



Knowledge for Creating and Sustaining the Built Environment

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Portland Chapter - The Construction Specifications Institute

C.S.I. Portland Chapter
Phone: (503) 805-2500
Fax: (503) 214-8142
P.O. Box 5116
Salem OR 97304

E-Mail: jane@portlandcsi.org

Web site Portland Chapter: www.portlandcsi.org

Web site Institute: www.csinet.org

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How Do You Define "Green"?
Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Over the last decade, a great deal of discussion and debate has ensued over what makes a building material "green." Increasingly owners, designers, and contractors alike are seeking assurance that the materials they use in buildings are good for our health and good for the environment.



The Pharos Project aims to put the control back in the hands of consumers, and the building industry at large; mapping a "360 degree View" of green material attributes, putting those claims in context, and testing them against verifiable data and community consensus of ideal goals.

The Pharos Project seeks to define a consumer-driven vision of truly green building materials and establish a method for material evaluation that is in harmony with principles of environmental health and justice. The Project's foundation is a partnership, pairing those who use building materials with those who study the products' impacts on health and the environment.

Our presenter will be Eden Brukman, the Research Director for Cascadia Region Green Building Council. She will present an overview of the Pharos project, its operating principles, and framework - the performance metrics by which building products are evaluated.

Before the meeting you may want to visit www.pharosproject.net for more information.

Governor Hotel Princeton Ballroom
614 SW 11th Avenue
\$40.00 per person

Sponsor a table for 8 for just \$310.00

5:30 PM Meet Your Colleagues 6:30 PM Dinner, Catered by Jake's

Register at www.portlandcsi.org

Questions: Jane Phifer, 503-805-2500, jane@portlandcsi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Russ Pitkin, CSI, AIA



September 27-29 was the date of the NW Region Conference hosted by the Puget Sound Chapter, in Seattle, at the Mayflower Park Hotel. Most all of the region chapters were represented at this event and our Institute Executive Director and CEO Walter Marlowe and our Institute President – Elect, Mike Davis were also present.

Walter Marlowe presented a comprehensive long range plan that covered all aspects of what CSI is about and where it is heading. The Institute will be concentrating efforts to expand CSI visibility, and to promote CSI as an established leader, which it is, in the education and certification of construction industry skills and in the standards that govern our work. The Institute is working with a number of different entities, including government and private sector leaders to gain recognition for the importance of and value of CSI Certifications.

One of the keys to gaining industry wide exposure is increased membership. A three percent across the board goal for membership growth was set for this year. That means that the Portland Chapter needs to increase our membership by ten additional members over the base line. This is a net increase so that means we cannot lose any members or we will have to also increase our membership by the number who do not renew.

Increasing membership from the industry is an important element in gaining depth to our diversity and it should include young professionals who are just starting their careers in our chapter. One of the biggest challenges with this sector is monetary resources. Often those who have not established themselves find it difficult to attend chapter dinners, region and national events due to monetary constraints. Employers are reluctant to pay for these individuals' attendance for a couple of reasons. They do not know if the individual's attendance is worth their investment or they do not see the value of CSI and its programs. The latter would be our responsibility to show why CSI certification is important to employers and the Institute's efforts should help in this arena.

Another membership group to invest additional time developing and nurturing is students who are interested in our industry. This sector definitely is monetarily challenged but clearly is the future for CSI. Reaching out to those who have a definite career path in the construction industry simply makes sense from both an educational and growth perspective.

The secret to getting a successful student program developed is a dedicated faculty advocate who has been shown the importance of CSI certification and will then aide in getting students interested in the certifications from a purely career enhancement stand point. The Education Committee, chaired by Steve Gray is currently working on establishing and developing these relationships. The Education Committee can always use a little more help and Steve's contact information is on the Contacts page of this newsletter.

Speaking of membership, prior to our last monthly chapter meeting, our chapter board of directors and committee chairs provided a proper welcome into our chapter for some of our new members, and those who have rejoined us after a time. The information presented to them, on benefits of membership and being active in our chapter was enlightening, and resulted in a good number signing up for committees.

