

T H E A D D E N D U M

The Newsletter of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the Construction Specification Institute, Inc. Volume 59 Number 5 January 2011



METROPOLITAN NEW YORK CHAPTER

The Construction Specifications Institute



Knowledge for Creating
and Sustaining
the Built Environment

Meeting Information

2011

**Wednesday
January 12, 2010**

Construction Jeopardy

Annie Moore's
50 East 43rd Street
New York, New York

**Wednesday
February 9, 2011**

Door Hardware Specifying

Annie Moore's
50 East 43rd Street
New York, New York

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Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Don't miss the upcoming meeting of the Metropolitan New York Chapter as we play Construction Jeopardy! What could be more fun than competing with your fellow industry professionals on how much trivia you have stored away in that head of yours?

It's a team effort (just like a design/construction project!) so what you don't know... someone else will, and vice versa. Categories may include construction terminology, materials, architectural history, famous architects, codes, local history, and construction-related movie and television trivia. And yes, you will get an AIA CEU for this learning opportunity.

Volunteer for a team by contacting [Tor Sundlin](#), the Program Chair.

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 12, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour. The dinner and Jeopardy will start at 6:30 p.m.

Cost: Dinner and the program are free to those who are part of the design and construction industry. However, you must register for this program:

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/82006



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President's Message

Even though the holidays are over, it's fun to look back and think about the fun times, like the ones we had at our Holiday Italiano! celebration last month. Did you miss it? Not to worry because the fun continues this month at the Chapter meeting as we have another round of Construction Jeopardy! Come out and test your knowledge of our industry's terminology, technology, and history. (It's more fun than that last sentence sounds—trust me!) Adding to the merriment is the fact that there will be no charge for the dinner or the program if you are a professional or student in the design/construction industry. (If you are reading this, then you are most likely eligible.) Come on out and enjoy the company of your fellow professionals on January 12.



The new year is a great time to make a new commitment to be involved in the Chapter. The Board of Directors is working hard to reach our Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for the year. Take a little time to [read this document](#) on our web site and perhaps you will be inspired to help make some of these ideas happen. There is bound to be something there that you will get excited about.

We are still planning to celebrate the Chapter's 60th Anniversary in a big way. The Co-Chairs of the Anniversary Planning Committee are Anthony Drummond and Arnie Kravitz. Contact them if you have an interest in working on this.

Have a prosperous New Year!

Linton D. Stables, III, CSI, CCS, LEED® AP

Chapter President

Committee Chairs:		2010 - 2011
Academic Liaison	Scott Tobias	(845) 427-0853
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Education	Ruma Som	(201) 612-7459
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Membership	Bert Korteling	(917) 587-2814
Planning	Arnold Kravitz	(718) 982-5594
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Program	Tor Sundlin	(973) 340-3666
Technical	W Jacquette Jr.	(212) 663-3167
Golf Outing	Anthony Drummond	(516) 480-8085

The CSI Academies

Providing real construction world solutions

Early registration deadline - January 11, 2011

For more than 60 years, CSI has focused on improving construction communication between architects, specifiers, product reps and others to save money, time and stress for all the parties.

The CSI Academies are your chance to learn the construction industry skills that can improve your performance.

"The most beneficial portion was the sharing of ideas and practices during presentations for both the presenter and the audience. Real world practices." - Travis Norris, CSI, CCCA

Designed for experienced professionals, the Academies:

- **Instill confidence by teaching you the roles and responsibilities of all the construction teams, and how they should interact (and what to do when they don't!)**
- **Improve your marketability and productivity today with skills and information you can use immediately**

Education sessions are focused on small, intense group work in three areas of practice:

Product Representative Academy (PRA)

Become a product representative who understands more than the product - know where and how you fit into the construction process, and become a useful resource the design team will call on again and again. We'll teach you best practices for presenting products and supporting the design and construction teams. Manufacturers will tell you what you need to know

about their products - we'll give you the skills to present that information and succeed in the commercial construction community. [See a list of sessions.](#)

Contract Administrator Academy (CAA)

No where else will you find intense training for experienced administrators focused on general skills for managing construction documentation, front-end documents, and general conditions. The information and skills you gain you'll be able to use tomorrow! [See a list of sessions.](#)

Construction Specifier Academy (CSA)

Let CSI, the most respected specifications information source in the U.S., teach you the best practices in specifying, LEED specifications, and BIM data management. Courses will focus on specifying in the real world and current issues, including getting LEED requirements into the documentation and understanding how to communicate specifications in BIM. [See a list of sessions.](#)

"I got new knowledge from each and every presentation. This is a terrific forum for finding out how others do what they do." - David Calahan, CSI, CCCA

For a complete course listing, speaker profiles, hotel information and other details, or to register, visit www.csinet.org/academies.

