

RE:Building New York

The Chapter's Trade Show and Education Day



Over 150 architects and specification writers attended the Annual Trade Show and Education Day held in October at the Metropolitan Pavilion, a new venue for large-scale Chapter events. Above, Michael Dorin, Senior Vice President of Preconstruction for Skanska USA Building, tells the gathering about the process that Skanska used in designing and building its own LEED Platinum Certified offices in the Empire State Building. Classes were well-attended, and between learning sessions the attendees visited the 38 vendors

who were presenting their products and services and who had sponsored the day. At the end of the day the Chapter treated the attendees and the exhibitor personnel to wine and beer and snacks, as some great door prizes were given out. Plans are already under way for next year's Trade Show and Education Day!



Leadership

Monthly Meeting and Program

Date and Time: Wednesday, November 9, 2011, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social time. The program starts at 6:00 p.m.

1. What is a leader?
2. Leadership vs. Management
3. What does a leader do?
4. Leadership and your career
5. Team Building
6. CSI and your career



This month's Chapter meeting is devoted to you: How you can be a leader in your profession and in the community. Mitch Miller, the Vice President of CSI, is a dynamic speaker who will not only tell you about leadership, but demonstrates leadership in the process. Mr. Miller is a member of the Allentown, Pennsylvania, Chapter of CSI and is the Director of Specifications for USA Architects.

LOCATION: Häfele Showroom, 25 East 26th Street, New York, New York.

Cost: \$10 includes snacks and wine and beer, however you must register in advance at

www.brownpapertickets/events/179842



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Letter from the President Jeffrey Matles

CSI WHAT'S NEXT.... Now that RE:Building New York has passed with much anticipated fanfare and success, what's next—Disney?

Can you compare Disney to New York? or maybe we should strive for Chicago... And speaking about Chicago, eight of us from the Metropolitan NY CSI Chapter recently visited the Windy City for Construct 2011, the national CSI Event.

The event was filled with seminars, a trade show and lot's of bonding. Dinner at Gibson's, a famous Chicago landmark, was an extraordinary opportunity for bonding. Although the event was smaller in size than in previous years, mostly due to attrition and the economy, the show exposed us to what's happening on the national scene. One of the major goals of National is to retain membership. The Institute has implemented a fifty/fifty program to help retention. Fifty percent off on both National and local Chapter dues. Ironically, the NY Chapter has actually increased our membership for fiscal year 2010-2011. Thank you Bert Korteling, who served as our membership chairman for that time. Metropolitan New York CSI's recent events have been inspiring, fun, and a welcomed change. We decided to do a Casino Night that turned out to be a winner. Big winner: Metro NY CSI. A big "Thank You" to Bob Crane and the volunteers for putting that one together. The next event, mentioned above, was our annual Education Day and Trade Show at the Metropolitan Pavilion, co-chaired by Arnie Kravitz and myself. The reviews were extremely positive, and everyone involved walked away feeling good. And, to Arnie, the General Manager of the event, and to all the volunteers who made the event so special, I say "Thank you". I look forward to all our upcoming events... please see the events published in our newsletter and web site. To be continued...



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Thank you, CSI

A student writes to the Chapter

For those of you reading this my name is Joseph Montebello and I am a student in the Construction Management program at Pratt Institute in New York.

Last month, I was given the opportunity by my school to attend the CSI's annual convention in Chicago. While there I met many interesting people, and was privileged to attend six education sessions, ranging from Forensic Evaluation Techniques for Masonry to The Challenges of High Performance Building Envelopes.

The convention was not what I had expected. I expected to see more construction students like myself. What I found was many educated and informed professionals eager to share their knowledge about the construction industry. The convention turned out to be greater than I ever imagined.

I've become familiar with the CSI over the past year, as they encourage students within the construction program to become members. Each month I receive the catalog, and read it on the train as I ride back and forth from school.

