

# SPEE.tectonics

*The art of creating things that have both beauty and usefulness*



Knowledge for Creating and  
Sustaining the Built Environment

**April 2012**

## **APRIL 23RD TOUR**

**PLACE: NEW SUGAR LAND  
SKEETERS STADIUM**

Tour Details Will Follow  
with Emailed Invitation and  
will be Posted on CSI Hou-  
ston Chapter Website

### **COST:**

\$30.00 Per Person; Free to  
CSI members.

### **RESERVATIONS:**

Watch for emailed Invitation

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<a href="http://www.csihouston.org">http://www.csihouston.org</a>	

## **Monday, April 23rd CSI Houston Chapter Tour "New Sugar Land Skeeters Stadium" Tour Begins Promptly at 5:00 PM**

Lindsay Kirk of Sugar Land Skeeters Stadium will conduct a  
tour of the Houston areas newest stadium.

Watch for Invitation email to be set to you with driving di-  
rections to stadium main gate and "Dutch treat" dining loca-  
tion to follow the tour.

Go to <http://www.csihouston.org> for additional information.

## **Monday, May 21st CSI Houston Chapter Presentation "Sustainable Building Enclosure Design"**

Tim Wilson ([twilson@weatherizationpartners.com](mailto:twilson@weatherizationpartners.com)) will pre-  
sent "Sustainable Building Enclosure Design" at the May  
21st CSI Houston Chapter meeting. Weatherization Part-  
ners is the local distributor for DuPont Tyvek products.

This presentation will help you understand how to achieve a  
sustainable building enclosure which includes energy effi-  
ciency, durability and IEQ/occupant comfort.

Program No: Green 1. One LU hour, SD, HSW, GBCI,  
LEED CMP credits are offered to program attendees.

**CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER  
2011—2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President	Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC (832) 496-9507 Robert.Cook@sbdinc.com
President Elect	James Sandoz, CSI, CCS AIA LEED AP jsandoz@fkp.com (713) 821-9266; cell (832) 405-8541
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**2011—2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Director through 2013	Amy Peevey, PE, RRO, CDT (713) 467-9840 apeevey@besgrp.com
Director through 2013	Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP (713) 366-0320 hjordan@jordanconsultants.com
Director through 2012	Di Ann Reid, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED AP (713) 844-0091 diann_reid@gensler.com
Director through 2012	Doug Frank, FCSI, CCS (713) 621 2100 dfrank@fkp.com
Director through 2011	Bill Fairbanks, CSI, CCPR (281) 227-3577 fairbanks@rpcinc.com
Director through 2011	
Director, Emeritus	Larry Adams, CSI, DAHC (281) 448-7279

**2011—2012 CSI HOUSTON SPEC.TECTONICS**

SPEC.tectonics Editor	Don Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP (713) 688-0092 don.smith315@sbcglobal.net
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**2011—2012 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Program	Janet Babineaux, CSI (281) 221-8353 JBabineaux@brick.com
Membership	Amanda Carrington, CSI (713) 851-6153 acarrington@southern-sustainability.com
Certification	Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP (713) 366-0320 hjordan@jordanconsultants.com
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Academic Affairs	Robert P. Byrne, CSI (713) 464-4491 rbyrne@ampbrick.com
Public Relations	Logan Vits, CSI, CCPR, LEED GA (713) 703-5201 lvits@assaabloydss.com
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Golf Tournament	Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP (713) 366-0320 hjordan@jordanconsultants.com
Table Top	Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP (713) 366-0320 hjordan@jordanconsultants.com
CIC Delegate	Di Ann Reid, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED AP (713) 844-0091 diann_reid@gensler.com

**2011—2012 CSI HOUSTON WEBSITE**

Webmaster	Lisa Murray, CSI, CCS, LEED AP (713) 294-7387 lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com
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**2011—2012CSI HOUSTON FOUNDATION**

President, 1 Year	Frank Bain, CSI (713) 827-8844 fbain@wallcoveringsintl.com
Vice President, 2 Years	Greg L. Roberts, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, FAIA
Secretary, 2 Years	Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI, CCS
Treasurer, 3 Years	Brett Wilbur, CSI, CCS, RA
Position 1, 1 Year	Tom Atwell, CSI CDT, AIA
Position 2, 3 Years	Al Pasek, CSI, CCPR
Position 3, 3 Years	Don Ude, CSI