Early registration deadline - January 11, 2011

**February 24-26, 2011
The Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, TX**

www.csinet.org/academies

Register Now!

Maintaining your Membership

Just a reminder to keep your membership active and contact information up to date. Running through our current list of members, there are many of you who have been long time members that have or are very close to having your membership expire.

If those of you could take a minute and let us know

how we can help, or to express your concerns, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Bert Korteling CSI Director/Membership Chairman Metropolitan New York Chapter CSI - bkorteling@xypex.com 917-309-7196

LIKE IT IS / WAS

By Steve Blumenthal, FCSI

Former Institute President

It would be interesting to know how many of our members remember an addendum article “BEZ SEZ” written by Harry Bez who at the time was Chief Specification writer for Abbott Merkt. He was a dedicated member elected President in the early seventies. His platform, the Chapter offer technical assistance no matter what side of the aisle you were identified with. He would stop a speaker Industry or Professional if he thought they were wrong or illustrated proprietary in their presentation.

He was a strong and innovative President taking bold steps one of which was to give female members the same platform as everyone else. Kay Statler, Martha Munster, and Laura Diffendorfer were three who served on committees or the Chapter board in addition to those who followed and currently participating. Let us not forget Anna Halpern the Chapters first female President. When Harry’s term was completed he was appointed Northeast Region Director and represented our Region with honor and distinction on the Institute Board .

Business slowed down in the seventies, Harry left New York for Athens Greece where he was Director of Specifications for Basil Engineers. At the same time a Chapter member Pat Zampetti became Vice President International for a major company. One of the office’s he called on was Basil and much to his surprise he was greeted by Harry (picture of Bez was taken in 1975 by Pat). Needless to say their conversations for the most part was about the Chapter and “the ole gang” as Harry would call it.. When Harry returned he continued to participate in the Chapter and Region on various committees in addition to being a member of the Institute Technical Committee and worked on the Master Format.

**June 1990...
receives the
Presidents
special award
“for his advice
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encouragement
as an
inspiration and
motivator to
many in CSI”.**

At the Institute convention dinner in June 1990 Harry was honored before approximately 750 people when he received the Presidents special award “for his advice council and encouragement as an inspiration and motivator to many in CSI”. He was surprised and received a standing ovation. Bez’s contribution to the Chapter and its growth is a legacy. I knew Harry it is a privilege to tell you about him.

A word about Zampetti, his work did not permit a commitment to the Chapter beyond the Board.

That did not stop him he wanted to help or as he called it “pitch in”. If something had to be done he volunteered. For years he was the smiling face at the door when you came to a meeting. He was also the host at various hospitality suites at Conferences and Conventions.

There are others from the 70’s and 80’s whose innovative ideas continued the growth of the Chapter. Get me their names and I will take it from there. Today under Lynton’s lead the Chapter is a leader in the Region. The Student program is a model for other Chapters. The quality of our programs offers something to all no matter the classification. Unfortunately I only know what I read or told as the schedule makes

it a rough commute from 8A on the NJ turnpike. In closing I again ask for input get it to me at asecsi@aol.com so I do not delete it please use “MNY” in the subject



Looking Toward LEED 2012

by *Bill Bobenhausen, FAIA, LEED AP President*

Surprise! The USGBC recently released the first draft of LEED 2012. Green building professionals have until December 31, 2010 to let their voices be heard. According to the USGBC, a second public comment period is expected to be opened from July through August, 2011. The LEED 2012 rating system is targeted for release on November 7, 2012.

