



Winter 2017

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (VOTING MEMBERS):

Emily Fultz, Vice Chair Secretary-Treasurer

Michael Kolber, Vice Chair At-Large

Marc Lewis-DeGrace, Vice Chair of Events

Alan Mammoser, Vice Chair of Communications

Ric Stephens, Vice Chair of Special Projects

Tim Van Epp, Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NONVOTING MEMBERS):

Functional Coordinators -

Miroo Desai, International Exchange Coordinator

Tippe Morlan, Membership Coordinator

Sou Souvanny, Social Media Coordinator

Sean Tapia, Interplan Newsletter Publisher and Website Coordinator

TBD, Student Liason

Special Interest Coordinators -

Vatsal Bhatt, Smart Cities Coordinator and USGBC Liaison

Jennifer Senick, Health Planning Coordinator

TBD, Central and Eastern European Planners Network Coordinator

APA STAFF LIAISONS:

Jennie Gordon, Senior Leadership Coordinator

Jeff Soule, Director of Outreach and International Programs

Chair's Column



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Fall Leadership Meeting

I represented the International Division at the annual Fall Leadership Meeting in Washington, DC on September 22-24. Topics addressed during the official agenda sessions, as well as informal side meetings, include: on-boarding planning for the massive influx of new student members to divisions; planning for the joint Oregon Chapter/ ISOCARP Conference in October, World Town Planning Day in November, and National Planning Conference in April; establishing an International Strategy Task Force; taking the Smart Cities Initiative global; developing international Community Planning Assistance Teams initiatives; implementing our Divisions Council Research Grant on planning livable communities for ALL ages; establishing International Division geographic sections; identifying

ways to facilitate division succession planning; and learning what is coming on several new APA online tools. We will be reporting on these other developments and initiatives in upcoming issues of our Interplan newsletter and in future e-blasts.

Policy and Advocacy Conference

This year's Policy & Advocacy Conference was held in Washington, DC on September 24-26. The Division was represented by Vice Chair, Marc Lewis-DeGrace, who reported that it was an excellent opportunity to meet fellow planners, learn about hot topics in planning, and learn how to become a better advocate for planning. The Division has identified several concerns that we feel may be addressed by the APA Policy and Advocacy staff relating to recognizing the importance of planners in international development aid and development agencies putting more planners on their staffs and consultant rosters. (See full article below)

Oregon APA/ISOCARP Conference

I attended this conference in Portland, Oregon on October 24-26. ISOCARP's part of the joint meeting was of course managed by our Vice Chair of Special Projects, Ric Stephens, who is also President of ISOCARP. In addition, the Division sponsored a session on implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda in US cities at which Division member, Greg Scruggs, spoke and I served as moderator. Special thanks go to past Chair, Laura Buhl, for staffing the Division's table in the exhibit area and for the sage management advice provided in our discussions. I was also fortunate enough to meet with our Social Media Coordinator, Sou Souvanny, while at the conference.

World Town Planning Day (WTPD)

This year the APA International Division, with technical support from the APA communications staff, put on the APA's version of a WTPD program. The program consisted of six sessions, mainly pre-recorded from recent conferences, addressing the application of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda across different geographic levels, sectors and contexts. Sessions covered planning livable communities for all ages, environmental planning at the regional and territorial level, and cultural heritage planning for resilience. The program was aired not only on WTPD, November 8, but remained accessible online until November 30. Several APA International Division members are featured among the speakers, including former Vice Chair of Communications, Victoria Okoye, Greg Scruggs and myself. (See full article below)

Planning Livable Communities for ALL Ages

An international coalition of planners, led by the APA international Division and AARP, and supported with in-kind resources provided by APA International Division partner Arup, have launched an initial international research effort aimed at learning how best to engage planners to incorporate planning livable communities for ALL ages. A key project output will be to broaden and make available to planners a set of relevant awareness building techniques, tools and best practices. This project is funded by a \$7,000 Divisions Council Research Grant. The project core team includes Stephanie Firestone (AARP), Michael Amabile (Arup) and myself. (See full article below)

