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Knowledge for Creating and
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November 2012

NOVEMBER 26TH 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>

November Meeting Program Polished Concrete

James Zimmerman, LEED AP with Ardex Engineered Cements (www.ardexamericas.com) will present "Polished Concrete" at the November CSI Houston Chapter dinner meeting.

The presentation will discuss the history and cost effectiveness of polished concrete as well as the following

1. Differences in products used on existing and new polished concrete floors.
2. Client expectations vs. cost.
3. Surface preparation.
4. Patching, repairing, leveling, coloring, hardening and filling options.
5. Maintenance procedures.
6. Comparative cost data with other popular flooring and long term maintenance.

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

December Holiday Party

Keeping with CSI Houston tradition, the holiday gathering December 10th will start at approximately 5:30 pm at Guadalajara Mexican Grille and Bar, 2925 SW Freeway (Hwy 59 S), (between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway on south side feeder road of Hwy 59). Bring a guest for an evening of margaritas and great appetizers. Our chapter donates to needy families for the holidays, so bring can goods and/or non-perishable foods.

January 2013 Meeting Program 2013 Houston Construction Forecast

The presenter for the January 28th CSI Houston Chapter program will be Pat Kiley with Kiley Advisors. His presentation is entitled "Market Trends." You will not want to miss Pat Kiley's analysis of the Houston construction forecast for the year to come.

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November 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 November brings fall weather and the beginning of the Holiday Season.

This year, the 23rd Annual CSI Golf Tournament – Brian T Harrington Golf Classic at The Club at Falcon Point in Katy, Texas on October the 22nd was a great success. The Golf Committee worked very hard to plan another wonderful event. Congratulations to everyone who helped with the tournament and many thanks to all of our sponsors.



The Board and Committee Chairs have been working to improve our membership, our meetings, and our special events. The Chapter Program Chair has recruited several members and has formed a committee to improve, evaluate, and plan our Chapter Meetings and we should start seeing the fruits of their labor in the new year.

We will not be having an official meeting in December because of our annual holiday gathering. Keeping with CSI Houston tradition, the holiday gathering December 10th will start at approximately 5:30 pm at Guadalajara Mexican Grille and Bar, 2925 SW Freeway (Hwy 59 S), (between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway on south side feeder road of Hwy 59). Bring a guest for an evening of margaritas and great appetizers. Our chapter donates to needy families for the holidays, so bring can goods and/or non-perishable foods.

Finally, our new website and meeting notification is up and running. There are still a few bugs that need to be worked out and we will be training people in the next week in order to make sure that our website is kept up to date and current. This has been a long and somewhat difficult process and I am looking forward to having a wonderful website that is clear, correct, complete, and concise. With that being said, please feel free to forward your constructive comments about the website to me at hjordan@jordanconsultants.com.

Holly A. Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP BD+C, SCIP
President, CSI Houston Chapter
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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.
- Fire Code: 2006 International Fire Code

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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-

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(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

September 24, 2012

Present: Amanda Carrington, Amy Salmeron, Betsy Finch, Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech, Don Smith, Don Ude, Don Vernon, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, Neil Byrne, Robert Byrne, Tim Wilson, Dorothy Dennison

President Holly Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The August 2012 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Member Services: Mark Koehler:

Programs - J. Peter Jordan: The October Chapter Meeting format will be a four person panel discussion.

Membership - Joey Peena: Joey reported the chapter has five new members, six memberships expired and six memberships will expire soon.

Awards - Amy Salmeron: No report.

Finance/Administration - Neil Byrne:

Neil reported that the tax exempt status had been reinstated. He also said he is waiting to receive quotes from three CPA' firms regarding the cost to file the chapter tax returns. He will review the quotes once he receives them.

Treasurer's Report - Chuck Vojtech: Chuck reported that the chapter expenses are down.

Table Top Display - Amy Peevey:
No report.

Public Services - Don Smith:

Golf Tournament - Tom Atwell/Bob Cook: Holly reported that she sent the golf forms to Lisa Murray to post on the chapter website. She also reported twenty-one architects had signed up.

SPEC.tectonics - Don Smith: Don reported that the September issue had been posted to the website.

Electronic Communications - Lisa Murray:

The board members discussed the issues relating to redesigning the website and maintaining it. Amanda offered to check costs with the company that set up her company website. Amy also volunteered to check costs from one of her contacts.

Public Relations - Don Vernon: Don reported AIA is willing to let the chapter use their facility for a vendor

night Further discussion is needed by the board members.

Professional Development - Logan Vits:

No report.

Continuing Education - Mark Koehler:

No report.

Academic Affairs:

No report.

Certification - Tim Wilson:

Tim reported the study classes are finished and that all attendees plan on taking the CDT exam.

Technical Committee - J. Peter Jordan:

No report.

Scholarship - Greg Roberts:

No report.

Institute/SC Region Reports - Dorothy Dennison/ Holly Jordan:

Institute Report: Dorothy reported that CSI is in the process of creating a new logo.

