

CSI Houston Chapter  
The Construction Specifications Institute

April 2014

**April 28, 2014  
Board Meeting &  
Student Awards  
Dinner:**

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.

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CSI Houston Website:  
<http://www.csihouston.org>

**CSI Houston Building Tour on April 21st  
"Shell Woodcreek Campus Tour"**

The 2014 building tour will be at the Shell Woodcreek Campus 200 N. Dairy Ashford Rd, located on the northeast corner of Dairy Ashford and I-10, followed by a "Dutch-treat" dinner at Texas Land & Cattle., 12313 Katy Freeway (Eastbound Feeder).

The Shell Woodcreek campus is the result of nearly a decade of collaboration between Shell's US Upstream operations, corporate real estate group, Hines and HOK. HOK designed the original headquarters building nearly forty years ago, a building that anchors the adjoining property known as the Legacy campus. As that property has aged, Shell's evolving workplace standards and the needs of a growing workforce combined, spurred the company to look at growth as an opportunity to build on the serene corporate character of its Legacy facility. The new campus is a complex of six buildings totaling nearly 1.5 million square feet. The new twelve story office towers will house over 5000 people. LEED Gold certification is being pursued with measures such as highly efficient floor to ceiling glazing, interior environments utilizing underfloor air and open floor plans create flexible, functional workplace and high efficiency mechanical, electrical and lighting systems along with other sustainable strategies.

The tour will take us through Building F's corporate dining facility which acts as the campus' centerpiece and the newly completed Building E with its dining pavilion which boasts a grand spiraling stair that connects to an elevated green roof above complete with a putting green. Ongoing construction of Phase 4 can be observed from Building E and a tour of the landscaped site will highlight the implemented sustainable water management strategies.

Be prepared for an interesting afternoon with our tour guides and presenters who are the very professionals who made this project a reality.

- Ben Crawford, AIA LEED AP BD+C, Sr. Project Designer – HOK
- Daniel Mills, LEED AP, Sustainable Design Leader – HOK
- Chris Heikkila, AIA LEED GA, Sr. Project Architect – HOK
- Johnny Evans, AIA LEED AP BD+C – HOK
- Bobby Lim, LEED AP BD+C, Interior Design Lead – Gensler

Schedule: 4:00pm – 5:00pm Building Tour (The tour will start promptly at 4:00pm from the northeast corner of the visitors parking lot)  
5:30pm "Dutch –treat" Social and Dinner at TX Land & Cattle

Attendees are responsible for their own protective gear, including closed toe shoes, reflective high visibility vest, hard hat, and protective glasses.

**Student Awards Banquet on April 28th**

The April CSI Houston Chapter Board meeting at Hess will be followed by Chapter student scholarship awards banquet and presentation meeting. Come see the work of our future leaders.

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

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

Vice President Don Ude, CSI

Secretary Tom Atwell, CSI, CDT, AIA

Treasurer Brett Wilbur, CSI, CCS, RA

Director Bill Fairbanks CSI, CCPR

Director Di Ann Reid, CSI CCS, CCCA, LEED AP

Director Jeff Holstien, CSI, CDT

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

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SC Region President Elect Melody A. Stinson, CSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP  
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Institute Director Kirby M. Davis, CSI, CDT  
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Institute President Casey Robb, FCSI, CCPR  
DuPont Building Innovations, Acworth, GA  
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# April 2014 President's Message

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

The March membership meeting program was a great history lesson about one of the very last family owned and operated handmade brick companies in America. The owners of St. Joe Brick Works presented with pride their continued passion making their very unique brick products.



The Chapter's five-year planning meeting was a great success. We had sixteen members of our Board, Committee Chairs and Special

Guests attend with some great ideas and plans for the Chapter's future. The results of the session are being compiled and a report from Pat Kiley will be presented soon.

As of this writing I am looking forward to attending the South Central Region's spring conference in Austin. The first CDT Boot Camp Training Session will be performed with at least thirty-three attendees. If this is an indication of the interest in abbreviated training and the test results are positive, you will see this type program return next fall.

This month we are actually having two member events. One is a completed project tour and an Awards Banquet for the Students selected to receive Scholarships. Look for a description of both in this month's newsletter.

## CSI Membership Stats (LinkedIn forum Feb. 25, 2014)

By Douglas C. Frank, FCSI, CCS

All of the comments on this forum prompted me to do a little research. For what it's worth, here's some interesting statistical information regarding membership and certification.