Students and Young Professionals

A major topic of both the meetings was “on-boarding” –i.e., welcoming and engaging -- the influx of new student members to all of the divisions resulting from the recent policy of offering student members up to five free division memberships. This has led to a near doubling of many divisions’ member rosters, including the International Division’s. Our Vice Chair-at-Large, Mike Kolber, is leading the Division’s response by adapting and applying APA’s student and new member on-boarding plan and toolkit, including initial welcoming letter and recognitions, follow-up survey of student needs, as well as student mentoring programs, competitions, town halls and regional meetups. (See full article below)

Annual Performance Report

The International Division Executive Committee supported Chair, Tim Van Epp, in preparing the Division’s FY2017 Annual Performance Report (APR), which not only covers performance under our approved work plan and budget for FY2017 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017), but also presents our proposed work plan and budget for FY2018. We will post this report on our Division webpage once it has been approved by the Divisions Council. In addition, though, as Chair I must participate in one Divisions Council committee which in the past 2 years has been the APR Review Committee, so I have started the process of reviewing and commenting on the APRs of several other Divisions that have been assigned to me. Next up will be to prepare our entries for the Divisions Council’s annual performance awards.

Tim Van Epp, APA International Division Chair

tvanepp@gmail.com



1 - Marc Lewis-DeGrace (left) and Tim Van Epp (right) receive the Overall Division Performance Award from Linda Amato, APA Divisions Council Chair, at the National Planning Conference. Photo by Roy L. Carrington. (C) 2016 American Planning Association.

News



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Welcome Students to the International Division!

With the expanded number of free student memberships to APA Divisions, we have had an explosion in students joining our division, so we thought we should tell you a bit more about ourselves. I am Michael Kolber, serving as your Vice-Chair At Large. In this role, I am in charge of several of the programs that you may wish to take advantage of as International Division Members. I would like to introduce you now to some of the opportunities you have as Division Members:

Student Grant program – The International Division funds two or so students every year to travel, do some research, and write a paper and a newsletter article for us. We will pay \$1,000 to reimburse you for the expenses of your trip. The only catch is that you have to write an independent paper for us. No doubling up and handing us your thesis. Questions about the student grant program can be sent to me at makolber@gmail.com

Meetups – This Spring, the International Division will be restarting doing meetups around the country. It is as simple as finding a place for a group of us to congregate, setting date and time, and doing some advertising. People meet, network, profess their undying love for international planning, and generally have a good time. We have had meetups in the past in New York, Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco, and we would be interested in having these in other places as well. We do depend on local hosts to help put these together, so if you are interested in hosting an event, please write to me.

Newsletter – A great way to beef up your resumes is to publish, and Interplan (the thing you are reading right now) is always looking for material. Write about your work, your research, or your travels, and we will print it if it is interesting. Please get in touch with Alan Mammoser, our Vice-Chair OF Communications, to discuss your newsletter ideas.

Social Media – We have two social media outlets. Facebook is open to the world. LinkedIn is available only to members. Please avail yourselves of these tools to connect with other planners.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanPlanningAssociationInternationalDivision/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4628281>

Conferences – The International Division has a large presence at the APA National Conference, running sessions, a business meeting, a reception, and often a mobile workshop. Several of our members serve as mentors for young planners at the conference. The Division is a primary organizer for the annual World Town Planning Day Online Conference, and we also routinely help organize or participate in other key conferences around the world, including the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in 2016; the ISOCARP World Congress in Portland, Oregon in 2017; and the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur coming up in 2018.

Leadership Opportunities – The International Division maintains a Student Representative on our leadership team, and we are always looking for members to take additional leadership roles. The Division is currently trying to increase our ability to do research, develop policy, and lobby, so there is plenty to do.

I have mentioned several of our Executive Board Members already. You should also be aware of Emily Fultz, our Vice Chair Secretary-Treasurer, who safeguards our funds. Marc-Lewis DeGrace is our Vice Chair of Events; you can reach out to him with any questions about our activities at the National Planning Conference. Our Vice-Chair of Special Projects, Ric Stephens, is also the President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and helps us to stay engaged in that world. Finally, our Chair, Tim Van Epp, is the glue who holds our division together. All of us are excited to have you in our division, and we look forward to working together to advance the cause of planning around the world!

Your Vice-Chair At-Large,

Michael Kolber

Host a Division Meetup in Your City in February 2018

Would you like to host a local meetup in your city? The APA International Division is hosting regional meetups in February 2018, and we are looking for local organizers to help us set up events. There are four things that we need local organizers to do:

1. Identify the time and location of the meetup in your region
2. Assist with the publication of meetup (we will help as well)
3. Act as a host for the meetup on the day of the event.
4. Write a blurb about the results of your meetup for our newsletter (or find someone else who will!)