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

Acting SC Region President	Rick J. Lueb, CSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA (405) 232-8787 rlueb@taparchitecture.com	Institute Director	Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI, CCS (713) 962-4209 dotgumm@sbcglobal.net
SC Region Vice President	Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP (713) 366-0320 hjordan@jordanconsultants.com	SC Region Webmaster	Lisa Murray, CSI, CCS, LEED AP (713) 294-7387 lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com

# April 2012

## President's Message

by Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC

I and the board have had an exciting year so far. We set out to do three major things this year, as published in my July message last year.



**1 – Raise money to continue our scholarship contributions.** We had a very successful Golf tournament this year.

**2 – Re-establish The Houston Chapter's tax exempt status with the IRS.** This is all filed and in the Hands of the IRS. We are awaiting their response.

**3 – Each member, especially our architects, bring someone to the next meeting.**

We have done very well on the first two but fallen short on Item 3. I want to thank those of you who invited someone new. It was noticed and appreciated. For those of you who have not, the year is not over. Please help our chapter grow!

To help the chapters with this, CSI National is having a CSI Member- referral Campaign **BO-GO**. When a new member you've recruited joins, CSI will send you a certificate for a full membership that you can use to sponsor another new member. They will also send you \$25.00 CSI Bucks to spend on CSI products and services.

### THIS COULD BE HUGE!!!!

**Recruit** an individual to join as a professional member. **Make sure they enter your name and member number under "Member Referral Information."** (They need to have the right information about you!)

Let's see if we can finish the year with all of our goals met. Next month I will report on the Fort Worth Regional Conference happening on April 12<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup>.

***I hope to see you all at the new "Skeeters" stadium-Constellation Field tour on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Be sure to RSVP.***

Have a great Month, Have fun and enjoy the nice spring weather!

Respectfully, Robert M. Cook CSI, AHC

## New Accessibility Standards Coming March 15th

by Don Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP

For the first time in years, vastly new and different accessibility standards will become law on March 15. Are you ready for the new laws? See the link below for a great deal of information on the new Texas Accessibility Standards.

<http://www.tbae.state.tx.us/PublicInformation/NewTAS>

A rectangular graphic with a white background. On the left is a yellow outline map of Texas with the letters "TPCCI" in a bold, serif font above it. To the right of the map, the text "Manufacturer's Representative" is in a small, italicized font, followed by "Waterproofing Products", "Concrete Accessories", and "Specialty Coatings" in a slightly larger, italicized font. Below this is the name "JOHN M. ZIEBELL" in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the address "26911 Bridleway Circle Magnolia, TX 77355" is written in a small, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the phone number "(832) 746-3507" and email address "johnziebell@att.net" are written in a small, sans-serif font.

## Top 10 Reasons to Attend the 2012 South Central Region Conference, "New Frontiers"

By Pat Connelly CSI, South Central Region

#10 You have the opportunity to play an Arnold Palmer designed course with your friends and colleagues. Tournament entry includes green fees, cart, range balls, and lunch

#9 You have the opportunity to attend a NASCAR event. If you are interested in attending the NASCAR event on Sunday, April 15, 2012, please contact Gary Yancy

#8 You have a chance to take a VIP Tour of Cowboy Stadium with a member of the design team.

#7 You have a chance to earn up to 6 CEU's for your certifications

#6 You will have a great chance to experience the hospitality of Downtown Fort Worth which is an easy walk from the hotel to Sundance Square.

#5 You have a great opportunity to renew old friendships

#4 there will be 2 hours of dedicated time to visit with exhibitors plus an opportunity to win door prizes

#3 have a chance to honor the charter members of the Fort Worth Chapter of CSI

We have one week left before the conference. Register now or miss out on all the fun!!

#2 You will have a great Rock'n with JFK

#1 Come celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fort Worth Chapter of CSI

See you on the 12th!!!

