

CSI Houston Chapter
The Construction Specifications Institute

November 2013

November 26th meeting:

PLACE: H.E.S.S. Building
5430 Westheimer Road

TIME:

5:30 P.M. (Registration and
mixer)

6:00 P.M. (Evening Meal and
Meeting)

COST:

Gratis to CSI members;
\$35.00 to non members at
the door.

RESERVATIONS: Go to:
<http://www.csihouston.org>

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November CSI Chapter Program

“Peeking Behind the Curtain at the Design Process”

Designers evaluate, select, and specify building products and systems for each project, but this process is not clear to many outside the profession.

Our November program will feature a discussion by design professionals on design process and product selection. How and why are products selected and specified? Why are changes made during construction? What resources are used by design professionals for product information? How can those resources be more helpful?

Houston Chapter CSI invites you to attend this meeting to hear this important discussion.

December

CSI Houston Holiday Party

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Time: 4:30pm

Place: 'Crisp' Wine and Beer Eatery

**Location: 2220 Bevis @ 22nd St. in the
Heights**



Cost: \$ 25.00 per person at the door. This includes a buffet with several appetizers, some things to sink your teeth into and drink ticket. The bar is available for personal tabs as well. We will have a reserved area of the dining room for our group.

We are also offering an opportunity for sponsors at one level of \$50.00 to be listed on a board of supporters of the Chapter's Holiday Event.

No donations as in the past will be involved.

**CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER
2013—2014 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President Robert P. Byrne, CSI
(713) 464-4491
rbyrne@ampbrick.com

Past President Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP
(713) 366-0320
hjordan@jordanconsultants.com

President Elect Neil Byrne, CSI, CDT, CPA
(713) 354-1100
npbyrne@byrnetmetals.com

VP Finance/ Admin. Chuck Vojtech, CSI
(281) 227-3577
chuck@rpcinc.com

VP Professional Development Tim Wilson, CSI
(832) 289-6765
twilson@weatherizationpartners.com

VP Member Services Tom Atwell, CSI
(713) 877-8879
Tom.atwell@cushwake.com

VP Public Services Don Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP
(713) 688-0092
don.smith315@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Betsy Finch, CSI
(713) 806-3401
bfinch@southtexasreps.com

Treasurer Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC
(832) 496-9507
Robert.Cook@sbdinc.com

2013—2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director through 2015 Amy Salmeron, CSI, CDT
(713) 460-5216
asalmeron@assaabloydss.com

Director through 2015 Grant Groeschel, CSI, AIA, LEED AP
(713) 934-4891
grant.groeschel@assaabloy.com

Director through 2014 Amy Peevey, PE, RRO, CDT
(713) 467-9840
apeevey@besgrp.com

Director through 2014 Bill Fairbanks, CSI, CCPR
(281) 227-3577
fairbanks@rpcinc.com

Director through 2016 Don Ude, CSI
(281) 685-0164
dude127@sbcglobal.net

Director through 2016 Logan Vits, CSI, CCPR, LEED GA
(713) 703-5201
lvits@assaabloydss.com

Board Advisory Director Doug Frank, FCSI, CCS
(281) 660-6246
specman.doug@gmail.com

2013—2014 CSI HOUSTON SPEC.TECTONICS

SPEC.tectonics Editor Don Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP
(713) 688-0092
don.smith315@sbcglobal.net

2013—2014 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs J. Peter Jordan, FCSI, AIA, CCS, LEED AP
(281) 366-0320
jpjordan@jordanconsultants.com

Membership Bill Lundsford, CSI, CDT
(817) 300--7262
SLGillespie@GOAenterprises.com

Certification Tim Wilson, CSI
(832) 289-6765
twilson@weatherizationpartners.com

Technical J. Peter Jordan, FCSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP AIA
(713) 366-0320
jpjordan@jordanconsultants.com

Awards Amy Salmeron, CSI, CDT
(713) 460-5216
asalmeron@assaabloydss.com

Continuing Education Mark Koehler, CSI
(713) 781-6006
mkoehler@siplast.com

Academic Affairs Al Pasek, CSI, CCPR
(713) 880-4343
al.pasek@lsdecker.com

Public Relations Don Vernon, CSI
(713)-520-0155
don@aiahouston.org

Product Show (CTE) Di Ann Reid, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED AP
(713) 844-0091
diann_reid@gensler.com

