

# Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,  
Construction Specifications Institute  
November 2015



## November 10, 2015 Meeting Cross Laminated Timber

Speaker:  
Stacey L. Bowers, AIA, NCARB  
MSES Architects, Fairmont, WV



### THIS MONTH

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Location:  
Cefalo's  
Carnegie, PA

5:00 Board Meeting  
5:30 Social  
6:15 Dinner  
7:00 Program

Cost \$35

Reservations:  
[MAZell@nationalgypsum.com](mailto:MAZell@nationalgypsum.com)  
(412) 951-8715

# Cross Laminated Timber

November 2015

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Cross laminated timber (CLT) is an engineered wood building system designed to complement light- and heavy-timber framing options. Because of its high strength and dimensional stability, it can be used as alternative to concrete, masonry and steel in many building types.

Having gained popularity in Europe over the past 20 years, CLT is now available to North American building designers. It offers the structural simplicity needed for cost-effective buildings, as well as benefits such as fast installation, reduced waste, improved thermal performance, and design versatility. It can be used in a wide range of applications, including mid-rise, urban infill, industrial, educational and civic structures.



## About Stacey Bowers:

From a small town in rural West Virginia, Stacey graduated with a BS in Architecture from Fairmont State University and a Masters of Architecture from University of Illinois at Chicago. With a background in historic preservation, her focus is working on historic renovations, additions, and restoration projects.

One of her recent notable projects completed in early 2015, Franklin Elementary School in Franklin, WV is the first school in the U.S. to be built using Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) and one of the first two design-build schools funded by the WV School Building Authority.



# President's Message

November 2015

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*by Bill Vernon, President*

## Networking in the Digital Age

We have so many tools today to stay in touch with whether texting, emailing, facebook, Twitter, Linked In, and the list goes on that sometimes we forget the value and importance of face to face meeting.

At CSI meetings we are meeting like-minded individuals in a casual social atmosphere that is not contrived, or forced. There are no hidden agendas. We ask about each other's projects, clients, and experiences, as we learn from each other and grow closer as community. There are often reasons to refer work, trade leads or collaborate.



Essentially, all else being equal, people do business with people they know, like and trust.

Face-to-face meetings can foster this trust and lead to solid, long-term relationships. CSI meetings enable members to meet people you otherwise would not come in contact with, and establish a foundation for a lasting relationship.

Our next meeting is: November 10 at Cefalo's and we are networking with IIDA for our December Holiday Gala, Tuesday December 8 at The Chadwick in Wexford.

*"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment." — Benjamin Franklin*





# Highlights from the Board

November 2015

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October 23, 2015 by teleconference

**President:** August meeting notes from R. Strayer will be reviewed at November meeting.

**Secretary:** July minutes approved.

**Treasurer:** Chapter is solvent; reports for Aug., Sept. & Oct. will be reviewed in November.

**Publicity:** Vernon finalizing flyer for Holiday Gala, live entertainment still needs to be finalized.

**Membership:** Discussion of membership ambassador who would contact new members.

**Tech/Ed:** Dorenkott reported we are considering late January or early February for a roofing topic; is asked to focus on non-union so we need another venue besides MBA or Carpenters Union, possibly ABC supply in Allison Park.

**Certification:** One unsuccessful attempt to pass CDT by member in the fall, will retake in spring. Nagie challenges us to get certifications over the next 2 years; goal is 75% of board members.

**Golf Outing:** Course was nice, food was excellent. Well attended.

## Chapter President Bill Vernon accepts Outstanding Chapter Commendation at CONSTRUCT 2015 in St. Louis



# Member News

November 2015

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## November Anniversaries

|      |                  |                              |
|------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 35th | Lee Lundberg     | Veolia Water NA              |
| 34th | Sandra Hundley   | Sandra A. Hundley, Architect |
| 33rd | Jeffrey Anderson | Mistick Construction         |
| 20th | Kevin Kearney    | Builders Hardware            |
| 13th | Michael Konkle   | Mak Sales Inc.               |
| 5th  | Richard Onslager | Robbins Sports Surfaces      |
| 2nd  | Toby Torchia Jr. | Knauf Insulation             |
| 2nd  | Ernest Joy       | Astorino                     |



# Member Profile - *Phil Hundley*

November 2015

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**What is your company and what is your position?** DRS Architects, Principal

**Tell us about your job.** It involves management both of the firm and projects, marketing and still some design.

**What part of your job do you most enjoy?** Doing some programming, master planning and design. It is my real passion, but I have little time to do it.