Location: Downtown Hilton Hotel  
815 Main Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102



**Kathleen Liles, CSI, CDT**

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Web [www.archoustics-south.com](http://www.archoustics-south.com)

## Houston Code News and Events

By Di Ann Hassloch, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED AP

### New Electrical Code - Effective 09/01/2011.

On August 10, City Council approved the adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code and local amendments.

### New Commercial Energy Codes - Effective 09/02/2011.

September 2, 2011, commercial buildings and structures shall comply with the 2009 IECC or 2007 ASHRAE 90.1, pursuant to Section 19.53 of Chapter 34, Texas Administrative Code.

In accordance with this provision and the rules thereto, the City has reviewed the codes and has proposed amendments for review by the Energy Systems Laboratory.

Please visit the City of Houston Form & Publications Page at <http://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/code-enforcement/code-updates.html> to access the new Commercial Energy Codes

### New Construction Codes—Effective 12/31/10.

On November 3rd, City Council approved the 2006 Code Package to adopt updated Construction Codes. The new amendments are available at our Forms & Publications page.

Texas Adopts New Energy Code 2009 IECC effective April 1st, 2011. The major points to be guided by for the building envelope are:

- All commercial projects will need insulated glass. No more monolithic exceptions for small window to wall ratios.
- All commercial projects will need to exhibit an SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) of .25 or less. This is a major revision and improvement to save energy for our building owners. There are exceptions for projection factors i.e. shading.

As published in the Texas Register today: ADOPTED RULES June 4, 2010 35 TexReg 4727

### Current codes in the City of Houston include:

- Building Code: 2006 IBC with Houston Amendments.
- Residential Code: 2006 IRC with Houston Amendments.
- Electrical Code: 2011 NEC with Houston Amendments—1st Printing.
- Mechanical Code: 2006 UMC with Houston Amendments.
- Plumbing Code: 2006 UPC with Houston Amendments.



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Contact:  Carl Metzroth, CSI, at 281-610-4854, or e-mail: [Metzroth@ppg.com](mailto:Metzroth@ppg.com)  
Deron Patterson, CSI, at 281-841-0829, or e-mail: [Patterson@ppg.com](mailto:Patterson@ppg.com)

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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

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@sbdglobal.net](mailto:don.smith315@sbdglobal.net)  
for more information.

## CSI BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Houston Chapter CSI

**Location: HESS Building - 5430 Westheimer Road - Houston, TX**  
**February 27, 2012**

Present: Amanda Carrington, Amy Peevy, Bill Fairbanks, Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech, Di Ann Reid, Don Smith, Doug Frank, Frank Bain, Holly Jordan, Lisa Murray, Logan Vits, Mark Koehler, Neil Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Bob Cook called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The January 23, 2012 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

### REPORTS

**Member Services:** Neil Byrne

No report.

Programs: Janet Babineaux

No report.

Membership: Amanda Carrington

No report.

Awards: Amy Salmeron

No report.

**Finance/Administration:** Don Smith

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Vojtech

Chuck reported the bank balance as of 02/27/2012 to be \$21,529.67.

Table Top Display: Holly Jordan

Holly reported that Logan Vits will have a table top display tonight.

**Public Services:** Lisa Murray

Golf Tournament: Holly Jordan

Holly said that she would set a meeting date to discuss venue location and date of the Fall Golf Tournament.

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith

Don said that the February newsletter has been posted to the Chapter website.

Electronic Communications: Lisa Murray

Lisa reported that we are on the new e-mail system and that we are receiving fewer bounces.

Public Relations: Logan Vits

Logan reported that he has e-mailed Abby on "Construction News."

**Professional Development:** Mark Koehler

Continuing Education: Mark Koehler

Mark reported that Dorothy Gumm Dennison and Di Ann Reid are arranging for AIA CEU credit for the CDT study classes. Dorothy is teaching at the Wilson Architectural Group

Academic Affairs: Robert Byrne

Bob reported that Al Pasek has a little money for T-shirts and similar items for student affiliate chapters.

Certification: Holly Jordan

Holly said that she is helping Dorothy with presentation slides.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan

No report.

**Scholarship:** Frank Bain

No report.

**New Business:**

Bob Cook and Tom Atwell will meet Thursday this week to nominate open officer and director positions.