### As of February 2014,

Total CSI membership: Approx. 11,000  
Total number of CDT holders nationwide: 19,222  
CSI Members 4,023 (Non-members 15,202)  
Total number of CCS holders nationwide: 1,117  
(CSI Members 851) (Non-members 266)

Total number of CCCA holders nationwide: 1,043

(CSI Members 611) (Non-members 432)  
Total number of CCPR holders nationwide: 209  
(CSI Members 176) (Non-members 33)  
For a grand total of approx. 21,300 individuals (since some folks have multiple certifications)  
For a grand total of approx. 5,500 Members (since some folks have multiple certifications)

As of February 2014, **35%** of my (Houston) chapters' approximately 190 members hold CDT, or Certification at some level. 36 (**19%**) of the chapter members hold CDT while **16%** of those 190 hold actual Certifications (CCS 17, CCPR 3, CCCA 10)

The national average for CSI members is currently **30%** of the total membership hold CDT, or Certification at some level.

There are 4,023 total member CDTs; **36%** of the total membership.

There are 851 CCS; 611 CCCA; 176 CCPR for a total of 1638 total members Certified; **14.5%** of the total membership.

It's interesting that **79%** of the total number of CDT Certificate holders are Non-CSI Members!

### \*\*Comparison numbers from 2005:\*\*

Total CSI Membership 15,800 ±

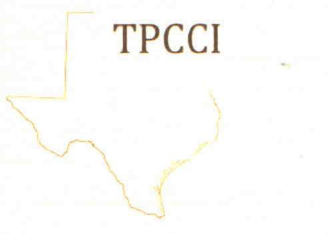
The national average for CSI members was **30%** of the total membership held CDT, or Certification at some level.

There were 2,730 total CDTs; **17%** of the total membership

There were 1,146 CCS; 628 CCCA; and 229 CCPR for a total of 2003 total Certified; **12%** of the total membership

It's interesting that 70% of the total number of CDT Certificate holders are Non-CSI Members!

I'm not sure what to make of these statistics except that it appears that we've done a pretty good job of marketing the CDT to folks outside of our organization. That's encouraging but, at the same time, discouraging that we haven't done as well on the other certifications. In fact the number of CCS, CCCA, and CCPR certified folks has actually Decreased over the past 9 years.



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**CSI Houston Chapter Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Location: HESS Building**  
**5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX**  
**February 24, 2014**

Present: Amy Salmeron, Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bill Lunsford, Chuck Vojtech, Don Smith, Don Ude, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, Jeff Holstein, Neil Byrne, Robert Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Robert Byrne called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

The January 2014 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Vice President Reports:**

**Finance/Administration: Chuck Vojtech**

Chuck reported he and Bob Cook reviewed the budget and that expenses and income were on track as budgeted. Neil asked if a check had been given to Pat Kiley's charity. Chuck will confirm with Bob. Chuck will also ask for a current Treasurer's report from Bob.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Cook  
No report.

**Professional Development: Tim Wilson**

Continuing Education:  
Robert asked if the board if this committee is an active and needed committee. Discussion followed.

Academic Affairs: Al Pasek  
No report.

Certification: Tim Wilson  
No report.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan  
Robert reported that the board discussed eliminating this committee at the last planning meeting. Discussion followed. Amy suggested asking members to write technical articles to publish in the chapter newsletter. Don Smith said he would ask Mark Koehler to write a technical article. Jeff Holstein gave Don Smith a technical article to publish in the newsletter.

**Member Services: Tom Atwell**

Programs: J. Peter Jordan  
Robert reported that he is working on coordinating the program for the March meeting and Alex Bernard is working on the tour scheduled for April.

Membership: Bill Lunsford  
Bill reported that the current membership number is at one hundred eighty four.

Awards: Amy Salmeron  
Amy mentioned that she needs submission from the

board for the Craftsman Award. Amy would make an announcement at the chapter meeting requesting submissions from the members.

Table Top Display: Amy Peevey  
No report.

Personal/Professional Development: Doug Frank / Di Ann Reid  
No report.

**Public Services: Don Smith**

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith  
Don reported the February newsletter was published to the website. He also reported that members had email him stating that they enjoyed receiving the newsletter via email.

Electronic Communications: Logan Vits  
No report.

**Other Business:**

Foundation:  
Bill Fairbanks stated that eleven scholarship applications had been received and are being reviewed.

Chapter Elections:  
The board discussed the chapter nominees for officers and directors for the fiscal year 2014-2015. Don Smith "moved to accept the list of nominees." The motion was seconded and approved.

