



Specifics



SF CSI Chapter Meeting

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 8, 2010
6:00 - 9:30 PM
Castagnola's Restaurant
286 Jefferson at Jones Street

A Night to Remember on the Wharf

Come one, come all....
Come See Inside....

Decorations and food abound, fun and entertainment to enjoy.
Bring smiles and guests, loved ones and friends, to an unforgettable evening.
Surprise salsa lessons from a special guest – any guesses?

The holiday party is going to be a festive event with:

- Passed hors d'oeuvres and food stations.
- Select wines will be hosted
- Cocktail attire

Bring your appetite and your dancing shoes for an eventful evening!
Register early to reserve a spot!

RSVP: Please make your reservations **no later than Wednesday, December 1st.**
Go to <http://guest.cvent.com/d/wdqt1>

Cost is \$45 for each member or guest; no vouchers.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRE PRE-PAYMENT.

Place: Castagnola's Restaurant
286 Jefferson, San Francisco

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Dinner & Dancing

Parking: Parking is available at the Fishermen's Wharf Parking Lot at Jefferson and Taylor. Castagnola's validates your parking for up to 3 hours. Also accessible using BART, ferry, and Muni.



President Vivian Volz

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 By Vivian Volz, RA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP

In a Season of Thanks, I am Grateful for CSI

The holiday season is upon us. As I write this, there is a pumpkin on my counter, waiting to be made into a Thanksgiving pie. My dad called, asking what my daughter wants for Christmas, and we're already planning the Hanukkah meal at my father-in-law's house. The last-minute details for our own CSI party are in full swing, and I'm enjoying the anticipation of all the festivities.

The best part of the season, for me, is how many of us grow misty-eyed and talk about what we are grateful for. It seems a good time, then, to talk about my gratitude for CSI.

CSI keeps me connected. Like many of you, I lost a job when the banks started failing and the lending climate froze. CSI friends were among the first people I reached out to, and CSI friends and colleagues reached out to me. CSI gatherings, CSI obligations, and CSI connections kept me engaged in the construction community. For the first three months of my unemployment, running CDT review classes gave my week shape and got me on the boat to San Francisco. CSI friends drilled me in mock interviews and gave me the confidence to seize new opportunities. SF Chapter member Cynthia Belisle told me about the "CSI Fairy Dust" that somehow makes her career turn out all right, no matter what. It's true for me, too, and I think it's our connections that make it so.

Continued on next page

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 8 – Holiday Party

January 12 – Dinner Meeting
 Its Coming ... Accessibility 2010
 presented by Dawn Anderson,
 AIA, CASp, OSHPD Inspector

February 9 – Dinner Meeting

March 9 – Dinner Meeting

April 20 – ProFair

May 11 – Dinner Meeting

June 8 – Awards Banquet



Our speaker, Derek Nilson



Dominique Pardue, Chuck Lutz, and Bob Bender



San Francisco Chapter Construction Specifications Institute

VOL. XLVI NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2010 | NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER | CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Continued from previous page

CSI broadens my perspective. As an architect, working at a firm populated nearly entirely by architects, it was easy to have a tunnel-vision view of construction. I knew how to talk to contractors and engineers, and I had a pretty good idea how to work with architects, but I didn't even know what I didn't know about the rest of our industry. When my mentor Bill DuBois suggested that I attend a meeting of the San Francisco chapter, the two people whose hospitality I remember best were both manufacturers' representatives. Paulette Salisbury bought me a drink and introduced me around, and Matt Crawford called me the next day. Bill had told me that I needed to learn to understand how manufacturers and representatives can help me do my job. Paulette and Matt were the friendliest possible introduction to a whole world of valuable colleagues whom I may never have met without CSI.

CSI networking really works. I'm self-employed now and loving every minute of my "blended" consulting practice. I consult to manufacturers, helping them market to design professionals, and I consult to architects and owners, writing specifications. I met my first big client at a West Region reception at a CSI convention, and I came home from the show with a billable project. I ran into a colleague at our very own ProFair a few months later, and he referred me to another big client within a week. I'm grateful every day, not only for connections that help me stay busy, but also for the many colleagues of every discipline, without whom I couldn't do my work so well.

CSI's purpose is to connect us, so that we can communicate better and help each other. I'm incredibly grateful for the connections, the communication, and the support I find in CSI.

Vivian Volz, RA, CCS, LEED AP
President
San Francisco Chapter, CSI



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

You'll find a link on our website

www.csisf.org

On the drop-down menu under Membership



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VOL. XLVI NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2010 | NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER | CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

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Tax deductible
Charitable donations now accepted by SF CSI Foundation
888-448-3345

HOT JOBS AT SAN FRANCISCO CSI By Vivian Volz, RA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP

No, these won't pay the mortgage, but they'll raise your profile in the industry and improve your connections. They'll also help our chapter accomplish its mission.

