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Knowledge for Creating and
Sustaining the Built Environment

October 2012

OCTOBER 15TH MEETING

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

TIME:

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

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

COST:

\$35.00 Per Person; Gratis
to CSI members.

RESERVATIONS: Please go
to: <http://www.csihouston.org>

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

October Meeting Program Building Envelope Construction - Panel Discussion

With an increasing focus on sustainability and changes to various code requirements, how we think about the exterior wall envelope has undergone fundamental changes over the last ten years. Sustainable construction (energy conservation, water and air infiltration, recycled and local products) must be balanced against fire resistance and economy. Houston Chapter CSI will offer a panel discussion on exterior wall envelopes at the October Chapter meeting. The panel will bring together a group of experts with a combined total of more than 100 years experience dealing with various issues related to exterior wall envelope performance.

Amy Peevey, PE, CDT, is a Principal with Building Exterior Solutions, and has previously worked at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates and Law Engineering and Environmental Service, Inc. Ms. Peevey has participated in a wide variety of projects for the investigation, evaluation, repair, and construction of structural, architectural, and material related building problems. She specializes in design peer review; building envelope commissioning; and failure investigation, evaluation, repair design, and construction monitoring of building envelope systems.

Roy Schaufele, FCSI, CCPR, LEED GA, is President of Division 7 Solutions, a firm representing and distributing air barrier, insulation, flashing, and waterproofing products. Ten years ago Mr. Schaufele developed what has been called, by both CSI and AIA as "The Perfect Wall" or alternately "The wall that works everywhere" which contains both a breathable air barrier and continuous insulating sheathing. He is currently a Board of Director member of the Air Barrier Association of America (ABAA) and currently serves as a Technical Advisor to Build San Antonio Green.

Mike Nasso, CSI, CDT, LEED AP, is the Southeast Regional Manager for Carlisle Coatings and Waterproofing, where he specializes in waterproofing and building envelope systems for the construction industry. Mr. Nasso' goal has been to bring a better understanding of not only the correct product selection as it applies to the wall assembly, but also how it is used properly to ensure a long and healthy life cycle of the building and its occupants. He is an active member of both CSI and the USBGC. Last Spring he attended ICC sessions in Dallas where requirements for air barrier and continuous insulation in exterior walls in existing and future versions of the IBC were discussed.

Greg Roberts, FCSI, FAIA, CCS, CCCA, is a Principal with WHR Architects, a 100+ person firm specializing in healthcare facility design and serves as the firm's Technical Support Manager responsible for specifications on WHR's projects. Mr. Roberts is also involved in establishing and refining construction administration and quality control procedures for the firm and sits on its Technology Committee. Over his 40 years of professional experience in many building types, he has developed a reputation for his focus on sustainability issues, and he currently plays a key role in the development of the firm's sustainable design practice, providing leadership in research and implementation of green building principles.

AIA CEU and HSW credits will be available for program attendees. Certificates of attendance may be requested for non-AIA members attending the presentation.

Cost is \$35.00 per person; gratis to CSI Houston Chapter members.

November Program: Cindy Adkins (Ardex Americas), "Polished Concrete."

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October 2012 President's Message

by Holly A. Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP BD+C, SCIP
President, CSI Houston Chapter
President-Elect, CSI South Central Region



The arrival of October brings fall weather, the preface to the Holiday Season, and the 23rd Annual CSI Golf Tournament – Brian T Harrington Golf Classic.

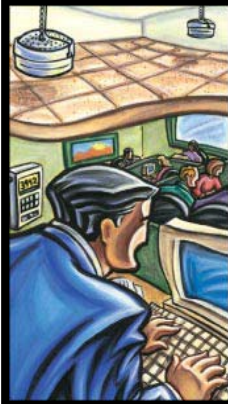
This year, the Golf Tournament will be held at The Club at Falcon Point in Katy, Texas on October the 22nd. There are still player, sponsorship, and volunteer opportunities available. Contact Tom Atwell at tom.atwell@cushwake.com for more information. The Golf Committee has worked very hard to plan another wonderful event and I hope to see everyone there!

The Board and Committee Chairs have been working to improve our membership, our meetings, and our special events. So far, the change to the buffet has been a hit. The Chapter Program Chair has recruited two members and has formed a committee to improve, evaluate, and plan our Chapter Meetings. There has also been discussion about special charitable type events (other than our Golf Tournament) similar to those that other organizations have been doing. We are also working on our next Quarterly Happy Hour and tentative plans are to have it at St. Arnold's Brewery sometime in November. Comments and suggestions are always welcome and encouraged.

