

SCARP NEWSBYTES

November 2000

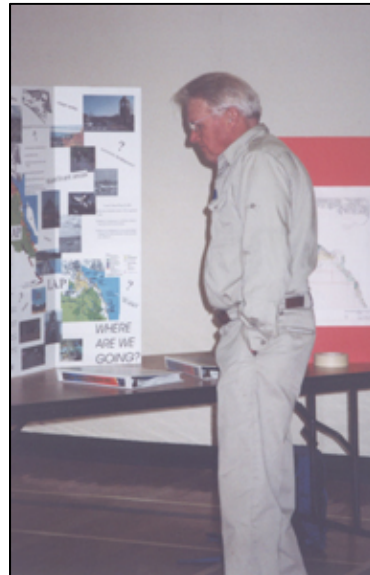
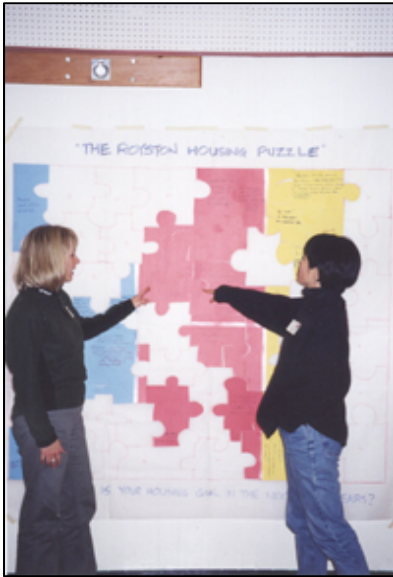
Welcome!

This newsletter will tell you a bit about what is going on and what is coming up in the School of Community and Regional Planning. There is something here for just about everybody, whether you are a current or prospective student, faculty, staff, or alumni.

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- Guest Speakers**...of interest to planners and planning students
- Stories from SCARP graduates**...this month features Yoshi Wada
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- Sustainability on campus**...featuring Janet Moore, SCARP Sustainability Co-ordinator
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- Congratulations**...Tony Dorsey wins award!
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THE ROYSTON EXPERIENCE



SCARP students let loose on the Island to plan!

This semester, a new course has 14 SCARP students assembled as a 'consulting team' to prepare a Local Area Plan for the unincorporated community of Royston (5 km south of Courtenay) on Vancouver Island. Working in co-operation with professional staff of the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona, this year long planning studio course has second-year students researching, designing and facilitating the planning process for Royston residents, as part of the Regional District's commitment to bringing "neighbourhood" level planning to all existing settlements.

The course's work program has the student-consultants visiting the community every second weekend to meet with the local Steering Committee to conduct local research and to carry out a multi-step public participation program. To date, there have been two open-house sessions where residents were encouraged to meet their planning team and vocalize any issues or concerns they had about present or future land use issues in Royston. For those who could not attend the open houses, comment sheets were placed along with a drop box at some popular local spots. Topics discussed included: affordable housing, infrastructure, economic development, parks and greenways, transportation, and environmentally sensitive areas. The open houses were well attended, with more than 135 locals taking the time to stop by and share their views. Many participants also commented on the energy and enthusiasm of the planning team!





In addition to the drop-in open houses, a number of student-consultants have visited the Royston Elementary School and Vanier Secondary (Courtenay) to discuss planning and to obtain youth input for the planning process. A grade six class turned into cartographers and provided the planning team with maps of their best-loved play areas, as well as some inventive visions for the future. The high school groups were given presentations on planning concepts and engaged in a discussion about various issues. Future activities include more visits to the schools, a report back to the community on findings to date, a three day participatory design charette in

January, and an intensive 'retreat' during the reading break where the planning team will develop a draft plan document. The draft plan will then be presented to Royston residents for feedback before it gets submitted to the Regional District's Committees and Board for the first steps in the adoption process next April.

Harry Harker, General Manager of Development Services for the Regional District and the course instructor, says that the community is fortunate to have such a large planning team with such diverse talents, since the District would typically only have the budget to hire one or two planning consultants. In allowing SCARP students to take part in the process, the Regional District and the community have the opportunity to try innovative methods in community planning. As well, the students gain practical experience in conducting public planning processes for a small community. While the student planning team is growing a bit weary of 'ferry fries', all would agree that the course to date has been a lot of fun and a fantastic learning opportunity!



