G'day!

It’s that time of year again when the big red jolly guy jumps in his sleigh to deliver prezzies to all the good little children. I hope you get more than coal in your stocking this year.

Please join us at our annual joint breakfast meeting with the ASPE San Diego Chapter on Friday, December 19th at Admiral Baker when Alan Nevin, Director of Economic and Market Research for the Xpera Group, prognosticates his economic outlook for real estate and construction in 2015. This has always been a great meeting from year to year, and we hope you will make a reservation to join us.

CSI San Diego needs your input to deliver educational speakers of interest to you and your peers. I would love to see suggestions on speakers or topics. Along the same vein, we still need more of our members to participate on our committees. If you are interested in helping out on our newsletter or our upcoming Tri-Region Conference, please let any one of our Board members know.

As we will not be holding a Holiday Party this year, I look forward to seeing you all in January for a kick-off to a great New Year for us all!

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

♦ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014
ANNUAL JOINT CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST
MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO CHAPTERS
CSI AND ASPE
Program: “Lean, Mean or Supreme in 2015”
Schedule: 7:00 AM - Registration
7:30 AM - Breakfast
approx. 7:45 AM - Presentation
Speaker: Alan Nevin, Director of Economic
& Market Research, Xpera Group
Location: Admiral Baker Golf Course Clubhouse
2400 Admiral Baker Road, San Diego

♦ THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: TBD
Location: NewSchool of Architecture + Design
1249 F Street, Downtown San Diego
(Enter near the corner of 13th & G Streets.)

♦ WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 13-15, 2015
CSI TRI-REGION CONFERENCE
Location: Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa
1775 East Mission Bay Drive, San Diego

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San Diego CSI is an AIA/CES Registered Provider.
Help CSI Build Programming for Contract Administrators – Become a Speaker!

CSI’s growing contract administrator audience is hungry for opportunities to talk about the issues that matter to them. These were the top concerns contract administrators identified in a recent survey conducted by CSI:

- Claims & disputes
- Site visits, observations & inspections
- Enforcing specifications
- Liability & responsibility
- Project closeout
- QA/QC
- Interpretations & modifications
- Claims & disputes
- Site visits, observations & inspections
- Enforcing specifications
- Liability & responsibility
- Project closeout
- QA/QC
- Interpretations & modifications

Could you lead a session on one of these topics? CSI is seeking speakers for a variety of events, including webinars, workshops, CONSTRUCT 2015, and web-based practice group meetings. Interested in speaking to a national audience? Apply to speak at CONSTRUCT 2015 at www.constructshow.com before December 30, 2014. Learn more or apply.

Got an idea for a webinar or other CSI program? Email education@csinet.org.

December 30: CONSTRUCT 2015 Call for Presentations Deadline

December 30 is the deadline for proposing sessions for CONSTRUCT 2015 & The CSI Annual Convention in St. Louis. CSI is looking for 60- to 90-minute programs that will engage architects, specifiers, product representatives, engineers, contractors, and others involved in commercial-level construction. Panels and workshops are as welcome as lectures. When you’re ready to apply complete this survey. Applications must be submitted by December 30, 2014.

Questions? Contact CONSTRUCT Conference Manager Cindy Barrand at cbarrand@hanleywood.com.

LinkedIn: Product Representatives and Networking

A participant has posted the following question: “What is the most effective way to network across the various industries in the construction world? For example, what tools do you use to connect with an architect and how is that different from how you connect with another product representative or contract administrator? What tips do you have for people to connect with others in the industry?” Join this discussion.

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.
FREE to CSI Members On-Demand

The following member exclusive webinars are now available on-demand:

**Embracing IPD: How Integrated Project Delivery Works, Contracts to Use, and the Benefits and Risks**

Integrated Project Delivery is a new approach in which the owner, architect, and contractor come together early in the project and solicit continued contributions of knowledge and expertise through all phases of the project lifecycle. Explore how the IPD model is structured, how it is evolving, how it operates, what the benefits and rewards are for the parties involved, and how AIA contracts address it.

Order now.

**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.

These recorded programs are free for members and $20 for non-members.
Manufacturers' specifications don't follow CSI's Practice Guide; why are you surprised?

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

CSI's practice documents - MasterFormat, SectionFormat, and the Practice Guides - present a unified and consistent approach to preparing and interpreting construction documents based on AIA or EJCDC general conditions and related documents. They also are applicable to documents produced by most other organizations, though some modification may be necessary. When teaching CSI classes, I emphasize the overall organization of these documents as a first principle; with that in mind, it's easier to understand why things are organized the way they are, and to see how they all work together. This sometimes leads to comments and questions, such as, "That's not the way my office does it!" and "Why don't this manufacturer's specifications follow those rules?"