I am really looking forward to the October Chapter meeting on October the 15th. We will be having a four person panel discussion on exterior envelope systems. The goal for the panel discussion is to share information, but also to have a frank discussion about some of the issues that must be addressed in today's high-performance envelopes mandated by the IBC and ASHRAE. Although we will necessarily have to address components at the individual product/material level, the goal will be to keep in mind that the entire assembly has to operate as a complete and integrated system. Thought will be given to unique issues presented by different "skins" (unit masonry, adhered masonry or tile, metal panel, plaster, etc.

Finally, I would like to ask that everyone please be more diligent about RSVP'ing to the Chapter Meetings. The Board has begun tracking the meeting attendance

and we have found that for the last three months that we have almost ten people who RSVP'ed for the meetings and did not show up. We are still charged for the number of attendees that we call in. Although meals are prepaid with Chapter dues for each member, we are wasting a great deal of money on no-shows. It is understandable that emergencies arise and sometimes missing the meeting is necessary. Unfortunately, we have several "repeat offenders". Cancellation of a meeting reservation must be made the Friday before the meeting by 9:30 a.m. The HESS Club expects our meeting count at 10:00 a.m. Meeting "no-shows" will receive a gentle reminder via email and habitual "no shows" will receive an invoice and an appointment for an Etiquette Class.

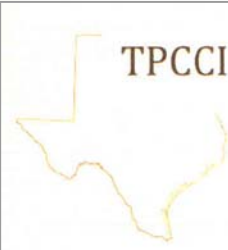


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2012 CSI Houston Chapter Brian Harrington Golf Classic

By Thomas L. Atwood, CSI ,CDT

CSI Houston Chapter is proud to once again extend an invitation to play as a special guest in our 23rd Annual Golf Tournament. The first 36 architects or engineers that confirm their attendance will be our special guest for a fun filled afternoon of golf including a light lunch before tee off and a BBQ dinner and awards presentation following the tournament. As always, we will have lots of door prizes and raffle items.

Please note our new location this year, **The Club at Falcon Point in Katy**, <http://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/The-Club-at-Falcon-Point>

Don't miss this opportunity for a relaxing afternoon in the company of old friends and new acquaintances in the construction industry.

Date: Monday, October 22, 2012

Place: The Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Drive, Katy, TX 77494

Sign In: 10:30 am

Lunch Buffet: 11:30 am

Shotgun Start: 12:30 pm

Awards 5:30 am

For a spot in our tournament, please complete the attached form and FAX your reply to Tom Atwell (713) 331.1822, or E-mail to tom.atwell@cushwake.com

Don't delay; remember the first 36 architects/engineers to respond will play free. If you're unable to play or know of other golfing architects that might be interested, please pass a copy of this along. And, if you miss this special opportunity, you can still play, space permitting, for an entry fee of \$125.00.

Visit our website for more information: www.csihouston.org

Houston Code News and Events

By Di Ann Hassloch, CSI ,CCS, CCA, 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.
- Fire Code: 2006 International Fire Code



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Contact:  **Carl Metzroth, CSI, at 281-610-4854, or e-mail: Metzroth@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
for more information.

CSI Houston Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Location: HESS Building

5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX

August 27, 2012

Present: Amy Salmeron, Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech, Di Ann Reid, Don Smith, Don Ude, Don Vernon, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, J. Peter Jordan, Joey Penna, Logan Vits, Mark Koehler, Robert Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Holly Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. The July 2012 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Member Services: Mark Koehler:

Programs - J. Peter Jordan: J. Peter reported Bill Fairbanks would present the program for the August chapter meeting as the scheduled presenter was unable to travel from Tampa to Houston.

Membership - Joey Peena: Joey reported membership is currently at one hundred sixty members. He also stated that our chapter has been recognized for having the most new members joining, the largest increase in membership.

Awards - Amy Salmeron: No report.

Finance/Administration - Neil Byrne:

Treasurer's Report - Chuck Vojtech: Chuck reported that he has no new checks to deposit. Also, the chapter has not heard anything from the IRS concerning the tax status. The next tax filing is due 11/15/2012. Neil will continue to work with the CPA.

Table Top Display - Amy Peevey: RPC will have a table top display at the August chapter meeting.

