

SPEE.tectonics

The art of creating things that have both beauty and usefulness



Knowledge for Creating and
Sustaining the Built Environment

May 2012

MAY 21ST 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:

\$30.00 Per Person; Free to
CSI members.

RESERVATIONS:

Please go to: [http://
www.csihouston.org](http://www.csihouston.org)

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

Monday, May 21st CSI Houston Chapter Presentation "Sustainable Building Enclosure Design"

Tim Wilson (twilson@weatherizationpartners.com) will present "Sustainable Building Enclosure Design" at the May 21st CSI Houston Chapter meeting. Weatherization Partners is the local distributor for DuPont Tyvek products.

This presentation will help you understand how to achieve a sustainable building enclosure which includes energy efficiency, durability and IEQ/occupant comfort.

Program No: Green 1. One LU hour, SD, HSW, GBCI, LEED CMP credits are offered to program attendees.

June CSI Houston Chapter Awards Program

Robert M. Cook, CSI ,AHC President, CSI Houston Chapter

Please help us celebrate our CSI Houston Chapters 54th year by honoring and recognizing the many contributions and accomplishments of our members and of the CSI Houston Chapter over the past year.

We will install our new officers and help kick them off to the upcoming year.

This years annual awards banquet and ceremony will be held Monday evening, June 25, 2012 at the HESS Club.

Cost id \$35.00 per person; Retired past CSI Chapter presidents gratis

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Position 1, 1 Year Tom Atwell, CSI CDT, AIA

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Position 3, 3 Years Don Ude, CSI

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May 2012

President's Message

by Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC

Remember when the only thing you had to worry about was getting your homework done and getting to school on time? Remember having the time to enjoy the simple pleasures in life?



Then life and life's choices complicate things, and before we know it we are running around at 60 miles per hour and don't have time to stop and enjoy life anymore.

My message this month is about wasted opportunities. We run past them at an astounding rate. We miss the chance to make our kids and spouse feel loved and wanted because we have work to do. We look right past them when they try to show us something they are so very proud of. Wasted opportunities!

Life and business seem to be at odds more and more regarding what is truly important in life. You can have it all, but it takes careful planning and great communication. Look for opportunities for excellence in work and with your family.

How does this relate to CSI you may ask? We should all be looking for opportunities for excellence in promoting and growing our Houston CSI Chapter. CSI National had a BOGO promotion, and no one took advantage of it- Not one person from our chapter. That is really sad for me to know that we had a real chance to make a difference and grow the chapter and no one did. Wasted Opportunities!

Hats off to the new younger board members who are thinking outside the box, i.e. trying new "Happy Hour Networking" events. They are the future of our chapter, and its continuance depends on their success. I hope everyone will

help and support them. Let's have a "No Missed Opportunities Month."

Members are also encouraged to attend the National Convention "CONSTRUCT 2012" which will be in Phoenix this year SEPTEMBER 11 - 14.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Cook CSI, AHC

New Texas Accessibility Standards, Effective March 15th

by Don Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP

For the first time in years, vastly new and different accessibility standards will become law on March 15.

Are you ready for the new laws?

See the link below for a great deal of information on the new Texas Accessibility Standards.

<http://www.tbae.state.tx.us/PublicInformation/NewTAS>

A business card for TPCCI (Texas Professional Concrete Contractors Institute). The card features a map of Texas with the acronym "TPCCI" overlaid. To the right of the map, it lists "Manufacturer's Representative" services including "Waterproofing Products", "Concrete Accessories", and "Specialty Coatings". The name "JOHN M. ZIEBELL" is printed in bold. At the bottom left, the address "26911 Bridleway Circle, Magnolia, TX 77355" is listed. At the bottom right, the phone number "(832) 746-3507" and email "johnziebell@att.net" are provided.

