

# SPEE.tectonics

*The art of creating things that have both beauty and usefulness*



Knowledge for Creating and  
Sustaining the Built Environment

**November 2011**

## NOVEMBER 28TH MEETING

### PROGRAM:

#### 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 e-mail:

[csihouston@gmail.com](mailto:csihouston@gmail.com)

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CSI Houston Website:

<http://www.csihouston.org>

## November CSI Houston Chapter Program

### Fundamentals of Balanced Design for Fire Safe Construction

Presented by

**John Swink**

**Acme Brick Company**

**Representing the Texas Masonry Council**

Masonry resists fire better than most other wall materials. In this program we show the ravages of fire and the difficulty in fighting fires in light-framed construction. Multi-family apartment buildings are particularly vulnerable to fires, and often suffer total destruction when fires occur. We also present a good alternative in load-bearing masonry that adds no fuel to the fire and totally contains it. Finally we show professionally estimated cost studies of complete apartment buildings framed in wood, light gage steel, masonry, ICF's and precast to show that masonry construction is surprisingly affordable.

Attendees will learn (1) how wood framed buildings contribute toward devastating fires, (2) how masonry and concrete buildings withstand and contain fires, and (3) how costs compare for apartments framed in each building system

Program attendees can receive 1 hour AIA/CES HSW CEU credit.

### Coming in January 2012 . . .

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

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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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# November 2011

## President's Message

by Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC

I hope you will all enjoy the weather and get outside and do something fun. We all work so much and can get into such a rut at times that it can become a bad habit. Before we know it the rut is over our heads and before you know it it is a grave. Life is passing us by in a flash.



Just think how fast this year has gone by already!

Take some time to enjoy the outdoors and your families. None of us know how much time we have so take full advantage of every minute!

Until next month, keep smiling


## South Central Region Notice

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

Your Regional CSI Board is looking for a Treasurer. Start in July 2012. I have a job description if you would like to see it.

This is your opportunity to step up and help lead the CSI organization for Texas and Oklahoma.

Contact me at [dotgumm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dotgumm@sbcglobal.net) if you feel you can help with this important work.



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Magnolia, TX 77355

(832) 746-3507  
[johnziebell@att.net](mailto:johnziebell@att.net)

## 2011 Golf Tournament Pictures





**Kathleen Liles, CSI, CDT**

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## WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

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

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for more information.



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



To find out more information about PPG Architectural Glass, Coatings and Paint, go to: [www.ppgideascpes.com](http://www.ppgideascpes.com)

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Deron Patterson, CSI, at 281-841-0829, or e-mail: Patterson@ppg.com

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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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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!

# 2011 Golf Tournament Pictures



## 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?

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### FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

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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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- ▶ **INFLUENCE**  
the Direction of Commercial  
Construction
- ▶ **SHOWCASE**  
Organizational Excellence

## Corporate Partner Benefits

### EXPOSURE

- Logo on [www.csinet.org](http://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](http://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.

## REGION MEETINGS:

Oct. 29 – 30, 2011 Region Fall Planning and Leadership Meeting will be in Dallas , Texas

Hosted by Dallas Chapter to coincide with TSA ( Texas Society of Architects) Convention.

Saturday – Planning Meeting  
Sunday – Presidents Council

April 12 – 15, 2012 The South Central Region Conference

Hosted by the Fort Worth Chapter at the Fort Worth Hilton Hotel.

Thursday: Golf and Welcome Reception  
Friday: Product Exhibits, Seminars, Reception, Dinner and Entertainment  
Saturday: Leadership Seminars, Awards Luncheon, Dinner  
Sunday: Presidents Council Meeting

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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**  
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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: phone number 713.806.3401, email betsy.finch13@gmail.com, and address 4582 E. Kingwood Drive, #316, Kingwood, Texas 77345. The card also identifies Betsy Finch as a CSI Manufacturer's Representative and notes that this is Division 07 - Thermal and Moisture Protection.

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## November Through December 2011

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