



**Specifications**



**SF CSI Chapter Meeting**

Wednesday, February 10, 2009 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM  
 Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf Hotel

**KEEPING PROJECT SPECS UPDATED  
 A PANEL DISCUSSION**

Ron Ronconi, Architect  
 Michael Chambers, Specifier  
 Jerry Pozo, Product Representative  
 Howard Fuchs, General Contractor

Once a specification has been written, it often becomes a template for other project teams to follow. Unfortunately, too many architectural firms and specifiers are still using the specifications they developed years ago. Given the rapidity and complexity of change driving product technology in the construction industry today, frequently-used specification Sections should be reviewed and updated annually. Experienced manufacturing representatives can be a valuable resource for this task, providing insight and expertise to aid busy design professionals.

The purpose of this panel discussion is to help design professionals and representatives collaborate to prepare up-to-date specification master documents that really work in the field. Speakers representing four points of view will present their strategies and requirements; an architect, a specifier, a product representative, and a general contractor. Don't miss this valuable opportunity to learn to be a more effective team member and to get the most out of specifications.

*That's what SFCSI programs are all about ---  
 Professional development for design and construction professionals.©*

**RSVP:** Please make your reservations **no later than Monday, February 9th.**  
 Go to <http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S%2cM3%2c9e7a425a-864d-431a-8ce9-96ebc44c2102>

**COST IS \$40. RESERVATIONS REQUIRE PRE-PAYMENT.**

**Place:** Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf Hotel      **Time:** 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM      Social Hour  
 2500 Mason Street, San Francisco      7:00 PM - 8:30 PM      Dinner & Program

**Parking:** Parking is available at the hotel for \$10. Identify yourself as CSI to get the rate. Also accessible using BART, ferry, and Muni.



*President Jim O'Keefe*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Jim O'Keefe, CSI

Last month's dinner meeting was terrific. The turnout was overwhelming! Our speaker, Doug Olson of NBBJ, discussed factors driving medical office buildings and surgery center design and construction. We had a tremendous turnout with great opportunities for renewing old friendships and making new contacts. This wonderful program also drew many first time guests to see and hear what CSI is all about. We plan to follow-up this program at the February meeting with a lively panel discussion addressing the need to maintain up-to-date project specifications. Can you imagine having an architect, a spec writer, a manufacturer's representative and, of all things, a general contractor on this panel. I would expect some professional sparks to fly.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- March 10** – Dinner Meeting  
Contracts – Do or Die by the Pen
- April 14** – ProFair 4pm to 7pm  
Mission Bay Conference Center,  
UCSF
- May 12** – Dinner Meeting
- May 11-14** – CONSTRUCT 2010  
& The CSI Annual Convention,  
Philadelphia, PA
- June 9** – Awards Banquet
- July 14** – Dinner Meeting
- August 11** – Dinner Meeting

While we are on the subject of upcoming events, our Chapter-sponsored CDT Certification classes began January 21. They will meet Thursday evenings from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm through March 25 at TEECOM's Oakland offices. The fee for the complete series of classes is \$175. For more information, please check the Chapter website or contact Vivian Volz, Certification Chair.

Our Chapter ProFair is scheduled for April 14, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the UCSF Mission Bay Conference Center. Admission is free, so take advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one

*Continued on next page*

**OUR MEETING PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING!**

You'll find a link on our website  
[www.csisf.org](http://www.csisf.org)

On the drop-down menu  
 under Membership



*Julie Barrett, Doug Olson, and Jim O'Keefe*



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with leading manufacturers on the latest technologies in construction materials. You can pose questions directly to the experts on specific project issues. In this month's newsletter, we have an article from a leading independent spec writer discussing his thoughts on the value of ProFair.

Also in April, there is the 13th Annual Construction Sciences Forum at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The event is scheduled for April 7 and is sponsored by CSI Student Chapter at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Remember to update your e-mail address on the Institute website to ensure you will be able to vote in the upcoming CSI 2010 elections that will open in early February. This election will be entirely electronic, so watch your inboxes for an e-mail containing the election website link and your individual ballot access code sometime after February. For more information on the candidates and proposed Bylaws amendments, visit [www.csinet.org/election](http://www.csinet.org/election). Information will be posted in mid-January.

