



SPECIGRAM

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute

January, 2014

January 14 Program

Evolution of the AIA-MBA Joint Committee Best Practices Guide

The AIA-MBA Joint Committee was chartered in 1965. It provides a unique forum for Architects, General Contractors and Owners to meet and discuss existing conditions of the construction industry. The original charge of the Joint Committee was to create a set of guidelines to reflect the best practices for the region's construction industry. In 1967, the Joint Committee published the Yellow Book of Recommended Construction Practices. In 2010, the Joint Committee renamed this resource to: The AIA-MBA Joint Committee Best Practices Guide, and maintains it in digital format online at: <http://www.mbawpa.org/aia-mba/best-practices-guides.asp>. To assure the construction industry benefits from a current and respected set of impartial recommendations, the AIA-MBA Joint Committee endeavors to update The Best Practices Guide in keeping with the evolving construction industry. Jon O'Brien, Director of Communications for the Master Builders' Association of Western PA since 2005, will present a summary of The Best Practices Guide, and review some highlights of current committee efforts to update some of its content and promote collaborative industry practices. Jon will be joined by George Ehringer, Independent Architecture & Planning Professional, and Rob Sklarsky of RJS Construction Consulting, LLC. Rob is the AIA-MBA Joint Committee Co-Chair.

Location:

Cefalo's
428 Washington Ave.
Carnegie, PA

5:00 pm Social Time
5:30 pm Board Meeting
6:15 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Presentation

Cost: \$35/person

Reservations

to
MAZell@NationalGypsum.com
(412) 951-8715

THIS MONTH

- Board Highlights p.2
- Holiday Gala 2013 pp.3-4
- Progeny Profile p.5
- Happenings p.6
- Contractor and Craftsmen Certifications pp.7-8
- Industry News p.9
- Chapter Leadership p.10

CSI PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

1. To support and promote the mission and core values of the Institute.
2. To help its members perform their jobs better by providing education and promoting certification programs.
3. To provide an opportunity for networking to facilitate project team building.

*Pittsburgh Chapter
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD

January 2014

DECEMBER 10, 2013 AT THE CHADWICK IN WEXFORD, PA

Hospitality – January meeting will be back at Cefalo's – joint meeting with MBA re AIA/MBA best practices.

Holiday Gala – 25 station sponsors and 8 bar sponsors for the event.

Website – Paypal is coming and should be available in January for individuals to register for the monthly meeting, at a \$2.00 charge.

Membership – 144 total members.

Technical/Education – Looking for topics for a spring technical seminar.

Certification – We can now access list of names of those passing institute exams.

Student Outreach – Received a letter from Carnegie Mellon thanking the Pittsburgh Chapter for gifts of MasterFormat and Specifications Practice Guide. Chapter is planning a reprise of "Are You Smarter Than A Specifier" this spring.

Member Anniversaries:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Michael Clancy	Architectural Resources, Inc.	1/1/1981	33
Bob Bailey	IKM, Inc.	1/1/1985	29
Donna Radock	Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck	1/1/1995	19
Mike Desiderio	Caldwell's Windowware Co., Inc.	1/31/1997	17
Raymond Stander Jr.	The Wiremold Company	1/22/2000	14
Leisa McNamee	McGraw-Hill Construction	1/8/2003	11
Chick McBrien	Marvin Windows & Doors	1/21/2004	10
Bruce Miller	Stantec	1/4/2006	8
Ben Mack	Ardex Engineered Cements	1/23/2006	8
Bill Vernon	Renaissance 3 Architects	1/30/2006	8
Courtney Watson	Won-Door	1/30/2006	8
Karen Kleber	Pittsburgh Builder Exchange	1/8/2007	7
Dave Mosovsky	Daltile	1/31/2007	7
Mary Gilson	Ardex americas	1/5/2011	3
David Weaver	W.R. Grace	1/27/2011	3
Bill Cauley	Ceiling Systems Distributors	1/20/2012	2
Stacy Jordan	Armstrong World Industries	1/20/2012	2
Tracy Spencer	ATAS International	1/21/2013	1
Aaron Wolk	Cathedral Stone Products	1/30/2013	1

New Members:

Craig Buck - MAK Sales

Robert Druga - CH2M Hill

Brian Miedel - LaFace & McGovern Associates



ARDEX
AMERICAS

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HOLIDAY GALA 2013 *THE CHADWICK, WEXFORD*

January 2014



Bottom left: Marc Zell with Thad Goodman, Construction Design Manager at National Gypsum Co. Thad is immediate past president of CSI Columbus, OH, and past president of CSI Great Lakes Region. Thanks to Thad for taking the photos!

