



SPEE.tectonics

CSI Houston Chapter
The Construction Specifications Institute

September 2014

September 22, 2014 Board / Chapter Meeting

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

TIME:

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

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

COST:

\$35.00 to non members at
the door.

Inside this issue:

CSI Houston Program	1
Leadership Directory	2
President's Message; SCR Announcement	3
July Board Meeting Minutes	4
CSI Sponsor Advertisements	5
"Where Have I Heard That Before"	6, 8
CSI Sponsor Advertisements	7
Strictly Smith-ly, "Integrity"	9
Strictly Smith-ly, "Drawing and Specification Review"	10
SCR News	11
CSI Houston Calendar	12

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

September 22nd CSI Houston Chapter Program Urban Development in Houston

Please join us at the September chapter meeting for an introduction revealing the growth of Houston since Spindletop in 1901 and a discussion about the growth and economic development issues in the city and the region and the impacts on planning in Houston, development regulations, and the current process to prepare and adopt the Houston General Plan.

Our guest speaker, Peter H. Brown, is a nationally recognized architect and urban planner, he was an At-large City Council Member 2006-2010, founder of Better Houston, and Senior Fellow of Urban Design of Houston Tomorrow. He has teaching experience at the University of Pennsylvania, Rice, the University of Houston, and Texas Southern University

Please join us at our September 22nd, CSI Houston Chapter meeting for an interesting and informative evening of discussion.

Please also make the following changes on the website (basically the October and November programs flipped):

Oct 27 – Student Presentation

Nov 24 – COH Code Changes

Dec – Holiday Event

Jan 26 – Economic Outlook for Construction

**CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER
2014—2015 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President Neil Byrne, CSI, CDT, CPA
(281) 354-1100
npbyrne@byrnetals.com

Past President Robert P. Byrne, CSI
(713) 632-4790
rbyrne56@icloud.com

President Elect Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP
(713) 366-0320
hjordan@jordanconsultants.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 Bill Fairbanks, CSI, CCPR
(281) 227-3577
fairbanks@rpcinc.com

2014—2015 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
ggroeschel@besam-usa.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

Director through 2017 Jeff Holstien, CSI, CDT
(281) 850-4659
dhi8710@aol.com

Director through 2017 Alex Bernard, CSI, CCPR
(713) 407 7700
Alex.bernard@hok.com

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

2014—2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs Alex Bernard, CSI, CCPR
(713) 407 7700
alex.bernard@hok.com

Membership Bill Lunsford, CSI, CDT
(817) 300--7262
walunsford@att.net

Certification Greg Quintero, CSI, CDT, AIA, LEED AP
(713) 356-1300
greg.quintero@gensler.com

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

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

Public Relations/Marketing Grant Groeschel, CSI
(713)-520-0155
ggroeschel@besam-usa.com

Golf Tournament Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP
(713) 366-0320
hjordan@jordanconsultants.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

2014—2015 CSI HOUSTON SPEC.TECTONICS

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

2014—2015 CSI HOUSTON WEBSITE

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

2014—2015 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

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, CCA, LEED AP

Director Jeff Holstien, CSI, CDT

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

SC Region President	Melody A. Stinson, CSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP (405) 942-7337 mas@rees.com	Institute Director	Kirby M. Davis, CSI, CDT (203) 671-7210 irby-davis@hotmail.com
		Institute President	Robert W. Simmons, FCSI, CCPR arobertsimmons@cs.com

September 2014 President's Message

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

August was another great month at CSI Houston. The monthly meeting was well attended and the program topic of "Golf Course Design" was unique, interesting and educational. We also had an impromptu Frank Lloyd Wright home tour which was fascinating to say the least. Thanks to all that attended both of these great events.



The September meeting on the 22nd, will be a presentation revealing the growth of Houston since Spindletop in 1901 and a discussion about the growth and economic development issues in the city and the region and the impacts on planning in Houston, development regulations, and the current process to prepare and adopt the Houston General Plan .

