MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
6:00 – 8:30 PM
Sir Francis Drake Hotel
450 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

THE LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE
Speaker: Stet Sanborn
Integral Group

Stet Sanborn will present an introduction to the Living Building Challenge, the best-known program of the International Living Future Institute (ILFI). The Living Building Challenge defines the most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment possible today and acts to diminish the gap between current limits and ideal solutions.

This certification program covers all building at all scales and is a unified tool for transformative design, allowing us to envision a future that is Socially Just, Culturally Rich and Ecologically Restorative.

Whether your project is a single building, a park, a college campus or even a complete neighborhood community, the Living Building Challenge provides a framework for design, construction and the symbiotic relationship between people and all aspects of the built environment.

For more about our speaker Stet Sanborn, see article on page 3.

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

I hope your summer was as eventful (or as uneventful) as you hoped. Do you have a photo to share? A beautiful historic site, an interesting construction photo, or a great detail captured on your camera would make a nice contribution to our newsletter. Can you guess the location of this one?

We’ve taken an August break, but we have not been idle. Come September, we will have a new meeting venue. The Marriott had many advantages, but was expensive – and many of our members missed the chance to sit down and share a meal. With our next meeting, we’ll be relocating to the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. It’s equally transit-friendly, and we’ll be able to offer dinner with more economical pricing. Please join us and invite a friend. The topic – Introduction to the ILFI (International Living Future Institute) Living Building Challenge – is one we hope you’ll find interesting. AIA and USGBC credits are offered for this presentation by Stet Sanborn of Integral Design Group. Introduction to the ILFI (International Living Future Institute) Living Building Challenge.

If you have not registered for an event recently, you’ll also find that we have a new platform for event registration. We tested it out in July and it worked well. Our most recent newsletter had a makeover as well. We’ll be learning how to make our newsletter more flexible so you can easily read it on a mobile device.

Why all these changes? We want to lower our operating costs, simplify our operations, and improve communications within the Chapter. We also hope to become more visible beyond CSI by making our publications more accessible and by partnering with other professional organizations to enrich our programs and network opportunities. We hope to grow our membership this year and beyond, and re-engage with members who’ve been less active recently. Please bear with us! All transitions present challenges, but once we work out the bugs we think the changes will be positive.

Merideth Marschak
President of San Francisco CSI
Stet Sanborn is a mechanical engineer, licensed Architect, Certified Passive House Consultant, and Living Building Challenge Ambassador with Integral Group. Beyond designing a range of high performance HVAC systems, Stet leads Integral’s efforts in integrating high performance building enclosures and passive design strategies into a wide range of building types in pursuit of net-zero and net-positive energy.

In addition, Stet is currently a visiting faculty member at the University of California – Berkeley, College of Environmental Design, where he is teaching the flagship building science course in the department of Architecture and advising the UC-Berkeley Solar Decathlon team. Stet also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the California College of the Arts, teaching courses in building systems, sustainable design, and integrated building design.

In addition to deep-green engineering and design, Stet recently was a co-contributor to “The Total Carbon Study,” published by the Ecological Building Network, a case study cataloging the life-cycle carbon savings associated with retrofitting existing buildings into net-positive energy buildings. Stet is a member of the AIA, ASHRAE, Passive House California, International Living Future Institute, USGBC and the Society of Building Science Educators and frequent speaker at the Pacific Energy Center in San Francisco.
The Innovators Evening Lecture Series is intended to provide networking opportunities and create a forum where interested members of the energy efficiency community can have access to innovators in the industry who are transforming the marketplace. These monthly, conversational presentations are intended to discuss “big picture” opportunities for change from the speaker’s own viewpoint and to encourage an exchange of new ideas.

For the first lecture in the series, Sara Neff will discuss her innovative approach to sustainability at Kilroy Realty - including the impacts of their initiatives, the business benefits, and the changes that have been adopted by other organizations as a result.

Future topics will include Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation, Green Cleaning and Green Janitors Program, EV Charging, Tenant Engagement, and Investor Perspective on Sustainability, as well as a discussion of the Future of Sustainability for Existing Buildings.

Barry Giles will discuss how international standards may be used to evaluate energy efficiency for a wide range of projects and client types in the United States and how these standards will be tailored to the US marketplace. These standards offer a potential opportunity to democratize the evaluation of sustainability for a broader range of clients, projects and budgets.

