President’s Message

Thank you to Kathryn Marek, CCCA, AIA, our fellow CSI member and President of the Los Angeles Chapter, for giving of her time to present last month’s meeting on certification. I cannot stress enough the importance of continuing education and the various CSI certifications that are offered.

With the latest West Region Leadership Conference which was held in earlier this month in Walnut Creek under the belt, I want to thank Neal Drell who attended in my place and was once again a presenter. We also had two of our members attend the leadership conference for the first time … Jessica Sears and Steve Josee. (See Steve’s article on page 3 and Jessica’s article on page 4 related to this event.) Please take a moment to speak with both of them the next time you see them. I am sure they would tell you what a great experience attending a leadership conference is. It is a weekend to network with likeminded people and to share best practices, ideas, success stories and the challenges of running a CSI chapter. Several of the attendees were tweeting out notes and highlights of the event. You can see all the tweets here: https://storify.com/rietta_mccain/csi-west-region-leadership-workshop. Be on the lookout for other CSI Leadership-related tweets by looking for #CSILeaders. A heartfelt thank you to Valarie Harris for organizing this great resource and learning opportunity. We appreciate all the other Region leaders who contributed to a great weekend, too.

You may already have heard the news from Institute, but it bears repeating. After eight years of service, CSI’s CEO Walt Marlowe has announced his resignation from the organization, effective December 3, 2014. CSI President Robert Simmons will establish a search committee to begin the process of finding a new CEO. This committee will be led by past CSI President Ross Spiegel, who also chaired the committee that found Walt Marlowe. The search effort will likely take several months. In the meantime, CSI Director of Technical Services Greg Ceton will act as Interim CEO, overseeing the day-to-day operations of CSI and working directly with the Board to keep CSI running. The Institute urges members to reach out to the following contacts if you have any questions or concerns regarding this transition:

CSI President: Robert Simmons
arobertwsimmons@cs.com

CSI President-Elect: Lane Beougher
lane.beougher@ofcc.ohio.gov

Interim CEO: Greg Ceton
gceton@csinet.org
Calendar of Events

♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: 2015 Balboa Park Bicentennial Celebration
Speaker: Michael F. Ruiz
Balboa Park 2015 District Manager
City of San Diego
Parks & Recreation Department
Location: NewSchool of Architecture + Design
1249 F Street, Downtown San Diego
(Enter near the corner of 13th & G Streets.)

♦ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014
NO CSI SAN DIEGO MEETING

San Diego CSI is an AIA/CES Registered Provider.

RESERVATIONS
877.401.6733  619.401.6733
admin@sandiegocsi.org
The CSI San Diego Chapter accepts credit cards for Chapter events thru BROWN PAPER TICKETS.
A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!

San Diego Chapter SpecTickle Advertising

SpecTickle Advertising Rates
Business Card: $275 - 6 issues OR $500 - 12 issues
1/4 page: $550 - 6 issues OR $1,000 - 12 issues
1-pg flyer/issue: $125 members; $150 non-members
For more info, contact Exec. Administrator Margy Ashby at admin@sandiegocsi.org or 877.401.6733 / 619.401.6733.
DEADLINE for newsletter input: MON., NOV. 10th

10 WEEKS OF SATURDAYS—9AM-12PM
JANUARY 17 - MARCH 28, 2015
CDT EXAM PREP COURSE 2015

Click here for Course Flyer ~ Click here for Instructors Needed

Click here to access the Third Quarter 2013 CSI West Region Membership Directory and Specifiers’ Guide.

This is a great resource!
The West Region Leadership Conference, held October 3-5, 2014, in Walnut Creek, California, began with an informal meeting Friday evening discussing personal benefits acquired from past CSI leadership training sessions. This also was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to each other, prior to Saturday’s more intense training program. We briefly explained our involvement in CSI and became somewhat oriented to people’s professional affiliation with their design, construction and product representative positions.

We had a full day of excellent training on Saturday which covered the basics of the CSI organization with some history and identified several CSI websites that are available focusing on specific information from the National and Western Region. For example there is a site identifying potential speakers. Our sessions included how to conduct CSI monthly meetings, covered responsibilities of Board members, CSI Bylaws, when financial filing to the government needs to be done each year, encourage and engage our members in committees, and show appreciation to those who give their time, talent and expertise to the organization. We conducted several breakout sessions in smaller groups learning about subjects like “How to Recruit Members,” “Awards—Why and How,” as well as “Funding Chapter Programs.” Our own Neal Drell did an excellent job of presenting two sessions: 1) Have a Plan and Communicate the Plan; 2) I’m a Board Member / Committee Chair … “Now What?”

