

SPEE.tectonics

The art of creating things that have both beauty and usefulness



Knowledge for Creating and
Sustaining the Built Environment

December 2011

No CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER DECEMBER MEETING

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

PLACE:

Guadalajara Mexican Grille
2925 SW Freeway

TIME:

5:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

DATE: MONDAY,

DECEMBER 12, 2011

COST: \$20.00 Per Person
at the door plus a non-
perishable can food dona-
tion

RESERVATIONS:

Please go to:

<http://www.csihouston.org>

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CSI Houston Website:

December 2011 CSI Houston Chapter Holiday Party

MONDAY

DECEMBER 12TH



Come join our annual celebration to give thanks for the year and
share friendships and best wishes for the coming year.

**\$20.00 at the Door and
Nonperishable Canned Food Donation**

Starts 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 2012 CSI Houston Chapter Presentation



Pat Kiley, Principal with Kiley Advisors, LLC, Houston, TX will be the guest speaker for the January CSI Houston Chapter meeting.

Plan to attend to get Pat's insight and forecast for the Houston 2012 commercial construction market.

Kiley Advisors was founded in 2004 to serve construction firms and associations. For more information, visit his website at: <http://www.kileyadvisors.com>

CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER
2011—2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC (832) 496-9507 Robert.Cook@sbdinc.com
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Secretary	Betsy Finch, CSI (713) 806-3401 betsy.finch13@gmail.com
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Director through 2011	
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Membership	Amanda Carrington, CSI (832) 405-7166 acarrington@archmetalroof.com
Certification	Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP (713) 366-0320 hjordan@jordanconsultants.com
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Public Relations	Logan Vits, CSI, CCPR, LEED GA (713) 703-5201 lvits@assaabloydss.com
Product Show (CTE)	Di Ann Reid, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED AP (713) 844-0091 diann_reid@gensler.com
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
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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

President	Kathleen Liles, CSI, CDT (713) 854-6783 kannliles@aol.com	Director,	Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI, CCS (713) 962-4209 dotgumm@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP (713) 366-0320 hjordan@jordanconsultants.com	Webmaster,	Lisa Murray, CSI, CCS, LEED AP (713) 294-7387 lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com

December 2011 President's Message

by Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC

As we enter the Holiday season it is good to reflect on all the ways we are blessed. We are blessed to live in a free country. We are blessed with many things that we should all be thankful for. I may be a little politically incorrect in saying this but as a person who believes in God and has the freedom to say it I will. We should be thankful and thank our God, whomever we pray to, for all of our blessings daily. I want to thank everyone in the Houston CSI chapter for everything they have done through this year, and all the years, to make our chapter a success. This has been a real blessing to me.



I also want to thank all of those in the chapter who have helped me personally. Without your help it would not have been possible. I am truly blessed to know all of you and a better person for it. I am thankful for your support and help.

Thank you everyone! Have a Happy Holiday season!

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:

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8914 Pontiac Dr.
Houston, TX 77096
713-297-7387
lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com



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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.



- Solarban® Solar Control Low-E Glasses
- Oceans of Color® Spectrally Selective Tinted Glasses
- DURANAR® SPF ENERGY STAR-compliant high-performance coatings
- CORAFLO® ADS colorful, field-applied fluoropolymer coatings
- CORAFLO® and ENVIROCRON® Zero-VOC powder coatings
- Pure Performance® Zero-VOC paint from Pittsburgh® Paints
- Megaseal® Hygienic Industrial and Commercial Flooring Systems



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

The only Cradle to Cradle Certified^{CM} Architectural Glass

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 Sponsorship pledge. See page 10 for details.

CSI BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Houston Chapter CSI

Location: HESS Building - 5430 Westheimer Road - Houston, TX
October 24, 2011

Present: Amanda Carrington, Amy Peevey, Amy Salmeron, Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Chuck Vojtech, Di Ann Reid, Don Smith, Dorothy Gumm, Dennison Doug Frank, James Sandoz, Lisa Murray, Logan Vits, Mark Koehler

President-elect James Sandoz called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. The September 2011 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Member Services: Neil Byrne

Programs: Janet Babineaux
Neil reported that programs are set through the end of the year.

