



# SPEE.tectonics

CSI Houston Chapter  
The Construction Specifications Institute

June 2014

## June 23, 2014 Board / Chapter Awards Meeting

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

TIME:

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

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

COST:

\$35.00 to CSI members and non members at the door.

### Inside this issue:

CSI Houston Program	1
Leadership Directory	2
President's Message, CSI Membership Stats	3
March Board Meeting Minutes	4
CSI Sponsor Advertisements	5
April Board Meeting Minutes	6
CSI Sponsor Advertisements	7
"Excuse Me, But Your Slip is Showing"	8—9
Strictly Smith-ly, "On BIM, Bulletted Notes, and Scheduled Information"	10
SCR Publication Award	11
CSI Houston Calendar	12

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

## June 23rd

### CSI Houston Chapter Awards Banquet & Carbon Neutral Panel Discussion

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

Please help us celebrate our Chapter's 56th year by honoring and recognizing the many contributions and accomplishments of our members and the chapter over the past year and install our new officers. We hope to see you there.

In an effort to curb dangerous climate change, Architecture 2030 issued 'The 2030 Challenge' in 2007, asking the global architecture and building community to adopt energy reduction targets of 50% in new buildings and escalating reductions another 10 percent every five years so that all buildings constructed in 2030 and beyond will be carbon neutral. To accomplish these goals, the AIA launched the AIA 2030 Commitment which is a growing national initiative that provides a consistent, national framework with simple metrics and a standardized reporting format to help firms evaluate the impact design decisions have on an individual project's energy performance.

A panel discussion will attempt to provide insight from three different vantage points: 1) The 2030 Challenge: Its origin, what it is, what it tries to accomplish and the AIA's role 2) The 2030 Commitment: An overview of how firms and projects are measuring including case studies of current projects 3) Technology: An overview of current technologies and strategies and how they help meet the goal of achieving carbon neutral buildings

This years annual awards banquet and ceremony will be held Monday evening June 23, 2014 at the HESS club.

Social Hour begins at 5:30

Cost is \$35.00 per person at the door; Retired past CSI Houston Chapter presidents gratis

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# June 2014

## President's Message

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



As my term as President of the CSI Houston Chapter is complete at the end of this month, I would like to thank all of those contributing to our Chapter having another successful year. At this month's Membership Meeting we will have awards presented to those that stood out from the crowd..

Over the past year we have achieved several things that have and in the future should strengthen our chapter. Probably the most important would be the Five-Year Strategic Plan. The planning session was well attended and several ideas were discussed. For guidance in continuing and achieving the goals of the chapter.

With this in mind, your Chapter needs your involvement now more than any time in the past. I encourage you to get involved and experience how it can satisfy your personal growth. Remember that Chapter Leaders usually start their first involvement at the committee level.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your President and all the support I have had throughout the past year.

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

By Douglas C. Frank, FCSI, CCS

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

**As of February 2014,**  
Total CSI membership: Approx. 11,000  
Total number of CDT holders nationwide: 19,222  
CSI Members 4,023 (Non-members 15,202)  
Total number of CCS holders nationwide: 1,117  
(CSI Members 851) (Non-members 266)  
  
Total number of CCCA holders nationwide: 1,043  
(CSI Members 611) (Non-members 432)  
Total number of CCPR holders nationwide: 209

(CSI Members 176) (Non-members 33)  
For a grand total of approx. 21,300 individuals (since some folks have multiple certifications)  
For a grand total of approx. 5,500 Members (since some folks have multiple certifications)

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

The national average for CSI members is currently **30%** of the total membership hold CDT, or Certification at some level.  
There are 4,023 total member CDTs; **36%** of the total membership.  
There are 851 CCS; 611 CCCA; 176 CCPR for a total of 1638 total members Certified; **14.5%** of the total membership.  
It's interesting that **79%** of the total number of CDT Certificate holders are Non-CSI Members!

**\*\*Comparison numbers from 2005:\*\***  
Total CSI Membership 15,800 ±  
The national average for CSI members was **30%** of the total membership held CDT, or Certification at some level.  
There were 2,730 total CDTs; **17%** of the total membership  
There were 1,146 CCS; 628 CCCA; and 229 CCPR for a total of 2003 total Certified; **12%** of the total membership  
It's interesting that 70% of the total number of CDT Certificate holders are Non-CSI Members!

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

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## **CSI Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Houston Chapter CSI**

**Location: HESS Building – 5430 Westheimer Road  
– Houston, TX  
March 24, 2104**

Present: Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bill Lunsford,  
Don Smith, Don Ude, Doug Frank,  
Holly Jordan, Neil Byrne, Robert Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Robert Byrne called the meeting to order at  
4:00 p.m.

### **Reports**

#### **Finance/Administration: Chuck Vojtech**

Neil reported the IRS approved the chapter's tax-  
exempt status effective back to November 2012 and  
the chapter is waiting approval at the state level.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Cook  
No report.