Region Report: Holly reported that she will attend the Region conference along with Dorothy Dennison and Robert Byrne.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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

CSI Houston Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Location: HESS Building

5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX

October 15, 2012

Present: Amy Peevey, Amanda Carrington, Bill Fairbanks, Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech, DiAnn Reid, Don Smith, Don Vernon, Dorothy Gumm Dennison, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, J. Peter Jordan, Logan Vits, Mark Koehler, Neil Byrne, Robert Byrne, Tim Wilson

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

REPORTS

Member Services: Mark Koehler:

Programs - J. Peter Jordan: J. Peter reported that the program committee had been formed headed by Alex Bernard. Seventy people have RSVP to this evenings program meeting.

Membership - Joey Peena: Holly reported that Joey has been working hard to recruit lapsed members. She 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.

Personal/Professional Development - Doug Frank reported that three award profiles have been received.

Finance/Administration - Neil Byrne:

Treasurer's Report - Chuck Vojtech: Neil reported that he has received the tax exempt letter from the IRS. He will contact the State Comptroller of Public Accounts for reinstatement of the chapter tax exempt number. Motion for Neil to contract for the November 2012 chapter tax return filing by a CPA was seconded and passed.

Table Top Display - Amy Peevey:

There will be two table top displays at the October chapter meeting.

Public Services - Don Smith:

Golf Tournament - Tom Atwell/Bob Cook: Tom reported that there are approximately 60 golfers signed up to attend the golf tournament at Falcon Point. He asked for volunteers to arrive early to assemble goody bags and help with other assignments.

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

Planning Meeting: The next planning meeting was discussed and approved for 7:00 am, Tuesday, November 13th, at Onion Creek Restaurant on White Oak Drive.

Professional Development - Logan Vits:

Logan reported that he has received five responses to the CDT emails.

Continuing Education - Mark Koehler:

No report.

Academic Affairs:

No report.

Certification - Tim Wilson:

No report.

Technical Committee - J. Peter Jordan:

J. Peter discussed program schedule and progress with meeting attendance.

Scholarship - Greg Roberts:

No report.

Institute/SC Region Reports - Dorothy Dennison/Holly Jordan:

Holly reported the Region conference will be in Dallas, October 6—7, 2012. Robert Byrne gave a summary of topics discussed at the South Central Regional Conference. The next South Central Regional Conference will be in San Antonio, April 4— to April 7, 2013, and celebrate the San Antonio chapter's 50th anniversary..

Meeting adjourned at 5:06p.m.

***Don Smith, RA, CSI, CCS, LEEP AP for
Betsy Finch, CSI
Chapter Secretary***

What is and Architect?

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

The profession of architecture has changed significantly, but the perception of what an architect does has remained much the same. So what's the big deal? As is often said, perception is reality, and therein lies the problem. What architects do now no longer agrees with what the public, and even architects themselves think they do.

Most people don't really understand what today's architects do. They think architects know about planning and design, and how to create buildings that are responsive to owners' needs. In that, they are correct; architects by training learn how to do these things, and they do them well. Unfortunately, most people also believe the architect is still the Master Builder, who knows everything about construction materials and methods, actively manages the work, and tells the contractor exactly what to do.

One of AIA's first goals was to elevate and protect the profession of architecture. They eventually succeeded; today, the practice of architecture, and the word itself, are protected throughout the United States. This protection is based on the idea that only an architect knows about all aspects of construction. While that was true at one time, today's architects, who may be master planners and master designers, don't know much about construction materials or methods. *And there is nothing wrong with that - we need master planners and designers.*

It is clear, however, that the countless products and the special knowledge they require make it impossible for a design firm to understand the construction part of architecture. Architecture schools do not teach much about building materials, structure, or systems, and they largely ignore construction methods, scheduling, and costs. Many have decried this lack of attention to the nuts-and-bolts part of architecture, but perhaps it now is simply impossible to teach all the things an architect would need to know to perform in the same way they did a hundred years ago, even with

the intern development program.

Contractors, on the other hand, do know about construction, and that's what they're paid to know. Once merely workers hired to follow the direction of architects, contractors no longer rely on the architect to explain what has to be done. Instead, they now are expected to interpret the architect's documents and to determine for themselves what must be done to construct the building. They may know little about planning or design, but once construction begins, their practical experience, as opposed to the theoretical experience of the architect, becomes more valuable to the owner, and they are seen by owners as more realistic, more knowledgeable, even more important than the architect.

Architects often complain about contractors making them look bad by telling the owner they can do the same thing for less money, or worse, that the architect is an idiot. Architects find it hard to respond, because they don't know what things cost, and they can't defend their design decisions with hard numbers. It's a lot easier for the owner to understand saving time or money than to understand why it's important to resolve the tension between the earth elements and the sky elements.