Our CSI golf tournament is fast approaching (October 13th), be sure to sign up while spots are still available! In addition, stay tuned for an announcement regarding our upcoming December holiday event. We are making some exciting changes to this year's event.

In other news, I am saddened to report for the second month in a row, we have lost another valued member of CSI Houston. Gary F. Shirley, AIA, CSI passed away unexpectedly on August

20th. Gary had been with Cre8 Architects since the day they opened and was past President of CSI Houston. Gary will be missed by all that knew him.

I look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting. Remember, please do your part to increase membership and member participation at CSI Houston!

South Central Region Message by Melody Stinson, CSI CCS AIA LEED AP President, CSI South Central Region

Save the Date for these upcoming CSI South Central Region events! At CONSTRUCT: Join us in Room 319 on Thursday, Sept. 11th from 5:45-6:45 for the SCR caucus, meet region leaders and hear more about upcoming region events. Fall Planning Meeting: October 3-4 at the Crowne Plaza in Addison, TX - help us shape SCR conferences for the future! All chapter Presidents should plan to attend the board meeting on Saturday morning.

All SCR members are welcome to the planning session Friday afternoon. South Central Region Conference 2015: April 16-18 at the Overton Hotel in Lubbock, TX -

Join us for education, training, networking and some time to enjoy the Lubbock Arts Festival! Planning is in progress- we would love to see you there! Questions on the South Central Region or how you can help?

Contact me, Melody Stinson at mstinson@rees.com or call 405.942.7337.

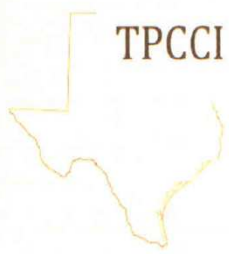
FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

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.

Contact: don.smith315@sbdglobal.net



TPCCI

*Manufacturer's Representative
Waterproofing Products
Concrete Accessories
Specialty Coatings*

JOHN M. ZIEBELL

26911 Bridleway Circle
Magnolia, TX 77355

(832) 746-3507
johnziebell@att.net

**CSI Board Meeting Minutes
Houston Chapter CSI
Location: HESS Building – 5430 Westheimer
Road – Houston, TX
July 28, 2014**

Present: Betsy Finch, Bill Lunsford, Don Smith, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, Jeff Holstein, Neil Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Neil Byrne called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

The June 2014 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

Vice President Reports:

Finance/Administration: Chuck Vojtech
Treasurer's Report: Bill Fairbanks
No report.

2014-2015 Budget Review
The board reviewed the budget for 2014-2015. Tom Atwell "moved the board approve the 2014-2015 budget." The motion was seconded and approved.

Professional Development: Tim Wilson
Continuing Education: Greg Quintero
Greg is working on planning a CDT boot camp for the spring.

Academic Affairs:
No report.

Certification:
No report.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan
No report.

Member Services: Tom Atwell
Programs: Alex Bernard
No report.

Membership: Bill Lunsford
Bill reported the chapter currently has one hundred seventy-five members. Neil stated one of his goals as president is to increase membership.

Awards: Amy Salmeron
No report.

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 July SPEC.tectonics newsletter had been posted to the website and emailed to the membership.

Public Relations: Holly Jordan
Holly reported the golf tournament would be held October 13th instead of October 6th. She also reported sponsor commitments for the tournament currently total \$11,425.

Electronic Communications: Logan Vits
Neil reported Logan is working on updating the website, including the Constant Contact information. Bill will update the new member list.

Other Business:
Neil informed the board of the passing of Lance McHaney on July 24, 2014. The board discussed making a donation to The Lance McHaney Memorial Fund. Betsy Finch "moved that the CSI Houston Chapter donate \$1,000.00 to The Lance McHaney Memorial Fund." The motion was seconded and approved.