Membership: Amanda Carrington
Amanda mentioned the possibility of joining with the local AIA chapter with the intent to have more interaction between the two groups. Discussion followed and it was noted that the two groups had worked together in the past. Amanda will follow up with AIA. The Board also the possibility of changing the location of the chapter meetings. Lisa Murray will get more information and present to the Board for further discussion.

Awards: Amy Salmeron
No report.

Finance/Administration: Don Smith

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Vojtech
Chuck reported the bank balance is \$22,411.23, as of October 24, 2011. He mentioned that not everyone using the PayPal service for the golf tournament paid the PayPal fee. Doug Frank noted on the Expense sheet two line items are listed in the wrong category and should be moved to the correct category; \$106.03—Fellow Dinner and \$755.65—CSI national Convention.

Table Top Display: Holly Jordan
One table top display is reserved for the October chapter meeting.

Public Services: Lisa Murray

Golf Tournament: Holly Jordan
Chuck reported that the golf tournament netted over \$11,000.00.

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith
Don reported the newsletter had been posted to the website and the goal is to post the newsletter to the website by the end of the first week of the month.

Electronic Communications: Lisa Murray
Lisa provided a recap of information from our provider, Constant Contact, regarding activity such as the number of emails sent out monthly, the number of bounces, etc. Lisa is currently looking into other provider services that are more user friendly and charge less than what Constant Contact charges

Public Relations: Logan Vits
Logan reported he had contacted Construction News about submitting photos of the golf tournament to post in their newspaper..

Professional Development: Mark Koehler
Mark reported he renewed the chapter Provider # with AIA for another year.

Academic Affairs: Robert Byrne
No report.

Certification: Holly Jordan
No report.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan
No report.

Scholarship: Frank Bain
No report.

New Business:
Tax Exemption Status: The Board members discussed the current situation with the IRS. Don Smith told the members that was informed by a CPA that once we have filed the necessary tax returns with the IRS, that chapter can send a letter to the IRS to request reinstatement of the tax exempt status. Lisa stated that she had previously interviewed three CPA firms and gave their contact information to Tom Atwell. James Sandoz asked Lisa for the contact information. Don Smith "moved to contact the CPA firms asking for a description of the services provided and also a quote for their services." James Sandoz moved to amend Don's motion by adding that the firms "be contacted as soon as possible in order to provide this information to Bob Cook by November 7, 2011." The motion to amend was seconded and approved. The main motion was then seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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.
3. **Be a speaker for a CSI Webinar.** To submit a presentation complete this form and then email it to 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 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!

CCCA CERTIFICATION 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.

WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

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

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CSI Corporate Partner Program

Join CSI's Corporate Partner Program!

- ▶ **Gain Broader Exposure for Your Company or Product**
- ▶ **Communicate Project Information More Effectively**
- ▶ **Train Your Team to be Thought Leaders the Construction Community Trusts**

CSI's **Corporate Partner Program** is designed for building product manufacturers, contractors, design firms and federal agencies that have multiple employees interested in joining CSI and accessing CSI's products and services at **value pricing**.

Each partnership is **customized to meet your strategic business goals and objectives**. This program provides businesses and organizations the opportunity to gain wider exposure by developing a formal relationship with CSI and its member network. By joining, Corporate Partners demonstrate their support for CSI and its mission: to advance building information management and education of project teams to improve facility performance.

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through Workforce
Development
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the Direction of Commercial
Construction
- ▶ **SHOWCASE**
Organizational Excellence

Corporate Partner Benefits

EXPOSURE

- Logo on www.csinet.org
- Article in CSI Weekly e-newsletter and other construction related publications
- FREE banner space in CSI Weekly
- Use of CSI's Corporate Partner logo on your website and other approved marketing pieces
- Discounts on listings in BSD's SpecLink
- Recognition on CSI's Facebook page and CSI's Twitter Feed
- Networking at local CSI chapter meetings and invitation-only events

EDUCATION

- CSI's Certification programs
- CSI Academies
- Customized on-site training
- CSI's WebReach program



For more information visit www.csinet.org/corporatepartner, or contact:

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EMAIL: spennington@csinet.org

CSI Institute and Regional News

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

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.