(Thanks to Heather Shay for contributing this story and to Tina Atva for the pictures)

LA HABANA – A CITY IN TRANSITION

For the second time in as many years, a group of UBC students have travelled to Cuba to attend a four week urban planning and design course in Havana, Cuba. The course was a joint effort between the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) and Havana's School of Architecture and Engineering at the *Instituto Superior Politecnico Jose Antonio Echevarria* (ISPJAE). Under the direction of Paul Rosenau, an adjunct professor at SCARP, the group heard some of Cuba's most renowned architects, planners and urban design experts speak on the radical changes taking place in the urban fabric of one of the most historically rich and enigmatic cities in the western hemisphere.

Havana contains one of the most impressive collections of Spanish Colonial and Modern architecture in the Western Hemisphere, with many historic buildings dating back to the 17th or 18th century. Most of the architectural treasures in Havana remain in their original state although many have fallen into disrepair. Urban renewal, so common in North

American cities, has never reached Cuban cities and towns largely due to the United States embargo, the loss of Soviet subsidies in 1989 (resulting in the onset of what is known as the "special period"), and the general lack of contact with western economies. Since the late 1970s, however, Havana's colonial patrimony has been highly appreciated. In more recent years an intellectual awakening and slow physical recovery of Cuba's modern heritage has begun, due in part to a global re-evaluation of modern architecture, as well as the recognition that Cuba was a fertile ground for the development of a distinct 20th Century Latin American architecture.



Neighbourhoods throughout Havana are also proving to be extremely resilient and adaptive in meeting the social and economic needs of their residents. For example, the city's network of *organiponicos* (state owned research gardens) and *huertos populares* (popular, or "peoples" gardens) illustrate how communities are developing a local response to the food shortages which have been commonplace throughout Cuba during the "special period". Supplementing government food rations, the organic produce from the popular gardens has become a viable means of providing inner city residents with fresh food. The gardens, which are accessible to all residents, are scattered throughout Havana. They create pockets of productive and restorative green space within the fabric of densely populated residential neighbourhoods.

The primary focus of the course was to decipher the overlapping and interweaving forces that comprise the context of a place. Through spatial and cognitive design exercises the students investigated the various urban and planning typologies comprising the four primary neighbourhoods in Havana: Havana Vieja, Havana Centro, Vedado, and Miramar. Aided by lectures, walking tours, visual notetaking and analysis of each of these neighbourhoods, students wrestled with the often contradictory issues of preservation, housing, economic

development, and neighbourhood identity, within a cultural framework very different from their own.

Featured Lectures

One highlight of the course was a guided tour by **Arq. Roberto Gottardi** through the site of one of the most potent expressions of Cuban modernism – The *Escuelas Nacionales de Arte* (the National Art Schools). Conceived by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara during the early years of the revolution, the schools were intended to forge a distinct formal and social cultural expression of Cuban national identity or "*cubanidad*". Gottardi, an Italian architect, was one of three architects originally commissioned for the design of the five schools. One school was dedicated to each of the disciplines of music, drama, sculpture [plastic arts], modern dance and ballet. Gottardi was responsible for the School of Dramatic Arts.

The art schools are situated amidst the tropical river valley landscape of pre-revolutionary Cuba's premier golf and country club - Country Club Park. The organic complex of brick and terra-cotta Catalan vaulted structures reflected the optimism and exuberance of the revolution. In the mid 1960's, as the tenets of modernism and the European avant-garde increasingly fell under scrutiny by the communist regime, the five schools were the focus of an ideological attack

that resulted in their subsequent abandonment only a few years after their opening. Since that time, the jungle has literally overgrown the schools and only recently has the Cuban government chosen to recognize and reclaim these significant works of architecture for historic preservation. Gottardi's lecture, delivered expressively in Spanish and translated by an ISPJAE professor of architecture, conveyed the spirit of optimism, creativity and cultural fervor in which the schools were conceived and provided a once in a lifetime experience for the students.

