

In the Spotlight

This month we feature Bob Crane, CSI, CDT



Bob Crane has been active in the New York architectural community for over 35 years. He recently retired from ATAS International, the country's premier manufacturer of metal roof, wall panels, and accessories based in Allentown, PA. Bob is also a veteran of the Vietnam War with the U.S. Navy and was a Scoutmaster for 19 years with the Boy Scouts of America.

Prior to joining ATAS, Bob was the National Sales Manager for Kane Security Screens. He currently sits on the board of the Metro New York CSI chapter and is also the Program Chairman. This year the chapter made a bold move to schedule the monthly Chapter meetings in various product showrooms in New York City. He is very excited that the Chapter will be hosting a "CSI Social Media Workshop" on March 14, conducted by Joy Davis, the "Voice" of CSI National. Bob is a highly-connected guy, and he wants everyone in our industry to see and experience what is available in the way of getting your "brand" out there.

So what does Bob do, now that he is retired? Let's see... he builds and flies radio-control sailplanes, shoots traditional archery, gardens, photographs (mostly flowers, butterflies,

Continued on page 3 - Bob Crane

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March Chapter Meeting Wednesday, March 14, 2012



Social Media for Construction Professionals

Joint Meeting with the Door and Hardware Institute

Wednesday, March 14,
2012 Location: [Steelcase Showroom](#), 4
Columbus Circle (corner of 58th
Street and 8th Avenue), New York, New
York

Whether you're considering a blog, a Facebook page, a Twitter feed, a LinkedIn profile or another social networking option, if you're "experienced" in the real world, you have something to offer in cyberspace—and social media has something to offer you in return. It doesn't matter if you're a one-man shop, or one-of-many in a firm. You can build credibility, demonstrate your expertise, and expand your network through the web.

A decent web-presence can be as valuable to you as a well-written resume or a colorful brochure about your company. This presentation focuses on understanding what social media is and how it works, so that you can approach any social media platform with confidence.

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/179842



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FY 2012**

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President's Message

WHAT IF?

How many times have I heard people say, "I should have gone to school to finish this or that or get an education". I say it is never too late. Are you willing to learn something new? It's hard to be perfect, but easy to be honest. I have, after many years in the construction industry, decided to take CDT (Certified Construction Document) classes to have better understanding of the built environment. There is a certain comfort level knowing that the individual you are dealing with and discussing details of their project has been certified.



CSI's CDT program has provided foundation training in construction documentation for architects, contractors, contract administrators, specifiers, and manufacturers' representatives for decades. As the cornerstone of CSI's certification program, it's also prerequisite to CSI's advanced certification exams: Certified Construction Specifier (CCS), Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA), or Certified Construction Product Representative (CCPR) certification.

What if the construction industry had no rules? What if there were no specification writers? Would buildings still get built? Yes. Would they get built safely and of high quality? Isn't it better to have an organization committed to the management of the built environment? CSI's (Construction Specification Institute's) mission is to advance building information management and education to project teams to improve facility performance.

Continued on page 4 - J Matles

Committee Chairs 2011 - 2012

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Environment	Susan Kaplan	(212) 353-4686
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Public Relations	Angela Centanni	(732) 796-3037
Technical	Bill DuBois	(212) 492-1400
Golf Outing	Anthony Drummond	(516) 480-8085

What are the CSI Rules? Connect with CSI www.csinet.org, to stay informed, find out about our organization and make some rules. Don't sit on the "sidelines" and watch the world go by. If you are procrastinating or undecided, there is still time to sign up to enroll for the certification.

Become pro-active and check out the national CSI web site.

Jeffrey Matles

President, Metro New York CSI
www.metronewyorkcsi.org

Bob Crane -Continued from page 1

Retired but still staying involved

and landscapes), handcrafts wooden jigsaw puzzles, and is the personal chef, driver, and bodyguard for his 91-year-old mother!

Bob is currently designing and building an 18 inch model carousel, based on Jane's Carousel housed in a new Jean Nouvell pavilion in Brooklyn Bridge Park. All of the carousel pieces—including the horses, interior panels, floor, and roof panels—will be puzzle pieces, essentially a three-dimensional puzzle. Hafele America has graciously donated the micro track lighting for the carousel. The carousel will be on display in the Hafele showroom and there is an architectural program scheduled for October 25 at the showroom. Jane Walentas of Jane's Carousel will be speaking about the restoration of the 1922 carousel and Bob will present his puzzle carousel and discuss its design and construction.

Learn how to join the cyber-conversation other construction professionals are having. You can create a web-version of you they'll want to talk to!

Speaker: Joy Davis, CSI, CCPR, is CSI's Communications & Web Community Manager. Described as the "publisher" of CSI's national web presence, she is responsible for what appears on all of CSI's websites, and also manages CSI's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) profiles. She is passionate about helping the construction community use social media and the web to improve construction communication.

