G’Day and Happy New Year! May 2015 bring you success in your career and a happy healthy family life outside of the daily grind of work!

Let’s start this year off thinking about our own individual futures, and for those who make New Year’s resolutions, now is a great time to think of continuing education. Do you have your CDT? If not, then let us help get you started on your way to your first certification. If you have already attained your CDT, what about going for a CCPR or a CCCA? Speak to one of your fellow members about their accreditation and how it has helped their career.

It is good to know that as a member of CSI, we have access to resources that effectively improve our ability to understand and find solutions to challenges that face us in the construction world today. We rely on CSI resources for standardization, formatting, education, and construction news, but to many of us, the most valuable resources of the organization are its members.

Being part of a diverse network of professionals from the A/E/C community and industry gives us access to a wealth of knowledge. From students emerging into their careers, to seasoned professionals, the CSI network holds opportunities to advance each of our careers.

Make sure to add the Tri-Region Conference to your calendars. As the host chapter for this year’s event, we are looking for volunteers to help in all aspects—from a tiny piece of your time, to larger time and energy commitments. Please contact Neal Drell if you think you can help.

After so many years of doing an exemplary job of editing our newsletter, we’re looking for someone to help Rob Smith and hopefully, eventually take over the task of putting the “SpecTickle” together each month. The pay’s not much … uh, any … but the rewards are many … Right, Rob? So think about it and please let us know if you or someone you know would like to be involved with the newsletter. It’s a great way to keep on top of the goings on at CSI, at the Chapter level, as well as the Region and nationally. A photographer/photo editor would be especially welcome.

Make 2015 the year you get more involved in CSI. Every hour you put in, you learn something about yourself and the industry you call home.

Racquel McGee, CSI, CDT
2014-15 SDCSI President

CSI SAN DIEGO GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ITS SPEC TICKLE ADVERTISERS

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IMPORTANT LINKS: 2015 CSI Tri-Region Conference
May 13-16, 2015

Full Brochure .................................................. Conference Registration
Conference Schedule ........................................ Sponsorship Form
Hotel Registration ........................................... Car Rentals
Calendar of Events

♦ THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: San Diego County’s Water Supply Reliability
Presenter: Teresa Penunuri
Public Affairs Supervisor
SCOOP* and Community Outreach
San Diego County Water Authority
*Small Contractor Outreach and Opportunities Program
Location: NewSchool of Architecture + Design
1249 F Street, Downtown San Diego
(Enter near the corner of 13th & G Streets.)

Click here for Event Flyer ~ Click here for Reservations

San Diego CSI is an AIA/CES Registered Provider.

RESERVATIONS
877.401.6733  619.401.6733
admin@sandiegosci.org
The CSI San Diego Chapter accepts credit cards for Chapter events through 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 mbrs; $150 non-mbrs
For more info, contact Executive Administrator
Margy Ashby at admin@sandiegosci.org
or 877.401.6733 / 619.401.6733.
DEADLINE for newsletter input:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

♦ 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
Program: Decorative Coatings / Floors
Presenter: Marc DiZinno
Westcoat Specialty Coating Systems
Location: Westcoat SCS’s offices & showroom
770 Gateway Center Drive
San Diego, CA 92102

♦ THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015—5:30 PM
CSI SAN DIEGO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Program: TBD

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

Click here for Event Flyer ~ Click here for Reservations

♦ 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.

Click here for Tri-Region Conference Information.
Click here for Online Conference Registration.
Click here for Hotel Reservations.
Contract Administration Practice Group Meeting
January 27th, 12pm ET
Topic: Mistakes Architects Make—Part 2

Join practice group leaders Jim Rains, CSI, and Douglas Freeman, JD, CSI, as they continue a four-part series highlighting and discussing the areas where architects may make mistakes on their drawings and construction documents. You can view part one here.

This series can help you recognize common mistakes made during the construction administration phase. This session will include best practice examples that highlight methods for preventing these errors, and provide case studies of how particular issues were resolved. Register now.

Participate in a CSI Practice Group

Join the discussion! CSI offers several web-based practice groups focused on issues in construction industry communication. Practice groups generally meet monthly by webinar and encourage group discussion. Group members often make presentations.

