G'Day!

Construct 2014 was recently held in Baltimore, Maryland, September 9th-12th. The venue was the Convention Center in the Inner Harbor which also held host to the bi-centennial of the Star-Spangled Banner the same week. The tall ships were in town from numerous countries, along with my favorite air show The Blue Angels flying their F/A-18 Hornets. Once again, San Diego was well represented with Neal Drell, Greg Mowat and his wife Beverly, along with Don Goertz and his better half Connie, and me.

The educational seminars were numerous. From Death of a Product Rep, LEED V4 programs to Code Reports, there was a subject for everyone. The keynote address title was Creating the Future—Ideas, Innovations and Inventions that Could Change Your World and was presented by Pablos Holman, a self-confessed computer hacker and notorious inventor. He covered inventions that included 3D printing future potential in construction to malaria control in Madagascar and worldwide.

The technical tours offered were The John and Frances Angelos Law Center at the University of Baltimore and the Baltimore Basilica, America’s first cathedral ever built. Architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe took inspiration from the skylight in our Nation’s Capital to design what one may consider one of the finest examples of 19th century architecture in the world.

Construct 2015 will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, and the St. Louis Chapter and I would greatly encourage your attendance. The city is celebrating 250 years this year and let’s not forget the Gateway Arch as she will be celebrating its 50th year in 2015. Two centuries ago, Lewis and Clark set out on their great journey. Today, the Gateway Arch stands as an iconic monument symbolizing the westward expansion of the United States. With breathtaking views from 630 feet in the air, here is your chance to discover another national treasure. Don’t miss your chance to see a wonderful part of the U.S. and an opportunity to mingle with your peers from around this great country.

Racquel McGee, CSI, CDT
2014-15 SDCSI President
Calendar of Events

♦ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: Certification: What's In It for You?
Speaker: Kathryn Marek, AIA
Senior Specifier
Walt Disney Imagineering
Location: NewSchool of Architecture + Design
1249 F Street, Downtown San Diego
(Enter near the corner of 13th & G Streets.)

♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: Animation
Speaker: NSA Media Arts Department
Location: NewSchool of Architecture + Design
1249 F Street, Downtown San Diego
(Enter near the corner of 13th & G Streets.)

San Diego CSI is an AIA/CES Registered Provider.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
♦ MAY 13-16, 2015
CSI TRI-REGION CONFERENCE
Location: Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa
San Diego, California

RESERVATIONS
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The CSI San Diego Chapter accepts credit cards for Chapter events thru BROWN PAPER TICKETS.
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VISTA PAINT .............................................. p. 4

San Diego Chapter SpecTICKLE Advertising

Available at the
Third Quarter 2013
CSI West Region Membership Directory and Specifiers’ Guide.

DEADLINE for newsletter input: MON., OCT. 13th
Building professionals know there are few complications more frustrating than finding out a project’s fenestration fails to meet building energy code after spending precious time and money installing windows, doors and skylights. As building codes become stricter, the cost of compliance failure will go up, threatening to put projects over budget and behind schedule.

Fortunately, the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) exists to help architects and builders avoid potential overruns. For the last 25 years, NFRC has provided building professionals and consumers with fair, accurate and credible fenestration performance ratings that allow them to compare products on an apples-to-apples basis.

NFRC’s ratings procedures appear in model building energy codes like ASHRAE 90.1 and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The ENERGY STAR® program for residential windows also requires NFRC ratings for products to qualify for the program.

NFRC rates participating products for:

- **Solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC)**, which measures a product’s ability to block heat from the sun;
- **U-factor**, which measures a product’s ability to prevent heat loss; and
- **Visible Transmittance (VT)**, which measures the amount of light that comes through a product.

For residential products, NFRC generates and attaches temporary labels to individual windows, doors and skylights. For larger commercial projects, however, NFRC uses a different process to rate fenestration, called the Component Modeling Approach (CMA).

**Checking Compliance with CMA**

Architects and builders responsible for fenestration energy ratings on a project can turn to NFRC’s Component Modeling Approach (CMA) to calculate energy performance values before ever setting foot on the job site. CMA simplifies commercial code compliance through an easy-to-use computer program called CMAST.

