MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Marriott Union Square
480 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94108
Delicious Buffet of Hors d’Oeuvres

2016 CONSTRUCTION FORECAST
Speaker: Cliff Brewis
Vice President Operations
Dodge Data & Analytics

The overall expectation for construction is positive, but some sectors will perform better than others. For a fuller understanding of the issues impacting construction, join Cliff Brewis as he reviews the industry and the influences impacting residential, commercial, institutional, and public works.

After a discussion of major national economic influences, we will move to a more local perspective, to help us understand how the building industry is likely to perform during the coming year.

Cliff Brewis is responsible for news gathering operations at Dodge Data & analytics. He has been with McGraw-Hill for over 30 years in sales, planning, and operations, as well as customer support and marketing.

That’s what SFCSI programs are all about ---
Professional development for design and construction professionals.©

RSVP: Please make your reservations no later than Tuesday, April 12, 2016.
Go to http://www.cvent.com/d/lfqdtl

Cost is $45 for members of the San Francisco Chapter, $55 for all others.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRE PRE-PAYMENT.

Place: Marriott Union Square
480 Sutter St, San Francisco
* Check Lobby bulletin board for room

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Social Hour with Buffet of Hors d’Oeuvres
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Program

The Marriott Union Square is in the heart of San Francisco’s commercial district, easily accessible by BART and Muni. Parking is available at the Sutter Stockton Garage.
Happy Spring! Pro-Fair 2016 at the historic Regency Center is now behind us. Our Chairperson Edwin Essary, the committee, and the whole Board are taking a breather and enjoying the afterglow. Over 200 sponsors, volunteers and guests enjoyed a robust reception with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, before moving on to a lovely three course dinner, followed by the amazing words and visions of our guest speaker Syd Mead.

Considering that this is our third different venue and modified format in the last three years, all was carried off without a hitch. We were once again in new territory with a lot to learn. Best of all, we’ve substantially boosted the chapter coffers. While it’s too early to make any commitments, this looks like a successful format for a high class event that can be repeated in years to come. Edwin has forged a clear blueprint for us to follow, and with a few tweaks here and there, Pro-Fair 2017 can be even more successful. Congratulations to all those who work worked so diligently to make it all happen.

This month we are back to the Marriott Union Square for a presentation by Cliff Brewis, Vice President Operations for Dodge Data & Analytics. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 13, and plan to join us.

We are proud to announce that CSI SF Past President and current Board Advisor Linda Stansen has been elected to the position of West Region Director on the Institute Board of Directors. Congratulations to Linda! We appreciate her steady support and active participation in CSI on local, region, and institute levels.

The 2016 Bi-Region Conference, West by Northwest, is coming up May 18-22 at Lake Tahoe/Incline Village. Haven’t registered yet? Go to http://csiwestregion.org/2016_Region_Conference.html for complete conference information. The educational programs and fun events look very attractive!

As you know, we currently use an on-line service called Cvent to manage much of our communications and events. Cvent is a powerful tool with vastly more capabilities than SF CSI is able to utilize effectively. And this power does not come cheaply. The

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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Electronics Communication Committee has been researching alternatives which are more suited to our needs, easier to use, and most cost effective. In the next few months we will be trying out a new service. Keep your eyes out for a new look in the electronic communications from your chapter.

As FY 2016 draws to a close, we are once again considering Nominations to the 2017 SF CSI Board of Directors. Is this the year that you step up your participation in CSI? In addition to the contributions you can make to the Chapter’s success, think about the benefits you will get by greater participation. Most of us in CSI appreciate the professional growth opportunities offered by this great organization. If you’ve ever considered playing a role in the direction of the Chapter and how that will benefit you personally and professionally, now is the time to step up to the plate. Please let us know of your interest by sending your thoughts to President Elect Merideth Marschak Merideth.marschak@nollandtam.com or to me johnesellen@gmail.com.