Being in Chicago, fully involved with the members of CSI I realized its importance to the industry. The CSI is a place for students and professionals to come together to learn about the construction industry. Participating in the convention, speaking with professionals, listening

to the lectures, and visiting the many booths at the show, gave me the unique opportunity to learn more about the industry and recognize just what makes it tick. Being inside McCormick Place accompanied by people with years of experience in designing and building, I felt very lucky. Although most of my peers know what the CSI is, I do not think they understand the importance of being involved at such a young age. I have realized that in building my construction knowledge, being around those with more experience than I have is extremely important to my development. Many mistakes can be avoided by benefiting from others experience. It helps students to learn the right way. Going to the convention expanded my horizons and has made me realize how much opportunity exists within the industry today. Thank you to everyone who I met at the show, I had a wonderful time and I hope to see everyone next year in Phoenix! Joseph MontebelloCSI Annual Convention 2011, Chicago IL

COMMITTEE HELP WANTED

Are there any golfers out there that would like to be on the golf committee?



If so here is a perfect opportunity

to not only get involved with something you like to do BUT to also help in supporting the Fryburgh Scholarship Fund. **Anthony Drummond and Bob Crane are looking for your help in setting up the 2012 Annual Golf Outing. If interested, you can contact them directly at;**

A. Drummond - 516-480-8085

R. Crane - 484-225-6720

Committee Chairs 2011 - 2012

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Report on CSI Construct2011

Linton Stables, Immediate Past President

I had the good fortune to participate in the CSI Construct2011 Convention in Chicago during September, the eighteenth consecutive convention I have attended. As usual, it was a good time to meet with manufacturer's representatives, see new products, learn about the latest developments in our industry, exchange ideas with other specification writers, and get to know a few more people. Visiting Chicago is its own reward, with its rich architectural heritage and the openness to new and exciting design. Downtown Chicago is a living museum of modern architecture and I never tire of wandering around the streets and coming upon some masterpiece that I studied in architecture school, or seeing something totally wacky and wondering if it could have been built in any other city.



One of the highlights of the convention was a tour of the Underwriters Laboratories in Northbrook, Illinois, that was a part of the conference program. We are all familiar with UL and their ubiquitous label, but we are probably less aware of the rigorous testing that goes behind those labels. We only looked at two or three of their testing facilities on a campus that contained many, but in that short tour we saw flame spread testing, fire resistance testing, and smoke development testing all in progress or being set up for impending tests. UL gives a great tour, and if you ever find yourself in the vicinity you should definitely arrange for your own visit.

The social and architectural highlight of this conference was the Chicago Chapter's dinner cruise on the Chicago River and out onto Lake Michigan. This was a totally different way to see the architecture of Chicago and to experience the engineering wonder that is the Chicago River itself. In the latter part of the nineteenth century the direction of flow in the river was reversed so that it no longer emptied into Lake Michigan. Locks at the mouth of the river now keep the lake clean and allow the passage of ships through the river to a series of canals and on the Mississippi River. It was wonderful to see all this in action, and to view Chicago's nighttime skyline from out in the lake.

CSI's convention is always the place where the architectural, construction, manufacturing, and academic worlds come together. The perspectives that can be gained just by being part of this gathering are worth the entire trip. There are moments for spiritual uplift as well, as when Cameron Sinclair of Architecture for Humanity gave his keynote speech on the work he and his organization are doing all over the world to rebuild communities after major disasters, whether they be climate-related, social, or just basic lack of resources. I was not the only person in the room who sat there seriously considering quitting my job to join Architecture for Humanity in the work they do.



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Is Your Car Ready for Winter

Most men aren't mechanics, and some men could care less about their car as long as it looks good and drives well. But a responsible driver should always take five minutes every other week or so to check the essential parts of his car. If you pay proper attention to your car's maintenance needs, you will save a lot of time, money and aggravation by avoiding some expensive repairs. Here are some things that you can do yourself:

Check the battery

Many batteries are so advanced they no longer require much maintenance. To be on the safe side, however, you should know where your car battery is located and check it periodically to make sure it is not leaking acid and has adequate water. Most batteries have a condition indicator that displays different colors to indicate how it's functioning: blue means it's OK, red means add distilled water, and white means charging is necessary.

Check the motor oil

For an accurate reading, check the oil dipstick while the car is turned off and parked on a horizontal plane. If the oil on the dipstick is black or deep red, have the oil changed by a professional or change it yourself if you're feeling confident. To check the oil level, pull the dipstick out and wipe it clean with a rag, then plunge it back into place. Pull the dip stick out again and hold it horizontally for an accurate reading. Be sure the oil on the stick is just under or right at the correct oil-level line or indicator hole; it should never be over. Putting excess strain on your hard-working car by not changing its oil will lead to trouble. An engine repair will have you dipping into your savings and leave you without car for as long as it takes for the proper repairs to be made.