Neil reported CSI Institute is increasing annual dues by \$10.00.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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

PPG & GLIDDEN PROFESSIONAL® PAINTS: **BETTER TOGETHER**



With more products, programs and locations than ever before, PPG Architectural Coatings is better able to serve your coating needs.

Visit us at ppgpro.com or gliddenprofessional.com to find a store near you*
Or contact your local representative

Michelle Estes Architectural Coatings Lisa Li PPG Glass
Michelle.estes@ppg.com 210.744.5673 Lli@ppg.com 940.733.9080

PPG PPG Architectural Coatings

*Not all products are available in all stores.

© 2013 PPG Industries, Inc. All rights reserved. The PPG logo is a registered trademark of PPG Industries Ohio, Inc.® and ™ indicate trademarks of the PPG group of companies.



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.

Contact: don.smith315@sbcglobal.net

WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

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

A half page ad is only \$500 for 12 issues

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

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

Where Have I Heard That Before?

By Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC



"It is probable that few members of the profession will disagree [that] the preparation of specifications receives less study and attention in proportion to its importance than

any other phase of architectural or engineering practice. It is generally conceded that there is need for accurate, concise, yet comprehensive specifications in order to secure the best results from any set of plans. In our architectural schools ... instruction in specification writing has been neglected to such an extent that those to whom the task of specification writing has fallen have usually been forced to educate themselves. As a natural sequence of this condition we find too many inaccurate and incomplete documents accompanying drawings under the guise of specifications."

If you participate in or visit CSI groups on LinkedIn, or follow discussions on 4specs.com, or talk with just about any specifier, it's likely you have heard similar comments. Most of those who work with specifications appreciate their value, and believe that, to be effective, they must contain all the information needed by the contractor, they must not contain irrelevant information, and they must be easy to understand.

Following is more of the comment from which I took the opening quotation.

"IT is probable that few members of the profession will disagree with the statement that, considered broadly, the preparation of specifications receives less study and attention in proportion to its importance than any other phase of architectural or engineering practice. It is generally conceded that there is need for accurate, concise, yet comprehensive specifications in order to secure the best results from any set of plans. Yet to many architects and engineers the task of their preparation is onerous, and in order to produce a written document to accompany the drawings they sometimes even resort to the re-working of old specifications. It is usually discovered later that they do not accurately apply to the work in hand.

"It is because of these conditions that THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT notes with the greatest satisfaction the initiation of a movement to organize The American Specification Institute along the lines of the National Professional Societies.

"It is obvious that The American Specification Institute should have as its fundamental purpose the education of its membership so as to assure better and more uniform specifications, the dissemination of information relating to the production of raw materials, their manufacture or fabrication into finished products, and how, when and where to use the different materials. When the specification writer has acquired a thorough understanding of the materials and equipment described and called for in his specifications he will be able to write more intelligently and produce a document that will furnish protection alike to the client, the architect, the builder and the manufacturer.

The above was printed in 1920, in *The American Architect*, published from 1876 through 1938, when it was absorbed by *Architectural Record*. In following issues, readers responded.

"The average architect beginning practice today knows very little about this most important phase of his work. He little knows how much stress a client will put on his knowledge of stone and concrete; the grades of lumber; the most efficient kinds of paint for various purposes; what constitutes the various grades of glass; plumbing goods; hardware and electrical work. The architect to correctly specify must know these things intelligently and intimately so that he may not only be in a position to advise the client but to advise the builder if necessary. Architecture is the art of building thoroughly even as much as making buildings attractive." *Heacock & Hokanson*

"It occurs to me that architects in the past have paid altogether too little attention to this important phase of their work, and too little opportunity for development has been given to those men who are engaged in specification writing. The result of this has been that often our well-conceived projects have been poorly constructed, and proper provision has too often not been made to protect various materials in the proper manner." *H. Kenneth Franzheim, architect*

Continued on page 8

THEY SAY YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FAMILY.
WE RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE.



