

# The Cornell Planner

department of city and regional planning

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## Michael Tomlan Travels to Cambodia for Restoration Project

Professor **Michael Tomlan**, Director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, spent a little part of his winter break working on a very special restoration project in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The project centers on a unique cast iron building with a colorful history.



the pavilion

The Pavilion was used for decades as an audience hall, and then as a museum of gifts, artifacts, and art for members of the royal family. As the roof began to leak and ceiling plaster began to fall about fifteen years ago, the Pavilion was gradually abandoned. Discussion during the last two years has led to a restoration campaign which led to Palace staff requesting Tomlan's involvement.

"It's really special for Cambodia, because there are no other known nineteenth century cast iron buildings in the country," he remarked, "but it presents a problem for Khmer architects and crafts specialists because they have no experience with diagnosing the nature of the problems they are encountering, or developing solutions."

Guiding a team of Cambodian architects, Palace grounds staff, and consultants, Tomlan began investigating the roof and foundation problems in early 2011. He returned in August to make recommendations for roof removal and reinstallation and foundation-level archaeology, and returned once again in December to monitor progress. Pigment and plaster analysis have already been assisted through episodic photographic evidence and by the discovery of dry ingredients used by the French in a previous restoration attempt.

"It is likely the process will take several years," Tomlan concluded, "as no one is pressing the Pavilion into service immediately."

Nearly all the buildings of the Cambodian Royal Palace are in the Khmer style, except one: the exquisite cast iron Pavilion. Lending it some historic mystique, the building was originally erected in Ismailia, Egypt for French Empress Eugenie in 1869, during the inauguration of the Suez Canal. Having successfully served its temporary purpose, the Pavilion was then disassembled, moved, reassembled on the Phnom Penh Palace grounds, and presented to King Norodom by Napoleon III in 1876.



stained glass window in the pavilion

## Winter Carnival: A CRP Celebration

OCP and OURS, the department's graduate and undergraduate student associations, came together last weekend for the Second Annual CRP Winter Carnival.

Complete with a democratically elected King and Queen, the Carnival is meant to celebrate the snowy season. Just as it has been for much of the January and February, however, that weather was conspicuously absent on the day.



Sun with his regal adornments

"The weather has been decidedly mild this winter," remarked OCP Social Coordinator **Ellie Bomstein** (MRP '13), "That really threw a wrench in our plans to host a snow sculpting contest." The carnival-goers adapted by moving indoors for board games.

**Yuanxin Sun** (MRP '12) and **Rebecca Parelman** (MRP '13) were crowned King and Queen. Upon receiving his crown and scepter, Sun proclaimed, "Let there be snow!" Jaws dropped as a flurry of flakes began to fall upon the arts quad. The evening after the Carnival saw six inches of snow in Ithaca.

## In This Issue

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## CRP Links

### Faculty Updates:

Mike Manville published an article, "The Price Doesn't Matter if You Don't Have to Pay: Legal Exemptions and Market Priced Parking," with J. Williams in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*

Stephan Schmidt published an article, "Getting the policy right: Urban Agriculture in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania," in *International Development Planning Review*

### Upcoming Events:

Faranak Miraftab lecture: "[Developments](#)"  
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 4:30pm  
101 W. Sibley Hall

Mi Shih lecture: "[Urban Planning in Transitional China](#)"  
Friday, Feb. 24, 12:20pm  
Abby and Howard Milstein Auditorium

Food Cart Design Charette  
Saturday, Feb. 25, 10:00am - 5:00pm

Deborah Salon lecture: "Land Use, Access, the Economy, and the Environment"  
Monday, Feb. 27, 4:30pm  
101 W. Sibley Hall

Alan Murray lecture: "Land Use Planning and Spatial Data Uncertainty"  
Thursday, Mar. 1, 4:30pm  
101 W. Sibley

Pamela Jerome lecture: "[The Challenge of Being a Female Preservation Architect in the Middle East](#)"  
Friday, Mar. 2, 12:20pm  
Abby and Howard Milstein Auditorium

## CRP Blog

by Ann Forsyth and Bonnie O'Neill

## URS Facebook Page