Together, CSI's practice documents provide a firm but adaptable framework for preparing construction documents. They provide enough structure so, as the old adage says, there is "a place for everything and everything in its place." On the other hand, they are sufficiently flexible to allow one to specify just about anything imaginable.

Although these documents create a fairly complete framework, they do not go into great detail about how to address all matters: there is no standard specification for concrete; a number of optional methods are offered; there is no boilerplate text for any part of a specification beyond article titles, and even those are suggestions. The specifier, following the principles of the practice documents, is left to supply the remaining detail.

Obviously, this leaves a lot to be done. If a specifier were to start with nothing more than access to products, it would take a long time to assemble a set of master specifications. The widespread availability of reference standards is of inestimable help, making it possible to easily define performance testing methods and properties. However, even with these standards, writing even a simple section could take many hours, and the amount of research that would be required for a complex system or assembly could be overwhelming. (Reference standards are not without their own problems; see "Faith-based specifications." http://bit.ly/11jxR9E)

Fortunately, a few entrepreneurial people, and later, manufacturers themselves, saw an unfulfilled need and began to produce master guide specifications for a great variety of construction products and systems. Unfortunately, the results typically have not followed the rules established by AIA and CSI documents. Even worse, guide specifications often are used verbatim or with only minor changes, and without much concern about how well they are written. A common excuse is that they are incorporated late in a project, but it's not unusual to see them become office masters with little change.

Manufacturers have a defensible position; they are in business to sell products, and they have a tendency to stack the deck any way they can in their own proprietary specifications. I'm not saying it's right, and it definitely doesn't comply with CSI practice guides, but it's understandable. How many times have you seen a manufacturer's guide specification that requires the product be produced by only that manufacturer, not once, but two or three times? From their viewpoint, it makes sense to identify the manufacturer under Section Includes, Quality Assurance, Manufacturers, Components, Assemblies, and a few more times under Execution. Some manufacturers also like to include a variety of restrictive specifications that have little to do with performance or quality. I won't be surprised if some day I see a manufacturer's specification that includes something like, "Label: Must include the words Acme Widgets, Inc."

Still, I can't get too excited when a manufacturer writes a specification that eliminates the competition. They still offer useful information, and the price is right. The sad thing is that some designers apparently don't realize what's going on, and leave all of the proprietary provisions in place - and then call it a competitive specification!

Regardless of how guide specifications are written, the designer should modify them so they express what is needed by the owner and the project.

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That Spec. is a Real Turkey!
PERIODIC TALES, A CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE ELEMENTS FROM ARSENIC TO ZINC
by Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Periodic Tales, a Cultural History of the Elements from Arsenic to Zinc is the perfect antidote to a rigorous high school or college chemistry class. This is not a “chemistry” book in the usual sense; it doesn’t use a single chemical equation in its entire 428 pages. Instead, the author, Englishman Hugh Aldersey-Williams, treats us to fascinating insights on most of the elements from hydrogen (1) to ununoctium (118), describing how and where they were discovered, how many of them have been used as materials in buildings, and how they have been connected to history, literature, and art.

Why is chemistry important to those of us involved in design and construction? Understanding the chemical properties of materials is essential in their selection for use in buildings, especially when they are used in combination with other materials. One of the most prominent specifiers and a former chief of specifications at Skidmore Owings & Merrill, Harold J. Rosen, PE, Hon. CSI, was a chemical engineer by education. In addition to authoring books on specifications writing, he wrote the monthly specifications column in Progressive Architecture magazine for many years. Surely his background in chemistry was critical to his interest in materials and to his success in selecting materials and preparing specifications in a time before master specifications libraries existed.

The periodic table of the elements was developed by Dmitri Mendeleev in 1869. The periodic table, as Mendeleev initially proposed it, had 63 elements. These were organized using the atomic number of each element, that is, the number of protons in the nuclei of their atoms. They were arranged in ascending order in rows (periods), and then put in columns (groups), using their chemical affinity or “relatedness,” (the right-most column in the table, containing the noble gasses, is probably the most familiar group). This framework has been useful in predicting the existence of new elements, both naturally occurring and manmade elements, that were undiscovered at the time the table was first laid out. The same table is in use today, although the number of elements has increased to 118.