Meet the person behind the products. Call or email

Joey Penna
CSI, CDT, LEED GA

for more information.

813 514-5914
josephpe@nationalgypsum.com



Our complete family of XP® products is easily recognized by National Gypsum's original PURPLE® color and offers Xtra Protection against mold. Gold Bond® BRAND products include:



- XP Gypsum Board
- Hi-Abuse XP Gypsum Board
- Hi-Impact XP Gypsum Board
- SoundBreak XP Gypsum Board
- Fire-Shield Shaftliner XP
- ProForm BRAND XP Ready Mix with Dust-Tech

air barrier abaa association of america



THE COMPLETE
RESOURCE FOR AIR
BARRIER EDUCATION
AND TECHNICAL
INFORMATION.

AIR BARRIERS CONTRIBUTE TO:

- Durable Buildings
- Significant Energy Savings
- Green Buildings (LEED Rated)
- Air Quality and Indoor Comfort

SPECIFY THE ABAA
AIR BARRIER QUALITY
ASSURANCE PROGRAM

Build it Right, the first time.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEB
SITE OR EMAIL US:

abaa@airbarrier.org

www.airbarrier.org

Continued from page 6

"I agree that the specification practice of most architects offices is the least creditable part of their work, due probably to several things: First, ... in an effort to hasten the work, old specifications for similar buildings are often rehashed and made over with a greater or lesser degree of success, mostly less. Secondly, specifications are to the majority of architects the least interesting part of their work, the very essential to the best interests of their client. " *An old subscriber*

"Most specification writers receive their training at the present time solely in the school of experience, which is, of course, excellent, but does not cover the entire ground, for the reason that these men are usually the product of training of one or two offices which have their individual methods." *Wm. O. Ludlow, architect*

Not everyone agreed. I recently heard an architect express an opinion similar to the following.

"We, of course, do not approve of any institution that would seek to standardize so important a document as a specification, because we believe that personality and creativeness enter as much into this branch of the architect's work as in matters of design and execution of drawings. We do not believe that you can make specification specialists because we believe the specification maker must be imbued with all the art and questions of accomplishing a building and it is a subject as intimate as the architect himself." *Edwards & Sayward*

Isn't it interesting that we're voicing the same concerns now as were expressed nearly a hundred years ago?

© 2014, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

[Agree? Disagree? Leave your comments at http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/.](http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/)

The thing most relevant to specification writing is this. Not all clients or their lawyers can look at a set of construction drawings and visualize the completed building in three dimensions. But the lawyers can read a set of specifications.

"Don't tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results.

George S. Patton

Editor

WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

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

A half page ad is only \$500 for 12 issues

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

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

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.

Contact: don.smith315@sbdglobal.net

“Strictly SMITH-ly”

Integrity1

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

XXXX –

Every once in a while I need to remind Project Architects that I work in the non-fiction department. I cannot produce specification for subjects that have not been identified by the project architect. If I could get a couple of exterior elevations with notes and the same with wall sections I should be able to do my job, which is specification writing. I don't need exhaustive descriptions; just enough to give me a picture of what the project needs.

The amount of the Invoice is what we contracted for this issue. Instead of complaining about what you didn't get, I would suggest you take a closer look on how many times you defaulted on you contract with me by not providing the information that you promised in a timely manner so that I could do my job. At this late date, it should not take you another week, or two, to figure this out. With a little bit of information I should be able to fill in the gaps in the submittal and give you the missing specification sections quickly so you can provide a thorough review.

The average project takes about 400,000 decisions. If we start mixing the fact with fiction, pretty soon you cannot tell them apart. Even worse, a computer can give credibility to the fiction by making it look like fact. This sort of behavior can be career ending.

Best regards,

Donald F. Smith, Jr., RA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP
5001 Nina Lee Lane
Houston, TX 77092

While names have been omitted to protect people who should know better, this part of some real correspondence. What we are talking about here is integrity. This is an ongoing battle that ends with death. You spend your whole career fighting to deal only in non-fiction. If you start inserting information about something that is not true, you will quickly end up breaching the promises that you make when you become an

architect.