As we get settled in for fall after a very productive summer, I am reminded of the great programs we have coming up at our monthly chapter meetings and soon after the first of the year, the CSI CDT preparation classes will be taught. We can always use additional instructors to teach what they have already learned through their own certification and years of experience. Part of the joy of having knowledge is being able to share it with others who are just starting out in their careers. It requires only one evening and is so rewarding for all who participate. Michael Madias is chair of the Certification Committee and he would welcome any new instructors. His contact information can also be found on the Contacts page of this newsletter.

We are always please to receive an article from our members who have new and innovative products, or have new approaches or solutions to age old problems that we face every day in the construction industry. We welcome you to share your expertise with other members. Article deadlines are the second Tuesday of the month; the same day as our monthly chapter meetings.

In closing, I have a thought to share for all to ponder. I want to remind all our members that we are the second largest chapter in the Institute and as such, we have a very diverse and rich accumulative wealth of knowledge that covers all the areas of construction. What a resource we are for each other. We are a treasure trove of information that becomes even more valuable when it is shared with others because then it grows and continues to grow. We are all part of a living and growing impact on our construction industry.

PERKY'S NOTES

By: Perky Kilbourn, CSI



The October meeting of Portland Chapter of CSI was entitled "Recycle to Full-Cycle". This fits in with "Perky's Notes - Thoughts on Education" and the concept of - No child left behind - Should children memorize facts in order to pass tests or learn how to think so that they will become creative?

The Down to Business column by Rob Preston "Your Views On Education: It's Everyone's Business" from the September 1, 2008 issue of *Information Week* was of interest. He quotes a former high school English teacher who urges teachers to cultivate independent thinking and analysis rather than rote feedback.

The students who were considered the most successful were those who could find clever ways to spit back to the teacher exactly what the teacher's views were. When I taught I tried to reward students who could come up with their own thoughts and analysis. One of the surprising things I found was that the students who did well in most classes really struggled in mine because they weren't used to having to operate independent of what I thought and the students who did well in my class were the ones who were struggling in the most traditional classes.

Education means different things to different people.

To the administrators and teachers who want something to prove that their students are learning then high test scores are a demonstration of successful education.

To the employers and teachers, (who want students to learn to be creative and have new ideas rather than high test scores) the students may not demonstrate successful education. Sometimes the student who fails a test because they approached the problems in a way the teacher hadn't considered is more creative. In mathematics and science classes it often doesn't matter how you solve a problem as long as you get the "correct" answer. Sometimes solving a problem in a unique way is called "Thinking outside the box" - the result is innovation. Recycling is a problem which often is solved by "thinking outside the box." - The person may be asked to figure out a unique way to use something that under many circumstances would be thrown away.

The Thursday, August 28, 2008 issue of *The Oregonian* pages 10 and 11 *InPortland* had a discussion of a model high school. This high school would have:

1. Career Education - encourage students interested in becoming fire fighters, nurses, chefs, etc.
2. Rigorous Courses - for those students interested in going on to college.
3. Technology - phone systems, laptops, data projections etc.
4. Sustainability - schools should follow environmentally friendly practices.
5. Increased Diversity - There should be racial, economic and language diversity.
6. Shared Spaces - school should interact with their communities - tutoring and mentoring students in the school as well as having students working in the communities. Similarly the communities could use the school facilities for community activities.

Number 4 in the above list is what we learned about at the October Portland Chapter CSI Meeting. Having schools follow environmentally friendly practices and encourage sustainability through creative recycling and full cycling is a good idea. If individuals start recycling as students they may continue in later life even though not supervised by parents or teachers. A supervisor may not be required in order to get students to recycle.

MY EXPERIENCE IN ATTENDING THE NATIONAL CSI CONVENTION

By: Robin Forrer, Student Member (continued)

The third Thursday session, Green Project Feasibility, Design and Construction in the Southwestern US, with Brad Miller LEED AP, CDT, Environmental Concepts Company, Mission Viejo, CA, was extremely helpful in understanding what exactly is required to attain a LEED standard for a project.