We love getting feedback from members, both positive and negative. Though we bask in the glory of our successes, it is from our failures that we grow and learn and reach new heights. How did you like Pro-Fair? What do you think about our programs this year? Got some ideas for programs you’d like to see? Is there something on you mind that you’d like to tell us about? Please let us know. Feel free to contact any Board member. Our contact information is always posted at the end of each edition of SPECIFICS.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event - and bring a friend.

John Sellen
President of San Francisco CSI
Equity by Design
Speaker: Annelise Pitts, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

“Equity by Design” started out as a San Francisco AIA committee studying “The Missing 32%” – the number of women who go through architectural education and then drop out of the profession at some time in their career. A 2600 participant survey indicated that there were several “pinch points” in an architectural career – and each one of them lost participants. However, after analysis of the data, it became apparent that these pinch points affect both men and women, even though they are affected differently.

After the first iteration of the study, and a national AIA workshop, the “The Missing 32% Project” became “Equity by Design” and it’s not only a San Francisco based group but has national participants. The bare statistics are these: Since the mid-1970’s, the number of women in architectural collegiate programs has been on par with the number of men. However, even after 40 years, the percentage of women in Partner or Principal roles in firms still hovers around 14% - it’s the lowest of the professions. (Engineering is at 17% - and they are the next lowest.) Where do women go? And what causes them to go?

There are several times when more women leave the profession: at the beginning – when the reality of low pay and long hours hits home; at licensure, when the time and cost of licensure becomes an issue; at mid career, when family priorities take over; at late career when women are not being promoted; and near the end of the career when different priorities become more important. The data also indicate that women may not aspire high enough in their careers; or that they simply want much more balance in their lives, breaking the myth of the architectural 80-hour week.

The study also found that men were affected – men turned down family leave due to a perception that it would limit their chances for promotion, almost leaving women to take on child care by default.

AIA San Francisco still houses this committee; and they can be reached at http://eqxdesign.com/.
This year’s Pro-Fair was a big departure in format, program, and venue – and appears to have been a great success in all three respects. The location was extraordinary: The Regency Center has a long history – first designed as a Masonic Lodge, the Center is now a well-known music venue. This fact was reflected by the soundtrack that Edwin Essary created for the event.

The size and arrangement of display areas in separate rooms encouraged browsing. To judge by the cheerful hubbub, sponsors and guests were enjoying the chance to make connections, exchange contacts, and highlight their products and services without the burden of samples and brochures.

Sponsors and their guests shared a meal served in the Lodge, where the elaborate stage backdrops, wood paneling, and ornate lighting created a festive atmosphere.

The speaker was a treat. Syd Mead is very well known for his role in the creation of classic futurist films. Several guests brought books for him to autograph, and the excellent audio visual system (by Everything Audio Visual) gave us a real sample of the vivid palette of his renderings. Mr. Mead also showed examples of his urban design visions, automotive fantasies, and futuristic (but real!) interiors that span 50 years of his creative career.

While we might assume that this body of work is largely a solo performance, the stories that Mr. Mead told describe a life spent in creative collaboration. Movies, product development, urban visions: all represent the work of teams of inventive individuals whose ideas and insights are captured and communicated through these sketches and paintings.

Autodesk, a major Pro-Fair sponsor, offered an opening video highlighting Autodesk Sketchbook. The preview demonstrates the value of software that responds directly to the hand of the artist, offering quick visualizations and a rich graphics toolbox for a new age of invention.

