FEBRUARY 2019

SPECIFICS
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CSI MINNEAPOLIS–ST. PAUL CHAPTER

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From the President...

Midyear Chapter Update

It is that time of year when we all have enjoyed the holiday season and are now getting back into the swing of things. The Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter had a lot of goals for the 2018–2019 year. One of the major goals was the following:

*To create awareness and develop our mission to be construction educators in the Twin Cities area through evaluation of CSI’s core values and developing a long–range strategic plan to enhance our membership experience and grow our membership.*

One of the accomplishments we have started is the development of the GAP Committee which is headed by Gerhard Guth, Susan Lee, Doug Lingren, and Sheldon Wolfe. This committee is developing a CSI Mentor Program using our current/retired specifier members for mentoring and educating the upcoming professionals at local architectural firms that will be developing the specifications and documents in our ever–changing design and construction industry. The committee is currently working with a local firm and several personnel from the firm are attending the CDT workshops. The committee will also be meeting with them to address any questions they have.

The second accomplishment was Susan Lee and I both recently applied and were accepted into the CSI's DYNAMIC CHAPTER PROGRAM (DCP). This program is offered to all members who are curious about how to improve monthly chapter programs. It is a web–based series of meetings with surrounding chapter members, all who are all interested in one thing – how to retain membership, build membership, and create a membership experience that can't be found in any other professional organization. Susan and I will be designing an upcoming Chapter meeting with the techniques that we learn from this amazing program! DCP will be offered twice a year, and I encourage all Minneapolis–St. Paul members to take advantage and apply for the program, even those who are not directly involved in the Programs Committee.

As you may already know, Susan Lee is our AIA–CES Coordinator, having taken over the job from Murray Schaumberg. She is now in the process of switching over to the Institute's central AIA recording process. If you have not received certificates for past events, please give her a little time to catch up. You should have received the October and November certificates. December and January certificates will be issued shortly. For those who wish to receive credit for self–reporting purposes for CSI certifications, be sure to sign up on the CES–credit sheet and check the “Certificate” box.

The Board is still working on evaluating the core values and developing a long–range strategic plan for our Chapter and this will continue into the next fiscal year.

I would like to see our members focusing more energy on outreach to the new people in our local construction industry (architects, contractors, product reps, facility managers, code officials, etc.). We are sorely underrepresented in our membership by the millennials, Gen Xers, etc. (new in construction). I would like to challenge those of you who work with new millennials, Gen Xers, to start talking to individuals and their corporate leaders about the benefits of CSI. Invite them to programs and better yet, ask then, if they would like to assist programs/membership/communication committees to develop seminars/meeting presentations that will address issues jointly important to the millennials and the rest of the construction industry.
It is important that we give the people in the construction industry reasons for them to believe that CSI provides a significant amount of benefits that will define their most spectacular achievements from now and throughout their lives.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Doug Bergert and Heidi Costello of Perkins & Will and Rick Steinberg of Mortenson on their presentation on the “Bell Museum – Minnesota’s Natural History Museum and Planetarium” at the February Chapter Meeting.

Finally, I would like to invite all members, student members, and non-members to attend the March Chapter Meeting “Viking Practice Facility” on Monday, March 25, 2019, at Twin City Orthopedic – Performance Center, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We are limited to 100 participates and you must be registered. No walk-ins are allowed.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the March Chapter Program.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Long, CSI, CDT
President
FY 2018-2019
ARE SPECIFIERS WEAK IN FAITH?

The main reason we've been doing things the same way for the past hundred fifty years, is – that we've been doing things the same way for the past hundred fifty years. It's human nature to keep what's comfortable, even though it may no longer work, or even if something better is available. I'm fairly certain the original versions of the contract documents we use, and the way we write them, made perfect sense when introduced, but is that still true?