CIC:  
Bill Fairbanks mentioned that he has not been able to attend the Construction Industry Council meetings. He stated that he feels it is worthwhile for CSI to have a delegate to represent the chapter at the meetings

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

***Betsy Finch, CSI***  
***Chapter Secretary***

**CSI Houston Officers & Directors Election Results for FY 2014—2015**

President Elect: Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP  
Vice President Finance/Administration: Chuck Vojtech, CSI, CDT  
Vice President Member Services: Tom Atwell, CSI, CDT, AIA  
Vice President Professional Development: Tim Wilson, CSI  
Vice President Public Services: Don Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP  
Secretary: Betsy Finch, CSI  
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Director through 2017: Jeff Holstien, CSI, CDT  
Director through 2017: Alex Bernard, CSI, AIA

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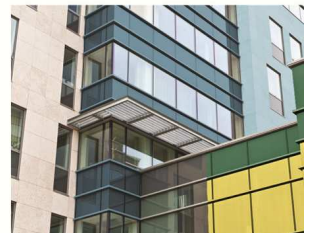
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## FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

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 is \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members, or free with a Golf Sponsorship pledge.

## WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

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Contact Don Smith at  
(713) 688-0092 or [don.smith315@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.smith315@sbcglobal.net)  
for more information.

## CSI South Central Region News

By Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP,  
CSI South Central Region President



The CSI South Central Region will be presenting the Construction Documents Technology (CDT) Boot Camp on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Annual South Central Region Conference at the Austin Marriott South, 4415

South Interstate 35, Austin, Texas 78744.

Passing the CDT will provide 40 elective credit hours for the NCARB-IDP program. 12 HSW credit hours will be provided for registered Architects, Interns, and Interior Designers for taking the CDT Boot Camp Course. The course is based on the CSI Project Delivery Practice Guide and will be taught by very enthusiastic and experienced instructors.

For candidates wishing to stay overnight before or after the CDT Boot Camp, room rates for the hotel if registered by March 17<sup>th</sup> are \$139 per night. Cost for the Conference is \$125 for registration with an additional \$25 for the CDT Boot Camp Educational Track. Registration for the Conference and the CDT Boot Camp Track will include lunch, snack time breaks, hospitality room, product show information, etc.

The cost of the CDT Boot Camp does not include the CDT exam registration or the CSI Project Delivery Practice Guide. CDT Candidates are strongly encouraged to obtain a copy as well as the AIA-A201 General Conditions in accordance with the recommendations of the CDT Study Guide to become familiar with the CDT Exam requirements.

Self Study for the CDT exam is an option for all candidates, however, due to the complex nature of the exam questions and the amount of information to be covered during a short time, 36 to 40 hours minimum outside study is recommended to properly prepare for the CDT Exam. To get the most out of the CDT Boot Camp, participants should have completed the majority of study in advance of the class.

Let the CSI South Central Region help you prepare for the Construction Documents Technology exam with a review of the fundamentals and formats of construction documents. Below is a link for to register for the CSI South Central Region Conference and the CDT Boot Camp.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e804d3ve614c0b80&llr=bc6p4qoab&showPage=true>

For more information, please contact Holly Jordan, CSI South Central Region President [hjordan@jordanconsultants.com](mailto:hjordan@jordanconsultants.com) or David Loveless, CSI Austin Chapter President, [csiaustin046@gmail.com](mailto:csiaustin046@gmail.com)

## CSI South Central Region Conference - April 3 – 5, 2014

Austin Marriott South, 4415 S. IH-35,  
Austin, TX 78744

### THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	ROBERT'S RULES TRAINING
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	- HOSPITALITY SUITE
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT DINNER (BY INVITATION ONLY)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	- BREAKFAST / MINI TRADESHOW
8:00 AM - 12:15 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS (AIA TRACK OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)
8:00 AM – 12:15 PM	- CDT BOOTCAMP
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM	- LUNCH / AWARDS / MINI TRADESHOW
1:45 PM – 6:00 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS (AIA TRACK OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)
1:45 PM – 6:00 PM	- CDT BOOTCAMP
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	- HOSPITALITY SUITE
8:00 PM – 12:00 PM	- LIVE MUSIC IN THE "LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"

### SATURDAY

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	SOUTH CENTRAL REGION BOARD MEETING / INCLUDES BREAKFAST
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**THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TRACKS: AIA CEU \* CDT BOOTCAMP \* PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### COSTS