Thanks to a concerted effort, this year’s Pro-Fair was profitable, too! Kudos to the Pro-Fair Committee, led by Edwin Essary: Dave Ingram, Katia Griggs, Jeffery Glick, Peg Collins, Paulette Salisbury, John Sellen, Merideth Marschak.
PRO-FAIR 2016 TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
AT SAN FRANCISCO’S HISTORIC REGENCY CENTER
Photos by Paulette Salisbury and Dennis Salisbury

Anne Whitacre and Paulette Salisbury

Bill Kelly of Stanley Security Systems

Julie Barrett and Rose Garrison

Diana San Diego and Jennifer Hom of Safti First
PRO-FAIR 2016

Mariana Alvarez-Parga and Henrick Malinowski of AEDIS Architects

Jerry Pozo of BMI Products and and Scott Tyson of Sika

Mike Rice with Joe Quaranta of Allegion

Jeff Hederick and Mike Efeny in heavy discussion

Katia Griggs, Steve Sowa, Rob Hikido and Teri Sudbrook

John Sellen chats it up with Carl Falchetta and Paul Trautman of Sherwin Williams
PRO-FAIR 2016

Crystal Petersen and Dennis Wakaluk of Rockfon Chicago Metallic

Corey Welch, Jeff Silveira and Mike Rice of Opening Consultants

Betsy Porter of TopFlight Specs and Scott Tyson of Sika

Don Griggs, Julie Barrett and Tony Camp

Morgan Sadler of Pliteq and Earl Carter of Cade Resources

Murray Sandford, Tripp Sandford and Steve Jara of Moz Designs
PRO-FAIR 2016

The Griggs Systems team

Rachel Stallworth with Rose Garrison and Wende Seely of Dunn Edwards Paint

Randy Agno, CSI, ACT
Architectural Consultant
Mobile (925) 344-2665
E-mail: ragno@BehrPaint.com

BEHR  PRO

Randy Agno, CSI, ACT
Architectural Consultant
Mobile (925) 344-2665
E-mail: ragno@BehrPaint.com

Jerry L. Pozo, CSI, CDT, BS
Technical Specifications Consultant
BMI PRODUCTS
No. California: 990 Ames Ave · Milpitas, CA 95035
So. California: 12767 Imperial Hwy · Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Office: 530-585-6828 · Cell: 408-395-2031 · Fax: 408-293-4103
pozo.jerry@us.sika.com
www.bmi-products.com · www.usa.sika.com
Many years ago, I had a client who prided himself on being able to work for 3 days (72 hours) straight in order to meet a deadline. One of the comments I made to him at the time was, “You would be better at making decisions if you had to go to sleep every night.” There has always been this myth - encouraged in college - that the “best” answer occurs with some burst of inspiration that comes at 3:30 am after too much coffee, too little sleep, and extremely loud music.

My friend Kirsten, a Civil Engineer, told me that in her engineering training, no one worked overnight because well, “If engineers mess up, someone dies.” Even medical training has reconsidered the 80 hour weeks put in by interns – because, if they get too sleepy, someone dies. So what are we saying about architecture when we glorify the 60 to 80 hour week? That we can be sleepy and still do a good job? That the muse only speaks after the ingestion of too much junk food? That we actually have a muse?

At the February meeting, the topic was Equity by Design (started by the San Francisco chapter AIA) and they’ve found that one of the “pinch points” in an architectural career comes when beginning practitioners are faced with the prospect of long hours, too much travel, too little compensation, and the inability to balance the rest of your life against client demands. I know in my own career, I’ve often been held hostage to the workaholic tendencies of clients – or the inability of clients to recognize that it actually takes time to incorporate their decisions into my documents. When I consulted, I had a clause in my contract letter that said “I will release documents to (Client) five working days after receiving final details and reviews” and I enforced that contract clause pretty regularly. Sometimes it takes a while to train architects that someone has to actually make a decision.

Part of the problem is exacerbated by technology. I started working 40 years ago, and a proficient drafter drew a sheet a week. Changes were time consuming, and so we didn’t make them very often. My specs were produced by a typist, and we generally closed all comments five days before the print date. She
Continued from previous page

(it was always a she) had to enter data onto mag cards, and it was very difficult to change them, as well. No one complained when we said, “It’s too late; we’ll just save that for the first addendum.”