Refill the antifreeze

Antifreeze keeps engine temperatures stable in all climate extremes and driving conditions. Always be sure you have the right level of antifreeze because fooling around with the cooling of your car's complex mechanical parts is an unnecessary risk. Invest a few dollars in a bottle and keep it handy in your trunk.

should be added when the engine is cool. Use a funnel as you would when adding motor oil to avoid splashing this greenish, toxic chemical on other parts of the car.

Align the tires

To receive an accurate assessment of your tire alignment, bring your car to a professional and have it put on a computerized tester. Having this test done every few weeks, however, is not cost-efficient in the least. Instead, test the alignment yourself on a flat street. Drive the speed limit and leave a hand on the wheel for safety, but don't actually steer the car for a few seconds. If the car veers in one direction and you need to manually keep your car driving straight, make an alignment appointment with a mechanic.

Check for optimized tire pressure as well. Thirty-two psi to 36 psi on a gauge is about average for a mid-sized sedan, but check your owners manual. Slightly deflated or unbalanced tires will not only cause shakiness when you drive at highway speeds, but will eventually warp the tires and reduce your gas mileage. Always buy new tires in pairs so you can put the new ones on the front and move the old front ones to the back; this lets you get more use out of them and avoid blowing a bundle on four new tires — unless a professional tells you it's absolutely necessary, of course.

Replace the air filter

The air filter is on the engine air intake and prevents dust and dirt from entering the engine. So, take care of your engine by replacing your air filter when necessary.

Checking the air filter only takes a few minutes. It is usually hidden under a plastic casing under the hood of your car and you have to unsnap the case to switch out the filter. Refer to your operating manual for precise instructions to avoid injury to yourself or harm to your vehicle. As a rule of thumb, make sure your car engine is off before lifting the hood to replace the air filter.

Car care

When it comes time to sell your car or make repairs, having maintained some of these basic areas will really pay off. Negligence is the most common and costly way to see your money go down the drain on repairs that could have easily been avoided.

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GRIPPING REALITY

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI; Cincinnati, OH

It's well passed the time to get real— to grip reality! To simply realize that things, professionally, aren't on a path to getting better. Also to understand that reality does not exist in simple changes in software. We live in a world—construction—of our own choosing, and with good cause. We believe that what we care about doing is valuable and worthwhile. Why else would we engage the drama and trauma of day to day operations? But our vision, perspective and dedication is NOT prevalent and part of the vision of every prospective and indeed every budding and emerging professional. We all are NOT on the same path!

For a minute let us look at reality. Whether in-house or consultant, each of us has a clear view of what the design professions are and are not. We well know what the academia of each is producing and what, indeed, they are not producing. We rail over the fact that we collectively may approach 55 years of age, and hear no footsteps behind us, pushing to take our jobs [in fact, looking back along our career paths, the streets are empty]. Yet day by day we are bedeviled by those who do not know; those who do not know they do not know; and those who know they know everything— and it must be done their way!

The lack of whole profession orientation is both frustrating and most bothersome. More and more the schools crank out design professionals who do not know their own professions in total, and many who really don't care to find out. This is both travesty and tragic— devastating!! Face it, we all will not be around to always save the behinds of these people who are convinced that good, creative, innovative, and flamboyant design is built by the wave of magic wand that produces the project, complete, in a wispy cloud of smoke! Who needs construction knowledge? Who needs to understand detailing? Who needs to know about specs? Who needs to know about contracts; delivery systems; observation; liability; standards of care; ability to decipher good from bad construction? Who? In a scenario similar to a parent telling a child, "This is for your own good", we, each of us, and CSI, need to pick up the opportunity to address our perspective and our product. Whether wholly accepted or not, we need to engage, on creative terms, every school, program, curriculum and

course that will benefit from our message. And that message, oddly enough, smacks of the start of the entire message that desperately needs to be discussed in the schools— understanding with depth what one's profession involves in total. Unpopularity needs to be confronted and while we cannot "push" our way in, we need to create some sort of format to engage the professional students, as early-on as possible and plant the seeds of understanding. Most of those students really need an awakening to everything they may see and work with in their careers, without prejudice toward one aspect or another. Design, for the architects, needs to be translated into real terms, and how creativity simply has to go through a process of commensurate documentation, and then conscientious construction.