#### **Professional Development: Tim Wilson**

Continuing Education:  
No report.

Academic Affairs: Al Pasek  
No report.

Certification: Tim Wilson  
Holly reported the CDT study classes would end this  
week.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan  
No report.

#### **Member Services: Tom Atwell**

Programs: J. Peter Jordan  
Robert reported the annual chapter tour would be on  
April 21, 2014 starting at 4:00 p.m. The tour location is  
the Shell Woodcreek building at Dairy Ashford and In-  
terstate 10.

Membership: Bill Lunsford  
Bill reported the chapter currently has 178 members,  
including nine new members.

Awards: Amy Salmeron  
Holly reported the Houston and Amarillo chapters sub-  
mitted material for the "Newsletter Award" to the Re-  
gion.

Table Top Display: Amy Peevey  
No report.

Personal/Professional Development: Doug Frank/Di  
Ann Reid

Doug reported he has nothing to report.

#### **Public Services: Don Smith**

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith  
Don reported the newsletter had been posted to the  
website.

#### **Public Relations:**

Holly mentioned several publications are not current  
with our contact information. She said she would work  
on updating the information. Don Smith would submit  
the updates to the organizations.

Electronic Communications: Logan Vits  
No report.

#### **Other Business:**

Foundation:  
Tom reported the committee has been interviewing  
scholarship applicants and would narrow the list in the  
next few weeks.

SCR Conference Meeting Update: Holly Jordan  
Holly reported five students from Prairie View A&M  
would attend the conference. The board discussed the  
chapter paying a portion of the conference costs, such  
as the registration fee, for the students. Neil Byrne  
"moved to have the Houston chapter pay the registra-  
tion fee for the 2014 SCR Conference for five Prairie  
View A&M students at a cost of \$150.00 each." The  
motion was seconded and approved. Holly also men-  
tioned expectations should be established for the stu-  
dents, that they should be expected to write a report to  
the Houston chapter after the conference. The report  
would be sent to Tim Wilson and also to the Prairie  
View A&M advisor. Holly reported there would be thirty  
-three students attending the CDT "boot camp" and  
current registration for the conference totals eighty-  
nine.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

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

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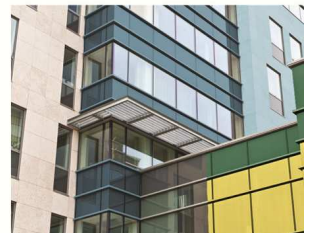
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## FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

At each monthly meeting, the Chapter encourages Industry Members to provide a table top display of their products and services for the inspection and education of those attending the meeting.

The table top display is also encouraged to be presented during the social hour and after the program for any questions by attendees.

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

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for more information.

## **CSI Houston Chapter Board Meeting Minutes**

**Location: HESS Building**

**5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX**

**April 28, 2014**

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

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

### **Vice President Reports:**

#### **Finance/Administration: Chuck Vojtech**

Robert reported that the CPA has been paid. Also, the check to Kiley Advisor's charity has been paid. A bill was received from SCR (Austin) and will be paid.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Cook  
No report.

#### **Professional Development: Tim Wilson**

No report.

#### **Member Services: Tom Atwell**

Programs: J. Peter Jordan  
The Shell Woodcreek tour was well received and enjoyed by all board members that attended.

Membership: Bill Lunsford  
Bill reported that will merge the current Constant Contact list with the general interest email list. We will stick with Constant Contact for the present.

Awards: Amy Salmeron  
Holly Jordan said SCR has given an award to a Houston Chapter member.

Table Top Display: Amy Peevey  
Bill Fairbanks has a tabletop presentation at tonight's meeting.

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

#### **Public Services: Don Smith**

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith  
Don reported the April newsletter was published to the website.

Special Events:  
Holly reported that the tentative date for the 2014 Golf Tournament is Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Electronic Communications: Logan Vits  
Holly reported that the Houston website was hacked; she asked that the newsletter and other backup performed by Pamela were checked as current.

### **Other Business:**

Planning Meetings:  
The planning meeting for 05.19.2014 will be held at Jordan Consultants and will include a discussion on awards.

Foundation:  
Don Smith moved for CSI Houston to fund \$8,000.00 to fund to the Foundation for scholarship awards; seconded and passed.