Public Services - Don Smith:

Golf Tournament - Tom Atwell/Bob Cook: Tom reported that he has received the contract from Falcon Point and is currently reviewing it. He will meet with the general manager to finalize and sign the contract. Craftsman Awards will provide the trophies. He also reported he has one commitment from a silver sponsor and one for a bronze sponsor. Goody bag items are still needed.

SPEC.tectonics - Don Smith: The newsletter has been sent for posting.

Electronic Communications - Lisa Murray: No report.

Public Relations - Don Vernon: Don reported he has contacted AGC and AIA about our chapter and will contact Rice and the University of Houston.

Professional Development - Logan Vits:

Logan reported he would like to discuss further at the next planning meeting concerning the student chapter and how to get them more involved in the chapter

Continuing Education - Mark Koehler: No report.

Academic Affairs - Al Pasek: Holly reported that Al has submitted his resignation, as he no longer has time to devote to this position.

Certification - Tim Wilson: No report..

Technical Committee - J. Peter Jordan: J. Peter discussed asking the program presenters to write articles to be submitted to the newsletter and also that Brett Wilbur has agreed to write articles for the newsletter. The articles should be sent to J. Peter and Don Smith.

Scholarship - Frank Bain: No report.

Institute/SC Region Reports - Dorothy Dennison/

Holly Jordan: Holly reported the Region conference will be in Dallas, October 6—7, 2012. She mentioned that if someone has something that they would like passed on to the region, they can email it to her and she would pass it on..

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

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

CSI Certification Exams

by Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP
BD+C

Registration Dates: 5/30/2012 - 8/31/2012

The CDT, CCS, CCCA and CCPR are computer-based exams administered at Prometric test centers throughout the US and Canada. The exams will be offered during a window (October 1 - 27, 2012). Candidates will receive a separate email notification with instructions on how to schedule their exam at a Prometric test center using their individual authorization number. To view the available Prometric test centers, please visit the Prometric website: <http://www.prometric.com/CSI/default.htm>. Then, select "Start" button to proceed.

Registration includes the exam application fee and CDT Candidate Handbook; it does not include the Project Delivery Practice Guide, Project Resource Manual - CSI Manual of Practice 5th Edition, AIA or EJCDC exam source materials.

CSI Certificate/Certification Policies:

CSI exam application fees are non-transferable. Candidates who are unable to sit for a scheduled exam may request a cancellation and refund of the application fee. Cancellation requests must be submitted to the Institute in writing using the appropriate request form available on CSINet. A scheduled appointment with Prometric must also be cancelled through Prometric via www.prometric.com/csi or 1-800-503-8991. Candidates who do not request a cancellation and do not sit for the exam forfeit all fees. Application fees may not be transferred to another individual. Candidates who wish to sit for the next exam must submit a new application and fee.

- Cancellation requests received by **September 17, 2012** (14 days prior to the first day of the test window) will be refunded 100% of the exam fee.
- Cancellation requests received on and after **September 18, 2012** (less than 14 days prior to the first day of the test window) will be refunded 50% of the exam fee.
- Cancellation requests received after **September 26, 2012** (less than 5 calendar days before the first day of the test window) will not be refunded the exam fee.

Those who are not successful in passing an exam may retest after 30 days but may not take the test more than two times in 12 months. Retests require a new application and registration fee. The CDT certifi-

cate is a lifetime achievement. The CCS, CCCA, and CCPR certifications are valid for three years. Renewal may be achieved by earning 24 learning hours of continuing education and paying the renewal fee. CSI's Certificate/Certification program is a rigorous test of knowledge, but is not a guarantee of future performance quality or capabilities of a certified individual.

CDT exam - lasts 2 hours and contains 120 multiple-choice questions.

Student CDT exam - lasts 2 hours and contains 120 multiple-choice questions. Full time students can register for the CDT exam at a reduced rate of \$105. Student candidates must fax a copy of their student ID to CSI for verification at 703-236-4600, Attn: Member Services.

CCS exam - lasts 4 hours and contains 200 multiple-choice questions.

CCS Prerequisites: Candidate must have passed the CDT exam. Candidate must have prepared or coordinated either Division 00 – Procurement and Contracting Requirements or Division 01 - General Requirements, and have directly prepared specification sections actually used in construction. Candidate must provide reference contact information for two professionals who will attest to candidate's experience within the last five years in the preparation of specifications actually used in construction.

