in their future decision making regarding ethnic-related issues.