Specigram Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute





November 2016



Giffin Interior & Fixture, Inc. is a premier manufacturer and provider of quality, custom architectural millwork and casework

They serve every level of customer from the architect, general contractor, down to the end user on a national level. They are known for high-tech, high-quality fabrications and finishes.

The Giffin team is a mix of cabinet makers, carpenters, drivers, project managers, estimators, engineers, and administration.

The team brings a wealth of experience, with estimators and project managers who have spent their entire careers in the industry and can walk you through the Giffin process.

Giffiin's engineers are not only trained cabinet makers and carpenters, but are also highly skilled in the industry-specific software. Giffin employs a group of highly skilled craftsmen in the shop and field.

TOUR DETAILS SEE PAGE 2

Dinner following: Cefalo's 428 Washinton Ave. Carnegie, PA 15106

Cost: \$35

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

You may attend the tour and not come to dinner, but you must RSVP even if you are only attending the tour.

Tour Details

PARK at the far end of the lot (drive past the shop to the brick building with green awnings).

ENTER the building through the glass door. We will gather in the conference room for a brief intro and overview of the company.

TOUR will consist of:

Office Area: Estimating, Project Management, Drafting and Purchasing Shop: Custom, Case Clamp, Millshop, Solid Surface and Finish Area

TOUR LEADERS:

Dustin Giffin: President

Jim Boyle: Vice President & Director of Project

Management

Pete Kearney: Director of Drafting and Engineering

Chad Woods: Production Manager

Throughout the tour we will highlight some of improvements that have been made since our LEAN transformation last year.



500 Scotti Dr, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Highlights from the Board

November 2016

October 18, 2016 Calabria's Restaurant, Castle Shannon

PRESIDENT:

We just completed a very nice tour of Matthews International. MARC-17 committee meeting

Thursday, October 20th at R3Architects.

PROGRAMS

November 8, 2016 meeting starts with tour of Giffin Interiors facility at 5:00PM. Dinner will be at Cefalo's since it is only a few miles away. Details to be provided through normal communications channels this month.

December 13, 2016 is Holiday party at Chadwick. Postcards to be mailed & flyers, same as last year to be distributed.

January 9, 2017 meeting at Cefalo's – Tentative speaker on digital documentation for construction projects. To be confirmed by Bailey.

HOSPITALITY

Holiday Party – Geist reported 17 vendor tables committed. We may have received another one tonight. IIDA has declined any

participation this year. TO BE DONE – All officers and Directors to reach out to architectural community professionals to attend the party. It can be done at no cost to that person. Details of drinks & postcards to be finalized & distributed ASAP to encourage attendance by additional professionals.

PUBLICITY / ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Postcards now being handled by Brian Trimble. Brian asked that he be registered with CSI Institute as a leader to gain access to member data.

MEMBERSHIP

Update of active members to be presented at November meeting.

MARC 17

Next meeting Thursday, October 20, 2016, 6:00 at R₃A Offices on South Side. Bailey has continued to enlist sponsors. New categories were added. Bailey to update list of sponsorships & those filled at the meeting. Discussion of MARC-17 vendor table sponsors was held. Volunteer positions for conference tasks to be identified. Matt Lander will help. Publicity of the event to be sent out in November.

www.CSIPittsburgh.org

visit us on Facebook: http://ow.ly/106c8x

Member News

September Anniversaries

40th George Merges Jr.George Merges Jr./Architect39th Charles BrownBrenenborg Brown Group28th Kristin KennedyFlorida Consulting LLC

19th John Cleary MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, Inc.

2nd Allan Brock Brock Associates

1st Jason Henze Overhead Door Company of Greater Pittsburgh

1st Jessica Dierker Hilti

October Anniversaries

34th Timothy Fyock Benchmark Engineering & Construction Company, Inc.

21st Joel Cluskey RSH Architects

16th Barbara Smith Barbara J Sales Associates, Inc.