Click here to register:
San Francisco Chapter

VOL. LII NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2016 | NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER | CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Scott Davidson, Dave Rivera and Michael Morris

A good omen, the new moon appears right over the tower

Bill Nelson, Eric Patricio and Liesl Morell

FROM THE SPECIFIER’S DESK
By Anne Whitacre

By the time you read this, summer vacation season should be winding down, and we start to think about how to handle new projects coming into the office. Fall and spring have turned into defacto “Continuing Education Seasons” in the construction industry. If you’re not up to date on the following concepts, put them down for more attention this year:

LEED Version 4: Yes, this has been looming over the construction industry for a while (after a 2-year postponement) but it appears that this time it actually is going into effect. October 31, 2016 is the sunset date for registering projects under the LEED 2009 version; after that, projects will be registered under LEED Version 4. If you haven’t look at Version 4, it might be time to do so. For manufacturers, keep in mind that your product literature will need to be updated: the new version of LEED doesn’t have credit numbers that we are used to seeing. That old friend Credit MR 4? (recycled content) is now lumped in with a bunch of stuff in “Materials Optimization,” and the “500 mile radius” is now going to be “100 mile radius”.

We’re also seeing a much greater emphasis on energy usage in projects, with more interest in Net Zero Energy projects by institutional owners, and some governmental jurisdictions. The AIA is still emphasizing the 2030 Challenge for projects – and products. If your product doesn’t have an EPD (Environmental Product Declaration), you will probably be getting more requests for that document as we move into higher performing projects.

NFPA 285: While this test has been in the building code for nearly 20 years, it has received more attention lately due to changes in the Energy Code requiring continuous insulation for exterior wall assemblies. Keep in mind that this is an assembly test, rather than an agglomeration of individual product tests. If you are an exterior panel manufacturer, we will need to see the actual test results and certification from the testing agency in order to use your products on our jobs. If you are a contractor, we will be requiring this test for our projects. It will cost money.

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About 20 years ago, I was at Nordstrom trying to buy a pair of winter shoes to wear back and forth to the bus from my home in Seattle. The Sales Associate kept bringing me open toed shoes. I finally looked at him and said “you’re not from here, are you?” since he clearly didn’t understand the concept of “winter weather shoes” (or puddles). He admitted that he had just moved up from Costa Mesa and then said “I forget that in Seattle people expect their shoes to do something.” Well, after all these years of emphasis on style, we’re expecting our buildings to “do something” – and actually, quite a number of somethings all at the same time. We’ll talk about buildings and health next month.
Chapter Certificate of Appreciation:

Gensler
Katia Griggs, CSI/Griggs Systems
Tim Maliepaard, CSI, CDT/Oldcastle Building
Envelope
Allegion
Vivian Volz, RA, CSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP

Chapter Service Award:

Peg Collins, CSI
Liesel Morel, CSI, CCPR, LEED AP, Industry
IIDA, MBA

Chapter Commendation:

Rose Garrison, CSI/SVC Chapter

Chapter Publication Award:

Ann Whitacre, FCI, CCS, LEED AP – newsletter articles

Chapter Distinguished Service Award:

Edwin Essary, CSI, CDT

President’s Certificate:

Edwin Essary, CSI, CDT
A couple of years ago I wrote two articles about how the number of CSI members and CSI chapters: “How did we get here? Membership,” which showed how total membership changed over the years, and “How did we get here? Chapters,” which looked at the change in the number of chapters during the same time.

One of the things that has plagued CSI for some time is a lack of a tangible something of value. For a very long time, CSI offered useful things of real value. The first part of our membership curve suggests CSI must have had something that brought in new members and led to the creation of new chapters. Let’s see if we can discover what that something was.

While reading several historical documents, I found nothing that said “We did this and gained 200 members!” but I found a few things that contributed to CSI’s growth. Yes, there were a few membership drives, but it’s important to understand that a membership drive with nothing to offer probably will be unsuccessful. If you have nothing to offer, what difference does it make if you can get it at half price?

To understand what made CSI grow, we must look at what it was about construction documents that encouraged the formation of CSI. We could search for documents from that time and analyze them, or we could use the original goals of the organization as an indicator of what was wrong with construction documents. Consider this list of the five priorities, and what they suggest - if these things were not problems, there would have been no reason to include fixing them as goals!