Chapter Elections:  
Betsy Finch to forward election result to Institute by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Five Year Plan:  
Kiley Advisors has sent the report summary. Contributions by attendees were good. Don Smith to email copy of report to Dennis Hall for review and comment

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

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

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## Excuse Me, But Your Slip is Showing By Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

I don't know how this issue has escaped me for nearly forty years, but I'm not alone. In that time, I have occasionally talked about coefficient of friction for floors, but I just discovered there has been no widely accepted standard for slip resistance. Not only that, but neither the IBC nor ADA define slip resistance, *even though both require slip resistant floors and walkways.*



How the heck is that possible? Think of all the very specific requirements in the building code. How did they miss this one? And think of ADA, with its Byzantine combination of Spock-like precision in some areas, and a "Take a guess and we'll see you in court" approach to other requirements. How can it be that the good folks who write the ADA requirements know exactly what so many dimensions must be, but they have no idea what they mean by slip-resistant? It seems to me that not falling on your arse is a lot more important than a quarter inch difference in the location of a water closet, but this apparently - no, this *obviously* important performance characteristic has had no definition.

The IBC, in 1003.4, requires that "Walking surfaces of the *means of egress* shall have a slip-resistant surface and be securely attached" but does not define what slip resistance is. Apparently, the IBC doesn't care about floors not in an egress path.

According to the US Access Guide:

Accessible surfaces *must be slip resistant* ... However, the standards do not specify a minimum level of slip resistance ... because a consensus method for rating slip resistance remains elusive. While different measurement devices and protocols have been developed ... a widely accepted method has not emerged. Compliance with the standards *requires specifying* surface materials, textures, or finishes that prevent or minimize slipperiness under the conditions likely to be found on the surface. Standard practices for minimizing floor or ground slipperiness will *likely* satisfy compliance with the standards ... [*my emphasis*].

Makes you feel all warm and fuzzy, doesn't it?

It's not that there are no standards related to slip re-

sistance. We have:

- ASTM C1028 Standard Test Method for Determining the Static Coefficient of Friction of Ceramic Tile and Other Like Surfaces by the Horizontal Dynamometer Pull-Meter Method.
- ASTM D2047 Standard Test Method for Static Coefficient of Friction of Polish-Coated Floor Surfaces as Measured by the James Machine
- ASTM D5859 Standard Test Method for Determining the Traction of Footwear on Painted Surfaces Using the Variable Incidence Tester.
- ASTM F462 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Slip-Resistant Bathing Facilities.
- ASTM F489 Standard Test Method for Using a James Machine (measures slip resistance). Withdrawn 2005.
- ASTM F609. Standard Test Method for Using a Horizontal Pull Slipmeter.
- ASTM F695 Standard Practice for Ranking of Test Data Obtained for Measurement of Slip Resistance of Footwear Sole, Heel, and Related Materials.
- ASTM F802 Standard Guide for Selection of Certain Walkway Surfaces When Considering Footwear Traction. Withdrawn 2012.
- ASTM F1679 Standard Test Method for Using a Variable Incidence Tribometer. Withdrawn 2006.
- ASTM F1637 Standard Practice for Safe Walking Surfaces.
- UL410 Slip Resistance of Floor Surface Materials (similar to ASTM D2047).

NFSI/ANSI B101.1 Test Method for Measuring Wet SCOF of Common Hard-Surface Floor Materials.

Surely, with all those standards - and there are many more! - determining what slip-resistance means should be easy. Well, not quite. As noted, some of the standards have been withdrawn, and, with a couple of exceptions, most are test methods or discussions of slip resistance only that do not set minimum standards.

To make things more interesting, there is strong disagreement about the validity of various test methods and equipment. For example, the Ceramic Tile Institute of America (CTIOA) objects to the use of ASTM C1028, claiming it is "widely recognized as being inappropriate for assessing pedestrian safety" and that it "can give 'safe' ratings to very slippery materials." CTIOA and others argue that ASTM C1028, which measures static coefficient of friction, has little to do with real-world slip resistance. Furthermore, the ASTM C1028 test method is limited to the laboratory, which makes it useless for testing in-place conditions.

*Continued on page 9*



*Continued from page 8*

Some of the standards specify a coefficient of friction, but do not indicate if it is for wet or dry conditions, or do not specify the test method. Given the different materials and methods used for testing, those standards mean nothing. An additional complication is inherent in the nature of the products: we walk on them, so normal wear reduces their slip resistance. Unless there is a maintenance program to replace flooring as the coefficient of friction changes, does it make sense to specify a property that may be valid only for a couple of years?

Another contentious issue is the test condition; most tests are done dry. Even if a test is performed under wet conditions, there is little agreement about what those conditions should be. How wet is wet? Should the tests be performed with deionized water? Or with a soap solution? What about oil? Or, for that matter, banana peels?

The test methods themselves present more variables; the flooring itself is only one of the materials used in a test. Many of the older tests use leather, presumably because that was a common material for shoe soles. Being a natural material, leather is not consistent from one sample to the next. Today, many shoes use something other than leather for soles, and it's likely that the coefficients of friction vary from one material to another. It is clear that no single test will be applicable in all situations, or that it will accurately replicate even one real-world condition.