CMA users can select individual fenestration components from CMAST’s database to find out the energy performance of site-assembled windows, skylights, curtain wall, store fronts and doors. Once builders select and submit a combination of frame, spacer and glazing, NFRC issues a CMA Label Certificate containing entire-project ratings information in a single document. CMAST users then file the Label Certificate at the jobsite to help project managers and code officials easily inspect and approve fenestration code compliance. A copy of the Label Certificate is also available online at NFRC’s CMAST online portal.

A study by the Heschong-Mahone Group found that projects using CMA in California had an increase in compliance margins of 11.7 percent over default calculation methods. By using CMA, architects and builders can avoid the risk of failing applicable building codes and ensure that their projects remain on time and within budget.

**Tom Herron is senior manager, communications and marketing, for the National Fenestration Rating Council. He can be reached at therron@nfrc.org.**
Resources to Help You Prepare for a CSI Certificate/Certification Exam

CSI also provides multiple resources to help you prepare for one of our certification exams. It’s possible to study and pass a CSI exam on your own— but your chances of passing improve when you use a study guide, participate in a study group, talk to mentors, and take other steps to enhance your reading.

FREE Candidate Handbooks
CSI’s FREE Candidate Handbooks (PDF) are available for CDT, CCCA, and CCS exams.

Study Workbooks (downloadable)
CSI study workbooks include exercises, examples, key terms and practice questions designed to help candidates prepare for their exams. Workbooks are available for CDT, CCCA, and CCS exams.

On-Demand Prep Courses
CSI offers 3 series of on-demand webinars to help candidates prepare for the CDT, CCCA and CCS Exams.

PDPG Flash Cards
Project Delivery Flash Cards help increase your knowledge of the fundamentals and formats of construction documents! Use them with a colleague to quickly test your attained knowledge or to aid in preparing to earn a CSI credential. Flashcards are available for iPhone and iPad. Printed flash cards are also available.

Not a member of CSI? Join today and save on your exam study tools.

Storify: CONSTRUCT Education Sessions

CSI has created Storify articles that record notes from various CONSTRUCT 2014 education sessions, including:

- T10 Evolve the Specifier; the Information Manager Has Arrived!
- T22 Model Based Delivery – Shifting Design Delivery from Paper to BIM
- W03 Construction Technology Forecast
- H06 Designing Contractors: The Project Team’s Guide to Design-Assist, Delegated Design and Design-Build
- F04 Building Science: Back to the Basics

View 42 CONSTRUCT education recaps.

FREE to CSI Members On-Demand

The following member exclusive webinars are now available on-demand and free for CSI members:

A Specifications Primer for the Nonspecifier
Specifiers understand what specifications are, how they are organized, and what information is typically required, but they’re not the only people who handle specifications. Many people must use and interpret the specifications they encounter as a part of their job responsibilities, with very little training or experience on how to properly apply these documents. This presentation will help non-specifiers form a foundational understanding of these important contract documents. Order now.

Contracting Between Design Professionals?
ConsensusDocs Contracts Can Help
This webinar, given by two of the lead authors of the working group that drafted the new contract document, will highlight critical issues that any agreement negotiated between design professionals and consultants should address, and project-specific considerations that designers and consultants may want to consider addressing in the context of such contract negotiations. Order now.
In the last post, “Where have I heard that before?” (http://bit.ly/1maQmDs) I used several excerpts from a 1920 edition of the American Architect magazine. The comments showed a general concern about the importance of specifications, and about the absence of specifications in architectural education, stating “the preparation of specifications receives less study and attention in proportion to its importance than any other phase of architectural or engineering practice.”

While investigating the history of specifications, I was surprised to find references like this, as I had learned next to nothing about specifications in school (I think the word was spoken the first day of Professional Practice class, never to be mentioned again). It wasn’t until I became a specifier that I understood what specifications are, thanks to my local CSI chapter. However, as good as the education and certification classes were, my understanding was that CSI pretty much invented specifications.

Until the advent of CSI in 1948, it was AIA, the Illinois Society of Architects and similar organizations, the American Architect magazine, the American Specification Institute, and similar sources that discussed the preparation and use of specifications. In this post, we’ll look at the ninth edition of The American Architect Specification Manual, published in 1927, and the Specification Record of the American Specification Institute, Volume 4, published in 1931, with a few quotes from each.