Anyone interested in hosting a meetup event can get in touch with Michael Kolber at makolber@gmail.com

Window to the World



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Reconnect people with their urban heritage: a contextual look

Report on Silk Cities 2017 Conference

by Farnaz Arefian



2 - Statue of Lenin in the central square of Dushanbe.



3 - Statue of Firdavsi, the epic Persian poet.



4 - Statue of Ismoil Somoni, the 10th-Century king of the Samanid dynasty.



5 - Farnaz Arefian at the recent Silk Cities Conference.

The Silk Cities 2017 International Conference entitled, ***Reconnect population to urban heritage in the Middle East & Central Asia***, organized by Silk Cities Initiative and The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, was held at University College London, UK, 11-13 July 2017.

Conference participants considered urban continuity, which once existed across generations in physical and social terms and has been interrupted in the midst of rapid urbanisation, globalisation and urban economic pressures, in addition to conflicts and frequent destructive natural hazards. Taking a forward-looking approach, the conference applied cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral perspectives to examine contemporary historic cities in the region.

The aim of the Silk Cities Initiative (www.silk-cities) is to broaden the exchange worldwide and across professions and generations in regard to contextual urban challenges. A peer-reviewed book, based on selected conference papers, is now being edited and will be published.

Case studies specifically addressed Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Serbia, Syria, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. They were grouped around the following thematic topics:

- Urban heritage and cultural identity
- Governing urban heritage
- Post-crisis urban reconstruction in historic contexts
- Urban economy in an inclusive society in a historic city
- Potential policy transfer on urban heritage

The conference highlighted the danger of focusing on the physical restoration of historic buildings, ensembles or neighbourhoods and turning them into static museum environments, thereby preventing the influence of changing everyday life. The same goes for the evolution of building technologies and materials. For example, when certain crafts are no longer available what is a legitimate modern replacement? What happens to not only the built environment but also its intangible historic meaning, its economic role and the people who use it?

One case study that I found of particular interest came from Dushanbe in Tajikistan. It provided an interesting example of the interaction between culture, policy and identity. An examination of comparing the change in the forms of urbanisation (soviet – post-soviet) in Dushanbe highlighted that a top-down approach to reconnecting population with urban heritage is about selectivity, power and politics on asserting local, national and international interests; tensions between authenticity and a depiction of an “accurate” past and conveying a selected identity. Layers of history are removed, while others are highlighted; this affects people directly, creating spatial or cultural separations. The statue of Lenin in the central square of Dushanbe was in the central location during the soviet era until 1991 (fig. Dushanbe 1). In post-soviet era in 1991 it was replaced by statue of Firdavsi, the epic Persian poet (fig. Dushanbe 2). The statue of Firdavsi was later in 1996 replaced by the statue of Ismoil Somoni, the 10th-century king of the Samanid dynasty in an imposing composition (fig. Dushanbe 3).

A more detailed conference report has been published in Urban Design Journal, issue 144, autumn 2017, <http://www.udg.org.uk>. You can also read the full Conference report at <http://silk-cities.org/post-conference-report> and see more images at <http://silk-cities.org/conference-photos>. For more information on Silk Cities Initiative visit www.silk-cities.org.

Also, you may write to me with inquiries at f.arefian@silkcities.org

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Division Business

Joint APA-AARP Initiative: INTERNATIONAL PLANNING OF LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Project Background:

- Planners must increasingly shift their approach to planning for a US population with nearly 20% over age 65 by 2030 and 90% of those wanting the many benefits of aging in their homes or communities. In addition, planning that promotes aging in community also makes communities better for children and young families.
- US and European planners share these concerns and can thus benefit from each other's experience in addressing them. European countries are about 5 years ahead of the US aging curve and are already making the built environment, housing, transportation and services appropriate and accessible for aging citizens.
- Sustainable Development Goal 11 makes explicit reference to accommodating older persons, including access to safe, affordable and sustainable transport systems and safe, inclusive and green public spaces. The New Urban Agenda also recognizes the importance of planning for all ages, containing 27 references to aging- terms relevant to planning, including participation, transport, public space, safety, housing and resilience.