Proposed Chapter bylaws will be forwarded to national for approval and to IRS with the 2012 Income Tax statement.

Motion by Chuck Vojtech to raise 2013 Houston Chapter dues to \$130 for Professional, Industry, and Associate members. Motion passed.

Motion by Chuck Vojtech to raise 2013 Houston Chapter dues to \$130 for Emerging Professional members. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

***Donald Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP, for  
Betsy Finch, CSI  
Chapter Secretary***

## CSI Member Loyalty Program

### By CSI National

CSI's Member Loyalty Program is designed to assist:

- Members whose employers can no longer pay for membership dues.
- Members who have been laid off.
- Members who are being hit hard by the economic crisis and cannot afford to pay for membership dues

CSI is offering a 6 month grace period for membership renewal to members who are facing issues listed above.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

1. The member must be in the Professional, Associate, or Industry level of membership.
2. The member must either:
  - Have been laid off
  - Have an employer who can no longer pay dues
  - Be undergoing financial hardship due to economic constraints
3. Convey this information to CSI

Contact CSI Member Services at **800-689-2900** for more information.

## Using CSI National to Find Your Next Job

### By CSI National

Here are some ideas for using CSI if you're looking for a job, or think you might need to start looking in the next few months. CSI members with other ideas are urged to post them in CSI's forums. Conducting a job hunt?

1. **Visit CSI's Career Center.** You can post a resume and read job postings from across the country for free. Visit the Career Center.
2. **Join a CSI chapter and go to the meetings.** Your local CSI chapter is plugged in to construction in your area. Spend time with people who know which firms are hiring, and who could recommend you. Find a chapter.

Improve your resume:

1. **Get your CDT, or advanced certification.** Show potential employers that you are an expert. CSI chapters offer preparation courses and mentoring for exam candidates – another opportunity for you to expand your network. Learn more about CSI Certification. The early registration deadline for the fall exam cycle is July 26, 2011.
2. **Write a technical article for Construction Specifier magazine.** Contact the Specifier with your article idea at [editor@constructionspecifier.com](mailto:editor@constructionspecifier.com).
3. **Be a speaker for a CSI Webinar.** To submit a presentation complete this form and then email it to [jnorris@csinet.org](mailto:jnorris@csinet.org).
4. **Participate in CSI.** Potential employers are likely to Google your name while considering you. Give them something worth finding:
  - Expert responses to questions in CSI's forums. (Log in before you post a response to have your name appear with your response.)
  - Your membership in a CSI committee or task team at the national, region or chapter level. (See a list of national committees and task teams.)
  - Join CSI's LinkedIn group. (Create a free profile on LinkedIn, then search for "CSI" under groups.)
5. **Tweet what you know!** Create a free profile at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and start sharing what you know about construction and CSI. Then let CSI know by sending a tweet to CSIconstruction. CSI follows and promotes CSI chapters and members that tweet.

Your CSI membership can be a valuable tool in your job hunt! Good luck!

## What happened to the Master Builder? ©2012, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCA, CSC

It's time architects accepted reality: They no longer are master builders, and haven't been for a long time. It's nothing to get excited about (well, not *too* excited), and there is no reason to maintain the fiction that architects are what they were in the good old days. In fact, there is good reason to admit the truth and move on.

Building materials have evolved, fabrication and construction have evolved, and the tools of our profession have evolved, yet we continue to create and use construction documents the same way we have done for nearly two hundred years, simply because that's what we have done for nearly two hundred years. And, even though architects do less now than they did many years ago, we maintain the fiction that architects are master builders.

"Heretic!" "Blasphemer!" "How dare you!" "Vile person!"

OK, now that we have that out of the way, let's take a dispassionate look at what architects do, what they did in the past, and what people did before there were architects.

I have trouble answering the first question. Although architecture is a licensed profession in much of the world, and the use of the word "architect", or any of its derivative forms, by one who is not licensed, often is prohibited by law, it can be difficult to define what architects do. It may be easier to answer if we look at what architects don't do.

Good design should be more than an attractive building. As architects will tell you, good design is based on understanding the client's activities, the spaces those activities require, an understanding of spacial relationships and perception, and familiarity with a multitude of building materials and products. It is all of those things, but even that is not enough.

