



Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific

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SAVE INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND MOVES FORWARD WITH PLANS FOR THE NEXT DECADE

This past year we celebrated SAVE International's 10th Anniversary. To commemorate our 10th year, we held a series of events. We're proud to report on the success of these events in our 10th anniversary edition of *Spoonbills Speak*.

- 10th Annual Great Spoonbill Migration with Exhibits and Reception
- Tommy Church Design Competition
- Remodeling Design Activism Workshop
- National Scenic Area Workshop, Peimen, Taiwan

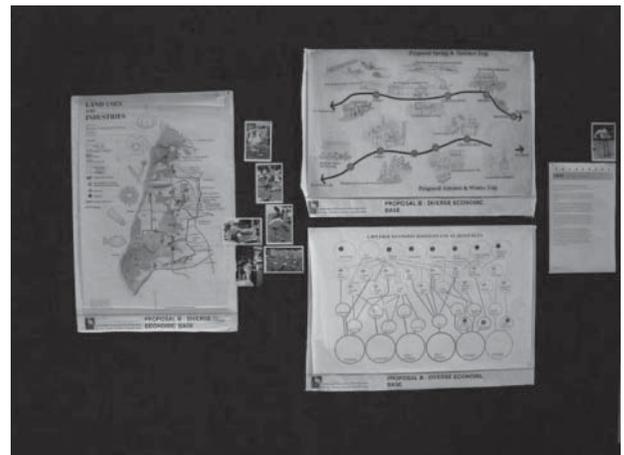
We're also proud to report on our plans for the next decade:

- Campaign to Protect Spoonbill Breeding Habitat in Korea
- Continue Working with the National Scenic Area in Taiwan to Restore Spoonbill Habitat

10TH ANNUAL GREAT SPOONBILL MIGRATION

SAVE International hosted the 10th Annual Great Spoonbill Migration on October 17, 2006. Per tradition, environmental design students constructed sculptures that depict the plight of the black-faced spoonbill. The sculptures were displayed on the U.C. Berkeley campus on the Kroeber Hall lawn and awards were given to students for design merit, including a "people's choice award" for the crowd favorite.

In addition to the migration event, SAVE International displayed an exhibit in Wurster Hall and held a reception for students, SAVE alumni and current SAVE members. The exhibit featured 10 years of student work related to the black-faced spoonbill.

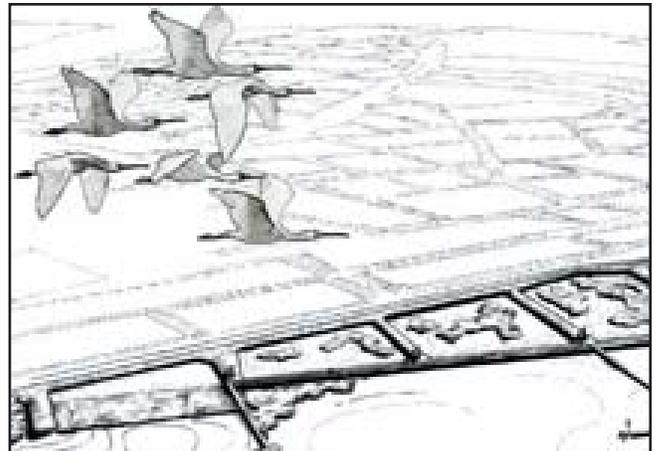


Wurster Hall Exhibit, 10th Spoonbill Migration

TOMMY CHURCH DESIGN COMPETITION

The 2007 Tommy Church competition was held in January, an annual event hosted by UC. Berkeley's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP), to honor the San Francisco Bay Area's foremost modernist landscape architect. The design challenge was to create a plan for an outdoor viewing center at the American Ponds, a recently designated stepping-stone for habitat expansion in Tainan County, Taiwan and potential roosting site for black-faced spoonbills near the Tseng-Wen River. The preserve is one of several former salt ponds that were once part of a vast lagoon and tidal wetland stretching over three counties and are now being set aside for wetland bird species.

A number of the teams entering the competition included students from LAEP and National Taiwan University. The two winning entries provided multiple-use designs that created habitat for many bird species and facilities for ecological and cultural tourism. Both also used water circulation to dramatize the sensual experience of the place. The jury recommended that the winning teams be sent to Taiwan to show officials how such plans could be implemented (see National Scenic Area Design Workshop article for more).



Images from winning designs - Tommy Church Competition

REMODELING DESIGN ACTIVISM WORKSHOP

What does it mean to “remodel” design activism? This question was the focus of a two-day conference held at U.C. Berkeley in February. The event was co-sponsored by LAEP; Tainan County, Taiwan; the Building and Planning Foundation of National Taiwan University (NTU); and SAVE.

For many years Berkeley has nurtured creative change particularly in environmental protection and social justice. To make these ideas current, speakers from Natural Heritage Institute, REBAR, Baikal Watch, Critical Mass, International Rivers Network, local design firm John Northmore Roberts, and a wide range of participants in the struggle to save Chi-ku Lagoon told personal stories, shared the successes and challenges of their work, and offered views of how the world should be. The presenters also explained how the emergence of civil society and its intertwining with

the environmental movement has been a common experience in Africa, India, Spain, and Russia.