Sunday we split into groups, each having a different leadership assignment, and made presentations to the overall group on how to accomplish our goals. All said, this was a well-done educational and training conference. It was well attended by representatives from the following chapters: Fresno, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, East Bay, Los Angeles, Inland Empire, and San Diego. There were 32 attendees total. The San Diego Chapter was represented by Jessica Sears, Neal Drell and Steve Josee.

Connect With CSI’s Online Community

CSI is a great place to experiment with social media! If you’ve never tweeted, posted, liked, or linked, CSI’s online community is a safe place to get started. If you’re an experienced professional building a personal brand, CSI’s online community presents a great opportunity to personally engage with CSI’s national network. CSI maintains the following social media profiles:

- LinkedIn: Connect with industry professionals and participate in discussions as a member of [CSI LinkedIn Group](#).
- Twitter: CSI tweets and follows CSI members at [www.twitter.com/CSIConstruction](http://www.twitter.com/CSIConstruction).
- Facebook: Like CSI and stay-up-to-date with the latest CSI news on [CSI’s Facebook Page](#).
- YouTube: View educational content and presentations on [CSI’s YouTube Channel](#).
- CSI’s Blog: CSI shares news and information related to Institute business and CSI membership on this [blog](#). CSI members interested in blogging for CSI are encouraged to contact CSI’s Marketing Team at [marketing@csinet.org](mailto:marketing@csinet.org) with proposed blog entries.
- CSINext: CSI’s virtual chapter offers a chapter education experience in a virtual environment for people who can’t get to a chapter in the U.S. or abroad, or who want another way to access CSI’s benefits. CSINext is designed to foster community and discussion to further hone members’ skills as leaders in construction industry communication. [Learn more about CSINext](#).

CSI’s network of construction professionals discusses construction industry documentation and news daily through these various social media outlets. This “social network” has been helping members find solutions for more 60 years. Connect with CSI online for an enhanced member experience!

Education When You Want It: CSI On-Demand Webinars

CSI On-Demand Webinars are educational sessions that provide convenient, quality learning at an affordable price – you will be able to see materials, hear an instructor and earn continuing education credit. Courses qualify for CSI Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and AIA Continuing Education Hours (CEHs). Check the course descriptions for details. Webinars available online include:

- [How the Courts Interpret Specifications](#)
- [Negotiation Skills for Construction Professionals](#)
- [Change Order Basics: Fundamentals of Construction Contract Modification](#)
- [Incorporating LEED into Project Specifications Series](#)

[See all webinars available on demand](#).

Keep Your Member Profile Up to Date

Update your “My CSI” profile to include your Twitter account handle, LinkedIn account name, Facebook account, and even your (or your company’s) YouTube channel. By updating your profile, you make it easy for fellow members to connect with you online, and develop your CSI network. Follow these easy steps to update your CSI Member Profile:

1. Log-in at csinet.org/mycsi
2. Click “Update My Profile”
3. Go to “Additional Information”
4. Add your social media accounts to “Demographic Information”
5. CLICK SAVE!

These 5 easy steps update your profile in the CSI Member Directory.

Explore CSI’s Career Center

Explore employment opportunities in the CSI Career Center, where job seekers get access to high quality, relevant job postings. Job seekers have complete control over their passive or active job searches. They can upload multiple resumes and cover letters, add notes about employers, and communicate anonymously with employers. Employers can post job openings, see resumes, and pay only when a candidate interests them. Learn more.

Get Listed in CSI’s Businesslinx

CSI members are dedicated to delivering projects on time and on budget. Through CSI’s certification and continuing education programs, members maintain high-level skills and stay on top of the industry, making them a valuable resource to any construction project. If these are the kind of professionals you want involved in your next project, you’ve come to the right place.

CSI Businesslinx is an online directory listing CSI members who have credentials in specifications writing, project representation, and contract administration.

Find a CSI member to help you on your project. Search Businesslinx by:

- Firm Type
- CSI Certification (CDT, CCS, CCCA, CCPR)
- City and state
- Occupation
- CSI chapter

Search Businesslinx.

West Region Leadership Conference

by Jessica Sears, Assoc. AIA, LEED Green Associate, CSI Project Designer – Moon Mayoras Architects, Inc.

Held October 3rd through the 5th, this event was an extraordinary opportunity for the West Region’s chapter leadership to get together to discuss the goals and purpose of CSI. We had a chance to discuss not only what we want to see in the future of CSI but the challenges we face and then brainstormed ways to face these challenges. It was exceptionally helpful to bounce ideas off of other chapters and find out what others have tried and the success of those endeavors.