Bottom Right: The ever-popular mashed potatoes station.

HOLIDAY GALA 2013

THE CHADWICK, WEXFORD

January 2014



Top Left: Dr. Zoot provided the entertainment.

Top Right: at table – Nicki Lechleitner, Miki Vargo, Chad Virostek of Modernfold, Mike Lechleitner. (RonnaLeah Prindible with back to the camera.)

Bottom Left: Matt Matlack, Commercial Systems Sales Manager for VEKA, Inc.

Bottom Right: The crowd near the bar.

**CSI PITTSBURGH SAYS "THANK YOU" TO ALL THE STATION SPONSORS AND THE BAR SPONSORS
FOR THE 2013 HOLIDAY GALA.**

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE CHAPTER.

Progeny Profile: Liberty Prindible

January 2014

At the Holiday Gala, Miki Vargo interviewed Liberty Prindible, daughter of RonnaLeah Prindible of McGraw-Hill Construction.

How old are you? 6 years old.

What do you do? I got to kindergarten at Dayton Elementary School

What's your favorite subject there? Math. **Why?** We trace numbers and learn patterns.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A veterinarian. **Why?** I want to take care of my Grandma's puppies.

Do you like CSI events? Yes

What do you like best about CSI? Speaking into the microphone and seeing "Crazy Marc". *(ed. note: Marc Zell)*

Do you know what CSI does? Have meetings and talk about architecture.

What's your favorite memory of CSI? Speaking into the microphone. Visiting the farm. *(ed. note: The Eisenhower farm in Gettysburg as part of the 2013 Middle Atlantic Region Conference.)*

Why did you start coming to CSI? I came with mommy because she didn't want to miss it.

What does your mom do in her job? Lots of important phone calls.

Do you have friends at CSI? Miki, Crazy Marc, Dave *(Miller)*

Would you recommend other kids your age coming to CSI meetings? *(nods head)*

What's your favorite treat? TruMoo chocolate milk. Or strawberry. But *only* TruMoo.

What's your favorite flower? Rose

What's your favorite season? Christmas!



HAPPENINGS

January 2014

CSI INSTITUTE AWARDS

The Institute's Honors and Awards Guide for FY14 was posted and can be found here:

<http://www.csinet.org/Get-Involved/Honors-Awards>. Please download the guide and take a few minutes to read through it. We hope you will consider nominating deserving individuals from your chapter.

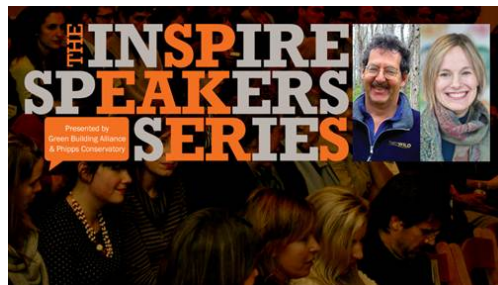
One thing to note – there are TWO deadlines this year. The deadline to submit nominations for the FY14 CSI Honors & Awards program (including the Outstanding Chapter Commendation for FY2013 covering data from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013) is **5 PM Eastern, May 2, 2014**. The due date for submissions seeking the FY14 Outstanding Chapter Commendation (covering data from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) is **5 PM Eastern on July 15, 2014**. Recipients for both will be recognized at CONSTRUCT & The CSI Annual Convention in 2014.



Start your New Year off right with Green Building Alliance at the Inspire Speakers Series!