Along the way, there have been many changes in building products, construction techniques, communication, and other technologies used in construction, perhaps the most significant being the expanding use of computers. If we were starting over today, with the current status of products, industry and government standards, and the increasing application of powerful computers, what would our construction documents look like? There would be some similarities, but I suspect they would not be what we have today.

Today, much more work is fabricated off site, in controlled factory conditions, making today's materials and products far more reliable and consistent than they were a century ago. We often hear about the great quality of bygone days, and there is some truth to that, but the reality is that today's products are generally superior.

Project delivery methods also have changed. Design–build, historically the most important method, was set aside, at least in the US, in favor of the design–bid–build method. The value of design–build is again being recognized, and it, along with CM, have been taking increasing numbers of projects from what we consider the “traditional” arrangement with owner, designer, and constructor as three separate entities.
The resistance to change is understandable, but it can stand in the way of progress. For example, the advantages of a metric system of measurement have been known for a long time, yet we refuse to implement it. Thomas Jefferson proposed a metric system as a US standard a few years before the current metric system was developed, but it was rejected. Later attempts at metrication were somewhat successful, but we refuse to put it to everyday use. A more recent example is the proliferation of online magazines, which are analogue versions of the printed magazine we get in the mail. Typical website navigation tools could be used, but instead, we look at an image of a paper magazine, complete with pages that turn.

The documents and formats we now use similarly are tied to historical ways of presenting information – on paper. Before the advent of computers, we had no choice but to print everything, as that was the only way to record, convey, and confirm the information needed for construction. CSI's contributions – MasterFormat, SectionFormat, and PageFormat – brought order to that information, and made it easier to communicate. CSI's Manual of Practice (MOP) offered uniformity for the way specifications were prepared, and the way ideas were stated.

All of these things suggest specifications should be shorter. However, specifications are longer than ever, and seem to grow with each new version. One of the main reasons is redundancy.

Despite all that is offered by commonly used general conditions, CSI's Formats, and the multitude of standards, specifiers appear to be weak in faith. A casual review of published project manuals shows a surprising disregard for those standards. Complex sentences, redundancies, vague terms, inconsistencies, and conflicts within the project manual, and between the project manual and drawings, are common. Why is this?

There are two reasons for not following the standards we espouse; good intentions and laziness. I'm optimistic in believing most of the problems we see come from an honest effort to make sure the job gets done correctly. Drawings often contain unnecessary references or explanation simply because the person working on the drawings isn't sure if the required information is stated somewhere else, and so enters it wherever it seems appropriate. Similarly, specifications often contain information that is on the drawings, but the specifier isn't sure. Example: The number of trees is commonly shown on the drawings as images that can be counted, again in a schedule on the drawings, and once more in the specifications. Example: Elevator specifications commonly specify the number of floors, the number of stops, the locations of doors, the type of door operation, and the travel distance – all of which can be ascertained from the drawings.

A hundred fifty years ago, when the architect actually approached the status of Master Builder, the architect was in control of the project, and was expected to tell the contractor what to do. That would seem to require lengthy specifications, yet those printed then were much shorter than they are today.

Since that time, a number of things have happened, which, if anything, should make specifications shorter. We now have countless industry and government standards that dictate minimum requirements for nearly everything. Proper use of those standards should eliminate many of the redundancies we find in today's specifications.

**Time to do some housecleaning**

First, read what the general conditions say about the responsibilities of the architect and of the contractor. In essence, the architect is responsible for showing the final result – what the building should look like, and what materials should be used where – and the contractor is responsible for pretty much everything else. Note there is nothing that requires the architect to tell the contractor, or manufacturer, or installer how to do their jobs. In fact, it states "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…".

This makes sense; the contractor knows more about how to run a job, the manufacturers know more about their products, and the installers know more about their work than the architect can possibly understand for all the thousands of components of a building. So why do specifications delve so deeply into these matters? Why do they tell the contractor how to schedule, how to install, and how to coordinate?
Now, add the recommended paragraph to the supplementary conditions, to formally make Division 01 apply to everything else: "Sections of Division 01 – General Requirements govern the work of all sections of the specifications." Make sure your Division 01 sections include those aspects of construction common to all sections. State requirements for selection of materials, for storage, for resolution of discrepancies between applicable standards, for installation, for following the manufacturer's instructions, and so on.