Golf Tournament Neil Byrne, CSI, CDT, CPA
(281) 354-1100
Neil.byrne@byrnetmetals.com

Table Top Amy Peevey, PE, RRO, CDT
(713) 467-9840
apeevey@besgrp.com

CIC Delegate Bill Fairbanks, CSI, CCPR
(281) 227-3577
fairbanks@rpcinc.com

2013—2014 CSI HOUSTON WEBSITE

Webmaster Logan Vits, CSI, CCPR, LEED AP
(281) 703-5201
lvits@assaabloydss.com

2012—2013 CSI HOUSTON FOUNDATION

President, Al Pasek, CSI, CCPR
(713) 880-4343
al.pasek@lsdecker.com

Past President Greg Roberts, FAIA, FCSI, CCS, ACHA, LEED AP

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CSI SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (<http://www.scr-csi.org>) / INSTITUTE LEADERS (<http://www.csinet.org>)

SC Region President Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP
(713) 366-0320
hjordan@jordanconsultants.com

SC Region President Elect Melody A. Stinson, CSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP
(405) 942-7337
mas@rees.com

Institute Director Kirby M. Davis, CSI, CDT
(203) 671-7210
kirby-davis@hotmail.com

Institute President Casey Robb, FCSI, CCPR
DuPont Building Innovations, Acworth, GA
casey.f.robb@usa.dupont.com

November 2013 President's Message

by Robert P. Byrne, CSI
President, CSI Houston Chapter



Our Golf Tournament last month shaped up to be another great event. Special thanks go out to the sponsors for the financial support and Tom Atwell for stepping up and taking over the planning of the event. His help from Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech and our President Elect Neil Byrne also made the event

go without a hitch.

The October Membership meeting attendance increased from the norm which can be attributed to another interesting and rewarding panel discussion. Everyone is concerned about energy loss, good roofing design is a large part of the issue and the program presented this in great detail. Our Prairie View A&M Architectural Student members continue to attend in good numbers and greatly benefit for their futures'.

Your Chapter's Board is working on a 5-year plan and will have information out about that soon. Additionally we are planning for next spring's CDT Accreditation study classes.

Volunteers are what make everything happen with our Chapter's tasks. Getting involved is very rewarding.

CSI Region News: The Core Missions of a CSI Region by J.W. Mollohan, CSI, CCPR, CSI North Central Region President

By virtue of our inclusion in the Institute Board's annual transition planning session, the leaders of CSI's ten regions gathered recently in Atlanta and again at CONSTRUCT in Nashville. Thinking back to Atlanta, a lively discussion of common issues ensued.

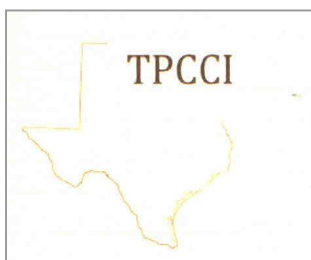
Endeavoring to hold our core mission in constant sight, we sought to define the services provided our constituent chapters and, ultimately, our members. The items listed below garnered multiple endorsements:

- Sharing best practices among our chapters' and leaders
- Aiding chapters in maintaining minimum operating standards
- Creating a sense of community among the region's chapters
- Offering guidance for each of the chapters' standing committees
- Sharing educational programs and speakers among chapters
- Providing leadership training for chapter and region leaders
- Recognizing achievement at all levels of CSI
- Establishing academic networks among regional schools
- Educating our regional membership on Institute initiatives

Most encouraging was a common statement of commitment to listening to our chapters and members, so that the services we deliver are those most desired. This local connection is difficult for Institute to replicate. As a body, we are confident that the regions remain an integral link in the chain of information from member to Institute.

As region leaders continue to meet, we will be sure to pass along the great info they continue to talk about.

Add your thoughts on what you think our Region should do for the Houston Chapter and send them to SCR President, Holly Jordan.