10thToby KnightKnight Athletics, Inc.8thBarbara RuppelDodge Data & Analytics

8th Kimberly Hummel Architectural Innovations, LLC

7th Lynn Fulton Port Authority

4th Michael Andrews Allegion

November Anniversaries

35th Sandra Hundley Sandra A. Hundley, Architect

34th Jeffrey Anderson Mistick Construction
21st Kevin Kearney Builders Hardware
14th Michael Konkle Mak Sales Inc.

6th Matthew Lander AVT, Inc.

6th Kevin Shinton Easley & Rivers, Inc. 6th Mark Bus ATAS International

6th Richard Onslager Robbins Sports Surfaces

3rd Toby Torchia Jr. Knauf Insulation
3rd Ernest Joy Cannon Design
1st Chuck Biasucci CertainTeed Ceilings



Member News (cont'd)

New Members:

Joseph Koehler Nalco Co.

Colleen DeFilippo Bonitz Flooring Group Susan Henshaw Bekon Consultants

David Glorioso Allegion

George Dickerson Foreman Group

Christina Szejk Perkins Eastman Architects

Victor Maga Spartan Construction Services, Inc.

Membership Up For Renewal:

Barbara Ruppel Dodge Data & Analytics

William Pope

Charles Brown Brenenborg Brown Group, Architects

Kristin Kennedy Florida Consulting LLC

Lynn Fulton CDMSmith Kelley Boyle WR Grace

Jessica Dierker Hilti

Current Membership: 124

Mark Bus of ATAS International Inc. is the 2016 recipient of the "Young Movers and Shakers" Metal Construction Association Triumph Award.

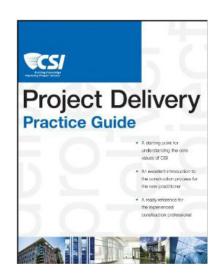
Mark received the award at METALCON in Baltimore on Wenesday, October 26.

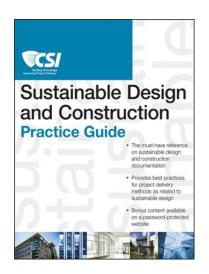


CSI Membership: What's in it for YOU?

As a CSI member you can:

- Learn and share information with experts across the industry. In CSI, you'll connect with professionals from different fields who are as eager to learn from you as you are from them. CSI's online communities make it even easier to connect with CSI members throughout the world and provide every day solutions when you need them.
- Enhance your technical skills. CSI's education helps thousands of professionals understand and control their documentation so they can deliver projects as envisioned. In addition, CSI's new website www.csiresources.org is designed for you to easily search for just the information you need.





- Get real-world, building product solutions. As a member, you'll receive CSI's Construction Specifier Magazine, which is packed with articles and advice focused on the latest in building technology.
- Participate in your local construction community through more than 130 chapters nationwide. For a complete listing of CSI chapters throughout United States visit our website.

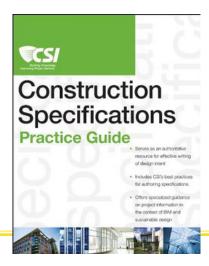
And you can search MasterFormat.com for FREE!

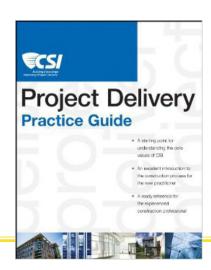
Ready to join? CSI has three membership levels:



- Professional
- Emerging Professional
- Student

Go to www.csiresources.org to join today!





Member Profile - Pat Starr

November 2016

What is your company and what is your position? ATAS International, Inc.

My position is Product Representative, which is just another name for Outside Salesman.

Tell us about your job.

I promote and sell ATAS products to architects, contractors, distributors, and other professionals involved in the design and construction of buildings. My territory includes Western Pa. and all of West Virginia.



What is your education background? Undergrad? Grad? I have a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Minors in History and Law from IUP.

How many years have you been in the industry? I have worked in the Metal Industry for over 22 years now.

What part of your job do you most enjoy?

