



2014 02

新西兰建筑师协会奥克兰分会专版报刊

城

大时代 小人物

重拾巨人的包袱



照片：大江

多民族云集在灯火照耀下的奥克兰灯会

大时代

何为大时代，倒是可以这样比喻。世界的赛场上，有位奔跑千年的巨人，黑色头发，黄色皮肤。放眼望去，曾与其并肩的赛跑者早已不知去向，只记得他们的名字叫埃及，印度，波斯，巴比伦。。。。。。时间不停，脚步不歇，巨人已满头白发，背着千年的包袱，被一帮青年人赶超过来。青年们身强体壮，思维清晰，顷刻间把巨人绕的原地打滚，他们则飞奔而去，转眼不见踪影。巨人伤痕累累，只得匍匐向前。为了追上青年，巨人边扔包袱，边锻炼身体魄，没命的追赶。巨人本就身高腿长，再加扔掉包袱，身形轻便，不久就追赶到了青年人左右。青年人吓了一跳，怎么也不觉得此巨人乃彼巨人。巨人吃过苦头，一门心思只愿往前跑，眨眼间，倒是有点那么要超过青年人的意思。时间不停，脚步不歇，巨人何去何从，能否变成一众之领军人物，或奔歧途而去，一念之差而已。巨人一念，乃世界之大时代。

小人物

巨人一步，带动无数小人物的命运。从小人物的命运，却也可看出点巨人去向。我们这些小人物的命运，兢兢业业工作，踏踏实实生活。小人物聚在一起，像草原，身上留着巨人踩过的脚印，却也铺着茫茫前路。草飘到新西兰生根，这里阳光明媚，四季宜人，却不忘那茫茫草原。今天城杂志为中国新年出中文特别版，有幸写此序文，由小人物观大时代。以下内容翻译主编的正文，头此一遭，如有翻译不当之处，请读者见谅。

近期新西兰先驱报曾有文章提及奥克兰的民族多元化比伦敦有过之而不及，亚洲社区也是奥克兰 200 个民族中增长最迅速的一个，如今，亚裔人口占新西兰总人口的 23%。最近几年，中国因发展伤了筋骨，大批华人慕新西兰的自然环境，干净食品及优越教育水平移民而来。

在建筑的领域中，亚裔的面孔也渐渐多了起来。如建筑系的众多的亚洲学生，上班的同事，承包商，专业顾问以及客户，亚裔身影无处不在。建筑领域外，身边的亚洲美食也对奥克兰城市有着翻天覆地的改变。华人餐厅仿佛昼夜不停歇，凌晨3点还能在 Dominion Road 找个地方坐下来吃饺子，啃羊肉串，和酸辣汤，如此美事在若干年前的奥克兰想都别想。

与我的华人同事聊天的时候才明白，在中国文化里，吃饭跟工作两者的细腻关系。在饭桌上谈生意其实正常不过，建筑领域更不例外。中国人讲人情，工作上也不例外。即使客户间彼此不熟，一起坐下来吃个饭，礼数人情也就到了。

在网上，建筑跟美食也紧密相连。比如 Cheshire Architects 设计的 Milse 跟 Nott Architects 设计的 Depot Restaurant 很快在微信和微博上传开，参与点评的数目，与广泛快捷的信息传播让本地媒体也望尘莫及。如果市内新开张了有意思的店面，很可能在微信或微博上被提及。除了美食，华人对房市也极为关注。最近 Hobsonville 和 Long Bay 的开发在华人圈里炒的火热，而很多本地的建筑师们对华人媒体关于房市的讨论一无所知。这可是 1/4 奥克兰人口都在关注的大问题啊。

本地大概有 1300 个大小建筑事务所订阅“城杂志”，但是阅读这个杂志的华人毕业生跟华人建筑师们则少之又少。大多觉得与自己无关，或无法参与其中。作为城杂志的编辑，我们虽然知道杂志迟早被丢进垃圾桶，可是这个发现仍让人不甘心。美国著名小说家哈兰·科本曾说，书写出来书没读者，就跟一个巴掌拍不响一个道理。如此用心办的杂志，却在华人圈里无人问津，让我的心情实在难以平复。基于华人社区在本地建筑界的影响越来越大，我们请了几位年轻的当地华人坐下来畅聊了一番。这并不是为了增多订阅量（翻译成了中文估计也没戏），而是从年轻的华人移民这里，踏踏实实的听听他们的声音和不同的想法，来从中寻找价值之所在。