Here is a sample of the kinds of topics included in the book: Elements discovered in the 18th century were named after figures in classical mythology and in the 19th century they were named after the country where they were discovered. It’s interesting to note that Mendeleev was the first chemist to have an element named after him but this wasn’t until 1955, 50 years after his death. Historical periods can be loosely defined by certain elements or metals: The Roman Empire by bronze, the Spanish Empire by gold, the Britain Empire by iron, and the 20th century by uranium and plutonium. Swedish geologists discovered a disproportionately large number of elements due to their nation’s large mining industry. Gold is the only metal found in nature in its elemental state. The discovery in 1747 at Abraham Darby’s foundry in England, that adding small amounts of the element carbon to iron, made it less brittle and better for use in railways. This was the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The burning of sulfur was the “brimstone” in the Biblical “fire and brimstone.” The German chemist Fritz Haber, who weaponized chlorine gas for use in World War I (and killed thousands in the process), was in later years awarded a Nobel Prize for converting ammonia to nitrogen. The element bromine was the “Bromo” in the antacid “Bromo Seltzer.” In 1797 the English chemist Joseph Priestley added CO2 to water, creating carbonated water. This was successfully commercialized by Joseph Schweppes. Antoine Lavoisier was instrumental in understanding oxygen’s role in life and as a cause of decay, “oxidation” or rust. Radium was used commercially in the early 20th century until it was discovered to be a health hazard. Copper sheets were proposed for their light weight and durability by Sir Christopher Wren for covering the new dome of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London as it was rebuilt following the fire of 1666. To his dismay, more traditional and very much heavier lead sheets were used instead. Zinc was first used in the 1830s in architectural applications by the German architect Friedrich Schinkel. Aluminum wasn’t available commercially until 1886 when it was first separated from its ore electrolytically. It was attractive for its light weight, its shininess, and its electrical conductivity and was used to cap the top 10’ of the Washington Monument when this was completed in 1884.

The periodic table of the elements ranks up there alongside the psychometric chart, developed by Willis Carrier in the 1920s, as one of the greatest graphical depictions of physical phenomena ever created. Periodic Tales provides great insight into the table and the elements that inhabit it. The book was published in 2011 by HarperCollins. It includes some historical photographs including one of Mendeleev’s first periodic tables. Interestingly, it does not include a modern periodic table. For that you’ll have to look elsewhere.
Department of Defense’s Twelve Days of Christmas

The President has authorized the Department of Defense to assist Santa with the Twelve Days of Christmas. Status of acquisitions are as follows:

Day 1 - Partridge in a pear tree: The Army and Air Force are in the process of deciding whose area of responsibility Day 1 falls under. Since the partridge is a bird, the Air Force believes it should have the lead. The Army, however, feels trees are part of the land component command’s area of responsibility. After three months of discussion and repeated OpsDep Tank sessions, a $1M study has been commissioned to decide who should lead this joint program.

Day 2 - Two turtle doves: Since doves are birds, the Air Force claims responsibility. However, turtles are amphibious, so the Navy-Marine Corps team feels it should take the lead. Initial studies have shown that turtles and doves may have interoperability problems. Terms of reference are being coordinated for a four-year, $10M DARPA study.

Day 3 - Three French Hens: At State Department instigation, the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has blocked offshore purchase of hens, from the French or anyone else. A $6M program is being developed to find an acceptable domestic alternative.

Day 4 - Four Calling Birds: Source selection has been completed, with the contract awarded to AT&T. However, the award is being challenged by a small disadvantaged business.

Day 5 - Five Golden Rings: No available rings meet MILSPEC for gold plating. A three-year, $5M accelerated development program has been initiated.

Day 6 - Six Geese a-Laying: The six geese have been acquired. However, the shells of their eggs seem to be very fragile. It might have been a mistake to build the production facility on a nuclear waste dump at former Air Force base that was closed under BRAC.

Day 7 - Seven Swans a-Swimming: Fourteen swans have been killed trying to get through the Navy SEAL training program. The program has been put on hold while the training procedures are reviewed to determine why the washout rate is so high.

Day 8 - Eight Maids a-Milking: The entire class of maids a milking training program at Aberdeen is involved in a sexual harassment suit against the Army. The program has been put on hold pending resolution of the lawsuit.

Day 9 - Nine Ladies Dancing: Recruitment of the ladies dancing has been halted by a lawsuit from the “Don't Ask, Don't Tell Association.” Members claim they have a right to dance and wear women’s clothing as long as they’re off duty.

Day 10 - Ten Lords a-Leaping: The ten lords have been abducted by terrorists. Congress has approved $2M in funding to conduct a rescue operation. Army Special Forces and a USMC MEU(SOC) are conducting a “NEO-off” competition for the right to rescue.

Day 11 - Eleven Pipers Piping: The pipe contractor delivered the pipes on time. However, he thought DoD wanted smoking pipes. DoD lost the claim due to defective specifications. A $22M dollar retrofit program is in process to bring the pipes into spec.

Day 12 - Twelve Drummers Drumming: Due to cutbacks only six billets are available for drumming drummers. DoD is in the process of coordinating an RFP to obtain the six additional drummers by outsourcing; however, funds will not be available until FY 16.

As a result of the above-mentioned programmatic delays, and due to a High OPTEMPO that requires diversion of modernization funds to support current readiness, Christmas is hereby postponed until further notice.
## San Diego Chapter Board of Directors

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2015 COMING TOGETHER TO BUILD BETTER

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