**If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing?** I would have loved to have been a sports broadcaster, but I don't have a photographic memory which is almost a necessity.

**If you could change one thing about your profession, it would be:** The fee structure. There used to be an AIA fee schedule for the profession. The U. S. Government considered this price fixing and I was at the AIA Convention where a decision had to be made as to whether to fight the government or concede the fee schedule. I remember sitting with Ehrman Mitchell and Russ Deeter who were nearing the end of their careers, telling me that this would impact architecture in a negative way forever and they were so right.

**What position(s) do you presently hold with CSI?** Member

**Why did you join CSI?** My wife was a member and I started to go to many events and saw the value in CSI as well as developing a lot of friends from my membership experience.

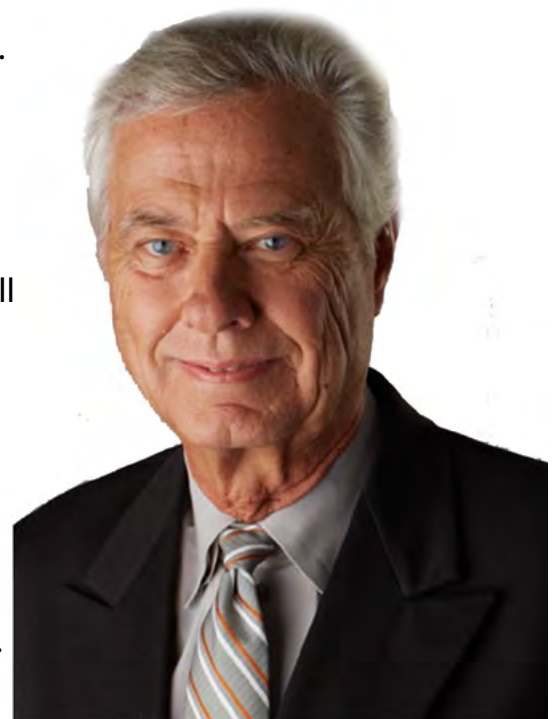
**What people influenced you most?** Russ Deeter was a graduate of the University of Illinois and came back to the campus and recruited me for the firm of Deeter Ritchey Sippel. He was a mentor to me regarding all aspects of architecture and was very instrumental in my becoming a Principal of the firm.

**What do you see as the value of CSI membership?** Wonderful mix of professionals—architects, engineers, manufacturers reps and contractors that allow interaction of all parties. It is also very educational oriented.

**Tell us a memorable CSI experience:** When my wife became a Fellow of the Institute in Las Vegas in 2002.

**Person you learned the most from:** Russ Deeter

**Tell us about your family.** My two daughters are married—one in Naples, FL and the other in New York City and I have four grand daughters. The oldest now attends Michigan State.





# Member Profile - *Phil Hundley* (cont'd)

November 2015

**What's your favorite city?** Chicago and Paris

**What's your passion?** Sports cars and car racing.

**What's a true sign of success?** That I love what I'm doing and able to design facilities that benefit society.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?** That I have served on the Council at Sewickley Heights for over 20 years and am the current President of Council.