CSI Practice Groups are:
Monthly, one-hour meetings conducted by webinar
Focus on current issues, challenges and opportunities affecting practice
Discussion among participants strongly encouraged
FREE and OPEN to ALL! CSI membership not required!
Join a CSI Practice Group!

CSI-Sponsored Programs Available On-Demand

Recorded CSI-sponsored webinars are available to view for free on our On-Demand webinar portal. Recent additions include:

Reducing Condensation & Thermal Bridging with Fluid-Applied Coatings — Order Now
Advances and Applications of Fluid Applied Air Barrier Membranes — Order Now

View all available sponsored webinars. Additional On-Demand Webinars are also available. The cost per webinar is $55 for CSI members, or $75 for non-members.

CSI Election Information

CSI members can help shape the future of their association by voting in the 2015 CSI election. Members who were in good standing on January 1, and who had a valid email address on file with CSI on that date, will be eligible to vote. For details on CSI's 2015 election, and to view the slate of candidates, visit www.csinet.org/election.

CSI's National Board Meets 3/1 in Kansas City

CSI's national Board will meet Sunday, March 1, from 8am-2pm in Kansas City, Missouri, at Embassy Suites Kansas City - International Airport. Members and others who wish to observe the meeting are welcome to attend. CSI does not reimburse for or cover any travel, hotel or meal expenses for members and guests observing the Board meeting. The meeting's agenda will be provided onsite and typically includes Officer, Director, Committee, Task Team, Liaison and staff reports as well as the discussion of strategic and operational recommendations. To ensure your seat, RSVP to CSI Executive Operations Manager Kelly Porter.
Feeding Your Specifier (and Project Team)

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

What is it that your specifier really needs? There was, once upon a time, an easy explanation. Just give me a set of drawings that you would turn in for your architectural licensing exam. For anyone that took the exam when it included a 12-hour design problem, this was enough of an explanation. Today, this explanation has no relevancy. So let me explain…

Early in design, architects work eagerly to establish layout, both plan and elevation, to ensure the owner’s program and imagery are satisfied. As design progresses, the layout is refined, often—a rearrangement here, a tweak there. And eventually the layout is settled. It’s a compromise that meets the building code and is acceptable to the owner.

When it’s time to start the specifications during Design Development (according to AIA Document B101 – Owner-Architect Agreement), the drawings must identify more than the layout. Layout does little to define project systems and materials.

In starting a new mixed use apartment project, the architect provided the completed Schematic Design plans and elevations. The drawings were noted to show room names, room numbers, even partition types. The apartment kitchen and bathroom elevations were drawn. The wall types and doors were scheduled. So what was missing?

There was not one typical wall section showing the building envelope construction. There was no information about the roof construction. The building envelope is the primary source of lawsuits against architects. The building elements with the greatest risk were undefined, except by layout — the roof plan and the building elevations.

Most of the necessary information about the building envelope was extracted from the architect’s mind during the initial inquisition, ahem…interview. But none of this is documented anywhere, except in my meeting notes. Now, thinking about this, what exactly did the construction manager’s estimator price? The building is supposedly on budget, but does the information I have match what the estimator used? Who knows? Probably not!

This dilemma, this information discrepancy, is so easily solved. It takes only minutes. Sketch what the envelope construction is supposed to be. The sketch need not be a refined CAD or BIM drawing. Hand sketches will do, just fine. Identify and label each primary component. The intricate details, the intersections with other systems can be defined later. Just capture the essence of the design so details can be discussed and resolved as part of the design process. Your specifier may even be able to offer material and detail suggestions and some insight on how to best keep water out of your building.

Thinking back to the licensing exam, drawing requirements were pretty straightforward. Develop floor plans, building systems plans (structure and MEP), elevations, building sections, typical wall sections. Plus, label what was drawn. It was important to convey the design intent, graphically only. Oral design presentations were not even a consideration as part of the exam and should not be relied upon to convey important design decisions. System or product selected? Document! Tell the entire design team (including your specifier), construction team, estimator(!), and owner what the design is rather than leaving it to their imagination.