Miranda 是 Skykiwi 的广告部经理, Skykiwi 则是新西兰本地最受关注的华人网站。网站上包罗万象, 涉及面深广, 从本地媒体不太提及的国际大事, 到流行趋势, 卖屋租房, 无微不至。在与她的交谈里了解到 Skykiwi 的初衷, 是想在海外给华人建立一个交流平台, 和心灵家园。这个平台并非是华人在另一种文化中的避难所, 而是通过此平台的大量的信息交流而融入我们共存的这个社会, 在未来里不分彼此。为此我还特意上了一下这个陌生的网站。跟新西兰先驱报的网站截然不同, 刚打开网页, 大量的信息量扑面而来, 图片, 文字, 闪烁的各种颜色让我有点不适应, 这不禁让我联想到了奥克兰夜市, 五彩缤纷而喧闹的空间感。慢慢的, 一个字也看不懂的我适应了这种节奏。Skykiwi 的网站像一面窗口, 让我窥探到了一个14亿人国家的庞大信息量。有趣的是在如此庞大的信息量里, 头条竟是关于新西兰一个几千人的小镇 (Petone) 的事情。

大江是个注册建筑师, 7年前在奥大建筑系毕业。最近几年他的大多数项目都在 Britomart 的餐饮业设计, 这些饭店和酒吧改变着奥克兰的夜生活。有趣儿的是做为中国人, 他参与设计了一个面向西方人的中餐馆。他经常从南美的餐饮文化中寻找灵感, 用丰富而不喧闹的空间设计把建筑和餐饮联系在一起。对于华人是否会喜欢一家餐厅, 他经常猜得很准。他说对于一些出名的洋人餐厅, 大部分华人还是望而却步, 因为对本地人的餐饮和酒吧文化仍有陌生感。相比起来, 倒不如在 Dominion 路上找个饭店大餐一顿来的舒服。

建筑师们每天都在试着了解别人的价值观以及生活方式, 从而创造空间。但要去了解另一种文化, 试着置身其中得到认同, 同时又可宏观的去审视这个陌生的文化, 就是另外一回事儿了。有时候文化碰撞说来就来。记得大江在早期的民宅设计里, 曾把一个双人床靠墙摆放, 等于睡在内侧的人若要下床, 需要越过睡在外侧的那位。这种摆放方式对一个曾长期居住楼房的中国人可能正常不过, 对于 kiwi 就是莫名其妙了。不过这种文化上的差异也恰好让他能以一个开放的设计眼光, 对已有的文化特征不斤斤计较, 这也体现在他的餐饮设计里。

在长期对本地华人移民的观察中, 有些事情也长期困扰着大江。在国内, 建筑师这个词可以说是个“新兴词”, 大部分人心目中除了设计楼房的工民建, 就是室内搞装修设计的。这与西方对建筑师的认知有很大区别。在中国的近几十年里, 大部分国人都是买到毛坯房, 然后室内装修, 很少人可以在一片空地, 找建筑师量身设计一个完全属于自己独一无二的宅子。在一个 14 亿人需要大量住宅的国度里, 建筑师能做的少得可怜, 反而大部分城市都是由设计院及承包商独立完成。很多在国内工作过的人可能了解, 其实国内只有少数的建筑事务所是可以出施工图, 而大多数都是把设计图递交给有牌照的设计院, 然后由设计院出施工图给承包商营造。在施工图和营造的过程中, 当初的设计得不到保障。在这种大环境下, 建筑师这个职业难免别忽视。在北京奥运会之后, 这一情况有很大改变, 国人对建筑有了新的认识, 国内知名的大学建筑系也渐渐多了起来, 王澍赢得了建筑界最高的奖项 (Pritzker Prize), 这些都是重新审视建筑师这个职业的开始。