On January 16, author and educator David Sobel will show us how education can be about so much more than test scores. A place-based approach allows kids to explore their communities and local resources. The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh offers a great example of this theory, and executive director Jane Werner will share more about this cultural gem. Presented at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.. Tickets available from \$15 - \$45. [Learn more and register.](#)

"Give children a chance to love the earth before we ask them to save it." –David Sobel



Contractor and Craftsmen Certifications



SCIP Annual Meeting Panel Discussion - Nashville, TN September 23, 2013

Architects are asking. Commercial guide specifications suggest. Will owner demand be far behind?

There is an ever increasing importance on establishing effective, enforceable quality control of the completed construction. The codes led the way with special inspections to enforce minimum requirements for structural and life safety issues. Manufacturers began training and subsequently required only selected contractors capable of installing some (usually complex or high risk potential) systems.

Now certification is becoming more pervasive. We see it in our own profession with CSI's certification programs and USGBC's accreditation programs. It is no longer adequate to be trained. Specialty certifications from independent 3rd parties are nearly a must.

So what can installation certification programs offer specifiers as a quality control measure?

What problems do specifiers expect such programs to solve?

SCIP invited three different organizations to join a dialog with our members:

- **Architectural Woodwork Institute** with its well established Quality Certification Program
- **Firestop Contractors International Association** with its recently established certification program
- **Finishing Trade Contractors International** with its proposed certification program

Each organization presented the basics of their certification programs — how they work, who they certify, who enforces, and what result to expect.

Architectural Woodwork Institute

AWI Quality Certification Program Benefits

The AWI Quality Certification Corporation (QCC) administers the AWI Quality Certification Program (QCP) founded in 1996 and headquartered in Northern Virginia, just outside of Washington DC. The QCP is a valuable quality assurance tool that seeks to ensure that interior architectural woodwork, one of the most highly visible aspects of many construction projects, meets the project's specifications and industry standards.

Problems with the woodwork can compromise even the best reputations.

Woodworking firms earn certification credentials through the process of comprehensive testing, thorough inspection of completed sample architectural woodwork, and by demonstrating the ability to fabricate, finish and/or install work in accordance with the criteria set forth in the referenced standard. It is the mission of the QCC to verify, inspect, and report compliance with published woodwork industry standards. It is the vision of the QCP to be the recognized compliance assurance process for the architectural woodwork industry.

It only takes three easy steps to ensure quality architectural woodwork for your next project and activate a powerful risk management tool (1) Specify the QCP; (2) register your project www.awiqcp.org/register and (3) record the project number in your project specifications.

Contractor and Craftsmen Certifications (cont'd)



Firestop Contractors International Association

FCIA Certification

The Firestop Contractors International Association was formed in 1999 with a mission to create:

- A Body of Knowledge, which resulted in the FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice.
- A way to show quantitative qualifications for contractor companies.
- A place for education of people participating in the industry.
- A place for best practices to be shared and relationships to be formed.

What resulted from this 'mission' in 1999 has been several key programs. The association chose a 3rd party 'management system certification' model for credibility with verification of the management system at a project site. These programs, the FM 4991 Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors and the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program, also have an individual examination to pass as well.

FCIA worked at ASTM to develop the ASTM E 2174 & ASTM E 2393 Standards for the Inspection of Installed Firestops. To verify that third party independent special inspection agencies have management systems in place and understand the technical nature of the firestop installation, FCIA also partnered with International Accreditation Services to develop IAS Accreditation Criteria AC 291.

Finishing Contractors Association International Corporate Certification

FCA International will provide the participants with an understanding of the Contractor Certification Program being developed to meet the requirements of the International Standardization Organization (ISO).

The Corporate Certification program will enable contractors to leverage their employees' talents, elevate their firm's recognition as efficient construction companies and provide customers with the additional assurance of work quality. Professionalism and construction efficiency are the goal. Key discussion elements of the Corporate Certification Program will include:

- A strong technical component, whereby the craftsperson and supervisory personnel will have individual certifications that meet the requirements of the ISO.
- A Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) Certification.
- Managerial training on topics such as planning and scheduling, project costing and documentation, communication, problem solving, conflict resolution and leadership.
- A demonstration of programs such as safety and quality.
- "What not to do" to ensure quality programs are specified correctly.
- The benefits of the entire program to project managers and specifiers.
- A monitoring and enforcement process that ensures the quality program is met.
- A general discussion on quality programs and inserting them into specifications.
- The cost of quality programs as a percentage premium, not a dollar amount.
- The geographic distribution and availability of "qualified" craftsmen and contractors.
- The distinction between craftsmen and contractor certifications.