With that beginning, we're well on the way to reducing the length of specifications. It requires faith, but it is logical, defensible, and enforceable. The basic rule is, if it's in the conditions or Division 01, take it out of the section. It is quite common to find a requirement that materials be stored off the ground and protected from weather in Division 01, and then again in most other sections. Similarly, requirements to comply with manufacturers' instructions are scattered throughout many project manuals. Now remove all references to Division 01 from the specifications; we took care of that in the supplementary conditions.

Part 1: Use "related work" as intended, a way to help the reader find something that normally would be expected in this section but is not. If used otherwise, to mention all sections that are somehow related to the work of the section you're in, logic suggests you would have to list every other section.

Part 2: If you have specific products in mind, state what they are. If you're open to competitive products, specify the performance. Don't specify things that are not essential, or may not be the same for all products.

Part 3: Unless you know more about installation than the manufacturer and the installer, there isn't much to say. But do specify field quality control measures to ensure you're getting what is specified.

Know your reference standards. If you specify insulation as ASTM C578, Type IV, there is no need to go on and specify the thermal resistance, compressive strength, water absorption, or vapor permeance. On the other hand, if the standard you are using has options, be sure to indicate which are required.

When you specify more than necessary, you enter into the "means and methods" area, and, in so doing, you assume the contractor's responsibility. If something goes wrong, the contractor can say, "I did what I was told" and you're on the hook.

With faith in the documents, it should be possible to specify almost anything in half a page (at least for architectural products, though I suspect mechanical and electrical specifications also can be reduced).

Using roofing as an example, if you state the wind loads, the required fire–resistive rating, the type of membrane, applicable standards, required options, warranty, and field quality control requirements, what else do you have to say? The manufacturer's instructions cover all the related materials, and how it gets installed. You will have to include exceptions; if the manufacturer's standard flashing height is four inches, but you want eight, that must be specified. But think how much easier it will be to find that exception, compared to digging through eight pages of specifications, most of which are common to almost every project.

The result? Easy to write, easy to bid, easy to enforce.

Links to other articles in this series:
What happened to the master builder?
What is a Master Builder?
What have architects given up?
What happened to the architect?
How have the architect’s responsibilities changed?
What lies ahead for architects?

Editor's note: Sheldon Wolfe has been very busy enjoying his “retirement,” and therefore, we have posted Sheldon’s article originally published in his Specific Thoughts blog on September 4, 2012.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM LOCAL CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATIONS

Information compiled by Joel Meyer, CSI, Member Emeritus, CCPR

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<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/5,12,19/19</td>
<td>Construction Management Series</td>
<td>NAMC–UM – National Association of Minority Contractors – Upper Midwest</td>
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<td>2/11/19</td>
<td>Luncheon – New Bell Museum</td>
<td>MSP – Const. Specification Inst.</td>
<td>csimsp.org</td>
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<td>2/12/19</td>
<td>2019 Refrigeration Seminar</td>
<td>ASHRAE – MN</td>
<td>mnashrae.org</td>
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<td>2/12/19</td>
<td>Open House 3PM – 7PM</td>
<td>Dunwoody Institute</td>
<td>dunwoody.edu</td>
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<td>2/14/19</td>
<td>Forum: DOT &amp; Fiber Reinforced Conc</td>
<td>Concrete Paving Assoc. of Minnesota</td>
<td>concreteisbetter.com</td>
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<td>2/19/19</td>
<td>Biz. Case for Women in Architecture</td>
<td>AIA MN MN Chapter – American Institute of Architects</td>
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<td>2/19/19</td>
<td>Networking Breakfast at BWBR</td>
<td>Minnesota Construction Assoc.</td>
<td>mnconstruction.org</td>
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<td>2/19/19</td>
<td>Chapter White Box Challenge</td>
<td>ASID – Am. Soc. of Interior Designers</td>
<td>mn.asid.org</td>
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<td>2/20/19</td>
<td>Emerging Professionals Network</td>
<td>U of MN – College of Design &amp; Arch</td>
<td>arch.design.umn.edu</td>
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<td>2/20/19</td>
<td>AIA – St. Paul Winter Social</td>
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<td>Engineers Week Social</td>
<td>MN Society of Prof. Engineers</td>
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<td>Best of BOMA Gala</td>
<td>Bldg Owners &amp; Managers</td>
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<td>2/21/19</td>
<td>Luncheon – General Membership</td>
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### UPCOMING EVENTS FROM LOCAL CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATIONS - continued

