

FOCUS 12! Should we celebrate the dozen? As the managing editor, I sincerely think so! Keeping a publication such as FOCUS alive and growing for twelve years is no small endeavor. A dozen is a magic number: it means endurance, insistence, persistence, resilience... But then, I feel like having arrived to a beautiful mountain top only to find out that there is another, even more attractive peak, beyond and waiting in the distance.

That's how I felt when my department colleague William Riggs proposed that FOCUS should have a new section with peer-reviewed essays; an idea enthusiastically supported by all CRP faculty. As there are numerous excellent academic-oriented peer-reviewed publications in the planning field, we felt that there was a need for a section that reflected FOCUS's original mission and showcased professionally-oriented and pragmatic contributions in planning and urban design. The current issue includes the first articles submitted through our on-line process, each approved by two blind reviewers and the editors. We are very thankful to these authors, to others who submitted and, needless to say, to the reviewers who donated their time and intellectual capacity to help us.

As customary, FOCUS starts with an opinion piece, The Professional Planner, where CRP faculty Chris Clark and William Riggs discuss whether digital tools can better planning practice. The Special Events Section opens with the keynote presentation from the 2015 California Climate Action Planning Conference by Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal. Held at Cal Poly, this was the second such conference organized by CRP faculty and co-sponsored by the Governor's Office of Planning & Research. More than 300 participants from all over the state discussed the 2030 emissions targets, advances in climate planning, updated protocols and guidance, and much more. Also in this section, Jana Schwartz reports on a presentation by John Gilderbloom, professor at the University of Louisville. Sponsored by the Resilient Communities Research Institute, he spoke at Cal Poly about his visions for livable communities and the intricacies and impact of planning jargon.

The new Peer-Reviewed follows with three three contributions. Chilean professor Laura Rodriguez discusses the relationship between urban design, identity and meaning in the case of the university campus in Concepcion—one of the oldest and most important cities in Chile. Next, Stephen Takyi presents an analysis of the evolution of park planning in Vancouver and shows how the increase of recreational facilities in parks may be at odds with the ecological function of open spaces. In the last article of this section, CRP professor William Siembieda discusses the Buddhist street sanctuaries of Japan and their role in place making and social identity.

The Essays section starts with an article by Judith Urbano, from the International University of Catalunya in Spain on the famous plan for the expansion of Barcelona by Idelfons Cerdà, one of the pioneers of modern planning. Next, MCRP

graduate Forrest Chamberlain and CRP faculty William Riggs discuss current transit-oriented development and complete streets strategies in Los Angeles. Cal Poly professors Daniel Levi and Vicente del Rio discuss the importance of understanding walls as expressions of a society's culture and the relationship between the public and private realms in order to inform any attempt to design and regulate place. Last, in this section, Vicente del Rio discusses the relationship between urbanity, walking, and the visual qualities of urban design in Lisbon's historic core with a methodology based on Walter Benjamin's ideal *flâneur* and with place sketches as analytical tools.

Darya Oreizi opens the Faculty and Student Work section with an article abstracted from his BCRP senior project on the benefits of California's mandatory solar ordinances, based on existing literature, interviews with experts, and analysis of current data and literature. Next, CRP professor Vicente del Rio and MCRP students Paul Donegan, Curran Lord-Farmer, Jana Schwatz, and Sara Steinberger describe the process and proposals of the Urban Design Concept Plan for the South El Camino Real Corridor in San Clemente, California developed by an MCRP studio for the City of San Clemente. Closing this section, MCRP student Amanda Ross discusses the rebuilding process and the design of the small coastal town of Avila Beach in San Luis Obispo County after a major cleanup of a decades-long oil spill.

In Spotlight, FOCUS 12's last section, CRP Department Head Hemalata Dandekar makes a brief account of this past academic year's studios from both undergraduate and graduate programs. The wide array of plans and projects developed in our studios are good indicators of CRP's commitment to service-learning and to Cal Poly's hands-on learning by doing approach. MCRP student Jennifer Hooper reports on CRP alumnus Greg Errett's talk at Cal Poly when he reflected on the challenges and achievements of his professional career. MCRP student Paul Donegan writes about CRP alumnus Michael Heater's inspirational work as a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching English and helping a small village in Rwanda. Lastly the section spotlights CRP alumni Dave Javid and Brianna Holan who are interviewed about their careers, their views on their Cal Poly education, and their thoughts on the future of planning. As always, the Spotlight section closes with abstracts of the theses and professional projects that were defended in the MCRP program during the 2014-15 AY.

I hope this issue of FOCUS fulfills its mission engaging readers through material that is not only interesting, but also useful for professional and pedagogical practices. I would also like to encourage you to consider submitting an article to our new Peer-Review Section, which can be done through our on-line process at <<http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/focus/>>. Enjoy.

Vicente del Rio  
*PhD; Professor, CRP Department  
FOCUS Managing Editor*