本地的建筑师与华人的相互磨合将有很长的路要走, 在磨合的过程中, 应避免用已有的思维模式附加于令一文化背景, 而多些理解与包容。我们小人物继续观望大时代。 Sean Flanagan 原文, 大江序, 大江译文

Futuna Lecture Series 2014 Niall McLaughlin



瑞士出生, 爱尔兰毕业的英国建筑师 Niall McLaughlin。98年获得年度英国青年建筑师奖, 伦敦大学建筑系做客教授。他广受好评的 Edward King 主教礼拜堂荣获了伦敦营造者公会的金奖, 同时入围了 2013 斯特林建筑奖的候选人名单。他将来奥克兰做讲座, 时间地点如下。

Swiss-born, Irish-educated and London-based architect Niall McLaughlin was awarded Young British Architect of the Year in 1998 and is a visiting Professor of Architecture at University College London. His much lauded Bishop Edward King Chapel at Oxford was awarded the Gold Medal by the Worshipful Company of Carpenters in London, and was shortlisted for the 2013 Stirling Architecture Prize.

15 CPD points, 6.30pm Wed 19th March, Engineering Theatre 439, University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street. Tickets (\$20/\$15/\$10) available at www.dashtickets.co.nz/tour/554 or 0800 327 484.

Supported by Dulux, Metalcraft Roofing, Warren Trust and the NZIA



上期的城市地图收获好评。如果有人打算去 Hawkes Bay 旅行, 应该考虑在约翰宅留宿。宅子在坐落于Hasting和Havelock North的岔路口。约翰宅有 John Scott 设计的新屋, 和 Bossley 事务所设计的“庭院”。

We have had enthusiastic feedback about the the map included in the last issue. Anyone prompted to dash to Hawke's Bay for some archi-tourism should consider staying at John's House. Handily located in an orchard between Hastings and Havelock North the accommodation includes a John Scott-designed house, as well as a charming 'pavilion' designed by Bossley Architects. For more information, see: www.johnshouse.co.nz

NZIA Calender: February

Mon, 10th	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Home of the Year 2014 Lecture – Amanda Levete Fisher & Paykel Auditorium, Owen G. Glenn Building, University of Auckland, 12 Grafton Road
Thu, 13th	5:00 p.m. –	Annual General Meeting NZIA Office, Level 5 Zurich House, 21 Queen Street
Wed, 19th	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Futuna Lecture – Niall McLaughlin Engineering Lecture Theatre 439, 20 Symonds Street
Wed, 26th	3:45 – 7:30 p.m.	NZIA APL GDP Introductory/Registration Review Auckland Conference Centre, Carlaw Park, 12-16 Nicholls Lane, Parnell
Wed, 26th – Fri, 28th		PrefabNZ 2014 Conference Waipuna Hotel & Conference Centre, 58 Waipuna Road, Mount Wellington
Sun 30th	TBC	AAA Waiheke Tour Waiheke Island



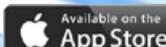
Take MAPEI with you.

Download our free mobile app.

Get the app today at your online Android or Apple app store (search for 'MAPEI NZ').



30 Fisher Crescent Auckland, 1060 T+64-99211994 E enquiries@mapei.co.nz
Mt Wellington New Zealand F+64-99211993 W www.mapei.co.nz



Big Times, Little People Architecture and the Asian Quarter

Photo: Dejjang Tai



Just beat it: Auckland's Asians bringing the night alive

A recent NZ Herald article described Auckland as a more ethnically diverse city than London. Amongst the 200 or so ethnic groups living in the city, the Asian community represents one of the fastest growing. Today, 23% of Tamaki Makau Rau's population identify themselves as being Asian, with migrants drawn from the East by a clean environment (world-media compare China's air pollution to a nuclear winter), safe food, and a good education system.

For the architectural community, the growing presence registers on many levels, from good numbers of Asian students in the architecture schools through to daily contact with Asian peoples as colleagues, contractors, consultants, and clients. And alongside the professional connections lie gastronomic ones. Asian food and dining culture has had a profound effect on the city's taste buds and its circadian rhythms. What pure joy it is to sit down to a feast of dumplings, cumin squid, and hot-and-sour soup at 3am somewhere on Dominion Road, and to think you still had to queue for 20mins at that time of the morning.