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“Strictly SMITH-ly”

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

Specifiers Point of View, Permitted Variation From the Basis of Design, and Contractor’s Point of View

Last month’s article discussed general skills needed by the construction specifier to define the products, equipment and materials needed to define the Project.

We all have education, experiences, and other background information that is second nature to each of us. When we say something or write something, the educational training, on the job experience, and other experiences are used shape our decisions on what we say and what we write. We don’t usually consider the education and experience of those who read the specification or even the laborer’s who act on their requirements.

Specifications usually start with what is important to the architect and to a lesser degree what is important to others in order to achieve a particular result. If we want the welded wire fabric positioned off the ground at the neutral plane of the concrete sidewalk, we specify how that is to be accomplished or leave the method to the Contractor. Reinforcing mesh support chairs can certainly accomplish this, but it’s a “little over the top” for a pedestrian sidewalk. It is usually sufficient to raise the mesh with a hook just after the concrete is placed.

The reason behind each specified requirement is usually never specified, unless it is necessary to achieve the result. In the example of the sidewalk slab, the positioning of the reinforcing is to resist tensile forces due to temperature changes and to hold the pieces of concrete together and in the same plane, should a crack occur. Reinforcing left in contact with the ground works just as well as if it was left on the delivery truck.

The “basis of design” is the products, materials, equipment and procedures specified to achieve the required for the completed Project.

This shouldn’t be an insurmountable task for the Contractor. After all, he promised to provide all products, materials, equipment, and labor to construct the Project. But at submittal time, the architect is usually in a tug-of-war with the Contractor and his subcontractors as to why “xyz” can’t be substituted for “abc,” even when they are clearly different from each other. Products,

materials, and equipment each have their unique appearance, performance and reliability that must work in a satisfactory way with the assembly of which they are a part. The architect’s fee is used up in elaborate discussions about the subtle or not so subtle differences between the specified and the proposed substitution, usually ending up with “If you didn’t want “xyz” to be used, why didn’t you specify that “xyz” is not acceptable?”

All of us are specifiers and users of specifications at sometime during our lives. If your wife or significant other sends you to the store to pick up six items, she has every intention of getting those six items when you return without exception. If you return with something else, you will face “This is not what I told you to get.” She is not interested in what they are selling, what the price is, or the football game that is preventing you from getting what she wanted. All you have to think about is that if you come back with anything else, sex might be in jeopardy for at least a month. You will figure it out. Everything of value is not about arguing.

Which brings us to Contractor’s viewpoint. The Contractor has a lot to accomplish and is not impressed by out of date product specifications, conflicting requirements, and sole source specifications for products which have little field installation and durability history. Bidders use a lot of historical pricing data to make sure that their bidding effort will be competitive. Products and materials that do not fit the historical pricing data are almost certain to come under scrutiny for substitution for more mainline selections. Remember that the person that bids out a project is not the person leading it’s construction.

“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
don.smith315@sbcglobal.net



The image shows a business card for Betsy Finch & Associates. At the top is a logo consisting of three overlapping triangles in shades of orange and red. Below the logo, the company name "BETSY FINCH & ASSOCIATES" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath, the contact information is listed: "713.806.3401" and "betsy.finch13@gmail.com" on the first line; "BETSY FINCH, CSI" and "Manufacturer's Representative" on the second line; and "4582 E. Kingwood Drive, #316" and "Kingwood, Texas 77345" on the third line. At the bottom, it says "Division 07 - Thermal and Moisture Protection".

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CSI Houston

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www.csihouston.org

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November Through January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOV 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 CSI Holiday Party	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve
JAN 1, 2012 New Yaer's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 CSI Planning Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22/29	23/30 CSI Board / Chapter Meeting	24/31	25	26	27	28