Web Transition Team: This one-time-only task needs a team of two players, as we move our chapter communications from our existing web site to a new CSI Micro-Site. Eric Camin and Joy Davis are available to help with all things technical, and Vivian Volz will kick off the process.

Program Communications Coordinator: Work with dynamic Programs Chair Julie Barrett, with initial training from Vivian Volz. Spend about 90 minutes a month online, promoting each monthly dinner with our event management provider, Cvent, and our postcard vendor Vertical Response. Bonus: Learn to work with an easy HTML editor.

Certification Co-Chair: Meet the most ambitious, energetic people in the Chapter by helping them navigate their paths to CSI certification. Mentorship and guidance will be provided by Vivian Volz. This job is all about recruiting and delegating, not about doing it all yourself! This is excellent experience for an aspiring project manager.

Not what you're looking for? You can always contact our volunteer coordinator, Bryan Jones, at bryan@xypexcal.com, and he'll help you find a CSI job that's right for you.

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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.



Julie Barrett and Dave Falk



REMEMBERING FRANK BARSOTTI, FCSI

Contributed by Paulette Salisbury



Mentor, father, friend, “godfather,” Frank Barsotti was one of the legacy members of CSI in San Francisco. He died peacefully at home on October 22, 2010. He was 88.

Born in Roseville, California he attended Roseville High School and Heald’s College in San Francisco. He met his wife of 64 years, Lillah, in England while he was assigned to the 9th Wing of the US Army Air Corps. They met at a local dance and were married in England on October 12, 1945. Lillah passed away in 2009 following a long illness. Frank and Lillah raised their family in Belmont, California, while Frank worked for 39 years in San Francisco for Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill as their Chief Specifications Writer.

After retiring, Frank and Lillah moved to Capay where they lived for 30 years in the home Frank designed and built.

He joined CSI in 1956 and immediately became active in the then San Francisco Area Chapter. Frank was president of the Chapter in 1972-73. For much of his CSI career, Frank provided sage advice and service to the Chapter, Region and Institute. While serving on the Institute Finance committee, Frank helped to make wise investments that assured CSI’s future solvency.

In 1977, Frank was elevated to Fellowship in CSI at the Denver Convention. Frank will be remembered for his friendship, excellence in specifications writing and his leadership in CSI.



Dominique Pardue

THE PACIFIC ENERGY CENTER
 at 851 Howard Street, San Francisco
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www.pge.com/pec



President Vivian Volz

CSI CONNECTION
 Contributed by Vivian Volz, RA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP

The CSI Academies are back! After several years' hiatus, CSI is presenting three advanced-skill academies for specifiers, contract administrators, and product representatives. The three academies are co-located at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, February 24-26, the better to network and share experiences across the disciplines. I attended the Specifier Academy when it was in San Francisco several years ago, and I highly recommend the experience. I still tell stories about it, and I'm still connected to people I met there.

For more than 60 years, CSI has focused on improving construction communication between architects, specifiers, product reps and others to save money, time and stress for all the parties. The CSI Academies are your chance to learn the construction industry skills that can improve your performance. Attend sessions from one academy, or choose the sessions in each track that interest you.

Designed for experienced professionals, the Academies:

- Instill confidence by teaching you the roles and responsibilities of all the construction teams, and how they should interact (and what to do when they don't!).
- Improve your marketability and productivity today with skills and information you can use immediately.

Product Representative Academy (PRA): Become a product representative who understands more than the product – know where and how you fit into the construction process, and become a useful resource the design team will call on again and again. We'll teach you best practices for presenting products and supporting the design and construction teams. Manufacturers will tell you what you need to know about their products – we'll give you the skills to present that information and succeed in the commercial construction community.

Contract Administrator Academy (CAA): Nowhere else will you find intense training for experienced administrators focused on general skills for managing construction documentation, front-end documents, and general conditions. The information and skills you gain you'll be able to use tomorrow!

Construction Specifier Academy (CSA): Let CSI, the most respected specifications information source in the U.S., teach you the best practices in specifying, LEED specifications, and BIM data management. Courses focus specifying in the real world and current issues, including getting LEED requirements into the documentation

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

and understanding how to communicate specifications in BIM.

Browse the schedule on the CSI web site, but then hurry to claim your spot. Early bird pricing applies until January 11. If you've never experienced the intense, three-day skills-building and networking of a CSI Academy, you don't want to miss this opportunity.



Joe Quaranta and Larry Fosnight



Mike DeHaven, Derek Nilson, and Rick Fernandez

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REGIONAL MATERIALS DATABASE

San Francisco CSI Green Committee

The Regional Materials Database lists over 400 manufacturers of building products and materials that are manufactured within a 500-mile radius of San Francisco, California. At \$125 for non-members and \$100 for members, it can save hours of searching for locally-made materials for your projects.

