President's Message

Racquel McGee, CSI, CDT
2014-15 SDCSI President

G'Day! Over the winter months, your Chapter Leadership Team, including Board Members and Committee Chairs, has worked diligently to plan an exciting year of programs and activities for our membership. As we are well aware, our Chapter is hosting the Tri-Region Conference in May, and this month's meeting is dedicated to making this event a success. I hope you can come along to our fun venue, Gordon Biersch in Mission Valley, to learn how you can help in whatever capacity your schedule will allow. This will not just be a wonderful opportunity to mingle with your local Chapter but also with members from the 13 West Coast chapters as well as 17 other chapters from the Northwest and Southwest regions.

They say every design/construction project finally ends. Or does it? The new or renovated facility lives on, and the users and managers must deal with the prior decisions and actions of the owners, the designers, and the builders. How a facility functions will have a lasting impact on those occupants, but it may also have an impact on the reputations of the designer and the builder, and on the manufacturers of all the installed products. How a project “ends” will inform the beginning of several long-lasting relationships. As they are currently written, contracts include many provisions for these new relationships: closeout procedures and documentation, warranties, maintenance and operations data, and record documents are usually clearly spelled out in the specifications. But how does it actually work?

For the upcoming year, let’s see how we can learn where we can incorporate some aspect of this continuing relationship concept into the development of all activities and programs, asking questions such as; How does the vast amount of information that went into the planning, design, and construction of a facility get passed along to the facility users? What happens to the information once it is supplied? How can the design and construction industry improve this process, and thereby improve facility performance? How can we continue the owner-designer-supplier-builder relationships that we have developed?

We ask you to become a participant in these discussions and help guide the decision-making around these issues, through attendance at programs, involvement in committees, and volunteering your expertise toward real-world solutions. One way to start down that path is through certification.

Racquel

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Important Links: 2015 CSI Tri-Region Conference
May 13-16, 2015

Complete Conference Information
ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ALL EVENTS
Full Brochure Conference Schedule
Conference Registration Form Sponsorship Form
Golf Tournament Flyer
Hotel Registration Car Rentals
Calendar of Events

✦ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
Tri-Region Conference
Pre-Planning Meeting
Presenter: Neal Drell, CCPR—Conference Chair
Location: Gordon Biersch, Mission Valley
5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego

Click here for Event Flyer ~ Click here for Reservations

✦ THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
A JOINT MEETING WITH NAWIC SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Program: Function & Form in Waterproof Decking
Presenter: Marc Di Zinno
Westcoat Specialty Coating Systems
Location: Westcoat SCS’s offices & showroom
770 Gateway Center Dr, San Diego 92102

STAY TUNED FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION.

✦ THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: Whole New Light – LED Lighting
Presenter: Madeline Kent – Philips Lighting
Location: TBD

✦ WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 13-15, 2015
CSI TRI-REGION CONFERENCE
Location: Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa
1775 East Mission Bay Dr, San Diego 92109

Click here for Tri-Region Conference Information.
Click here for Online Conference and Golf Tournament Registration.
Click here for Hotel Reservations.
Click here for CSI/AIA Golf Tournament Flyer.

✦ SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2015
CSI/AIA 3RD ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRI-REGION CONFERENCE
Location: Riverwalk Golf Club
1150 Fashion Valley Rd, San Diego 92108

✦ THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015
NO CHAPTER DINNER MEETING THIS MONTH

✦ THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015
CSI SAN DIEGO AWARDS BANQUET
Location: TBD

San Diego CSI is an AIA/CES Registered Provider.

San Diego Chapter SpecTickle Advertising

SpecTickle Advertising Rates
Business Card: $275 - 6 issues or $500 - 12 issues
¼ page: $550 - 6 issues or $1,000 - 12 issues
1-pg flyer/issue: $125 mbrs; $150 non-mbrs

For more info, contact Executive Administrator
Margy Ashby at admin@sandiegocsi.org
or 877.401.6733 / 619.401.6733.

DEADLINE for newsletter input:
FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

RESERVATIONS
877.401.6733 619.401.6733
admin@sandiegocsi.org
The CSI San Diego Chapter accepts
credit cards for Chapter events
through BROWN PAPER TICKETS.

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!
CSI Certification Exam Registration Now Open

Message from Joy Davis, CSI, CCPR
Communications/Community/Web Director

Registration for the spring 2015 CSI Certificate/Certification Exams is now open. The new registration deadline and extended exam window are:

Registration deadline: March 13, 2015
Exam window: March 30, 2015 - May 9, 2015

By opening registration now and extending the exam window, CSI is allowing candidates the 8-12 weeks of study CSI's Strategic and Maintenance Certification Committees recommend. To keep registration easy during this truncated registration window, CSI will have only one registration deadline, and candidates will pay only the early registration exam fee. There will be no "final registration deadline" or associated higher price.