Material for this article excerpted from "SCIPping Along," September 2013, by permission of the Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice.

INDUSTRY NEWS

January 2014

“GENTLEMEN, START YOUR GEIGER COUNTERS...”

Do granite countertops pose health risks?

Granite counter tops can be dangerous because they are radioactive, and they emit radon gas. The E.P.A. and other regulatory agencies have been receiving floods of phone calls from home owners and inspectors about unusually high levels of radiation from granite counter-tops.

All granite counter-tops emit a small amount of radiation, but some are far higher than EPA 'recommended amounts'. ABC News exposed that the Environmental Protection Agency does not even have a procedure for checking counter tops.

Those with granite counter tops may want to test the radiation and radon levels in their kitchens, to ensure that they are not at increased risks of health effects caused by radiation.

-From The Health Wyze Report www.healthwyze.org

DEVELOPER TREATS HOMELESS TO HOLIDAY MEAL

Sometimes developers get a bad rap. But Cuyahoga Falls developer Joel Testa, maybe not so much.

Testa, COO of Testa Companies, asked family and friends for a gift on his 42nd birthday two weeks ago. He sent out a Facebook message requesting help to feed and clothe Akron's homeless population during the holidays.

Testa and his wife, Mary, would shoulder most of the expense personally, yet on such short notice, pulling it together was a daunting task.

Soon, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins plus dozens of friends and Testa Co. employees stepped up to help. His daughter's scout troop made scarves to donate to the project, and Acme Fresh Market donated gift cards to help defray the estimated \$2,000 price tag.

Testa said he is passionate about changing the perception people have of the area's homeless.

"Generally, people are afraid of the homeless," said Testa. "The homeless are not lepers. Homelessness can happen to anyone."

But Testa didn't stop there. He wanted to give something special to as many of Akron's homeless population as possible. He and his business partners at d.b.a., the restaurant he owns with Dante Boccuzzi and Morgan Yagi on the ground floor of Northside Lofts, prepared dinner for 50 homeless guests at the restaurant.

-From the Akron Beacon Journal Online

TALL SKYSCRAPERS MAY MEAN DARKER CENTRAL PARK

The ever-growing and changing skyline of New York City could have a profound and less than desirable effect on a Big Apple treasure.

According to a study by the Municipal Art Society, the growing number of mega skyscrapers being built in the 57th Street area, like the Enormo, Tower One 57, and those in the planning stages will cast long shadows across the southern part of Central Park and dim areas of the shining jewel.

Studies showed that buildings exceeding 1000-ft will create different shadows at different times of the year. In some cases those shadows will be 20 blocks long.

"It's going to cast a shadow that will reach the playground, the zoo, you know way up north," Layla Law-Gisiko explained. Law-Gisiko is the chair of the Landmarks Committee for Community Board 5. She said that developers are able to build so high because they bought the air rights from the buildings around them and that there is not a public review process.

"It will basically plunge the park into a solar eclipse in the middle of the day," she said.

Residents told CBS 2's Rapoport that making the park darker may not be such a bright idea.

Extell Development Company, the developer of One 57 Tower, said that its buildings are very slender at the top and that moving shadows will mean that no single area of the park will be under a shadow for more than minutes at a time.

-From CBS New York

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January 2014

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Ice Skating with CSI Pittsburgh



Tuesday, January 28, 2014
(two weeks after the monthly meeting)

The Rink at PPG Place



Time: 6:00 p.m. - ?

Cost: \$12.00 (\$9.00 if you have your own skates)

Join CSI Pittsburgh for an evening of ice skating in the heart of downtown.
\$12.00 price includes admission, skate rental, hot chocolate, hot coffee, cookies,
and use of private party room to come in out of the weather!

Bring the entire family! Invite a friend!

Reservations: bbailey@ikminc.com

No-shows will be billed.

We need 20 people to make this happen so make your reservations ASAP!