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JOHN M. ZIEBELL

26911 Bridleway Circle
Magnolia, TX 77355

(832) 746-3507
johnziebell@att.net

CSI Houston Chapter Board Meeting Minutes
Location: HESS Building
5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX
September 30, 2013

Present: Amy Peevey, Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bill Lundsford, Chuck Vojtech, Don Smith, Don Ude, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, J. Peter Jordan, Logan Vit, Neil Byrne, Robert Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Robert Byrne called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

The August 2013 Board Meeting Minutes were approved as corrected.

REPORTS

Finance/Administration: Chuck Vojtech

Treasurer's Report: Bob Cook
No report.

Professional Development: Tim Wilson

Continuing Education:
No report.

Academics Affairs: Al Pasek
No report.

Certification: Tim Wilson
No report.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan
No report.

Member Services: Tom Atwell

Programs: J. Peter Jordan
J. Peter reported the program for the October chapter meeting would be a panel discussion about roofing led by Bill Hutz. Don Smith will work on getting the program information for the newsletter.

Membership: Bill Lundsford
Bill reported he contacted members that have expired memberships.

Awards: Amy Salmeron
No report.

Table Top Display: Amy Peevey
Amy reported that Janet Babineux would have a table top at the October meeting.

Personal/Professional Development: Doug Frank/Di Ann Reid

Doug reported he and Di Ann are continuing to request members to update their information.

Public Services: Don Smith

Golf Tournament: Neil Byrne

The Board discussed items to include in the golf goody bags. Robert Byrne will check what has been ordered. Tom reported he spoke with Bob Cook and that a little over \$5,000 has been collected so far. Tom also reported he will send a tickler to the architects reminding them of the tournament. Tournament information will be available at the October meeting at the sign in table.

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith

Don reported he would get together with Logan Vits to discuss the membership list he uses to email. He also reported he would email the newsletter to the membership.

Electronic Communications: Logan Vits

Logan reported he is updating the information on the chapter website, that there are two lists for membership. Robert stated he would send Logan and Don the membership list that he has from Institute.

Other Business:

South Central Region:

Robert Byrne, Neil Byrne, Holly Jordan and J. Peter Jordan attended the South Central Region meeting. Holly reported that the Region has a 3-year strategic plan including training for the chapter president-elect, offering a CDT boot camp, provide assistance to chapters for electronic communications, provide training for chapter membership chairs, treasurers and secretaries, increase attendance at SCR conferences, provide open communication and contact information so region members know who to contact for assistance.

Foundation: Al Pasek

The Board discussed who is responsible for paying the student meal cost when they attend a CSI chapter meeting. The Foundation is responsible for half of the cost.


Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Betsy Finch, CSI
Chapter Secretary



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FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

At each monthly meeting, the Chapter encourages Industry Members to provide a table top display of their products and services for the inspection and education of those attending the meeting.

The table top display is also encouraged to be presented during the social hour and after the program for any questions by attendees.

The presentation fee for this time is \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members, or free with a Golf Sponsor-

WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

A quarter page ad is only \$250 for 12 issues

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A business card ad is only \$225 for 12 issues

Contact Don Smith at (713) 688-0092 or don.smith315@sbdglobal.net for more information.

Specifiers Air Barrier Checklist

By Roy Schaufele., FCSI CCPR RA LEED
Green Associate, Division 7 Solutions, Inc.

Air Barrier Assemblies comprise an important component of modern building exterior enclosures.

The following checklist will help the design professional and contractor achieve an enclosure assembly that is durable and helps achieve compliance with IECC objectives.

1. Has the Air Barrier System passed ASTM E 2357?
2. Is the Air Barrier Assembly a fully evaluated ABAA Assembly and is it listed on the ABAA web site? (www.airbarrier.org)
3. Has it passed NFPA-285 Fire Testing in a rigid foam plastic Insulated Cavity Wall, which is a mandatory Code Requirement?
4. Has the window flashing system of the air barrier system been tested to ASTM E331, IBC 2012, section 1403.2 for window leakage? Has it just passed or did it exceed the testing requirement?
5. Is it listed as an ASTM E84 Class A Fire Resistant membrane system?
6. Does it have a recycle content?
 - a. >10%
 - b. >20%
7. Does it come with its' own through wall flashing (TWF) system?
8. Is the TWF ASTM E84 Class A Fire Resistant?
9. Is the TWF ASTM D3273 Mold Resistant?
10. Does the TWF have a recycle content?
 - a. >50%
 - b. >85%
11. Is responsibility for the integrity of the air barrier and through wall flashing system by only one sub-contractor?