TPCCI

Manufacturer's Representative
Waterproofing Products
Concrete Accessories
Specialty Coatings

JOHN M. ZIEBELL

26911 Bridleway Circle
Magnolia, TX 77355

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April CSI Houston Chapter Tour of Constellation Field, Sugar Land, TX

By J. Peter Jordan FCSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP



Members of the CSI Houston Chapter toured Constellation Field on April 24, 2012. Our tour was guided by Mr. Michael Kirk who has the overall responsibility for operating the stadium. This facility is the new home for the newest minor league baseball team in the Houston area, the Atlantic League Sugar Land Skeeters. The facility will be formally opened on April 26, 2012. It will seat about 7,500 for baseball (expandable to 10,000) and 9,500 in concert configuration. In addition to general admission suites, the facility offers 21 suites and an upper level club seating. The design-build procurement method was used on the project with the Houston architectural firm PGAL producing bridging documents which were used by the firm, Tetra Tech Inc., to complete construction documents. Barton Malow Company teamed with Linbeck Construction to construct the facility at a construction cost of approximately \$40 million

It was a beautiful day to tour the ball park; the only thing that could have made it better would to be there for a



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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.



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FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

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

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

The presentation fee for this time is \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members, or free with a Golf Sponsor-

WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

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

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

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

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

CSI BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Houston Chapter CSI

Location: HESS Building - 5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX

March 26, 2012

Present: Amy Salmeron, Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech, Don Smith, Doug Frank, Frank Bain, Holly Jordan, Lisa Murray, Logan Vits, Mark Koehler, Neil Byrne, Robert Byrne

President Bob Cook called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The February 2012 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Member Services: Neil Byrne

Programs: Janet Babineaux
Neil reported the arrangements have been made for the Skeeter Stadium tour scheduled for April 23, 2012. The tour will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Membership: Amanda Carrington
No report.

Awards: Amy Salmeron
No report.

Finance/Administration: Don Smith
Don reported that he has not heard from the accountant or the IRS.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Vojtech
Chuck reported the bank balance is \$22,024.76. He also reported one CD will expire in June and he will roll it over into the checking account.

Table Top Display: Holly Jordan
No report.

Public Services: Lisa Murray

Golf Tournament: Holly Jordan
No report

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith
Don reported he has posted the March issue.

Electronic Communications: Lisa Murray
Lisa reported that several updates to the website have been made. She also stated she needs the current chapter by-laws.

Public Relations: Logan Vits
No report

Professional Development: Mark Koehler
Continuing Education: Mark Koehler
Mark reported the study classes being taught by Di Ann Reid and Dorothy Denison are approved by National.

Academic Affairs: Al Pasek
No report

Certification: Holly Jordan
No report

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan
No report.

Scholarship: Frank Bain
Frank reported the scholarship committee has completed the interview process and five candidates have been chosen, but only four scholarships are available. He also reported the foundation's status with the IRS has been reinstated.

New Business:
Lisa Murray "moved to fill the president-elect position". The motion was seconded and approved.

The Board discussed the by-law changes and the chapter administrative guide. Doug Frank will send a copy of the current by-laws to the board members for review and approval.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 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!

What is a Master Builder?

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

The master mason was in charge. He was architect and builder rolled into one. He often directed a work force numbering into hundreds. But he also worked among his people. He cut stone and installed plumbing. That puzzles us, *wed as we are to the notion that academic and manual knowledge don't mix.* John H. Lienhard, *Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and History, University of Houston; my emphasis.*

Architect: 1550s, from M.Fr. architecte, from L. architectus, from Gk. arkhitekton "master builder, director of works," from arkhi- "chief" + tekton "builder, carpenter". An O.E. word for it was heahcraeftiga "high-crafter." *Online Etymology Dictionary.*

About 2,000 years ago, Roman military engineer and architect Marcus Vitruvius Pollio wrote *De architectura*, now commonly known as the *Ten Books on Architecture*. As I'm sure most readers will know, he said good design required three things - *firmitas, utilitas, venustas*, or strength, utility, and beauty. We are less familiar with other things Vitruvius had to say about architecture. His first chapter discusses the profession of architecture and the education of the architect. [Architecture] is the child of practice and theory. Practice is the continuous and regular exercise of employment where manual work is done with any necessary material according to the design of a drawing. Theory, on the other hand, is the ability to demonstrate and explain the productions of dexterity on the principles of proportion. It follows, therefore, that architects who have aimed at acquiring manual skill without scholarship have never been able to reach a position of authority to correspond to their pains, while those who relied only upon theories and scholarship were obviously hunting the shadow, not the substance. But those who have a thorough knowledge of both, like men armed at all points, have the sooner attained their object and carried authority with them.