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE	\$125.00
CDT BOOT CAMP (FOR CONF. ATTENDEES)	\$25.00
LIVE MUSIC	\$ TBD
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION BOARD MEETING / BREAKFAST	\$ 30.00
ROOM NIGHT RENTAL	\$139.00
PLUS TAX	

**SPONSORSHIPS FOR EVENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE @ \$100.00 EACH**

**MINI TRADESHOW WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY DURING BREAKFAST, BREAKS, LUNCH AND HAPPY HOUR/AWARD PRESENTATION @ \$200.00 EACH**

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## THE “PULSE” OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

By Doug Frank FCSI, CCS

The following is fiction and any resemblance to any person or company living or dead is strictly coincidental. Picture this if you can.

Imagine a major A/E firm in a particularly prosperous part of the country. The construction industry is booming. The firm has got more work than it can handle with present staff so they set out to hire some new folks. Ads in local trades, contacts, and headhunters have brought very few candidates and none that meet the stated education and experience needs. As time goes by the firm gets desperate and decides they absolutely have to hire someone, anyone, to fill the position. Qualifications are lowered some and a potential candidate comes in for an interview. Since he meets the now lower qualifications (he has a pulse), he's hired. Let's call him Bill.

Bill is working on a significant project for one of the firm's major clients. One day Bill's phone rings and when he answers, a guy (let's call him Brian) says he has heard about the project and wants to come by and tell Bill all about his product. Maybe Bill can use the product on his project. When Brian suggests that he take Bill out for lunch to talk about it, Bill gladly agrees. Oh, by the way, let's find out about Brian.

Brian represents the Multicontinental Widget Corporation and has been an employee there for two weeks. The Multicontinental Widget Corporation's business has been booming and Brian's boss has needed a new rep in this market for quite a while. Ads in local trades, contacts, and headhunters have brought him very few candidates, and none that meet his education and experience needs. As time went by he got desperate and decided to hire someone, anyone, to fill the position. A potential candidate came in for an interview and, since he met the now lower qualifications (he had a pulse), Brian was hired.

Brian and Bill meet for lunch one day and, over a nice steak, Brian tells Bill all about his product. "Multicontinental Widget has Never had a product failure of any kind," Brian says. He goes on to say, "I'm sure you've heard about our competition. Just last week one of their products failed and some masonry fell off a building and smashed a car parked on the street! That could never happen with an Multicontinental Widget product" Brian brags. Now Bill, enjoying his free steak and maybe a cocktail, isn't really even listening to Brian carefully. After all he doesn't really know, or care, what a widget does or whose he gets on his project. He just cares that he has a pulse and needs sustenance to keep it going. Thinking "Hey, if I use Brian's widgets,

maybe he'll come back and buy me lunch again" Bill goes back to the office and instructs his people to include Multicontinental Widgets as an acceptable manufacturer in the Widget section of the specs.

In response, one of the junior people assigned to copy the specs from the last job, pencils in the name Multicontinental Widget Corp at the same time he's whiting out and changing the project name on the spec pages.

Soon the project is complete (no the A/E really didn't have time to do their normal QC review of this one before issue) and it's on the street for Bids. Larry, an estimator for Major General Contractor Inc., one of the major general contractors in town picks up a set of documents and begins to assemble a bid. Shall we meet Larry?

The Major General Contractor Inc's business has been booming and Larry's boss has needed a new estimator for quite a while. Ads in local trades, contacts, and headhunters have brought him very few candidates, and none that meet his education and experience needs. As time goes by he got desperate and decided to hire someone, anyone, to fill the position. A potential candidate came in for an interview and, since he met the now lower qualifications (he had a pulse), Larry was hired.

As the deadline for bids fast approached, Larry realized that he had prices for widgets from two manufacturers. Quality Widgets' price seemed pretty high compared with Multicontinental's price and, since Brian had bought Larry a steak lunch a few days ago, Larry felt sure that Multicontinental's lower price was the right choice for the job. Besides, he'd look good to his boss when they got the job. Of course Major General Contractor Inc. had the low bid and was awarded the project. Enter Steve.

Don't worry, Steve has worked for Major General Contractor for many years and is a skilled and highly qualified construction superintendent. Steve put the construction schedule together and work began. As time went on, Steve saw that it was time to order the widgets and so he called Larry. Larry then called Brian to place the order and arrange for shipping and delivery. Brian was so excited about getting the job, he immediately called the home office to get the order into the production schedule, and then called Larry back and offered to take him out to lunch.

