

## **Engaging the grassroots: Social Justice and Biodiversity**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Pacific Rim Community Design Network  
March 14-18, 2014, Taiwan

“Engaging the grassroots: Social Justice and Bio-diversity” is the theme for the 9<sup>th</sup> gathering of participatory community planners and designers around the Pacific Rim. Established in 1998, democratic planning and participatory design have been at the heart of the Pacific Rim Community Design Network. With eight conferences held in various countries across the Pacific Rim, issues and foci have been expanded according to the environmental and social changes. For the 9<sup>th</sup> gathering, we intend to sustain our core values and endorse designers and planners interacting with communities through democratic spirits, civic resonances and environmental stewardships. We span the theme “Engaging the grassroots: Social Justice and Biodiversity” to five key issues: (1) urban social housing, (2) ‘new ruralism’ experiments, (3) wetland conservation, (4) indigenous cultural recoveries, and (5) service-learning education. The format of the conference consists of “small groups” organized around these five sub-areas, followed by a common forum – “big tables”.

### **Conference Formats: Small groups and big tables**

The 2014 Pacific Rim Community Design Network Conference is going to take place in Taiwan. To echo the original spirit of the Network and to rethink the community participation, we organize “small groups and big tables” as venues to exchange experiences and stimulate ideas. The small groups and big tables are organized in two phases described below. In brief, small-group coordinators will organize events in Phase 1:

#### ***Phase 1: 5 Small groups: community-based workshops and issue-oriented events***

From March 14 to March 17, we simultaneously host five small groups in different locations over the island. Each small group focuses on a community-based workshop that also includes poster and paper presentation, etc. The purpose of the small group venues is to bring the current issues, problems and challenges of social justice and biodiversity in Taiwan to an international audience and in the meantime to invite conference participants to share their related experiences to the local communities.

#### ***Phase 2: 1 Big tables: all-in-one forums and exchanges***

Between March 17 and 18, we provide post-workshop forums and roundtable discussions in form of Pacific Rim big table exchanges at Chung Yuan Christian University (CYCU) in Chungli, Taiwan. All workshop participants will join the conference and share what they learn from the different workshops.

### **Key issues for the five small groups**

The topics and possible sites/projects for the Small Groups are listed below. Detailed information of the program and expenses will be posted later.

### ***Urban social housing:***

Ankang, Taipei

This workshop will be organized by Organization of Urban Re-s and Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, National Taiwan University.

Ankang is one of the five public housing estates built in the 1960s and early 1970s by the Taipei City Government for the lowest-income social group. After a half century, this estate, accommodating about 1,000 households will be rebuilt as a public housing site for nearly 3,000 households. Through this experimental project, we aim to develop a series of measurements including rent rate, tenure, and qualification. On the other hand, new concepts such as community economy, social services and ecological design for making sustainable community will also be integrated into the program. In this workshop, we call for 15 participants to work together by bringing their expertise in design, planning, and managing public housing estates in participatory process with the residents and NGO activists.

### ***New Ruralism experiments:***

Taipei and Taoyuan

Food and land have always been the two dimensions structuring our imaginations of what rural or countries mean to our modern urban lives. Within the small group of “New Ruralism experiments”, we invite 15 participants to engage in formulating the new meaning of rural and the new imaginations of countries from our cross-cultural practices in our own communities and within our own societies. Our workshop targets the balance among biodiversity, local economy and native wisdom. Interested participants are encouraged to submit comparable case studies and papers that can be useful in dialogue and exchange. Local settings for our small group workshops and events are held in the tea country Pinglin and a few peri-urban communities in the northern Taiwan, such as Tucheng or Longtan.

### ***Wetland conservation:***

Xinchen, Budai

The theme of this workshop is to engage the local community in Xinchen, Budai in southern Taiwan for the purpose of developing a wildlife protection and environmental education center located at the Xinchen elementary school. The school is located immediately adjacent to one of the major roosting areas of the Black-faced Spoonbill. Over the past several years the Taiwan team, in association with Randy Hester, has begun an effort to engage the local village in developing a community-based plan for the protection as well as environmental education regarding the Black-faced Spoonbill, the wetland ecology, and local economic development opportunities. Participants in this workshop will stay in the village for four days/three nights, work on site directly with village residents and community groups, and observe the wetland ecology firsthand including the Black-faced Spoonbill. The workshop will focus on developing educational programs as well as designing facilities to accommodate visitors. Interested

participants are encouraged to submit comparable case studies and papers that can be useful in dialogue and exchange. We expect around 15 conference participants to join this workshop.

### ***Recovering Indigenous Cultures: Achieving alternative ownership in placemaking***

Rinari, Pingtung

In between different modalities of representing time and space, the place-based indigenous communities often struggle to maintain their collective use of the natural resource base, which is integral to cultural identity, while the modern property regime forcedly translates the ties between people and place into individualized ownership. The complex connection between indigenous communities and place requires more creative concepts and practices that can move beyond the inherently exclusive logic of property ownership. Meanwhile, alternative conceptualization of ownership can link the indigenous people's struggle over land with emergent issues that are not only important to the indigenous tribes but to human beings in general, such as ecological democracy, food autonomy, cultural diversity and bio-diversity, alternative economics, etc. In practice, alternative ownership of land and resource can often result in creative design and land/resource management that bring together people across ethnicities, such as community-based farming, alternative arrangement of housing, or educative programs in connection with managing indigenous landscape. This workshop invites presentations that explore alternative ownership through placemaking. Practices or case studies are particularly welcome.