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<tr>
<td>2/X/19</td>
<td>No Events Shown For February</td>
<td>AGC of Minnesota</td>
<td><a href="https://www.agcmn.org">https://www.agcmn.org</a></td>
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<td>2/X/19</td>
<td>Various Committee Meetings</td>
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<td>3/1/19</td>
<td>Lake Superior Design Retreat</td>
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<td>3/5,12,14/19</td>
<td>MSHS Film Screenings</td>
<td>ASLA – Am. Soc. of Landscape Arch.</td>
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<td>3/6/19</td>
<td>Chapter Meeting @ McNamara Ctr.</td>
<td>IFMA – International Facility Mgmt.</td>
<td>msp-ifma.org</td>
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<td>3/21/19</td>
<td>Concrete Open – Top Golf Brook’ C’tr</td>
<td>ARM – Aggregate Ready Mix of MN</td>
<td>armofmn.com</td>
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### Free WebReach: Designing High Performance Commercial Walls

**February 13, 2019**
2:00 – 3:00 PM (ET)
Learn the latest code and testing requirements for water, air and fire considerations in exterior wall assemblies. Discover what options are available for controlling water and air challenges, and how these affect design and long-term performance considerations.

**Credit:** 1.0 AIA LU/HSW.

**Session Learning Level:** Intermediate: 5–10 years of experience recommended.

[Register now!]()
Please join us for an AIA–registered live webinar. This course will focus on fire-resistant glass and framing, their performance, how they meet stringent safety codes, and ways in which innovations are changing the future of fire-rated glass and framing.

By completing this course, participants will:

– Explain the differences between fire-protective and fire-resistive glass and framing.

– Describe five main innovations in fire-resistive glass and framing, and how they are expanding design freedom in areas with stringent fire and life-safety code requirements.
Discuss performance, fire-rated building codes, and how innovative fire-resistant glazing products can help meet more stringent codes, particularly NFPA testing standards and 2015 IBC.

Identify misconceptions and potential misuse of fire-resistant glazing products, and discuss solutions to ensure maximum benefits.

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**CSI ON-DEMAND WEBINARS**

CSI on-Demand Webinars are education sessions that provide convenient, quality learning at an affordable price – you will be able to see materials, hear an instructor and earn continuing education credit. Courses qualify for Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and AIA Continuing Education Hours (CEHs).

**CSI's Education Learning Levels**

Each session, webinar, or similar event offered through CSI's programming meets a specific level of education:

**Fundamental (100 Level): “Learn & Grasp”**

Attendees require little to no previous knowledge of the topic area. Participants will learn fundamental facts, terms, and basic principles and understand their meaning. These sessions inform using the “what, why, and how” approach.
MORE CSI ON-DEMAND WEBINARS

Intermediate (200 Level): “Apply & Organize”
Attendees require basic knowledge and understanding of the topic area. Participants will be able to integrate knowledge into the context of practice by organizing, comparing, interpreting, and relating main ideas. These sessions are identified by key words including “execute, perform, and apply.”