Davis was a newspaper reporter and editor before joining CSI's staff in 2002. She led the redevelopment of [CSINet](#), and also supports CSI's chapter microsite community. Davis says CSI is building a web presence that capitalizes on what CSI members do best: network, teach, and lead the industry in construction documentation and communication. You can connect with Joy at www.facebook.com/CSIJoy or www.linkedin.com/in/joysdavis, or just email her at jdavis@csinet.org.

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 14, 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

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/179842



<p>ASSA ABLOY</p> <p><i>The global leader in door opening solutions</i></p>	<p><i>Scott J. Tobias, AHC, CDT, CSI, LEED AP</i> Director of Architectural Development</p> <p>Tel: 845-427-0853 * Cell: 854-742-4827 * Email: stobias@assaabloydss.com Visit us at www.assaabloydss.com</p>			
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Myths About Specifications

This is the first in a series of articles by Linton Stables, Senior Associate and Chief of Specifications at Perkins Eastman Architects. These articles, which were first published on the Perkins Eastman intranet, explore several issues that specifiers face in doing their work.

Myth Number 1: Contractors Don't Read the Specifications. What People Say: "Everyone knows that contractors don't read the specs." Behind the Myth: It is a long-standing semi-serious joke in the industry that contractors do not pay any attention to the specifications. Architects sometimes contribute to this perception by treating the specifications as an adjunct or afterthought to the rest of the contract documents. Partly through unfamiliarity and partly due to a lack of time, architects in the office and in the field do not consult the specifications until there is a problem and they are seeking the solution in that document.

The Truth: Contractors do, in fact, look at the specifications. There is no way to bid a job by only referring to the drawings. Job superintendents may sometimes not pay as

close attention to the specifications as they should, though experienced superintendents do. Some contractors may also look at the specifications for the sole purpose of finding possibilities for change orders.

Facing the Truth: Architects need to know their specifications at least as well as the contractors. In addition, it is important to enforce the specifications on all items all the time. The use of specifications only when there is a problem fosters the impression that they are not otherwise important, and would allow an argument (in court) of selective enforcement.

- Many firms have embarked on programs to standardize their specifications across all practice areas and throughout the geographic reach of their work. This helps the architects in the field (construction contract administrators) by making it easy, once one learns the system, to find every requirement of the contract.
- As construction contract administrators become familiar with their specifications they will also be able to know almost immediately when a field condition is or isn't in compliance with the contract.
- As contractors do repeat work with an architectural firm they will gain an understanding of how seriously the firm takes ALL of the contract documents,

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LIKE IT IS/WAS

By S. Steve Blumenthal, FCSI

Since the Chapter celebrated its' 60th anniversary, Russ asked if I would write something about the 30 year plus Chapter members. With that in mind, who are they and when did they join? Do they attend meetings and stay in touch? Starting with the year they joined they are:

Justin Henshall, FAIA, FASTM November 1953
Chapter President, Authored Technical Papers

Herbert Pendelton, Jr., FCSI June 1955 Chapter
and Institute Treasurer

William Duer October 1959 Member Chapter
Board

Armand Lerner February 1962 Member Chapter
Board and Technical Committee

Viben Ericson March 1962 Member Chapter Board
and Meeting Greeter

Donald Van Court May 1963 Chapter President and
Institute EDCOM

Nehama Courland June 1964 Member Chapter
Committees

Steven Falk August 1964 Member Chapter
Technical Committee

Will Turner July 1966 Member Chapter Board, and
Committees and Greeter

Edward Kuntz December 1966 Member Chapter
Board

S. Steve Blumenthal March 1967 Chapter VP,
Institute President and Treasurer

Micheal Greenberg April 1967 Chapter President
and Technical Committee

Robert Schwartz October 1969 Chapter President
and Special Technical Committee

Raymond Searby April 1970 Chapter President.
Institute International Committee

Bernard Vernon August 1970 Chapter President

Carl Grimm February 1974 Chapter President,
various Committees and Greeter

George Rosamond August 1979 Chapter
Committees

(This list furnished by the Institute October 2011)

Justin Henshall, FAIA, FASTM: who is a friend was called "Teek" had a major influence in the direction of the Chapter in its earlier days. As Chapter President he had to maintain logic and acceptability. CSI was the "what's that organization" and considered competition. He made presentations to anyone who would listen. With his colleagues the Chapter was steered on the right course and envied throughout the Institute. His dedication to CSI and the Chapter in particular is as strong today as it was when he was President. In 2008 the Chapter honored him for fifty years of continuous membership. Aside from Fellowships, Justin has awards from throughout the nation. He has written numerous articles and published papers. Colleagues and manufacturers seek after his expertise. He still maintains contact by phone and email with several members. Teek planned on coming to the anniversary meeting but was in Canada and unable to get home in time.