Joy Davis from CSI Institute attended and helped us with presenting and planning for our upcoming year. Neal Drell, Eric Camin, and Valarie Harris also presented on how to be a good leader and what qualities and skills are important for a leader to be a leader within our Chapter.

Overall, the weekend was exceptionally helpful in determining our direction and priorities as a Chapter and a Region.

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Order of Precedence or Interpretation Request

by David Stutzman, AIA, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP

Consultant specifications delivered to architects for inclusion in project manuals can produce some interesting coordination issues, especially when there is no time to make corrections before the scheduled publication.

Food Service Equipment Specification

The following (edited for brevity) was received from a food service consultant. I am not sure why order of precedence is considered a performance requirement.

1.04 Performance Requirements
A. Where architectural and engineering drawing and specifications differ from food service drawings and specifications, the food service documents govern.
B. Where food service drawings differ from food service specifications, the specifications govern.
C. Where food service equipment specifications differ from food service specifications, the equipment specifications govern.
D. Where food service detail drawings differ from other drawings and specifications, the detail drawings govern.

Were the documents really created giving the highest priority greatest scrutiny to those that are highest in the order of precedence? Probably not.

So What’s the Problem?

That is just it. There is no problem!

The documents, through order of precedence, resolve all the problems, automatically. No intervention by the architect, engineers, food service consultant or owner is required. The order of precedence resolves the conflict without need of clarification by the design team. Potentially dangerous? You bet!

What if the detail drawings are wrong? Too bad! The contractor’s price and contract relies on the detail drawings as the governing documents. If the design team finds the detail drawings are wrong after the contract is signed, the owner will pay for the change. If the condition is discovered late in construction, the owner may pay dearly, with a delayed opening and lost revenue.

A Better Course

When (Not IF but WHEN) discrepancies in the documents are discovered, the best course is always to require the contractor to ask the architect to interpret the documents' intent. Hopefully the contractor will ask questions sooner (during bidding) rather than later (while constructing the affected work). Requests for Interpretations (RFIs) give the contractor an opportunity to suggest a solution.

Then the architect has an opportunity to evaluate the discrepancy and make a decision about what was intended. He can choose the contractor’s solution or issue one of his own.

Even if the solution results in a change, at least the result will be best for the project – not an arbitrary resolution based upon the prescribed relative importance of the project documents.

(Cont’d on page 7)
You won’t believe what happened!

by Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

In “Absolute nonsense,” I talked about the lack of precision used in daily conversation, and the need for precision in construction documents. Nothing so serious this time; in fact, I’m not going to say much about construction documents, except for an interesting penalty paid by Lowe’s to five California counties. Instead, I’m going to have a little fun and talk about some of my favorite social media peeves.

There are so many links from so many sources that it can be difficult to decide which to follow. In an effort to entice readers to follow the links, thereby increasing their value to advertisers, many updates and social media posts use headlines designed to suck you in. For me, these clever headlines are a red flag, but apparently they work.

Does anyone really believe headlines or links with phrases like “what happens next will shock you,” “this will blow you away,” “you won’t believe what happens next,” “this will make you cry,” “she never expected…,” “left me stunned,” “changes everything,” “will never be the same,” “jaw-dropping,” “profound,” “epic,” or “mind blowing”? My experience has been that the article, video, or whatever rarely justifies the sensationalized headline.

Similar are the e-mails with too-good- or too-bad-to-be-true claims, and just about anything related to politics. There’s something about them—the format, the writing, perhaps the astounding claims—that raises the red flag, pegs the BS meter, and sends me immediately to Snopes. And nearly every time, it turns out the e-mail is a fabrication. The thing I don’t understand is why people would do that sort of thing, when there are so many truly amazing things to talk about.

And then there are the ways words are used and misused. As noted in “Absolute nonsense,” we have a great many words that allow us to communicate specific ideas with shades of meaning. I realize ours is a living language, changing continually to accommodate new concepts, new activities, and new products, but it’s hard to accept casually made changes, which often are driven by lack of understanding or careless use. Some of my favorites:

- **Literal** has been incorrectly used so often that it has been accepted to mean figuratively or virtually.
- A large increase is not necessarily exponential.
- Until recently, a business that went out of business was closed. Now it’s shuttered.
- I have respect for curators who spend a lot of time and do a great deal of research to reach their special positions. Today, anyone who chooses a few of the multitude of tweets or links is said to curate them.
- Why is it necessary to start a statement with “Honestly…” or “To be honest…”? Does that mean I can’t believe anything else you say?
- In most cases, “use” should be used instead of “utilize.”
- Needless redundancies and padding, such as “each and every,” “every single one,” and “any way, shape, or form.”
- Why is every change now “disruptive”? Disruptive does not mean clever, innovative, or beneficial; “dis-” is a negative prefix. Why is it that disruptive changes are seen as positive, and so many companies want to be known as disruptive? There is such a thing as “disruptive innovation,” but many things described as such are not; some are more accurately described as “sustaining innovation.”
- “Price point” also has a specific meaning, but every time I have heard it used, it meant simply “price.”