Because now it is relatively easy to make changes – both in drawings and specs – we seem to have lost sight of the actual process, and the thoughtfulness that goes into making up a set of documents. I can certainly make that change you want in the specs – but that change may not be as carefully integrated into the entire set. We give up the process of coordination by making changes all the way up to the time to post documents, and we see the deficits that come from a lack of thoughtfulness.

Architects often think that they have artistic tendencies (as opposed to engineers) but this piecemeal approach to documentation really works against a single vision for the project. We need to encourage clients to see a project holistically too – and not just as a collection of details, or a collection of spec sections. I used to call my final phase “sculpting the spec” – it’s the time when I have all the content and want to make it all work toward a document that describes only one project.

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In the last post, we looked at the complementary clause, and saw how powerful it can be; we also looked at the limits of that power. Many architects know of that clause, and I have occasionally heard it cited, something like this: “I don’t care if there is no specification for it; it’s on the drawings, and you have to provide it!” In the same conversation, it wouldn’t be unusual to hear, “No, I don’t know how you’re going to do it - that’s means and methods!”

Although architects aren’t shy about citing “means and methods” it seems many of them don’t understand the full impact of what they’re referring to. Turning again to the AIA A201, here’s what Article 3 says (my italics).

§ 3.3 SUPERVISION AND CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES
§ 3.3.1 The Contractor shall supervise and direct the Work, using the Contractor’s best skill and attention. The Contractor shall be solely responsible for, and have control over, construction means, methods, techniques, sequences and procedures and for coordinating all portions of the Work under the Contract, unless the Contract Documents give other specific instructions concerning these matters.

§ 3.3.3 The Contractor shall be responsible for inspection of portions of Work already performed to determine that such portions are in proper condition to receive subsequent Work.

§ 3.4 LABOR AND MATERIALS
§ 3.4.1 Unless otherwise provided in the Contract Documents, the Contractor shall provide and pay for labor, materials, equipment, tools, construction equipment and machinery, water, heat, utilities, transportation, and other facilities and services necessary for proper execution and completion of the Work, whether temporary or permanent and whether or not incorporated or to be incorporated in the Work.

Read that again, and again if necessary, and think about what is required. Now let’s list the contractor’s responsibilities.
Continued from previous page

- Supervise and direct the Work.
- Decide the proper way to do everything (means, methods, techniques).
- Decide when and how everything should be installed (sequences, procedures).
- Schedule the work of subcontractors and suppliers (coordinate).
- Determine if work already done is ready for the next step.
- Provide and pay for everything needed to complete the Work.

If architects understand all that, why do they waste time specifying things the contractor is responsible for? Is it necessary to explain how ceramic tile, or floor coatings, or roofing should be installed? Is it necessary to tell the contractor when activities should take place? Is it necessary to state that work of one section should be coordinated with work specified in another section? Does the architect need to state that prior work must be ready before proceeding with subsequent work? Does the contractor need to be told what is included for a specific activity, or who will pay for it?

The answer to all those questions is “No!” Unless, that is, the architect has decided to do those things, in which case the contractor is relieved of responsibility for them, as stated at the end of 3.3.1. What then, is the architect’s responsibility? After seeing what the contractor is required to do, there isn’t much left. The architect must:

- Design and draw the appearance of the building, in sufficient detail to allow the contractor to build it.
- Specify those items that are needed to achieve the design intent. As noted in the last post, if the documents show tile but do not state what it is, the contractor can get it at the dollar store.
- Specify reference standards as needed to get the desired performance.
- Observe the construction as required by the owner-architect agreement, process payment applications, and so on.
- Use Division 01 to specify requirements not found in the general conditions.

Relying on the conditions of the contract and Division 01 will allow the architect to eliminate common redundancies, resulting in shorter specifications that will be easier to write, easier to understand, and easier to enforce. Needless references to the conditions of the contract and Division 01 can be eliminated, as can repetitive specifications for bidding requirements; submittals; substitution requests and prior approval requests; delivery, storage, and handling; cleaning; responsibility for payment of testing and corrective work; and so on. Instead of regurgitating manufacturers’ specifications, a simple “Comply with manufacturer’s installation instructions and recommendations”, stated once in Division 01, will suffice.