To register, candidates should visit www.csinet.org/certification. They'll be directed into CSI's new web portal (portal.csinet.org), where they will first log in, and then select an exam under "Apply for New Certifications" on the right. Candidates who do not already have a profile with CSI will need to create one before they register.

Candidates who register online are processed faster than candidates who fax or mail in applications, which can affect their options when scheduling their exam at a testing center. I strongly encourage candidates to register online.

We encourage candidates to focus their preparation using the appropriate Candidate Handbook and CSI Practice Guide at this time. Certificate/Certification support materials, including study workbooks updated for this exam cycle, will be released through CSI's online store shortly. CSI will announce the release of these materials in CSI Weekly, in CSI's social media channels, and by email.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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Communications/Community/Web Director
Interim Programming Director
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703.706.4795

Vote Now in the CSI Election

CSI's election opened February 2nd, and voting will continue until it closes March 2nd. Members in good standing are eligible to vote, and received an email from election@csinet.org with a unique election username and password, which is different from the credentials members use to access materials on CSI's website. Members can view the slate of candidates at www.csinet.org/election.
The CSI Academies
April 16-18, 2015
San Francisco, CA
www.csinet.org/academies

Early registration (By March 19): member $510/non-member $610
Final registration (By April 9): member $645/non-member $745

REGISTER NOW

Conversations You Won't Find Anywhere Else
Only CSI brings together specifiers, architects, contract administrators, and product representatives to discuss these issues:

- Exploring Ethics in AEC (PRA)
- Manufacturer Specifications Review: Do Your Guide Specifications Meet the Standards? (PRA)
- Big Projects: Data Mining for Success (PRA)
- Collaboration for Tomorrow (PRA)
- Meeting of the Minds: An Effective Pre-Construction Conference (CAA)
- Punch Lists: The Beginning of the End (CAA)
- Flexing the Specs: How Specifications Change with Delivery Methods (CSA)
- Informed Consent for Specifiers - Is There a Doctor in the House? (CSA)
- Now That I Have BIM, Why Do I Need Specs? (CSA)

Learn more about these sessions at www.csinet.org/academies.

Each Academies session is led by an experienced professional who is ready to talk about what these issues mean in your work. The CSI Academies early registration deadline is March 19.

The CSI Academies include three tracks, the Construction Specifier Academy (CSA), Contract Administrator Academy (CAA) and the Product Representative Academy (PRA). Registrants may attend any session, regardless of which track they registered for.

Product Representatives Academy (PRA)
The key to survival for today's product representative is ensuring that you understand more than the product. The PRA will give you the skills to present that information and succeed in the commercial construction industry, regardless of who you represent. CSI’s Product Representative Academy offers separate focuses in two tracks this year.

- Track 1 is ideal for representatives with 1-5 years of experience.
- Track 2 is designed for experienced representatives.

For session topics, or for more information on the PRA, visit www.csinet.org/pra.

Contract Administrator Academy (CAA)
Improve your contract administration skills and reduce your and your client’s risk through a high-level discussion of the roles and responsibilities of a contract administrator dealing with contractors, architects, and owners. Develop strategies for leading a team in contract administration, and ensuring that future contracts contain the language that will serve you best onsite.

For session topics, or for more information on the CAA, visit www.csinet.org/caa.

Construction Specifier Academy (CSA)
Improve your specifying skills with a high-level discussion of issues specifications can create, and understand how new trends in delivery methods, construction law, codes, and standards are affecting specifying. Ideal participants include specifiers, and those who are engaged in specifying, among other responsibilities.

For session topics, or for more information on the CSA, visit www.csinet.org/csa.

Corporate Partners should contact Shannon Pennington at spennington@csinet.org for event registration options and Susan Konohia at skonohia@csinet.org for sponsorships options, or if you are interested in offering an Academies program at your next event.
A couple of months ago, in "Your slip is showing!", I mentioned that I had been specifying slip resistance for a very long time, but only recently became aware of a serious problem: Even though codes and other regulations require a "slip-resistant" finish, there is no definition of what that means. I encountered a similar situation recently while reviewing the titles of the many standards cited in our specifications: I discovered that ANSI (the American National Standards Institute) produces no standards!

While looking up hardware standards, I saw reference standards with the number 115 in virtually every hardware and hollow metal specification I found. Sometimes the 115 was preceded with an A, other times not. But it’s only one letter; what’s the big deal if it has an A or not?

The reference numbers I found were inconsistent, so I set out to discover exactly which standard or standards were intended. As we so often find in the world of construction, there is a lack of consistency. I saw titles of some standards appear both with and without ANSI, titles that appear with only ANSI, and titles that have only a number, with no indication of the issuing organization. I found titles with different combinations of ANSI with another organization, and I found references to standards that have been withdrawn or replaced.