A Specifier’s Wish List

[Editor’s Note: This didn’t quite make it for the December issue, but the wishes remain the same!] Just what would a specifier wish for Christmas? Peace? Goodwill? Perhaps, but there are some more mundane wishes to help improve every construction project. And if they all come true, the entire design team, contractor, and especially the owner will enjoy a better New Year.

Share the Schedule:

Seems simple enough. Just pick up the phone. Send an email. Tell the team the real schedule (and not the day before it’s due). Inform the team when the schedule changes. When specifiers know the delivery date, the work will be done on time.

Provide Drawings:

Yes, drawings would be nice! (It’s sad but true: specifiers have written some project specs without seeing any drawings!) Current drawings would be even better. Concept and schematic drawings would be best. Let specifiers see the drawings as they develop. If specifiers cannot understand the drawings, neither will the contractor. Specifiers’ questions avert change orders, while contractors’ questions do not. Take advantage of the drawing review provided as a normal part of the specification process to make all the documents better.

Extend Meeting Invitations:

True, most meeting discussions do not revolve around specifications. However, knowing the rationale for design decisions will allow the specifications to explain the design intent better. And when you least expect it, the specifier may contribute a thought or experience that will “save the day.”

Require Consultant Input:

The first specification step is always review the drawings and create a project table of contents to identify scope and help coordination. The last step is always to add the other consultants’ spec lists to the contents — without time for any possible scope verification and

(Conf’d on page 5)
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, the benefits and rewards for the parties involved, and the AIA contracts that 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 helps 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, highlights 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. Not a member of CSI? Join now and receive access to CSI member programming.

**Feeding Your Specifier (and Project Team)**
coordination. Demand that all consultants submit spec lists as a first step. Use the table of contents to coordinate the project, including the specifications and drawing terminology.

**Distribute Meeting Minutes:**
Add another name to the email distribution list for meeting minutes. Allow specifiers to review and track design discussions that may affect specifications. From experience with hundreds of projects, specifiers may be able to offer suggestions for more efficient solutions and alternative materials and systems better suited to the project conditions.

**Respond Thoughtfully:**
Review the draft specifications. Consider the specifiers’ questions and suggested solutions. Make a decision providing specific direction based on the available information. Move on to the next decision. Repeat until complete. Arrows and question marks are not an answer. If discussion is needed, say so. Voice your concern to open the dialog. Yes designs will change, and so will the specs, in response.

**Acknowledge Contributions:**
Specifiers are never in the limelight. Managing the technical detail correctly may be the difference between success and a lawsuit. “Thank you” goes a long way especially when the entire project team, including the owner and contractor, hears the recognition.

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.
Time to Brush Up Your Resume?

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

It's been ten years since my firm took the plunge and began moving from AutoCAD to Revit. There was a lot of behind-the-scenes research and discussion in the preceding year, after which a test team was assembled and trained. A real project was selected for live-fire testing, and we were on the way. About two years later, we did our first all-discipline project. In the next two years, the entire production staff received a full week of training. By the time the economy collapsed in 2008, Revit was our primary program, and today, it is used for virtually all of our work.

When the decision was made to commit to Revit, a few of our users made a presentation to the rest of the office, showing some of BIM's capabilities. Many of those who watched were impressed by a simple demonstration that showed simultaneously a plan, an elevation, and an isometric view of part of a model. The presenter showed that moving a door in any one of the views changed the other views in real time.

As I watched, I remember thinking, "Someone is going to be out of a job." It should be no secret that, as firms become more familiar and more efficient in their use of BIM software, they will no longer need those people who formerly translated the changes made on one drawing to related parts of other drawings. From there, it's not difficult to imagine a program, or a collection of integrated programs, that would allow a single designer to operate without any support staff. Carry that thought a bit further, and it is quite possible to do away with structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers.

We all like to think we're essential, but computers and automation have been putting people out of work for a long time, and it seems the rate is increasing. And, even though many people accept this as fact, it's common for them to believe that their jobs are safe. But are they?