Does that mean the architect cannot say anything about installation? No, but it’s good to remember that when that happens, the architect has usurped the contractor’s authority, and assumed the contractor’s responsibility. Before doing so, architects must make sure they know more than the manufacturer and installer.

Note that nowhere do the general conditions require the architect to explain to the contractor how to run the job, nor do they require the architect to explain to installers how to do their jobs. A moment’s thought should be enough to understand why this is so. Manufacturers’ representatives have often told me that they have difficulty keeping up with changes in their products, even though those products represent only a small part of the entire building. If that’s the case, how can an architect be
expected to know everything about the multitude of products in a typical building?

As noted in the conclusion of the previous post, there is no substitute for showing everything required both on the drawings and in the specifications. However, doing so without understanding the means and methods clause will result in needless repetition and greater potential for contradictions, but more important, it may also result in the architect assuming additional risk.

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Agree? Disagree? Leave your comments at http://swspecificthoughts.blogspot.com/

Mariana Alvarez-Parga, Daniela DiNucci and Henrik Malinowski

Murphy Cox of CPI Daylighting

Mike Oliver, Sayo Takano, Ian Aragon and Andy Pini

Greg Sison of Mariak Window Coverings and guests

Seated: Virginia Fereday of Malarkey Roofing with Laura Fraser and Jonathan Stafford. Standing: Paulette Salisbury
CSI membership is composed of a cross-section of the construction industry - architect, engineers, contractors, developers, manufacturers, suppliers and representatives from allied industries. Chapter activities reflect the unbiased concerns of the entire industry - not one section of it. Members through the Chapter, Region and Institute have the opportunity to contribute their views and experience to the improvement of specifications and other contract documents.

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<th>Phone Number</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>John Sellen</td>
<td>415-430-8027</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnesellen@gmail.com">johnesellen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Merideth Marschak</td>
<td>510-649-8295</td>
<td><a href="mailto:merideth.marschak@nollandtam.com">merideth.marschak@nollandtam.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Tim Maliepaard</td>
<td>916-847-8447</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tmaliepaard@oldcastlebe.com">tmaliepaard@oldcastlebe.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Michael Morris</td>
<td>415-956-5211</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmorris@fmgarchitects.com">mmorris@fmgarchitects.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ben Miller</td>
<td>619-248-1576</td>
<td>bmillergaf.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Liesl Morell</td>
<td>650-207-5266</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lhmorell@armstrong.com">lhmorell@armstrong.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Vivian Volz</td>
<td>415-244-6756</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vivian@VVArchSpecs.com">vivian@VVArchSpecs.com</a></td>
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**Directors**

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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Peg Collins</td>
<td>909-509-1402</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peg.collins@ppg.com">peg.collins@ppg.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Edwin Essary</td>
<td>415-715-4678</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eessary@syska.com">eessary@syska.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Jeffery Glick</td>
<td>415-595-1740</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jefferyg@mechosystems.com">jefferyg@mechosystems.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Bill Nelson</td>
<td>415-836-4182</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bill_nelson@gensler.com">bill_nelson@gensler.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region Director</td>
<td>Linda M. Stansen</td>
<td>650-570-6411</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stanspecs@comcast.net">stanspecs@comcast.net</a></td>
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**Committee Chairs**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>Elizabeth Porter</td>
<td>510-517-5360</td>
<td><a href="mailto:betsyhartporter@yahoo.com">betsyhartporter@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro-Fair</td>
<td>Edwin Essary</td>
<td>415-715-4678</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eessary@syska.com">eessary@syska.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>Anne Whitacre</td>
<td>415-356-8685</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anne.whitacre@hok.com">anne.whitacre@hok.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Nelson</td>
<td>(415) 836-4182</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bill_nelson@gensler.com">bill_nelson@gensler.com</a></td>
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