- Better specification writing. Unless specifications were poorly written, there would have been no need for improvement. I have read specifications written in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and I will tell you they could have been better. Lacking the guidelines of MasterFormat and SectionFormat, they appear to have been written in a stream-of-consciousness style, wandering from one subject to another. They were inconsistent
Continued from previous page

in style, format, sequence, and organization, even when issued from the same office.

- Simpler specifications. The specifications I read were short, which made them usable despite other deficiencies. I can only speculate that by “simpler,” CSI founders were thinking of consistent formatting and style.

- Standardization of building codes. Unfortunately, CSI has had no influence on building codes, which, if anything, continue to become more complex and often contradictory.

- Standardized specifications for public works at all levels. CSI has had some effect on public sector specifications, at least for the organization of information. Today, most national and many state agencies require compliance with MasterFormat and SectionFormat. More important, because of the common use of commercial guide specifications and manufacturers’ specifications, there is a great amount of standardization throughout construction in the US.

- Study of new materials and processes developed during World War II, as substitutes or improvements. Although CSI formally presents discussion of new materials through the Construction Specifier, it was the informal networking of members that helped promote new materials and ideas.

Other objectives included: providing a forum for exchange of information among architects, engineers, contractors, building maintenance engineers, educators, and others involved in construction; improving quality, clarity, and technical validity of specifications; developing a greater appreciation of the value of specifications; getting architecture and engineering schools to develop courses for preparing specifications;

The architects who started CSI recognized the chaotic state of construction documents and banded together to bring order to them. How did they do that? What did they do that enticed others to join them?

In 1948, CSI had members but no chapters. Even though the bylaws allowed the formation of chapters, with a minimum of ten members, it took a few years before chapters appeared. In 1960, an article titled “Chapters Not Begun” was published in the Construction Specifier. It listed ten states that had ten or more members, then encouraged those members to start local chapters. The Metro New York Chapter, with thirty-nine members, was the first, followed by DC and Chicago chapters in 1952, and Los Angeles in 1953.

I believe the founding of chapters was a big step in the initial growth of the organization. It’s one thing to know that others share common interests, quite another to meet with them, share information, discuss problems, and work toward the elimination of those problems. Remember, at that time communication was limited to written letters and phone calls. The chapter meeting became an important member benefit and made it easy to show non-members why they should join. Membership drives during these early days were quite successful. In 1956, 300 new members joined in six months, and a membership in 1957 brought in nearly 1,000 members, along with seven new chapters. Clearly, CSI had something to offer, as can be seen on the membership curve.

As noted, what we would call “networking” today was an important part of membership, but what else did CSI offer? The Construction Specifier, first published the year after CSI was incorporated, had to play a big part, with technical articles leading the way. 1950 saw the introduction of “Specification Clinic”, and it was common for the magazine to discuss how to write better specifications. Carl J. Ebert, the editor from 1949 through 1963, understood what members needed to know and successfully filled the magazine with needed information. The usefulness of the

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Specifier was made evident in 1956 when 800 copies were taken by architects at that year’s annual AIA convention. The early ‘60s saw the addition of activities and programs that made CSI more attractive and continued to draw more members. Committee work began in earnest, giving more members opportunities to contribute to technical documents. The specifications competition was promoted in the Specifier, and region conferences brought members together from larger areas. More technical documents were included in the Specifier as “pink sheets” and chapters began technical research.

Two major publications finally addressed many of the problems known to specifiers and manufacturers. A series of pink sheets titled “A Manual of Practice for Specification Writing Methods” led to the formation of a committee that would develop and publish the CSI Manual of Practice. During the same period, the 20-page “CSI Format for Building Specifications” was published in the Specifier, and the original 16 Divisions of MasterFormat were introduced. The Spec-Data program, started as a joint venture with the Producers’ Council, presented a standard method of presenting information, a great boon to specifiers and manufacturers alike.

Together, all of these things brought great value to CSI members. There were things to do, problems to solve, and face meetings were the way to get things done. By 1969, with the introduction of SectionFormat, most of CSI’s important contributions to the industry were completed, and the membership curve flattened for the next decade.

The next growth spurt occurred from 1980 through 1996. CSI continued to develop its documents, MasterFormat became the accepted standard for organization of all types of construction information, the five-digit numbering system was a great improvement over the limited four-digit system, Uniform Location of Subject Matter was published, and in 1978, the CCS certification program was introduced, followed by the CDT, the CCPR, and the CCCA.

Next month, we’ll look at what has happened since then.

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