Food and architecture are never far apart in Chinese culture. It is traditional for business to be conducted over food, and that extends to architecture too. As an architect, one very rarely has a client – this is a foreign concept for Chinese – but more typically one has an associate or a friend. And friends conduct their business in a friendly manner, hence so often over dinner.

In the online world too, food, architecture, and its criticism overlap. In Asian oriented social media like Weibo and Weixin, Cheshire Architect's Milise and Nott Architect's Depot restaurants both garnered much attention, with a quantum of praise, commentary and review that leaves local media looking lead-footed. If you've done something interesting in the city, there's a good chance you're being talked about here. And the topics stray from food too, into lengthy discussions of housing developments in Hobsonville and Long Bay. Housing is of incredible interest to the Asian community and the vibrant discussions of this topic online probably take place unbeknownst to many Auckland architects, which is something of concern given a quarter of the city's population are involved.

Continued on inside back cover...

NEED HELP? DON'T COME TO US!

... JUST GIVE US A CALL AND WE'LL COME TO YOU.

You're too busy and time is a precious commodity these days so, if you need help or advice with any of your printing, copying or presentation requirements, please just call us and we will send a knowledgeable person who will attempt to help in whatever way he is able. His advice is free but tea and biscuits are always appreciated as he doesn't get them at home.



On Mayoral Drive in the City

Ph 303 4716 copy@copybook.co.nz www.copybook.co.nz

Big Times, Little People *Continued from back cover...*

An interest in understanding the involvement of the Asian community in the architectural scene prompted a recent round table discussion with a number of young, enterprising Chinese migrants. Whilst Block is sent out to about 1300 local Institute members and practices, I was told it was unlikely to be read by many young Asian graduates and architects. They were unlikely to see it as relevant to them, or as something over which they had a sense of ownership. As Block editors, we see it as our role to produce content that slows down the pamphlet's inevitable slide to the recycling bin, but such a blunt assessment of its irrelevancy was confronting. A writer without a reader is, according to author Harlan Coben, rather like someone trying to clap with one hand – ineffective and ridiculous in equal parts. Ego-bruised, worried for our Asian associates about the glorious prose they were missing out on, and more seriously troubled by the fact a significant group felt little connection with the Branch's efforts, we sat down to listen and learn a bit more about the Asian quarter.

Miranda Zhong is a senior marketing executive for SkyKiwi, the largest Chinese-focused website in New Zealand and a portal for migrants to connect with everything from world news (something thought to lack coverage in local media) and local politics (a popular topic), through to online shopping for the latest fashions, or purchasing a house, or finding a hot date. The SkyKiwi Web Forum is the most visited Chinese online community in New Zealand.

Miranda spoke passionately about SkyKiwi's interest in fostering the Chinese community's sense of communality in a foreign land. In the face of the strangeness of daily life, SkyKiwi offers migrants a virtual home, a place where the news and views have some familiarity. But this was not the home as a place of retreat or an escape from 'assimilation' – surely one of the most troubling demands made of migrants world over. It was instead a home that emboldened many to step out into a different place with the confidence of a shared experience.

A visit to SkyKiwi is like a trip to a foreign land. Thread after thread opens, taking you ever deeper into all manner of information. The graphic design is intense and tightly packed. It may be the foreign font, but that density, along with flickers of colour and the tightly-boxed installments of news share something of the spatial characteristics of a night market – busy, bustling, noisy. There is too much to take in. The message is one of being comfortable with the chaos, letting it wash over. Nothing could be so antithetical to the explicitness of say the Herald's website. SkyKiwi offers a picture of the information age brought to us by people from a nation of 1.4 billion. The site carries their sense of momentum and scale. And yet amongst it all, indeed in the headlines, are tales of suburban New Zealand like the latest happenings in Petone (population just a few thousand).

