

This 3-day trip to GuiGuang is dedicated to achieve 5 objectives.

The most important one is to communicate between our architect – Ms Elisabeth Lee – and our local contractor – Mr. Ng – about the latest model designed for the reconstruction of toilet in Du Lin Primary School. And this is addressed on the first day of arrival. We decided to carry out the construction outside of school boundary. And the boundary wall would not be removed until the construction is completed so as not to affect the serviceability of school and minimize inconvenience during the construction. Other than that, detailing of the toilet was also demonstrated and well-interpreted by Mr. Ng. During the demonstration, CAD drawings prepared by MingDe was shown and the relating Sketch model was used.

Another important goal is to check the completion of the rehabilitation of the failed concrete wall and the water-leaking ceiling. This was done with Dr. Wong showing all of us around – including students from HKU and SCUT. We observed the lately installed beams and noted how the poor quality of precasted concrete slab has caused the leakage of water.

In day 2, we also discuss about the special design of the second floor of the building that was proposed by Miss Lee. The design concept is to collect rainwater by building an angled ceiling, which is then used by the toilet. Such water-recycling idea is also implemented to the toilet itself by reusing the hand-washing water for flushing. There has been discussion and there were opinion expressing that this might be too optimistic.

In order to facilitate the design process, certain panoramic views around the school itself was demanded by Miss Lee. For such purpose, photos were taken on top of the ceiling of the primary school for clear view. All panoramic photos were taken by Amos Tong with the instruction of Dr. Wong from side. All photos taken were uploaded to drive in the first night.

Last but not least, since students from SCUT has been actively taken part in this project, we presented them the updates and ideas were exchanged during discussion.

A bonus is cultural exchange. We were given a chance to exchange idea with locals and students from SCUT. Besides, after all the above objectives were met, the principal of school showed us around and we prepared an ‘oven’ (or furnace) made up of clustered soil for baking sweet potatoes.

Overall the trip is fruitful in terms of both technical and cultural context. Special thanks to the local principal’s family for providing us meals and Dr. Wong for leading our team.

List of participants:

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