

In the Spotlight



William DuBois, AIA

Bill DuBois joined Gensler in April 2000 with 24 years of experience as a licensed architect, and the last 13 years devoted entirely to preparation of Project Manuals (Specifications). Drawing on his experience as a project architect, Bill advises other project architects in the firm, providing technical services as a specifications consultant. His technical expertise is recognized by the design community,

and the Construction Specifications Institute, which named him Certified Construction Specifier.

Bill is the specifications specialist for the northeastern region of Gensler offices. In his position as chairman of the firm-wide Specifications Task Force he leads the coordination of all Gensler offices production of specifications. He is an active member of the New York office Technical Directors Committee.

Bill is a LEED-Accredited Professional and has led the effort to implement sustainable building materials and methods into Gensler's standard specifications. He has worked on a variety of projects—from commercial and financial to educational and institutional—including LEED-certified projects like the Bank of America Headquarters at One Bryant Park and the Fannie Mae Data Center in Maryland.

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February Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

McKim Mead and White and the Classical Ideal



Location: [Tandus Flooring Showroom](#), 71 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, New York

McKim, Mead & White dominated American

architecture with over one thousand commissions between the establishment of the firm in 1879 and the withdrawal of the last of the founders in 1920. During its most fertile period the work of the office reflected the active collaboration of the three founding partners, Charles Follen McKim, William Rutherford Mead, and Stanford White. As the architects of choice for powerful individuals and emerging institutions, their designs included the Boston Public Library, new campuses for Columbia and New York Universities, the Rhode Island State House and lavish residences for Vanderbilts, Astors, and Whitneys.

Speaker: Samuel G. White FAIA, LEED AP, is the author of *McKim, Mead & White: The Masterworks*; *The Houses of McKim, Mead & White*; and *Stanford White Architect*, (Rizzoli). His most recent book, *Nice House* (Monacelli Press), is a survey of modest, architect-designed houses across the country. Mr. White is a partner of Platt Byard Dovell White, Architects of New York City.

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 8, 2012, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social time. The program will start at 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 includes refreshments and snack food. Please register and pay in advance at

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/179842



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FY 2012**

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President's Message

It was Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

I had been invited to “An Evening with Kevin Roche”, the famous architect, in conversation with Alexandra Lange, Critic and Architectural Historian and Donald Albrecht, Curator of Architecture and Design, Museum of the City of New York. Kevin, will be 90 this year, was brilliant and as usual very charming. He shared moments of his life experiences with his audience. It is amazing what he has accomplished. The room was packed and event was very enjoyable. On the way home, I kept thinking to myself, that I was truly fortunate to be there and had just experienced one of the best evenings in my life. It was great to see so many faces from Metro CSI in the audience.



As I drove home through the vibrant Chelsea neighborhood in New York City, I couldn't help notice the IAC Headquarters, designed by architect Frank Gehry and completed in 2007. It was all lit up with colored LED's. The IAC building is one of my favorite buildings. I was thinking to myself, wouldn't it have been nice to have some of my custom glass products specified in that building when it was built. Several years ago, some materials from manufacturer I represented were showcased in trade magazine. What a great thrill it was to see it on the cover of HOSPITALITY DESIGN magazine.

So it started me thinking: How many other buildings in New York are distinguishable because of their design. When I arrived

Continued on page 4 - J Matles

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Technical	Bill DuBois	(212) 492-1400
Golf Outing	Anthony Drummond	(516) 480-8085

home, I sat down and compiled a list. I'm sure I missed a few. Can you think of any others?

Many on my list were built in the 1900's.

We should all recognize these.

Empire State Building, Chrysler Building, Radio City Music Hall, One World Trade Center, Two World Trade Center, New World Trade Center, American International Building, Trump Building, Citi Group Building, GE Building, Rockefeller Center, Met Life, Woolworth Building, Metropolitan Life Tower, Sony Tower, Waldorf Astoria, Singer Building, UN Headquarters, Seagram Building, Riverside Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Lincoln Center, Dakota Apartments, New Museum of Contemporary Art, Cooper Union, Macy's, Madison Square Garden, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY Stock Exchange, Whitney Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, TWA Building @ JFK, Grand Central Station, Times Building, St. Regis Hotel, Trinity Church, NY Public Library, Hearst Magazine Building, Plaza Hotel Flatiron Building...

Have any of your materials been specified and included in the buildings listed above? Do you have any stories regarding any of the above buildings? Please share your experiences with us.

Jeff_matles@csi-metrony.com

Jeffrey Matles,

President

Metro CSI



NORTHEAST REGION

“NO BOUNDARIES”

Why use “No Boundaries” as this year’s value statement? The Region is required to perform several specific tasks required by institute guidelines, other than that we can mold the region into what we (the chapters) want it to be, we are limited only by our imaginations.