Objectives and Scope: An international coalition of planners, led by the APA and AARP, and supported by in-kind resources provided by International Division partner Ove Arup, have launched an initial international research effort aimed at learning how best to engage planners to incorporate *planning livable communities for ALL ages* in their everyday planning work. This project relates to the APA Divisions Council initiative, *Aging and Livable Communities*, involving an ongoing partnership with AARP. The present international research seeks to:

- Launch an international discussion on how to advance planning for ALL ages, and broaden the set of awareness building techniques, tools and best practices
- Produce initial findings on how to engage planners to prioritize aging, which can serve to generate broader interest in deeper learning and sharing on this topic moving forward to later project phases
- Extend the benefits of this work from planners working in the US to planners globally

Tentative Approach and Outputs:

- Conduct webinar during World Town Planning Day (WTPD) online conference: (1) planning for aging in context of UN SDGs, (2) lessons from prior US studies of planner engagement with aging, and (3) launch of APA-AARP international research effort, starting with post-webinar survey and new open online platform for sharing
- Conduct post-webinar survey of participants' experiences with engagement, and willingness to participate in further research – information or feedback on policies, best practices, tools, case studies
- Cull from survey data to target planners for follow-up to share best practices – via interviews or online platform – and manage online/offline data collection

- APA NPC – Convene two sessions, including (1) a panel discussion, summarizing the WTPD webinar and reporting key findings from the post-webinar survey and online databank, and (2) a facilitated discussion to elicit further input and inform next steps
- Prepare awareness building, tools and best practices guidance, and possibly providing long-term accessibility to best practices via APA's Resource Knowledge Base and to tools via APA's Community Planning Portal

How You Can Participate:

- Contact Project Manager, Stephanie Firestone, AARP International, at sfirestone@aarp.org, or Tim Van Epp, Chair, APA International Division, at tvanepp@gmail.com

2017 Policy and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC

This year's Policy & Advocacy Conference was an excellent opportunity to meet fellow planners, learn about hot topics in planning, and learn how to become a better advocate for planning. Some of the sessions provided planners with practice on working with media, understanding legal issues for local APA Chapters (for those all important Law CM credits), and prospects for infrastructure spending in the United States under the current administration.

Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the plenary session talk by Richard Florida; *Equity and Economic Development*. Mr. Florida's talk traced his personal story, offering examples of the changing urban landscape over the past 50 years and discussing the writing of his best seller, *The Rise of the Creative Class*. In looking to the future, with the publication of his most recent book, *The New Urban Crisis*, Mr. Florida discussed some of the shortcomings of the *Creative Class* and how we as planners have an important role in shaping and influencing elected leaders and our collective urban future.

The International Division has identified several concerns that we feel may be addressed by the APA Policy and Advocacy staff:

- USG bilateral development agencies and US-funded multilateral development banks are not investing in planning as much as their urban development project portfolios suggest they should be. And when they do invest in planning projects, the scopes of work often do not reflect planning as APA and US planners believe it should be practiced.
- The cause for this problem, or at least another symptom of it, is that there are too few planners on staff at these agencies and other disciplines are used instead. Similarly, the RFPs for procuring consultants for urban development projects often call for engineers and economists, even if they are calling it a planning project.
- We believe the budgets for environmental and climate change work in specific, and for international development work in general, are still in jeopardy.

Perhaps not all of these issues can or should be addressed by lobbying Congress, though it should be researched how Congressional appropriations might relate to these issues. It may be more effective to lobby the relevant agencies directly, applying our various planning awareness communications tools. The International Division and Federal Planning Division should be able to help identify the right

contacts at these agencies and our divisions have discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring a session on planning at Federal agencies doing international development at the Federal Planning Division's pre-conference next April; this may be an effective way of better defining the issues.

The above scope may be ambitious, but will be a good start of a dialog that the International Division and APA Policy and Advocacy staff can continue in the coming year. Meanwhile, please reach out with any questions or feedback you may have to Marc Lewis-DeGrace at marc.lewisdegrace@gmail.com.

Project Gallery

International Research Grants Program

Jackie Bucheck and Unai Miguel Andres were recipients of grants for 2016 in Cambodia and South Korea. They've submitted their reports and summaries appear below. These will be added to the growing body of research on our website.