Many of these specifications referred to ANSI A115, but others, including manufacturers’ guide specifications, refer simply to "ANSI 115," for what appeared to be the same standard. My first step was to visit the ANSI website, which allows a search of their records. I found no standard titled ANSI 115, but as I expanded my search I found references to several standards related to doors that include A115 in their titles.

- ANSI A115 Hardware Preparation in Steel Doors and Steel Frames
- ANSI/BHMA A156.115 Hardware Preparation in Steel Doors or Steel Frames
- ANSI/DHI A115 Specifications for Hardware Preparations in Standard Steel Doors and Frames
- ANSI/DHI A115.IG Installation Guide for Doors and Hardware
- ANSI/SDI A115.1 (no title specified)
- BHMA A115 Specifications for Steel Door and Frame Preparation for Hardware
- BHMA A115 Steel Door Preparation Standards

With the exception of the ANSI/DASMA standard, it appears all of these may be the same. Is it possible that they’re all correct? The most interesting thing I learned was that ANSI does not produce standards. Rather, it accredits the procedures of organizations that develop standards, verifying that they meet certain requirements. During more than 30 years as an architect, I have seen countless standards with designations such as ANSI/ACI, ANSI/BHMA, ANSI/DASMA, and so on. I also have seen many standards that did not include ANSI in the title. My perception was that those standards with ANSI in the title were jointly issued by ANSI and the other organization, while those that did not include ANSI were issued solely by the indicated organization. And, because I saw many standards that included only ANSI, I assumed those standards were issued by ANSI.

My investigation revealed that references to standards are far too casual, and too often incorrect. However, despite the many incorrect titles used, it seems there have been few problems, probably because the people who write and use these sections are familiar with what’s in the standards. Even so, manufacturers should cite only active standards, and use the proper titles and revision dates in their guide specifications and other publications.

One letter can make the difference between being Ernest, and merely being earnest.

© 2015, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC


Your slip is showing! http://bit.ly/1vYNZ0u
If you've ever wondered about the inspiration behind the design of Apple products, you can find it in the work of Dieter Rams. Dieter Rams was the head of product design for the German company, Braun, from 1961 to 1995 and was responsible for the elegant, almost perfect designs of over 500 Braun products. Jonathan Ive, Director of Design at Apple, acknowledges Apple’s debt to Rams in his glowing Forward to the book, Dieter Rams: As Little Design as Possible.

One needs to look no further than Apple's iPod (2001) and compare it to the Braun T-3 pocket radio designed in 1958 to see the connection to Dieter Rams. Both objects exhibit the same attention to design based upon a careful consideration of materials, fabrication details, perfect proportions, and most of all, functionality. Nothing is out of place and nothing more than the essentials is included.

Dieter Rams, born in 1932 in Wiesbaden, studied to be an architect in the Bauhaus model at the Arts & Crafts College in Wiesbaden. After working briefly for an architect, he joined Braun as an architect but migrated quickly to the product design department. This was at the same time that the owners of Braun were focusing on a new line of home appliances, “tools for living,” to be designed, under Dieter Rams’ leadership, with the same principles used in the International Style of architecture. The most successful of these was the Braun electric shaver, introduced in 1950, that is still in production today in essentially the same design. The shaver was followed by the SK-4 phonograph, other audio equipment, clocks, food processors, coffee grinders, hair dryers, and many others, each of which was designed using the same principles: “less but better,” straightforwardness, understated beauty, and careful use of color.

Rams also designed furniture for Knoll and the Danish furniture manufacturer Vitsoe. His modular storage system (1959), based upon a system of interchangeable shelves and cupboards, is still in production today and has been copied successfully by IKEA and Techline. His 1960 design for a cast aluminum and leather chair was a precursor to the similar and better known seating by Knoll. His designs for the architectural door hardware manufacturer FSB should be familiar to architects.

Central to the success of all of Braun’s products was Rams’ team approach to design. He included manufacturing, marketing, finance, and graphic design personnel in the process. This approach was used consistently over 35 years, extending through Braun’s purchase by Gillette in 1967. Design wasn’t based solely upon the appearance of the object. It began with a careful understanding of the user’s needs and the functional considerations of the appliance. Sketches were made and models were built to understand manufacturing details and materials issues. In the end, each product design was so perfect it seemed inevitable. “How could we have done it any differently?” “As little design as possible” is a bit misleading. In reality, it took a great deal of design thought to achieve the end result ... simplicity.

The book was written by Sophie Lovell. It was published by Phaidon Press in 2011 with 400 large format pages, many of which include beautiful photographs.
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