One of the simplest things to understand is that not knowing something is an answer. There is nothing wrong with this statement. If you will remember, all projects start at this point. As you solve problems and make decisions about what a project needs, you eliminate what is doesn't need. If you mix together both the problems and solutions, you never seem to get anywhere. Likewise, if you put off decisions, the problems that you face only get harder. Instead of moving forward using the knowledge gained by solving small problems, you move forward more slowly, bogged down by problems tat become rapidly more complex and expensive to solve.

Untimely solutions frequently mean having to discard work which is not entirely compatible with a decision that you are about to make. At times you appear to be making no progress at all because you are literally moving backwards. Design is about compromise. No matter how wonderful, not every idea will be incorporated into a workable design that satisfies the project requirements and is within budget.

Successful design depends on timely decisions that fit the project requirements and goals. Moving forward with a lot of assumptions that do not support the project requirements or budget is a recipe for project financial disaster.

Not knowing an answer to a question is important. It not only shows the weak areas in a current plan, but the problems that need to be answered. A managers job is to identify those that can and will, as well as those that cannot and will not.

"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody is going to know whether you did it or not."

Oprah Winfrey

"Ninety percent of all mental errors are in your head."

Yogi Berra

... Just my opinion,

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

“Strictly SMITH-ly”

Drawing and Specification Review

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

Drawing and specification review is a lot harder than it use to be. You may think that not much has changed, but the move from paper copies to computer output, usually at a reduced scale, makes it harder to see mistakes. Also, computer generated work looks better.

The CAD operator of today has a library of details to work from. Because of constant design and material changes, few details are exactly what is needed; most are similar and require some to major modification. Project Architects have the lead role in CD development and live stressed to the limit. The cartoon set created in DD may not get the full attention needed, especially if material and system decision are not made in a timely manner. Detail changes can often fall through the cracks. To the CAD operator on the fast track, this is an opportunity to advancement to show off the depth of his or her capabilities. Beginner CAD operators, can enter dangerous territory by putting out work that is beyond their personal understanding or limitations.

Computer work looks good; even the mistakes. I'm a believer that work should not be shown when it has not been completely thought out. Whatever happened to “Requirements to be provided.” I have even encountered a note from draftsman with not too much imagination about the future of his career. He wrote “See so-and-so”, which I take it was the Project Architect that he used to work for.

One of the most important concepts carried forward from Design Development is the weather integrity of the building. As construction proceeds to close in the building the weather integrity systems should be simple easy to build and hopefully accomplished by one subcontractor, not and army of unrelated trades each pointing fingers at each other. One of the biggest mistakes is getting caught in your own mouse-trap. It is not only painful but very embarrassing.

Sometimes by looking at the style of the details, you can figure out how many people are working on a similar detail in different locations. Have you ever seen brick on one elevation turn a corner and Poof! It's concrete masonry and no clue is given if the transition is a butt, tooth, or whatever joint.

Component information noted in wall section is important. The question is: why did the drafter draw this view? What was important about it? It should show and note the changes that occur from a typical location and just enough related information to orient the viewer. As a specification writer, I can't tell you how many plans, elevations, and sections I see with extraneous information. If you are looking at a building elevation, who cares if it has a concrete bench in front of it when none of the building exterior material are identified.

It almost looks like a failure to commit to writing a note. How could you possibly draw something if you don't know what it is?

But I will venture a guess on how this happens. Designers. Designers never think their best idea is the one that is first thought of. Even up to the Date of Substantial Completion I can imagine the little gears are turning in their mind that a better solution is out there, and . . .there is still time to make a change.

If I had a dollar for every cut sheet received that contained 11 different models each with material, accessory and color selections to be made I would be retired and living in the Caribbean.

