

SPEE.tectonics

The art of creating things that have both beauty and usefulness



Knowledge for Creating and
Sustaining the Built Environment

January 2012

JANUARY 23TH 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)

DATE:

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 28, 2011

COST:

\$30.00 Per Person; Free to
CSI members.

RESERVATIONS:

Please go to:

<http://www.csihouston.org>

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CSI Houston Website:

<http://www.csihouston.org>

January 2012 CSI Houston Chapter Presentation

Monday, January 23rd



Pat Kiley, Principal with Kiley Advisors, LLC, Houston, TX will be the guest speaker for the January 2012 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>

February 2012 CSI Houston Chapter Presentation

Monday, February 27rd

Kelli Weiblen of CertainTeed (Kelli.Weiblen@saint-gobain.com) will present "Acoustic Ceilings for the Eye, the Ear and the Mind" at the Monday, February 27th, CSI Houston Chapter Meeting

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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

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January 2012 President's Message

by Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC

Now we all have had a chance to enjoy our families and the holidays. (Really makes you think. Grandchild number 20 joined us; damn I'm blessed.)



I just wanted to remind everyone of all the work that we have to do the rest of the year and going forward.

Let us keep our eyes on the ball and everyone pitch in to keep the Chapter moving forward and growing. I would like everyone to bring a new person to our meeting either in January or February, then follow up and try to get them to join CSI. If you need a list of reasons why, have them sent to me or Amanda Carrington who chairs membership at acarrington@brick.com. I know CSI has made a huge difference to me in gaining industry knowledge, but also monetarily. You really can't beat the benny's!

All of you golfers out there who would like to help, consider joining the Golf Committee; we need someone to chair the golf tournament for next year. See Tom Atwell or me if you are interested. Did you all catch the great article that Don Smith wrote for our December SPEC.tectonics. Way to go Don!

Can you tell if I'm all fired up? Let's all catch the spirit!

I'll see you at the Chapter meeting on January 23rd.

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

Lisa Murray
8914 Pontiac Dr.
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lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com

A rectangular box containing a logo for TPCCI (Texas Professional Concrete Contractors Institute) on the left, which includes a map of Texas and the acronym. To the right of the logo is the text: "Manufacturer's Representative Waterproofing Products Concrete Accessories Specialty Coatings". Below this is the name "JOHN M. ZIEBELL". At the bottom left of the box is the address "26911 Bridleway Circle Magnolia, TX 77355". At the bottom right is the phone number "(832) 746-3507" and the email address "johnziebell@att.net".



Kathleen Liles, CSI, CDT

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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



To find out more information about PPG Architectural Glass, Coatings and Paint, go to: www.ppgideascales.com

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 Sponsor-

WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

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A half page ad is only \$500 for 12 issues

A business card ad is only \$225 for 12 issues

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(713) 688-0092 or don.smith315@sbdglobal.net
for more information.

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](https://twitter.com/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!

CDT Certification Classes

By Di Ann Reid, CSI, CCS, LEED AP

The Spring 2012 CDT Exam window is approaching (April 2-28, 2012) and we are pleased to invite you to participate in the Construction Documents Training Course — a program designed to impart practical, technical and philosophical learning to staff that helps to institutionalize the practice of construction documents as an integral part of the firm's design and delivery practice.

The course will be conducted over 12 weeks in two-hour sessions every Thursday at the Gensler Houston offices (711 Louisiana, Suite 300) and via GoTo Meeting beginning Thursday, January 12, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and ending Thursday, March 29, with a course review and practice Exam.

CDT Winter 2012 Course Dates:

Session 01: Thursday, January 12, 5-7 pm	Session 07: Thursday, February 23, 5-7 pm
Session 02: Thursday, January 19, 5-7 pm	Session 08: Thursday, March 1, 5-7 pm
Session 03: Thursday, January 26, 5-7 pm	Session 09: Thursday, March 8, 5-7 pm
Session 04: Thursday, February 2, 5-7 pm	Session 10: Thursday, March 15, 5-7 pm
Session 05: Thursday, February 9, 5-7 pm	Session A201: Thursday, March 22, 5-7 pm
Session 06: Thursday, February 16, 5-7 pm	Makeup (if needed) Thursday, March 29, 5-7 pm

Our goal is to give you a comprehensive understanding of the contract documents through the design process and contract administration, as well as arm you with the some basic tools and techniques that will be helpful when producing or interpreting specifications for your project.

Exam Content Summary

The proportion of the exam dedicated to each subject matter area is as follows:

Subject Matter Area No. 1: FUNDAMENTALS.....	8%
Subject Matter Area No. 2: PLANNING AND PRE-DESIGN.....	20%
Subject Matter Area No. 3: DESIGN.....	37%
Subject Matter Area No. 4: PROCUREMENT.....	10%
Subject Matter Area No. 5: CONSTRUCTION.....	20%
Subject Matter Area No. 6: POST-CONSTRUCTION.....	5%

We feel very strongly about the direct benefits of this program both to you and your firm. Please **email Sharon Heiser (sharon_heiser@gensler.com) or call 713.844.0126** to confirm your participation.

Participants planning on taking CSI's Spring 2012 CDT exam will also need to register for the exam through the CSI website, please click on the following link for more information on the CDT Exam and to register for the exam. The early registration deadline is **February 2, 2012**, and the final registration deadline is **March 2, 2012**. Next exam offered by CSI will be Fall 2012.

Cost of CDT Preparation Classes is \$75.00 for CSI members and \$100.00 for non-members

CDT Exam Cost *	CSI members	Non-members	Students
Cost Before February 2, 2012	\$235	\$295	\$105
Cost After February 2, 2012	\$370	\$430	\$105
<i>Save up to \$135-- join CSI before you register</i>			



This course qualifies for 16 AIA CEU HSW/SD Credits.

IDP Candidates: This course qualifies for 40 supplementary education elective hours for passing CDT Exam.



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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- ▶ **SHOWCASE**
Organizational Excellence

Corporate Partner Benefits

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- Logo on www.csinet.org
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- 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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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.

CCCA CERTIFICATION CANDIDATES NOW REQUIRED TO HAVE TWO YEARS OF EX- PERIENCE

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.

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.

“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 result 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

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<i>JAN 1 New Years Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 CSI Board / Chapter Meeting—HESS	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	FEB 1	2	3	4
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12	13	14 CSI Planning Meeting — Jungman Library	15	16	17	18
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