Economic Development and Biodiversity Degradation in Post-conflict Cambodia

Research conducted by Jackie Bucheck, MSP Candidate, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida State University

Summary

Cambodia constitutes a vital part of the Mekong River basin and larger Indo-Burmese biodiversity hotspot. It is home to the largest tracts of contiguous forest in Southeast Asia, as well as globally unique ecosystems and accompanying populations of wild deer, birds, reptiles, and iconic species such as the Asian elephant and Indochinese Tiger. The conservation of these ecosystems is of global environmental importance, but domestically their products are depended upon by local populations for livelihoods and by private and government entities for revenue. This has made Cambodia a hotbed for the competing interests of economic development and conservation efforts.

This abundance of natural resources has enabled Cambodia to effortlessly enter the global market as it has liberalized its economy, leading to significant growth in GDP over recent decades. Economic growth has attracted both foreign direct investment and official development assistance, but funds are channeled through a corrupt government, which has direct links to large-scale, often illegal, deforestation-causing projects (e.g. timber, mineral, or wildlife harvesting). These projects often infringe upon community lands, having a substantial impact on local populations, as most Cambodians live in rural areas and are directly dependent on ecosystem services and natural resources for their livelihoods. Furthermore, rapid deforestation and resource extraction has sent ecosystems and accompanying wildlife species into steep decline. Consequently, national economic growth brought with it an enhanced quality of life for some, but left many of the most economically disadvantaged populations further marginalized on the path to this growth.

After interning with WWF Cambodia, conducting supporting research, and holding a series of 16 stakeholder interviews, I came to understand planning in Cambodia as a product of its history and as affected by the three previously mentioned factors: economic growth, foreign aid, and domestic

government corruption. My conclusions support the idea that, due to the corrupt nature of Cambodia's government, economic development (as indicated by GDP) and foreign aid (ODA and FDI) are related to biodiversity degradation.

- For more information, write to Jackie at jackiebucheck@gmail.com

Discovering A Biophilic Seoul

Research conducted by Unai Miguel Andres, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, Ball State University

Summary

Despite being inhabited for more than 2000 years; the city of Seoul grew in complete isolation from other cultures until the 19th century. However, as a result of being almost completely destroyed during the Korean War, the city spent most of the second half of the 20th century trying to rebuild itself. After recovering, Seoul shifted its policies to become a sustainable development-oriented city. As a result, the city engaged in its first major nature recovery project, the Mt. Namsan Restoration project, and it enacted the first 5-year Plan for Park & Green Spaces, which pinpointed the start of the Green Seoul Era.

Biophilic cities are (ideal) cities that have copious amounts of nature, as a part of their design. Prior research has revealed that biophilic urbanism helps reducing urban heat island effect, and greenhouse emissions while bringing the emotional and psychological benefits of nature into the urban environment. However, the existing biophilic literature is largely focused on North American and European cities and, therefore, biophilic elements of non-western cities have yet to be comprehensively studied.

This study aims to complement the current biophilic urbanism movement, by recording and analyzing some of the elements occurring in the Asian city of Seoul, Korea. To do so, surveys about the inclusion of nature in Seoulites' lives were conducted throughout the city, as well as an inventory of the major nature-related projects the city has completed in last two decades. The survey revealed that two-thirds of Seoulites are involved in some kind of nature or outdoor oriented organization. Some of these organizations have had significant roles in the greening of the city and the government has acknowledged their role by sharing the management of parks with NPOs. It created the Green Seoul Citizens' Committee in 1995, which became one of the first forms ever of participatory governance in the city. The nature-related projects inventory provides a set of great examples of how citizens can help the city create new natural spaces. It also shows how the green spaces are portraits of some Korean cultural values such as the respect to prior generations, the importance of community relationships and engagement, and the importance of maintaining someone's pride intact.

- For more information, write to Unai at umiguelandre@bsu.edu



6 - Gyeongui Line Forest Park.



7 - Seoul from Namsan.



8 - Unai Miguel Andres at Yanghwa Hangang Park.

Publication Information



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About this Publication

Interplan is the flagship publication of the APA International Division. The newsletter provides a space to share stories and information about international planning professionals, efforts, and events. It is published three times per year.

How to Contribute

To submit articles, news, and photos, please review the editorial guidelines at <https://goo.gl/wzqEGu>.

To view past issues since 2002, please go to

<https://www.planning.org/divisions/international/newsletter> and log into your account.

Sketchy globe drawing created by [Freepik](#).