...Let him be educated, skilful with the pencil, instructed in geometry, know much history, have followed the philosophers with attention, understand music, have some knowledge of medicine, know the opinions of the jurists, and be acquainted with astronomy and the theory of the heavens. *Trans-*

lation by Morris H. Morgan, PHD, LLD, professor, Harvard University.

The ten books address a wide range of other subjects: planning, civil engineering, pavement, plaster, flooring, painting, color, aqueducts, geometry, astronomy, drainage, water mills, hoisting, building technology in general, siege engines, and more. Given the extent of his knowledge, I think we can say Vitruvius was a master builder. He wasn't the first, nor was he the last. As we will see, the profession of the master builder existed throughout much of history, until relatively recently.

How much of the education Vitruvius discusses is found in modern schools of architecture? The curriculum at my alma mater didn't match up too well with what he had in mind. I don't know what is offered at every school of architecture in the US, but I suspect they are similar. High school English, or perhaps another year in college seems to be enough for good writing. My college believed that sketching still lifes and nudes was more valuable than producing working drawings. Hard sciences were, well, too hard for architects, so we had only minimal requirements for math and physics, followed by engineering for dummies. We did have a brush with history, but only of the architectural variety, and that focused on the appearance of buildings rather than their function.

Many architecture schools spend years teaching planning and Big D design, give some attention to building systems and professional practice, and spurn construction experience as beneath the dignity of the architect. What did Vitruvius say? "...those who relied only upon theories and scholarship were obviously hunting the shadow, not the substance." To be a master builder requires knowledge of construction materials and how they are assembled.

I haven't been around long enough to say from personal experience, but from what I have heard and read, architects were respected people well into the twentieth century, when they still were thought of as "master builders". They knew a lot about the products they used and how they were to be installed, and they probably had hands-on construction experience. And when

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8:

they visited the project site, the contractors feared the words, "Take it down and do it again - right!" or "Stop the work!"

Those days are gone. Today it's more common for the visiting architect to be ignored, sometimes sneered at. Owners don't trust architects as they

did in the past; they now feel the need to hire construction managers, owner's representatives, and commissioning agents, each of whom assumes some of the architect's traditional responsibilities.

Architects have, over the last few decades, given up many of the services they formerly were expected to perform. This is partly due to the enormously increased complexity of construction and building systems - it is no longer possible for an architect to be familiar with all products - but there has also been a conscious effort to avoid responsibility, to just do the fun stuff. Many schools do not prepare future architects for their jobs; they do students a disservice by encouraging their belief that one day, they will be design architects. The reality is that few architects do *Design*, while the majority translate the design into drawings and specifications, or, more recently, a model.

Next month we'll look at some things architects have given up.

Follow me at <http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/>, <http://twitter.com/swolfearch>

To be continued...

CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER 2012-2013 ELECTION RESULTS March 26, 2012

By Betsy Finch, CSI, Chapter Secretary

OFFICIAL BALLOT RESULTS CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

The Houston Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute is pleased to announce the following elected officers and directors for the term July 2012 to July 2013. President - Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP

President Elect - Robert P. Byrne, CSI

Vice President Member Services - Mark Koehler, CSI

Vice President Professional Development - Logan Vits, CSI, CCPR, LEED GA

Vice President Public Services - Don Smith, CSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP

Vice President Finance/Administration - Neil Byrne, CSI, CPA,

Secretary - Betsy Finch, CSI

Treasurer - Chuck Vojtech, CSI, CDT

Director through 2015 - Amy Salmeron, CSI, CDT

Director through 2015 - Grant Groeschel, CSI, AIA, LEED AP

CSI Institute and Regional News - SC Regional Conference Report

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

As you have heard CSI is promoting a Revitalization of CSI program which will update the CSI Brand in a way to entice young professionals to join, raise awareness of importance of high quality construction information documents, and convince industrial professionals the association represents all disciplines. Institute has hired a consulting firm that specializes in brands and they have taken a survey of a lot of members to get their input. We will hear more about this at the national convention in Phoenix.

Email your comments and ideas about Brand Revitalization to www.brandrevitalization@csinet.org

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

Membership Committee chairperson Leslie Schlesinger would like for the 2013 national membership committee to have a representative appointed from each Region.

National membership is a little better than past few years but less than our goal, retention continues to be a big problem.

The National CSI Specifiers retreat held in March was very successful. Plan on having this event again next year.

There will be another Institute Board meeting with Region presidents and Region President Elects this year – to be held in Denver in June.

Dorothy requested that she be copied on all region emails so that she can stay abreast of region activities.

CCCA Candidates Now Are 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.

“Strictly SMITH-ly”

Building Codes, Energy Efficiency, Design Decisions, and Change

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

Code searches allow the architect to define the minimum design and construction requirements needed for the new project. He must identify the location of the project, type of building occupancy, structure fire resistive requirements, type of construction, location on property relative to property lines and other structures, calculating building area for each floor, energy requirements, and similar design criteria.

The architect must also be aware of proposed Code changes that may take effect before project planning and documentation is completed. Understanding the implication of each proposed Code change on each project allows project planning to work with the flow of change, and not opposed to it.

While it would be difficult to imagine someone proceeding with a building design without this information, putting off detailed building sections through exterior enclosure walls and roof past the Design Development stage is common. Continuous insulation values, vapor drive, glass shading coefficients and areas, thermal break construction, roof wind uplift and solar reflective index all must be addressed in Design Development. Postponing these decisions is fool hardy and can lead to expensive time consuming changes by the design team in later project phases.

As an example, if decisions necessary to properly prepare the exterior enclosure and roof sections are postponed, the building sections will likely have to be revised, possibly necessitating changes in the structural grid, changes in the HVAC design loads, and other out of sequence changes.

Not understanding what building Codes require can be costly. It is not hard to imagine how this can happen. We are all creatures of habit, and what worked well on the last project has always

been the starting point for new work. But time has moved on. Codes and the cost of operating and maintaining a building are not what they were on past projects. If the project is an addition to a five or more year old building, a great deal of difficult choices must be made. Small investments in innovative design can result in building efficiencies that have the potential of paying big dividends in building operating expenses for the life of the new structure. Think about the rapid increase in energy costs. Increases in building efficiency will increasingly be a valuable asset in the market place.

The general contractor is not left out of the teams approach to this problem either. What was possible cost wise on the last project, based upon the Contractor's historical cost data, may not make sense on a new project. In the contracting world, change is often slow because of competitive influences of construction cost and property values.

The architect, as a generalist, is in the position of knowing project requirements, being aware of all Code changes, making tough project decisions, and informing the Owner and design team what is necessary to keep the project on course to meet project program and budget objectives.

As someone once said, “the only difference between a dream and reality is a plan.” The only thing I would add is inserting the words “well thought out” before the word “plan.”

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

Barry LePatner, Esq.

... Just my opinion

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May Through June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Apr 29</i>	30	<i>May 1</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 CSI Planning Meeting — Louscan Library	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Mother's Day</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 CSI Board / Chapter Mtg — HESS	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <i>Memorial Day</i>	29	30	31	<i>June 1</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 CSI Planning Meeting — Louscan Library	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 CSI Board / Chapter Awards Mtg — HESS	26	27	28	29	30