The evidence suggests the role of the architect will continue to decline. Architects can have a strong role in design-bid-build, but contractors are becoming more important even there. Design-build entities, the modern equivalent of the master builder, typically are led by contractors, rather than architects, which seems to demonstrate the lesser value of Big D design. Not that design-build necessarily means bad design; *no project delivery method guarantees either good design or good construction.*

Many architects claim they should be the leaders of the IDP (integrated design process) team, but given the direction they're heading, that's a tough sell. More than a hundred years ago, architects decided an arts education was more important than

hands-on experience, and they have little interest in how things go together or what they cost. For the past fifty years, they have been trying to minimize their responsibility for construction. With that history, how can they justify again assuming control of the entire project?

If architects are not going to reverse those trends, they must find ways to clarify what they do, and shift liability to those who are taking on more of what architect's once did. They should start by admitting they are *not* master builders, and *should not be considered as such*. Instead, they should emphasize the value of good planning and design, and be able to prove to owners that the long term value of good design is more important than first cost.

Despite AIA's efforts to reduce the architect's liability through changes in the general conditions, architects continue to be found liable for things that clearly are excluded from their responsibilities. I believe the main reason is that the public still thinks architects are in control of the entire project. Actively changing the public's perception could help juries understand what architects really control, and result in decisions that more closely reflect the commensurate responsibilities.

Design-build continues to grow, and unless architects are willing to take the lead, many will find themselves working for a contractor. Contractors will continue to see cost and schedule as their main concerns, but many also are sensitive to visual design, and are willing to work with architects who offer superior design and planning services. To maintain their position in design-bid-build, architects should establish relationships with those contractors to better serve owners who still favor design-bid-build.

The bottom line is this: Those who are willing to accept greater risk will see greater rewards, and they will be the leaders.

Links to previous articles in this series:
"What happened to the master builder?"
<http://bit.ly/zzegYf>

"What is a Master Builder?" <http://bit.ly/SowvFx>

"What have architects given up?" <http://bit.ly/J4NZiA>

"What happened to the architect?" <http://bit.ly/Tk2MsM>

"Are specifiers weak in faith?" <http://bit.ly/WVDHvv>

"How have the architect's responsibilities changed?" <http://bit.ly/P14ofE>

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“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 career where they will look back in retrospect a 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 what makes it fail pretty soon! Not only for the piece you are working on, but how it fits into and works in 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 you 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

“Strictly SMITH-ly”

Substitution Review by Architect; What is Important to the Client?

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

Specifications usually give the performance, quality, source, required, but often do not discuss the reason a particular product, material, or equipment is specified.

The selection process usually involves review of the function, durability, and cost by the Architect, and may also involve compatibility with other materials, systems, and construction assemblies.

The important concept is that the contract documents are not an instruction manual on how to build the project. They are rather a description of what the project is at completion of construction. The Contractor or is the expert on construction, not the architect. The Contractor holds the contracts with both the Owner and the subcontractors. The Architect does not.

Once the drawings and project manual are completed, sealed, signed and dated, the bidding, contracting, permitting and construction process may begin.

At this point the Architect's role changes to interpreter and advisor to the Owner and Contractor.

As was discussed earlier in this article, not all of the reasons for selecting and specifying a product or material or piece of equipment are specified. The Architect may give some information in the documents, but it may not be all inclusive. The contract documents assume a certain level of construction expertise. They assume a working knowledge of the minimum requirements of the building code, laws, ordinances, construction industry specifications and standards that bear on the performance of the project. This is not to say that the Contractor has to design the project, but he does have to comply with the same building code, laws, ordinances, construction industry specifications and standards that bear on the performance of the project.

A proper substitution request should contain a fully completed substitution request form, giving a description of the qualities of the specified and substitute item and backup information

describing the reason for the substitution, the difference between the specified and proposed item, the product history of the proposed item, the effect of the substitution on Contract Sum and Contract Time, the effect on details of construction of related work, a statement that the proposed substitute is equal to or superior to the item specified in quality, and durability, design, appearance, function, finish, and performance. That it is of size and weight that will permit installation in the spaces provided, and that it will allow adequate service access; that it is compatible with other portions of the work; that it has been coordinated with other portions of the work; that it has received necessary approvals from authorities having jurisdiction; that it is consistent with the Contract Documents and will produce the intended results; that it will provide the specified warranty; and that If requested substitution involves more than one contractor, or subcontractor, requested substitution has been coordinated with other portions of the Work, is uniform and consistent, is compatible with other products, and is acceptable to all contractors, or subcontractors involved.

If the Contract cannot make this representation to the Architect (which by the way is standard language require by the AIA A291 General Conditions), how can he expect the Architect to take his request seriously. A cut sheet with a product highlighted or underlined cannot possibly convey enough information for the Architect to make a proper determination

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 what makes it fail pretty soon! Not only for the piece you are working on, but how it fits into and works in the grand scheme of the project.

"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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9	10 <i>Holiday Party Guadalajara 5:30 PM</i>	11	12	13	14	15
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