Most of the book’s 353 pages are used for a collection of specifications. Primarily produced by manufacturers, they are more like a Sweets catalogue than guide specifications as we know them today - this despite the claim that “material that rightly belongs in a catalogue or that could be construed as advertising, has been excluded from the Manual.”

“In an endeavor to assist the person unaccustomed to writing specifications in a methodical manner and in the hope that those more hardened to the exigencies of the work might find some additional profit in the Manual, the following articles, which have been published in previous editions are again presented: THE SPECIFICATION WRITER; THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPECIFICATION; and RULES FOR CHECKING DRAWINGS.”

“The specification writer must be known, in his office, as a compendium of information relating to all productive, executive, and constructive processes of the organization.”

“It is unfortunate that in architectural curricula so little attention is devoted to the earnest consideration of specifications as one of the essential fundamentals of correct construction.”

“After several years spent in the drafting room the specification writer will find that supervision of construction work will open his eyes to many things he did not understand clearly or was not familiar with when working on drawings. A good training can be gained in two or three years of construction supervision, after which the specification writer should return to the office organization and enter the executive work of the office.”

“Bear in mind always that if the specification is written so that the activities described therein are in sequence as they occur in the actual construction work, the dearness of the specification will not fail to be evident, for then the building will actually grow in the mind of the reader and the contractor will do his work in a satisfactory manner.”

“In the writing of specifications, the language used should be clear, accurate and exact.”

“Don’t confuse damp-proofing with waterproofing.”

The book included AIA’s “Filing System for Architects’ Offices,” and “Standard Documents of the American Institute of Architects,” which contained the fourth edition of the AIA general conditions.

For organizing information, it offered “The Specification Checking List,” with forty-eight “Sections” for filing, plus an “Index to Major Divisions” with forty Divisions for specifications.

(cont’d on page 6)
Forty-eight Sections and forty Divisions; isn’t that interesting? The Checking List had eight Sections for mechanical and electrical information, while the Index had five Divisions for specifications. How did they later get squeezed into Divisions 15 and 16?

**The American Specification Institute**

The American Specification Institute produced four volumes of the *Specification Record*. With about 500 pages, it included both the AIA and EJCDC general conditions, and a list of ASTM standards.

"The specification should be clear, concise and complete."

"The drawings, in general, should show the quantity, extent and layout of the work, and ordinarily do not state the character, make or manufacturer of the material or equipment. It is therefore necessary that the specification describe in detail the character of the material or equipment, otherwise the cheapest material or equipment satisfying the description shown on the drawings may be furnished."

"Clear, concise, complete, and well coordinated drawings and specifications should secure fair and intelligent proposals, should eliminate vexatious extras and should eliminate also the necessity for verbal or supplementary written instructions."

"Eliminate all clauses that reflect indecision or lack of knowledge. Do not put anything in the specifications that will not be enforced to the letter."

"Use simple words. Do not use big words. Use nouns. Do not use pronouns. Use short sentences. Do not write long and involved sentences. Make the language a clear and concise expression of just what is meant. Give directions, not suggestions. Tell the Contractor what shall or shall not be done."

**And then there is CSI**

Does any of the above sound familiar? It’s clear that CSI’s founders didn’t start from scratch, and it’s likely at least some of them had references such as these in their offices. Even so, there seems to be a common thread of simple, practical reasoning in all of the specifying guides I’ve seen, and I suspect the rules did not originate in the construction industry. They are logical and reasonable, perhaps not for writing a novel, but for any type of technical writing used to convey information about a design concept to make it possible to build.

Even though CSI didn’t create these rules, it expanded and clarified them, bringing a consistent, coordinated way of writing and interpreting specifications, based on AIA and EJCDC documents.

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President: Racquel McGee, CSI, CDT
Berridge California Sales Co.
Ph: 818.281.3366
Fax: 888.230.0056
Email: rmcgee@berridge.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: James Likes, CSI, CDT
Vista Paint Architectural Services
Ph: 858.205.5500
Fax: 714.459.4690
Email: jlikes@vistapaint.com

Treasurer: Brian Giguere, CSI
Architectural Concepts, Inc.
Ph: 619.531.0110; 619.549.0443 cell
Email: bgiguere@gmail.com

Advisor: Neal Drell, CSI, CCPR
The Z Group
Ph: 951.850.7384
Email: neald@thezgroup.com

