Jasmine Chen is a first year graduate student coming to Cornell after spending the past two years working for China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), a company that ranked 27 on Fortune's Global 500 List. Chen credits the strenuous work demands at CSCEC with how she was able to grow as a designer. By working on three to five different projects on any given day, Jasmine says the most crucial thing she learned was to keep faith in herself as a designer, “At times your values may not align with the priorities of the client or the state for the project, but push for the design vision that you know is more appropriate for the site”. As a self-defined multipotentialite, Chen has been able to see her many interests coalesce through her design process. As a Buddhist, she values the balance between natural and urban areas. As a professional pianist music guides her design thinking and the rhythm of her projects. Her study of geography and marine biology have also guided her commitment in advocating for the protection of watersheds through sensitive hydrological design. When asked about any advice she would like to give to other student designers she claims that the key to good design is to cognize at a holistic scale, stay positive, draw often in your free time and to see the benefits of demanding workloads as they will ultimately push you to new creative heights.

DERDGE FEST WINS ASLA HONOR AWARD

Cornell's Brian Davis & his colleagues in the Dredge Research Collaborative have earned an ASLA Professional Honors Award for their work on Dredgefest, a traveling workshop series about the human manipulation of sediments. Selected from 456 entries, the awards honor the top 30 public, commercial, residential, institutional, planning, communications and research projects in the U.S. and around the world.

Through its design workshop series, DredgeFest seeks to activate an interdisciplinary approach to dredging processes and implications, and to engage the public sphere in sediment-handling issues. For the past six years, the Dredge Research Collaborative’s research, conversations, and workshops have culminated in the DredgeFest event series, which have been held nation-wide from New York City to Berkeley, California. By investigating and documenting current dredging practices, and further developing new research and design methodologies, Dredgefest is dedicated to changing the way we think about dredging and the way it shapes our world.

Congratulations to Brian Davis & the entire Dredge Research Collaborative!

GETTING TO KNOW... JASMINE CHEN

This picture is a personal favorite of Chen's because Bee Balm not only has an interesting structure, but it is also able to attract many pollinators which combines her interests in botanical art and environmental concerns for pollinator health.

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