

Welcome to FOCUS X! This tenth volume of FOCUS represents a milestone achievement. With it we celebrate a decade of annual examination of the CRP family's civic and intellectual engagement with communities and places in California and around the world. The commitment to this cause of managing editor, Dr. Vicente del Rio, senior faculty in CRP, has made this possible. Under his guidance FOCUS has become an award-winning journal that makes a key contribution to the department by documenting products of the intellectual curiosity of the CRP community.



forged. This issue of FOCUS with its decidedly international flavor of contributions represents a continuation of this professional dialogue. It celebrates the ways in which CRP faculty, students, alumni and extended family of practicing professionals recognize that the field of planning functions in a truly global, thickly interrelated, world. It is one where what happens on our doorstep in California's central coast is informed, influenced and shaped by the forces at work all over the world. FOCUS presents us an opportunity to reflect on planners' observations and discoveries of these forces.

The journal has evolved through this decade. Sustaining FOCUS and its success has been important to the department for many reasons, not the least of which is that it distinguishes CRP in that few planning departments in the US academy have a journal quite like it—one that is exclusively dedicated to the concerns and questions of the planning profession. This contribution is particularly important at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo given the university-wide emphasis on learning through action (learn-by-doing) that requires substantial commitment of time and effort from both faculty and students. The emphasis on teaching excellence can be all consuming. The ability to contribute to FOCUS offers a collective opportunity to step back from the day to day teaching pressures to reflect on the larger intellectual concerns and commitments that drive the planning profession to strive to make a difference to society. The pages in this volume illustrate that these concerns are many and varied ranging from affordable housing and neighborhood planning in California to visioning futures for Vietnam and Mumbai.

This past year CRP activity represents inspiration on many fronts. In February-March CRP faculty (Boswell and Greve) organized and hosted the very successful California Climate Action Planning Conference (CCAPC 2013) the first of its kind in the state. It attracted policy makers and practitioners from agencies throughout California and beyond. Registration quickly reached capacity and was closed. A Cal Poly team won the Bank of America Affordable Housing Challenge in 2013, making for a three-year winning streak over excellent projects from universities such as UC Berkeley and Irvine. Three interdisciplinary teams with students from CRP, Business Administration, Architecture and Construction Management entered the competition reflecting a growing interest in the issue of enhancing housing access. In July 2013, US planning academics joined European counterparts in a joint ACSP/AESOP congress in Dublin Ireland around the theme of Planning for Resilient Cities and Regions. Four CRP faculty (Main, Riggs, Siembieda, Dandekar) presented their research on topics ranging from city resilience, sustainability to health. Important cross-national connections were

CRP faculty have been engaged globally and locally. Over the last two years, faculty (Simbieda, Greve) have spent time in residence as distinguished fellows at Kyoto University. CRP faculty have been actively engaged in consultative work in Brazil (del Rio), Chile (Simbieda) and Bolivia (Dandekar), and at the same time as they have made very significant contributions to the conversation about, and planning for, climate change, hazards mitigation and resilience (Boswell, Conn, Greve, Siembieda, and Topping). Our students have engaged in studio projects that have contributed to planning in small and large communities throughout the State and all had city partners who made substantial financial and time commitments to their efforts.

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design, under the leadership of Dean Christine Theodoropoulos, has embarked on a strategic planning, action oriented process scheduled for completion in this academic year. The goal is to envision and refine future growth scenarios and emphasis of the college. CRP faculty, students and staff are constructively involved in this effort. The moral of the CRP family remains high and faculty have been entrepreneurial and creative in seeking out alternative sources of support and resources to keep the intellectual life at CRP robust. Given the goodwill and persistence of all we have had a very successful year, one to celebrate and be proud of.

In my four years as Department Head of CRP I have learned to appreciate the values of the CRP community and the dedication of its faculty to student learning and excellence. Our network of alumni and friends have supported us providing students with internships, serving as mentors, offering projects for our studios, organizing alumni reunions, and, endowing scholarships for students. We thank them deeply. Through this volume of FOCUS we welcome you to the rich and interesting world of CRP.

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