The workshop will be held in Rinari, a village constructed in 2010 in Southern Taiwan to relocate more than 500 households displaced by the 2009 typhoon Morakot. As one of the most noted recovery cases, the village is currently co-inhabited by three tribes, including Rukai and Paiwan. NTU Building and Planning Research Foundation has continuously contributed to some of the post-disaster recovery actions which reflect important concerns about indigenous cultural recovery here. We expect participants who can share comparable experiences with us. The participants will experience community-based homestay program and have a chance to discuss the ongoing recovery effort with the local communities.

### ***Service-Learning Education***

Chungli, CYCU campus

Since education is still a fundamental component of community design practice, exchange of teaching experiments and pedagogical theories of participatory design and service-learning should be an important part of this conference. Along with other universities in Taiwan, the Landscape Architecture Department of CYCU (CYLA) has devoted great efforts in teaching participation in design studios as well as initiating service-learning programs with communities. Although CYLA has a relatively short history, there are nevertheless some noticeable experiences worth sharing. This workshop will be part of our service-learning teaching activities. We will work with local community groups in the An-ping area in which several rural Hakka

settlements with rich cultural and natural resources are located. We expect participants who are teaching participatory community design to join this workshop and to share comparable experiences with us.

### **Dates for Submission:**

We provide two paths for participation in the conference: (1) participants without refereed full papers, and (2) participants with refereed full papers. Please send your abstract and full paper to the workshop organizers. The important dates are listed below for the two paths

#### ***For participants without refereed full paper submission***

- Announcement: April 27, 2013
- Abstract submission: June 15, 2013

#### ***For participants with refereed full paper submission (Organized by each small group coordinators)***

- Announcement: April 27, 2013
- Abstract submission: June 15, 2013
- Abstract review outcomes: July 15, 2013
- Full paper submission: September 15, 2013
- Full paper review outcomes: October 15, 2013
- Full paper final resubmission: December 15, 2013

### **Dates for the Conference:**

***Phase 1: Small groups March 14 – March 17, 2014***

***Phase 2: Big table forum March 18 – March 19, 2014***

### **Places:**

Conference: Chung Yuan Christian University, Chungli City, Taiwan

Workshops: Urban: Ankang Community Center, Taipei

New Ruralism: Pinglin, Tucheng and Longtan (to be confirmed)

Wetland: Budai, Chiayi County

Indigenous: Machia, Pingtung County

Education: College of Design, CYCU, Chungli City

### **Fees:**

- 1. Registration fee:** Professional participant: US\$100/person; student participant: US\$30/person.  
Fee includes conference proceeding and meals during the big table forum.
- 2. Expenses for workshops:** to be announced by individual workshop coordinators.

### **Organizers:**

#### **1. Small group workshops:**

Urban:

Li-ling Huang,

Associate Professor and Director  
Graduate Institute of Building and Planning  
Director, Research Center for Globalizing Cities  
Graduate Institute of Building and Planning  
National Taiwan University  
Taipei, Taiwan  
[ntuliling@yahoo.com](mailto:ntuliling@yahoo.com)

Contact person: Elly Yu [gouda3333@gmail.com](mailto:gouda3333@gmail.com)

New Ruralism:

Sheng-lin Chang

Associate Professor  
Director, New Ruralism Research and Development Center  
Graduate Institute of Building and Planning  
National Taiwan University  
Taipei, Taiwan  
[shenglinchang@gmail.com](mailto:shenglinchang@gmail.com)

Contact person: Chenyu Lien [chenyu.lien@gmail.com](mailto:chenyu.lien@gmail.com)

Wetland:

Fuchang Tsai

Senior Planner/ Board Director  
Building and Planning Research Foundation  
National Taiwan University  
Taipei, Taiwan

Professional advisor: Randy Hester and John K.C. Liu

Contact person: Pei-pei Lee [hualien369@gmail.com](mailto:hualien369@gmail.com)

Indigenous:

Shu-Mei Huang,

PhD in Built Environment, University of Washington, USA.  
[shumei.huang@gmail.com](mailto:shumei.huang@gmail.com)

Contact person: Shu-Mei Huang [shumei.huang@gmail.com](mailto:shumei.huang@gmail.com)

Education:

Huasun Chang

Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture  
Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture  
Chung Yuan Christian University

Chung-li, Taiwan

[huasun@seed.net.tw](mailto:huasun@seed.net.tw)

Contact person: Yan-wen Huang [yanwen.huang@gmail.com](mailto:yanwen.huang@gmail.com)

## **2. Big table forum:**

Chao-ching Yu

Dean, College of Design

Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture

Chung Yuan Christian University

Chung-li, Taiwan

[chaocyu@ms26.hinet.net](mailto:chaocyu@ms26.hinet.net)

Contact person: Steven Yan-wen Huang [2014communitydesign@gmail.com](mailto:2014communitydesign@gmail.com)