As you can see, over these next several months, your Chapter has many activities scheduled that can professionally benefit each and every one of us. These various events and activities are all designed to help extend the professional development of our members. As we all know, in these days of high unemployment, continued professional development and networking are avenues to success. Take advantage of your Chapter's many programs (CDT Certification) and events, and the resources and programs of the Institute, to differentiate yourself from the competition and to build a lasting network of professional friendships.

James O'Keefe  
President  
San Francisco Chapter, CSI

Paul Miller CSI CCPR LEED® AP  
Northern CA Regional Manager

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Rose Garrison checks in with Bryan Jones and Eric Patricio





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Speaker Doug Olson, AIA, Principal with NBBJ San Francisco

## PROFAIR 2010

April 14 • 4 pm to 7 pm

UCSF Mission Bay Conference Center  
1675 Owens Street, San Francisco

It is time again for our ProFair!

- Learn about the latest innovations
- Meet the experts
- Network
- Have Fun!

Exhibitors: Last year sold out quickly! Reserve your spot as soon as possible. For details contact Larry Fosnight at (707) 238-5175 or [lfosnight@assaabloydss.com](mailto:lfosnight@assaabloydss.com).



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Position Open  
Looking for Volunteer

#### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

1. To inform members of the Chapter and Institute goals and activities directed toward these goals;
2. To inform members of the Chapter and Regional activities, Board actions; and
3. To provide a forum for all members.



Wine winner! The raffle also included a wrapped mystery gift or a blind selection from the grab bag. Bryan Jones officiated.



**NO USERNAMES, PASSWORDS, OR  
DOWNLOADS REQUIRED**

By Richard Hubble, AIA, CCS

ProFair, the annual product fair sponsored by San Francisco Chapter CSI, is the largest, locally-sponsored showcase of construction products and services in the Bay Area. As an architect, independent specifier, and 30-year attendee, I find the annual ProFair an extremely valuable opportunity to speak directly with representatives of some major manufacturers. If asked my top three reasons for attending ProFair 2010, I would identify:

**1. Networking - That Personal Touch**

Talking to a professional product representative about your current project or design problem “puts a face to a name.” When you need to call a rep later for more information, you’ll be remembered. Plus, the broad spectrum of manufacturers represented gives attendees the opportunity to do a lot of networking in one place.

**2. Knowledge - How, Not Just What**

Product reps are building technology consultants in their own right. They offer advice and experience on applying products and systems to real-world conditions, not only the idealized conditions displayed online. And the one-on-one discussion allows for easy follow-up questions so you can get to the crux of your issue and clearly identify an optimum solution.

**3. Look, AND Touch**

Many of us don’t get the chance to visit jobsites on a regular basis, so product displays, demonstrations, and samples give us a real-world, tactile understanding of materials, products, and systems that you don’t get from online research.

As for me, I am looking forward to this year’s San Francisco CSI ProFair 2010 to be held on Wednesday, April 14, from 4 PM to 7 PM, at the Mission Bay Conference Center at UCSF.



*Larry Fosnight promoting our upcoming ProFair*



*Meredyth Marshak speaking on the benefits of CSI membership*



Vivan Volz

**CSI CONNECTION**  
 Contributed by Vivan Volz, RA, CSI, CCS, LEED

**REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SPRING EXAMS**

Registration is now open for the spring CDT and advanced certification exams (CCCA, CCS, CCPR) March 29 - April 3, 2010. The early registration deadline is January 29, 2010; and the final registration deadline is February 26, 2010. [Learn more](#), or [register now](#).

**CSISF FOUNDATION**  
 By Jack Klemeyer, FCSI

At the annual meeting of the SFCSI Foundation's on January 16, the board expressed a high level of interest in hosting another silent auction in conjunction with the Chapter's Awards Banquet on June 9, 2010. Would you be willing to donate artwork, wine, or any other items of interest for people to bid on, for the benefit of the Foundation? The funds raised are used for scholarships for students in local construction industry-related courses of study. Last year we were able to provide \$5000, which was awarded to three different applicants. If you would enjoy contributing your talent for the benefit of the Foundation, we would sure enjoy showcasing your abilities! Please contact Jack Klemeyer at 415-664-0134 or [wvk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wvk@sbcglobal.net) to discuss this further if it sounds interesting -- many thanks.