CSI PITTSBURGH / IIDA PA-NJ-DE  
ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND  
OUR HOLIDAY GALA FEATURING

Live entertainment  
Product displays  
Hors d'oeuvres & Dessert Tables

**Happy holidays**

WHEN:  
TUESDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00PM- 9:00PM  
\$10 A PERSON



portion of proceeds will be donated

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

WHERE: THE CHADWICK  
1 WEXFORD SQUARE  
WEXFORD, PA

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NEW JERSEY/DELAWARE  
CHAPTER

# Region Report

November 2015

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*by Gail Nagie, CSI Middle Atlantic Region President*

## What is a Credential?

Webster defines a credential as a document which shows that a person is qualified to do a particular job.

As I look through our chapter roster I note that there are a number of members who do not hold credentials. Why?

The chapter will hold study classes to help you earn your credential. The region is discussing holding "Boot Camps" to help. Why not take the challenge and sign up for the Spring Exams. Classes could begin after the first of the year and by exam time you would be ready.

Join the other members of the chapter who have already taken the challenge and shown their qualifications to others.

Remember if I can earn my CDT you can. How about a CCS, CCCA or CCPR! These are some of the extra values you gain from your membership in the Construction Specifications Institute.



# Local News

November 2015



## ALMONO

Thirteen years ago LTV Corp. sold the desolate remains of its former coke works in Hazelwood to four foundations — Heinz, McCune, Benedum and Richard King Mellon. The price was \$9 million and hopes for a renaissance on the sprawling 178 acres were high.

After much planning by the foundations and the Regional Industrial Development Corp., which manages the site, the project moved into higher gear last Friday with a groundbreaking. The proposed \$27 million redevelopment is a long way from fruition, but the ceremony was proof that the plan is moving forward, with great promise for Pittsburgh.

The next step will be construction of a 1.5-mile boulevard through the property, which will enable potential business owners to tour the riverfront tract and envision their new location. A revised master plan should be finished by the end of this year.

Ultimately, **Almono**, its name drawn from the first syllables of the city's three rivers, will be a mix of office, light-industrial, commercial and residential development. Infused with 21st century principles of sustainability and carbon neutrality, the project will set a high bar for corporate tenants that choose to locate there. By the same token, their commitment to environmental standards should be an attraction that builds a cutting-edge community.

While completion of Pittsburgh's largest development site will take another decade, state and federal agencies can speed the project along by approving it for up to \$15 million in grants being sought. The U.S. Economic Development Administration, Gov. Tom Wolf's capital budget drafters, the Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies have received requests on Almono's behalf. Given prospects at the site for new employment, business formation and neighborhood recovery, it is hard to imagine a more worthy development. The Almono plan deserves interest from the private sector and backing from public officials.

*-Reprinted from Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

# Understanding Window U-Factor

November 2015

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By Tom Herron, LEED Green Associate

Windows account for 40 percent of a building's energy loss, and with energy costs and public demand for efficient buildings on the rise, using proven tactics to lessen this loss has become more important than ever. Finding the best materials to contribute to a building's performance targets is essential, but knowing which products will actually shrink the envelope's energy footprint can be daunting. When it comes to windows, U-factor is a key figure to consider and comes standard on all National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) labels.

U-factor indicates how much heat will be lost from a building through its windows by specifying how many BTUs can pass through one square foot of material in an hour. Most windows today have U-factors between 0.15 and 1.20, which NFRC-certified labs calculate using thermal measurements from the center and edges of the glass, the frame and along any dividers the window may have. In other words, whole product performance. The different measurements capture the total impact of the numerous components of a window, including glazing, gas fills, spacers, frames, weather stripping and sealants.

When considering a fenestration product, "window shoppers" should look for the NFRC label, which provides U-factor data, along with information for solar heat gain, visible transmittance and air leakage. Like the miles-per-gallon sticker on a car, the NFRC label – which can be affixed to the glass of all certified residential products or on a separate label certificate in the case of products in commercial applications – gives reliable, unbiased performance data to help architects, builders and even homeowners determine whether a product will meet their energy efficiency needs.