At this past April’s Board meeting the Region Directors had voted to increase spending for increased services such as chapter visitations, electronic communications and leadership training. This is your money and under our new leadership we intend to spend it in ways that will directly benefit and support the chapters.

At the last Region Board meeting a single word which appeared on the list of what the Region needs to improve really struck home with me – ACT. Three simple letters which when implemented can produce great results. I promised the Region Directors I would do this and part of the plan developed by the incoming Executive Committee to provide increased value and service includes:

Communication– We are looking into telecommunication companies such as Webex, Skype & GoToMeeting to set up direct communication with the chapters on a regular basis. The Region will be setting up Linked-in, Facebook & Twitter accounts as additional means of communication. We are developing a Region website presence on the Institute’s microsite.

Networking - It was agreed that the old Region Conference & workshops format were no longer relevant. New ideas for new formats are being explored which will still provide networking and learning opportunities for all members, not just licensed professionals.

Leadership Development – Less workshops on awards, technical, certification, etc. and concentration on true leadership development. The Board approved funding for another Leadership in Action leadership mentoring program through BU’s Arch of Leadership Program. Other leadership workshop ideas are being explored.

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Leadership Lessons from Martin Luther King Jr.

Katie Morell, Contributor, OPEN Forum Contributors

One morning in 1965, Robert Ellis Smith, then-recent Harvard University graduate, received a phone call that would change his life. On the other end was a former fellow student who was starting a newspaper in Montgomery, Ala., strictly dedicated to covering the Civil Rights Movement. The voice on the other line asked Smith, former president of The Harvard Crimson, to lead the project. Without hesitation, he took the job and headed down to the Deep South.

“There wasn’t a lot of newspaper coverage of small communities, so that is where we put our focus,” he says, adding that the newspaper was titled [The Southern Courier](#). “We also wanted to produce a publication that would be read by both blacks and whites, which was a new concept at the time.”

For the next year, he covered the movement and often interviewed the legendary Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition to remembering his lively sense of humor, Smith recalls King’s superior leadership ability—evident in one particular exchange.

“Coming up on December 1965, the 10th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott, I called Dr. King to ask him to write a piece for our publication,” says Smith.

When King turned in the article a few days later, Smith was struck by references to Greek philosophers and became worried that the words would not resonate with King’s largely uneducated audience. Even so, Smith ran King’s piece on the front page and the next day’s paper was a big seller.

Today, Smith lives in Providence, RI, and is founder and publisher of [Privacy Journal](#), a monthly newsletter focused on personal security. As a small business owner himself, he looks back on his time covering the South and gleans leadership lessons from King that he uses in his own business to this day.

Don’t underestimate low-level employees

Just as King didn’t hesitate to quote philosophers in his written pieces, great small business leaders should not underestimate even the lowest level employees in their organizations.

“I was worried about the references, but he assured me that wisdom is present in people even in the most humble circumstances,” remembers Smith. “He taught me never to underestimate anyone below me, that they have wisdom, life experience and are introspective.”

Embrace fear

King didn’t hide his fear. He was scared before every speech and worried that his points wouldn’t be well received or that he would be met with violent protests, says Smith. But instead of hiding, he talked about it and faced his fear head on.

“He used to tell me, ‘If you are not anxious, that means you are not engaged, that you shouldn’t fear fear, you should go with it,’” recalls Smith.

King’s willingness to embrace his fear is a great lesson for small business owners. As Smith says, entrepreneurs may fear competition and new technology in today’s business environment, but instead of shying away it is important to face these obstacles head on and not to be afraid of change.

Encourage ‘creative tension’

Every time King visited a new city to spread his message, community leaders would blame him for disturbing the norm. But to King, that was the point.

“He used to use the word ‘creative tension’ to explain that fairness and change come only when you shake things up,” says Smith.

Today’s small business owners can use this lesson within their own organizations by encouraging new ideas and internal criticism from employees, he notes.

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Continued on page 6 - Leadership

THE PRICE OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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

Everything, and I guess everyone has a price! In life, we come to learn, not so much in those words, but the rough experience that tells us, over and over— to gain something you usually have to give something back or up! That may even apply to those who are independently wealthy, through mere inheritance, but the power and impact comes out more in those that work for their money.

But, strangely enough, we humans are always very reluctant to pay the price. Sometimes we travel miles [using the dearly pricey gasoline of today] to save a nickel on a bunch of carrots! We feel sooo satisfied, never seeming to equate the cost of the gas against the savings of the carrots!

Another of the wonderful old saws is the proverbial, “You’ve got to spent money to make money!” Staying with the gasoline “thing”, don’t you spend the cost of gasoline to get to work to make your weekly money? See! And your pay reflects the cost in human terms!

But you can also “spend” time, brain-power, skill, talent, information, ingenuity, and in many instances what you spend is shared but never really leaves you— you just sort of peel off a copy for others, and keep the resource as yours. And there are, of course, the other times!