CCCA exam - lasts 4 hours and contains 200 multiple-choice questions.

CCCA Prerequisites: Candidate must have passed the CDT exam. A minimum of 2 years of experience in the construction administration process, attested to by two people experienced in the field. .

CCPR exam - lasts 4 hours and contains 200 multiple-choice questions.

CCPR Prerequisites: Candidate must have passed the CDT exam. Candidate must have a minimum of two years experience in the representation of construction product(s) exclusive of academic preparation. Candidate must provide reference contact information from a manufacturer attested to on company letterhead by two manufacturers and/or employers.).

Construction Documents Technology Classes

by Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP BD+C

The Construction Documents Technology (CDT) classes will be held at a location TBD. Classes will be once a week on Thursday evenings from July 12th through September 20th (6-8 PM). The cost for the class is \$75.00 for CSI members and \$100.00 for non-members to cover materials and incidentals. RSVP to Tim Wilson, CSI at twilson@weatherizationpartners.com, (Tel) (832) 289-6765 if you would like to attend or if you have any questions.

This is a great opportunity to absorb the necessary background and information to pass the CDT exam given by CSI. It also dovetails nicely with the CD portion of the ARE exam subject matter. In addition, the following was taken from the NCARB ARE e-News (<http://www.ncarb.org/idp/enews/2009/may/index.html>):

Interns in the NCARB IDP must acquire 700 training units to satisfy the IDP Training Requirement. One training unit equals eight hours of acceptable training in an acceptable work setting.

- **CSI Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) Certification** Maximum Training Units Allowed: 5 A copy of your certificate must be submitted to NCARB to receive credit.

- **CSI Construction Specifier (CCS) Certification** Training Category A - Specifications and Materials Research Maximum Training Units Allowed: 5 A copy of your certificate must be submitted to NCARB to receive credit. (Note: this cannot be combined with EPC activities for satisfaction of minimum training units in this area.)

CSI Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA) Certification Training Category B - Construction Phase—Office Maximum Training Units Allowed: 5 A copy of your certificate must be submitted to NCARB to receive credit. (Note: this cannot be combined with EPC activities for satisfaction of minimum training units in this area.)

The following information will be covered in the classes:

The Construction Documents Technology (CDT) Program

The Construction Documents Technology (CDT) Program provides a comprehensive overview for anyone who writes, interprets, enforces, or manages construction documents. Project architects, contractors, contract administrators, material suppliers, and manufacturers' representatives are all realizing the advantages of being Construction Documents Technologists.

By being able to understand and interpret written construction documents, CDTs perform their jobs more effectively. By understanding the roles and relationships of all participants, CDTs improve communication among all members of the construction team.

CDT Exam Overview

CDT candidates must demonstrate their knowledge of CSI's recommended practices in the following subject areas:

- The construction process.
 1. Construction contract types.
 2. Modifications and substitution procedures.
- Contractual relationships.
 1. Rights, duties, and responsibilities.
 2. Contract provisions.
 3. Relationship and organization of construction documents.
- Use of construction documents.
 1. Organizational formats.
 2. Interpreting construction documents.



INSTITUTE & REGION NEWS: By Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI Director

At CONSTRUCT 2012 we were pleased to see our own South Central Region President Rick Lueb become a Fellow with the Institute.

The CSI Brand Revitalization Program ad firm presented their proposed ideas for rebranding at the Institute Board Meeting in Phoenix, in September. They explained how many ideas they looked at, input from members from their calls to 1,000 CSI members and non-members, and then presented their new idea on Monday Board Meeting. At Tuesday Institute board meeting the board approved this new brand which was accepted by all board members, with a few small changes possible. The Board then presented this new logo at the Friday CSI Annual Meeting, which was also accepted widely. We are asking for help in how to implement and display this new logo. The new logo will be passed around. CSI just accepted this new logo a few weeks ago and in a short time it will be made available .

The Corporate Partners program is coming along, but I would say very slowly. We can all promote that program in our meetings and meetings with other construction company representatives.

Membership Committee chairperson Leslie Schlesinger would like to hear from each Chapter regarding their proposed "Skpe" presentation. Leslie and her committee from Institute will be available for a Skype presentation of Institute Activities and questions about Institute. They are waiting to hear from each of you so they can set these up. These Skpe presentations can be with the board meeting or the Chapter meeting at your discretion. You can also let me know if you are interested and I will pass this along.