Good design must keep water and weather out, and control light, heat, and humidity; it must consider durability and up-keep of the products used, and the access needed to maintain building systems; it must include selection of the optimum structural, mechanical, and electrical systems; it cannot ignore permit fees, energy costs, utility costs, or taxes.

Good design is *total* design. Unfortunately, architects gradually have given away, or had taken from them, just about everything not directly related to appearance. As we will see, there has been good reason for some of this, while other things have slipped away because they were seen as too difficult or uninteresting.

One of the big changes we have seen in the last decade has been a move away from the familiar design-bid-build delivery system, to design-build, different forms of construction management, and other delivery systems that de-emphasize the role of the architect. The result has been greater control by contractors, with correspondingly less need for what architects offer.

Many owners, including public agencies, have embraced design-build. The attraction is obvious - "Why go through all the trouble of dealing with both an architect and a contractor, who will stand back and point fingers at each other when something goes wrong, when I can hire a single entity that is responsible for everything? If I can buy a multi-million dollar airplane, which is far more complex than a building, without the hassle of both design and construction contracts, why should I not do the same for my new building?"

In theory, the design and construction parts of a design-build firm have equal standing, but in practice, architects are especially vulnerable. You can't design structure without an engineer, you can't design site work without an engineer, you can't design mechanical or electrical systems without an engineer, and you can't build a building without a contractor - but it's hard to say why you need an architect.

Design-build firms often are led by contractors because they're the ones who know the most about construction. They know about costs and schedules, they know how to build, and they know how to hire and employ subcontractors. The only reason they employ design professionals is because states require their certification. Even without that requirement, any contractor interested in self-preservation would still employ engineers to make sure their buildings wouldn't fall down, but what's left that requires an architect?

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to make sure that doors have at least 32 inches clear opening and that there are enough fire extinguishers to go around. However, because certification is required, we still need an architect on the team. But what is the architect's role? It may now be relegated to drawing and specifying what the contractor wants to build. The architect may have little or no interaction with the owner, other than selecting a few finishes and creating impressive perspectives to sell the job. The real design work may be done by someone who knows nothing about architecture, engineering, or construction, other than relative costs.

Certification of construction documents typically consists of the architect signing a statement that says, "I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision..." or something to that effect. Question: When the architect is not in charge of the design process, when the contractor drives the decisions, isn't the architect's certification of the drawings and specifications no more than "plan stamping"?

To be continued...



**CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER  
2012-2013 ELECTION RESULTS  
March 26, 2012**

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

**OFFICIAL BALLOT RESULTS  
CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013**

The Houston Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute is pleased to announce the following elected officers and directors for the term July 2012 to July 2013. President - Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP

President Elect - Robert P. Byrne, CSI

Vice President Member Services - Mark Koehler, CSI

Vice President Professional Development - Logan Vits, CSI, CCPR, LEED GA

Vice President Public Services - Don Smith, CSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP

Vice President Finance/Administration - Neil Byrne, CSI, CPA,

Secretary - Betsy Finch, CSI

Treasurer - Chuck Vojtech, CSI, CDT

Director through 2015 - Amy Salmeron, CSI, CDT

Director through 2015 - Grant Groeschel, CSI, AIA, LEED AP

## CSI Institute and Regional News

by Dorothy Gumm Dennison, CSI, CCS, CSI  
CSI Director—South Central Region

### INSTITUTE REPORT

- a. The first time for region presidents to attend Institute Board Meetings happened this year in Minneapolis board meeting.
- b. **BRANDING-** CSI is looking for a way of identifying themselves and are preparing an RFP to obtain services. AIA for example has a branding called DESIGN MATTERS.
- c. A new program is being developed by CSI under the Certification Committee for government employees and businesses that deal with government construction for a certification test called CDT-G. This should bring in new members and lots of interest and recognition for CSI.
- d. Paul Bertram, Institute President, has made a strong effort to encourage members to increase membership – His belief (and mine too) is that interesting and hot topic meetings bring people to meetings, thus increasing membership.
- e. There is the Corporate Partner Program going on to encourage businesses to support CSI and its role in the construction industry.
- f. Paul Bertram encourages region members to write articles for chapter newsletters, attend chapter meetings other than your own.
- g. One other endeavor that CSI is doing is planning to send the Specifier to all universities involved in construction for their library.
- h. IPD/SMART Data Dictionary – working on an international construction dictionary which will be accomplished along with BIM.
- i. A committee has been set up to capture and catalog all existing (and new) education programs that CSI has developed to make them available for a nominal price.