If you, the Design Professional, have answered all of the above with yes, then you have chosen an excellent Air Barrier Assembly.

It Worked Last Time ...

By Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI,

For many years, I was one of the instructors for my CSI chapter's certification classes. In addition to explaining what CSI's practice manuals say, I liked to include horror stories - real-world examples of the ways people found to really mess up a project. One of my favorite stories came from a public sector waste treatment agency. The project was a relatively simple addition to an existing building at one of the waste treatment facilities, to provide shower and locker rooms for the employees.

The agency had hired an architecture/engineering firm to design the addition, and to prepare bidding documents. As the bid opening date approached, the owner began getting calls from mechanical subcontractors, who asked, "Did you want to use fresh water or effluent to serve *the baptismal font?*"

Apparently, the mechanical engineer had reused specifications from another project, which happened to be a church. Obviously, assuming the specifications had been submitted for review, there should have been opportunities to discover and correct the error, but had the engineer started with master specifications, the baptismal font almost certainly would not have appeared in the specifications for this project.

This is an amusing result of the time-honored way of writing specifications: take the specs from the last project, change the client's name, and - voila! - they're done. While this may be a quick way to produce specifications, it also is a way to virtually guarantee those specifications will be incorrect.

There are times when this quick-fix approach *almost* works; certainly, in a project with multiple bid packs, there will be a great consistency and repetition from one bid pack to the next. An obvious example is waterproofing, which will probably be included in the foundations bid pack, though it could appear in later bid packs. Either way, it will probably appear only once. Given the nature of the product, it will be easy to either add or delete it as the project moves forward.

Other materials are more complicated. Cast-in-place concrete, for example, could all appear in one bid pack, but it's just as likely to appear in the footings or footings/foundations bid pack, in the shell bid pack, and in the fit-out bid pack. If it's all specified at one time, it will be easy to remember to take the section out when it's not needed, but what if it appears in more than one bid pack? Ideally, each time a section is used, it will be edited down to address only what is needed for each bid pack. My experience has been that the design team often has trouble deciding which concrete is used in each bid pack, so there is a tendency to use essentially the same specifications each time, and let the contractor figure out which parts of it apply. The same can

(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from page 6)

be said about masonry, insulation, hardware, and other products that may be required at different times.

Reusing old specifications also is tempting when designing additions to existing buildings, or doing more work for a regular client, but even then, there will be differences.

The older the reused specifications are, the greater the certainty that they will be incorrect. Codes change, reference standards change, companies go out of business, products are discontinued or changed, and owner preferences change. A design firm's practices also change; most firms are more green than they were even a few years ago, and specify different products. Most people seem to think specifications are boilerplate. In fact, they are living documents, which must be updated continually to incorporate all of these changes.

Traditional specification editing is a subtractive process. The specifier starts with a master specification, which contains many options. In most cases, offices pre-edit master specifications so to minimize editing for the types of work they do most often. These master specifications are further edited for each project by removing unnecessary information, and, frequently, adding in missing information.

The problem with reusing specifications is, to accurately fit the needs of another project, the specifier *must* remember to add things that had been deleted, and to remove things that no longer are needed. Both require thought, but it's far easier to delete things that aren't needed than to remember what's missing.

Without exception, every time I have to reuse specifications from another project, even from an earlier bid pack for the same project, we discover late in the construction documents phase that we don't need something that was in the reused specs, or that something we do need wasn't there. Unfortunately, these things sometimes are not discovered until the bidding documents have been issued, or until construction is underway.

When reusing specifications, they must be compared to the masters, to identify things that have been deleted, or that may have changed as the masters evolved. And, they must be reviewed item by item with the team to make sure what's in them corresponds with requirements for the current project. I haven't kept track of how long it takes to review and update a reused specification, but it seems it would be just as easy and fast to start with unedited masters. Of course, the reason we're using old specs is that we don't have time to start over, so the review and re-editing is either ignored or superficial.