By the way, under consideration in the first draft of "LEED 2012", is consideration to change from requiring one LEED AP for credit IDC2. Being considered is a requirement that a LEED AP with a relevant specialty (such as LEED AP BD+C, or LEED AP Homes) must be on the team. In addition, two other team members must also be LEED APs (any specialty), or LEED Green Associates (LEED GA). In our view, LEED regulatory complications have already gone quite far enough - and many in the public and private sectors are noticing.

For the draft, see:

<https://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=8483>

In the Spring, SDC will be presenting AIA/CES Workshops: [LEED 2009 toward 2012](#)

Locations throughout tri-state region. Details in coming SDC newsletters, or send e-mail to:

bill@sdcollab.com **Subject: Spring 2011 Workshops**

GREEN STEAM?

Steam is such an elegant heat delivery method. Water boiled in a vessel rises up through pipes... spreads out to radiators... and upon striking the large metal surface area of the radiators condenses back.... and releases the 1000 Btus per pound it took to create the steam in the first place. IN THE NEWS: A large economic stimulus grant will improve the heating systems for several large buildings on a northeastern college campus. The grant will pay for most of the cost of replacing aging steam traps, installing meters and training personnel. The college considers this to be the first recommendation from the campus Sustainability Plan that will be implemented. Sounds like a worthy, and long overdue project that has finally found funding. But calling it "Sustainable" - quite a stretch!

Potential LEED Projects - It's Not Magic

Perhaps the most exasperating words I hear a dozen or so times a year.... "The Owner doesn't know if they want to pursue LEED." And how do they intend to figure it out? Usually they have no idea, although they don't mind some free advice. Often they just mull on it until the project moves deep into design and good environmental design (LEED, etc.) is harder to achieve. So much better to have a work session (i.e., charrette) where a wide range of options can be discussed and LEED can be put into an understandable perspective. More on the process of selecting Green and LEED Design services next year/month.

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Let's talk

We will discuss the upcoming Institute vote on membership

The Institute will be conducting a vote in February on whether to delete the Professional and Industry distinctions in membership in CSI. This issue was voted on by the membership in 2010 and did not pass because the requisite super-majority was not achieved. However, a majority did vote to abolish the distinctions and so the issue will be put up for a vote this year.

One complaint that was heard was that the members were not involved in much discussion about this issue prior to the vote. We on the Chapter level do not want this to happen again, so the first 15 minutes or so of our January Chapter meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the pros and cons of the issue. We invite you to give this some thought and to come prepared to express your opinions and listen to those of others. We will not be voting on the issue at the meeting unless there is a motion for the Chapter to take a position.

Invite your friends to dinner on us

Chapter is offering dinner and program without cost

Help us get the word out to others in our industry about this great opportunity to check us out. [Send us your contacts](#) (e-mail addresses) and we will make sure they get the most up-to-date information on the programs being offered. (We will also make sure that those addresses are protected from abuse, according to our [e-mail policy](#).)

The Chapter will provide dinner with the [January](#) and [February](#) 2011 monthly programs at no cost to those who are involved in the design and construction industry. This is a trial period for a policy which may be extended if it is successful. The Chapter's objective to attract a new group of people and to keep its current members is the inspiration for this experiment.

Anniversary Brings Out Our History

Sixtieth anniversary of the Chapter causes a look back

June 1, 2011, marks the Sixtieth Anniversary of the chartering of the Metropolitan New York Chapter, the first chapter in the Institute. Big plans are being developed to celebrate this occasion, including a history project to pull together some of the resources and relics of those sixty years.

Michael Bean, a member of CSI since 1988 and Chapter President in 1998, is leading the effort to gather the history of the Chapter and put it in a form that we can present to the membership and the public. If you have photographs, old Addendums, or other memorabilia from the earlier days of our Chapter, please consider sharing them with the rest of us! Steve Blumenthal, FCSI, member since 1967 and Institute President in 1989-1990, has already provided some of his recollections and artifacts from his active time in the Chapter. Others have also come forward to help with this effort. Please [contact Michael](#) if you can help out. Even a few recollections written down would help fill out the picture!

We will be celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary for much of 2011, so stay tuned for more details on the occasions that are planned.