Advanced (300 Level): “Develop & Evaluate”
Attendees require a working knowledge and considerable experience in the topic area. Participants will be able to analyze problems and evaluate new situations by combining acquired knowledge and techniques to generate solutions. These sessions are identified by key words including “develop, evaluate, and implement.”

The cost per webinar is $55 for CSI members, or $75 for non-members -- [join CSI](https://www.csinet.org/) now and save when you register for an on-demand webinar!

See the webinars available on demand!

ADDITIONAL CSI EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In addition to CSI Webinars, CSI has additional educational opportunities for members of the construction industry.

For more information go to: [http://www.csinet.org/Main-Menu-Category/Education](http://www.csinet.org/Main-Menu-Category/Education)

The Construction Specifications Institute is a Registered Provider of American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System and United States Green Building Council Education Provider Network
Katie Djurich joined GCP Applied Technologies in June 2018 with over 10 years of experience in the construction industry. She offices in the Twin Cities but her responsibilities also include: North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Western Wisconsin. Katie works in the building envelope division of GCP where she is responsible for providing sales and technical support for below grade waterproofing, air and vapor barriers and Grace Ice & Water roofing underlayments.

Prior to joining GCP, Katie worked for Zurn industries as a National Strategic Account Manager. She resides in Woodbury, MN with her family.
Aiming for a CDT®? Improve Your Shot With These Resources!

CDT® Exam Registration: February 11 – April 30, 2019
Exam Window: April 15 – May 24, 2019

Your chances of passing the CDT® improve when you participate in a study group, talk to mentors, and take other steps to enhance your reading.

- **FREE Candidate Handbook** (PDF – login required). Download this free handbook to help you prepare for CSI's CDT® exam.
- **Project Delivery Practice Guide** The Project Delivery Practice Guide provides fundamental knowledge for the documentation, administration, and successful delivery of construction projects.
- **Study Workbook** (PDF – login required). The CDT® Study Workbook is a guide to help candidates prepare for the CDT® Exam. The workbook provides an in-depth understanding of the fundamentals and formats of construction documents; and is comprised of exercises, examples, and practice questions that address the development of facilities and the ins and outs of the process – with an emphasis on the CDT® Subject Matter Area specifications.

Prepare Now!
### Chapter Board (2018-2019)

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<td>Cynthia Long, CSI, CDT</td>
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<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Andy Garner, CSI, CDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>James Bergevin, CSI, CCPR</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Sandy McWilliams, CSI, LEED AP</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Andy Marolt, CSI, CCS, LEED AP</td>
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<td>David Rasmussen, CSI</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Tohnya Adams, CSI</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mark McPherson, CSI, CDT</td>
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### Chapter Committees (2018-2019)

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<td>Awards Committee</td>
<td>Rick Nichols, CSI, LRRD GA, AIA, Chair</td>
<td>Rob Ghan, CSI-EP</td>
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<td>Certification Committee</td>
<td>Jerrilyn O'Brien, CSI, CDT, EIT, Co-Chair</td>
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<td>Communications Committee</td>
<td>Jerry Putnam, PA, FSCI, CCS, Chair</td>
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<td>Expo Committee</td>
<td>Kathrine Barrett, CSI-EP, CDT, LEED GA</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
<td>Gary C. Patrick, CSI, AIA, RRC, Co-Chair</td>
<td>Susan Lee, CID, CSI, CDT, AIA, NCARB, Co-Chair</td>
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<td>Programs Committee</td>
<td>Brien DuRouche, CSI, Chair</td>
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<td>Social Committee</td>
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<td>STEP Committee</td>
<td>Hannah Fleischaker, CSI, Chair</td>
<td>Adrienne Rulseh, CSI-EP, Co-Chair</td>
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<td>Chapter Administrator</td>
<td>Shelby Laramy, IntrinXec Management, Inc.</td>
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<td>Madison Silva, IntrinXec Management, Inc.</td>
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<td>Website Administrator</td>
<td>Jerry Putnam, PA, FSCI, CCS</td>
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