Donate a Vehicle  
**Tax deductible**  
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**888-448-3345**



Jerry Pozo and Steve Teeple



SFCSI Foundation Board of Directors at installation dinner in January: Lawrence Merrion, Matt Crawford, President Ron Ronconi, Wray Humphrey, Jack Klemeyer, Paulette Salisbury, Bob Mosblech, John McCaffrey, and Alan Tokugawa. Director Jim Balboni was unable to attend.





**WEST REGION CORNER**

By David Willis, CSI  
 West Region Vice President

I can't believe I am writing an article for January 2010. What a year we have had in the West Region. A new Virtual Chapter started in Redwood Empire, and the Inland Empire Chapter to be inaugurated on Jan 14, 2010. We have a great Region conference to look forward to in the fall with the programs almost in place. For all you Industry members, be on the look out for Fresno Product show discounts when signing up for both the annual spring product show and conference product show later in the fall.

I have searched my mind for what to say for my New Year's article. Duane always seems to have plenty to say and I wish I had his gift of gab, (sorry Duane). Anyway I have decided to tell a story about the economy. Here goes.

Once upon a time there was a hot dog stand on a busy highway. This hot dog stand was known around the country for having best quality and better-priced hot dogs than any others in the country. People came from all over just to have a great meal.

One day a man came in to find out if all the rumors were true. After inhaling two or three great hot dogs he called the proprietor over to ask a few questions. "How in the world can you serve such high quality hot dogs at such reasonable prices?" he asked the proprietor. "Don't you know there is a recession going on? How can you afford to do this?"

After the man left, the hot dog stand owner started to think about what he had said. Maybe this guy was right. Maybe he should raise the prices, and maybe he should buy lesser quality hot dogs to cut expenses. So, he made the changes, thinking that this will probably keep the stand in business and weather the economic storm. He can always go back to the old ways when the economy improves.

As days went on, business started to fall off. At first slowly, and then gradually picking up, to where now it became hard to pay the bills. He had to lay off his help and do all the work himself. As he was sitting one evening after closing time, he thought to himself, "You know, that fellow was sure right about the recession."

Sometimes we need to think about how much we are affected by what we hear and believe. I realize that there is real economic down turn in the country today, but aren't there times when maybe we need

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*David Willis*



*Our long lost member David Sissom with Bob Mosblech*



*Thanks to Julie Barrett for arranging the program!*



David Ingram, Ryan Hoffman, and Peter Holst

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to question what we hear? What is the old saying, "Get told enough times something is happening, and sure enough it will happen."

We are the ones that will bring back the business. Those who can, need to take the steps to keep things moving along. We need to believe in our future and keep our friends in business by continuing to buy the things we need and want. So, let's get out there and keep the world turning.

I wish you all a Happy and Safe New Year, and I look forward to serving you all in the year ahead.



Emily Borland, the final winner of the evening, got the grab bag and all the remaining prizes.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Paul Miller, Membership Chair

### RENEWING MEMBERS

#### January 2010

- Joe French
- Rodney B. Green
- James Kellogg, RA
- Jerry Pozo, CDT
- Gregory Douglas Reidenbach, CDT
- Paulette Salisbury, FCSI, CDT
- Rachel Stallworth
- Linda Stansen, RA, CCS, SCIP
- Rex Vanard, DHI, AIA



Paul Miller



John Seller chose the mystery gift.



Selecting from the grab bag





**CURMUDGEON'S CORNER**  
**SENSIBLE STIMULUS**

By Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCA

*infrastructure: the roads, bridges, rail lines, power grid, and similar public works that are required for an industrial economy to function*

The subject of my recent article, "Return on investment", was the ancient buildings I saw while on vacation in Europe, and how they continue to be useful today. This month, we'll look at more recent construction, particularly the infrastructure that supports our lifestyle. (Incidentally, I received many comments in response to my reference to our European vacation. If you're interested, some of our pictures are online at <http://snipurl.com/trgm5>.)