Nearly anything that is repetitious is now done by machines, controlled by computers. Entire factories now require only a few humans to watch the process, and even their jobs are in danger. It's interesting that many of the jobs left to humans are basic services, or manual jobs that are too varied or complex for computers - at least for the moment. In high school, I worked in a Ward's warehouse, a huge building full of thousands of products. At the time, it would have been difficult to conceive of a way that machines could find, select, and deliver those products as well as a human. To see how even these jobs are being replaced, watch this video about Amazon's new warehouse: http://youtu.be/6KRruuEVEZs?t=10s. The only humans still at work are stuffing shipping boxes, something a computer will probably be able to do within a couple of years.

Some people argue that all of this automation frees us from menial work, and will allow us to pursue more interesting work. That may be true, but in most cases, the people put out of work cannot simply move on to a job that requires more education and experience. That's clear in the case of those who work in warehouses or factories, but it's also true of people with years of college education and experience. Will the staff architect move on to become a programmer for AutoDesk? Possibly, but not without more education.

The problem is, computers are not limited to simple jobs. If you can define how to do something, you can program a computer to do the same thing. Watching robots in an assembly line, it's clear they can perform complex operations. And while computers and robots once were built to do just a few things, current models can be reprogrammed as required for different jobs, and some now are able to learn and reprogram themselves.

What about your job? We talked about staff architects already, but what about engineers? They already rely on computers to do all the calculations that were done manually many years ago. Don't you think it's possible for a computer to analyze a BIM model, evaluate various structural systems, and choose the one that's best for the project? Couldn't the computer also be able to compare several HVAC systems, plumbing designs, and electrical options, and choose the best? Someone may have to tell the computer if cost or performance is more important, but even that decision could be automated. Hardware specifiers amaze me with all they know, but again, if you can describe how they decide which hardware to use, a computer can do the same thing - and it can be done in the architect's office.

Surely, there is no way to completely eliminate architects! Don't be too sure. Early in October, I watched an interesting video (http://vimeo.com/107291814) that discussed the possibility of a computer completely designing a building based on program requirements, site conditions, and building codes. I'm sure architects will object, saying there's no way a machine could infuse the building with the subtle expression and style that could come only from a human. Well, maybe, except that the majority of buildings don't have much style, or have a style that strongly suggests use of a cookie cutter. Throw in some of that innovative design that is indistinguishable from the aftermath of a tornado, and I'm not sure architects would know if a building had been designed by an architect or by a computer. Furthermore, I suspect that the program could contain several recognized style options, so a given building could resemble Gothic, Romanesque, Chicago, Art Deco, Postmodern, or any of the Revivals.

(cont'd on pg 7)
Melvin G. Cole FCSI to celebrate 50 years with CSI

This March will mark Melvin G. Cole, FCSI’s 50th year as a member of the Construction Specification Institute. Mel has given much of his time and energy over the years to the betterment of the construction industry and CSI. We honor this milestone and all he has done for us.

Mel joined CSI as a student member of the Tucson Chapter in 1965. In 1969 he moved to San Diego and joined their CSI Chapter, where he served as President in 1973. In 1983, he relocated to the Bay Area and joined the Santa Clara Valley and San Francisco Chapters of CSI. In 1987 Mel was made a Fellow of the Institute due in large part to his outstanding contributions to construction education programs.

In 1982 Mel was asked to sit on the original Board of Trustees for the New School of Architecture in San Diego. In this capacity he assisted in establishing the curriculum for the five year architecture program and included a formal course on specification writing to be led by a CSI Certified Construction Specifier. The same year, Mel worked with the University of California, San Diego Extension program to establish a two year Certificated Program in Construction and Architectural Practice Methods offered as night classes to those who had not had a full college education.

Freshly relocated to the Bay Area, in 1984 Mel worked with the San Jose State University Extension program to develop a Certificated Program in Construction Estimating. He made “Understanding Construction Documents” a core part of the curriculum and ensured the teacher was a CSI Certified Construction Specifier.

Mel has received numerous awards at the Chapter, Region, and Institute levels. He is a celebrated member of our construction community and we honor all he has done to advance the mission of CSI and to give back to the industry.