A second course highlight was the lecture given by leading Cuban urbanist **Arq. Mario Gonzalez** at the auditorium of the National Union of Architects and Engineers in the suburb of Miramar. Gonzalez' lecture incorporated an enormous handcrafted model of the City of Havana and its surroundings that has undergone continual updating over the past decade and is used primarily as an instrument to document the growth and change of the cityscape of the Cuban capital and its outlying suburban areas. Using the color-coded scale model of the city, which occupies an entire building, the lecture provided the historical background for centuries of settlement and physical expansion in Havana and its hinterland.

Professor Arq. Ruben Bancroft provided current context for the development of social housing and sustainable development in Havana in a lecture at the campus of ISPJAE. An internationally renowned architect and Dean of the architectural school, Bancroft gave a thorough and candid description of how the Cuban government is wrestling with such issues as development and cultural preservation, and outlined the emergence of a hybrid public/private economy. His lecture also profiled some of Havana's most notable social housing projects, such as "Los Arborledes" and the "Pan American Village", which are still considered by many to be laudable and convincing prototypes of how to reconcile social and economic inequality in housing and community development.

Student Work

The primary exercise saw students cutting a conceptual slice through an area of the city and graphically representing this "urban transect" as one would a section through any living organism -- as a rich and essential component of the larger fabric in which it is situated. In addition to their design explorations, students conducted independent studies in topics including urban agriculture, community-based internet resource access, and health care and social networks for seniors.



For more information about the upcoming studies abroad course in Havana (May, 2001) please see the SCARP website or contact Paul Rosenau at rosenau@ekistics.ca.

(Thanks to Paul Rosenau for contributing this story -- and thanks to Tina Atva for the great pictures of Cuba)

LA HABANA EXHIBITION

As a follow up to the course, and as a means of sharing the students' work with those Vancouverites interested in Cuban culture, Rosenau has arranged a gallery exhibition featuring this years student's work. The showing runs from December 8th until December 14th at the Havana Café Gallery, located at 1212 Commercial Drive. The presentation will consist of stories, photographs, and graphic presentations of their cognitive explorations and analysis of La Habana.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **WHO?** **TARIK KHIATI**, PhD candidate, Department of Urban Design and Planning, Univ. of Wash., (candidate for the Urban Design position in SCARP)
- **WHEN?** 12:30 - 2:00 PM Monday November 27
- **WHERE?** LASR 102
- **WHAT?** FORMS UNDER COLONIAL DOMINANCE: MAKING ALGIERS FRENCH

- **WHO?** **TARIK KHIATI**, PhD candidate, Department of Urban Design and Planning, Univ. of Wash., (candidate for the Urban Design position in SCARP)
- **WHEN?** 12:00 - 1:30 PM Tuesday November 28

- **WHERE?** LASR 207
- **WHAT?** SEMINAR ON MR. KHIATI'S RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- **WHO?** **TARIK KHIATI**, PhD candidate, Department of Urban Design and Planning, Univ. of Wash., (candidate for the Urban Design position in SCARP)
- **WHEN?** 5:00 - 6:00 PM Tuesday November 28
- **WHERE?** WMAX 140
- **WHAT?** MEETING WITH STUDENTS

- **WHO?** DR. ELIZABETH MACDONALD, Ass't professor, Dep't of Geography, Univ. of Toronto, (candidate for the Urban Design position in SCARP)
- **WHEN?** 1:00 - 2:30 PM Thursday November 30
- **WHERE?** LASR 104
- **WHAT?** STRUCTURING A LANDSCAPE/STRUCTURING A SENSE OF PLACE: THE ENDURING COMPLEXITY OF OLMSTED AND VAUX'S BROOKLYN PARKWAYS

- **WHO?** DR. ELIZABETH MACDONALD, Ass't professor, Dep't of Geography, Univ. of Toronto, (candidate for the Urban Design position in SCARP)
- **WHEN?** 12:30 - 2:00 PM Friday December 1
- **WHERE?** LASR 202
- **WHAT?** SEMINAR ON DR. MACDONALD'S RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- **WHO?** DR. ELIZABETH MACDONALD, Ass't professor, Dep't of Geography, Univ. of Toronto, (candidate for the Urban Design position in SCARP)
- **WHEN?** 5:00 - 6:00 PM Friday December 1
- **WHERE?** WMAX 140
- **WHAT?** MEETING WITH STUDENTS

- **WHO?** **VINIT SRIVASTAVA**, Microbiology, UBC
- **WHEN?** 8:00 PM Monday November 27
- **WHERE?** Fairmont Social Lounge
- **WHAT?** IS THERE A COMING ENERGY REVOLUTION?