Just this month, I finally joined the twentieth century and had satellite TV installed in our house. We had talked about it for a couple of years, but saw little reason to increase the sources of garbage available from five channels to more than a hundred. The few channels we were interested in - Discovery, Food, HGTV, and History - were not quite tempting enough to entice us into dealing with all the rest. Also, I had a fear of spending all my waking hours watching the History Channel. The deciding factor turned out to be financial; we could get a bundle with phone, unlimited long distance calls, DSL, and HDTV for less than we were paying.

And sure enough, I've been captivated by the History and Discovery Channels. One of the recent shows, The Crumbling of America, was fascinating - and chilling. Opening with the collapse of the I35W bridge in 2007, the show went on to look at the potential for catastrophe in virtually every part of our infrastructure. Much of what we have was built in the early part of the twentieth century, with a design life of fifty years. The continued serviceability of that work is a tribute to the engineering and construction quality of that time, and although service life can be extended with regular inspection and maintenance, there comes a time when replacement is necessary. Unfortunately, it's a lot easier, and more fun, to build new than to maintain existing buildings; I believe most of us have seen that the maintenance budget is often the first to be cut.

I know enough about government to never expect too much, but when the recent stimulus package was proposed, I envisioned a large investment in highways, bridges, dams, and other civil works projects.



*David Hall wine winner*



*Another wine winner*

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A prize from the grab bag

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I won't pretend to understand the economics or details of the public works programs of the 1930s, but there are countless examples of well-designed, useful, long-lasting projects of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). My own state, Minnesota, has numerous state park buildings, highways, dams, bridges, and utilities that were built seventy years ago and remain in service today.

Needless to say, I was disappointed by the stimulus program's small investment in infrastructure. Of the \$770 billion (or is it a trillion? or two trillion?), about \$140 billion is earmarked for transportation, water projects, construction and repair of buildings, and upgrading the electric grid.

That sounds like a lot of money, but how much is needed? Those most likely to know are the civil engineers, who are most familiar with the design and maintenance of the systems in question. And indeed, they have something to say. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has a website named "Report Card for America's Infrastructure" (<http://snipurl.com/tril7>). The ASCE website discusses fifteen infrastructure components, giving each a letter grade, the amount of money needed to bring it up to date, and the amount of money already budgeted. The highest grade is a C+; the average is a D. The total recommended investment, over five years, is \$2.2 trillion, approximately twice the amount budgeted from all sources. Another look at infrastructure costs is found at <http://snipurl.com/trirs>. This one estimates over \$3 trillion is required, with almost \$2 trillion going to just roads and bridges.

To me, the logic of making this type of investment a high priority is inescapable; there is little value in other stimulus spending if the services we depend on fail. Sadly, it seems the money isn't available to do the necessary maintenance until a levee or a bridge fails, when legal fees and cleaning up the mess further increase the costs.

It's easy to say, "You think that only because you're an architect," but that's not true. While a few architects would profit to some extent, engineers and contractors would be the main immediate beneficiaries. Of far greater value would be the indirect benefits to the countless others whose lives depend on services that work.

The importance of our utilities and transportation systems hasn't been entirely ignored. In 1998, President Clinton's Presidential Directive PDD-63 set up a national program of "Critical Infrastructure Protection", which was superseded in 2003 by President Bush's HSPD-

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7 (Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 7) - but the focus of these directives is on protection from attack, and on reconstruction after an attack. Perhaps a smart terrorist would simply wait until our infrastructure collapses from neglect.



*Alex Marquez, Divya, Frank Nieto, and Yung Chang*



*Cindy Faust-Scholz, of Santa Clara CSI, dines with Krista Nelson and Tyler Lusk*

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*Liesl Morrell tries her luck with the grab bag*







San Francisco Chapter

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*Knowledge for Creating and Sustaining the Built Environment*

CSI membership is composed of a cross-section of the construction industry - architect, engineers, contractors, developers, manufacturers, suppliers and representatives from allied industries. Chapter activities reflect the unbiased concerns of the entire industry - not one section of it. Members through the Chapter, Region and Institute have the opportunity to contribute their views and experience to the improvement of specifications and other contract documents.

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