This new grass roots resolution was presented to the Board, instigated by a long time CSI Member Bob Johnson, and was presented to the Board by the Albuquerque Chapter and supported by the Denver and Willamette Valley chapters. The resolution is for a Building Technology Education Program which would gather information required for increasingly complex technology of building systems and assemblies and how they go together. These technical reports would be presented as a program by CSI which would be valuable to the construction industry. The form of presentation has not been finalized. The Board accepted this resolution. Many CSI members have been accepted to be on this committee who have long standing experience in many construction fields. .

How Have the Architect's Responsibilities Changed?

©2012, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCA, CSC

About a hundred years ago, when AIA produced the document that eventually would become the familiar A201, the architect was firmly in control of construction. The 1915 AIA general conditions state, in Article 9, "The Architect shall have general supervision and direction of the work... The Architect has authority to stop the work whenever, in his opinion, such stoppage may be necessary to insure the proper execution of the Contract." Article 11 required the Contractor to "give efficient supervision to the work", and Article 12 required the Contractor to "provide and pay for all materials, labor, water, tools, equipment, light and power necessary for the execution of the work."

Those basic responsibilities remained essentially the same until the 1960s. Since then, a lot has changed. In 1961, an architect was found liable for the death of a worker in Day v. National U.S. Radiator Corporation. It wasn't the first time an architect had been sued and it won't be the last, but this was a case that called into question the basic responsibilities of the architect, as defined by the general conditions.

Briefly, Wilson & Coleman, an architectural firm in Louisiana, designed a new hospital building for the Louisiana State Building Authority. The contractor hired a subcontractor for all work related to the central heating system and the hot water system, which included a boiler. The specifications required a thermostat and a pressure relief valve for the boiler, but the subcontractor installed them instead on a water storage tank. The subcontractor did not inform the architect the system was ready for inspection, or request that an inspection be made. The subcontractor performed a preliminary test, the boiler exploded, and one of the subcontractor's employees was killed.

It seems obvious that the subcontractor caused the explosion, first, by not installing the required safety equipment, and second, by not requesting inspection of the system before testing. However, a district court found the architects responsible, and relieved other defendants of liability. The architects appealed the decision. The court of appeals not only agreed with the lower court, but increased the amount of damages.

How could the courts come to this decision? The architects, by contract responsible for "supervision of the work", were found negligent for failing to inspect the installation of the hot water system, and for approving shop drawings that did not show a pressure relief valve. In other words, the architects should

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How Have the Architect's Duties Changed?

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have been at the site all the time, and should have watched the entire construction process. Apparently, they should have known the boiler was being installed, and they should have inspected it continuously, even if the installer did not tell them about the installation.

In the end, the decision was overturned by the Supreme Court of Louisiana. That court determined that the architect's responsibility was not to continuously verify compliance with the contract documents, but to verify before final acceptance that the contractor had used the correct materials, and "generally that the owner secured the building it had contracted for."

In this case, the courts eventually came to the conclusion that the architect is not responsible for safety, provided the architect is not specifically assigned that responsibility. In other decisions, similar conclusions were made, except in cases when the architect assumed that responsibility by voluntarily becoming engaged in matters related to safety.

Even though the architects in this case eventually were absolved, the AIA quickly updated and reissued its A201 in 1963, only two years after the previous edition. In the 1963 general conditions, the architect's responsibilities were reduced; the architect now was required only to "make periodic visits to the site" and was not required to "make exhaustive or continuous on-site inspections..."

In the 1966 A201, the definitions of responsibilities of both the architect and the contractor were expanded. The brief comments regarding the contractor's supervision of the work and paying for "light and power" were supplemented by making the contractor "solely responsible for all construction means, methods, techniques, sequences and procedures and for coordinating all portions of the Work under the Contract." And if that wasn't clear enough, Article 2 - Architect, states the same thing, as a negative, for the architect: "The Architect *will not be responsible* for construction means, methods, techniques, sequences or procedures, or for safety precautions and programs in connection with the Work, and he will not be responsible for the Contractor's failure to carry out the Work..." (my emphasis).

Read again what is said about the responsibilities of the architect and of the contractor. In essence, the architect is responsible for showing what the building should look like, and what materials should be used where, and the contractor is responsible for pretty much everything else. Note there is nothing that requires the architect to tell the contractor, or the manu-

facturer, or the installer how to do their jobs. In fact, it states "The contractor shall be solely responsible for and have control over construction means, methods, techniques, sequences, and procedures and for coordinating all portions of the Work..."