How important is correct use of words and terms? In casual use, not much; we are remarkably adept at interpreting new uses of old words. As noted in “Absolute nonsense,” we must use words correctly in contract documents to avoid misunderstanding.

Precision also is required in informal documents if those documents imply terms of a contract. Michael Chusid, a building product consultant, blogged about an interesting legal decision in which Lowe’s was required to correct “false, misleading, deceptive or inaccurate product descriptions.” Even though Lowe’s used common industry terms, often repeating manufacturers’ information, the settlement required Lowe’s to pay nearly $1.5 million.

(cont’d on page 7)
You won’t believe what happened!

What horrible transgression did Lowe’s commit? They were selling 2x4s without stating the actual dimensions. Apparently, the issue wasn’t raised by consumers, who seem to be able to cope with nominal dimensions; instead, the suit was brought by the local weights and measures department. I wonder what will happen when they discover the fact that wood changes dimension. And where does the money go? Not to the consumers who supposedly were harmed, but into the government coffers.

Isn't that just mind-blowing?

© 2014, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC


Editor’s Note: "Absolute Nonsense" appeared on pages 5 and 6 of the August 2013 edition of the SpecTickle, which can be found at www.sandiegocsi.org/newsletteraug13.pdf.

Order of Precedence or Interpretation Request

Plan and Share

Draft your specifications early enough to circulate among the project team members for proper coordination. Minimal effort before documents are issued for bidding can save significant effort during construction administration.

Another Risky Example

“How to Read These Drawings” was the title for a block of eight notes on the cover page of a set of drawings we received. I was looking for some profound guidance since only eight notes were included. I think I found it in the last note:

8. In case of conflict between the Architect’s and Engineer’s drawings in the location of materials and/or equipment, architectural drawings shall govern. The Contractor shall notify the Architect immediately of such conflict.

Be careful what you say. The note sets an order of precedence. The precedence resolves the conflict without the Architect’s intervention. The Contractor is able to rely on the precedence for bidding and building the project. If the Architect makes a revision after being notified of the conflict, the revision may invite a Change Order.

David Stutzman, CSI, CCS, AIA, SCIP, LEED AP is the principal and founder of Conspectus, Inc., a specifications and quality assurance consulting firm. His nearly 40 years construction industry experience began as a laborer laying pipe and devising a simple means to comply with the spec requiring the trench bottom to be profiled to match the pipe. Although having studied design, his passions are the technical and building science aspects of construction. Stutzman was responsible for developing and maintaining SPECTEXT, a commercial master specification system, including the ease of use editing tools for more than 13 years. Today David is responsible for managing nine staff members in three offices producing more than 150 project specifications annually for domestic and international projects.
Those of you who have been reading BuchNotes for a while know that I stick to non-fiction books on design- and construction-related topics. This time I’m making an exception. I’m reporting on a book of fiction but one that is based upon historical facts in the non-architectural life of one of America’s most famous architects, Frank Lloyd Wright (“FLW”). Loving Frank, by Nancy Horan, was a New York Times bestseller when it came out in 2007. It is a fictional account of his years-long extramarital affair with the wife of a client, Mamah Borthwick Cheney.

The story began in 1903 when FLW designed a new home for Edwin and Mamah Cheney in Chicago’s Oak Park. It concludes with Mamah’s gruesome and untimely death in August 1914 at Taliesin in Spring Green, WS. In between, it describes the struggles both of them had with conflicting desires to be true to themselves on the one hand, and at the same time to be good parents to their children; Mamah had two children and FLW had six. Mamah was a university-educated woman, a proto-feminist, in a society not ready for feminism. In addition to being a well known architect, FLW had a reputation in Chicago as a man about town. In 1909, when Mamah decided to travel to Europe with FLW, where he spent several months working on a book of his drawings, the affair became public knowledge. Headlines in the Chicago papers broadcast the news that they had abandoned their families. “Living in Sin” was one characterization of their relationship. Divorce wasn’t common in the early 20th century, at least not without significant social stigma. It wasn’t until June 1911 that Mamah was divorced while FLW was never divorced by his wife Catherine.

