• Paper / Proposal Title:
Understanding Undergraduate Architectural Students’ Perceptions about Evidence-based Design Philosophies

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• Abstract (300 words):
The change of social and architectural values in recent decades call for more scientific rigor in architectural designs, therefore the previous intuition- and practice-based design methodologies no longer suit the needs. In architectural context, evidence-based design (EBD) refers to the judicious use of best available evidences from research and practice to make informed design decisions. EBD has rarely been incorporated into undergraduate architectural education as a systematic design methodology. The current project has engaged the undergraduate architectural design students with trendy and innovative research-based learning and design strategies, cultivated their fact-based predictive design thinking, and equipped them with essential knowledge and skillsets to carry out EBD. The project employed pre- and post-surveys to examine students’ perceptions and experiences about design values, design methods and EBD before and after the educational interventions. Results showed that students’ design methods shifted from intuition- and practice-based methodologies towards fact- and research-based ones. Compared with the pre-survey, students displayed stronger tendency to develop and implement clear design values in future projects, appreciated the learning of fact-based knowledge and incorporating building occupants’ needs and preferences in their design processes in the post-survey. Overall, EBD was well received by students and considered to have helped them form a clearer design methodology.
• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):
Dr Fan Zhang received her doctoral degree in Architectural Science from The University of Sydney in 2016 and Master of Science degree in Sustainable Building Technology from Nottingham University in 2010. She is currently a lecturer with Griffith University, Australia. Her research interests include indoor environmental quality, thermal comfort, cognitive performance, sustainable design, health and productivity in built environment.