

# Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,  
Construction Specifications Institute

April 2020



## **Where We Stand:**

**Here's how our Chapter's schedule could look as we move into May.**

**May Meeting: We are looking at a virtual meeting. It could take the form of a Zoom meeting in which we discuss how you are handling working from home.**

**The Institute recently held such a meeting. It could be fun and entertaining.**

**May Golf Outing: We are looking at moving it to a date in the late summer or early fall.**

**June Meeting: Could move to September.**

**Chapter Elections: This will happen through email since we do not have any competition for positions.**

# President's Message

---

*by Martin (Marty) Thornton II, CCS, CSI*

How do you start this month's message when we are all wondering what tomorrow will bring?

The world has been turned upside down. Many of us are working from home and social distancing is now the norm. I never thought I would be involved in so many video conferences, GoToMeetings, Zoom, and Skype interactions; and that is just with my own company!



Many manufacturers are rolling out new webinars and virtual CEU meetings. It makes one wonder if this will be the new way box-lunch presentations will take place!

If you have a loved one(s) working in the healthcare field, grocery stores, utilities, sanitation, police, fire and emergency, or any other areas sustaining us through this situation, I personally thank them and pray they stay safe. It's good to know there are people in this world willing to take on these essential roles. They deserve our gratitude.

It is also uplifting to connect with my neighbors on our daily walks through the countryside while, of course, maintaining a safe 6' distance. One neighbor has middle-school age children and is a teacher in the Ellwood Area School District. Hearing from her how they are coping and solving issues to continue students' education is reassuring. To all of you thrown into the new realm of home schooling: keep up the good work, you're doing great.

It goes without saying that our April meeting will not be happening, at least not as an ordinary meeting. We are exploring options for a virtual meeting. And for now, May will probably follow the same fate.

My hope is that we can still have our May golf outing. Keep an eye out for registration information in our award-winning newsletter, the Specigram.

# President's Message (cont'd)

April 2020

---

We will also need to hold Chapter elections. Nominees for the open board positions are as follows:

President: Kelly Brown  
First Vice-President: Matt Lander  
Second Vice-President: Brian Trimble  
Secretary: Steve Pries  
Two Director Positions: Kate Schuster and Jason Henze

If you know someone who would like to step into a leadership role for the Chapter, please contact Rich Strayer (Nomination Committee Chair) or me. Please ask the person before nominating them. We will close nominations on April 19th and then set up a way for elections to occur by the end of the month.

Speaking of elections, CSI is holding the Institute elections this month from April 7th through midnight April 21st. We are voting for the new Chair-Elect to work with our own Middle Atlantic Region member, Marvin Kemp. We are also voting for Director-at-Large and Treasurer. If you have questions about the elections, please feel free to email me. Finally, please stay safe and stay home. I know it sounds like a catch phrase but it's true, we are all in this together. I miss seeing each of you whether at my office or at an event.

Until we can meet again,  
Marty

*"It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required."  
- Winston Churchill, former British prime minister.*



# Highlights from the Board

April 2020

---

April 15, 2020, Conference Call

## **PRESIDENT**

Stay safe. Stay away from each other.

## **PROGRAMS**

Top Golf to be rescheduled to late summer/fall.

Brian/Matt possibly host online trivia virtual meeting Solicit trivia questions – two per product representative.

Move Virtual Tour – WELL Building tour in Belle Vernon - Desmone

TBD – School/Storm shelter design

TBD – Building envelope design

## **PUBLICITY / ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Website – Announce virtual CEU events on chapter calendar

Postcards – Hold for until in-person meetings resume.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Total Membership: 92

## **TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

We are looking for a new chair for technical education.

## **CERTIFICATION**

The last class on March 26th was canceled. All candidates were provided with the course materials. Testing is currently being delayed but no candidates were planning on testing.

## **GBA LIASON**

Looking for new liaison. Carty has a new position.

## **GOLF OUTING**

Golf Outing – Quicksilver is currently closed. Plan on rescheduling for September (fall outing).

## **STUDENT OUTREACH**

Looking for new student outreach coordinator. Colleen is moving to Florida.

## **BY-LAWS**

Thornton continues review of bylaws and chapter guide

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Elections possibly delay to May. Possibly with Survey Monkey. Or Outlook poll.

LEAD is still on.

CONSTRUCT is September 30 to October 2 in Grapevine TX; Hotel reservations opened.