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THE CURIOUS STATUS OF THE “BIG THREE”

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI, CDT
Cincinnati, OH

Undeniably three “documents” in construction are interlinked, interrelated, and both complimentary and supplementary one to another. Yet still today, one is all but ignored by architects, one is a maze of compressed information, mixed with symbols and abbreviations to form a graphic display, while the third, while still produced, is roundly maligned, often ignored, and too often misunderstood because of the lack of will, understanding, or stubbornness!

CONTRACT-AGREEMENT; DRAWINGS; SPECIFICATIONS. The three, combined, create the “contract documents “for construction project. Contract/Agreement: Legal document [pre-printed and standard, or specific for project] that explains all parties obligations and duties, and the amount of money to be paid by the Owner to the Contractor, for work accomplished in accord with other documents.

Drawings: Graphic drawings and depictions of portion of work to be done, and work that is applicable over large extents of project; some written material that refers to and augments or explains written material in the specifications.

Specifications [Project Manual]: Booklet[s] containing extensive amount of added or explanatory material, required to be combined with drawings to facilitate construction of the entire project; may have added information not on the drawings, (and vice versa); cannot be eliminated since it is interrelated to the other two documents, all in which act in concert to explain the work being required by the Owner [via the design professional’s documentation] for a complete and finished project ready for use and occupancy.

It is difficult to understand why, when all the project information is bundled in these three documents, various parties like to selectively choose one or two of them and rather blatantly

ignore or “stumble over” the third. Granted the contract/agreement is the more complex and difficult to deal with, but then the architect and engineers usually are not involved with it, i.e., do not write or fill-in the standard version— tasks best left for owner’s attorney, who can modify the form as desired by the owner and to the owner’s best interests. So for all intents and purposes there are really two documents left for the design professionals.

We come to the old saw that contractors are not word people [like attorneys], and that they fear that we [professionals] convolute things in the wording to confound, confuse and “trick” them into work they overlook or misconclude. Have we got time for this? Do we have an “educational moment”, here? Yes, we do!

Leaving the drawings on the side for a moment, we— each of us and CSI collectively— have responsibility, and golden opportunity to unravel this faux mystery and create a new litany for specs, and new information and approaches, that remove the threats [real or not] that the contracting community has. Why let the angst, that has been for years, just lump along, unchallenged, and unapproached, when in fact it is the contractors who are doing the “big stuff” with BIM, etc., and getting heavily involved with the lingering and massive minutia of construction.

Eventually we are going to have to do this too, so why not start getting our act together [and not just on BIM] to create the new horizon— we might wind up having our horizon of tomorrow at our back! Where we are inert, our work is inert; where we do nothing others may well fill the gap [e.g., how did BIM get started; did we do it?]. The need is for creative action; to match the times; to create futuristic programs to orient, educate, and assimilate and to inform in such a way that the construction process becomes BETTER, and we are truly players at the table.

The curious status of the “big three”?

Slipping due to reclusiveness; and we very well may be losing! Then what?

Metropolitan Chapter CSI Monthly Schedule for FY 2011

October 13, 2010 - How to Make a Killer Presentation
November 10, 2010 - Technology Design Principles in Modern Buildings
December 8, 2010 - **Holiday Italiano!**
January 12, 2011 - Construction Jeopardy!
February 9, 2011 - The Future of Door Hardware Specifying
March 9, 2011 - Energy Usage, Savings and Changes in LEED-Certified Buildings
April 13, 2011 - Building Tour with a Specifier's Perspective
May 11, 2011 - Underground New York: Major Subsurface Projects
June 8, 2011 - 60th Anniversary Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner

About CSI

CSI is a national association dedicated to creating standards and formats to improve construction documents and project delivery. The organization is unique in the industry in that its members are a cross-section of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors and building materials suppliers. The organization has 146 chapters and more than 14,000 members. Monthly Chapter meetings allow members the opportunity to communicate openly with their counterparts and exchange information for successful project management. CSI is renowned in the industry for its rigorous certification programs for professionals seeking to improve their knowledge of accurate and concise construction documents. CSI provides continuing education, professional conferences and product shows. For more information, visit www.csinet.org, or call (800) 689-2900.

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