One of the more recent standards is ANSI B101, which is unique in its extent. Much more than a test method, it includes a discussion of slip-and-fall dynamics and factors that affect slip resistance of all walkway surfaces. It sets three traction levels: High, with a static coefficient of friction (SCOF) greater than 0.6, Moderate, at 0.40 to 0.60, and Low, at less than 0.40.

It doesn't look like this issue will be resolved anytime soon. Perhaps it's just too slippery.

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

## “Strictly SMITH-ly”

### On Bulleted Notes, BIM, and Scheduled Information

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

In my experience, some architects, interior designers, and other professional disciplines tend to get too wrapped up in their design and forget how to communicate their requirements to the rest of the construction team.

Trying to write specs on the Drawings using bulleted notes, BIM properties, and schedules containing only the information the designer is interested in is dangerous.

Saying what you want in as few words as possible to achieve the desired result has become a lost art. No amount of cutesy packaging will improve this requirement. What you are trying unsuccessfully to accomplish is to communicate by talking neither up to or down to the construction team. By pissing them off with a lot of nonsense, you communicate the limits of your intelligence and invite real trouble for your client.

The reality is, if they cannot understand quickly what your intention are, they will ignore you and use their own judgment.

The real advantage of the Project Manual is that MasterFormat breaks down the complicated task of construction into topics that are easy to understand and digest. The Project Manual is like an encyclopedia for the construction of a particular project. Anyone who has a passing knowledge of MasterFormat knows where to find the information that they seek. They rely on the discipline of the specification writer to place the information in its correct place, describe it accurately in enough detail to properly bid and construct it, so they can feed their families. Anything that interferes with this process gets in the way of their goals.

What ever happened to “Say it once, say it correctly and say it in the right place.”?

Why do you think BIM has such a hard time gaining traction. If you need to specify a particular manufacturer and model number with few options, BIM

works reasonably well. If you are trying to describe a complex construction with many custom requirements the Drawing file size becomes unmanageable.

Imagine if you had no knowledge of MasterFormat or that architects and engineers practicing more than sixty years ago did not write specifications based upon construction trades. How would you communicate what you want and be sure you were understood?

I think the knowledge and usefulness of the specification writer is not well understood nor an accurate understanding of how long he will be around.

**"If you don't know where you're going, you might wind up someplace else."**

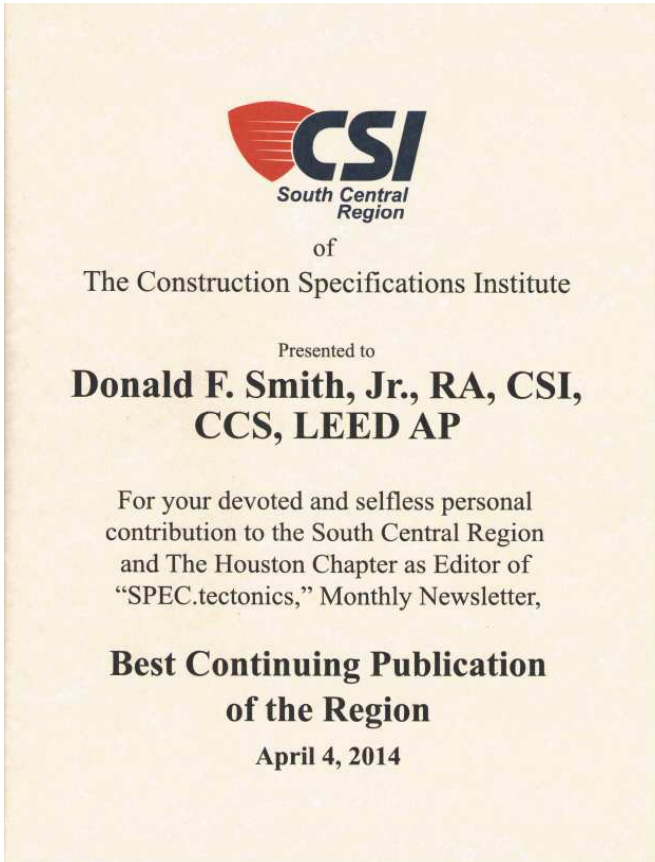
Yogi Berra

... Just my opinion,

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

**CSI South Central Region  
Award to CSI Houston  
SPEC.tectonics Newsletter  
By Donald F. Smith, Jr., CSI CCS RA LEED AP**

The CSI Houston SPEC.tectonics newsletter and editor Don Smith were awarded the following citation at the April CSI South Central Region conference by South Central Region President Holly Jordan.



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## CSI Houston

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## June 2014 Through June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	19	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16 Planning Mtg, 2:30 pm, 2000 N. Loop 610, Ste. 202	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting- Hess	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	July 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	19	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Planning Mtg, 2:30 pm, 2000 N. Loop 610, Ste. 202	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting- Hess	28	30	31	August 1	2