# Member News

April 2020

---

## April Anniversaries

40th	Brian Joos	
34th	Martin Thornton II	WTW Architects
32nd	Michael Bosco	DLA + ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN
24th	Joseph Kostuch	The K Group PGH LLC
21st	Barbara Matejka	HHSDR Architects/Engineers
21st	James Geist	The Sherwin-Williams Co.
9th	John Bliss	R.I. Lampus Company
6th	Pamela Neely	Inpro
3rd	Jason Hamilton	Tnemec
3rd	Patti Lampl	HoLampCo International
1st	Stephen Preis	Deltek

## New Members

Steven Wasilowski      PPG Paints

**Current Membership:      92**

## Join CSI !

CSI is a must for any professional involved in designing, supplying, building, negotiating, planning, contracting or any other function in the construction-building industry. CSI members bring real world solutions to this ever-changing climate. Learn more about our different membership types, discounts, resources, and educational opportunities.

Becoming a CSI member gives you a wealth of benefits, including construction industry news and resources, standards and formats, networking opportunities, webinars, events, and member discounts.

# Tessellation

April 2020

---

by Dennis Buirge, RA, CSI, CCS, CCCA

POTENTIAL SCENARIO: A client sophisticated in design and construction calls the architect to discuss a potential signature new building. The project manager and project architect attend the meeting with Facilities' personnel. As conversation occurs about the program and building aesthetics is reviewed, the Owner identifies the desire for a large multistory entrance having a tessellated skylight with a corresponding tessellated floor in the adjacent corridors. The PM and PA silently turn to one another with that quizzical stare, kept hidden from the client, and respond, 'sure ... we can do that!' After the meeting, the PM and PA assemble the assigned design staff to discuss the project and ask if anyone is familiar with tessellated assemblies. The specification writer questions, "sure ... are we using rhomboids, triangles, or another geometric shape?"

With the specification writer reading the May 2010 issue of The Construction Specifier as published by CSI, specifically the article 'Getting Off the Rectangular Grid' on page 84, then that spec writer or anyone else would have a good understanding regarding the Owner's request in the aforementioned scenario.

A link to that article follows: <http://www.constructionspecifier.com/search/>, linking to 2010 Archives/May.

The term tessallare comes from a Latin background and means 'to pave with tile' (actually, tessares that are small pieces of material such as marble, glass, or tile used in mosaic work). Tessellation may also be defined as completely covering a surface with a repeated shape or grouping of shapes, or from another point of view, dividing a surface into polygons (i.e. multi-sided shapes). In other words, a tessellated surface can be thought of as covered with tile-like panels.

Tessellated shape examples can be seen in nature and can include a turtle shell, honeycomb, pineapple, giraffe markings, fish scales, and spider web.