All of these problems weave indecision into the construction documents. And all of these postponed decisions should have occurred in either Schematic Design or in the Design Development project phases. Postponing decisions does not allow you to get more, they actually trap you into settling for less. Prices rise, coordination costs more, and the advantage of competitive pricing has been lost , not to mention increased overhead, lost fee, and more stress.

What really has been lost is the satisfaction of taking on a small task and completing it satisfactorily. The joy of not having to worry about it again.

"In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists. "

Eric Hoffer

... Just my opinion,

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



Melody Stinson, AIA, CCCA, CCS, CSI, LEED AP
CSI South Central Region 2014-15 President
Contact: mstinson@rees.com

Hello from Oklahoma City!

First I would like to thank Past President Holly Jordan for her leadership and guidance throughout my term as President-Elect. It was an honor and great experience to serve with Holly and the rest of the region board members last year.

Many of you may not be aware what part the region plays in your membership benefits, so let me share some examples. The spring region conference in Austin offered continuing education; two CSI Fellows taught chapter leaders the basics of 'Roberts Rules of Order', (the format which governs all CSI board meetings) and incoming fellow Mark Chavez taught a CDT bootcamp for over 30 people. These are resources you can't get the same way online; there is no replacement for one-on-one, face-to-face interaction.

Throughout the past year we have held monthly conference calls with chapter presidents in an effort to strengthen communication between chapters and share ideas; at both the fall and spring meetings Holly held a President's dinner to show appreciation to the leaders who volunteer their time to run the chapter, an often thankless and difficult job! Our dedicated electronic communications chair, Adam Clark has increased our web presence by upgrading the region website www.scr-csi.org/ and setting up microsites for Austin with Lubbock and San Antonio in the works. On the region website you can find links to each chapter's page and other region information like guides, contact information for region officers and committee chairs - please take advantage of these resources!

Moving into the 2014-15 year, my plan is to build on the momentum which has been growing steadily and continue toward the strategic goals set last year:

1. Provide open communication and contact information so all region members know who to go to (resources) for assistance
2. Provide leader training including a P-E training class (invite VP's, others interested in serving as chapter P-E's also), treasurer and secretary training
3. Increase membership and membership retention; provide training for chapter membership chairs
4. Engage members with L.I.F.E. initiative
5. Provide assistance for chapters on electronic communications (including acquiring Constant Contact for email, setting up microsites, updating websites, using Dropbox for easy document access)
6. Increase attendance at SCR Conferences- encourage chapters to include more in their budget to assist leaders with travel to conference to get vital training

I encourage all members to get involved at the region level and I cordially invite you to attend the 2015 spring conference taking place at the Overton Hotel in Lubbock, TX, April 16-18, 2015. Your involvement can contribute to a stronger South Central Region- please do not hesitate to contact me with ideas and suggestions and best of luck for another wonderful year together in CSI!

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.

Contact: don.smith315@sbdglobal.net

SPEC.TECTONICS is a monthly publication of the Houston Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute. CSI HOUSTON does not approve, disapprove, sanction, or guarantee the validity or accuracy of any date, claim, or opinion appearing herein. Republication rights are granted to the CSI and its chapters for original articles printed herein, provided proper credits are given. The Houston Chapter is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas, and is chartered by the Construction Specifications Institute.

Visit CSI Houston
on the Web

www.csihouston.org

**CONSTRUCTION
SPECIFICATIONS
INSTITUTE**

Sept. 2014 Through Oct. 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Aug 31</i>	<i>Sept 1 Labor Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Planning Mtg, 3:00 pm, 2010 N. Loop 610, Ste. 170</i>	17	18	19	20
21	22 <i>CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting— Hess</i>	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<i>Oct 1</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7 <i>Planning Mtg, 3:00 pm, 2010 N. Loop 610, Ste. 170</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>CSI Houston Gold Tourna- ment—Falcon Point</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 <i>CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting— Hess</i>	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	<i>Nov. 1</i>