Dear all,

First, congratulations and thanks to all those mentioned below for their contributions to the Faculty's research and engagement agenda. Special congratulations to Professor Rebecca Chiu and Dr. FF Ng for their teaching awards. It is always good to see senior colleagues leading from the front. Particular congratulations too to Wang Jiejing, one of our 3\textsuperscript{rd} year PhD students who has published a paper in Physica A, a respected statistical mechanics journal (Impact Factor 1.7). The paper is about geometric and statistical properties of space subdivision as a city develops but has strong links to economic and social theories of densification, which it would be good to explore in the Faculty.

Continuing with a series of Dean's Roundups where I propose projects suitable for writing up into GRF or other funding bids, this week focuses on urban design, private space and law. It follows from a highly entertaining and energizing double act that Jerold Kayden from Harvard GSD and I put on for 150 lawyers, economists, planners and architects in the Technion, Haifa, two weeks ago (see below). Jerold and I agreed to explore collaboration between GSD and HKU FoA on public space research and teaching. As a first step, I am looking for someone to lead a team to develop the following project (which is perfect for GRF).

**Project title:** Privately supplied public space in Hong Kong (or ‘Hong Kong’s corporate squatters’).

**Background:** Jerold Kayden published his ‘Privately owned public space: the New York City experience, in 2000, which was described by the Wall Street journal as ‘a juicy little time bomb of a book’. The basic thesis was that public open space provided by developers as part of a deal on density (higher floor area ratio in exchange for a plaza for example), is often reneged on, since few are aware of the terms of the deal initially and fewer still remember or care. Following the book, Jerold started a web site, which is part crowd-sourced science, part knowledge exchange and part public space activism. It records all the legally required public goods in each of New York’s privately provided public spaces, with maps and photos and invites the public to (a) post evidence of infringements and (b) post alternative designs and management ideas. Around 500 cases were documented in the book and the initial version of the web site.

The project has since spread to a number of other cities and we thought it would be great to try replicating it in Hong Kong. Hong Kong effectively has two planning systems: leasehold and statutory planning. There is scope in both to require private developers to provide public plazas and other public goods such as landscaping, walkways etc. Daniel Ho and Lawrence Lai did some pilot research on this a few years back and discovered what Jerold discovered in New York: some ‘contributions’ to
the public realm were not actually provided, others have been fenced off (illegally) and others have been left to degrade through insufficient management. This raises the interesting prospect of formal sector corporate squatting in HK: commercial land-owners illegally occupying land they have legally gifted to the public.

I have written several papers over the years about the private supply of public goods, so what with Ho and Lai, Webster et al, and other relevant studies in urban design by FoA, we should be able to show sufficient track record to get funding.

**Method:** (a) documentary analysis of contracts, building plans and planning decisions; (b) site investigation to discover what was actually constructed and what is there now; (c) construction of Website, following the Kayden model; (d) possibly some analysis of the effects of confronting the public and users with information about what should be there.

**Analysis:** totaling the quantity of corporately squatted land in HK; assessing the quality of corporately squatted land; categorizing it; mapping it; quantifying and qualifying other public goods contributions not provided or no longer provided (ie other than land *per se*); assessing the effects of making information about the legal rights of such spaces public.

**Outputs:** professional report to government and other stakeholders; journal paper on method; urban design journal paper; urban studies journal paper; property journal paper.

In response to my posting about the Cairo urban space project in last Dean’s Roundup we have a team in place led by Scott Melbourne, preparing background research and starting to think about a GRF proposal. Please email me if you want to be involved in or to take a lead on this project that gives our own reversal twist on the ‘occupy Wall street’ theme.

Chris
Ms. Tris Kee

- was an invited speaker in the forum on People’s Urbanism, curated by Jeffrey Bolhuis and Laurence Lord of Architecture Practice + Experimentation, at the HK Biennale 22 Feb 2014.