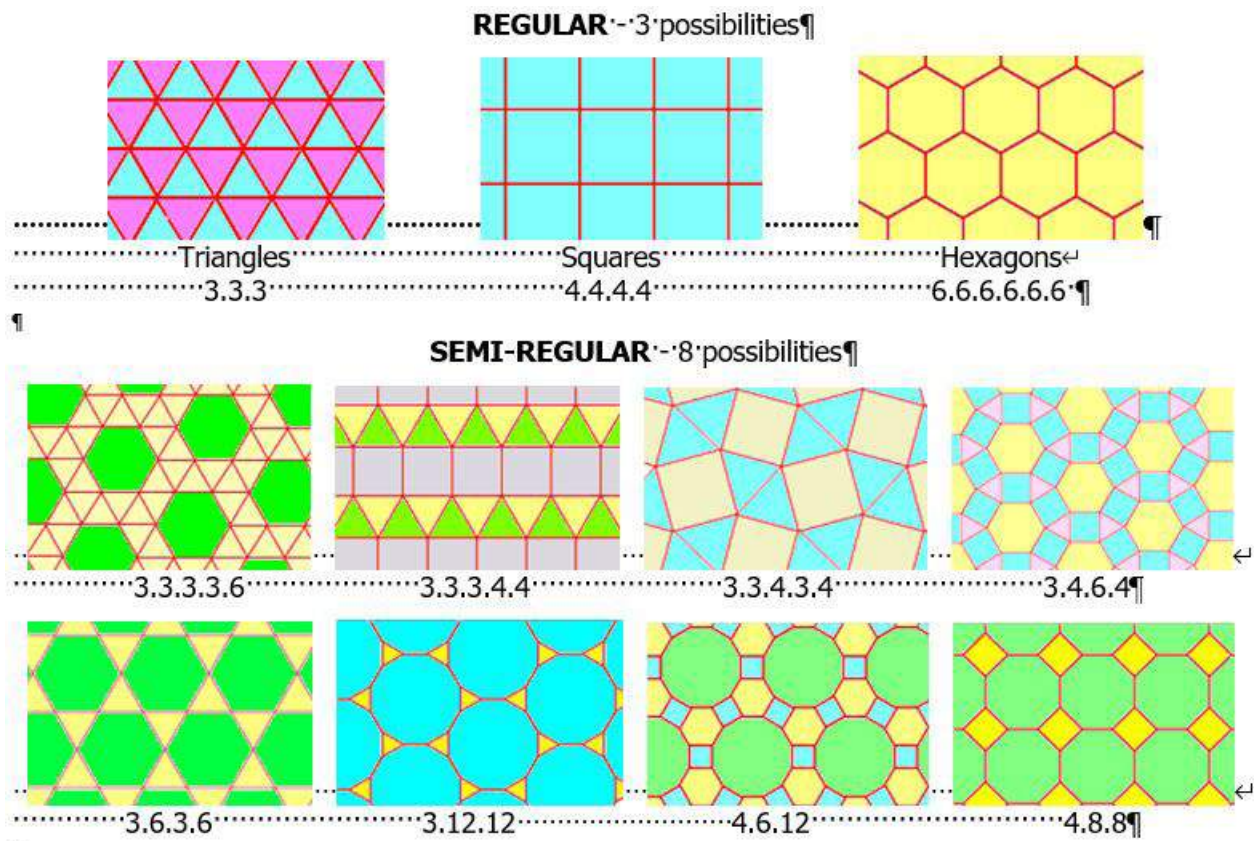


# Tessellation (cont'd)

April 2020

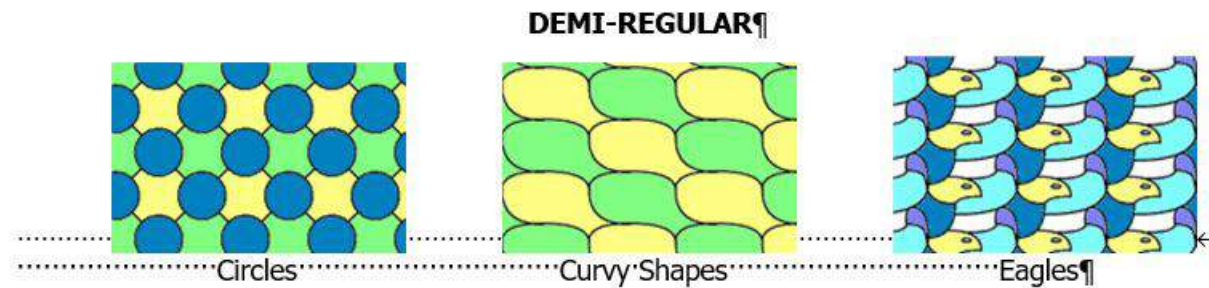
Tessellations of squares, triangles and hexagons are the simplest and frequently seen in everyday life. They have been traced back to the Sumerian civilizations (around 4000 BC) and were also used by the Greeks in making mosaic designs like the Greek Key. Throughout history, tessellated examples can be found in most cultures. In the 20th century, hexagonal modules are easily observable in Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes and Dymaxion projects. We see them today in building facades, floor, wall, and ceiling finishes/systems. The pattern can occur on flat planes or on curved surfaces.

New software tools such as CAD and BIM allow easier implementation of tessellated shapes in architectural designs using various geometries. Regular polygons, equilateral triangles, squares, and hexagons, are used for regular tessellations (made by repeating a regular polygon), semi-regular tessellations (made of two or more regular polygons), and demi-regular tessellations (mathematicians disagree on what they actually are, but some allow use of curved shapes). To name a tessellation, start a vertex and write down how many sides are on each polygon while moving around in order and always starting at the polygon with the least number of sides, i.e., 3.12.12 and not 12.3.12. The following are examples:

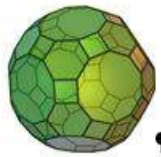


# Tessellation (cont'd)

March 2020



Another branch of shapes use irregular polygons. Tessellations can be altered by elongation or skewing of shapes. Some names can be quite long, testing one's pronunciation abilities, like the following shape, known as a rhombicosidodecahedron or as a truncated icosidodecahedron.