Director: Jen Davis, CSI
Ardex Americas
Ph: 951.850.7384
Email: jen.davis@ardexamericas.com

Director: Steve Josee, CSI
Steve Josee, AIA architect
Ph: 951.595.2930
Email: sjosee69@gmail.com

Director: Doug Wolthausen, CSI
Pacific Southwest Coatings
Ph: 760.658.4605
Email: dougwolthausen@pacificsouthwest.net

Executive Administrator: Margy Ashby
Grabowski Administrative Services
Ph: 619.593.9988 office
Email: admin@sandiegocsi.org

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Please direct all questions/comments to:
Editor
Rob Smith, CSI, CCS, RA
Ph: 760.670.8670
Email: rbsmithcss@aol.com

San Diego Chapter Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs
CONTACT Racquel McGee, CSI, CDT
Ph: 818.281.3366
Email: rmcgee@berridge.com

Awards ... Vacant

Certification
Steve Clayton, CSI, CDT
Ph: 619.857.9978 cell
Email: sricula10@gmail.com

Communications: Newsletter
Rob Smith, CSI, CCS, RA
Ph: 760.670.8670 Fax: 760.753.8203
Email: rbsmithcss@aol.com

Communications: Website
Doug Wolthausen, CSI
Ph: 760.658.4605
Email: dougwolthausen@pacificsouthwest.net

Finance
Brian Giguere, CSI
Ph: 619.531.0110; 619.549.0443 cell
Email: bgiguere@gmail.com

Golf
Neal Drell, CSI, CCPR
Ph: 760.578.6693
Email: neald@thezgroup.com

Membership
Doug Wolthausen, CSI
Ph: 760.658.4605
Email: dougwolthausen@pacificsouthwest.net

Planning ... Vacant

Programs / Events
Jen Davis, CSI
Ph: 951.850.7384
Email: jen.davis@ardexamericas.com

Technical
Rob Smith, CSI, CCS, RA
Ph: 760.670.8670 Fax: 760.753.8203
Email: rbsmithcss@aol.com
San Diego Area Chapter of the ICC
Presents
Accessibility per the 2013 CBC
CASp Accessibility

Please join us for a full day presentation sponsored by the San Diego Area Chapter of the ICC. The speaker Tim McCormick, Director of Special Projects for the VCA Code Group, will be covering the proper application of the California Building Code related to accessibility.

Instructor: Tim McCormick PE, CBO, CASp

Date: Thursday September 25, 2014

Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Registration from 7:30 to 8

Location: City of San Diego, 2nd floor training room
9601 Ridgehaven Ct
San Diego, CA 92627

Cost: $75.00 per person, Members
$100.00 per person, Non-Members

Refreshments: (Included with the registration fee)
Morning coffee and pastries
Box lunch with beverage

Registration: ONLY Available online until 9/15/14 at

Seating is limited to the first 40 registrants and is on a first come first serve basis

Course Description: This new seminar will show proper application of frequently misused provisions of the California Building Code related to accessibility. Topics will include proper scoping of when and how requirements apply under either Chapter 11A Housing Accessibility and/or Chapter 11B Accessibility to Public Buildings, Public Accommodations, Commercial Buildings and Public Housing. It will also show the relation of these current chapters to related federal and California laws. Focus will be on proper plan review and inspection of affected structures. As such, it will be also helpful for architects, engineers and contractors to better understand the purpose of the regulations and best practices to achieve compliance.

Applicants for DSA certification as a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) will find the information useful for test preparation. Existing building officials, plan examiners, building inspectors, architects and Certified Access Specialists will be given certificates of continuing education credit for attendance.

Speaker bio: Tim is the Director of Special Projects for the VCA Code Group, which offers building code consulting services to cities and counties throughout southern California. As part of their services, the Special Projects division offers CASp plan review and inspection and other ADA related services. Tim is a certified access specialist (CASp), licensed civil engineer and general contractor and certified Building Official. Prior to working for VCA, Tim was a building official for both a city and county and has served as the President of the ICC LA Basin chapter. He currently serves on both the CALBO and ICC LA Basin chapter committees for accessibility. He also frequently teaches accessibility seminars for both the ICC LA Basin and Orange Empire chapters and most recently for CALBO’s Accessibility Workshop.
CSI TRI-REGION CONFERENCE

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