## CCCA CANDIDATES NOW REQUIRED TO HAVE TWO YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

By Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP

At the recommendation of the Certification Committee, the board revised the experience prerequisite for Certified Construction Contractor Administrator candidates from "strongly encouraged" to a requirement attested to by two people.

Implementation of this modification will align the advanced certification exam candidate prerequisites and enhance the CCCA credential. CCCA candidates registering for the spring 2012 exam will be the first group that will have to meet this requirement.

### South Central Region Meeting Notice

by Lisa Murray, CSI, CCS, LEED AP  
CSI South Central Webmaster

April 12-15, 2012 will bring the 2012 South Central Region CSI Conference. The event is open to all region membership and will occur at the Historic Downtown Fort Worth Hilton. Join Ft. Worth Chapter next April as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary by hosting the event. Theme for the event is "New Frontiers." Highlights for the event include:

- Education Programs for up to 6 CEUs.
- Spouse programs.
- Golf Outing at The Golf Club at Fossil Creek designed by Arnold Palmer.
- Evening Social Events.
- Region Awards Luncheon
- Region Board Meeting

Be watching for more information circulating soon.

The region website has been completely revamped. To find out more about the region, catch an update on the Conference planning, or find fellow chapters around the region and their programs and activities visit <http://www.scr-csi.org>. If you have comments or suggestions contact webmaster at information below:

Lisa Murray  
713-297-7387  
[lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com](mailto:lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com)

## “Strictly SMITH-ly”

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

### Applying Building Code(s) During Design

Most architects do a good job at doing a basic Code search for their new project. This involves identifying the location of the project, type of building occupancy, structure fire resistive requirements, type of construction, location on property relative to property lines and other structures, calculating the building foot print square footage for each floor, and similar design criteria.

This information allows the architect to search the Code(s) to define the minimum design and construction requirements that the new project must meet.

While it would be difficult to imagine someone proceeding with a building design without this information, putting off detailed design sections through exterior enclosure walls and roof past the Design Development stage is common.

This practice is very fool hardy and can lead to expensive time consuming changes by almost the entire design team.

This practice is brought on by a misunderstanding about what exactly the building and other Codes require. To the general public, it is not hard to imagine how this can happen. We are all creatures of habit, and what worked well on the last project is always the starting point for new work. But the problem is that time has moved on. The Codes and the cost of operating and maintaining a building are not what they were on the last project.

As the pace of change picks up, some must the understanding of the nature and impact of each code change.

The general contractor is not left out of this problem either. What was possible cost wise on the last project, based upon historical cost data, may not make the same sense on a new project. In the contracting world, change is slow because of competitive influences.

The architect as a generalist is in the prime position of knowing the project requirements, being aware of all Code changes, making the tough project decisions, and informing the Owner and the design team what is necessary to keep the project on course to meet project program and budget requirements.

If the decisions necessary to properly prepare the exterior enclosure sections are postponed, the sections will likely have to be revised, possibly necessitating chang-

es in the structural grid, changes in the HVAC design loads, and other out of sequence changes.

As someone once said, “the only difference between a dream and reality is a plan.” The only thing I would add is inserting the words “well thought out” before the word “plan.”

**"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment."**

Barry LePatner, Esq.

... Just My Opinion

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# April Through May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Apr 1</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>8 Easter Sunday</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	<i>17 CSI Board Meeting—Jr League Houston</i>	18	19	20	21
22	<i>23 Tour of Sugar Land Skeeters Stadium</i>	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	<i>May 1</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	<i>9 CSI Planning Meeting — Looscan Library</i>	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
29	<i>21 CSI Board / Chapter Mtg—HESS</i>	22	23	24	25	26
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