Mathematical formulae can be found, however algebraic formulations transcend the intent of this posting. Basic formations can be advanced by various embellishments, such as modifying panel heights to create different planes, folding panels to create facets, and coloration. Beyond aesthetics, panel surfaces can be treated to perform other functions, such as acoustic enhancement by perforations or micro-perforations. Design and installation of tessellated shapes must be coordinated with building utilities, which could include sprinklers, HVAC diffusers and grilles, light fixtures, and communication systems to create a completely integrated ceiling or wall system.

A tessellated roof can convert previous outdoor space into a dry public area, some examples being Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II in Milan, Italy, other shopping complexes, and the Queen Elizabeth II Great Court at the British Museum in London.



# Tessellation (cont'd)

March 2020

The following are photographs of architectural tessellation with the first two rows representing skylights and the bottom row representing exterior pavers, a tile floor, and ceiling (Doha Airport):



Fiera Milano



Dry Biome, Eden Project



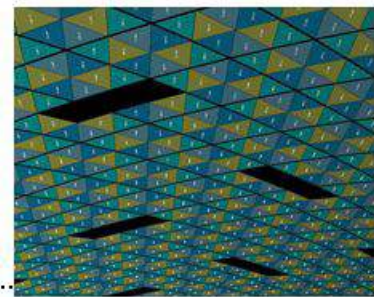
Fiera Milano



British Museum Great Court  
London, England (2001)



Galleria V. Emanuele  
Milan Italy (1865 & 1877)



tes·sel·la·tion

/ˌtɛsəˈlæʃ(ə)n/

noun

the process or art of tessellating a surface, or the state of being tessellated.

- an arrangement of shapes closely fitted together, especially of polygons in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping.

# Newsletter Sponsors

April 2020

## The K Group Pgh LLC *Manufacturers Representatives*

Joe Kostuch

joekostuch@thekgroupugh.com

### Sound Concepts

Custom Acoustical Solutions  
Wall panels Baffles, & Barrel Diffusers  
[www.soundconcepts.com](http://www.soundconcepts.com)

### Rockfon-Chicago Metallic

[www.rockfon.com](http://www.rockfon.com)  
Metal Ceilings

### Cardinal Acoustics

[www.cardinalacoustics.com](http://www.cardinalacoustics.com)  
Acoustical Wood Fiber Panels

# ARI

Architectural Resources, Inc.



INTERIOR/EXTERIOR FINISHES TABATHA HARDING, CSI  
RAIN-SCREEN FAÇADES ALHARDINGCO.COM  
BUILDING ENVELOPE 724.745.3001  
ACOUSTICS BRIDGEVILLE, PA

ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCT SALES & SERVICES SINCE 1986

**The Genuine. The Original.**



**Overhead Door Company**

**of Greater Pittsburgh**

412-781-4000

[www.overheaddoorpittsburgh.com](http://www.overheaddoorpittsburgh.com)

Commercial, Industrial & Residential  
Door Systems

Operable Partitions

Loading Dock Equipment

# Chapter Leadership

April 2020

## Officers

### *President*

Mr. Martin Thornton II, CCS, CSI  
WTW Architects  
412-315-3471  
[MThorton@wtwarch.com](mailto:MThorton@wtwarch.com)

### *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Ms. Kelley Brown, AIA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP  
RM Creative  
412-471-4445  
[kbrown@radeletmccarthy.com](mailto:kbrown@radeletmccarthy.com)

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

Mr. Matthew Lander  
AVT, Inc.  
412-257-5077  
[mlander@avtinc.net](mailto:mlander@avtinc.net)

### *Secretary*

Mr. Bruce Pollock, AIA, CSI, CCS, CCCA  
RSSC Architecture  
724-933-9100  
[bpp@rsscarch.com](mailto:bpp@rsscarch.com)

### *Treasurer*

Ms. Gail Nagie, CSI, CDT  
724-622-6301  
[twogreenfrg@yahoo.com](mailto:twogreenfrg@yahoo.com)

## Directors

Mr. Michael C. Bosco, RA, CSI, CCS, NCARB  
412-855-5876  
[michaelbosco74@comcast.net](mailto:michaelbosco74@comcast.net)

Mr. James Geist, CDT, CSI  
Sherwin-Williams  
724-933-1900  
[jim.l.geist@sherwin.com](mailto:jim.l.geist@sherwin.com)

Ms. Michaelen Vargo, CSI, LEED AP  
LEED AP BD+C  
LGA Partners  
412-224-6232  
[mvargo@lga-partners.com](mailto:mvargo@lga-partners.com)