The “other times” are those where you must literally spend [and perhaps never see again] some of your financial resources. College tuition could fall into this category, until you see your youngsters graduate and find success— but your money spent, there, comes back as pride, satisfaction, love, and a really good feeling [none of which jingles in your pocket as new cash on hand. This can even be tuition, etc. spent on yourself!

In industry and commerce, spending to make money, is somewhat different. Here, as investments, there are R&D efforts that flop; product creations that fall short; the cost of testing and meeting regulations; loss due to not being to market first; plants built but never occupied; and ideas [even from high corporate mines] that never pan out. Money lost? In a way, knowledge is gained [small comfort] but usually some lesson is taken away and impacts some other similar situation [to its good!].

Venturing forth into unknown or untried endeavors also extracts a risk of money lost [to at least some degree]. But with decent forethought, development, preparation and planning [also a cost] the ability to enhance one’s impact, influence and success is the due reward. When there is expertise and knowledge available and left unused, nothing is gained; nothing is made better. Benign neglect is the product that accrues.

At times venturing out or “reaching out” to perceived success in a new area or effort is beneficial to the standing entity and both enriches and enlivens the organization—

and its membership [often drawing participation out of more and different members]. New products are a constant—always! Something new invented or evolved! But most of the time this involves spending money to make money; the alternative is to grow stale, reclusive, bogged-down and slowly approaching loss of value, credence, influence and membership [in general called, “failure”].

Whether product, system, material, new techniques or revised procedures, some block of instruction is required. Education is a continual process! That is rather well known and fact [necessity?], but when that education starts has become an issue. Why? Knowing new things does not necessarily negate or override the older information. In fact the first and elementary education is what forms good working habits, depth of knowledge, flexibility in application and well-founded choices and decisions.

Simplistically, we don’t start reading a book in the middle—rather we work through the beginning which is almost without exception the background, setting and character development for the rest of the information. In some cases this is chronological, but nonetheless has a scheme involved—progression of adding fact on fact. This leads directly to planning— both long- and short range , and the introduction of new and added programs. Not every program need be pursued at the same rate for all time; many can and are perpetuated simply by their success. But things and times changes. It is here where we must react, and act in accord with obvious new situations, work programs, and level of education.

The risk of failure exists, and must be addressed. So new programs as we all know, need to start small, with growing vision which can modify them as needed in the future. They will need nurturing and perhaps modification. BUT, the new programs must get started!!! If well directed and supported in the beginning and with appropriate on-going care, the difference[s] will come!



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Involve all levels of the Organization in Company planning

Know the 'why'

Over in Washington, D.C., Daron Pressley may not have known King personally, but as a small business owner, he looks to the Civil Rights icon as a beacon of inspiration in his company.

"I think Dr. King's biggest leadership lesson that translates to my business is to make sure my team knows why we do what we do," says Pressley, founder of [The Premier Athlete](#), a student athlete development company. "It isn't just to make a profit, it is knowing your purpose, cause and belief."

Instead of giving an 'I Have a Plan' speech, King gave his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech, says Pressley. He recommends small business owners use this fact to talk to employees about what they believe, the real reason for starting their business and whom the business is helping. By doing this, entrepreneurs can inspire those around them, just like King did.

Involve everyone

King inspired community involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, and it worked partly because people wanted to be part of something bigger than themselves, notes Don Phillips, author of [Martin Luther King, Jr., on Leadership: Inspiration and Wisdom for Challenging Times](#).

"In a small business, people really perform when they feel like they are part of something special," he says. "King used to say 'people derive inspiration from involvement,' so the lesson is to get your people involved."

Phillips says small business owners can utilize King's words by involving all levels of the organization in company goal planning. You never know what great ideas will surface.

Chapter Support – Chapter visitations are required to be made by the Region President and Vice President to all the chapters over a two year period and we will be taking this responsibility seriously. We will use these visitations to listen, learn and share best practices. We will explore how the Region may be able to help struggling chapters.

Miracles happen overnight, serious change does not. The new Board will be working very hard throughout the year on the goals stated above and improve service to the Chapters. So I am now issuing a challenge to all of you – the next time you have an idea, concern or other, don't sit back and complain about it – do something about it –

ACT and help out on a Region Committee or Task Team.

Looking forward to working with/for you.

Kenneth R. Gehringer, AIA, CSI, CCCA

Northeast Region President

New Members

for December

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Ray Coulombe
Mark Knapp

John Lesko
Hannah Sebastian De Mayta
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Expand Your Construction Knowledge at the CSI Academies

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[The Westin San Diego](#)

“The CSI Academies were outstanding - I learned from the experts in the front of the room and the ones sitting next to me.” Ann Baker, RA, CSI, CCS, CCCA

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www.csinet.org/Academies

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

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