Carl Grimm: who as in the past was always there and, again illustrated this in June. Carl saw Will Turner at the door of the June meeting and never left his side. He introduced him to colleagues and made Will comfortable. He went out of his way to have Will mingle as "one of the guys". When the meeting ended Carl made sure, Will who lives on the upper West side, got home and told him if he wanted to come to another meeting to give him a call. Carl served the Chapter in numerous jobs, perhaps the most important being Chapter President. During his term there were major Institute items assigned to the Chapter that had to be completed or just started. Carl appointed members and the task was properly addressed. Carl Grimm made sure every new member was introduced and put on a committee. Without question he set the pace to where we are today and still practices what he preached.

More next month...



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Get Yourself Certified!

Free classes offered to help you pass the CDT exam

The CSI Metropolitan New York Chapter is sponsoring a NO COST review course for CDT candidates during the months of February and March at the [Häfele Showroom](#), 25 East 26th Street at Madison Avenue. This review course is every Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm starting February 7th and ending on March 27th. If you are interested in attending this course please [sign up via email](#). The first class has already happened but you can still join, and our instructor and Certification Chair Luís Rosario-Lliveras, CSI, CDT, will help you catch up. The next class is Tuesday, February 14.

What does it mean to be certified? The [Construction Documents Technologist \(CDT\)](#) certification offered by CSI is the only certificate program that concentrates on the actual process and documentation that are used to get a construction project built. You will learn about contracting, general conditions, and how drawings and specifications work together to convey design intent to a builder.

Are you still undecided about getting certified? Take a look at this [recent cartoon](#) and then think about it! But don't think too long... The CSI certification exams will be offered from April 2 to April 28, 2012. You can register for them at the [CSI website](#).

New Members

for January 2012

Paul Ostrowski
Amy Rosen

FORE Warned

Remember the hot steamy days of summer, hoping the rain would pass us by
Back when Les would be barking out the instructions for play to anyone that would listen?



Poor Bill Dubois, forget looking for his ball...where are the golf clubs? Nice legs, Bill.



You have been warned.

The Chapter has started setting up for this years golf outing in July. Is there anybody out there that would like to get involved on this fun committee? More hands less work and it's for a good cause, the Fryburgh Scholarship Fund.

So, if you want to get involved give Anthony Drummond or Bob Craner a call today.
Anthony Drummond - 516-480-8085
Bob Crane - 484-225-6720

If not, set some time aside around July 10th or 11th to participate in this years outing.
YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

FACT

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

Take the computer out of the equation, for a moment. Did [or can] architecture and building construction exist without the computer?].
But if there is no computer, et. al., what is left?
And then, take knowledge of construction methods and materials, and suitable depiction/documentation of required project work away, and what have you got? Well, what?

To follow the traditional AIA list of project phases [chart below], it is easily seen that several distinct block of time, and effort are required; and within each is the knowledge skill, and talent of creating a design concept, documenting it and executing it.

- 1 Project Programming
- 2 Schematic [Preliminary] Design;
Presentation Level Dwgs
- 3 Design Development
- 4 Production of Contract Documents;
Working Dwgs Specifications
- 5 Bidding and Contract Award
- 6 Construction of Project Work

Phases 1 and 2 are the areas of instruction in most architecture school curricula. These, of course, terminate in a design concept and the traditional rendering [in college work] and may appear in any of numerous formats [electronic, manual, varied media, etc.] The design itself is highly generalized, incomplete and exists at a stage where detailed work, depth of construction knowledge [methods and materials] are required. But the instruction stops and no further development of the concept is required. [There is little if any instruction in Phases 3, 4 and 5; no participation in Phase 6].

At this point, it is necessary to “dissect” [develop a series of mental pictures of how the building parts to be built and interconnected] the project by developing documentation of various parts

and constructions. Here the construction knowledge and adaptive application come in to play. Detailing is required to piece the construction together on the working drawings [again in any of many formats despite current appearances and high use of computerization]. The student/graduate/intern then is required to draw upon their knowledge of methods and materials and apply and incorporate them [in revised form] to the project at hand. With no instruction in these areas, there are scant resources to draw upon and hence the young professional comes to frustrating impasse.
FACT: This is the state of affairs right now [as you well know].

As attrition eats away at office staffs, the current graduate/interns [and the students] will be in position to run the office and attempt to do the necessary work— and there is a good chance they will be inadequate to the need. Then what? With no meaningful background, knowledge, instruction, explanation and experience to call upon, the deliverables will be toxic and highly risky to the continued existence of the office. With the resulting questionable documentation, and more and more architects and owners opting out of on-site activity by the architects, the situation is of the life of the profession and the state of construction becomes an issue of grave concern— to both professionals, their younger staffers, students as the future professionals and, yes, the Owners [the value they receive for money-spent].

Remedies? Yes, there are some if the numerous “interested” parties will come to grips with reality by giving more attention to the practical and less to presentations and dreamy drawings.

Is CSI included n all this? Absolutely!! The background and experience of every member [including product representatives and their construction information] is invaluable and should be made available. The knowledge and expertise, to say nothing of the programs and documents available [on drawings in addition to the trove of specifications information] are immeasurable, AND there is a vital need for an expanded role for CSI, early-on, in the fundamentals of all documentation.

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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