Isn't it amazing how often we can't find time to get the documents right before they're issued, but we somehow find time to fix them later?

Contractors are first and foremost, businessmen. Arguing costs money. Unless you have really gone out of your way to make his life and profits disappear, he might just ignore your mess and do the right thing, or he might take you back to school and play the same game with you that you played on him. In any case, money and reputations are lost. (Ed.)

2013 CSI Houston Brian Harrington Golf Classic Sponsors By Robert Byrne, CSI

The CSI Houston Chapter wishes to thank the following for their support in this year's Golf Tournament. Your support is the main funding vehicle for our annual scholarships awarded through our Foundation. Our membership should remember these sponsors in return with their support in specifications or referrals for business.

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“Strictly SMITH-ly”

Contract Documents and the Administration of the Project Construction Phase

By Donald F. Smith, Jr., CSI CCS RA LEED AP

This article continues last month's article completing the description of an architect's services during the project construction phase.

The construction phase begins with the award of the contract and ends with the architect's certificate of Final Completion.

The architect's construction phase services normally includes (1) periodic construction observation progress to confirm that the information given in the Contractor's monthly Application and Certification for Payment is correct and recommended for payment, (2) submittal review, (3) review of proposal requests, (4) processing Change Orders, (5) resolving discrepancies in the Contract Documents, and (6) review of closeout submittals.

While not a party to the Contract for Construction signed by both Owner and Contractor, the architect has the role of interpreter of the Contract Documents without showing partiality to either Owner or Contractor.

Duties of the architect within the construction administration project phase include making recommendations to his client and to be the interpreter of the Contract Documents when questions arise.

The architect enjoys a certain amount of protection in his capacity as interpreter of the Contract Documents as long as he maintains a neutral stance, neither favoring the Owner or the Contractor. The architect must remember that once the documents are signed and sealed and referenced in the Agreement for Construction, they may not be changed unless agreed to by both Owner and Contractor. The architect's role during construction phase is one of advisor. He can only recommend until directed otherwise by his client, the owner.

Many architects view the construction phase as an opportunity to continue or massage the project design. The architect needs to remember is (1) that it is not his money that is being spent to construct the project, and (2) once outside the protection as independent interpreter of the contract documents, and changes directed by the owner, changes made by him could become his liability.

Periodic observations to determine the validity of the

Contractors Application and Certification for Payment are used by the Owner to validate the Contractor's pay requests and to determine that construction is proceeding satisfactorily so that the Work, when completed, complies with the Contract Documents.

The Date of Substantial Completion establishes the date when construction has been completed, for the Owner to occupy and use the project for the purposes intended, and establishes a list of work to be completed, and the date for commencement of warranties. Up to this point, the role of the architect has been one of observer. The Date of Substantial Completion and Date of Final Completion, however, are the two inspections that the architect is contractually required to perform.

"If you don't know where you're going, you might wind up someplace else."

Yogi Berra

... Just my opinion,

Donald F. Smith, Jr., CSI, CCS, RA, LEED™ AP

CSI Houston Foundation Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow

By Al Pasek, CSI, CCPR, President, CSI Houston Foundation

The CSI Houston Foundation, Inc. was established to provide scholarship opportunities for deserving students who have selected a degree goal within the construction industry.

In 2013, we were able to fund five scholarships for \$2,000 each to architectural/engineering students with 60 hours or more time toward an academic degree within the construction industry. By exposing them to CSI and all its benefits, we believe these students will apply their education to become active leaders of tomorrow within their chosen field and CSI.

Continued support by the membership of CSI Houston and sponsors of CSI activities will offer the funds necessary to make our Foundation play an important role in advancing educational opportunities for students within the Gulf Coast Region.

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CSI Houston

Construction Specifications Institute
 P.O. Box 79285
 Houston, TX 77279-9285
 (713) 627-2283, Ext. 319

www.csihouston.org

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 on the Web

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Nov. 2013 Through Dec. 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOV. 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Planning Mtg 2:30 pm; 9434 Katy Fwy, Suite 170	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting—HESS	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30
DEC 1	2	3 Holiday Party Crisp, 4:30 pm, 2220 Bevis @ 22nd	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Years Eve	JAN 1 New Years Day	2	3	4