- was featured in Archi Daily on the project on HK Value Farm, an collaborated exhibition with HK Kadoorie Institute and Chinese University, on urban ecology, vernacular architecture and community participation.

http://www.archdaily.com/category/urban-planning/
http://www.kadinst.hku.hk/education_and_training_nf5.html
2. Dr. Hoyin Lee (ACP Director)

- co-organiser and moderator in Session 2 of the Master Class Distinguished Lecture Series: Master Builders on Materials and Techniques of Conservation Projects in Mainland China and Hong Kong (大師級傑出講座系列: 內地與香港 營造大師 講 建築文物保育工程 的材料與技術) on 22 Feb 2014. Session 2 of this four-session lecture series (consisting of eight lectures), organised by ACP, the Construction Industry Council, the Hong Kong Government and other parties, focuses on the construction materials and techniques of traditional Chinese buildings of Northern China. The objective of this lecture series is to promote the technical expertise of built-heritage conservation among building professionals in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Over 1,000 participants have enrolled to the lecture series. Website for this event: http://www.hkcic.org/chi/ConservationProject/Index.aspx.

- organiser of the Open House of No. 27 Lugard Road, a Grade 2 Historic Building that will be undergoing adaptation for reuse, possibly, as a “heritage hotel.” The underlying objective of the event was to provide conservation and building professionals a closer look at the feasibility of integrating conservation and development that will meet international best-practice in conservation and the expectation of prospective users, neighbouring residents and the general public in protecting what they value.

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Professor K W Chau

- is appointed as the Chairman of Finance Committee and Editor-in-chief for Surveying & Built Environment of HKIS from January 2014 to January 2015.

2. Dr. FF Ng

- has been selected as one of the recipients for the Faculty of Architecture Teaching Award 2013. The Panel was impressed by Dr Ng’s scholarship of knowledge management and development of a student-centred learning framework for Surveying Studio.

3. Dr. S W Poon and Dr. FF Ng

- their PhD student (Ms. Sung Wai Ki) has been adjudicated by Occupational Safety and Health Council (HK) as a successful holder of the OSH Student Research Scholarship.

4. Dr. S WPoon

- the dissertations of two HKUSPACE-Greenwich University MSc students (Ms. Wong King Chi and Mr. Lau Ka Keung) under my supervision were awarded the Merit Winners of OSH Best Project Award by Occupational Safety and Health Council (HK).

- his co-authored paper “Synergizing functional and environmental planning for mega-event led urban renewals and beyond: lessons from the EXPO 2010 Shanghai, China” (Deng, Poon & Chan) has been accepted by the Journal of International Planning Studies.

- Water Supplies Department has granted my research team to study the construction history and the heritage of Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir, as a research project for Centennial Anniversary of Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir Dam.
1. Dr. Roger Chan
   - gave a talk at the Bartlett School of Planning, UCL, London entitled "Urban Fortunes in the Pearl River Delta Region, China" on 12 February 2014.
   - was invited as discussant of the PhD Day conference of the Land Economy Department, Cambridge University held on 21 February 2014 at St Catharine's College.

2. Professor Rebecca Chiu
   - has been selected as one of the recipients for the Faculty of Architecture Teaching Award 2013. The Panel was impressed by Professor Chiu’s contributions to the development of the Housing Management programmes and enthusiasm in student engagement

3. Dr. Cecilia Chu
   - Dr. Chu’s Common Core Stage II proposal “The City: A Historical Survey of Urbanism and the Built Environment” has been selected for inclusion in the Common Core Curriculum in 2014-15 under the Humanities AoI.

4. Professor Anthony Yeh
   - published a paper with details as follow:
     

5. Mr. Wang Jiejing
   - published a paper with details as follow:
     

6. Dean Webster
   - gave a keynote lecture at the International Planning, Law and Property Rights conference, held at The Technion University, Haifa, Israel, 13 February 2014. The Dean shared a stage with Jerold Kayden, professor of Urban Planning and Design at Harvard GSD (and a lawyer by original training) and the pairing was said by the organisers to be the best session this conference has ever had.
   - gave a public lecture “Urban Whealth Modelling” at the Department of Land Economy, Cambridge on 19 February 2014.
- held a PhD workshop at the Department of Economy on 19 February 2014 and was session chair and discussant for a PhD student conference at St. Catharine’s College Cambridge on 21 February 2014

- Dean Webster’s sDNA urban network analysis software tool won the 2013 Cardiff University iSolve competition – multi-disciplinary teams of graduates from the university compete to develop new ideas for novel inventions created by university teams
  http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/isolve/current-projects/spatial-design-network-analysis-sdna/