A top-level CSI program can and should get to this, as our profession is being dragged down by what is not happening elsewhere. A true service can be rendered to many if for no other reason than to open some eyes and clarify. Obviously we cannot cure all ills, but talking about specs can easily be extrapolated into need for construction knowledge, proper documentation [not addressed academically usually], enforcement and observation and at least a little about practice overall [simply can't get to everything about running a practice, administration etc.]. We need to "reach" so others can "grip the true reality"!

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THE NEXT TASK FORCE

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

Not to distract from the continuing sky-high starbursts of MasterFormat 2004 as it is implemented, but what is the direction or goal for the next Task Force effort?

Certainly if you poll the members they will return a zillion ideas, most of which have validity and present new value to CSI. Does each and every one require or demand a Task Force? Probably not. Maybe that is the next Task Force task— sift, collate, and categorize member input and ideas. Look into and at information about CSI, specifications writing, etc., on and in other sources. Maybe the task is to examine what CSI really needs to do that it is not doing now. You know—what are we doing? What are we doing well [and not so well]? What really needs to be done [outside the box and beyond the horizon we seem to written]? We need to expand???? How [and not laterally, but forward, as in looking to new areas, new efforts and things never attempted.

How can we become better servants to the industry and better providers to all workers in the field in their proper purview and vision? Visionaries? Status quo [why?] Better? New and different ways of doing some things. Just a plain old objective review, in lieu of the too overly cautious, rut-bound tendencies— they're the easiest right???

Maybe it is to create a pattern and matrix for outreach programs, aimed at heretofore [isn't that a great specs word?] unapproached organizations and groups, who are or should be embraced and made part of the CSI interface— other disciplines, students, the public, facility owners and managers, etc.

How about re-energization of slumping chapter programs? Renewal of interest, services to, and new outreach efforts by chapters? New efforts and opportunities garner new faces and greater prestige and regard.

A Task Force could also look into the whole of CSI communications— web site; publications; discussion boards; member oriented news outlets— looking to improve what is in place, and to create new outlets that staff or members have thought about or planned.

Hey, what about a Task Force to overview the whole of the CSI image—to get out of the box, and then look back, from other perspectives to see what others see or don't see, to see where unfair and unjustified distortions may occur; to set new eyes on the where, how and what of CSI.

Basically, this is going back to the CSI FORWARD thing of time back and giving it some ink and push, in what appears to be a time of transition, and a course correction[?]
— a way to bring member input to the fore, not as a coup, but as a valid, important and highly valued source of energy. Also, thought of a TF for exploring new revenue sources.

How about a number of mini-task forces – just 3-5 people – on each of these tasks? because you're right; now that MF04 is done, we need a purpose!

Use skirmish lines or search and review teams since 3-5 people is too small for a task force even a mini one!

Holiday Party 2011

This year's Holiday Party is set to be held at Annie Moore's Restaurant. This year will be a casual gathering and a good time to just relax and meet and greet other members of the Chapter.

If you plan on attending let us know by registering at www.brownpapertickets/events/179842



Metropolitan Chapter CSI Monthly Schedule for FY 2012

September 7, 2011 - Casino Night, Beacon Hotel, 2130 Broadway, NY, NY

September 13 - 16 - CONSTRUCT2011, Chicago, IL

October 12, 2011 - Education Day & Tradeshow, Metropolitan Pavillion, 125 West 18th St, NY, NY

November 9, 2011 - CSI and the Future of the Design/Construction Industry, Hafele Showroom,
25 East 26th Street, NY, NY

December 14, 2011 - Holiday Party, Annie Moore's Restaurant, 50 East 43rd St, NY, NY

January 11, 2011 - Presentations Make a Difference, location TBA

February 8, 2011 - McKim, Mead and White Classical Ideal, Tandus Flooring Showroom,
71 Fifth Avenue, 2nd fl, NY, NY

March 14, 2011 - Social Media for Construction, Steelcase Showroom, 4 Columbus Circle, NY, NY

April 11, 2011 - Building Tour - Location to be announced

May 9, 2011 - Building Tour: High Line Park, Part 2

June 13, 2011 - Annual Meeting and Awards Night, Annie Moore's, 50 East 43rd St, NY, NY

Celebrating sixty year as the worlds first CSI Chapter 1951 - 2011

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