Please join the Santa Clara Valley Chapter in celebrating Mel’s 50 years with CSI at a lunch in his honor on Friday March 20, 2015 at the Julia Morgan-designed Saratoga Foothill Club. For more information contact Rietta McCain (408-368-9122 or rietta.csi@gmail.com). Space is limited. To sign up, please visit our site on Brown Paper Tickets: http://csiscvlunch.brownpapertickets.com/.

Time to Brush Up Your Resume?

(cont’d from pg 6)

What about construction workers? In the past, everything was done in the field, but more and more work is moving into factories. Modular construction further reduces the need for on-site workers, and 3D printing may eliminate more. With the right information, we won’t need estimators or schedulers, and driverless trucks are in our future. Sensors on building components and maintenance items will tell computers what needs to be done, and robots will do it.

The bottom line is - the bottom line. Companies don’t exist to hire people; they exist to make money for their owners. At first glance, robots look expensive, but if a robot costs $25,000 and must be replaced after two years, the cost works out to about $6.00 per hour - if it works only eight hours a day. No one knows how all this will play out, but it’s sure to be interesting.

So maybe it’s time to update your resume — or have a computer do it for you.

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

**Goings-on Ongoing at Balboa Park**

**FILM: BALBOA PARK: THE JEWEL OF SAN DIEGO**

**Location:** Thornton Theatre, San Diego History Center, Casa de Balboa, Balboa Park  
www.sandiegohistory.org

**Cost:** Free with museum admission.

**THREE SCREENINGS DAILY at 11am, 1pm, 3pm* (film available for purchase in the History Center Store)** *(screening times subject to change due to museum events. You are encouraged to call ahead to verify.)*

This entertaining 30-minute documentary on the history and wonder of Balboa Park, San Diego’s cultural epicenter, features stunning vistas, motion graphics, aerial photography and an original sound track. The film offers a lively and engaging capsule history, serving as an introduction to Balboa Park for visitors and residents alike and a testimonial to the remarkable vision of the Park’s founders.

**CENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES**

The Balboa Park Centennial Lecture Series, *Celebrating the 1915 Panama-California Exposition* is a year-long lecture series presented by the San Diego History Center in cooperation with the Friends of San Diego Architecture.

All programs held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:00-7:30 PM in the Thornton Theatre. [NOTE: The CSI San Diego Chapter meetings are usually held the 4th Thursday of each month.] Light reception is provided prior to each presentation. Tickets available at sandiegohistory.org.

**October 16, 2014** - *Engineering the Panama Canal: 1881-1914*  
featuring Dr. Ray Ashley, Executive Director, San Diego Maritime Museum

featuring Dr. Molly McClain, Professor, USD

featuring Roger Showley, Columnist, U-T SD

**February 19, 2015** - *The Program and Site Plan for the Exposition: 1910 -1913*  
featuring Mike Kelly, President, Committee of 100

**March 26, 2015** - *The Architecture of the Exposition Buildings*  
featuring Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation appointed by President Barack Obama

**April 16, 2015** - *The Landscape Architecture of the Exposition*  
featuring Vicki Estrada, FASLA, APA

**May 21, 2015** - *On with the Show!: Fun and Frivolity at the Expo*  
featuring Dr. Iris Engstrand, Professor Emeritus, USD; David Marshall, Heritage Architecture

**June 18, 2015** - *Art in the Park: Cultural Expressions at the Exposition*  
featuring Harry Katz, Visual Culture Curator, San Diego History Center

**July 16, 2015** - *Ingenuity, Innovation and Invention at the Exposition*  
featuring Mary Walshok, PhD, Sociologist & Dean of Extension, UCSD

**August 20, 2015** - *A World Divided / A City United: Military Presence at the Exposition*  
featuring Bruce Linden, Executive Director, Coronado Historical Association

**September 17, 2015** - *Balboa Park & the Future of Urban Cultural Parks*  
TBD, Keynote Speaker; Program Co-sponsored by UCSD Extension
# San Diego Chapter Board of Directors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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# San Diego Chapter Committee Chairs

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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