GRADUATES OF SCARP

This section is dedicated to the graduates of SCARP. Yoshi Wada, PhD tells his story below.

YOSHI'S STORY

I spent ten years of my life in Vancouver as a graduate student at SCARP (between 1990 and 1999, for both MA and PhD). I feel very fortunate and grateful to have been given that opportunity because I was able to achieve my academic goals, thanks to tireless support from competent faculty members, efficient and friendly staff, and committed friends at SCARP, CHS and other departments at UBC.

Before coming to SCARP, I was engaged in international development work in Tokyo. There, I was deeply disappointed by the fact that development policies in general were driven by the growth paradigm, ignoring the criteria of ecological

sustainability which is the very basis for human survival. Thus, I had very high expectations of SCARP and I am glad to tell you that I was fully satisfied with the excellence of the SCARP/CHS programmes.

Presently, I am enjoying my first year of teaching experience in ecological economics at Sapporo University in Hokkaido, Japan. I have also been assigned to sit on a small committee on trade liberalization and environmental impact assessment commissioned by Japan's Environment Agency. Proudly, I am using the ecological footprint analysis and other planning skills and other ecological knowledge I have gained toward building a more sustainable Japan.

Thanks, and please remember that my warm thoughts are always with you.

Best wishes to you all, world leaders of a more sustainable 21st century!

Yoshihiko Wada (a 1999 SCARP graduate. Currently, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics at Sapporo University since April 2000.)

ALUMNI

We love to hear from alumni! Where are you, what are you doing? Send us your story, or just your address so we can keep in touch. Email eanderso@interchange.ubc.ca

PSA = PLANNING STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

For more information about the PSA visit their website at <http://www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/psa/>

PSA REPS FOR 2000/2001

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Web-site Coordinator: yotah@interchange.ubc.ca

Social Coordinators: Carole Jolly jolly@interchange.ubc.ca and Carl Johannsen carlan@interchange.ubc.ca

SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS

Are you interested in campus sustainability initiatives? Are you wondering how to get involved in sustainability groups on campus? Look no further! Check out www.sustain.ubc.ca and/or send ideas to Janet Moore (SCARP Sustainability Coordinator) janetmoo@interchange.ubc.ca. Also check back here in January for an article by Janet about the new SEEDS program and how you can help with campus sustainability!

- COMING SOON: commuter challenge, waste and paper reduction at SCARP!

SHORT COURSES - WINTER 2001

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING METHODS AND TOOLS (PLAN 548H)

- Instructor: Nora Angeles
- Credit value = 2.0
- Meetings: Saturday January 6, 13, 20 (9:00 am - 4:30 pm) and Saturday March 17 (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)
- Catalogue #71609

PLANNING PROBLEMS IN THE INNER CITY (PLAN 548L)

- Instructor: Tom Hutton
- Credit value = 1.0
- Meetings: every second Thursday (10:30 am - 12:30 pm) starting second week of January
- Catalogue #29023

BY-LAWS (PLAN 548Q)

- Instructor: Ray Young
- Credit value = 1.0
- Meetings: Monday February 12, 19, 26 (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
- Catalogue #84973

GROWTH MANAGEMENT (PLAN 548R)

- Instructor: Ray Young
- Credit value = 1.0
- Meetings: Monday March 5, 12, 19 (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
- Catalogue #54767

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Tony Dorcey who recently received the following award:

2000 Professional Award from the Canadian Water Resources Association British Columbia Branch

" in recognition of his outstanding professional contribution to water resources management in British Columbia."

FEEDBACK

This is my first time doing a newsletter for a web page, so I would appreciate any constructive criticism you might have about stories, layout, links that didn't work, or links you wish were there. Thanks!

Send your ideas, questions, comments to E. Anderson c/o wynn@interchange.ubc.ca

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