I think the part of my job I enjoy the most is being at the jobsite and working out details with the Architect and Contractor. I enjoy seeing the project come together in real time.

If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing? I think I would be teaching. I love History, and would jump at the chance to teach a History Class at a High School or College level.

What was your first job?

After College my first was working for a company call Jack Toy Associates. I sold Paper and Medical Supplies to the Hospital Associations in Eastern Pa. and the state of New Jersey. I also worked as a Real Estate Manager, which involve over two hundred apartment units.

What is the funniest/oddest thing that has happened in your professional career? It's a long story so let's see. In my first job we had an emergency for one of the maternity wards at a local hospital, I was required to go to the local BJ's Wholesale Club (it's like Sam's Club and Costco) and purchase several pallet loads of Extra Heavy Duty Maxi Pads. I had a lot of people at the store wondering what I was up to and making many funny comments at my expense. To make matters funnier, I had to drive across town with these clearly labeled pallets in an open truck bed, more comments ensued.

If you could change one thing about your profession, it would be: Get back to a hand shake and verbal agreement being enough to get a job done.

What year did you join CSI? 2014

November 2016

Member Profile - Pat Starr (cont'd)

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

The position I currently hold is Active Member, and if I say so myself, I'm doing a very good job.

Why did you join CSI?

I've been out of the architectural end of the business for too many years and thought that joining CSI would help me reconnect with the architectural community.

What people influenced you most?

J. Patrick Starr, my father, he was a Metallurgist and then Salesman for Bethlehem Steel. He got me addicted to the Metal Industry when he told me that his team was working to sell Galvalume Steel to NASA for the Skylab project. He taught me the best practices of being a Salesman; Know your Product and Know your Customer. Develop relationships and not just based on business. David Pickl, a great friend, he was a draftsman and salesman for a local distributor here in Pittsburgh. His company was my largest account when I first came out here. He taught me that it was important to develop

relationships and help your customers out even if it doesn't get you the current sale. He was so highly regarded by most of the construction community, they all called him when it came to dealing with anything metal systems and always worked to get him the business.

What do you see as the value of CSI membership?

The value comes in the form of making relationships and being able to reconnect with the Architectural Community.

What CSI certifications have you earned?

None so far but I'm currently studying for my CDT. Any help on this would be greatly appreciated.

What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?

Our chapter here in Pittsburgh is one of the most active chapters on the east coast. It happens to be a great way to get your face and name in front of all the major architectural firms in the area.

Tell us a memorable CSI experience:

It would have to be the very first meeting I attended back in 2014. It was the Holiday Party up in Wexford, and Mark Bus made a point to introduce me around to anybody and everybody. Needless to say I was overwhelmed since I had only been on the job for about a week. Everybody though was extremely friendly and very inviting. Everybody was just so gracious, it set the stage for the experiences I've had and the ones yet to come.

Person you learned the most from:

I would have to say it was my Father. He was always willing to listen and give me advice with my career. But the most important thing that he did and which taught me the most was set the right example. He taught me a lot about the industry don't get me wrong, but it was his shared life experiences that taught me the most.

Tell us about your family.

I am blessed with a lovely wife of twenty-one years, Chantal and a wonderful son, Ryan, age twelve. This year our family was blessed again with the opportunity to expand itself and that it has done. We now are joined by our twin foster daughters, Christine and Nicole, they are 4 years old and have been

Member Profile - Pat Starr (cont'd)

November 2016

with us about nine months. We also have two foster sons, Mason, 3 months old, and Liam, 18 months old. We have had Mason since day two of his life and he truly has been a gift, happiest child, loaded with toothless smiles. My son Ryan loves playing and feeding his new little brother. Liam just came to us in the middle of October, so we all are still feeling each other out.

With all that being said, my wife has a full time job taking care of all the kids. As a foster parent she as the job of advocating for these children to make sure they get the care that is required and she is excellent at this.

My son is a brown belt with a local Dojo that regularly competes at a state and nation level. He has qualified for the National Championships several times, so we've gotten to travel all over the US. I'm sorry if I've gone long with this answer but I have so much more I could tell you about these wonderful people, they keep me grounded and remind daily what really is important in life.

What's your favorite city?

In the US I would have to say it's Pittsburgh. This city truly provides the best of both worlds, big city with a small town feel.

Outside the US it would be a toss-up between Paris and London. Both are so rich with history that I could get lost in both cities for days and still be enjoying myself. Everywhere you turn historical sites, they are a history buffs dream.

What are your hobbies?

Collecting coins with my son Ryan, and coaching soccer in the local rec league.

What's your passion?

History, specifically military history. Snow skiing. Soccer.

Help Wanted!!

Do you want to make a difference in this Chapter?

Volunteers are needed!

Please contact Chapter president Rich Strayer if interested.

GBA Liason

The Chapter needs someone to manage and cultivate the relationship with Pittsburgh's Green Building Alliance.

Student Outreach

The Chapter needs needs someone to manage and cultivate the relationship with local colleges and universities such as CMU, Chatham and The Art Institute.

Last Month's Meeting

Tour of Matthews Bronze Division

















Last Month's Meeting

Tour of Matthews Bronze Division











Mid-Atlantic Region Conference 2017

October 2016



Conference Headquarters: Sheraton Station Square, south side Pittsburgh.

Primary Participants: CSI members from the 14 chapters that comprise the Middle Atlantic Region: Erie/Northwest PA, North Central PA, Pittsburgh, PA Railroad, Central PA, Allentown, Philadelphia, Northern VA, Baltimore, DC Metro, Central VA, Richmond, Tidewater, Blue Ridge.

Sponsorships are available!

Contact Bob Bailey bbailey@ikminc.com or Marc Zell MAZell@NationalGypsum.com

Education Sessions
Tours of local High-Tech organizations
Keynote Speakers
Dinner Cruise on the Rivers
and much more!

Region Report

By Gail Nagie, CSI Middle-Atlantic Region President

My message to you will be different then other months because this is a jam packed month with many things going on. The Middle Atlantic Region is moving ahead with updates and additions to the Region Guide. Chapters are enjoying new programs and Tours. Four Chapters are working hard planning up coming Region Conferences including Pittsburgh who will host the 2017 Conference.

But tonight, as I sit here trying to write something important and interesting all I can smell is smoke! I spent my dinner hours with a local Boy Scout Troop (as well as their Cub Scouts) as they performed an annual duty. "The retiring of American Flags Ceremony." If you have never witnessed such a ceremony I strongly suggest you take some time out and participate with a local Scout Troop (or local American Legion Post). After 45 minutes of smoke billowing about, my lungs began acting up and I had to leave. In case you were unaware there is a proper ceremony during which the flags are put to rest one final time. Flags that are faded, dirty, tattered or torn are given their last rites and burned as their service to this country has ended. This was a Touching experience. So now you know what to do with your older flag that has lost its glory. Your local Scout Troop or American Legion Post will be happy to take your flag and retire it properly. There is no charge for this service.

November is filled with important dates. Election day starts the month off. Please Vote, everyone's vote counts and is very important.

Veterans day is only three days later. Be sure to thank a Veteran. Because of his (Or her) Service you have countless freedoms.

Two weeks later is Thanksgiving. And no, I won't write "Ode to a Turkey". Just enjoy the bird with family and friends.

The month closes out with the opening of deer hunting season, an almost sacred season in Pennsylvania. Just be safe.







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Drained/Back Ventilated Rainscreen Systems – Effective Protection against the Elements of Nature

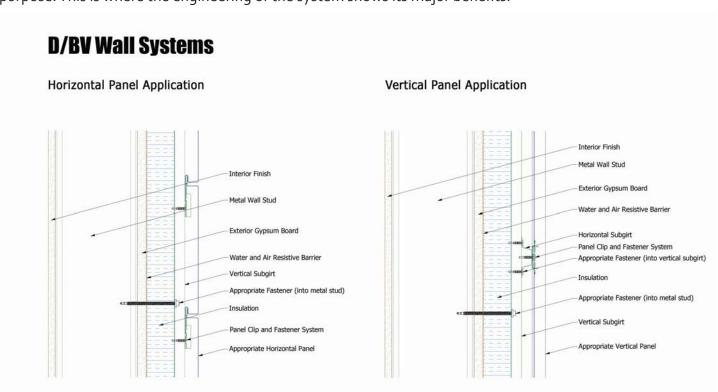
November 2016

by Christopher Kroeter, CSI, CDT, LEED Green Associate and Daniel Arnold August 17, 2016

Weatherproofing is a simple concept at its core. It is any system used to protect a structure from the elements, such as wind, temperature, and precipitation; anything that may hurt the integrity of the structure itself.

There are different forms of weatherproofing but almost every structure from shed to home to skyscraper has a form of weatherproofing for protection. A common example of this is the various types of siding on homes. These external layers are designed to protect the interior material from the elements. Without the proper weatherproofing, damage and premature aging of the core structure and its supports could result. These common sidings are what's called single layer systems. That is, it is a single layer of a material used to keep out moisture, protect from wind damage, circulate air, and also be seen as part of the aesthetic design of the building. These single layer systems have their limitations and due to this, other systems have been created that use multiple layers of material to enhance all aspects of weatherproofing. These systems are sometimes described as rainscreen systems; however, even under this category there are significant differences. One of these systems that obtain superior results in aesthetics and in weatherproofing is the Drained/Back Ventilated or D/BV system.

The design of the D/BV system consists of two main parts, which are often described as the outer leaf and inner leaf. These two parts are what separates this system from the single line barriers in name, but in function there is even more of a difference. In fact, there are three distinct sections that make up the D/BV System. The first of these sections is the outer leaf or, exterior cladding. This section is both the aesthetic layer of the system and also the first layer of protection. Between this layer and the inner leaf is an air space. This space is the drainage plane and ventilation cavity. The inner leaf then is comprised of insulation, an air and water resistive barrier and the building structure. Each section of this two-stage design has a very specific purpose. This is where the engineering of the system shows its major benefits.



D/BV Rainscreen Systems (cont'd)

November 2016

In the outer leaf, consisting of the exterior cladding, the purpose is to manage and control and in some cases prevent water infiltration. This exterior cladding specifically is a series of sheets or panels attached to vertical supports to comprise an exterior layer. The joints between each panel may be open or sealed to obstruct or minimize water penetration by kinetic energy and wind force. This system is actually designed to minimize, but not prevent, water penetration. This is because even in sealed systems water penetration is inevitable. Therefore, the design of this system accounts for it and manages it, rather than trying to prevent it. The level to which water infiltration will be managed is dependent upon the wind and environmental load resistance of the structure and environment in which it is built. This exterior cladding also provides UV protection for all of the interior components. This layer works well to protect the interior components, ensuring their integrity and longevity.

From the exterior cladding the next step in is the air space. This air space, far from being an afterthought, is actually a critical design feature of the D/BV system. This air space is designed as a ventilation cavity that provides airflow through the panel system. It allows for proper evaporation of moisture and also allows for the proper pressurization that can sometimes be a problem of the semi-sealed systems. The biggest asset of the air space is that is it also the drainage plane for any heavy precipitation that may get through the exterior cladding. So in times of high wind and heavy rain, the water will always be moving, never pooling or staying trapped in any section of the system. This proper drainage is hugely important in preventing water damage that can cause massive problems over time. The amount of space needed for this varies with the type of cladding used. However, with metal cladding, due to its low porosity, the cavity depth is often only between .375" and .75".