Going through the explanations of what is LEED, it's not:

Leading us to another Environmental mandate during an Economic Downturn?

Less Energy Efficient Design?

League of the Energy & Environmental Despots?

Laborious Effort with Endless Disorder?

But as we know, in truth, it is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

This was great! Discussion was around the fact that US energy consumption includes 39% Building, 32% Transportation, and 29% Industry. As we know, LEED must meet 9 prerequisites in various categories. Each **category** contains **credits** that contain a specific number of compliance **points** that get to specific **rating** thresholds, Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. The number of credits and associated points differ depending upon the rating system being applied: LEED NC (New Construction), LEED CI (Commercial Interior), LEED EB (Existing Building), LEED CS (Core Shell), LEED for Homes, LEED for Retail, LEED for Schools, etc.

A summary of the rating system can be downloaded from the <http://www.usgbc.org> website. Mr. Miller elaborated on each of the eight sections and what were a few of the prerequisites, total credits achievable, what was important, and what was more or less left to another section that you could earn the points easier and more efficiently. Materials chosen for the project are part of this, but not entirely as some may think.

The various ways to make a successful LEED project takes a team of educated and committed professionals involved in the project to work together in achieving the same goals. Without this, a project just cannot achieve a high LEED rating. It obviously takes a lot of work, but in the end, the satisfaction, honor, and achievement is very rewarding and helpful to our future existence.

Finally, I would like to discuss the Honors and Awards Gala I attended at the end of this Convention. It was held in the same room that the General Session had been held. The speakers were very funny, but serious when the awards for high achievements were handed out. Seeing these individuals being awarded for distinguished and honorable accomplishments was truly enlightening. Knowing that I belong to such an incredible organization, even at my Student Level of membership, is truly rewarding.

The new President-elect address from Gilman K. M. Hu, FCSI was very humble in its delivery. He commented on the industry and this association and its changes. He expressed his desire to ask the local chapter levels to bring new memberships in. With the industry changing so much, the need for new members would help our industry stay strong. CSI is such a large part of the construction industry and will remain so by keeping the new membership alive and thriving and CSI alive.

I left the evenings events feeling a great pride in belonging to, and sharing with my fellow members being a part of such a great organization. My total experience attending this event was very rewarding for both my educational and professional affiliations. I am very proud to be a part of CSI.

SPRING 2009 CERTIFICATION CLASS

By: Michael Madias, CSI, CCS

Registration is now open for all four exams --- CDT, CCS, CCCA, CCPR. All exams will be computer-based at Prometric test centers. Please note that passing the CDT exam is a prerequisite for taking the other exams. Save money by registering before January 30, 2009. Go to www.csinet.org for more details.

So why should you consider taking one of the certification exams? Depending on the exam, you can:

- Demonstrate your knowledge of the construction process, contractual relationships, and the organization of construction documents
- Learn the principles of specification writing
- Administer construction contracts
- Represent construction products with confidence and credibility

Getting certified will differentiate yourself and your firm from others by recognizing your achievements. Certification establishes professional credentials, earns industry recognition, and improves communication among project team members. CSI's CDT certificate and advanced certifications --- CCS, CCCA, CCPR --- are recognized throughout the industry as evidence of a proven level of education, knowledge, and experience in construction documents. These credentials demonstrate professional commitment, credibility, and reliability to employers, colleagues, and clients. These exams are for anyone who uses or wants to better understand construction documents.

To help you pass the exams, we have a team of excellent instructors and study classes organized and ready to begin February 5, 2009. Refer to the class schedule on page 6.