In 1970, the last vestige of the architect's former power was removed. The power to "stop the work" was taken from the architect and given to the owner. This was important, as architects continued to be found liable for worksite injuries, despite the exculpatory provisions of the general conditions. In effect, courts found the "stop the work" clause to mean the architect remained in control of the project, had a duty to understand the hazards associated with all types of work, and should take appropriate action to prevent injuries. Since then, the requirement to "make periodic visits" was changed to "visit the site at intervals appropriate to the stage of construction" to further reduce liability.

Some may argue that none of this diminishes the architect's position as Master Builder, but AIA commentaries suggest otherwise. The commentary to the 2007 A201 states, regarding the means and methods clause in 4.2.2, "The last sentence [which ends with 'since these are solely the Contractor's rights and responsibilities'] underscores the statement of the contractor's responsibilities in 3.3.1 and *reinforces the dividing line* between the contractor's responsibilities and those of the architect" (my emphasis). Regarding 1.2.1, which states, "The intent of the Contract Documents is to include all items necessary...what is required by one shall be as binding as if required by all..." the comment is, "The contractor is expected to make reasonable inferences...[if] the documents show wall partitions covered by drywall...it may be inferred that some reasonable method will be used to attach the drywall to the underlying framework."

Clearly, those who write the general conditions no longer see the architect as responsible for much beyond a general description of the intended results, and now expect the contractor to play a more prominent role in execution of the contract.

“Strictly SMITH-ly”

Building Technology; What Makes It Work?

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

In the September 2012 article “Building Technology: Missed Opportunities in Education,” Robert W. Johnson, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA makes the case for a missed opportunity in the architectural education system to properly teach building technology in a materials and methods class, at best relying on graduates to complete their education.

Each architectural office has its own area of practice which uses building materials and construction details applicable to the project types and project locations of their practice. Regional differences in building technology exist to address construction type, environmental and site differences, and local practices.

It is up to each architectural intern to complete his education by learning what makes their project work, and more importantly what makes it fail. There are many materials and products that will work in one situation, but will not be a good choice in another.

While an intern may be directed that “this is the way we do it in this office,” it is incumbent of him to find out why. After all, the success and possible failure of a project will reflect on not just the firm he is working for, but all members of the project team. I can’t imagine one working on a section or detail without understanding the ramifications of the instructions that will be passed on to the other members of the project building team. Collectively, the contract documents state what is required when the project is complete. Both owner and contractor have a reasonable expectation

Each employer has a business to run and its most important goal is to survive each day to be able to produce successful work the next day. I don’t ever remember being instructed as a new hire to “Don’t ask too many questions.” Rather you are expected to keep both your eyes and ears open and your brain thinking about what you are doing to make sure that you are helping achieve the project goals. If what you are doing doesn’t make sense to you, why would you expect that it will make sense to those that you are instructing. You are no longer a child if you are doing professional work. Everything that you accomplish will become part of your experience. As your successful experience and judgment grow, so will the opportunities and trust that will be extended to you in future work. There will be a point in everyone’s ca-

reer where they will look back in retrospect and realize the limitations of their knowledge and expertise, and realize when to seek advice or help.

There is an old saying in management that “Delegating without defining is abdication.” If you do not understand what you are asked to do, you had better find out how and what makes it work and fail pretty soon! Not only for the piece you are working on, but how it fits into and works the grand scheme of the project.

This void in schooling is an opportunity for both CSI and construction industry manufacturers and organizations to get the word out to architects and interns alike about what works as well as what does not for the materials and products that they represent. Membership in a local CSI Chapter and networking with knowledgeable individuals in the construction industry can be a resource directly, or through technical experts that they know.

A manufacturer’s product representative that will tell what his product are best suited for as well as telling you what application they are not suited for is an invaluable resource. Continuing education programs should be carefully chosen to fill in or supplement gaps in your technical expertise. Conventions and product trade shows also help get new product information out to design professionals.

Working with industry representatives that have a successful history with your project type, in your project environment, and a history of successful construction are a valuable asset in architectural planning and development.

New construction materials and techniques present special needs for understanding what makes a project work and not work in certain situations. Every element in the exterior building envelope should be examined for constructability, energy code compliance, environmental design compliance and to resist seasonal weather extremes.

“Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment.”

Barry LePatner, Esq.

... Just my opinion.

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

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