And now, by popular demand, two new discounts are available. If you were an Early Adopter of the Database and have your copy of the 2005 version, dig it out. It includes a key that gets you \$75 off the purchase of the current version. And if you are a student your price is \$25, member or not.

Where can I get my copy?
Visit www.csisf.net today!



Steve Teeple, Tom Maliepaard, and Eric Patricio



Chris Cohn and Mike DeHaven



Bryan Jones



Fred Jang and John McCaffrey



Douglas Day and John Raeber

MEMORY LOSS

by Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

As our organization ages, it is inevitable that we lose more members as they retire and, eventually, pass away. In the past several years a number of my CSI friends have passed on, including Brian Schroder, Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter; Ken Searl, Portland, Oregon Chapter; Bob Boehner, Southwest Missouri Chapter; and former Institute presidents John C. Anderson, Gary Betts, and Bob McManus. I'm sure most of you have had similar experiences. Along with them go their memories of the good old days, the bad old days, their personal stories, and how CSI came to be what it is.

It's amazing that, for an organization founded on communication and documentation, we have done such a poor job of recording our own history. I have been seeking and collecting information about CSI's past for several years, and though I have many interesting documents, much of our past remains a mystery.

As noted in last month's article, *The Price of Gold*, one of my CSI hats is History of Fellows Chair for CSI's College of Fellows. In that article, I recounted the College's efforts to keep three CSI medals that belonged to Robert Vansant "in the family." Other searches have revealed a lot of interesting information; it shouldn't be surprising, but many of our members are veterans. We have veterans of Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, and World War II; I found records of a few members who were POWs in Europe, and I'm sure that some served in the Pacific Theatre.

Many of our members also have a life outside of CSI, and when we get to telling stories at conferences and conventions, it's fun to learn what some of them have done. We have musicians and cooks, a builder of large-scale model railroads, a member who likes to visit cemeteries, a photographer of old steam engines, an Olympic medalist, a competitive wind surfer, a collector of Italian scooters, and one member who just clown around. While these personal histories and interests are not directly related to CSI, they are a big part of what brings us together.

There has been a lot of emphasis on attracting and keeping young members in the last few years, and rightfully so, as our average age keeps creeping up. But as we go after those who are new to the construction industry, let us not forget that our older members have a lot to offer. They've been there and done that, and while that doesn't make them infallible, their knowledge is essential for the development

Continued on next page



San Francisco Chapter Construction Specifications Institute

VOL. XLVI NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2010 | NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER | CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Continued from previous page

of students, emerging professionals, and probably, all of those who have less experience.

A few years ago, a Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter program featured several elder members who took turns telling our members about the early days of the chapter. From reading chapter newsletters, I know that other chapters have done something similar. If your chapter hasn't had a program like this, I suggest you put one on your schedule. And if you have done it, do it again every five years or so. Combined with some old pictures and old newsletters, a little reminiscing can provide an interesting evening.

Each chapter and region should make a dedicated effort to capture its part of CSI's history, and a good way to start is to contact our older members. Many of them begin to fade away as they reach retirement, some remaining members but not going to meetings, and others allowing their memberships to lapse. Because of the turnover in committees, I suspect that most membership committee members don't know the older members, and aren't aware when they stop showing up. Eventually, the chapter forgets them altogether. I recently tried to contact a member I hadn't seen in several years. E-mails bounced, the only phone number I had wasn't good anymore, and when I asked his chapter president if he had any information, I was told that they didn't know what had happened to him. A short time later I was told that he had died about five years ago.

By all means, bring in the new members, but don't forget the old ones. They might not know much about facebook or twitter, but many of them will be able to help those younger members learn about far more important things - like how a building goes together, why some things work and others don't, or how to avoid making the mistakes they made when they were learning the ropes. And they just might have an interesting tale or two.



Jim O'Keefe, Douglas Day and John Raeber



Chris Cohn, John Schmidt, and Chuck Lutz



John Schmidt (second from right) brought in a whole group of friends and colleagues who have special expertise in building envelope issues, including revolving doors.



Douglas Day won a bottle of wine



John Schmidt



Fred Jang, Steve Teeple, and John McCaffrey



Alan Tokugawa

PROFAIR 2011

April 20 • 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.



CSI WEST REGION CONFERENCE 2012

The CSI West Region Conference is coming to the San Francisco Bay Area in the spring of 2012!

Volunteers are welcome! Please contact:

Jim O'Keefe at jamescokeefe@msn.com

or

Hannah Moyer at hmoyer@watrydesign.com



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Construction Specifications Institute

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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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