If you have any questions at all, please contact me at mike@beautifulbuildings.com or at 503-224-6767

SPEAK TO PERSUADE - SMPS SEMINAR

Your expertise alone might not be enough to be heard these days. We live in a society that has "heard it all before," and it is a challenge to stand out. Effective presentations make the difference. Be effective and memorable with tips on presenting your ideas. Join SMPS on November 13th as we welcome Vanna Novak, renowned expert on public speaking and presentations. **Vanna Novak** is a 20-year trainer and consultant, a recognized expert on developing and delivering presentations designed to influence the thinking and decisions of audiences or groups of listeners, and motivate them to take specific, desired action. Vanna will give us tips from her Speak to Persuade™ program on how to:

- Be more than informative – be persuasive.
- Motivate your audience to take specific, desired action.
- Establish credibility, project confidence.

It's all about knowing what it takes to create a genuine relationship of trust with your audiences, then maximizing the potency and affect of your message through the right balance of content and effective use of persuasive structure and language.

Date: Thursday, November 13th, 2008

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: Governor Hotel
614 SW 11th Ave, Portland

Early Bird Cost: Member: \$75 / Member Firm: \$85 / Non-members: \$90

Prices increase by \$10 on November 6th!

SPRING 2009 CERTIFICATION STUDY GROUP SCHEDULE

By: Michael Madias, CSI, CCS

Date	Subject	Instructor
Jan 26	Instructors only, presentation coordination	All
Feb 5	Group Introduction, Test & Registration Info Unit 1, Introduction & Unit 2, Project Conception	Fred Herbold Jody Moore
Feb 12	Unit 3, Project Delivery	Rick Heiserman
Feb 19	Unit 4, Design & Unit 5A through 5E, Construction Documents	Russ Pitkin
Feb 26	Unit 5F through 5K, Construction Documents	Dennet Latham
Mar 5	Unit 7, Construction & AIA 201	Jody Moore Rick Heiserman
Mar 12	Unit 5L through 5N, Construction Documents & Unit 6, Bidding, Negotiating, Purchasing	Skip Brown
Mar 19	Unit 8, Facility Management, Submittals	Fred Herbold
Mar 26	Review/Make-up if needed	All
Mar 30 - April 4	National Exam administered at Prometric Test Centers	

Classes/Location:

Thursdays, 6 pm to 8 pm, at the offices of Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects, 6720 SW Macadam, Portland. 503-245-7100. Free on-site parking is available. (Note: instructors-only class is on a Monday)

National CSI Exam Dates and Location:

The CDT, CCS, CCCA, and CCPR exams will be given during the week of March 30 – April 4, 2009, at Prometric testing sites in the area. Exams are computer-based and candidates will receive their scores within minutes of completing the exam.

THE CONTACTS

PORTLAND OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President

Russ Pitkin, CSI, AIA.....503-952-1563
Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects

President Elect

Kaye Kloster, CSI.....503-227-3424
Ford Graphics

Immediate Past President

Doug Allen, CSI, CDT360-921-5583
ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions Pacific NW

Secretary

Erica Bitterman-Ryon, CSI.....360-567-2910
Precision Images

Treasurer

Fred Herbold, CSI, CCS..... 971-998-1459
Mulvanny G2

Executive Director

Jane Phifer, CSI.....503-805-2500
CSI Office - P.O. Box 5116, Salem, OR 97304

Director, Professional

Corey Morris, CSI,503-224-4848
Clark/Kjos

Director, Professional

Skip Brown, CSI, CCS, AIA.....503-345-4546
Harris Group Inc.

Director, Industry

Bud Henson, CSI,360-600-0804
Window Tech

Directory, Industry

Christine Irwin, CSI, CDT.....503-635-6227
Weller Associates

Director, Professional

Michael Madias, CSI, CCS..... 503-224-6767
DiBenedetto/Thomson/Livingstone

Director, Industry

Steven Gray, CSI, CDT503-233-6016
Rodda Paint

COMMITTEE LEADERS

Awards

Christine Irwin, CSI, CDT..... 503-635-6227

Certification

Michael Madias, CSI, CCS..... 503-224-6767

Editor

Jane Phifer, CSI.....503-805-2500

Education

Steven Gray, CSI, CDT.....503-233-6016

Continuing Education

Skip Brown, CSI, CCS, AIA.....503-345-4546

Golf Tournament

Erica Bitterman- Ryon, CSI..... 360-567-2910

Library

Perky Kilbourn, PhD, CSI.....503-244-1778

Membership - Co-Chairs

Lee Kilbourn, FCSI, CCS, FAIA.....503-417-4400
Pat Murphy, CSI, CDT.....503-240-3955