Mr. Jason Henze  
Overhead Door Co. of Pittsburgh  
412-337-1875  
[jhenze@ohdpg.com](mailto:jhenze@ohdpg.com)

Ms. Kate Schuster, CSI  
V.O. George Group, Inc.  
724-935-1500  
[kate@voeorge.com](mailto:kate@voeorge.com)

Mr. Dan Barra, CSI  
ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions  
724-249-9866  
[dbarra@dsstristate.net](mailto:dbarra@dsstristate.net)

Mr. Brad A. Bartley, CSI, CDT  
AGC Glass Company North America  
412-804-1509  
[brad.bartley@us.agc.com](mailto:brad.bartley@us.agc.com)

## Advisors - also Nominating & Long Range Planning Committees

Mr. Robert J. Bailey, AIA, CCS, CDT, CSI,  
LEED AP  
IKM Architecture  
Phone: 412-281-1337  
[bbailey@ikminc.com](mailto:bbailey@ikminc.com)

Mr. Bill Vernon, CSI,  
Renaissance 3 Architects  
412-431-2480  
[bjv@R3a.com](mailto:bjv@R3a.com)  
Mr. Richard Strayer, CSI  
Maffei Strayer Furnishings  
Phone: 412-741-1850  
[rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com](mailto:rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com)

Ms. RonnaLeah Prindible  
Dodge Data & Analytics  
347-620-7930 ext. 9051  
[Ronnaleah.prindible@construction.com](mailto:Ronnaleah.prindible@construction.com)

## Committees

### Publicity

Mr. Brian Trimble, PE, LEED AP, CSI  
IMI  
703-300-0109  
[btrimble@imiweb.org](mailto:btrimble@imiweb.org)

### Awards

Mr. Richard Strayer, CSI  
Maffei Strayer Furnishings  
Phone: 412-741-1850  
[rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com](mailto:rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com)

### Membership

Mr. Damian Carnegie  
AVT Inc.  
412-257-5077  
[dcarnegie@avtinc.net](mailto:dcarnegie@avtinc.net)

Ms. Susan Henshaw, CSI  
The Bekon Group  
724-822-1108  
[susan@bekongroup.com](mailto:susan@bekongroup.com)

### Technical/Education

Mr. Phil Dorenkott, CSI, LEED AP BD+C  
ATAS International, Inc.  
412-667-0546  
[pdorenkott@atas.com](mailto:pdorenkott@atas.com)

## Committees (cont.)

### Electronic Communications/Editor

Ms. Kate Schuster, CSI  
V.O. George Group, Inc.  
724-935-1500  
[kate@voeorge.com](mailto:kate@voeorge.com)

### Certification

Mr. Michael C. Bosco, RA, CSI, CCS, NCARB  
412-855-5876  
[michaelbosco74@comcast.net](mailto:michaelbosco74@comcast.net)

### Golf Outing

Mr. Dan Barra, CSI  
ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions  
724-249-9866  
[dbarra@dsstristate.net](mailto:dbarra@dsstristate.net)

### Hospitality

Mr. Marc A. Zell, CSI  
National Gypsum Company  
800-646-2458 x6440  
[MAZell@nationalgypsum.com](mailto:MAZell@nationalgypsum.com)

### Programs

Mr. Brian Trimble, PE, LEED AP, CSI  
IMI - Chair  
703-300-0109  
[btrimble@imiweb.org](mailto:btrimble@imiweb.org)  
Mr. Matthew Lander  
AVT, Inc.

412-257-5077  
[mlander@avtinc.net](mailto:mlander@avtinc.net)

### GBA Liaison

Mr. Jeff Carty, CSI, CDT  
Modernfold  
814-418-4596  
[jcarty@modernfoldofpa.com](mailto:jcarty@modernfoldofpa.com)

### Student Outreach

Ms. Colleen Defilippo  
Bonitz Flooring Group  
412-719-9761  
[ColleenDefilippo@Bonitz.com](mailto:ColleenDefilippo@Bonitz.com)

### Product Show Chairman

Mr. James Geist  
Sherwin-Williams  
724-933-1900  
[jim.l.geist@sherwin.com](mailto:jim.l.geist@sherwin.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Mr. Robert J. Bailey, AIA, CCS, CDT, CSI,  
LEED AP  
IKM Architecture  
412-281-1337  
[bbailey@ikminc.com](mailto:bbailey@ikminc.com)