While NFRC does not recommend target U-factor values, the Efficient Windows Collaborative gives suggested thresholds based on climate zones:

- Northern states: 0.35 or less
- North Central or South Central states: 0.40 or less
- Southern states: 0.60 or less

The ENERGY STAR® program, which relies on NFRC ratings to determine product eligibility, uses even stricter limits:

- Northern, North Central and South Central states: 0.30 or less
- Southern states: 0.40 or less.

Since NFRC began rating fenestration products more than 25 years ago, the program has helped to foster a 50 percent reduction in the average U-factor of certified products, a trend that has helped lower U.S. per-capita energy consumption to pre-1970 levels. As state and federal energy policies and building codes evolve, window manufacturers and builders will continue to find innovative solutions to curb window energy loss, helping to save Americans some of the \$40 billion lost each year – and to significantly reduce the production of associated greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information about U-factor and window energy performance, visit [www.nfrc.org](http://www.nfrc.org).

*Tom Herron is director, communications and marketing, for the National Fenestration Rating Council. You can reach him at [therron@nfrc.org](mailto:therron@nfrc.org).*

# MASONRY SEMINARS

November 2015



## MASONRY DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND TROUBLESHOOTING

Sponsored by International Masonry Institute, the  
International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers  
Ohio-Kentucky Administrative District Council and BAC Local 9 PA



### WHO

Architects, Engineers, Specifiers, Building Owners, Facilities Managers, CMs, GCs, Code Officials, signatory Masonry Contractors

### WHEN & WHERE

**Tuesday, December 1, 2015**  
Southern Ohio Regional Training Center  
800 Kent Rd.  
Batavia, OH 45103

**Wednesday, December 2, 2015**  
BAC Local 9 PA  
100 Kingston Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

**Thursday, December 3, 2015**  
Northern Ohio Regional Training Center  
5171 Hudson Drive  
Hudson, OH 44236

### SCHEDULE

7:45 AM Registration  
8:00 AM Updating Your Masonry Details  
9:30 AM Masonry Job Site Troubleshooting  
10:30 AM Mockup review & interactive hands-on  
12:00 PM Certificates issued/program concludes

### FEES AND REGISTRATION

There is no fee to attend the program; however, registration is required. **Deadline for registration is November 20, 2015.**  
**Continental Breakfast will be provided.**



This program meets AIA/CES criteria for 4.0 H/S/W learning units, which will be reported directly to AIA.

### SEMINARS:

#### Updating Your Masonry Details Brian Trimble, PE, LEED AP – Regional VP, Engineering Services – Brick Industry Association

Current energy requirements are changing how walls are designed and built, which affects many of the traditional components in the masonry cavity wall assembly. In response to new information regarding building science, this lecture focuses on masonry detailing to achieve high performing wall systems. Moisture management, anchor/tie, air/vapor barrier, thermal control and masonry veneer systems are discussed. Specifying correct requirements for brick will also be addressed.

#### Masonry Job Site Troubleshooting Tom Nagy, Director of Industry Development and Technical Services – International Masonry Institute

Masonry loadbearing and veneer wall systems are still the #1 choice for educational, institutional, and commercial facility design. However, while masonry attributes are obvious, causes and remedies of occasional problems can be elusive. This seminar focuses on understanding best practice for producing high quality assemblies that are aesthetically pleasing and high performing buildings that serve the end user for decades. Masonry detailing, planning, management, and means-and-methods that support proper design and construction will be discussed with focus on identifying, diagnosing, and correcting problematic items.

#### Mockup Review and Interactive Hands-on IMI Certified instructors

Attendees will learn correct as-built conditions of masonry cavity walls by examining pre-built, static mockups as well gain understanding of safe and proper techniques of unit masonry installation – through demonstration and individual participation.



Co-sponsored by:

### REGISTRATION FORM

To register electronically click [HERE](#)

Please use one form per registrant. **Feel free to make multiple copies of this form.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration is required. Respond by November 20, 2015.**

Or email Marcy Rhoades at [mrhoades@imiweb.org](mailto:mrhoades@imiweb.org), or fax this form to (301) 291-2107 or mail to:  
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