Orientation

Jane Phifer, CSI503-805-2500

Programs

Kaye Kloster, CSI503-227-3424

Publicity

Jane Phifer, CSI.....503-805-2500

Specifiers Share Group & Technical

Fred Herbold, CSI, CCS.....971-998-1459
Co-chair vacant

Student Affiliate

Rudy Barton.....503-725-3339

Webmaster

Corey Morris, CSI503-224-4848

Portland Website
www.portlandcsi.org

INSTITUTE DIRECTORS

2007-2009

Loren Berry, CSI, CDT, AIA

Berry Architects, PC
Ph: 541-485-3402 Fax: 541-485-3402
Email: lberry@berryarch.com
460 E 2nd Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

2007-2010

Bob Simmons, BS, CSI, CCPR

RW Simmons & Associates
Ph: 253-946-2436
arobertwsimmons@cs.com
1315 S. 289th Place
Federal Way, WA 98003

Region Website
www.csinwr.org

REGION COMMITTEES

Academic Liaison

Kit Burns, CSI, CCS, CCCA.....253-627-5599

Awards

Thomas Carberry, CSI, CDT.....907-227-1598

Certification

John Jeffcott, CSI, CDT, AIA.....206-890-4189

Education

Steve Gunn, CSI, CDT541-686-2031

Electronic Communications

Rand New, CSI, CDT.....541-688-5594

Membership

Jan O'Brien, CSI406-245-6363

Planning

Jerry Litwin, CSI,253-584-5207

Publications

vacant

Technical

vacant

Treasurer & Secretary

Marc Chavez, RA,CSI, CCS206-521-3492

NORTHWEST REGION CHAPTER MEETINGS

Cook Inlet, Anchorage, AK (Third Tuesday)

Mark Hughes, CSI.....907-267-5163

Puget Sound, Seattle, WA (Second Thursday)

Andrew Estep, CSI.....206-382-3393

Mt. Rainier, Tacoma, WA (First Thursday)

Bob Kenworthy, FCSI, CCS, CCCA..253-931-4904
Dennis Kabba, CSI, CDT 253-627-5599

Spokane, WA (Second Thursday)

Thomas Gerard, PE, CSI, LEED-AP. 509- 328-2771

Portland, OR (Second Tuesday)

Jane Phifer, CSI.....503-805-2500

Capital, Salem, OR (Third Thursday)

Chris Veit, CSI, CCS.....503-390-0291

Willamette Valley, Eugene, OR (Last Thursday)

Melanie Wittkop-Fort, CSI541-485-0922

Idaho, Boise, ID (First Tuesday)

Karen Morris, CSI208-343-3620

Big Sky, MT

Jan O'Brien, CSI.....406-245-6363

CSI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 11/4 CSI Board Meeting, *Noon, RiverEast*
- 11/10 CSI Membership committee, *noon Macadam's Bar & Grill*
- 11/11 CSI Chapter Meeting - Sustainable Products, Princeton Ballroom**
- 11/13 CSI Specifiers Share Group Meeting, *Noon, ZGF*
- 11/25 Program committee, *7:30 am, Nancy's Kitchen—16th & Glisan*
- 11/27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 12/2 CSI Board Meeting, *11:30, RiverEast*
- 12/8 CSI Membership committee, *noon Macadam's Bar & Grill*
- 12/9 CSI Chapter Meeting - Holiday Social, Dinner at the Nines**
- 12/11 CSI Specifiers Share Group Meeting, *Noon, ZGF*
- 12/22 Program committee, *7:30 am, Nancy's Kitchen—16th & Glisan*
- 12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS