

# Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,  
Construction Specifications Institute

September 2019



**September 10** was Opening Night 2019  
at  
**Over Eden Restaurant (Tryp Hotel), Lawrenceville**



# Opening Night 2019

September 2019

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## Discussion at CSI meeting 9/10/2019

### 1) Goals of the Pittsburgh CSI chapter

- Educate! – for professionals
- Networking (for reps) from all groups (A, E, C)

### 2) Monthly meeting format

- No lunch meetings, but could do mtgs after 3 pm
- More social networking
- Keep doing tours
- Interactive activities (team building)
- Microphone for speakers / better acoustics
- Sponsored meals
- New venues and unique programs (also geographical diversity)
- Different activities (anything like architectural historical tour)
- More technical topics
- More interaction & social networking
- More cool (hip) places
- Have CSI chapter meeting with topic of “What architects should know” by a panel of ~~our~~ reps (Are you smarter than a spec writer)
- Bowling / Clay shoot / Axe throwing / Microbrewery / Top Golf

### 3) Attracting more members

- Get more design professionals (architects) & contractors involved
- Get more young people involved
- Getting bigger firm representatives to attend
- Emerging design professionals

### 4) Certification

- 100% yes! Support group all moving forward to the same goal.
- Yes, formal teaching is a great idea
- Yes, the more people certified would create more professionalism and more recognition for the certifications
- CDT not as well known by young professionals
- Have certification courses @ larger or prominent firms & companies
- Offering a trial 12 week CDT prep course

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## 5) Collaboration

- AIA / ASID / Building Enclosure / IIDA
- Have CSI December event with another organization like interior designers (ASID)
- Do a talk at someone's university class
- Work with a spec writer for a day
- Show us your best spec
- Have students present to our members what they are doing

## 6) CSI products

- Have a chapter meeting discussing GreenFormat and its implementation when writing specs
- Have a chapter meeting where tables are a team answering questions about MasterFormat, SectionFormat, PassFormat, UniFormat as a trivia night



**Golf Outing, September 19th, Pittsburgh National Golf Club**



# Remembering... **George Merges**

September 2019

*This profile of George appeared in the August 2014 newsletter.*

**What is your company and what is your position?** Principal of George Merges Jr/Architect

**Tell us about your job.** Jack of all trades, master of a few.

**What part of your job do you most enjoy?** Client development/contact.

**If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing?** Enjoying retirement

**If you could change one thing about your profession, it would be:** To have the general public think of architects as building design professionals rather than contractors, builders or engineers.

**What year did you join CSI?** 1976



**Why did you join CSI?** I had just started my own practice and was suffering a bad case of cabin fever when Ken Nagie invited me to a CSI meeting. I was hooked.

**What do you see as the value of CSI membership?** developing friendships in the industry throughout the United States.

**What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?** It is a great opportunity to grow in the industry through friendships and networking.

**Person you learned the most from:** Leonard Mitchell, a spec writer and past president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of CSI.

**Tell us about your family.** My wife of 45 years, Debbie, is also a CSI member and works as a product rep for Architectural Resources, Inc. My son, Greg, is also an architect, a CSI member and has worked with me for 14 years. My daughter is a stay at home mom living in Duxbury, Ma. with her husband, Brian and our wonderful granddaughter Kenzie.

**What's your favorite city?** First, after Pittsburgh, is Anchorage, Alaska.

**What's your passion?** Traveling.

**What's a true sign of success?** Satisfaction and happiness with what you do and have done.

**Best advice anyone ever gave you:** Don't become an architect if you want to make a lot of money.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?** I was the architectural design consultant for Michael Baker Jr., Inc. on the New River Gorge Bridge.

**What was your proudest moment in CSI?** My advancement to Fellowship in 2007.



# October Meeting

September 2019

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## Join us for our **Student Outreach Event**

as we welcome students to network with architects, fellow students and professionals to build relationships that can be utilized in the job market!

***at CMU College of Fine Arts***

Room CFA 214

4909 Frew St. Pittsburgh, PA 15213

***on Tuesday October 29, 2019 5:30 PM-7:30 PM***

**Dinner provided free to students and \$30 for others**

**RSVP to Marc Zell**

**[MaZelevkovitz@Nationalgypsum.com](mailto:MaZelevkovitz@Nationalgypsum.com)**

# Member News

September 2019

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## September Anniversaries

42nd Charles Brown    Brenenburg Brown Group

4th Jason Henze    Overhead Door Company

## New Members

Daniel Sutton    Vitro Architectural Glass

**Current Membership**    104

## JOIN/RENEW

Become a CSI member and get construction industry news and resources, standards and formats, networking opportunities, webinars, events, member discounts, and more!

**MARC20**  
**MARC20**  
VISION FOR THE FUTURE

**CSI Middle Atlantic Region Conference**

**April 2 - 5, 2020**

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center  
Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA



# Highlights from the Board

September 2019

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August 13th, 2019, 5:25 PM - WTW Architects Offices

## PRESIDENT

President Thornton presented information about MetalCon Show taking place the week after the CSI Construction Show in October at the David Lawrence Convention Center.

MetalCon is offering a free booth to CSI. Chapter would man the booth with members.

## TREASURER

Budget: To approve FY 2019-2020 Budget as submitted was proposed by Strayer, seconded by Vernon; motion unanimously approved.

## PROGRAMS

- September: Opening Night at Over Eden-Tryp Hotel; presentation by Architect followed by Member recognition.

## HOSPITALITY

- Golf Outing – September 19th; working out contract with Pittsburgh North Golf Club.
- Holiday Party – December 10th; working on registration sheet.

## AWARDS

- Chapter Awards: Will present Region Awards and Chapter Awards at September meeting; Strayer and Thornton to meet next week to finalize.
- Outstanding Chapter Award: Submitted

## GBA LIASON

- Carty report the GBA outing was well attended and the chapter may gain two or three new members..

## STUDENT OUTREACH

- Defilippo will contact CMU or other local universities for possible meetings.

## LONG RANGE PLANNING

- Discussed updating strategic plan – check chapter tools on CSI resources.

# Newsletter Sponsors

September 2019



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