A considerable portion of the book focuses on Mamah’s story, especially her attraction to the thinking of the Swedish philosopher, feminist and author, Ellen Key, whose ideas were very well known in Europe at the turn of the century. Mamah was employed by her to make the Swedish-to-English translations of her books “The Women’s Movement” and “Love & Ethics.”

The book doesn’t include very much insight into FLW’s architectural practice during the period beyond mention of the couple’s travel to Japan at the beginning of the Imperial Hotel project. It also mentions the terrible way in which FLW ran the business side of his practice. He was frequently behind on payments to creditors to the point where it was starting to have a negative effect on his relationship with Mamah. Mamah often had to intervene on behalf of people to which FLW owed money.

In late 1911, construction of Taliesin was underway in Spring Green, WS. The book includes considerable description of the house, its construction, and the reaction to it by the residents in the surrounding towns. The Chicago papers described it as a “Love Nest” for FLW and Mamah. The book ends here in 1914 with the murder of Mamah and the arson fire that destroyed most of Taliesin.

The factual portions of the book were taken from several biographies of FLW, essays written by him, along with numerous newspaper articles, and other architectural books. The portions on Mamah were augmented by letters between Mamah and Ellen Key. Loving Frank was published in 2007 by Ballantine Books and has 377 pages without any photos or drawings.
## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<td>Administrator</td>
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## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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AS AN ARCHITECT, SPEC WRITER, SUBCONTRACTOR AND OWNER

HOW WELL DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR CONTRACT &
AND WHAT ARE YOU REALLY LIABLE FOR?

10 questions to ponder:

1. Are you guaranteeing or warranting your work or products? For how long and when does that time begin?
2. When do you need to be off the job? What can change that date?
3. Change orders and directives — Who sets the value of the work? Who has the final say?
4. All questions and issues need to be addressed in what manner?
5. Who do you ask?
6. Is there a difference in your responsibilities when the project is a “Bid-Build” or a “Design Build” project?
7. When is pay day? and what do you need to do to get paid?
8. Who can request a product substitution? For what reasons?
9. When are substitutions allowed?
10. HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THE WRONG ANSWER COST YOU?

For answers to these & other stimulating questions, we encourage you to sign up for the

**CDT Exam Prep Course 2015**

10 weeks
Saturday, January 17th thru March 28th
9 AM to Noon
San Diego NewSchool of Architecture + Design
12th and F Street

For more information: admin@sandiegocsi.org
Course fees

Student $99  CSI Members $119  Non-Members $139

Includes:
- Course outline
- Section reviews
- Mock exams
- Instructors – currently working within the industry

Tools required: The CSI Project Delivery Practice Guide – (added cost)
- A limited number will be available from the San Diego Chapter.
- After that they will be available from CSI Institute, online.

Advanced certification prep courses are also available for those interested in

CCCA - CCPR

Certified Documents Technology (CDT) Exam

WHEN: CSI offers the CDT at computerized testing locations throughout the U.S. twice a year.
The next exam window is March – April, 2015.

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Save up to $195-- join CSI before you register
Instructors Needed

**CDT Certification 2015**

**When:** Sat. January 17 – Sat. March 28; 9:00 – Noon
11 sessions.
January 17-24-31 February 7-21-28
March 7-14-21-28

**Where:** NewSchool of Architecture + Design, 1249 F St.,
Downtown San Diego

**Overview:**
This year’s exam will be based on the new Project Delivery Practice Guide
and include a new subject area: Integrated Project Delivery. As a
Chapter, we will be providing you with the PowerPoint presentation for
your sessions, book and study guide in an electronic format and ask that
you prepare your presentation accordingly. Any outlines or notes you
develop will be greatly appreciated as we build our education program
back up with this new format.

Please return this form with the dates you are available.
Steve Clayton- srcla10@gmail.com

Name:

____________________________

Contact info:

____________________________

Dates available:
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<td>Week 5 – Feb 21</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 – Feb 28</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 – Mar 7</td>
<td>Procurement</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 – Mar 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9 – Mar 21</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 – Mar 28</td>
<td>Post Construction</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please select 2 from above)
CSI TRI-REGION CONFERENCE

2015 COMING TOGETHER TO BUILD BETTER

5/13/15 - 5/16/15

Wednesday - Saturday
Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa
For more info, visit SanDiegoCSI.org

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Southwest.CSInet.org
NWRegion.CSInet.org

save the date