Roy is the Assistant Production Manager for Multicontinental Widget Corporation. You guessed it. Roy has been an employee of MWC for about a

*Continued on page 9*



*Continued from page 8*

month and a half. MWC's business has been booming lately (maybe because of Larry?) and Roy's boss has needed a new assistant for quite a while. Ads in local trades, contacts, and headhunters have brought him very few candidates, and none that met his education and experience needs. As time went by he got desperate and decided to hire someone, anyone, to fill the position. A potential candidate came in for an interview and, since he met the now lower qualifications (he had a pulse), Roy was hired.

Now, just for the record, Multicontinental Widget Corporation does make a quality widget. Sure they've had to cut corners a little lately, doesn't everybody? Especially in this economy where they are working three shifts and can barely keep up with demand. As it happens though, just about the time that Major General Contractor's order goes into production on Roy's shift, Roy realizes that MWC's supply of kryptonite (an important ingredient in the manufacture of widgets) is a little low. Being a smart guy though, Roy decides he can actually save MWC some money, and make himself look good in the process, by reducing slightly the amount of kryptonite in each widget. He can then stretch the available supply to meet the demand. (Now I know that this never happens in the real world. Remember I said at the outset that this is a fictional story)

In any event, the widgets were manufactured, passed MWC's rigid quality control inspection (Roy's job), and delivered on schedule. Roy's boss was so pleased that he gave Roy a raise and a promotion!

Steve took delivery of the widgets on the job site for Major General Contractor and began to make arrangements for their installation. When he contacted the labor pool, he was told that nobody with the qualifications he needed was available. Maintaining the construction schedule was critical to avoid liquidated damages. Steve decided he'd have to lower his requirements for widget installers and hired Al. Now Al didn't speak much english but that hurdle could be surpassed with hand gestures and interpreters. After all, he did have a pulse.

In a few minutes, Al had his instruction and began to install the widgets. The Drawings and specs, and the manufacturer's written instructions (all in english) required the widgets to be attached, through the insulation, directly to the steel stud framing. The instructions further stated the type of screws and spacing of the widgets. Now for Al, locating the stud framing that was hidden behind the sheathing board wasn't easy. The first couple of times the screws didn't act like they wanted to go in very easy but Al discovered that, if he moved the screw location over just an inch or so, they went in like butter. His pulse racing, Al screwed and screwed

and, by the end of the first day, he'd set a new record for widget installation.

Perhaps it should be pointed out here that widgets don't weight very much. They don't have to. The only purpose widgets serve on this project is to provide tie-back anchorage of the masonry veneer to the structural back-up

As it turns out, the specs called for inspection of the installation by a representative of the manufacturer. Brian drove by the job site on his way to take Bill out to lunch and figured that qualified as an inspection. After all, he rationalized "I don't know what I'd be looking for anyway". When he picked Bill up for lunch, they drove by the job site again on the way to the restaurant and that satisfied Bill's need for a site visit that day too. A nice lunch, and a couple of field reports later, everyone's day was done.

In only a few days, Al had all the widgets installed. Everyone was excited by Al's performance, especially Al since he could now go back to the labor hall and get more work as an "Experienced Widget Installer".

Steve then made arrangements for installation of the masonry veneer on the project. Now a couple of days ahead of schedule he could be selective about the installers he hired and managed to put together a crew of experienced people. Nearing completion on the masonry veneer, up about twelve stories, a substantial wind came up suddenly. The force of the wind caused major positive pressure inside the cavity and major negative pressure on the masonry from the outside. The screws holding the widgets pulled out just like they went in, like butter. The resulting collapse killed six workmen and a family of four driving by the site in their car, as well as causing serious injury to about twelve others.

Enter Harold. Harold is a lawyer. Harold's boss has needed a new associate for quite a while. Ads in local trades, contacts, and headhunters had brought him a few candidates, but only one that exceeded his education and experience needs. The boss was thrilled to find a candidate with such lofty credentials, several years of litigation experience, and way more than just a pulse. Harold was hired. A day after the accident, Harold's firm was hired to sue the pants off whomever was responsible for this terrible tragedy.

Forensic engineers were hired to evaluate the situation and did all kinds of material testing and evaluation. They discovered that improper installation of the widgets was a significant factor. Material testing

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also showed that the widgets were faulty (not enough kryptonite) and would have failed, even if they had been properly installed.