The next step past the air space is the insulation of the panel system and the start of what is referred to as the inner leaf. There are three purposes for this insulation. The first is to reduce heat flow into and out of the building. This allows for a more consistent temperature within the building, therefore making any building using the D/BV system more energy efficient. The second purpose is to also act as a further water barrier by being comprised of water resistant materials. This is again to ensure the proper flow and drainage of moisture, to have it constantly flowing down and away from the structure. The third purpose is to minimize the chance of condensation and thermal bridging. Condensation and thermal bridging alone can hurt the physical integrity of the building and can create air problems inside and outside of the structure. The proper insulation keeps these concerns from being a factor.



The next layer of this system is an air and water resistive barrier. Due to the fact that water has the potential to get into the wall system, this barrier is the last and most critical line of defense against water infiltration. It is also used as a way to minimize condensation through vapor transmission. The type of barrier used varies depending on certain factors that include the climate that the building is in and the intended use of the building. For example, a building in a desert region with relatively low winds and moisture/ humidity has different resistive barrier needs than a building in a subtropical region that may encounter heavy winds and high moisture/humidity. The final element of the wall system is the building structure. This is commonly a brick or block wall assembly, or wood or metal framing, which may also incorporate an exterior facing such as plywood or gypsum board. These very common building structure materials point out that this system does not require any unique or obscure building materials to be effective.

D/BV Rainscreen Systems (cont'd)

November 2016

There is another system often used that incorporates similar principles into its design; this system is called the Pressure Equalized Rainscreen system (PERS). The PERS system is typically more design intensive. This system works by allowing both static and dynamic equalization. It is an attempt to negate any negative pressure that could draw water into the system. This is accomplished by openings in the cladding that create pressure compartments. The idea is that with the correct pressurization, water will not be able to flow through the system, creating the desired weatherproofing. However, this has been shown to be much more design intensive in order to perfect, especially in areas of more extreme weather and varying types of condensation. Due to this, and the system's lack of built in back up weatherproofing in case of the system failure, it is held to a fail or pass standard through test procedures. This means that the system is tested and if it fails to eliminate moisture penetration it must be redesigned.

The ventilated and vented wall assemblies of the D/BV system instead incorporate water drainage into its design with the air space between the outer and inner leafs. Moisture inside the system is expected and can be drained. That moisture can occur from several sources, including: water passing through the exterior cladding, water vapor in the air, either from diffusion and or air movement through the wall, and also moisture from within the materials used during the construction cycle. The ventilated and vented assemblies allow for all of these moisture concerns to be drained properly. This proper drainage also has the added benefit of minimizing potential for rot, mold growth, corrosion and discoloration of building materials.

In these types of assemblies, metal is the preferred material; this is due to its low absorption value, and therefore can have a smaller air cavity and less effect on overall design. This in turn means greater freedom in creative and aesthetic design of the building while still providing maximum weatherproofing abilities. Within these metal assemblies there are two types used, one being ventilated and the other vented. The difference between the ventilated and vented walls that are incorporated in the D/BV system is minimal. The ventilated wall has openings at the top and bottom of the air cavity to promote air circulation through the cavity. A vented wall only has the openings at the bottom of the air cavity. This still provides drainage but has reduced volume of air circulation. Choosing between the two will again be based on environment and building needs; however both are effective and have the same design possibilities.

The D/BV system is on the cutting edge of building weatherproofing and is a system that continues to evolve. The always advancing metal wall cladding materials are becoming more widely used due to the ever increasing possibilities in form and aesthetics, from materials to colors to shapes. The D/BV system allows for beautiful buildings to be incredibly protected for structural integrity while maintaining design intent.

Christopher Kroeter, CSI, CDT, LEED Green Associate, is a Product Representative for ATAS International, Inc., and is also the House Committee Chairperson of the CSI Metro NY Chapter. He has many years of experience advising architects, specifiers, engineers, contractors and building owners on the sustainable building envelope technology products manufactured by ATAS.

Daniel Arnold is a marketing consultant for ATAS International, Inc., Allentown, PA.

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Contact Bob Bailey.

Region Report

November 2016

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