Dajiang Tai graduated from Auckland University School of Architecture about 7 years ago and recently completed his architectural registration. Over the course of the past several years he has been heavily involved in helping shape Britomart's hospitality scene, working on the design of a number of restaurants and bars to bring the precinct to life after hours. In the midst of this, Tai has found himself in the unusual situation of being a Chinese migrant helping design venues for Asian cuisine that are informed by Eastern aesthetic compulsions, but positioned in the market to serve western diners. He's also turned his hand to Mexican and Cajun cultures in the search for rich interior experiences, further mining the design opportunities latent in the meeting of architecture and cuisine. And on each occasion he has a clear idea of which projects will and won't appeal to his Chinese friends. He describes how they will often shy away from some of the city's enticing restaurants. They may look on with curiosity, but will not enter on account of the environment being too formal, too different to the casual, boisterous eateries they're used to. This casual-expectation explains why so many of the superb food spots along Dominion Road describe themselves as 'cafes', shunning the sentiments associated with a 'restaurant.'

Architects are always stepping into other's shoes, living lives vicariously to imagine the spaces they require. But it must be an entirely different level of imaginative engagement to live through another culture vicariously, coming to terms with its norms and

expectations, while being outside enough to challenge them. Sometimes those challenges meet convention head-on, like Tai's early brushes with domestic architecture and his tendency to show a double-bed in a small room with the bed hard-up against one of the walls. Whoever slept on the far side had amorous task of slinking across the bed to get in and out. It was a room arrangement that made sense to Chinese youth, but one unlikely to catch on here. Nonetheless, it made clear the task at hand for Tai, instilling an awareness of the way in which culture manifests itself in the most pragmatic things like furniture and its arrangement. It was a lesson that later brought rewards in restaurant design with an openness to inventive seating arrangements that heighten the intensity and the intimacy of the diner's experience. Indeed, many of Tai's interior design sketches turn around furniture ideas, beginning with the section of a chair or banquet and moving out from there.

As well as holding firm beliefs about the projects that will and won't engage his Chinese friends, Tai has strident opinions on how Chinese migrants view architecture. In China, the general public tends not to come into contact with architects and, when they do, the architects are rarely seen to be the ones with the power to affect the built environment. A history of mass housing in the Republic leads many to move into cold shell apartments that they may decorate, but rarely do they have the opportunity to build something new or to make a fundamental change. This tends to be the domain of the state or the corporation, rather than the individual. And those architects working at the scale required to house 1.4 billion people often act in roles subordinate to engineers and contractors. Tai says that many Kiwis who have worked in China will understand that the architect does not issue construction drawings. There is another strata of engineers and technicians more closely aligned with the contractor who take things through to construction and who have the authority to make whatever changes they see fit. In this context, there is a historically dilute understanding of the role of the architect. But, says Tai, this is changing, in large part due to the success of the Beijing Olympics and the revelations this brought for Chinese about what architecture can be and do. There are also now a number of architecture schools in China gaining good reputations and the likes of Wang Shu winning the Pritzker Prize all help to raise awareness of the profession and the importance of design. The lesson for us here though is that many migrants have never been exposed to the opportunities that working with an architect can provide and the idea of engaging with our profession is, historically, something far beyond their experience.

Closing out the discussion, Tai shared a parable about how younger Chinese may see their place in the world. The parable could be entitled "Big Times, Little People". Drawing on language and imagery understood in Chinese culture, he described how China was a like a giant that had been running in a race for thousands of years. The giant used to run alongside other giants who have now disappeared and only their names survive – Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, Persia, Babylon. As time passed, the giant's hair greyed and its gait was slowed by baggage collected over thousands of years. And as the giant slowed, it was passed by the young – new nations and new economies. But the giant wants to catch-up. It throws off its baggage and exercises its might. It draws on its ancient experience of running alongside other giants, an experience far beyond that which the young can understand. The giant runs non-stop day and night until it catches up with the young, frightening them as it runs by. These days are 'big times' for China; the giant is up and running again. And with every step the giant takes, it carries the fate of countless little people with it. But little people are like the grass. Together they make a field. And as a field they carry the giant's footsteps. *Sean Flanagan*

Each Block is laid by a dedicated editorial team:

Andrew Barrie	a.barrie@auckland.ac.nz
Nathaniel Cheshire	nat@cheshirearchitects.com
Pip Cheshire	pip@cheshirearchitects.com
Sean Flanagan	sean@cheshirearchitects.com
Ian Scott	ian@cheshirearchitects.com

Ph+64 9 358 2770 PO Box 90952 AMSC