LAEP professor Louise Mazingo was asked to summarize the points made on the first day. She observed that advocacy wields information “like a hammer and a feather”. She noted that activists make noise to make sure someone is paying attention and that processes are rational, transparent, respectable, applicable, and moral. The liveliest discussion during the conference was about power: what it is, who has it and who should, how it works, how it relates to land and place, and how to use it.

SAVE is now working on proceedings of the conference with the hopes of publishing the lessons learned on the SAVE website and in a hand-book.



*Remodeling Design Activism -
SAVE members old and new attend the workshop*

NATIONAL SCENIC AREA DESIGN WORKSHOP

In June 2007, winning teams of the Tommy Church Competition and SAVE members were invited to participate in a 3-day workshop hosted by the National Scenic Area (NSA) in Peimen, Taiwan.

The purpose of the workshop was to generate a master plan for the future development of Peimen village, now home to the NSA headquarters. Peimen village is surrounded by abandoned, historic salt ponds with abundant wildlife resources. The NSA wishes to develop a plan that integrates tourism, wildlife habitat, sustainability, and local salt industry culture and history. The plan would also attempt to solve flood protection and water quality issues.

Peimen is also a critical component of the “stepping stone” habitat restoration plan proposed by SAVE International. The plan proposes restoration in abandoned salt pond lands throughout the western coast of Taiwan to accommodate a growing spoonbill population.

In the first two days of the workshop, students from National Taiwan University and the LAEP, Berkeley, local community groups, residents, scientists, and SAVE members split into two teams for an intense site study and design charette. On Day Three the teams presented their findings and proposals to NSA officials and community members.

The feedback from the local community was extraordinary. Local organizations and residents not only participated in the workshop with full enthusiasm but also provided critical feedback and creative input. The plans developed at the workshop provided the NSA and Peimen village with a new vision for sustainable design that brings together environment, culture and community life.

National Taiwan University students will combine the designs generated at the workshop into one plan for Peimen Village. SAVE will continue to work with the National Scenic Area on future opportunities for stepping stone habitat.



Students present design ideas



Peimen salt ponds



Peimen wetlands



Workshop participants

CHALLENGE FOR THE NEXT DECADE

While SAVE will remain committed to its work to protect and expand the Spoonbill's main wintering sites on the west coast of Taiwan, our challenge for the next decade is to work on protection of the Spoonbill's breeding habitat. Protection of the breeding habitat is essential for the Spoonbill's survival.

PARTNERING IN KOREA

In the De-militarized Zone (DMZ), protected from the surrounding human development, spoonbills make their way to the coast of the Korean peninsula each year. Uninhabited islands along the coast of the Yellow Sea are visited by many migratory birds traveling to warmer places. Black-faced spoonbills stop at these islands to breed and nest before they head further south to wintering sites in Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Spoonbills nest in these coarse, sparse environments, typically laying two to three eggs at a time. These rock islands—Sokdo, Yokdo, Udo, Bido—

are under strict surveillance by the Republic of Korea military as they are part of the Civilian Control Zone (CCZ) near the DMZ. This area is only accessible by boat which limits human activity here. Only a limited number of fishing boats are allowed to traverse through the CCZ in the Yellow Sea.



While they breed and nest, spoonbills fly out to close by islands or further into the peninsula to search for

food. Young spoonbills forage for food with less salt content in fresh, shallow water areas. Rice paddies provide important spoonbill habitat but are at risk of being developed. Local environmental groups and NGOs are working to educate the local communities and raise awareness to protect endangered spoonbills and their breeding habitat in Korea.

Over the past two years, SAVE has become increasingly involved with partners in Korea. During Spring Semester 2008, U.C. Berkeley LAEP students and members of SAVE will travel to Korea to work with local activists on plans to protect breeding habitat in Korea's Han River Estuary.



Kanghwa Island, Han River Estuary

HELP SAVE PROTECT SPOONBILL BREEDING HABITAT

Please help us raise funds to send a delegation to Korea this Spring. You can help by renewing your annual membership, making a one-time donation, or by purchasing one of our custom designed t-shirts. More information on how to donate is provided on the enclosed membership renewal form.

SAVE International
University of California, Berkeley
Dept. of Landscape Architecture
& Environmental Planning
202 Wurster Hall
Berkeley, CA, 94720

HELLO FROM CHI-CHAO THE SPOONBILL

Hi guys,
Just left our summer home in Korea to head back to Taiwan for the winter. I've heard about some great new spots there along the coast that would be perfect for me and my family. This "stepping stone habitat" thing you guys are always yammering on about just may work! Maybe you can work your magic in Korea too.... things were a little crazy this year, with more people and new buildings than ever before. Hopefully you can help us keep our breeding grounds safe for raising our families. I will try to head back to Korea a little early this year so I can see you when you visit!



Bye for now, Chi-chao

CONGRATULATIONS AND SPECIAL THANKS

Chi-chao isn't the only SAVE friend with new and exciting news this year. For the past eight years, our SAVE Newsletter Editor, Jan Eiesland, has worked behind the scenes to bring you *Spoonbill Speaks*. On November 3rd, Jan gave birth to Alex Eiesland Martinez. Congratulations Jan!