Expert witnesses were called to give testimony regarding various construction practices and techniques as well as professional standard of care. They showed that the A/E firm was negligent by failing to properly maintain quality control reviews prior to document issue (they actually advertised that they have a QC system in place to ensure quality documents). They showed that the A/E firm was negligent in falsifying several Architect's Field Reports since the guy was never even on site on the days in question. They showed that the Multicontinental Widget Corp. was negligent in manufacture and in falsifying inspection reports since their guy was never on site on the days in question. They showed that Major General Contractor was negligent by not hiring qualified installers and by not properly supervising the construction process.

The jury listened to the whole story and decided that they too had a pulse. Connecting a pulse with a heart, they were deeply saddened by the tragic stories that resulted from the accident and, perhaps thinking with their hearts, awarded a kabillion dollar judgment against each of the defendants.

The major A/E firm has declared bankruptcy. Of course, Bill had already been fired. Since he has a pulse though, he's now working for another large A/E firm in town. Multicontinental Widget went bankrupt. With the economy still booming, Brian and Roy didn't have much trouble finding a job with another manufacturer. In fact, Brian took Bill to lunch the other day and explained that the company he now represents has "Never had a failure". Major General Contractor also went bankrupt, but Larry and Steve have already found work. Harold got his thirty percent of the kabillion dollar settlement, and Al is prosperous and out there somewhere merrily installing widgets, maybe on one of your projects?

## "Strictly SMITH-ly"

### "The Modern Technical Library"

**By J. Petr Jordan, FCSI, CCS, AIA, SCIP, LEED AP & Donald F. Smith, Jr., CSI CCS RA LEED AP**

In my experience, interior designers tend to rely on sample libraries which can get very large even when the catalogs are limited to a relatively few manufacturers. Moreover, these things can get out of date very, very quickly. A basic library is a necessity, but every selection needs to be verified which can lead to an expansion of samples. Architects are often more interested in technical data and details (not that good interior designers aren't, but...), the format of which lends itself to a traditional library. When they want a sample, they often request a current sample from the manufacturer. One of the reasons physical libraries have fallen out of favor is that they are so difficult to keep current. We can get the basic information for most stuff off the web with some confidence that it is current. Where samples are necessary to evaluate texture and color, they can be requested. Most manufacturers have programs that turn around such requests quickly. **J. Peter Jordan**

The focus of an interior designer's library and an architect's library revolves around their areas of practice. Floor space is limited and the cost to maintain the library usually exceeds the cost of the floor space. Regardless of the focus, their both share similar problems and goals. To be useful, the technical information and samples must be relevant, dated when received and have a listing of the product representative that updates them. Selling a client on something that is no longer available is a no-no.

The increase in speed and throughput of internet connections and search engines has made it possible to get current technical information directly from the manufacturer. The product representative's job is shifting from catalogs and updates to education in the form of briefings on what is new and industry changes in the way we practice and build. He is most useful in recommending products for special situations and telling you when successful results are not likely. This is the kind of hands on help that you almost never get in product literature.

The life of product literature mimics the products that they represent, and often is no more than one year. Types of materials that have aesthetic qualities are best selected from new samples and literature viewed under lighting conditions similar to the completed project.

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*Continued from page 10*

Items such as appliance models may not be available when construction progress dictates an order is needed to be placed.

In order to be useful, catalog data and samples must be dated, labeled with what they are, and where they come from. Fugitive information (you have it, but you don't), is a waste of everyone's time and should be discarded. Likewise, the name and contact information for product representative is useless if you can't talk to the person that supplied the information and sample when you need him.

An up to date list of product representative's contact information with website links to manufacturers, technical organizations and associations to back up manufacturers claims is very useful and no longer takes up much room.

Local technical libraries may also have current technical codes, specifications and standards that are too expensive for the individual library. University libraries may have special collections with book and publication subjects of interest to the architectural and interior designer.

Technical articles offering advice on what works as well as what does not work is helpful to support decisions for various materials and assemblies. Copies can easily be stored in pdf format and saved by specification section number and title for easy retrieval. **Don Smith**

**"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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## Apr. 2014 Through May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Mar 30</i>	31	<i>Apr 1</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Easter Day</i>	21 <i>Planning Mtg, 2:30 pm, AMP ; Shell Tour</i>	22	23 <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>	24	25	26
27	28 <i>CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting- Hess</i>	29	30	<i>May 1</i>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>Planning Mtg, 2:30 pm, 9434 Katy Fwy, Ste 170</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Memorial Day— No Board/Chapter Meeting</i>	27	28	29	30	<i>Jun 1</i>